

CHARLESTON? W. VA. -- (AP)-- The 'phantom tackle' of Kansas University who helped defend the Midwest title against Missouri in 1899 told today why he "disappeared" after the game instead of going back to the Lawrence campus to the hero's welcome that awaited him.

George R. Krebs, 60 now, and a mining engineer, sat behind his drawing board and chuckled.

"You see," he said, "I wasn't the green farm boy from Colorado that I was supposed to be.

"They said I didn't know anything about football until that season in Kansas. Well, maybe not, but I had played for five years at West Virginia University and on a professional team in Latrobe, Pa.

Krebs was a sensation in that Kansas-Missouri game and his disappearance caused a furor that has built about him a tradition of mystery.

Reams have been written about the "Colorado farm boy" who made football history that day as Yost's eleven beat Missouri 34 to 6, for the Midwest title.

"At Kansas I matriculated as a farm boy from somewhere in Colorado-- I don't remember exactly where, but some hick place. I had to be from somewhere, didn't I?

"Well it was October and the season was already well under way, so at first I just ambled around over the campus, stumbling over my own feet, and it was easy to pass for a farm boy. I looked like one.

"Then I went out for the team and Yost put me on the scrubs. I just stumbled around and when the ball came to me, I'd be awkward, let it hit my chest and bounce off."

"But I caught on pretty quick," he continued, the grim broadening.

Quickly there followed the Nebraska and Washburn games, which Kansas won by big margins. Then the big game--Missouri, for the title. Kansas won, 34 to 6.

"Two of those Missouri men who played against me were carried off on stretchers," Krebs said, "But the third one was pretty good. He finished the game.

"Then I just caught a train and came home."