

## NEBRASKA FINISHES SUCCESSFUL SEASON AGAINST BIG TEAMS

### Final Game Reached with Only Defeat By Michigan

### VALLEY TITLE COMES EASY

### Last Year's Defeat By Notre Dame Avenged 7 to 0

Has the Nebraska 1917 football season been a success?

At the first glance at the result of the season's games, with a 20-to-0 Michigan defeat rudely protruding itself from among the other scores, it would seem that the season has not been a success. But when the observer stops to consider the fact that the other games on the schedule, all of which are on the winning side of the ledger, are "big" games, the realization comes that after all the Cornhuskers have had a season this year that has been unequalled in the past.

At the start of the season the Nebraskans took on Wesleyan university, a team which for years has occupied a place near the middle or toward the end of the schedule. The Methodists were shifted to the opening game this year for the simple reason that there was no room for them in the later stages of the season, when strong teams were the only opponents of the Cornhuskers.

#### Wesleyan Game Reveals Strength

The Wesleyan game revealed the fact that Nebraska was to have a powerful offense with a strong defense. It took the Cornhusker machine a little while to get started in this game, but after it got under way there was no stopping it. The entire backfield, Dobson, Cook, Otoupalik and Schellenberg showed too much speed for the Methodists, and with the line preventing any gains on the part of the enemy and opening great holes for the backs to plunge through, the score easily mounted to the total of 100.

#### The Defeat of Iowa

On the following week the Huskers were scheduled to meet the Iowa Hawkeyes, a team that for several years has occupied a place as one of the main games of the season, near the close of the schedule. In shifting Iowa to the second game of the schedule this year Coach Stewart was only making room for stronger teams to be taken on in the place usually occupied by the Hawkeyes. The Iowans came to Nebraska with a small but speedy team and intent on surprising the Cornhuskers if possible. They had won a victory over Simpson college the week before by a small score and hoped to use that as a blind to their real power.

Nebraska, however, was prepared for the best Iowa had and, after the first few minutes had an easy time going through and around the Hawkeyes. Iowa opened the game with two brilliant forward passes that put them far into Cornhusker territory, but here they were stopped and a drop kick by Captain Davis was blocked. From that time on the Cornhusker attack was irresistible and gains were made almost at will.

One weakness in the Nebraska machine developed in this game which if not corrected threatened to result disastrously in the Notre Dame game on the next Saturday. That weakness was the very apparent tendency on the part of the younger members of the Nebraska team to let up to a noticeable extent after they had established a small lead. This tendency made itself most apparent in the third quarter of the Iowa game when the Hawkeyes practically outplayed the Huskers for a short time.

#### Revenge on Notre Dame

The Notre Dame battle, the next week, which has come to be one of the traditional Nebraska encounters although it has been on the schedule only three years, found the Cornhuskers at their best. It was almost a perfect game that the Huskers put up that day, if there is such a thing as a perfect game. Even the most severe critic could ask for nothing more on the defense than was shown by the Cornhuskers. The fact that the Hoosiers were allowed to make only one first down during the entire sixty minutes of play speaks well of the Husker stonewall of that day.

Although the Nebraska offense produced only one score, it also failed to uncover any open attack. A thirty-yard return of a punt by Cook, a fifteen-yard gain on a triple pass and two line smashes by Otoupalik put the pigskin over the line and allowed the Huskers from that time on to play a defensive game. It was a brilliant game despite the low score, as the Huskers made eleven first downs to Notre Dame's one and gained many times as many yards as the Hoosiers did.

#### The Season's Lone Defeat

The next week saw the disastrous Michigan trip and game. Although nothing is detracted from the strength

of the Wolverines, it must be admitted, has been admitted, in fact by Coach Yost, that had the game been played on a dry field the result would have been different. No apology is needed of the way the Huskers played in this game. Those who saw the battle say they have never seen a Nebraska team fight harder nor against greater odds than the Huskers did that day. Michigan had been practicing in the rain and mud for three weeks before the Nebraska game, had played two regular games under similar conditions and were prepared with extra-long mud-cleats to stand up on the slippery ground. On the other hand the Nebraskans had not had a wet ball in their hands during the entire season, and although mud-cleats were worn by some of the men they were not long enough to reach to solid ground on the soggy Michigan gridiron.

The Nebraskans started out with a rush and had Dobson launched on a trip toward the goal twice in the first few minutes only to have him slip and fall while trying to side-step a man that would have been easily eluded had the runner been able to keep to his feet. With the ball on the fifteen-yard line three downs were all that were needed to make nine yards. On the fourth down Schellenberg went through for four yards and what would have been first down, but the tackle that stopped him knocked the ball out of his grasp and then came the disastrous run for a touchdown.

Twice during the succeeding periods of the game McMahon, the Husker speeder, was on his way to the goal with no one but the quarterback to stop him, but each time, because of his inability to change his direction on the slippery field, he was forced out to the sidelines and stopped.

#### Fifty-two Points Against Missouri

The Missouri game, which came two weeks after the Michigan battle, found the Cornhuskers again ready to play in their best form. The show-me team, however, showed such little real football that the Nebraskans had an easy time running up fifty-two points without using anything but straight football. The Tigers were weakened in this game, but no worse than the Nebraskans who were minus the services of four third-year men, Kositzky, Shaw, Otoupalik and Riddell. At times during the battle there were only three men on the Husker team that were not playing their first year of football for Nebraska.

It was at a critical point in this game, when through two fifteen-yard penalties in succession the Missourians were out on the Nebraska six-yard line, that Cornhusker supporters were shown that they had a real defense composed of youngsters. In four downs the Missourians had gained three yards and the ball went over to the Cornhuskers and was punted out of danger.

#### The Championship Game

When the Kansas game came around every team in the valley had been defeated except the Cornhuskers and the Jayhawks. It was confidently expected in the Kansas camp that when the smoke of battle had cleared away after that game the championship would rest there, undisputed. That was what it looked like during the first half of the encounter, when the Kansans scored a field goal and gained a few more yards than the Huskers did. It has become known since that game that between halves the Jayhawk fighters agreed to score three touchdowns in the last two periods. However, soon after the second half opened the Cornhuskers took things into their own hands and beginning with a punt caught on their own twenty-yard line scored two touchdowns without losing possession of the ball.

A new form of offense was uncovered in this game, or rather a new instrument of offense, when Hubka who had been playing end and tackle throughout the year was shifted to the backfield and with Dobson succeeded in ramming big holes in the Jayhawk line. One of the humorous incidents of the season has been the writeups in Kansas papers since this game, declaring that the "star Kansas ends, Laslett and Lonberg" had stopped every end run started by the Huskers. As a matter of fact not a single end run was called for by Cook in this game, with the exception of two by Dobson, from punt formation and on each he made at least five yards.

Today the season will be closed when the Cornhuskers have met one of the strongest teams of the east. Victory in this game is hoped for but little expected. But if defeat should come, can anyone say that the season has not been a success?

One of the most notable facts of the season is that the Nebraskans have been playing all their games without the services of Ted Riddell, one of the greatest ends Nebraska has ever produced and who was expected to star this year.



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#### Soldiers Play on Stag Field

Official consent to the use of Stag field, which was to have been the scene of the Chicago-Michigan football game, has been given to the Camp Grant and Camp Custer teams. As originally planned, Chicago and Michigan were to hold their annual battle there, but the authorities of each university cancelled the date in spite of great opposition from the athletic boards and student bodies of both universities. Many felt that the greater part of the proceeds, which were to have gone to war charities,

would be thus lost, but the civilian committee in charge of the game say that the receipts will not suffer any decided decrease.

John L. Clark, '05, Harvard Law '09, lawyer in New York, is in the Plattsburg, New York, training camp.

N. M. Cronin, '04, Minnesota Law, '08, commissioned captain at the first Fort Snelling Training Camp, is captain of Company C, 350th Infantry, Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Raymond A. Smith, '14, Law '18, practicing law at Council Bluffs, has

been selected as second lieutenant of Company A, in the new national guard regiment being organized in Iowa.

Second Lieutenant A. C. Swanson, Company R, 5th Battalion, 163rd Depot Brigade, Camp Dodge, Iowa, writes: "I am enrolling in a French class being organized for officers at the Y. M. C. A. Such classes, both for officers and enlisted men, are being organized all over camp. The Y. M. C. A. is doing a great work here in furnishing entertainment, recreation and educational advantages for the men."