

ATHLETICS



W. C. KRAFFT

Baseball "1926"

Coach WILLIAM C. KRAFFT
Captain WILLIAM F. DOWNES
Manager EDWARD H. MARHOEFER

In spite of the fact that the schedule was composed of some very hard games, the team came through fairly strong with seven wins and as many defeats.

With seven letter men back Coach Krafft expected to mold together a strong aggregation; and although the team improved as the season progressed, no heavy hitters could be found in the lineup. The infield was fairly well fortified with the defense centered around Capt. Downes at the keystone sack. McLaren playing the hot corner was hindered somewhat by bad eyes and as a result did not come up to expectations. "Red" Hellgren was ready to display his usual skill at the initial sack. Plocar and Hofer could be relied upon to handle anything that came their way behind the bat. Huben was the only veteran back on the pitching staff—a situation which made this department look anything but promising. The other veteran was Schonke and he could be expected to cover the center garden satisfactorily. A goodly number of men answered the first call and as a result, Krafft had no trouble in picking a team.

Coach Krafft had his pitchers and catchers work out in the Tech gymnasium during the months of February and March. Here new pitching material was uncovered in Alexander and Davis. The winter months seemed unwilling to leave and the cold weather prevented outside practice, and as a result the spring practice was cut very short. In fact the first scheduled game came after only a few days of outside work.

Bradley came here for our first game, which was the close of a successful road trip for them. Armour played loosely in the field, and the hitting was very uncertain. As a result the game was lost by a score of 9-0. This was the worst defeat the team suffered the whole season, and it was the only shutout. Everyone realized that the defeat was not so bad considering the condition of the team.