

## ATHLETICS.

**The Cane Break.**

The story begins at 1 a. m., Thursday, when one lone sophomore saw two freshmen with a bundle of canes. Here all traces of that bundle, destined to produce so many bumps and scratches, are lost. On Thursday night a gang of sophs was elated at seeing a crowd of juniors with a large box supposed to contain canes, headed for the university. The sophs held their breath until the box was deposited at the south cellar steps, where after the departure of the juniors they found an empty tomato box. But the freshies managed to hide the canes in the closet on the second floor, and to distribute them Friday just before chapel exercises. The chancellor, probably, was not in the secret for the chapel was open for the regular exercises. The sound of sophomore hisses told the breathless, expectant audience that the grinning faces of freshies were entering chapel. One hundred twenty-five strong they marched in with canes—some canes, some clubs—decorated with ribbons of their class colors, salmon and sapphire. Chancellor Canfield dismissed the students with the instructions to go out on the campus and remain until cooled off. The "freshie" girls with flushed cheeks and fluttering hearts marched to the west steps and the freshman brigade of broom stick soldiers led by their plumed club-bearer, Flippin, and his band of gladiators all marching in the steady and measured tread of the historic Tenth legion, approached. As they marched on the field thirsting for blood, they needed no brass buttons or glistening shields to send a thrill of pride through the souls of the dear ones whom they left behind on the west steps to mourn their loss and rejoice in their bravery. The sixty sophs in fighting array surged to the north, while on—on comes that fierce, scowling brigade. With teeth set in dogged determination and muscles contracted, the little band of sophs meet the advance guard. A seething, writhing mass of humanity. Here moans of despair from wounds and defeat, as the armed knight of '96 sees his weapon in splinters at his feet. There, disrobed and dirty, frantically clawing dirt from an overfilled mouth, lies a fallen hero of the band of '95; and across his noble carcas lies a bleeding gladiator of the '96th legion fondly holding his fevered brow close against his heaving bosom. Julius Ceasar Flippin, the standard-bearer, flourishes in defiance his telegraph pole high above the turbulent mass and withdraws to the rear where the club is hidden, and again joins the forces. For twenty minutes the breaking continued until the last cane which was brought upon the field was broken. Two beams carried by Flippin and Yont of '96 came out whole. An attempt was made later to break them with a pile driver but without success.

After the battle some blushing buds of innocence encountered some female cane breakers of the '95th legion, resulting in the loss of three dozen hairpins which the bottle holders for the combatants and the referee wear as watch charms, the formation of thirty-six well developed bumps, the fracture of one dress, and some new and original points in wrestling. Here the curtain falls upon the scene for the observer here withdraws from the throne of observation.

Since its foundation the University of Nebraska has been almost destitute of sports and games which go so far to make college life a pleasure aside from studies. Nothing enlivens a college so much as a body of sport-loving students. Our university, like many other western colleges, has stood back and watched with envious eyes the progress of sports in the eastern schools, and not until last year did the students see an athletic spirit entering with any decision upon our campus. Then was seen the result of the efforts of the university ath-

letic association to introduce college sports and athletics into our university. We will not review the many good qualities of our last year's foot ball and base ball teams, suffice it to say, the university was proud of them and their work. While it is true they did not always bring victory home, yet they encountered old and well trained clubs, while themselves in their infancy. But a splendid foundation was laid for solid teams this year. We lost seven foot ball and one base ball man by graduation, and fine players they were, too, but their places will be filled by new men without difficulty. Last year, it will be remembered, two of our foot ball players were mere "preps," so we may expect to find some good material among the freshies. Every student and especially freshmen with any inclination toward sports, games, or gymnasium work should join the athletic association on entering school, for if they have any abilities as an athlete they will soon be discovered. Nothing makes a student of average abilities so popular among the student body as to show a lively interest in college sports.

Oliver, our old left half back will probably play full back for the team this year. Some good rush line men are badly needed, however. It seems strange that foot ball men will not get out and practice as they should when we will probably play the Illinois university team in less than three weeks on our home ground. On the 29th of November the team goes to Denver to play an athlete association team which has a great reputation, and soon after games will be played with Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas universities. On all of the trips the expenses of the players are paid, so that these trips should be some inducement for proper and regular training. The team will not be selected for several weeks yet, so that new players will have a good opportunity to obtain places on the first team, which has but six old players in school.

Andy Anderson, our old reliable center rush, has been and will be unable to attend school this year. He has sent in his resignation as captain of the foot ball eleven and has extended his best wishes for its success. It will be difficult to find a man that will fill the position of center rush as faultlessly as did Andy, and the team will miss his steady reliable work.

Officers for the athletic association have been elected as follows: President, Chas. Stroman, '93; vice-president, Jim Canfield, '95; secretary, Fred Barnes, '96; treasurer, Ike Pace, '95. Board of directors: Chas. Stroman, president, C. E. Tefft, C. A. Elliott, Jim Johnston, Geo. Flippin.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a coach for the eleven. Telegrams and letters of inquiry have been sent to a dozen leading coaches but with little success. But at present it seems that an Omaha man will be secured.

Judging from the awkward manner in which some of the new students make use of the gymnasium apparatus, Professor Bowen will have some good subjects to work on in the classes of physical training.

Most of the old base ball players have returned to school this year and several new men of the correct style for players have entered. A good team may be expected in the spring.

Lockers have been assigned to the foot ball players and the bath rooms opened for their use. Jack Best has charge of the bath rooms and administers to the wants of the bathers.

Jim Johnston who filled the position of right half back and captain of the foot ball team so satisfactorily last season, has been elected captain of the team for the coming season.

Fifteen new foot ball suits have been purchased for the players so that with those already on hand there are plenty for the second as well as the first team.