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Wednesday, November 24, 1909

Tomorrow's Game.

For the first time in three years, Oregon comes up to the final game of the season with a chance for the Northwest championship.

In 1906, captained by "Weary" Chandler, and coached by Hugo Bezdek, Oregon was not defeated. O. A. C. held the lemon to a no score game but, since they were beaten by teams that lost to Oregon, they had no claim to first place. Two years ago, Oregon defeated both Washington and Idaho, the latter defeating every other college in the Northwest except O. A. C. The Agrics then won from Oregon—the only game they played—giving them the championship. Last year Washington defeated every college in the Northwest except W. S. C.

A chance like the present one is not to be considered lightly. The thoughts of every Oregon student will be centered in the great contest on Denny Field tomorrow, hoping that victory may come to Clarke and his men.

As to the probable result, it is not our province to speculate on that. Whatever is the outcome, however, we will accept it, finding fault with no one and giving full credit where credit is due—to team and coach and trainer. As to the men; enough—they are from Oregon. If none were injured, they would win. And the coach and trainer, we consider the equals of any in the country.

There has been much talk about the contest between Dobie and Forbes; between the football methods of the East and of the West. We know of another contest. Robert Forbes is one who can teach men and make them work for him without driving them. He often praises but never criticises harshly. He never quarrels, but quietly goes to work and gets results in the way of a splendidly drilled team that would do anything for him. Were the word used less wantonly it would be enough to say he is a gentleman.

Of course we know nothing of the coaching methods of Gilmour, Dobie, but we do know that most coaches are not like Robert Forbes. We would like to see his methods vindicated.

As to Interest in Football and Oratory.

A recent editorial in the Morning Oregonian of Portland criticised the modern college and particularly those of Oregon for taking more interest in football than in oratory. This criticism, we believe calls for some consideration.

It is true that athletics does receive more vociferous support and arouse more outward enthusiasm than oratory among college students, as it also does, we are justified in saying, among business men and newspaper editors. But this is a different thing from saying that it attracts more interest.

The interest taken in oratory, as in all mental work, is something less exciting to the outward emotions and hence less noticeable than that taken in physical competition. But the interest is there nevertheless and there are few college men who would not prefer to have the elements of literary talent in them than those of the physical prodigy. Even such a low standard of physical competition as prize fighting will attract interest, but no one suspects humanity of really preferring it to superior mentality.

Moreover, had the Oregonian taken the trouble to look further than in its own incorrect news columns for the facts of the matter, it would have known that its conclusions were unwarranted. In the first place, the University of Oregon has no intention of dropping oratory. The committee in charge was unanimously in favor of retaining it, and in order to do so, they are going as far away as Montana to secure competitors. There are more men this year trying out in oratory and debate than tried for the football team.

The University of Idaho has dropped oratory, but inasmuch as their football team has met with an unbroken list of defeats, it can hardly be charged that such activities are unduly indulged in. The truth of the matter is that Idaho preferred not athletics, but debate to oratory, and this is only a matter of personal preference between two kinds of mental competition. Idaho is not noted for any great prestige in athletics, but she is never at the bottom of the list in forensics. How then can it be charged even there that football is absorbing the interest that should go to mental activities?

Washington Keeps Dobie.

Seattle, Nov. 20.—Gilmour Dobie, Washington's man of gloom, who has given the State University one champion team and what looks like another, was unanimously elected football coach for next year at a greatly increased salary by the faculty committee on athletics last Wednesday.

Whether the lanky fighter can be induced to spend another year bossing Washington's athletics is not known, for he has expressed his intention of quitting the coaching business for good and all. It is known that his alma mater, Minnesota, would like to have him for her head football instructor next year, but Dobie says that if he quits Washington it will be to leave athletics.

The students are overjoyed at Dobie's re-election, for it was feared that members of the faculty, some of whom are radically opposed to his coaching tactics, might object to having him another year. The pessimistic coach is one of the most popular men on the faculty. This is strange, too, for he is silent, fiery, and abusive in his coaching methods.

Denver University, which won the football championship of the Southwest, has written to Manager Zednick asking for a post season game with Washington, provided the varsity wins the Northwest championship. This game would be for the championship of the entire West. At last night's board of control meeting it was decided that no game could be played, as the players flatly refuse to keep in training for the post season game.

A contract has just been entered into by Washington and Oregon to engage in co-ed debates this year and next. This year's contest will be held here and next year's in Eugene.

Writes for Classical Weekly.

In a recent issue of The Classical Weekly of New York is an interesting article on the "Helvetian Quartet" by Professor Dunn, head of the Latin department of the University of Oregon. The Classical Weekly is published at New York by the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, and is devoted to articles concerning the literature, life, and art of ancient Greece and Rome.

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Ralph Cronise, University Correspondent

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