

Review of 1913 Football Season

By Hugh V. Harlan, Sporting Editor

The football season of 1913 in the University of Nebraska has been one of remarkable achievement. Stubbornly battling against what seemed at times to be unsurmountable odds the mighty Cornhusker machine has emerged from the hardest schedule that ever faced a Nebraska eleven with a clean record of victories.

Bulldog determination and fight have characterized the playing of the Nebraskans in every game this season. The greater the obstacle, the harder the team fought. Lack of available material of varsity calibre and a long string of cripples have been the bugaboos that the coaches and team have had to contend with all season.

The introduction of an eastern football player as assistant coach was an innovation in Nebraska. Head Coach Stiehm recommended Chester Dudley, a Dartmouth player. With Dewey Harmon, a Cornhusker star of last year, as Freshman coach, the coaching staff of Nebraska was exceptionally strong.

Formal practice was inaugurated on September 27th, a little over three weeks before the Washburn game. But about twenty candidates were out the first week or so of practice and among these there were only nine regulars present, Captain Purdy, Howard, Halligan, Beck, Mastin, Towle, Ross, Cameron and Shields. Of these the latter two men were crippled before the Washburn game, Cameron not getting back into the game until the Minnesota battle and Shields was unable to resume play for the remainder of the season.

In addition to these Rutherford, Abbott and Thompson, went into the regular line-up at the start. It then became necessary to develop an almost green line into a winning combination. This problem Coach Stiehm attacked with such fortitude and sagacity that by the time of the big Minnesota game a formidable line of forwards was developed that more than held its own with the Gopher line.

From the very first of the season it was evident that Coach Stiehm would have a star backfield, second to none in the west. But the great fear was that the Cornhusker forwards would not be strong enough to protect and assist the fast, strong backfield. After winning the great Minnesota battle, however, this fear vanished into thin air and it was apparent that Nebraska was on a steady march for the championship of the Missouri Valley Conference, and perhaps for the all-western title.

The first game of the season was on October 4th on the home field, against Washburn. Washburn secured a coveted place on the Cornhusker schedule by virtue of her victory over Kansas University last year. What was expected to be an even game developed into a practice scrimmage for the Cornhuskers and the game ended with many substitutes in the Nebraska line-up. Score, Nebraska 19, Washburn 0.

The Kansas Aggies, new comers in the Valley Conference, officially opened the conference season October 11th, on Cornhusker field, and came touted as having a strong team. They did not, however, live up to the advance dope and theirs was the first scalp to be added to the Cornhusker Championship belt, the score being 24 to 6. It proved to be an excellent workout in preparation for the Minnesota game the following week.

Came the great Minnesota battle on October 18th, a day that will long live in the memories of the seven thousand foot-

ball fans that witnessed the game. It was a battle of a decade, a contest of giants. The Gophers invaded Nebraskan soil confident of victory and were turned back, beaten and crushed by the mighty Cornhusker "Stiehm" roller. It was a wonderful victory and it was conceded by all authorities that Nebraska clearly outplayed the Gophers in all departments of the game. Every man on the Nebraska eleven covered himself with glory. And every man played every minute of the game—not a substitution being made. Beck won a place in Nebraska's hall of immortals by scoring the winning touchdown. Towle's generalship was masterly. The punting of Howard far outclassed that of the Gophers, in fact he has outpunted the kickers on every team that Nebraska has met. Purdy's defensive work was a feature of the game. Rutherford was a terror in slashing off-tackle plays. Halligan and Cameron made fierce tackle-around smashes. Mastin's defensive playing was a material factor in the victory, time and again he broke up the famous Minnesota shift as it swung around his wing. Thompson, Abbott and Ross played a strong, consistent game. A picture of the whole eleven should be done in oil and hung in places conspicuous in Nebraska's Hall of Fame. The final score was 7 to 0.

On the following Saturday the Cornhuskers came back after their glorious victory over Minnesota and defeated the Has-

kell Indians by the close score of 7 to 6. It was a fiercely fought game. The Haskell bucks, reinforced by five or more Carlisle players, put up a desperate game, but could not down the Cornhusker machine. It seemed at first that the Cornhusker victory would be a costly one. The Indians "layed" for our star players and succeeded in "gettin'" Purdy and Halligan. It was thought that Purdy would be out of the game for the balance of the season, but he was able to play in the Kansas game. Halligan recovered in time to play against Ames. A great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed over the game and the consensus of opinion was that further games with the bucks would be undesirable. The Indians do not play under

regular eligibility rules, hence play Carlisle men and use a man as long as he makes good. There is no particular glory in besting the bucks and victory does not help Nebraska's conference standing. Such games are more racial than inter-scholastic and should be discouraged.

The first game away from home and the second of Nebraska's conference games was with the Ames Aggies at Ames, November 1st. The Aggies started off strong, scoring a touchdown and a field goal, thereby creating much joy in the hearts of the Ames home-comers. But the Aggies soon crumbled before the irresistible Cornhusker offense, and went down to defeat by the count of 18 to 9.

A much needed rest was given the varsity stalwarts during the week following the Ames game. The men had been playing steady, consistent football, and the rest thus secured saved them from a slump before the Kansas game.

On November 8, the Cornhuskers with an almost entire team of substitutes won from the Nebraska Wesleyan University by the lopsided count of 42 to 7. Wesleyan secured her lone touchdown on a rank fluke.

The all important game with Kansas was played at Lawrence in ankle-deep mud and was a decisive Nebraska victory.

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Dedicated to the Team which has played an entire season of difficult engagements without defeat.