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body, whose interest in athletics is that of spectators only, cannot be expected to take more than passing interest in cross-country running. Second, in the very nature of the contest it can never have the sudden and spectacular crises of football and baseball. Third, only a small part of the contest can be viewed by a spectator. Fourth, football is a contest for the momentary explosion of the energy of strength and speed, while cross-country running is largely a contest of endurance and nerve, the latter being confined largely to a hidden contest between the will power of the runner and his punished engine. And lastly, in as much as cross-country running does not draw large crowds of spectators and because there is nothing in the contest to bring the wild enthusiasm of the spectacular touchdown or the home run, students who are led to take part in athletics by the strong desire to win the enthusiastic applause of their fellow students, are not attracted by this healthy sport.

History of Cross-Country.

Some fifteen years ago the Eastern Intercollegiate Cross-Country Association was formed by a few of the leading eastern universities and an annual run has been conducted ever since, but the movement has not extended to the smaller colleges to any extent and even in the old association the number of institutions competing rarely exceeds half a dozen.

In the fall of 1904 Chicago University extended an invitation to a number of the western universities to send teams to Chicago to compete in a five-mile cross-country race. Several of the large institutions agreed to take part in this contest, but for various reasons were unable to do so, and Nebraska was the only visiting university to send a team to the starting mark. The race was won by Nebraska by a wide margin.

After the contest representatives of a number of the "Big Nine" institutions and Nebraska formed a permanent organization known as the Western Intercollegiate Cross-Country Association. In 1905 four teams took part in the annual race, which was won by Chicago. The team scores were as follows: Chicago, 49; Nebraska, 50; Wisconsin, 54; Illinois, 57. The following year Nebraska had but two opponents in the annual race and defeated Wisconsin and Chicago by a score of 28 points against 45 and 49 by Wisconsin and Chicago respectively. The same teams competed again in 1907 and finished in the same order. The points scored were 28, 35 and 57 respectively. Purdue and Drake Universities, as well as Chicago, Wisconsin and Nebraska, competed in the season of 1908 and for the third successive time Nebraska won first place, with Purdue a fairly close second. Scores: Nebraska 41, Purdue 51, Wisconsin 59, Chicago 69, Drake 105. The 1909 entries indicate a decided increase of interest in the sport. Teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Chicago,

Purdue, Ames, Iowa, and Nebraska took part.

A more ideal course could not be imagined than that in Jackson park, Chicago, which has now become, by precedent alone, the annual scene of the greatest contest of endurance and training in western college athletics. Let us hope that no selfish effort will be made by competing teams to remove the contest from this ideal location.

Nebraska's 1909 Team.

At the opening of the university in September the prospects for another winning cross-country team appeared very bright. Four of the victorious 1908 five were eligible to compete and also a strong squad from last year's freshman class. Accidents, sickness, and other causes, however, played havoc with the men to whom the coach looked for his best material. Captain Gable was unexpectedly detained, by business matters, from registering in the university early in the semester; ex-Captain Bauman of the 1908 team strained the ligaments and tendons of his right foot so seriously that he was unable to take part in the tryouts. For some unknown reasons E. D. Trump, the third eligible veteran, was unable to get back to his previous form and failed to qualify in the tryouts, thus leaving A. B. Ambersen the only veteran able to compete in this season's team. W. I. McGowan, the most promising sophomore candidate, was obliged to give up his training early in the season owing to sickness, and G. C. Flack, another promising sophomore, was indisposed and unable to qualify. Notwithstanding this long list of misfortunes the team which represented us at Chicago on November 20th, was considerably stronger than last year's team and the best balanced team that Nebraska has ever sent to a cross-country contest. Every member of the team has worked long and faithfully. No matter what the result of the race, the student body should feel proud of its representatives and may rest assured that they feel their responsibility and that the team which lowered the Nebraska colors was decidedly superior in ability to the Cornhusker five.

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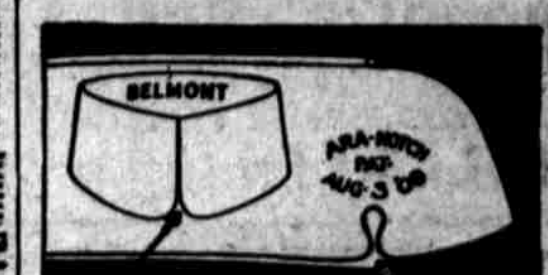
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