

THE BATTALION

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THE MATMEN.

If we were to undertake to unearth the history of various college athletic activities we would find that wrestling has an earlier origin than any other sport. Bob Edgreen in his treatise on wrestling, vividly describes the square ring sport as the court entertainer of the early Grecian rulers, probably the greatest sport loving state in history. Fans and critics have always considered the grappling art as a superb exhibition of physical strength, endurance, skill, speed, individual generalship, science and strategy.

In other sections of the country, especially in the East and Middle West, wrestling has long been recognized as a major inter-collegiate sport; and winning teams are pointed to with great pride.

At Aggieland, wrestling has just recently been introduced and is still regarded by the cadet as an experiment. It has not yet become a tradition of the school and consequently does not receive the enthusiasm displayed at the older forms of athletics here. However, the mat-men are due to receive all the encouragement possible. A letter in wrestling is dearly bought—to train properly for inter-collegiate wrestling as our own Aggie mat-men do is nothing short of torture. The cadet is more or less familiar with the stringent daily program of Jones' pupils. Following his usual afternoon of tiger-like mat scrimmage is the drudgery of road work—dragging their tired and bruised bodies over a two mile cross country. Then a week or so before a meet comes the starving and sweating out process in order to reduce weight making the aspirant eligible for a certain class. Long duration in the boiler room of the powerhouse under heavy woolen blankets is quite common incidentally to the daily ration of a tiny bit of meat, a piece of toast, and a teaspoonful or so of water. This imbibes in the wrestler that same hungry fight that prompts timber wolves in their usual combat for possession of the carcass.

Saturday will see a great battle between representative teams of two conferences—Oklahoma University of the Missouri Valley and the Aggies of the Southwest. Like all other sports here, in addition to the sideline encouragement of the coach and camp followers, they need the moral support of the student body. See that they get it!

NO ALL-AMERICANS FOR 1921.

We threw a wrench into the cogs of the machine which picks the mythical All-American football team when we downed Centre College to the surprise of everyone except ourselves. Walter Camp missed the big game of the year when he went clear across the continent to witness a scoreless tie between Washington and Jefferson and California. If he had seen the Aggie-Centre game, we believe that an All-American would have been picked as in previous years. The Collegiate World attributes this failure to the belief of prominent coaches that the selection of an athlete for this team makes him the possible prey to the professional football promoter, which causes him to give up his college career to take up professional football as a vocation. The same article in the Collegiate World also states that if the judgment of the Eastern and Middle-Western authorities who witnessed the Aggie-Centre fray is to be accepted, it is doubtful if either Washington and Jefferson or California could have defeated the Aggies. Although the professional football argument is one not to be scoffed at, we still believe had it been possible for the namers of All-American teams to have been in Dallas on January second the selection for All-American honors would have been made as usual.

R. V.'S ATTENTION!

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