

By Howie Carr

Irish Still Winning For The Gipper

It's late at night and you've just turned on the tube, when suddenly, Pat O'Brien, tears in his eyes, flickers onto your screen. He's standing over a youthful Ronald Reagan, dying of pneumonia in a hospital bed. Cut to a locker room, where Pat is exhorting his team, "Let's win one for the Gipper."

Every school kid in America knows that story, from the 1940 movie "Knut Rockne—All-American," and it shows just how far Notre Dame football has penetrated into our national mythology.

Notre Dame, six-time winner of the national championship. Producer of six Heisman Trophy winners. In the Top Ten for the seventh consecutive year.

"If you want to play professional football," former Notre Dame coach Frank Leahy once said, "there's two ways to do it. There's a front door and a back door. This is the front door."

As Paul Hornung once explained, the publicity attendant with going to Notre Dame can make a "great" quarterback out of a "good" one. The best example is John Huarte, the 1964 Heisman Trophy

winner who flopped miserably in the pros.

It is almost impossible to be overlooked at Notre Dame. Its games are carried live on radio by approximately 380 stations, and an hour-long Notre Dame television highlight show is seen in many parts of the country Sunday mornings, and (this year) they appear once on regional television and once in the national game of the week. (Their nationally televised game is today, against the University of Missouri, at 4 p.m. on Channel 5.)

The two appearances will net the Fighting Irish \$357,000. A major bowl game bid could earn them maybe another half-million dollars.

Publicity like that can't hurt; just ask Paul Hornung, the Heisman Trophy winner in 1956 when Notre Dame had a 2-8 record, or the sixteen members of the 1966 squad who made at least one major All-American team.

That's all very nice, you may say, but how do they stack up in the pros? Well, right now there are thirty Notre Dame grads in the big leagues (Grambling has

produced 25, and Southern Cal 19), ranging from All-Pro Darryl Lamonica, Alan Page, and Nick Buoniconti to relative unknowns like Jim Snowden and Tom Longo.

There have been some notable flops, of course, other than Huarte. Paul Seiler, the Jets' first round draft choice in 1968, has never lived up to expectations. But for every Seiler, there's a Brian Stenger, who was still a third-string defensive end during his senior year in 1968. He's now a linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Notre Dame recruiting, based on its alumni, many of whom become football coaches, is relatively simple. All that's usually needed is to bring a prospect to South Bend, and overwhelm him.

Paul Hornung expressed what is probably a typical reaction when he described his first meeting with Frank Leahy.

"The feeling we got," he said, "Us simple high school kids, was like we were talking to a saint; not a coach, not a man—something a little above."

"Lads, you would both look awfully

good in green," Leahy told them, adding the clincher, "And Our Lady needs you here." Bear Bryant never had a chance.

Even some players Notre Dame doesn't recruit are impressed enough by the program to keep trying. Pete Shivarrelli, the 25-year-old reserve tackle, worked in a Chicago hot dog stand for three years to earn money to enroll at Notre Dame.

One of Notre Dame's few negative aspects was, until recently, the absence of a freshman schedule. The frosh were used as hamburger for the varsity, and understandably enough were eaten alive.

Their first game experience would be the following spring in the annual Alumni game. In the 1964 contest, George Goeddeke (now a starter with Denver) started his first varsity game at center, playing opposite Ram middle linebacker Myron Pottios. As Goeddeke, expecting to be dead in a matter of moments, lined up over the ball, Pottios leaned over and whispered, "Hey kid, I'm in lousy shape. Go easy on me."

The name "Fighting Irish" is somewhat of a misnomer. Only seven of the twenty-two starters have surnames that can in any way be construed as Irish.

Quarterback Joe Theisman is a Protestant, while Tom Gatewood and Clarence Ellis are the only Irishmen in the world to sport Afro haircuts.

The "Irish" front four consists of Patulski, Zikas, Marx, and Neidert. Two Notre Dame's All-Americans of long ago were named William Shakespeare and Marchy Schwartz.

With all the good material he must have had, you might ask, why was Pat O'Brien-Knut Rockne crying over Ronnie Reagan? Maybe because he realized that someday the Gipper would be governor of California.

Harriers Host Pair Today

After a double loss last weekend to Maryland and William & Mary, Carolina's cross-country team prepares to host Clemson and Wake Forest this Saturday at 11:00.

The Tar Heels are currently 2-3 after losing to the Terps 15-48 and W&M 16-47.

Larry Widgeon, hampered by a cold for the past couple of weeks, finished tenth in a time of 26:04 on the five-mile track at Finley Golf Course.

Widgeon should finish higher this week, however. Clemson's three best harriers are Jason Hill, Richie Furst and

Larry Rush, acquaintances of Widgeon's from last year.

Hopefully the Tigers will be able to follow the track to its conclusion Saturday. In last year's meet, three Clemson runners took a short-cut and finished one-two-three.

Behind veterans Pat Grady and Bruce

Hafemister, Coach Joe Hilton is relying on freshmen. Mike Garcia of Fayetteville, last year's state high school champ, ran a 27:12 last week to finish 21st.

Other freshmen who could place for Carolina are Steve Grahtwohl, Mike Caldwell, Roy Helm and Tony Waldrop, provided his foot miseries have ended.

Tiger Tie Heels Booters 3-3

by Howie Carr
Sports Writer

In their first away game of the season, Coach Marvin Allen's Carolina soccer team blew a 3-1 lead, and had to settle for a 3-3 tie with Clemson, Friday.

The Tigers opened the scoring when forward John Demori, picking up the first of his three goals, slammed the ball past Carolina goalie Tim Haigh.

Tar Heel senior win Dave Feffer, who had been replaced in the starting line-up by Dan Arial for the first time since the opening game of the season, got Carolina's initial goal in the final seconds of the first half.

With 6:10 gone in the third period, Feffer again tallied to give the Heels a 2-1 lead. Eight minutes later Carolina tied its margin to 3-1 as John McCallie scored on a pass from halfback Rick Brayton.

Clemson got back into the game when Demori recorded another goal at 15:53 of the third period, on an assist from Bystry.

Early in the fourth period, Demori tied the game with his third goal.

Neither team could break the deadlock during the remainder of regulation time. Although Carolina outshot Clemson 2-1 in the double overtime, the Heels could not put the ball home, and the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

The Tar Heels now have a 2-1-2 mark for the season.

"It was more of a team effort," said manager Herb Uthlaut, "but we slowed them down at the end."

The game statistics were remarkably even, as Carolina took 16 shots to the Tigers' 15. Haigh had six saves to the Clemson netminder's three, while the hosts out-cornerkicked the Heels, four to three.

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