
What is Behind Notre Dame Football?

In 1889 Notre Dame played one game, with Northwestern, and won, 9-0.

In 1899 Notre Dame played ten games, defeating Englewood High School, Michigan Aggies, Lake Forest, Indiana, Northwestern, and Rush Medical, losing to Chicago, Michigan, and Chicago Physicians and Surgeons, and tying Purdue. We find no record of attendance at these games.

In 1909 Notre Dame played eight games, defeating Olivet, Rose Poly, Michigan Aggies, Pittsburgh, Michigan, Miami, and Wabash, and tying Marquette. Notre Dame won the Western championship that year; the attendance at the games was 22,000.

In 1919 Notre Dame played and won nine games, defeating Kalamazoo, Mount Union, Nebraska, Western Normal, Indiana, Army, Michigan Aggies, Purdue and Morningside. The attendance at the games was 55,000.

In 1929 Notre Dame played and won nine games, defeating Indiana, Navy, Wisconsin, Georgia Tech, Penn State, Drake, Army, and Southern California, winning the National championship for the second time in five years. The attendance at the games last year was 550,000.

It does not detract one whit from the credit and glory due the greatest coach in football to tell you here what he himself will tell you -- that God's blessing has been on Notre Dame football, which has done so much to elevate ideals of sportsmanship in this country. And in considering this fact, look over the following statistics on daily Communion at Notre Dame during these last ten years of football glory:

	Daily average	Daily average
1920-21.....	486	1925-26.....1028
1921-22.....	600	1926-27..... 1150
1922-23.....	666	1927-28..... 1324
1923-24.....	785	1928-29..... 1403
1924-25.....	894	1929-30..... 1409

There is nothing strange to the true follower of Christ in a close alliance between clean athletics and religion. St. Paul speaks of himself as a skilful boxer: "I so fight, not as one beating the air;" as a successful runner: "I have finished my course... for the rest there is laid up for me a crown of justice." St. Christopher, St. Sebastian, and others were famed for physical prowess; in her hymn to St. Venantius the Church salutes that youthful martyr as "Athleta Christi." As yesterday's Bulletin pointed out, honest recreation is a prayer when it is offered for the honor and glory of God; football is an especially effective prayer when it develops manly virtues in men.

We hope that our visitors of today and of future days will enjoy the clean entertainment that the sons of Our Lady will offer in her playground, and that they will carry away from this hallowed ground something of the spirit of peace that comes of her blessing. It is our prayer and holy hope that everything that concerns Our Lady's school may ever tend to edify and inspire. And we invite such visitors as will hear Mass with the students tomorrow to join with them in Holy Communion.

PRAYERS: Tony Cusano's mother is to undergo a serious operation. A relative of Wm. Gadek died suddenly this week. Eugene Graham's brother was injured Thursday night in an auto accident. Two special intentions.