

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 16, 1956

We Never Give Up

Once upon a time when the Seniors were cutting their first teeth, and the rest of you were yet to be, and the world was somehow getting along without you, we also had athletes who were no strangers to adversity. And on one particular occasion, in an alien stadium, when things were not going well at all, and the faint-hearted were beginning to despair, and another battered and bruised squad faced insurmountable odds, well...

"With fewer than 60 seconds to go, Bill Shakespeare, Irish left half-back, faded back to Ohio State's 35-yard line, and with the ball poised snugly in his hands, swept the field in search of a possible receiver. He found one, big Wayne Millner, standing squarely under the Buckey's goal post. Taking aim like a squirrel hunter, Shakespeare rifled the ball and Millner, leaping high in the air, pulled it down for the score which blasted Ohio State's hopes for the national championship..."

"As Millner dropped the ball to the ground to cradle it affectionately (some say he kissed it) the entire Notre Dame team, screaming and waving their headguards in the air, swarmed down upon him. For fully a minute they hugged and patted him..."

"Millner's catch climaxed the most delirious 15 minutes in the history of football, the 15 minutes which saw Notre Dame, a team that wouldn't admit defeat, come surging from nowhere to humble a foe which had humiliated it for 45 minutes... Notre Dame today was the Notre Dame of Rockne, and Gipp, and the Four Horsemen...a Notre Dame which laughed at hardship and disaster.

"Until today the 'Spirit of Notre Dame' was just another movie (to those who were not Notre Dame men). But when night fell on the giant horseshoe that is Ohio stadium, every man, woman, and child of the crowd which packed the battleground knew that the spirit of Notre Dame was a tangible, living thing; they had seen it before their very eyes; seen it withstand humiliation, heartbreaking setbacks, and the solid, driving pounds of a desperate Buckey eleven..."

This echo from the past comes on the eve of the final home game of the season, and tells a great story of men who kept fighting against great odds. We haven't had much to laugh at thus far; and yet, it is significant to note that no previous team nor student body has been tested for loyalty and courage under adversity such as we have this year. The fainthearted would have folded long ago. Sometimes adversity pays greater dividends -- and more valuable dividends -- than success. And a little humility can be the secret of much success later on. Tomorrow, your loyalty and the spunk of an injury-riddled squad, can still write a glorious chapter in a season that the sportswriters have labeled dismal.

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: father of William Veach, '56; Francis H. Boland, '89; father of Ed Kowalski, '38; James Randolph Adams, '25; friend of Dan McPartlin (O-C); father of James Gooley (an Alumnus); Henry J. Brosnahan, '17; mother of John ('29) and Joseph ('37) Dorgan. Ill: grandmother of John (Walsh) and Tom (Farley) Reichert; father of Bob Skryzski of Farley; Philip Burke. 4 special intentions.

Tonight at 6:45 - The Sorrowful Mother Novena in Sacred Heart Church.

Sunday Morning: Mass in your hall chapel. Watch the bulletin board for the time.