

Mr. T. Hawley Tapping

Page Two

January 19, 1955

1617

appearing on the Northwestern University team that played Michigan on November 18 of that year. Northwestern was supposed to have a very good eleven that season. It was coached by Paul Noyes (then in the law school at Northwestern), brilliant full-back at Yale the year before. He played that position in the Michigan game. The Northwestern players and rooters came to Ann Arbor on a special train with all kinds of money to bet on their team. Most, or all of this, was snapped up when they arrived in Ann Arbor. During the first five minutes of play Jewett got the ball, ran through the entire Michigan team and scored a touchdown. Northwestern 6 - Michigan 0. Many bets were doubled. The final score was Michigan 72 - Northwestern 6. Look it up in the official records.

As to whether or not Jewett was the first colored man to play on a University football team, I am not informed. However, for about ten years, beginning with the year 1898, I followed football very closely as player, coach, official and reporter for Chicago newspapers and I never heard of a negro playing on any team, University or otherwise. There was a dark skinned South Sea Islander on the Oberlin team when they played Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1890, I think it was. He was a stocky, fierce-looking fellow with flashing black eyes and was a tough player. The Michigan rooters wasted no time in dubbing him "The Cannibal". In the early Nineties there was a colored man on the Harvard Varsity team who afterwards became Attorney General of the State of Massachusetts.

Whatever became of Jewett after his appearance in the fall of 1893, I do not know. You inquire in your letter why he did not receive a letter; the answer is that at that time there wasn't any such animal. Every man scratched up his own football outfit. The pants I wore originally belonged to "Snake" Ames, Princeton football great of the '89 team. At Michigan not even a sweater was handed out. In those days we wore canvas jackets and if a man played on the team, he took a lead pencil, ink or charcoal and put a letter "M" on his jacket. In the pictures I am sending you, you will see that Jewett is rigged out in this way. There was no awarding of letters and the squads were then so small that there was no discussion as to who was or was not entitled to wear a lettered jacket. We practiced in a corner of the campus near where the Waterman Gymnasium now stands. There was no grass on the field - just sand, gravel and larger stones. We played our games on the old fair grounds with large