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BASE BALL HISTORY.

Early Reminiscences of the Game Told by An Alumnus.

Base ball, like everything else connected with the University, has been a matter of steady and continuous growth. That the University of Nebraska base ball club would ever be able to take long trips and meet victoriously the teams of eastern colleges never entered the minds of its most enthusiastic early supporters. When in '87 the team discarded overalls and jackets and donned neat, new Maroon uniforms the University took a holiday and turned out en masse to cheer and congratulate the players and one in the history of this great institution another on one of the greatest events of learning. The first games were played on grounds laid out on the northeast quarter of the campus in the space now occupied by Grant Memorial hall. The machinery building and Nebraska hall. In those days the campus was lined with an evergreen hedge. A driveway extended from the east door of the main building to 5th street. Along each side of this driveway was a row of cottonwood trees. The grounds faced north, with the home plate near the trees. It was on these grounds that Fred Shepherd, now a prominent attorney of the city, acquired an enduring fame as the captain and pitcher of a team which seldom failed to lower the colors of such teams as the "Rising Stars," "The Ulysses Giants" and the "Little Potatoes Hard to Peel." Those who saw will never forget the gallant figure he used to make as he strode undaunted to the field attired in a white stiff bosomed shirt, knee breeches, sky-blue and white striped, white stockings, and a black slouch hat. His fellow players presented an appearance equally slightly. They were heroes in those days, nevertheless, for they played ball in an earnest straightout, happy-go-lucky way that engendered an interest which the scientific, straight-laced game of today greatly lacks.

The first uniforms were donned in '87. These were popularly heralded as mascottes which were to lead the players to victory over the much feared, and consequently much hated, semi-professional team from Ulysses, Neb. As might have been expected, the team suffered an inglorious defeat in the presence of several hundred jeering and unsympathetic fellow-students, who, disgusted with the playing of their own champions, shifted their allegiance to the victors, whose every play they greeted with cheers and applause, so that as far as encouragement went our boys might easily have imagined themselves among strangers.

The next important game was a so-called practice game with the Lincoln western league team. This team was a famous one, being made up of such men as Beckley, Swartzell, Billy Hart and Dave Rowe, and won the western league championship of that year. This game was theoretically a practice game for both teams, but as a matter of fact the other team got all the practice. The Lincoln team were all heavy hitters and especially distinguished themselves in that line that day. One of our team, who shortly afterwards won the long distance run on field day, attributed his success to the experience he got in left field following the home run hits of Beckley and Rowe. Some estimates were made as to the probable size of the score, but the actual figures were never known.

Comparatively few games were played during the season in those days. The team did not leave the city except on Saturdays. Most of the games were with local nines. The most important of these was the game with a team supported by the State Journal company. The game was widely advertised and largely attended. Walt Mason, then at the height of his reputation as the presiding genius of "Local Drift" in the State Journal, wrote a paragraph after paragraph in prose and verse congratulating his team upon their coming victory and condoling with the poor University team as doomed to inglorious and humiliating defeat. The morning before the game in a flamboyant address to his team, he urged them on to victory promising to meet them on the Lupercal with crowns. The game came off as per schedule in the presence of the largest and most enthusiastic of crowds. The day the only reference to the game in the Journal was in the first short line of Mason's column in which it was graphically and succinctly stated that "base ball was a fake anyhow."

It was just at this time that "Spider" Stephens began to accumulate fame as an all-around player, but particularly as a pitcher. When John B. Fogarty represented the University in the state oratorical contest at Crete the

base ball team went along for an afternoon game with Doane. "Spider" pitched. In the course of the second inning a one-armed policeman who pitched for Doane, came to the bat. He looked harmless and by striking at two swift balls acquired two strikes. It seemed so easy for "Spider" that for the purpose of creating amusement for the crowd, he trotted from his box toward the batter and when within twenty feet tossed an easy ball. The one-armed whanged away at the ball sent it over the fence for a home run and walked around the diamond to the noise of great cheering and laughter at "Spider," who never heard the last of it.

Before the oratory began that evening there was the usual cheering and singing and lauding up of the university orator. There was nothing unusual until somebody discovered that "Spider" was present, whereupon a lusty lunged youth stood on a chair and propounded the query as to what was the matter with "Spider." The response which shook the building showed that the base ball pitcher was the hero of the occasion even at a convention of orators. The writer can vouch for one, who, looking around at this time and discovering the smiling, auburn topped and debonaire "Spider" seated high up on the ticket office with his legs carelessly hung over its edge—found him a worthy object of homage and registered a solemn vow to seek enduring fame through the same channels. M. I. Bigelow and his brother, as well as F. A. Williams and T. S. Allen were stars of their team.

Early in 1890 another game was played with the Lincoln professional team, with Fred Barnes, now a professional in our box. We had the game well in hand and practically won until in the eighth inning Barnes was taken with a cramp and a substitute pitcher took his place. He was batted out of the box the game being called on account of darkness before three men were finally put out in the eighth inning. Little was done in 1890 and 1891, though there was much excellent material. The best men were Frank Woods, C. D. Chandler, Paul Colson, Harry Reese and Harry Hicks.

In 1892 the team took its first trip out of the state with games scheduled with Baker college at Kansas City, and at Baldwin, with Kansas State University and with Washburn college. This was the famous rainy spring and but one game of the schedule was played, that at Lawrence. This was rather an unusual game. Chancellor Canfield had but shortly come from Kansas and had promised the team a banquet if they beat his old school. Some of Barnes' fraternity brethren at Lawrence had talked him into a nervous condition over some of their famous batters. In the first half of the first inning he let in four men, allowing three men bases on balls. He then braced up and in the succeeding eight innings fanned out seventeen men. He struck out seven men in succession. For two successive innings the batters went out in one, two, three order. The score in the last half of the ninth inning with two men out and Kansas at the bat stood four to four. The winning score was made on a rattled play of Stroman at second, who instead of accepting a pretty throw-out at first, was impelled by a tremendous cheer of Rock-chalk-Jay-hawk-K-U's to throw the ball backward over his head. Heald at third scored a tremendous hit in this game, twice running after a fly ball high over his head and catching it over his shoulder while running at full speed. The Kansas City papers referred to his work as phenomenal.

Heald had gone on this trip in opposition to his father's wishes and under a threatened cessation of checks from home. The manager wrote to his father after the team return enclosing some of the flattering notices of his son's playing. Harvey afterwards said the only reference his father ever made to the trip was by making his next remittance ten dollars larger than usual.

A number of unimportant local games were played this year. The stars were Holmes, a former Yale player, Pace, Chandler, Barnes and Heald.

In 1893 there was little organization and no enthusiasm. One game was played with Wesleyan and one with Doane.

1894 was equally uninteresting as far as outside games were concerned. The base ball committee was made up of fraternity men who were generous with their fellow members at the expense of the team. It is perhaps well remembered how John Dixon acquired the title of "The Ancient Mariner." Jack White and Gerrard had organized a rival team with the avowed intention of beating the regular nine. They failed to beat, but in the test game, Dixon missed so many chances to stop easy balls that he was dubbed "The Ancient Mariner." It being noted at the time that "he stopped one of three." In 1895 the athletic reorganization infused new life into the team.

PILLSBURY IS WINNER

Easily Gets First Place At Indoor Meet. Lemar Second.

A large and enthusiastic crowd witnessed the fourth annual indoor pentathlon which was held in the gymnasium March 25 and 27. Saturday evening the officials succeeded in finishing the shot put, three broad jumps and pole vault, owing to the fact that the lights were turned out, but on Monday night the high jump and potato races were contested before a larger and more enthusiastic crowd. The first exhibition game of hoop ball even seen in the west was also played between teams under Samms and Marsh. The game was won by the Samms' team, the score being 16-7.

Miss Lorena Genoung gave a pleasing exhibition of fancy club swinging. The events were won as follows:

Shot put—Pillsbury first, 38 feet, 3 inches; Wallace second, 36 feet, 3 inches; Poynter third, 25 feet, 6 inches. Three broad jumps: Pillsbury first, 30 feet, 1-4 inch; Swallow second, 28 feet, 9-1-2 inches; Lemar third, 25 feet, 7 inches.

Pole vault: Pillsbury first, 9 feet, 1-4 inch; Kellogg second, 8 feet, 9-1-4 inches; Mouck, Lemar and Hoard tied for third, 7 feet, 4 inches.

Running high jump: Pillsbury first, 5 feet, 6 inches; Wallace second, 4 feet, 10 inches; Pearce, Bullard, Swallow and Lemar tied for third, 4 feet, 6 inches.

Quarter mile potato race: Poynter first, 1:44 1-5; Pepon second, 1:44 2-3; Pillsbury third, 1:46. Pillsbury won first place in the pentathlon with a total of 427 points; Lemar second, with 300.5 points; Poynter third, with 367 points, and Swallow fourth, with 257 points.

The relay race which was put in to afford amusement for the audience while the totals were being figured up, was won by a team under R. D. Anderson, in 1:15 2-5.

Pillsbury was the only man in the contest who succeeded in breaking a record. He raised the indoor running high jump from 5 feet, 4-3-4 inches, made by W. E. Anderson, to 5 feet, 6 inches.

Benedict, the winner of the second and third annual pentathlons, together with Pillsbury, Lemar, Poynter and Swallow will represent the University in a dual meet with Omaha, April 8. Besides the meet, track athletes will probably have an opportunity to measure strength with like teams from Universities of Kansas and Iowa as negotiations are now being carried on with that end in view.

GIRLS' EXHIBITION.

The girls of the gymnasium gave their annual exhibition before the women's club on last Monday afternoon. From 2:15 until 2:30, while the guests were arriving, some very good work was done on the various pieces of apparatus. The principal features were rope and pole climbing, led by Miss Rock, the traveling rings, by Miss Spurke and Miss Fowler, and jumping by Miss Scott, Miss LaSelle, Miss Gille and others. In the running high jump Miss Scott made four feet, two inches.

At 2:30 the advanced class came on the floor. Under the command of Miss Spurke the class went through a ten minutes drill in military marching. Miss Barr then explained that the exercise of the advanced class would show the series generally gone through with in class. Miss Whiting called the class to order and led in a series of rice hand gymnastics and trunk exercises. Miss Spurke took the class through a dumb bell drill and Swedish gymnastics. The Swedish gymnastics are a new feature in the work and performed without music, the exercises themselves being sufficient rhythm. After a run, representatives from the three first year classes, the 9, 10 and 2:30 o'clock classes, had a ball passing contest. In this the 9 and 10 o'clock classes tied. To decide the victors a game of passing the ball between the feet was played. In this the 10 o'clock class won and with joyous howls, left the floor.

Miss Barr then said the 2:30 class would illustrate the recreative sides of the work. The class played two games with bean bags, one passing the bags around in a circle and the other across the lines and running from end to end.

The most exciting part of the entertainment was the basket ball game between the Giants and the Midgets. The Giants were Misses Brown, Winger, Holbrook, West, Davenport and Buckmaster. The Midgets were divided, part playing the first half and part the second half. They were: Misses Schwartz, Pentzer, Wheeler, McCrosky, Miller, Enford, Susstiek, Gregory, Broady, Bridges and Henry. Good plays were made on both sides. Led by Miss Brown's and Miss Win-

ger's criss cross, so far above the heads of the midgets, it was indeed very praiseworthy that the Midgets scored. The game ended with a score of 30 to 12 in favor of the Giants. The Midgets then asked to redeem themselves and show the audience that they could play. So a short game was played, resulting in a score of 4 to 2 in favor of Miss Pentzer's team.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY MEETING.

The third regular meeting for the present year of the Nebraska section of the American Chemical Association was held March 24 in the chemical lecture room. The speakers of the evening were W. H. Baird, superintendent of the Beet Sugar company's works at Norfolk, Neb., and Dr. H. A. Senter, instructor of science in Omaha high school. Both addresses were full of interest and received the closest attention from the audience.

Superintendent Baird spoke on the financial side of chemistry as a profession. He said that those in control of manufacturing operations, where chemicals are employed, are apt to be impatient of allowing the introduction of new ideas, unless they have been previously demonstrated to be successful in operation, they don't feel like wasting time and money in experiment. The inability to conform to such demands is a frequent cause for ill success on the part of the chemist, and it may be added, sometimes of the manufacturer as well. Another frequent cause for failure on the part of the chemist is his inability to understand and to use men. Altogether from Mr. Baird's remarks, one might infer that a specially trained chemist is hardly fitted for success in a business way, the fault not being always his, but rather that of conditions. It certainly appears that in this respect the Germans are ahead of the English-speaking people in their application of science to the manufacturing industries. They maintain extensive research laboratories in connection with their factories and reap the benefit of chemical investigation in new discoveries and in the better utilization of waste products.

Dr. Senter, in a brief talk, illustrated in a very clever way, how it is possible for one having a little ingenuity to overcome the disadvantages of imperfect equipment in laboratories, a condition frequently met with in high schools and the public schools generally. He showed samples of his own skill in the utilization of broken and cast off apparatus and of devising simple schemes of caring for and using a limited supply of apparatus, the talk being illustrated throughout.

GRADUATE CLUB MEETING.

The second meeting of the graduate club for the current school year was held March 25, in the "English Den" on the third floor of main building. A greater part of the evening was spent in having a general good time. In the latter part of the evening the ladies of the club sprang a surprise upon the gentlemen, by serving lemonade and pretzels. A program was given by some of the members of the general faculty.

W. D. Hunter read an interesting paper on the "Migration of Birds," discussing the different theories for the cause of this phenomenon, and showing the habits of the birds of different species. Miss Heron, instructor in political science, told of her experience in gaining admission to German universities and the value of the training there. She gave many points of special interest to students who contemplate studying in Germany, the difficulties of obtaining a degree, or of gaining any recognition from German students were very clearly shown. Professor Barbour spoke of the new tendency toward the recognition of the biological sciences, zoology and geology, dealing especially with the last named.

A series of tests recently made in the civil engineering laboratory are of general interest. The tests were made to determine the efficacy of the built and lap welds in Norway iron. The welds had been made in the shops of the department of mechanical engineering by students in the school of agriculture. Some of the welds were fully as strong as the unwelded pieces which were tested for comparison, and the weakest welds developed 54 1-2 per cent of the strength of the unwelded specimen. This simply shows the result of work done by farmers' boys after only ten weeks in this department of the University of Nebraska.

Botany senior symposium of phytozoology was held March 25 at 2:30 o'clock. Dr. Frederic Clements was in charge of the meeting. Much interest was aroused in the general discussion of the subject by those who took part. After this was completed, a feed was given to the members. The next meeting will be held April 22.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECITAL

Last Student Event of the Year Given Tuesday Evening.

The fifth and last recital of the University school of music was given last Tuesday evening in the chapel. The audience was large and appreciative, giving praise where it was due. A few of the older pupils appeared, but on the whole the program was made up largely of new students. It was very gratifying to note that a large part of the audience was made up of city people, who have learned to recognize the merit of these recitals. Several members revealed a great deal of talent. Mr. Reed, especially, cannot receive too much praise. His base solo showed vocal talent of a very unusual quality and his many friends in the University unite in hoping that he will continue to develop his voice with care and diligence. Although his singing as yet does not show a perfect control, or as himself a complete confidence in his ability, yet it is true that his voice is of remarkable depth and power. At one time in the selection he touched low C with perfect ease. Of the piano numbers, Mr. Hudson deserves the most praise, as he played a very difficult selection remarkably well. The program in full was as follows:

- Piano solo—Bourree D Major, Gavotte G Minor, J. S. Bach, George Moss Hart.
- Soprano solo—"Here and There," A. B. Winch, Josephine Keane.
- Piano solo—Le Cavalier Fantastique, Godard, Mabel Guthery.
- Contralto solo—"The Boat of My Lover," Reinhold Herman, Edith Curry.
- Violin solo—Gondoliera from Third Suite, Ries, Agnes Brownell.
- Piano solo—Sonata in D No. 2, Allegro Andante, Mozart, Edna MacDonaid.
- Soprano solo—"The Swallows," F. H. Coven, Belle Warner.
- Piano solo—Cantique D'Amour, Liszt, Clara Dinmick.
- Violin solo—Benedictus Mackenzie, May Belle Hagenow.
- Contralto solo—"Once in a Purple Twilight," Eugene Cowles, Elberta Hearn.
- Bass solo—Prayer from "Magic Flute" arr. John Randolph, Mozart, W. Claude Reed.
- Piano solo—Fantasie Op. 28, Con Moto Agitato Andante, Mendelssohn, May Belle Hagenow.
- Contralto solo—Recitative, "Ah Golgotha," from "Passion Music" (St. Matthew) J. S. Bach; air, "He Was Despised," from "The Messiah," Haendel, Grace Reynolds.
- Piano solo—Staccato Etude, Rubinstein, Philip Hudson.

HISTORY OF PHI BETA KAPPA.

Phi Beta Kappa was founded at William and Mary college, Williamsburg, Va., on December 5, 1776. The society was established as a secret order founded on literary principles, and intended to unite the "wise and virtuous of every degree and of whatever country." The Yale chapter was established in November, 1780, and in the following year Mr. Parmelee also organized the Harvard chapter.

In 1825, when the great anti-masonic crusade took place, the Phi Beta Kappa was one of its first objects of attacks. Since its foundation it had been secret, but in 1831, as a result of the hostility and on the advice of John Quincy Adams, the secret was divulged. The Phi Beta Kappa furnished the model for the present system of Greek letter fraternities.

Forty colleges and universities have chapters, as follows: Bowdoin 1829; Colby, 1835; Dartmouth, 1787; University of Vermont, Middlebury, Harvard, 1781; Amherst, 1853; Williams, 1864; Tufts, Brown, 1829; Yale, 1780; Trinity, 1845; Wesleyan, 1845; Union, 1819; University of the City of New York, 1858; College of New York City, Columbia, Hamilton, Hobart, Colgate, Cornell, 1882; Rochester, 1883; Syracuse, 1895; Rutgers, Dickerson, 1883; Lehigh, 1886; Lafayette, 1889; Muir of Pennsylvania, 1892; Swarthmore, 1895; Johns Hopkins, 1895; William and Mary, 1776; Western Reserve, Kenyon, 1889; University of Iowa, 1895; University of Kansas, 1889; University of Nebraska, 1895, and University of Minnesota, 1892.

There is at present a movement on foot to establish a chapter at the University of Michigan. It is being actively pushed among the students, but is opposed by President Angell on the grounds that it does not allow as great democracy in the school as it does without it. However, 500 signatures have been secured to a petition which will soon be presented to the faculty.

The young ladies of the gymnasium class have organized cricket teams.

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