

Religious Bulletin

November 7, 1927

The Team Won; The Fans Lost.

Now that you are more or less talked out on what happened last Saturday on Cartier Field it is well to go back to fundamentals to analyze the situation for our future benefit. We have to go back to fundamentals because Notre Dame football has behind it a spiritual force not common elsewhere.

This seems to be about the situation: the team won and the fans lost. The fans, spoiled by perennial victories, asked for a margin of four or five touchdowns against a team that plays great football and outweighs our team about 600 pounds. The team won because it went against the odds of weight and weather and a heavy field, and played a Minnesota game instead of a Notre Dame game, threw its opponents back time and again when the goal was almost theirs, held on the two-yard line in approved Notre Dame fashion, and wrote another chapter in the history of undying spirit.

Cold weather started in Minneapolis last Monday, and the Minnesota team had three days of practice in fumble weather. We had our first cold snap Saturday. Luck was against us in weather, but in general our fumbles were not costly, so we had breaks there. But aside from all the breaks, Minnesota played a game that would have beaten any other team in the country, and deserved at least the seven points.

Why didn't Notre Dame get more than seven? There's the story we want to talk about. So far as the team went, those boys prepared as hard as they played. They have been faithful to training, working hard, conscientiously, making many and difficult sacrifices, talking football in their sleep. They prayed hard and long, they have been faithful to the Sacraments; and in the triduum they made for the recovery of Frank Gallagher, they performed a beautiful act of unselfish charity. And they offered every belt and bruise they got for Frank's improvement -- so you can safely say there was nothing wrong with the team.

Could the fans have brought them some breaks that could have been turned into points? Perhaps. There are certainly a few things that were overlooked. For instance, there are about a thousand Catholic boys around the place who could have offered Holy Communion for them on Friday morning, and thirteen hundred who could have done it on Saturday and didn't. Thousands of prayers that could have been said for Frank Gallagher were unsaid last week; hundreds of possible hours and half-hours of adoration were not made on the First Friday. In fact, it might have been just as well not to cheat Our Blessed Lord out of that extra hour of exposition Friday evening. When you look back you find so many possible things that you could have done that you didn't do that you wonder things came out as well as they did.

As for the future -- suit yourself. You have been told about it enough in the past; you know what is expected of you; no new pleas need be made. If you can't appreciate what you've got you shouldn't be here, but even if you don't you'll probably hang on till you get canned -- if you have energy enough to break the rules and bad luck enough to get caught. We have a good team, a team that will be remembered long after you are forgotten. If you want to be worthy of the team you know what to do about it. That's about all.

Prayers.

Frank Gallagher has shown wonderful improvement, and if he can stand the second operation that is necessary to put him shape he will get well. Do your duty. Your prayers are also needed for seven special intentions and for three persons who are ill. And please don't neglect these special intentions you see posted. Very often that are matters of great urgency, things that can make or break one of your classmates.