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Monday, November 16, 1908

A GENTLEMAN'S GAME

If every hostile critic of football in America had been in attendance at Saturday's game between Washington and Oregon, many would have gone away converted to the support of the national college game. After witnessing that game no one could maintain that football must of necessity be a brutal game, and that the nature of it precludes courtesy and consideration among players. If it is true, as magazine writers say, that the game of football brings to the surface the primal instincts of man, and blots out the more superficial element of politeness and decent regard for others, then the politeness of our Washington brethren must be deeper than the common garden variety with which the article writers have come in contact. For certain it is that, none of the fierceness of the game being abated, there was, nevertheless, apparent in the contest last Saturday, a spirit of mutual regard and genuine good sportsmanship that was a revelation to many who saw it. Whether it was the natural result of a game between two state universities, each with an ideal of clean athletics and respect for the other, or whether it was something else, the courtesy shown throughout the game has never been paralleled in Northwest college athletics.

To begin with, the rooters of each of the two sides, gave freely the yells of the other university and shouted generously for the stars on the opposing eleven. There was no undignified banter and ridicule among the rooters, but victory and defeat were alike accepted gracefully.

The game itself was clean beyond question. Not even an idea of foul

play entered the mind of spectator, player or official, except once, when Oregon's left tackle, breaking through the line, accidentally brought his hands against the opposing fullback. The referee said that he must go out of the game, but the Washington captain, understanding the incident and being a thorough gentleman as well as a football player, requested that he be allowed to remain in the game. Then ensued the rare spectacle of two captains, whose teams were fighting desperately and so far without success, for an only chance at the Northwest championship, shaking hands and exchanging compliments on the field. "You are the truest sport I ever met," said Oregon's captain, seizing the extended hand of his rival from the north, and every heart in the grandstand echoed the sentiment. Another striking incident was in the second half when the Oregon quarterback, Chandler, running in a punt, was tackled by a Washington player. The force of the tackle carried the Oregon man over the side line, knocking the breath from his body and causing the ball to slip from his arms. The Washington man, with the true instinct of a football player to get the ball, seized it, but noticing that it was out of bounds and that Chandler was disabled, gently replaced it in the arms of his opponent. The officials were not near; the Washington player might easily have stolen the ball, but he was not that kind of a man, and consequently not that kind of a football player.

The game was replete with such incidents, of which those given are the more striking examples.

Yet the contest was one of the three hardest games ever played on Kincaid Field. The explanation of the seeming paradox must be sought in the character of the players. Theirs was not the politeness of the "Excuse me, if I stepped on your toe" variety that in such circumstances amounts to veneer and artificial polish; but a deeper and innate courtesy, innate as truly as the spirit which animated the fierce line plunges. It was recognition of this quality that brought the Oregon rooters swarming on the field to carry off upon their shoulders the victorious team along with the vanquished.

From the game, there has come an understanding and fellow feeling of sportsmanship between the two universities that is worth more than victory. There has also been given to the people at large an exhibition of clean football which should dispel much prejudice. The proposition that has been proved is that football, emphatically a man's game, can also be a gentleman's game, if the men who play are gentlemen.

WEEKLY PRESS SERVICE

To one who knows conditions in Oregon, it must be evident that the only way for the University to realize its greatest possibilities in the present time and in the time to come, is for it to get into intimate contact with the

people of the state. The University of Oregon is primarily and emphatically the people's school, yet only last week a high school educator of some prominence in the southern part of the state termed it a school for rich men's sons. We who are at the University know that this is not true or most of us would not be here, but the majority of the people do not know it because the University has not yet been brought closely in touch with them. There are many services which the University as the people's school can render to the people of the state. Its correspondence department puts higher learning at the door of every citizen for the cost of postage. The work of the Economics senior majors this year is to be of value in the solution of legislative problems and has been undertaken upon the urgent solicitation of members of the legislature. Professor Young's projected idea of a Commonwealth Day should bring the state a better knowledge of how the University may serve it.

In all this work the Oregon Weekly aspires to do an humble, but essential part. Actuated by motives such as are suggested above, the editorial department of the Weekly has established, on a modest scale, a press bureau, the object of which is to put the people of the state into direct and constant touch with doings at the University of Oregon. Each week news will be sent to the prominent country papers and to those papers published in the smaller towns. The news will not be "dope," sent the same to all, but will be for each paper the news which its readers will find of interest. A weekly report in German will be sent to the German newspapers of Portland whose subscription lists in Oregon total twenty thousand. A report in Finnish will go to the Finnish paper at Astoria. Telegraph reports of University events will be furnished to the smaller papers upon request. The bureau will not duplicate or displace the work of University correspondents. The sole object is, of course, the promotion of a more intimate knowledge of the University among the people of the state at large. No provision has yet been made to finance the undertaking, and the expense is at present borne by members of the staff. Items of interest in any part of the state are now in demand and are welcome from any student. They may be handed to any member of the staff or placed in the Oregon Monthly box in Villard Hall near the students' bulletin board.

The direction of the bureau will be in charge of Miss Fay Clark, an efficient member of the present staff. She will be assisted by a number of reporters whose appointment will be announced next week.

Another assistant editor will be appointed to cover the present reportorial work of the new director.

This work is most important. The Weekly, as the newspaper of the University, has assumed it, in the hope of hearty cooperation on the part of all.