

Lattner's Great Run Was Planned Play; Leahy Marvels at Munger's Coaching

By FRANK YETTER
Of The Dallas Sports Staff

Very obviously suffering serious exhaustion after the win-
ning 20-26 game between the vic-
torious Notre Dame team and the
University of Pennsylvania, Frank
Leahy, head coach of the Penn,
was so embarrassed in his praise
of the Red and Blue as he was
proud of the great unheralded
team. **Nov 8 - 1953 J**

All during the game, Leahy pat-
ted up and down in front of his
bench. Occasionally he dropped in-
to a chair for a few minutes, but
was soon back on his feet again.

The effect of the exertion and
the mental strain was visible on
his face as he stood in the center
of the Notre Dame dressing room
and answered questions of about
a dozen sports writers from as
many cities as the Red and the
Blue.

"What a job of preparation
coach Munger did!" were Leahy's
first words. His team was magis-
fied, wasn't it? How those kids
wanted to win!

"You know, that's one of the
most difficult phases of coaching
—getting a team story and ag-
gressive each Saturday."

Nerve-Tingling All the Way

There was so many things to
talk about.

There was Johnny Lattner's
super performance, capped by a
55-yard punt of a kickoff for a
touchdown. There was the block-
ing of Art Hunter, the punting
of Ed Cronigan, the opening
play of Joe Yarbrough, the unex-
pected quarterbacking of Ralph
Cappone—in fact, hardly a min-
ute of the game was without its
nerve-tingling events.

"I just can't get over the way
coach Munger brought that team
on edge," Leahy again remarked.

When he got around to talking
about Lattner's sensational run,
Frank admitted that it was a de-
vised play.

"We set up that kickoff return
for Lattner," he explained. "He
has one of three options. He can
cut to either side or go up the
middle, depending on where he
takes the kick. This time, he head-
ed for the middle and the block-
ers paved the way perfectly for
him."

Leahy was asked if Pennsyl-
vania had sprung any surprises on
him.

"Oh, we were pretty well in-
formed with their scheme," he



Notre Dame coach Frank Leahy recuperating from a recent illness, sits on yard marker to watch workmen prepare Frank-
lin Field for the Penn game. A tarpaulin shielded the turf
during the night work.

said. "They played pretty much
the same game defensively as
they did last year."

Quicker Defense Flexible

Then Frank went into some of
the technical details of Penn's de-
fense.

"It was especially noticeable
that they kept their tackles and
ends a little wide, so our plays
designed for the outside had to cut
in between tackle and guard. Then
their linebackers smashed into the
hole and manhandled our ball car-
rier. It was a splendidly worked-
out tactic.

"But what was so impressive
was the spirit of the Penn players.
They kept the pressure on us all
the way."

Leahy commented admiringly
on Penn's punting, also on Gron-
owicz's running on fourth down
in the fourth period, which com-
pletely demoralized the Red that
he got away for a 38-yard pun-
t and a first down.

"Almost every move they made
was courageous and well thought
out," he said. "We've had some
good battles this year, but no one
gives us a better one."

It was pointed out that only
Oklahoma had scored as many as
three touchdowns against unde-
feated Notre Dame this year.

"That proves my point, doesn't
it?" he replied.

Nerve He Exhibited

Someone asked Frank if he felt
the effects of the strenuous after-
noon, especially since he had been
impaired and kept in his bed
at home for the past three weeks.
It was evident that only politeness
was allowing the interview to con-
tinue.

"I've never been so tired and
completely exhausted in my life,"
he admitted. "During the game
the excitement kept me going. But
now it was over and I got to have
I felt that I might collapse again."

There had been a report out of
South Bend that this would be
Leahy's last year as active head
coach of Notre Dame.

He was asked if he had given
any thought to retiring from foot-
ball's firing line and would oper-
ate in 1954 solely in an advisory
capacity.

"Frankly, I haven't had time to
give it a thought," he replied.
"Just say I've decided that all over
and happy that we were able to
win this one from a splendid
team, splendidly coached."



08011111