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Football Pages

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The Varsity of 1904.

IT was without regret that another page of Notre Dame's football history was turned down on Thanksgiving Day, for the record made by the Varsity of 1904 fell far below the standard set by the elevens of the past three years. But the poor showing made this year does not reflect in any way upon the ability of Coach Salmon, nor upon the pluck or ability of the men who made up the eleven. The whole cause of the disastrous season can be set down to two causes—the lack of material and the frequent injury of the players—neither of which was to have been foreseen by those in charge in time to have been avoided. Of the championship eleven of 1903 we lost our entire back-field, both tackles, an end and one guard. This in itself was a serious obstacle to overcome, and it was seen after the first week of practice, that there was a woeful lack of material from which to pick men to fill the vacant positions. Out of the squad of twenty-five there were but sixteen who were qualified by their classes to represent Notre Dame on the gridiron. Of the new men the majority were without previous experience and were very light, but Coach Salmon set to work to whip his men into shape for the season. It was at this stage that the injuries commenced and kept up during the rest of the season. In quick succession, McNerney, Guthrie, Healy, Silver, Shaughnessy and Church were injured so as to be forced to retire from the game. The lack of men forced Trainer Holland to put his cripples back in the game before they had recovered, and so our team always had one or more cripples in its line-up. And so with one or more of the best players in the college on the sidelines in every game it is no wonder that the Varsity was unable to put forth its best game. The loss of the Kansas contest at least can be laid to the number of cripples in our line-up, for it was not until after our subs had been put in the game that Kansas made their winning scores.

Coach Louis J. Salmon had a hard task before him and the complications which arose as the season advanced did not tend

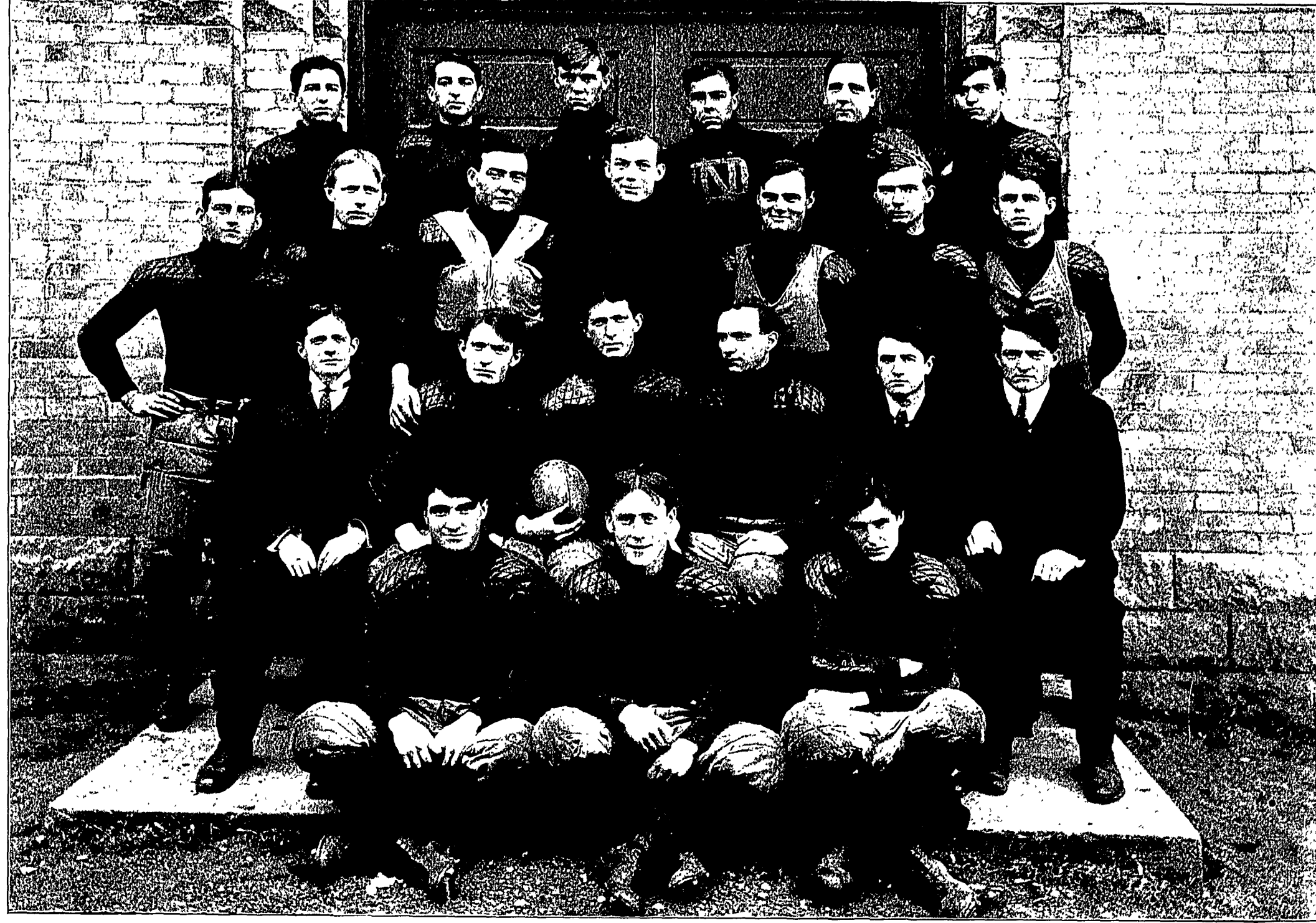
to lighten his burden. To his credit it must be said that he kept at work with the same spirit of perseverance that marked his playing during his four years on Notre Dame's teams and made his name famous in the annals of football from one coast to the other. The fact that the Varsity's team work and offensive play was developed to the speed and accuracy that was shown in the last few games speaks more for Salmon's ability than the record of an ordinary team with good luck on its side would have done. It is the hope of the entire student body that Salmon will return to Notre Dame next year, take charge of the team and bring Notre Dame back to the place she occupied when he was the pride of Notre Dame and the West.

FRANCIS J. SHAUGHNESSY (Right End).

Captain Shaughnessy was unable to give his team the full benefit of his ability, as his broken collar-bone forced him to remain on the side lines during the greater part of the season. But when in the game his long, sensational end runs and his hard and sure tackling stamped him as one of the best men that has defended Notre Dame's ends. His plucky work at Purdue, when, despite the doctor's orders and after being out of training for over two weeks, he tore through the line for long gains and played an all-around star game, won him a well-merited place on the "All-Star" Indiana eleven. Captain Shaughnessy leaves school in June, and if his successor at right end has the same amount of true Notre Dame spirit that our plucky Captain has, then our opponents will have to look to their laurels. "Shag" is 22 years old, weighs 175 pounds and is 6 feet and 3 inches in height.

PATRICK A. BEACON (Left Guard).

"Pat Beacon, bigger and better than ever," is the story of what our opponents ran up against when they attempted to gain through our left guard. "Pat" was the mainstay of the line last season and more than duplicated his fine work this year. Besides playing his usual strong game on the defense he surprised everyone by his work with the ball. He was first used at Columbus when our backs were tired out and unable to gain. Running low and hard he tore into the line and placed yard after



yard to our credit until finally he had scored. Then to show that his feat had been no accident he did it all over again and made our victory complete. Beacom handles his 230 pounds easily and is much faster on his feet than the ordinary lineman. He has been selected to lead the Varsity next season and should prove a capable captain. The rooters are already laying plans for the celebrations that will occur when the men under Captain "Pat" bring the coveted title of State Champions back to Notre Dame. Beacom is 22 years old, weighs 230 pounds and is 6 feet 2 inches in height.

NATE H. SILVER (Quarter-Back).

During Captain Shaughnessy's absence from the game the responsibility of running the team was given to Nate Silver, and our speedy little quarter-back kept up his record for fast and consistent work made the year before. Silver uses good judgment in directing his plays and has the faculty of keeping his backs working together at all times. His defensive work at Lafayette and at Milwaukee won a lot of praise for him. Nate has been chosen alternate captain for next season and will return and play next year. He was lighter than usual this fall, weighing but 150 pounds, is 21 years old and stands 5 feet 7 inches in height.

CLARENCE J. SHEEHAN (Centre).

"Bud" Sheehan kept up his clever work at centre and proved himself the most consistent man Notre Dame has had at that position. He was handicapped by injuries, but he always managed to secure an even break with his opponent. He is a fast man and a willing worker, and to his accurate passing is due the fact that Notre Dame had but few fumbles during the year. He will return next season, and will give some of the aspiring candidates for centre honors in the West a merry race. Sheehan is 21 years old, weighs 190 pounds and is 6 feet in height.

LAWRENCE McNERNY (Left-End).

McNerny was one whom the hoodoo picked out as its own personal property. Just before the trip to Milwaukee he was badly hurt in practice, but entered the Wisconsin game as there was no competent man to replace him. In that game he was so battered and bruised that he was compelled to remain on the side lines until the De Pauw

and Purdue contests. In these two games he showed his ability by scoring a 75-yard run against De Pauw and putting up an excellent game at Lafayette. McNerny has had but two years of college football, yet he is a valuable man for any team. He is a brilliant offensive player and a man who can take advantage of any slip of his opponents. He is a member of the 1906 Law class and will return. "Mac" weighs 160 pounds, is 5 feet 11 inches in height and is 20 years old.

MICHAEL L. FANSLER (End and Full-Back).

"Big Mike" is the most versatile man on the Notre Dame team. During his three years of football he has been called upon to play nearly every position on the eleven; and in every case he has given satisfaction. Early in the season the injuries to "Shag" and McNerny forced Salmon to look for an end. Mike was tried and made good. Later he was shifted to full-back when Draper was laid up, and at Purdue Fansler tore into the Boilermaker's line as though he were a second Salmon. Despite his good work this year at end and full-back, Mike is really a lineman. If he returns to Notre Dame for his last year, which is to be hoped, he will be a great help to the team in the line. Mike is 23 years old, weighs 170 pounds and is 6 feet 3 inches in height.

ARTHUR FUNK (Right Tackle).

Funk was late in reporting for practice, and had no real chance until he was tried at tackle at Columbus. He at once proved that he was the "find" of the year. From that time on he was kept on the regulars, and as he became accustomed to his place he showed the stuff that was in him. He is short and rather light for a lineman, but is a hard fighter. His work with the ball gained many yards for Notre Dame, and next year when he has learned more of the fine points of the game he will prove a worthy successor of that other 'Art'—Steiner. Funk weighs 165 pounds, is 5 feet 8½ inches in height and is 20 years old.

DAVID J. GUTHRIE (Half-Back).

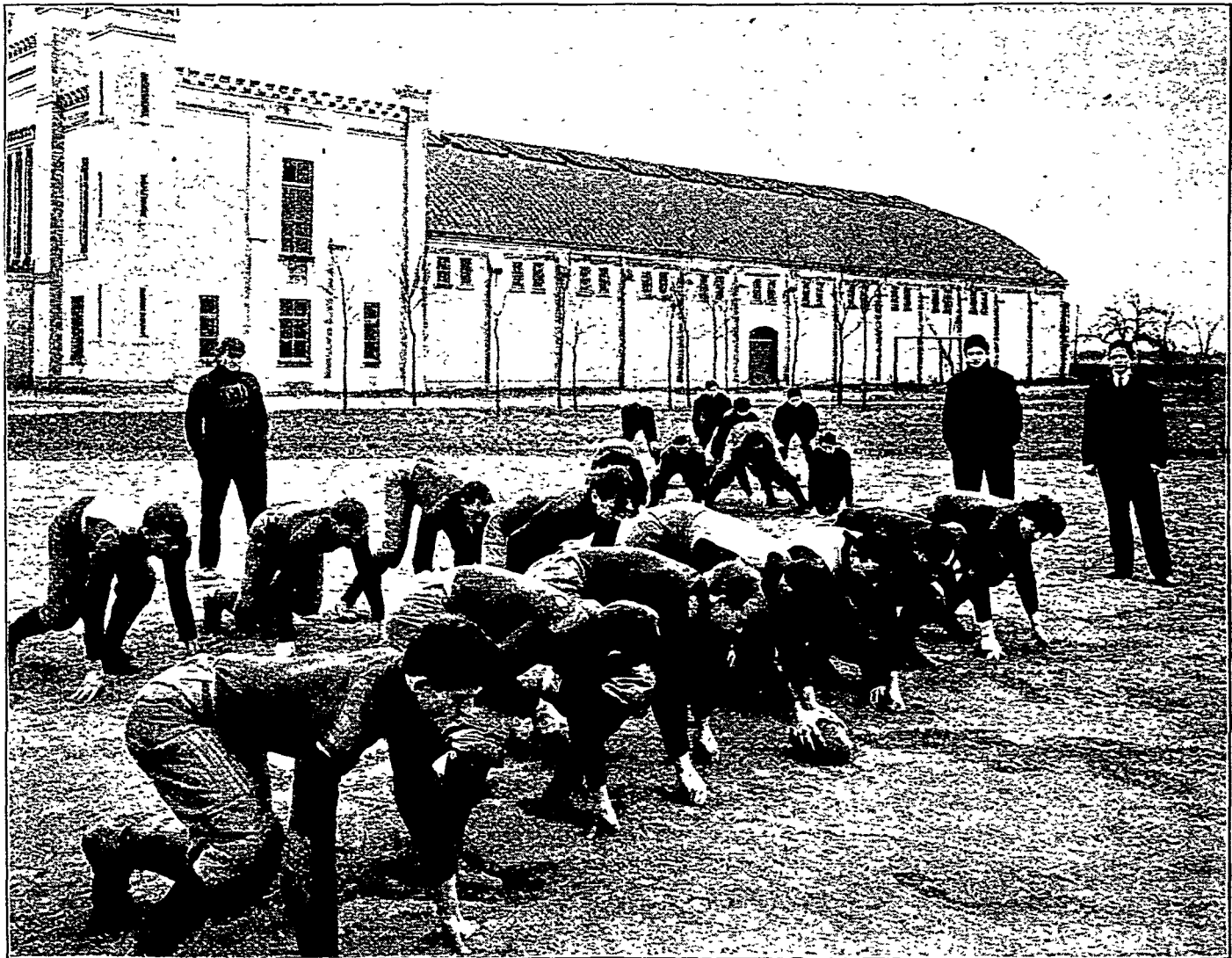
Guthrie was another 'find,' but like other members of the team, he was severely hurt early in the year and was unable to play his best game at all times. Dave is a hard man to down when he has the ball; he hits

the line low and seems to be able to keep his feet until he has made his gain. His defensive playing was consistently good all year, and before he was injured it was brilliant. Dave has three years ahead of him and should prove one of the strongest men in the back-field. He is 21 years old, weighs 190 pounds and is 6 feet in height.

RICHARD W. DONOVAN (Right Guard).

Coach Salmon decided that Donovan with his 195 pounds of brawn and bone would do better in the line than at half-back where

busy doctoring his bruises and sprains until the De Pauw game when he was laid up for good with a fractured collar-bone. "Bill" is one of the best punters Notre Dame has ever had, several of his kicks going over seventy yards. His offensive work was not consistent, although when in a pinch he could tear through for gains, as he showed against De Pauw. This and his defensive work will have improved greatly next year when he can be expected to do great things. This is his first year on the football team.



THE LINE-UP.

he won his monogram last year. Although new to the place "Dick" soon got onto the run of things and put up a creditable showing all year. His work is not of the brilliant or sensational order, but he played hard, and kept improving all the time. Donovan has two more years to play. He is 21 years old and 5 feet 11 inches in height.

WILLIAM A. DRAPER (Full-Back).

"Bill" Draper fitted in nicely at Salmon's old place, and his early work gave great promise. But the hard luck "bugaboo" got busy with him also, and Draper was kept

He is 21 years old, is 6 feet 1 inch in height and weighs 172 pounds.

DURANT CHURCH (Half-Back).

Church is another new man to the squad; he is playing his first year at half-back. Church is a fast man, understands football thoroughly, and in his early games won the rooters by his heady work with the ball and his plucky defensive playing. Later in the season his defensive game suffered, and he failed to maintain the standard set for himself earlier in the year. His injury at Milwaukee, which put him out of condition,

may in some manner account for this; and if he returns to Notre Dame next fall he should put up a creditable game. Church weighs 160 pounds and is 23 years old.

THOMAS F. HEALY (Left-Tackle).

Tom played in hard luck all year. He did not report for practice until late in the season, and when rounding into condition he sprained his ankle and had to start all over. When in condition Healy puts up an excellent exhibition of football. His best game of the year was at Lafayette where he went after Allen, Purdue's captain, and more than held his own until he was forced to give way to Murphy. If Tom comes back to Notre Dame next year in condition he will surprise some of the supporters of the team. Healy weighs 200 pounds, is 21 years old and is 6 feet in height.

ROBERT BRACKEN (Half-Back).

"Peggy" Bracken was the lightest man in the back-field, but won his monogram by his dash and earnest work. During the year he played half-back and end, and his showing gives great promise for the future. He is not as experienced as some others in the back-field, but if he returns next fall the candidates for end or half-back will have a hard time beating him out. Bracken is 20 years old, weighs 160 pounds, and is 5 feet 9 inches in height.

RUFUS W. WALDORF (Half-Back).

Waldorf is another man who lacks the experience that every Varsity player should have. But his work during the season was hard and showed steady improvement every time he was put in the game. His weight, too, was against him, but if he can put on a few pounds during the vacation he ought to be able to put up a creditable game next season. Rufus is 20 years old, weighs 155 pounds and won his monogram for the first time this year.

DANIEL L. MURPHY (Tackle).

Murphy was one of the new men of the squad, and when given a chance did all that could have been asked of him. He has had practically no experience before the present year, and consequently was at a great disadvantage when playing against older and more seasonable men. Still, he is a game and hard player, and always gave the best he had in stock. Another year would go a long way towards developing "Murph," but as he graduates in June he may not return. He weighs 172 pounds, is 5 feet 10½ inches in height and is 20 years old.

RICHARD COAD (Sub Quarter-Back).

"Dick" Coad took Silver's place as the baby of the team, and, like Nate, won all from the start by his brilliant work. His defensive playing is as clean-cut and as sure

as that of any player Notre Dame has had in years and was a feature of every game he took part in. His generalship and offensive playing lacks Silver's dash and sureness, but Coad gave entire satisfaction while on the squad. Parental objections forced him to leave the squad before the Purdue game. Dick is 19 years of age, weighs 140 pounds and is 5 feet 8 inches.

Besides the above-named gentlemen, all of whom won their monograms, the squad consisted of Keefe, O'Neill, Langtry, Sudheimer and Murray. Keefe, O'Neill and Sudheimer were in the Varsity line-up at some time or other, but did not play the length of time required for a monogram. This lack of men for a second team was one of the greatest obstacles Coach Salmon had to contend with, and it is to be hoped that a school that has forty-five candidates report for a hall eleven while fourteen or fifteen men, some badly crippled, are serving as first and second teams for the Varsity, will see that next year's squad will be large enough to warrant the formation of at least two full teams. The few men who did stand the bruises and knocks on Cartier Field deserve the credit for showing a great deal more loyalty than many of the fellows who moan so about the lack of true college spirit at Notre Dame.

Trainer Holland had his troubles from the first day of practice, when Sheehan hurt his foot, until he gave his men their last attentions at Lafayette. Tom was without a sufficient number of competent assistants all year, but he did as well as could be expected under the existing circumstances. Besides looking after the physical welfare of the men, he relieved Manager Daly during the latter's absence from Notre Dame in October. No one can criticise Holland for the lack of condition of the men. His work in the past shows that if conditions are the least way favorable to him, his boys will go into the games fit as the proverbial fiddle.

Manager Byrne M. Daly had more than the usual number of complications, both great and small, to overcome, and it was but to be expected, after his record of the past three years, that he would come through with flying colors. By his tact and personality he has placed Notre Dame on friendly terms with all the colleges of the West, and what Mr. Daly has done for athletics at Notre Dame would make his place especially hard to fill.

In conclusion, the SCHOLASTIC desires to congratulate Coach Salmon and every member of the squad for their loyalty to Notre Dame in the face of overwhelming odds, and to wish them all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

ROBERT R. CLARKE.