

# A Review of the Season of Nineteen Ten

By G. T. LIDDELL

"Champions of the Missouri Valley Conference" is the title "King" Cole has attached to his Cornhusker football team during the season just coming to a close. "King" Cole has done himself proud, has silenced the knockers, has turned out one of Nebraska's best football elevens, and has won himself a place in the hearts of all loyal students of the University of Nebraska.

It has been a truly wonderful season, both in the class of football played and the spirit of the students backing up the team. As to the former, the class of football, the results will tell the tale. As to the latter, the student spirit, too much cannot be said. When the crucial test of the season, the game with Kansas, came, and when the members of the team knew they would have to use every ounce of energy and every bit of strategy they could command, and when the backing of the students was actually needed, it was forthcoming in a way that fanned into flame every spark of determination in the team. After it was over the players were of one voice in declaring that the student demonstration had done the work.

To go back to the grade of football produced, Nebraska had a piece of gridiron machinery which will go down in history as one of the most powerful the school has ever had. In every game played during the season the Cornhuskers fulfilled every expectation. With a game to be played with the Haskell Indians, Nebraska has had only one defeat—Minnesota 27; Nebraska, 0—and no one has put on mourning for this loss, for the Nebraskans more than held their own. The wonder is that the score was not twice as large as it was, for the Gophers have a terrible team.

### Outlook Not Bright.

To begin at the beginning, when the squad first came out for practice the outlook was not very bright. An encouraging number of men answered the first call, but they made only a mediocre showing and everyone was wondering how they would turn out. As the season progressed the outlook did not improve as rapidly as rooters had hoped and expected, and predictions began to circulate to the effect that there would be "nothing doing on the championship," and that "King" Cole would lose his fame forever.

As a matter of fact, the coach was up against the hardest proposition he had ever faced in his football career. In the first place, and what was by far the most important, he was handicapped by having to drill the new rules into his candidates. While the rules placed a problem before every team in the country, Nebraska had as much, if not more, difficulty than any. It was not so bad to start the old men along the right track, but more attention had to be given those who had not been in the game before, and over half the men who finally won their letters had never played varsity football. It took several weeks of constant pounding before the team was well enough acquainted with the new regulations to start placing the men and to commence working out new plays and new formations.

Still another great difficulty to be met was the change in plays made necessary under the new rules. It was up to the coach to work out a system of plays which had never been tried before and teach his men how to put them through without a hitch. It was necessary to work the forward pass down to a science. Open plays had to be used to a far greater extent than ever before. Interference had to be perfected to a finer point than in the old style game. The backs had to be trained to receive passes from the center and the center had to be trained to snap back to almost any

distance and at almost any angle. Everything, in fact, had to be done a little better or a little differently than under the rules of a year ago.

Thus, with so much to learn, it was no wonder the students began to look forward to the season's big games with more or less doubt as to what the outcome would be.

### Peru the First Victim.

The first opportunity the Cornhuskers had to show what they could do was on October 1, when the Peru Normal team came for the opening game. While the score ended 66 to 0 in Nebraska's favor, it was hardly more than had been expected and the game did little toward helping the students form an estimate of what the team could really do. The Peru game did one thing, however, and that was that it proved beyond all question that there was an abundance of good material for the coach to work on. Peru

backfield which could compare with the defense on the line.

Next came Minnesota with the score of 27 to 0—the one game of the season in which the Cornhuskers were outclassed. But this does not look so bad, when Chicago and Wisconsin went the same route and with much similar scores. By this time the Nebraska team was beginning to show what it was made of, for although they were hopelessly beaten in the first quarter they came back, after each touchdown was marked up against them, with a grit and stubbornness that won the admiration of Minnesotans and Nebraskans alike. And from the Minnesota game on Nebraska played football.

### The "Hike" is Used.

The Denver head was the next to be laid on the block, which was on October 22, one week after the Minnesota game. As if to make up for the



RICHARD RUSSELL

A New Man on Cole's Squad Who Has Shown Up Well as an End.



HERMAN SEIDELL

A Varsity Sub Who Has Shown That He is a Natural Line Bucker.

was outweighed by every man on the team except one. Their line was unable to withstand the rushes of the Nebraska backs and the ends could not stop the wide runs.

The second step in the evolution of the Cornhuskers was the game with South Dakota on October 8. South Dakota had a clever team and the Nebraskans earned all they made. It was this game which settled one of the many questions in the mind of the coach—there was nothing the matter with the line. South Dakota could not put a play through the line, try as they might, whereupon Coach Cole began to pay more attention to the backfield. He thought the line from that time on could take care of itself. It could—and did.

The South Dakota game did another thing. It showed up the great weakness of the team, which was the weakness of the backfield on offensive play and the poor interference on running the ends. This at once became the objective of the coach's attention. For the next few weeks he did little aside from building up an offense in the

Minnesota score the Cornhuskers chalked up the same number, 27, to their opponents' 0. Nebraska opened with a whirlwind attack, played the Denverites off their feet, and virtually won the game in the first quarter. It was in this game that the coach first brought his new plays into operation. They worked like a charm. The new "hike" play kept the Mountaineers guessing; they never knew what to expect, and the backs would sail away around an end or tear through the line for big gains while the visitors were trying to decide where to look for the play. The interference was better than it had been before during the season, and the offense, on the whole, was brilliant. Things were beginning to look up and hammers were being laid away. It was the beginning of the open season on knockers and they were keeping out of sight.

Doane was the next contributor to the Cornhuskers' collection of scalps. They handed over their little donation to the melody of 6 to 0. The Doane game, it seems, had little to do with things in general. Cole gave or-

ders that only enough football was to be played to keep Doane from carrying off the game. Somehow Cole could not imagine a Missouri Valley championship team which had been beaten by Doane. His orders were obeyed and Doane was handled with care.

### After Kansas.

The plot thickens. Kansas was next on the list. And it was here that the students did their part toward making the season a success. On Thursday night, when the team left for Lawrence, they were paraded to the depot in style by a band of 600 howling, dancing students, who woke up the town with their noise and lit up the town with their torches. This display of spirit sent the squad to Kansas so full of grit they could not lose. And a few similar displays of enthusiasm since have kept the players so busy being determined they have had little time for anything else.

When that poetic soul unburdened himself with a sentiment like, "Six to Nuthin' fer Nebraska; I jest can't keep back the cheers," or words to that effect, he spoke for every living being who has ever had anything to do with the university. He probably didn't know it, but he did, nevertheless. The Kansas victory was the crowning triumph of the season. The Cornhuskers showed what they could really do in football and played one of the greatest games ever seen by either Kansas or Nebraska, cinching the Valley championship. While the score was only 6 to 0, it does not show how badly Kansas was beaten. The Cornhuskers had the ball on Kansas ground during the greater part of the game, and three times were within ten yards of the goal, but each time the Kansans put up a stubborn resistance and the ball was lost on downs or a fumble.

The last game which has been played up to date was with the Ames Aggies. Here, again, the Cornhuskers proved themselves the logical champions, outplaying Ames from the word go, and taking the game by a score of 24 to 0. In the game with the Iowans, as in all the rest, Cole's eleven played with a dazzling brilliance and a puzzling system of plays which their opponents could not solve. The open formations, over which so many eyebrows were elevated at the beginning of the season, went through without a fumble. The Cornhuskers had mastered the rules.

### Haskell is the Last.

There yet remains the Thanksgiving game to be played with the Haskell Indians, and the football team is through. While this contest does not affect the Missouri Valley championship, the outcome will be almost as closely watched as if it were for the championship. The Haskell Indians have always been keen rivals of Nebraska, with the advantage of late on the side of the Indians. Last year the Cornhuskers were played off their feet and were not given a look-in.

These, in closing, are a few of the things the Cornhuskers have done during their turn in the spotlight. They have brought Nebraska more football fame than she has had for several years. They played Minnesota a game which put them in a class with Chicago, Wisconsin and other big middle west schools. They decisively defeated Denver, Ames, and Kansas and have an undisputed title to the championship banner. They stirred up a spirit of football enthusiasm in the school which will never die out. And they won from Peru and Doane.

What's the matter with the Cornhuskers? Those having criticisms and derogatory comments to make will please step one pace to the front.