

Football hopes at K.U. took a jolt when Bob George, frosh triple-threat man, Joe Dickey, half-back speedster, and Frank Gruden, all-Big Six guard, were transferred by the Navy at the end of the winter term along with several other outstanding boys. The discontinuance of the V-5 program this summer will also remove a potential source of manpower from the K.U. squad. Last year three V-5 boys won their letters at K.U. Too, the Navy has already announced that there will be a reduction of personnel in the V-12 program November first. This means that an entirely different team from that beginning the season may play the November games.

Naval transfers the first of July make a guess as to K.U.'s football prospects for 1944 even more hazardous. Since freshmen are ineligible to participate until after one semester, there is little likelihood of getting much help from that source. Undoubtedly we will lose more than we will gain by the July transfers. On the brighter side of the ledger is the fact that fifteen lettermen from last year are still in school at the present time.

Since Head Coach Henry Shenk has a pretty good knowledge of the competition in the Big Six Conference this coming season, I asked him what he thought of Kansas' chances. I recall the days when Shenk played for Kansas, and particularly in 1927 when he caught a pass from Art Lawrence (now coaching at Rosedale High School) and dashed 40 yards down the east side of the field for a touchdown that beat Missouri 14 to 7. Capt. Barrett Hamilton caught the pass from Art Lawrence that made the first Kansas touchdown. Kansas had experienced a rather mediocre season up until that time. Missouri was Big Six champion and had beaten Nebraska and Northwestern, and were prohibitive favorites.

So when I asked Henry Shenk about the prospects for this season he replied, "So far as the Big Six this year is concerned it looks as if Oklahoma will probably be the team to beat for the championship. They have a large V-5 unit and a good many of their players back from last year, and they can also be counted on to get some outstanding freshman talent. Iowa State should also present a strong team since they not only have a large V-12 unit but also play a group of naval trainees corresponding to our electricians' mates. Oklahoma beat Kansas 26 to 13 last year in a thrilling game at Norman, and Iowa State defeated Kansas at Lawrence in a rather drab game 13 to 6.

"Missouri and Nebraska and Kansas State have no naval trainees. However, this may be an advantage in Big Six competition next year. It is quite likely that the three schools that have naval trainees will suffer from the cut of personnel announced for November first, and those schools playing civilians should at least be able to keep their squad intact from the beginning of the season until the end. The civilian teams are able to have longer practice sessions and more time for chalk-talks than the naval schools. The naval trainees maintain higher standards of scholarship with fewer practice hours than do the civilians. These factors to a certain extent counterbalance the lack of manpower in the schools having civilians.

Coach Shenk went on to say, "Probably Missouri should be the strongest of the three schools with all-civilian teams. They still have Delestations, Collins and several other boys from their fine team last year who will have profited by a year's experience. Nebraska always has a good football team. Last year they had probably the poorest team they have ever had. Yet they were able to defeat Kansas by one point in a sea of rain and mud at Lincoln, perpetuating the 28-year old jinx. Coach Ward Haylett of Kansas State, whose team was in the cellar last season, recently announced that things were looking up for football next year with the return of 140 Army veterinarians to civilian status. These together with a promising