

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 8, 1931.

An Outsider Looks At Notre Dame.

Jack Harding, Vice-President of the Russell H. Seeds Co., Indianapolis, is a Notre Dame fan. He first learned to love Notre Dame when he was battered and bruised as a football player for one of Notre Dame's early and honored opponents, little Hillsdale College, in Michigan. Last Spring, when some of the eulogists of Harding's esteemed friend, Knute Rockne, were losing their sense of proportion, Jack was moved to write the following lines:

"The Notre Dame Spirit!

"Rockne didn't make it. Gipp didn't make it. They're a glorious part of it. They helped make it - and it helped make them.

"It's a unique thing - this Notre Dame spirit!

"It bears no crumb of comfort for the "cake eater." He can't live in a luxurious frat house, pampered by papa's money. He is expected to learn the psychology of corduroy pants, and to be SOMEBODY on his own account. Maybe he is as good a man as the fellow who is working his way by waiting on table, and maybe he isn't. The race is open, but he need expect no handicap.

"It tolerates everything in religion, except sneers, disputes, and hatreds. The Notre Dame man may be Protestant, Catholic, Jew, or what-not. His faith, whatever it is, won't stop him from being the first-string fullback. And he needs no fraternity "pull" - there's no such thing at Notre Dame! All that is asked of him is that he respect the faith of his fellows, have a faith of his own, and give it the best he has.

"It provides no sheltering abode for the "parlor Pink," the communist, the bolshevik. It fosters no whining, no self-pity, no dreamy visions of governmental, socialistic coddling. Team work? Yes, and lots of it. Dependence upon others? NO!

"It breeds, and it demands, physical, mental, moral strength. A chap may not be fortunate enough to excel in athletics. But surely there is something he can do, and do well. And he had better make a genuine, whole-hearted effort, if he wants the respect of his fellows.

"The Notre Dame spirit! Rockne may pass, Gipp may pass. There may be "Four Horsemen" or none at all. But their spirit contains no germs of decay, and it will survive, never really to be beaten - the spirit of Notre Dame!"

Are we worthy of this beautiful anconium? We pray God to make us so, here so every day. We at Notre Dame know where our strength lies - not in ourselves, but in the tabernacles of Notre Dame. And that the team may have that Divine Support without which they cannot carry on for Rockne and for Notre Dame, we will pray.....

A Mass For The Team On Friday.

In St. Ignace church at 6:30 Friday morning there will be a Mass for the football team. You are requested to be present at this offering of the Holy Sacrifice, and to offer Holy Communion that this year's team may be representative of the best traditions of Notre Dame football, and that there be no serious injuries, of soul or body, this season. Your response to this appeal will be the test of your individual Notre Dame spirit. For sick relatives: Bro. Aloysius, A. Durning, J. J. Anderson, J. Manning.