

QUOTEWORTHY

Some people who give the Lord credit are reluctant to give him cash.
—Jack Herbert.

Tallahassee

Section Two

Tallahassee, Florida, Sunday



FLORIDA STATE'S 1903 FOOTBALL TEAM—Here's the 1903 football team at Florida State College as shown in a picture in possession of Prof. Emeritus Elmer R. Smith (back row, left), the assistant coach. The head coach was W. W. Hughes (extreme right, back row) who now lives at Memphis. Others in the picture: Front row, left to right—W. S. McLin of Tallahassee, Asa Clark, Lawrence Murray and Harry Provence. Second row, left to right—Tom Shackelford, business manager, Kent Johnston, Dan Williams, C. Walter Peters, a man named Chappell and Mose Liddell. Back row—Harry Wells, Church Whitner, Guyte McCord of Tallahassee, Bruce Cates and Fritz Buchholz.

'03 FSC Grid

Man To Return

Professor Emeritus Who Served
As Coach Due At Homecoming

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'03 FSC Grid Man To Return

Professor Emeritus Who Served As Coach Due At Homecoming

A retired mathematics professor, slight of build and with a mustache, reminisce occasionally as he watches through rimless bifocals the Homecoming Game at Florida State University Saturday.

If he does, the memories of Professor Emeritus Elmer Riggs Smith, 86, probably will shoot back half a century (53 years, to be exact) to the football team fielded in 1904 by Florida State College.

Or they may go back even farther, to the time when as an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, between 1894 and 1896, end Elmer Smith (weight 156) used to play a steady, if not brilliant, game marked by a knack for running down and tackling ball carriers in open field.

The 1904 team, last which Florida State had before it became Florida State College for Women, was one of which Smith has reason to be proud, although you'll seldom hear him talk about it. Thirty-nine years of classroom teaching have almost crowded out the memories of football.

Smith helped coach the 1904, and also the 1903 team, along with another professor who also was trained on the Vanderbilt gridiron. He is W. W. Hughes, a professor of Latin who was head coach. Hughes left Florida State shortly afterwards, became a lawyer and judge at Memphis and now lives there in retirement.

'BEAT EVERYTHING'

According to one of the 1904 players, Guyte McCord who now is clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, that team "beat everything it played in Florida." More specifically, according to another Tallahasseean who was on the team, Walter McLin, the victims were Stetson and "the University of Florida."

University of Florida was the name given by the 1903 Legislature to Florida Agricultural College at Lake City. When in 1905 the Legislature created the University of the State of Florida this university occupied the buildings of the Lake City institution for a year until its own were ready at Gainesville.

Professor (or Coach) Smith thinks his now somewhat rusty ideas about football will be of no help to the Seminoles today and the only thing he will have to offer in the Virginia Tech game next Saturday is his enthusiastic support.

Football in 1904 wasn't to be compared with football today," he said. "We didn't have the forward pass and we didn't have any of the formations like the single wing, double wing, T or I."

A native of Lincoln County, Tennessee, Smith entered Van-

the Tennessee town of Stanton 50 miles from Memphis and for another three years at a private school at Anniston, Ala.

In 1903, hearing that Florida State was looking for a math teacher to relieve the president of the school, Dr. A. A. Murphree, of some of his teaching duties, Smith applied for and

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A VANDERBILT PLAYER—Professor Smith, who taught mathematics and coached football at Florida State College 54 years ago, shows Mrs. Smith a picture of the Vanderbilt football team of 1896 of which he was a member.



A ONETIME FACULTY—Here is the faculty which taught at Florida State College soon after Professor Smith came here in 1903. First row, left to right: a Cuban whose name Smith does not recall, Prof. and Mrs. Matthews, both commerce teachers; President A. A. Murphree, Miss Day, a speech teacher, and Prof. Arthur Williams, history. Back row: J. C. Calhoun, modern languages, L. W. Buchholz, education, S. M. Tucker, English, Elmer R. Smith, mathematics, W. W. Hughes, Latin, Mr. McNeill, chemistry, Mr. Anderson, Latin and Greek, and F. W. Kraft, music.



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A native of Lincoln County, Tennessee, Smith entered Vanderbilt in 1889 but it took him six years to finish because he had to drop out twice to earn more money. The second time, in 1892, he got his first crack at what had long been his chosen career, teaching. For two years he taught at Searcy, Ark., College.

VANDERBILT PLAYER

He played football at Vanderbilt during the 1894, 1895 and 1896 seasons. After getting his bachelor's degree he taught math and English for two years at Vanderbilt (and also got his master's degree). Then, until 1900, he taught school at the lit-

W. W. Hughes, Latin, Mr. McNeill, chemistry, Mr. Anderson, Latin and Greek, and F. W. Kraft, music.



APPROACH TO FSU IN 1903—Here's the way Florida State College looked when Professor Elmer Smith came here as professor of mathematics. This is the College Avenue (Clinton Street) approach, showing the administration building which stood a little in front of where Westcott Hall now stands.

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