University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin September 29, 1941

Return To Fundamentals.

All spring, all fall so far the football players have been working on fundamentals, putting in long, hard, gruelling, sacrificing hours. Saturday you saw the results and were pleased. No doubt, Our Lady was pleased too.

Cur Lady evidently likes football. She must enjoy millions, including members of her own race, Hebrews in New York for example, shouting her name to the skies. She likes football especially when she can use it to bring youth closer to her Son. She can so use football and has done so in the past by being able to point out her zestful, clean-living, football sons of Notre Dame as frequent, often daily, communicants.

She has used them to show that a manly piety and devotion to her Son in the Eucharist can exist with that virility which American youth usually admires.

Briefly, she is very selfish - as all mothers are - for her Son. She likes football and will use it for her Son.

She's interested in fundamentals too and knows their importance. She wants all her sons to remember this fundamental truth.

She is far more pleased by our avoiding one sin than by winning all our football games for the next 100 years.

Conquering one temptation means one less betrayal of her Son, one bit less of punishment for Him, one bit more of love for Him. Conquer one temptation and that victory is registered in Heaven eternally, lasting long after the echoes of football victory have faded.

He who conquers temptation truly deserves to wear her monogram N.D. written on his heart, even if he never carries a football, never crosses a goal-line.

Let's get back to fundamentals, back to Christ, not just in football.

Don't Stay Down.

Those who wander in the mire of sin fail to raise their eyes to that masterful, merciful figure of Our Savicur, the Good Shepherd, friend of sinners, Who blessed, healed, and forgave, Who stooped low, very low to the sin-degraded, the most sin-stained. He stooped very low to those whom sin had crushed into the mire, He stooped low, very low with pity to raise them: then disarmed them with "Go - and sin no more."

It doesn't require courage to ask forgiveness of that Person: it requires something less than courage to stay away,

Ted William's Average

For two or three years Ted made life miserable for his teammates because of his pride and temper. He had talent and he knew it - which is all right, but was rather unsufferable especially when he struck out. His temper and pride would show itself in child-ish outbursts, gloominess, snapping at everyone. He was generally disliked by all.

Then he got wise to himself this year; didn't take his defeats so seriously and used his temper properly - controlled it patiently to drive himself on to practice and to improve. Temper is good if used correctly, not against persons, but in patiently developing our talents. You can use it against the devil, of course.

PRAYERS: Ill, Rev. J. J. Orlet; Sister M. Evaldo C.S.C. (seriously); Lacy Pratt, friend of Paul Cunningham, (Badin). Three special intentions.