



ATHLETICS

OPELL

RUGBY, 1917.

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AT date of writing it is impossible to estimate the prospects for rugby at the O. A. College during the present fall term. The outlook is much more uncertain than in 1916, when, after some delay and difficulty in arranging games, we went ahead and experienced a very successful season under the circumstances. Though we were not entered in any league, a series of exhibition games gave us plenty of good sport. The friendly rivalry between the O. A. College and Western University, London, furnished sufficient incentive for hard practice and training and the results of hard work were apparent before the end of the season. In this war time, however, rugby is as uncertain as everything else; in fact, present conditions would indicate the possibility of no rugby at all. It was difficult enough in 1916 to arrange games, and it is probable that only a few clubs will be operating this fall and these will largely be junior and Collegiate teams. Though our student body will be smaller than ever, we will still have material for a team, in spite of the fact that only a few of last year's players will be available. We have learned one thing in the last two or three years,

which is that with a nucleus of only two or three experienced men and proper coaching, we can round out a very respectable team before the season is far advanced. We always have good material for a rugby team at this College, boys with strength and the "sport spirit," which is particularly necessary in developing a rugby man; and with a few of the "breaks" in the matter of coaching and training, the O. A. College team is usually an aggregation which the students are glad and enthusiastic to support. One point upon which we can satisfy our minds at once is the fact that there can be no organized rugby for colleges such as ours until after the war. Any games we play must necessarily be exhibition games, and whether or not any rugby will be played will depend upon the decision of the Athletic Executive when the College opens and upon the possibility of arranging suitable games. As the College is "open for business" as usual, some outlet for the superfluous energies of the students will have to be provided, but we may have to look to some of the other branches of sport for a year or two until rugby again "comes into its own." It is impossible to discuss the game in any greater detail just at the present time.