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Coed Training for Football

by Ida Halpin

BOOM! The lone, loud drum beat resounds through the stadium as the toe of a cleated shoe connects squarely with the "pigskin." The 1938 football season is on.

Down in front the subs lean forward tensely on the bench, and the navy-coated and gold-epauleted band members put their instruments away until the half. The sun shines; the air is cool and invigorating; excitement reigns—this is life. The bleachers are a riot of gay colored coats, plaid scarves and bright gloves as every eye follows the progress of the ball down the field. Did I say every eye? I was mistaken.

Now, look at the cute little blond behind Joe. Does she think that a mere apology will reblock his hat which she's been literally pounding for the last few minutes? She has really got enthusiasm—minus self control. She just ought to know better.

And so it goes, on and on. Why, out of all the clever, intelligent coeds who really enjoy football games, do there have to be the proverbial few who spoil it for us all by being everybody's "pet peeves" at the game? Women today are interested in football. However, to be truly interested at a game they must at least partially know the answer to the oft asked question, "What's going on down there?"

In order to leave the stadium knowing more about the game than the score, the spectator must realize that it is impossible to see everything at once. Best results may be obtained by looking ahead of the ball. By watching the ball the spectator misses nearly ninety percent of what is happening on the field. The royal battle is going on in front of it.

With good eyesight and a little attention it is possible to watch the execution of plays. Soon you will be able to figure out what plays are likely to be called and experience the joy of anticipating them. If you watch the guards while at a football game, you will obtain maximum information. The work in front of the ball carrier is interesting.

On being asked their chief complaints, if any, connected with coeds and football, co-captains Kischer and Bock collaborated on the statement that neither had had the pleasure of female company at a football game for some time. However, Bock, did say that a sore point with him is the woman who yells at the wrong time for the wrong thing. He explained, "You know, the one that yells 'What a grand tackle' just after someone has made a swell kick."

Kischer objects to women who devote all their time to their escorts and never watch the game or give the fellows a chance to watch either. John Rholf, Iowa State Student sports editor, dislikes high-pitched feminine screams at football games. Cheer leader Warren Lasser objects to the lack of spirit and enthusiasm shown by some women during the game.

The Iowa State 1938 football season started September 19th for forty-four men. They came back to school early and practiced twice a day, morning and afternoon and listened to a lecture at night. They ate together at a special "training table." They started to learn plays which are very much in detail, and there is a definite piece of work for each individual for each play. Before the end of the season the team will have learned about fifty plays. Who said football players are all brawn and no brain?

To remain eligible the players must be off college probation. Coach Yeager says the players usually make their best grades during the football season. Besides being fair scholars most of the football men are working at least part of their way through college.

Athletes can compete for only three years and then forty-two quarter hours of college work are required. No freshmen are eligible for competition but they can play on the freshman football teams.

After the official season gets underway the players practice from 4:15 to 5:45 every afternoon. The Iowa State men have no training rules, and do not need any, Coach Yeager says. During the season all of the games are filmed and shown to the team on the Monday following the game to help the players analyze their good and bad points.

"Scout notes" are given concerning the next team they are to play. These "scout notes" are very detailed and contain everything that the scout could discover about the opponents to be during one game. The information includes plays, weaknesses, and techniques of both the team and individual players. The success or failure of the team in the next game may depend to a great extent on the accuracy of the "scout notes."

There are nine games during the season—five conference games and four outside of the conference. Iowa State is a member of the Big Six Conference which includes the Universities of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Kansas State College. Coach Yeager and Tackle Tusko Morin said they would vouch for the consensus of the other players' opinions that Nebraska is the team they'd rather beat than any other. Nebraska was last year's Conference winner.

Both the Coach and Morin said that contrary to the prevailing opinion, the team is conscious of the yells while on the field. While they cannot distinguish them, they are aware of them and it helps their morale.

October, 1938