

Daily Nebraskan

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Applications for managing editor of the Daily Nebraskan will be received by the secretary of the Student Publication Board, Prof. L. E. Aylesworth, U. 103, before 3 P. M. Wednesday.

NEBRASKA AND THE RULES.

Will Nebraska be benefited by the new football rulings or will she find them burdensome? This question is worrying the student body much these days when the "team" is first being sent out to knock off the rough corners. Even Coach Williams' annual tale of the impenetrable gloom overhauling Minnesota's Gopher camp cannot keep the wolf worry away from the thought of the Nebraska fan.

The new gridiron, ten yards shorter than the field of last year of 110 yards, with a ten yard zone allowed back of the goal line into which a forward pass may be sent, is advantageous to the team that is aggressive in its methods and strong in its backfield. Stiehm's wonderful scoring eleven of 1911 showed that he is capable of developing a strong attacking eleven, one that is "continually after 'em."

The backfield men must be rugged and yet fleet, strong, active, and possessed of a working knowledge of football. The back not only does the greater part of the attacking but he has to bear an exceptionally heavy share of the defense when his team is by chance defending itself on its own half. The backs will no longer be called upon to strengthen the line or two backs at least will have to fall back ten yards on guard against a forward pass being sent over the goal within the new ten yard zone, which would allow the opponents to score. Yet probably the backs will still be expected to act as an auxiliary support for the line.

But head and shoulders above all others, as the case of the past few years is the one making five downs for ten yards distance to be gained, five downs of course meaning that the team has four trials in which to make that distance, and on the fifth down the ball passes over to the opponents as their last down. This is without doubt a decided advantage to the at-

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tacking eleven. Last year many a superior team was successfully tied by an inferior one because the ten yards to be gained in three downs proved too long a distance for even a stronger team to make successfully for any number of times. With four downs this difficulty will be done away with. In a similar manner the attacking force is aided materially by being allowed six points on a touchdown instead of five, the opportunity to make another tally on a goal kick still being allowed.

Two well placed kicks such as allowed Ames to tie Nebraska last year when the Cornhuskers made the only touchdown of the game will no longer be possible. Here again is seen an advantage to the strong attacking eleven. The same rule holds for the rule allowing the defenders to bring out the ball only to the twenty yard line instead of the twenty five yard line after the attacking team has lost it on an attempt to kick a goal.

Thus as the rules stand, compared to the standards set for last season, the advantage this season is with the team that proves aggressive, the team that has a line that permits the backs to start trick plays, and the team most of all that has the strong and speedy back to hit the line, round the end or play in open work with the ends. It means a diversified game, a game full of surprises. The lineman also that can open up a large hole for the back to wrangle through for a gain of two and a half to three yards will prove invaluable.

The question is asked, Does it look as though Nebraska would have a team that would fit these requirements? The 1911 Cornhuskers would have revelled in such rules. Theirs was a team that was strong in attack, it was a team that was almost a perfect scoring machine, strong in the line, and with a fleet backfield able to punch holes for itself in the line, or to round the end, and again could turn around and show a brilliant defense against a team advancing with the ball. Coach Stiehm proved that he could turn out a scoring backfield and a line that was a stone wall. His method again would make a team of champions provided the material can be found. And a glance over the four squads in mole skins on the Farm last Monday night assures one that there will be found there the material for a team, a strong team. The backfield already looks good and will look better with the return of Gibson, Porter or Purdy, all three ideal backfield men for the year 1912.

S. G.

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