

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

10 days before Easter.
Don't put off confession
until the last minute.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 29, 1944

Richard "Bud" Wills,
former student, So. Bend,
injured in Italy.

Knute Rockne.

"It was Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31, 1931. Most of the student body was preparing to leave the campus for the Easter holiday, and the faculty was willing to relax in the prospect of the short Easter recess. After dinner that day, the priests had gone to the recreation room in the basement of Badin Hall. Some were playing cards; some were at the pool tables; others were sitting in the chairs smoking and talking. The telephone rang. Someone answered it and called for Father Mulcaire, the vice-president. "It's a long distance call!" Father Mulcaire took the receiver and spoke a few words, and his usually ruddy countenance turned ashen. He replaced the receiver and turned to the priests. His lips were almost bloodless as he whispered hoarsely: "Rockne's killed!" (Quotations taken from "Notre Dame - One Hundred Years", Hope.)

Rockne and Holy Communion.

"One night before a big game in the East I was nervous and worried about the outcome the next day, and was unable to sleep. I tossed and rolled about the bed, and finally decided to get up and sit downstairs. About five or six o'clock in the morning, while pacing the lobby of the hotel, I unexpectedly ran into two of my own players hurrying out.

"I asked them where they were going at such an hour, although I had a good idea. Within the next few minutes, my players continued hurrying out and I decided to go along with them. They didn't realize it, but these youngsters were making a powerful impression on me with their devotion, and when I saw all of them walking up to the Communion rail to receive, and realized the hours of sleep they had sacrificed, I understood for the first time what a powerful ally their religion was to them in their work on the football field. Later on, I had the happiness of joining my boys at the Communion rail."

"Who Was Knute Rockne?"

Father Charles O'Donnell, the president of Notre Dame, preached the sermon at Rockne's funeral. When in his sermon Father O'Donnell asked the questions, Who was Knute Rockne, and Why did he enjoy such incredible popularity, he responded:

"I do not know the answer. I would not dare the irreverence of guessing. But I find myself in this hour of piteous loss and pained bewilderment recalling the words of Christ: "Thou shalt love thy Lord thy God with thy whole heart. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." I think, supremely, he loved his neighbor, his fellow-man, with genuine deep love. In an age that has stamped itself as the era of the 'go-getter' -- a horrible word for what is all too often a ruthless thing -- he was a 'go-giver' -- a not much better word, but it means a divine thing. He made use of all the proper machinery and legitimate methods of modern activity to be essentially not modern at all; to be quite elementarily human and Christian, giving himself, spending himself, like water, not for himself, but for others. And once again, in his case, most illustriously is verified the Christian paradox -- he has cast away to keep, he has lost his life to find it. This is not death, but immortality."

Friday is the anniversary of Rockne's death. It is also the feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Lady. On that day, through Mass and Communion, show your love of our Lady and charity towards Rockne.

PRAYERS: (Missing in Action) Lieut. James White, ex.'43, of Danville, Ill., bomber pilot, lost over Austria, Feb. 23rd. (Ill) Mr. John Scannell (Phy. Ed. Dept) operation.