

JACK BEST

BY WM. O. COOLEY.

Jack Best, Cornhusker trainer, was born at Yoval, England, a town in Staffordshire, Somerset county. When he was nine years of age, he went to Bemsey in London, where his father followed the trade of a tanner.

He lived here eighteen years and moved to Mitchem, a suburb of London about six miles from Epsom Downs, where he followed the trade of a tanner for fifteen years.

During his stay in London he became an expert at the boxing game, being a sparring partner of Mickey Welsh, who was the first man to teach the art of boxing to the once famous Charlie Mitchell. He also



"JACK" BEST
Best in the West, Trainer.

taught boxing, having two classes each night in a gymnasium he had arranged in the rear of his home.

"Jack" came to America about twenty-three years ago at the request of his son who was then living at Crete, Neb. While at Crete he followed his trade as a tanner for about two years when he received an offer as janitor and night-watchman at Grant Memorial Hall, which he accepted and so started his career at Nebraska something over twenty years ago.

When he first came here the university consisted of only four buildings.

It was during his first year at Nebraska that football was begun. He says that the boys at first practiced without uniforms and the first uniforms they had consisted of only canvas jackets and trousers.

He remembers that on one of the first trips that a Nebraska team made to Kansas, they were met at the station by the K. U. band, "But after the game, which the Cornhuskers won, the Jayhawkers threw brick bats at the 'bus all the way back to the station," says Jack.

Lieut. Griffin, commandant, was the first man to ask "Jack" to teach boxing here in the university. "At that time there were two students here, Jack White and Flipper, a colored fellow, who were both good

boxers. One day Ike Pace and Fred Ryan came up to the gymnasium. Flipper came up with them. Flip wanted to put the gloves on with me. He was a great man for the pivot blow. I made a feint with my left, and got him to lead off. He led off with a pivot blow and I hit him with my right and he went across the floor for about ten feet."

After this exhibition of skill Lieut. Griffin asked Jack to teach boxing to the students and this was the beginning of Jack's career as athletic trainer in the U. of N.

After his recent illness the doctor has refused to let Jack be on the field during a game, but he says that during today's game "he will be there with both feet if he is able to move at all."

Jack says he would never think of going anywhere else although he has had several excellent offers from other universities. He "loves the boys just like his own" and "deeply appreciates how thoughtful they have been during his periods of sickness." He will always be willing to do his best for the boys

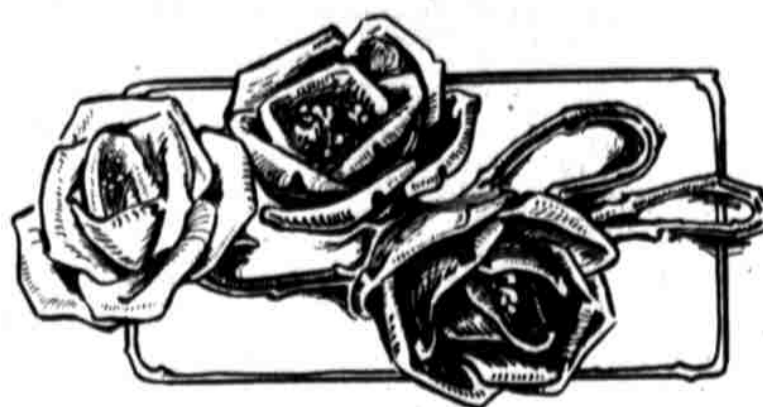


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