

THE OBSERVER LOOKS OVER ATHLETICS

CAPTAIN FERREYRA TO HEAD VETERAN ENGINEER FENCERS

Nine Contests Make up Tentative Schedule of Swordsmen

With six experienced candidates doing good work with the foils and four more showing clever form with the epee, the Technology fencing team seems to have plenty of material for a winning combination. Captain George Ferreyra, who was the New England open sabre champion last spring, and who placed third in the intercollegiate competition, should prove a consistent point winner and is even thought to have a chance at the college title if he trains.

Coach Ranks High

Coach Danguay has charge of the squad three times a week, one of the periods being Saturday afternoon in Walker gym and the others being Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the B. A. A. quarters. Danguay is rated as the best fencing coach in America, and his expert instruction has already had a decided effect on the form of the Engineer swordsmen.

The candidates now practicing regularly, in addition to the captain are: Foils—S. P. Barker, G. W. Elkins, G. W. Furbush, Jr., R. T. Seabury, A. W. Stolte, and F. J. Walker, Jr. Epee—C. H. Blake, J. G. Dempsey, F. W. Grantham, and Horace Serrano, who is also out for the foils.

Navy Man Big Help

A great deal of the credit for the rapid strides being made by the team goes to Lt. George Calnan, of the Navy, who is taking the naval construction course here. He has been on hand every minute of practice since last winter, for the full length of the drill giving everybody, from the greenest competitor to the most expert his attention. Not only has he spent the greater part of his afternoons with the fencers, but he has also arranged to have former Navy stars stationed about Boston come over to Walker and drill the candidates. Captain Carswell, of the Army, is in charge of the Epee men.

Manager Jack Cannon has already made tentative arrangements for nine contests, and is planning to attend the meeting of the collegiate fencing association in New York, around the first of the year. At that time the preparations for the intercollegiate including the date, will be definitely settled. More freshman and Sophomore assistants could be kept busy.

Of the foils men, Barker, Furbush, and Walker have been displaying slightly better form than the average. None of these have been on the Technology team before. Blake, who wields the epee, was in action for the Engineers last winter. John Dempsey, another epee candidate is six feet seven inches tall and his reach should help.

English Professor Aids in Proof of Technology's Claim to Wisdom

By The Observer

It is well within the memory of the oldest Institute undergraduate, that time when a great and influential member of the English and History department arose in solemn grandeur to deliver a dissertation on Wisdom.

"Now it is well known that the ancient goddess of Wisdom was known to the Greeks as Incapliea, but poor woman—pardon me, I meant immortal female—she was among those countless others who slipped into oblivion when Greece melted on the hot point of Roman conquest.

"We come to the Dark Ages. Was Wisdom there—ah no, for she was dead. And so she remained until Noah Webster, scion of Boston, the American Athens, produced his incomparable dictionary. At last, after centuries of torpor, Wisdom awoke. She awoke.

You will note that I said—she awoke—but faith, even the great Webster could not wholly bring her back to consciousness after her snooze of centuries.

"It remained for Technology to fully return her to her former grandeur. Ah, when I think of those gray buildings by the banks of the Charles, how my heart goes out to them! Fount of Wisdom!"

But that professor didn't know the half of it. One of Technology's sons has done that which even Webster dared not do—define "slacker." The old boy was clever, but he knew his limits, so the honor has been left to prove Technology once more the home of Wisdom.

Slacker—One who can run like the wind, but won't come out for the team.

We Speak of Slackers

We'd like very much to know what Coach Kanaly thinks of this definition and we'd be willing to bet he'd check the professor's idea of the wisdom of it's author. But Technology's athletic mentor is also a member of the Faculty and what his athletic position wants him to state his professional post silence.

Hence we continue without advice from the source whence would be most appreciated, for how can we approach the faculty on the question of athletics? Let us proceed, therefore, depending on our own unaided and variously accumulated knowledge.

First of all let it be known that we appreciate the spirit of the fellows who are out on the track working their heads off. We know several men who are comers, if they only keep it up. The fact is there are a pile of good men here at the Institute but they won't risk straining themselves in practice. Why, over in one of the fraternity houses across the river there are three corking relay men . . . every one of them runners up to last year's Varsity four. Yet not one of them is reporting for practice. Yes, one of them did work for a little while but the example of the other two was too much for him and he's quit. We guess they expect to take a crack at the trials beat the others and bask in the limelight. But that's not the way to do the thing. It is a Technology principle never to alibi, so when we are beaten simply because the best men are slackers and won't come out we still can't say a word.

Boutelier Said a Mouthful

All of which reminds me of a frank statement from Coach Nap Boutelier of the boxing team. Talking with two of his Varsity men not long ago he bluntly remarked, "If only they would show up for practice there are men walking the halls of the Institute this very minute who could thrash most any man on the squad."

So it goes through all Technology athletics. Lots of star performers who for some deep and dark reason don't try out for teams. Some of the finest material in the country comes here, yet year after year bright hopes are dimmed because there is not sufficient real sportsmanship. There is an over abundance of slackers, and only a few hard workers to keep up Technology's reputation. We must prove that something of physical prowess goes with our name of "mental giants."

World Demands Different Attitude

Not many years ago there was a freshman distance star who was so good he created a sensation. But he has never trained on the track since his first year. And it isn't because he was low in his studies; we'd hate to say what we really think is the reason. Lots of men promise to train but few show action. It seems curious to us that men who hope to be

engineers of high reputation will promise and then so lightly forget. We have an idea that if they try that in their life after graduation their jobs will soon be vacant. The ash heap is full of their type.

These are the worst but we notice the track men who do work have some unnecessary handicaps to hinder them. It wouldn't take a great expenditure to get the bidders on the field in condition. Just at present there isn't place outside the track house where a man can get a drink, even in the case of emergency.

Lights on the grandstand would help those days of early darkness, but they have been provided on the roof of building 8, which is a great advance over the old lightless practice.

The main trouble along this line is the condition of the field. Seven years ago it was as good as could be found anywhere. Now look at it. That's only natural. Anything, particularly a cinder track needs repairs after seven years of hard usage. Something has been done but not enough. There are many spots where the cinders have worn off and the coarse foundation is showing. Yet we hope to convince the N. E. I. C. A. A. that Tech Field is the proper place for the New England championships next spring. Something is wrong somewhere.

Imagine the position of the coach under such conditions. On one side of him a bunch of slackers who have no idea of owing anything (yes, we mean to start that "old stuff" again) to Technology except the payment of tuition, and on the other, officials who, while better than the slackers, are pretty hopeless. It must be a tough life and just as we appreciate the fellows who stick to their training, so we appreciate that much more the coach who has to bear the brunt of it all in silence. However, if undergraduate opinion is any good it has two views to express, emphatically. One is, backing their coach and their teams to the limit and the other is, to show those slackers, as typified by those three men over the river, that they aren't quite as holy as they think themselves.

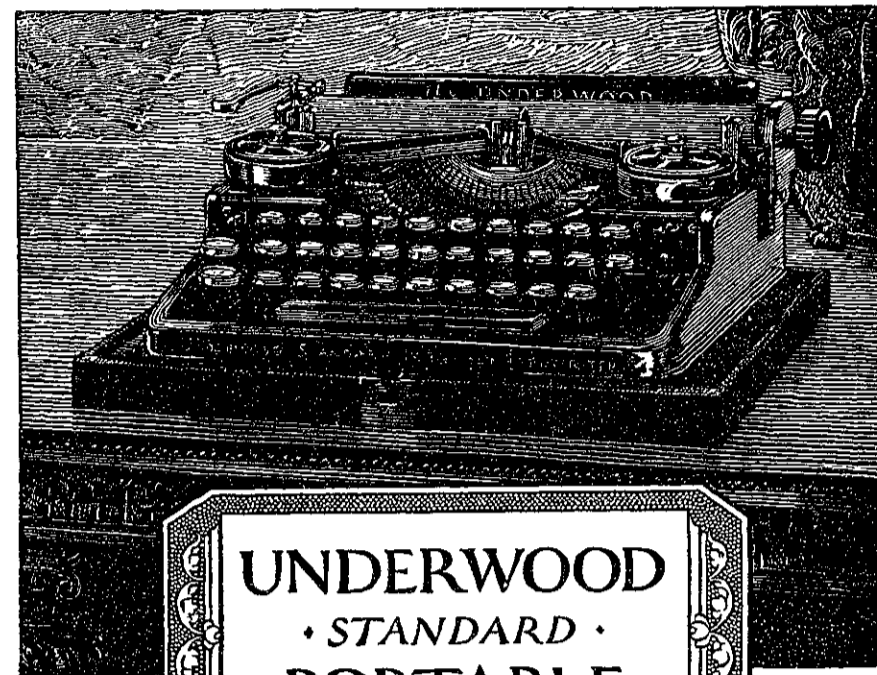
The Fencing Schedule

- A tentative list of the contests being arranged for Technology's fencing team follows:
- Feb. 17—Army at West Point
- Feb. 23—Yale at New Haven
- Feb. 24—Navy at Annapolis
- Mar. 14—Dartmouth in Walker
- Mar. 23—Columbia in Walker
- Apr. 13—Penn in Walker
- Hamilton at Hamilton
- Harvard in Walker
- Intercollegiate meet

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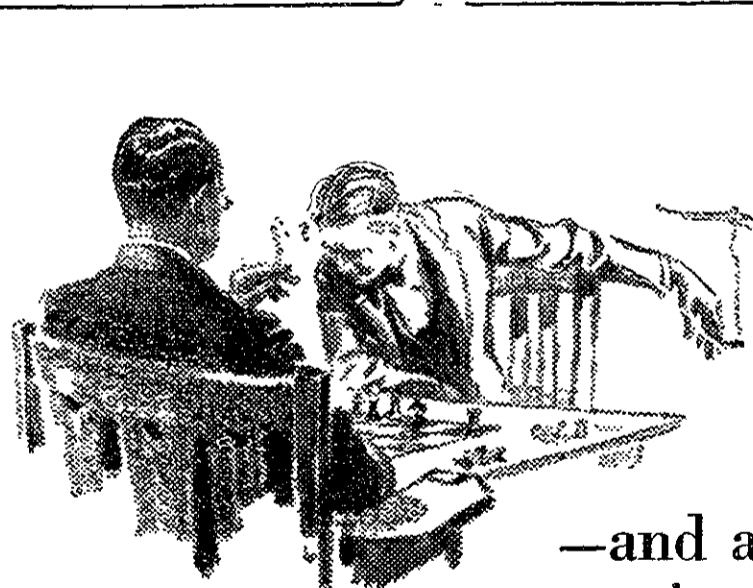


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