

Tonight: 6:45 sharp,
Novena Services in
Sacred Heart Church

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 21, 1952

To Freshmen: the 7,8,9 Masses
on Sunday are for you; the
10,11 are for Upperclassmen.

We're Still Fighting

We take issue with the sports writer of last week who referred to the team in the fourth quarter as the "Despirited Irish." Maybe we should ignore the man altogether -- because there are no such people!

Seldom has a team been asked to face so many discouraging moments as Notre Dame faced last Saturday. Admittedly, with so many fumbles, penalties, fumbles, injuries, fumbles, officials, fumbles -- it wasn't easy for courage to survive.

No sooner had the superb defensive squad won the ball and retired, than it was called back because of a bad break. And what of the poor backs trying desperately to do their best -- how do you think they felt about losing the ball? Men with lesser hearts would have folded like a tired accordion. But not the Notre Dame squad!

With all the unfortunate accidents, the team gave a good account of itself. Ask the Spartans what they thought of the opposition. They'll tell you the contest was rugged all the way. They'll never confuse it with May-Day at Vassar!

The Road Of Champions

There's a moral to this story, because it has to do with a game that is much like life itself. It may not be pleasant, but it can be profitable -- this running headlong into adversity. And that is life for you. There will be many days when you will meet with such heartbreaks, such odds. It's all part of one's education to survive when the bottom falls out of his best efforts. It takes real champions to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. It takes strong hearts to survive discouragement. Indeed, it takes a sturdy soul to accept adversity. You don't cultivate courage and perseverance by merely riding the crest.

It's even true in the spiritual life -- these sudden reversals after so much effort. For, just when you think you have progressed beyond some stubborn fault, and are well on the way to virtue -- down you go, the victim of some humiliating temptation. If it hasn't happened yet, don't think you are immune to such an experience. Picking yourself up may become a constant occupation.

A Lady Remembers

But there's more to the game than the score. Above and beyond the carping of Monday quarterbacks, and long after the shouting has died down, there looms the comforting realization, which no referee can take from the team -- that there is one Lady who will always remember the men who carried Her name with honor into not only a game, but also into the minds and hearts of millions of people. She will remember the many bumps and bruises they bore; She will remember that they spent their hearts and their energies for Her honor. Indeed, in some far-off day when help is needed most, She will not forget those who labored so generously for Her.

In our own hearts they are still the Number One team in the country. And tomorrow they'll go out again to play as hard as they can in the best tradition of a glorious heritage, and for the fair name of a lovely Lady. Give them a good send-off; they deserve it!

For Marty O'Connor

Members of the basketball squad are making a Novena for Coach Marty O'Connor who is battling with polio in Memorial Hospital. Why not join in their charity?