

# THE UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA OLYMPICS

-G. E. CONDRA

This innovation at the university was inaugurated by the entire student body as a means for the freshmen and sophomores to test their enthusiasm and physical abilities individually and collectively, under the management of the upper classmen. It is a vigorous substitute for certain weak demonstrations which formerly occurred between the lower classes and thus merits the support of all who stand for bigger things at Nebraska! The event is an expression of the spirit symbolized by the scarlet and cream. It gives an opportunity for manly contest, under conditions that attract strong men, not weaklings. No attempt is made to curb enthusiasm; the reverse is true. In fact the idea of the freshman-sophomore olympics of 1908, sprang from a student ideal, now prevalent, which demands that college life at Nebraska shall be energized and developed along constructive lines.

The things that are weak and inefficient are to be supplanted by such manners and customs as should be the practicum of a great university, such as ours. Several things are being done by the students to develop school spirit and school standards. As might be expected, the upper classmen are most active in this regard. They propose to give us yells that carry, songs that will live and such class relations as will permit and probably require the incoming students, entering without fear, to join in those things which promote the broader life of the university.

### Introduce the Freshmen.

The Olympics serve to introduce the freshmen to the school. The first year men enter these stunts and battle with the sophomores for a class victory. This gives the contestants a chance to show their strength or weakness as the case may be, and at the same time, the seniors and juniors, acting as officials have a good opportunity to discover all of the promising new men.

A brief review of the origin of the Nebraska olympics may not be out of place in this connection. Our football team was rounding into form. Minnesota, Haskell, Iowa, and Ames were to be met. A rally was called; the chancellor, Professor Barbour, and others talked. Enthusiasm became in-



ASSISTANT COACH ELLIOTT.

tense. The team won splendid victories and were all in the game. No one wished to start a little class scrap. Finally a larger plan was suggested, that of an annual contest between the freshmen and sophomores. This idea met with the approval of the contest-

ing classes. Committees were appointed, Mr. W. B. Aten, heading the committee for the freshmen, and Mr. E. D. Mallery for the sophomores. Later the senior and junior classes were asked to take charge of the management. Dean Bessey proposed the name, "Nebraska Olympics," which was accepted. The freshmen and sophomores tried their men out for the various events and the upper classmen perfected plans for the meet which occurred at Antelope Park, Saturday forenoon, November 14th. A light snow had fallen during the night but this and the cold weather were not sufficient to cause the postponement of a royal contest and to prevent the attendance of a large crowd.

### List of Events.

The events were as follows: wrestling, light, middle and heavy weight; boxing, light middle and heavy weight; Marathon race; tug of war, and the battle royal.

The wrestling counted five points for each weight. C Collins, sophomore, won the heavyweight over Doyle, De Bolt, freshman, won middle weight over Plasters, Munson, sophomore, won light weight over Swanson.

The boxing was greatly enjoyed by the spectators if not by those engaged. Waters, freshman, won heavy weight over Sadellk; Landers, freshman, middle weight, over Zacek. The light weight between Smith and Weaverling was a draw.

Ten men started in the Marathon race, five from each class. The course was from Colonel Bryan's place at Fairview to the park. F. J. Clark and Verne Bates, freshmen, finished first and second, closely followed by Mellick and Norburg, sophomores, third and fourth. This event gave the freshmen 15 points and the sophomores 4, score at this time was freshmen 32½, sophomores 16½. The leaders were more than jubilant, the sophs appeared otherwise, but wise.

The tug of war, ten men on a side, proved easy for the heavy sophs, giving them 15 points, the score now standing 32½ and 31½ in favor of the first year men.

### The Battle Royal.

A call for the battle royal brought out a great event, one in which all men from each class (except a few unrequited cowards) were entered. It was a dress suit affair, i. e., the dress suited the occasion. The arena, thirty feet wide, extended across the grid-iron. Its sides were marked by heavy lines. Generals Mallery and Aten mobilized their forces, one going to the west field, the other to the east. Rules barring only slugging, kicking and the strangle hold were explained. Referee McDonald entered the arena and called the two armies to the side lines, facing each other. The head umpire, the inspectors and guards occupied positions back of the infantry. Therefore said: "Sophomores and freshmen, at the firing of this gun you are to enter this arena, seize your opponents and push, pull or throw them over your own line. Any man found across his opponent's line and free is to be declared out of the game. Two best out of three wins each bout continuing until one class is out of the arena. I command you to represent the spirit of the scarlet and cream!" The gun was fired, the two lines of men met and then began the best demonstration of a good natured class scrap that has been seen in Lincoln. Some fellows were easy, others working in squads proved more effective. At the end of five minutes the sophs had won the bout. The second round and the victory went to the same class. This time the sophomores were it; they had met and defeated a strong foe in a manly way. Score, sophomores 66½, freshmen, 32½. The freshmen, though defeated were not dishonored. They showed up well and are now preparing for the second degree in the university, when they are to become sophomores and meet the class that enters in 1909.

The Olympic events call for skill; they are vigorous and perhaps rough, but do we not know that these are but opportunities for the development of strong men? They represent brain as well as brawn and their influence is certainly more wholesome than that of other practices which sometimes take their place.

True sportsmanship has followed since November 14. The victory has been sufficient reward to the winners. President Lawrence abides by the wishes of the upper classmen in this respect. The freshman committee is to hold over another year and direct the preparation of the sophomores to be, for the next annual contest. A tablet containing 1911 opposite the year 1908 and under Nebraska Olympics, is to be placed in some hall of the university, the location to be selected by the seniors and juniors.

The idea of introducing such a feature as the Olympics to take the place



COACH "KING" COLE.

of miscellaneous class scraps such as cane rushes, tank fights, stealing of class officers and destruction of property, is distinctly Nebraskan in its origin. The opinion is general at has come to stay and that the contests the university that the new function will increase in interest with each succeeding year. The upper classes have full management of the program and rules, only "N" men being eligible to referee and umpire. These men carried out the program of this year without a single disagreeable feature. This speaks well for the contestants also since there was no show of unsportsmanlike conduct. The rules require the sophomores and freshmen to make a good fight according to the standard of the school. Ordinarily the second year men should be the victors and this is as it should be for a defeat places the freshmen in the proper frame of mind to advance and grow, if the attitude of the other classes is right. The vanquished freshman of this year should prove victors in 1909.

A college paper without the write-up of a football game in it looks decidedly queer this time of the year. The Baker Orange still mourns for the return of football.

The executive committee of the Woman's League at Stanford has taken the place of the conference of young women. The latter body recently disbanded.

The regents of K. U. have adopted the plans of the new mining building. It will resemble the law building, the main part measuring 62x103 feet.

The University of Kansas will ask for a larger appropriation for the pay of their professors. As a rule, the professors in the state are all poorly paid.

Upton Sinclair will be the guest of the socialist club at California.

# The Cornhusker Coaching Staff

-By Lynn Lloyd

Very few people when they are hearing a play at the theater stop to consider the steps which the actors must have taken before they could reach that place where they were good enough to be entrusted with responsible roles. The audience at the theater are merely conscious that the parts are well or poorly played, but they do not consider that a large part of the success of a production depends upon the efficient coaching of the players.

A parallel case is to be found in football. No matter how good may be the individual ability of the players on a squad, or how plentiful the material, yet a first class team can not possibly be developed without competent coaching. That this fact is true has been demonstrated repeatedly in Cornhusker football history. At the beginning of the season of 1907 the outlook for a winning team was particularly bright, but several of the promising candidates failed to show up and as a consequence last year's coaches were confronted with the problem of developing from a limited amount of material a team competent to go through one of the hardest schedules which had ever been arranged for a Nebraska team. But this problem was solved successfully (forbidding as it appeared to be upon first glance), and nothing was more instrumental in the successful solution of it than efficient coaching. Thus the importance of the coaching of a team can be seen.

### Rewards and Coaches.

If the rewards for a successful team were more equitably distributed the coaches would doubtless come in for much more consideration than they do at present. With this principle as the basis of our actions, then, let us extend our gratitude, appreciation and commendation to this year's coaching staff for their efficient and untiring work, which has made the development of a championship team possible.

At the head of the Cornhusker coaches is W. C. Cole, who has endeared himself to the student body at Nebraska during his two seasons here. "King" Cole came to Lincoln last year, unknown in western football so far as coaching ability was concerned, but in one season he so thoroughly demonstrated his worth that it was the unanimous wish of the school that he guide the Cornhusker destinies for another season.

"King" Cole had wide experience in football both as a player and a coach and his reputation, which was good before he came to Nebraska, is now more than good—it is one to be envied. His name has gone out far and wide so that "Cole and his pupils" have grown to be factors in western football, which cause even such crafty old coaches as Williams and Stag to exhibit some real concern as to the truth of their supremacy.

### Cole at Marietta.

Coach Cole played his first college football at Marietta college in 1899. He began by playing end and half-back, which positions he played for two years. He was chosen captain of the team in his third year and that season he appeared at tackle. The following fall (1902) he entered the University of Michigan when "Hurry-up" Yost was at his best, and was played at tackle on the famous "Yost machine." This was Cole's fourth year of college football, and being no longer eligible to play, he returned to Marietta college where he coached the team during the season of 1903. The following season he returned to Ann Arbor where he assisted Coach Yost in 1904. By this time Cole was acquiring a considerable reputation and he was chosen as head coach at the University of Virginia, where he remained for two seasons, 1905 and 1906. During his second season at Virginia his team met with but a single defeat, which was at Carlisle's hands, and by only one point. West Point was among the teams defeated that year.

In casting about for a successor to Coach Yost, who had resigned

after an unsuccessful season in 1906, the athletic board offered the place to "King" Cole and he accepted. The wisdom of the board in making this selection has been unquestioned and during the two years of his regime at Nebraska there has never been expressed a single word of regret at that choice or of criticism of his methods.

### Two Able Assistants.

This season Coach Cole has been ably assisted by Ray Elliott and Charles Borg. Elliott is an old-time Nebraskan star, having played halfback in 1899 and 1900. He has devoted most of his time this year drilling the freshman squad and the scrubs so that the varsity might have some strong opposition. His success in this work has been an important factor in developing the varsity's impregnable defense.

Borg was captain of the Cornhuskers in 1905 and played four years on the varsity without missing a single game of importance. His attention has been largely given up to directing the work of the varsity line and more especially the candidates for the three central positions. In his day Borg was generally believed to be the best center in the west, and his work in teaching the varsity linemen the fine points of the game has been invaluable.

The coaching staff this year has from time to time been confronted with perplexing problems, but they have usually made good by coming through with a successful solution for them. Many of the players have received serious injuries so that a great part of the time the team was not able to put forth its full strength. The greatest handicap which the coaches had to fight against, however, was the unprecedented schedule which had been arranged for the Cornhuskers.

### Many Hard Games.

Never before were there so many hard games to be played in one short season and the strain of it upon the players was especially severe since there were only about fifteen players of varsity caliber available. It is not surprising that under the demands of such a schedule the players were not able to stand the strain, and it is unfortunate that the break should have taken place so inopportunistically for the Cornhuskers. But notwithstanding



ASSISTANT COACH BORG.

this, the work of the coaching staff this season merits the highest praise which we are able to give, and so long as "King" Cole remains at Nebraska we shall all feel that the destiny of the scarlet and cream is in the hands of a safe pilot.