

5-1-1923

The First Iowa Field Day

Bruce E. Mahan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest>

Part of the [United States History Commons](#)



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

Recommended Citation

Mahan, Bruce E. "The First Iowa Field Day." *The Palimpsest* 4 (1923), 137-150.

Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol4/iss5/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

those events to-day. No football kick or baseball throw, no hitch and kick or hop, step, and jump appear on the program nowadays, and it is no longer customary to serve the visiting athletes with strawberries and ice cream. Other events, unknown to the pioneer field and track stars, have appeared. The javelin throw, the discus throw, the mile and the two mile runs, and the relay races have replaced the three-legged race and the tug of war.

Many of the men who participated in the first annual field day of the I. C. A. A. have won distinction in their chosen professions. They include among their number lawyers, judges, doctors, and educators of national reputation. Jerry Slattery, the hero of the first meet in Iowa City and spectacular performer at Grinnell, became a surgeon in Chicago. At the beginning of the Boer War, he enlisted in a regiment of Irish volunteers and was killed in action in South Africa, fighting his traditional enemy, the British, with the same dash that had made him a favorite on the cinder path.

To the athletes from the colleges of Iowa who struggled for mastery on field and track at Grinnell in 1890 belongs the credit for inaugurating one of the most important institutions in the athletic history of Iowa. The annual State meet of to-day and tomorrow is their monument.

BRUCE E. MAHAN