

CRIPPLED LAD, DECLARED INCURABLE, WINS FAME AS ALL-ROUND ATHLETE AND LITERARY GENIUS

Brutus Kerr Hamilton, University of Missouri Star, Dragged His Tortured Body From Sick Bed to Embark on Course of Physical and Mental Training

LOVES POETRY AND BOOKS AND INSPIRES TEAM-MATES BY EXAMPLE AND VERSE

Holder of Many Records Too Modest to Have Love Affairs, but Commands Liking and Admiration of Thousands of Friends

FROM an invalid's chair to the pinnacle of athletic accomplishment in ten years!

From the quiet of the sick room to nation-wide acclaim as America's greatest all-around athlete.

That is the astonishing feat of Brutus Kerr Hamilton, whose road to success has been beset with more handicaps than ever fell to the lot of a figure in the world of sport.

Little more than ten years ago he was a crippled and invalid child whose parents feared he would never be able to walk again. How he recovered his strength and his morale is a story that all Missouri, his native State, knows and is proud of. He has made physicians and surgeons point out his case as an inspiration to cripples and invalids all over the country.

But it is only a limited few—the athletic coaches, his fraternity brothers and pals, his professors at the University of Missouri, where he made his recent records—who know that "Ham" is a literary genius.

Not many people would admit that a literary genius could ever be a good athlete, or vice versa. But Brutus Hamilton overcame this handicap, too. All the time he was piling up records in pole vaulting, sprinting, discus throwing, hurdles and football, he was quoting Shakespeare and Byron by the yard—and what is more, he was writing poetry, too.

He has set a new standard for college athletes—a scholarship standard that few men who starred in track or football or baseball have ever attained. The coaches, professors and students who know him best at the university say that while his sports records may hold highest place for years, it is Hamilton's scholarship and high ideals that will live longest.

Went Through College Without Love Affair

Despite all the hero worship that a star athlete always inspires, Hamilton went through college without having a love affair and without dancing. While his more frivolous pals were dating and dancing, you would be most apt to find "Ham" with his nose in a book, his ear to a phonograph or in the midst of a galaxy of varsity literary lights quoting and discussing poetry and philosophy.

It isn't that Hamilton is not attractive. He is a tall, dark-haired, dark-eyed boy with broad shoulders and a delightful smile. There are plenty of co-eds who would gladly have made a fuss over him and he could easily have been a social lion. But that sort of life has never appealed to him. His twenty-one years have been too full of serious things for his mind to harbor a frivolous quirk.

Probably no man was ever graduated who had more friends and admirers. Not just casual acquaintances and folk who remembered him because of his feats on the athletic field. But young men and women who have pal-ed with him—who have discussed science and literature and philosophy with him and who have benefited by his wholesome influence.

Young Hamilton has left behind him a remarkable record. His place on next year's track team will be one of the hardest to fill in the history of track athletics at the University of Missouri.

But aside from that he has left an ideal for others to strive for. It was his great desire to influence young athletes to train their minds as well as their bodies; to inspire them to become thinking individuals, not just perfect mechanisms.

He Started Hall of Fame for Athletes in University

Before he was graduated this spring, he started at the University of Missouri a hall of fame for athletes. As the hall of fame to be put in this hall, he had framed a handsome photograph of Herbert Blumer, Missouri's star football man. In the frame, beside the photograph, is a neatly lettered record of Blumer's high scholarship.

Pictures hung in this Hall of Fame will be only of men who have made high records both in athletics and in scholarship. Blumer was a Phi Beta Kappa man. Pictures of Herbert Bunker and George Massengale probably will be added this fall. Hamilton's magnanimity is shown in his generous friendship with other athletes. There isn't a jealous streak in him.

Perhaps all Hamilton's records have their origin in the fact that for years he was a cripple. Like other geniuses he was older than he, when he could no longer run and play out of doors his mind sought and found absorption in books and music. And through these he carried the mental and moral courage to gain on.

It was in Harrisonville, Cass County, Missouri, that a doctor told a seven-year-old boy, lying in bed with a fractured hip, that he would

men to go from Missouri. Missouri was one of but two schools in America to place three men. Leland Stanford, Jr., was the other.

Hamilton won the national pentathlon championship for Olympic tryout at Brooklyn on July 4, 1920. And on July 10-11 he won the decathlon at Travers Island, N. Y. He made a new American record in that meet, scoring 7002.98 points out of a possible 10,000. The decathlon consists of 100-meter dash, running broad jump, sixteen-pound shotput, running high jump, 400-meter run, 110-meter high hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and 1500-meter run. Thus, in his first year as a Tiger, Hamilton won unheard-of honors and placed on the Olympic team to go to Antwerp. He placed second

"Hamilton was Missouri Valley champion in the pole vault in 1921 and high point winner in the Western Conference. He won the pole vault at 18 feet at the K. O. A. meet at Kansas City and broke the record in the all-round event at Illinois by 250 points. He scored more than 5000 out of a possible 7000 points.

"Last winter he was captain of the track team and heaped up his own and Missouri's laurels still more. For the first time in his athletic career he went in for football and immediately starred there, too, winning his 'M.' He said he just wanted to satisfy himself that he could make the team. He more than satisfied the sport fans by some of his splendid kicks.

An injury to his leg in the Thanksgiving game against Kansas laid him up for some time, and it was thought for a while it might affect his ability on the track. However, this year's competition disproved this fear, although the injury bothered him during the first part of the season.

best fellows I ever knew and I grew to like him as I would an own brother.

"He came to Missouri University a tall, lank youngster, so shy and modest you could never get him to talk about himself. He has never got over that modesty. He's a wholesome sort of boy—not yet twenty-two years old—with a banking for books that doesn't usually go with the love of outdoor sports.

"He had made good records in high school, where he was a consistent winner in the high jump, pole vault and weights. I wanted to see him keep going up. Mighty few who ever saw him in action ever dreamed that he was handicapped by one short leg. He kept himself in form both mentally and physically. He is five feet eleven and a half inches tall, and when in best form weighs about 172 pounds.

"In 1918 he broke the State record in the pole vault, making 21 feet 6 inches, and also the high jump, leaping 5 feet 10 inches. These both stood until 1920.

His First Big Test Came at the Illinois Meet

"Hamilton's first big test meet was at the Illinois relay carnival in 1920, after he had entered the university. There he won the all-round championship his first year out. The seven events included in this contest are: Seven-five-yard dash, 75-yard high hurdles, half-mile run, pole vault, shotput, running broad jump and the high jump. The Tiger entry was a decisive feature.

"At the Penn relays he won second in the pentathlon. This event consists of 200-meter dash, broad jump, javelin throw, discus and 1500-meter run. The 200-meter dash corresponds to the 220-



Breaking the tape in 100-yard dash

yard sprint, while the 1500-meter run is about a mile.

"The same year, 1920, the new-found Tiger stepped out and placed on the American Olympic team. He was only nineteen years old and was one of three

in the decathlon there, losing by a fraction of a point.

"When he returned to Missouri University a handsome silver loving cup was presented to him by the student body.



BRUTUS K. HAMILTON

will come after and try to emulate Hamilton. The poem reads:

Did you fall in the race?
Did you faint in the sprint,
Where the hot dust choked and burned?
Did you breast the tape 'midst the flying dirt?
That the leader's sprint had spurred?
Did you do your best?
Oh, I know your time was bad;
But the game is not in the running lad,
The best of it, since in the beginning, lad,
Is in taking your licking and grinning,
lad,
If you gave them the best that you had.

Did your tackle fall short?
Did the runner flash by,
With the score that won the game?
Did it break your heart when you missed the try?
Did you choke with the hurt and shame?
If you did your best—
Oh, I know the score; I followed you
all the way through;
And that is why I am saying, lad,
That the best of the fight is the staying,
lad,
And the best of all games is the playing,
lad,
If you gave them the best in you.

While Shakespeare and Byron and Keats are prime favorites of Ham's, he has a great liking for some of the newer poets. His roommate says Hamilton could recite more poetry than any other student on the campus and he was recognized as one of the best read students at the university.

He loved the poems of Rupert Brooke, Joyce Kilmer and Robert W. Service. Often when he played golf he would walk across the links quoting choice verses from these poets. Among the lines he liked best were these by Rupert Brooke:

"I watched the sorrow of the evening
sky,
And smelt the sea, and earth, and the
warm clover,
And heard the waves and seagulls'
mocking cry
And in them all was only the old cry,
That song they always sing—"The best
is over!
You may remember now and think, and
sigh,
O silly lover!"



"Ham" is shown here just getting off a long punt on the football field.

"Ham" was also a pole vaulter of exceptional ability

his friendship for Dr. John R. Scott, that poem more than a dozen times for professor emeritus of the university. Dr. Scott was a professor of elocution, and he is still proud of that title. His wife died many years ago, and since his retirement from teaching because of his age he has lived alone in a small cottage at the edge of the town. But always he has gathered around him a group of youths fond of poetry and worth-while literature. Hamilton joined this group and soon became a favorite with the old, white-haired professor.

"I don't know any boy who has ever won my affection as Brutus Hamilton has," said Dr. Scott when asked about the athlete. "Even in my own boyhood when I had many cronies—and I had three brothers, too—I don't remember one who got so close to me as Brutus has.

"He is very different. I don't believe I have ever seen a young lady so shy and retiring as Brutus. Because of this difference it was a long time after I had met him before Brutus ever came to see me. He talked little of his record in athletics. He is not in the least affected by anything he has done.

"The first time he came he asked me to read to him. I did read several things. Then he hunted out a volume of Keats to read the 'Ode to a Grecian Urn.' He sat as though fascinated, and I suppose after that I must have read

And I was tired and sick that all was over,
And because I,
For all my thinking, never could recover
One moment of the good hours that
were over,
And I was sorry and sick and wished
to die,
Then from the sad west turning wearily,
I saw the pines against the white north
sky,
Very beautiful and still, and bending
over
Their sharp black heads against a quiet
sky,
And there was peace in them; and I
was happy, and forgot to play the
lover,
And laughed, and did no longer wish to
die;
Being glad of you, O pine trees of the
sky!"

Is Serious-Minded Chap and Liked by Every One

Brutus is a serious-minded chap, but not solemn, according to his Delta Tau Delta fraternity brothers. Every one knows him as a good fellow. There is usually a twinkle in his eyes and a hearty laugh ready on provocation. He sings and whistles and hums a lot. He knows all the popular songs, but he likes best of all to sing Bobby Burns' ballads. He is master of the Scotch dialect and his singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms" has many times delighted groups of students.

"Hamilton was a general favorite with faculty and students alike," said Dr. Scott. "Their friendship did not stop at respect and admiration. It went further. They had a genuine affection for the boy and many eyes are watching now to see what he will make of himself since his college career is ended."

Framed Poem on Walls Inspiration to Others

It was Dr. Scott, too, who lettered and illuminated various favorite verses that Hamilton had framed and hung on the walls of his room and in the gymnasium. Ham's sport creed and the one he pointed out to other athletes as an ideal to live up to, Dr. Scott lettered for him. It remains on the wall of the university gymnasium as an inspiration to the sport feedings who