

28/3/21

Athletic Association

Coaches

Burton A. Ingwerson Papers, 1967

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3 3/4 IPS

- 7-18 I don't know much about the Athletic Department before 1916.
- 19-41 According to trustee Cleary, the 1904 expenses were \$9,600 and gate receipts were over \$10,000. Now teams split around \$100,000 after a game.
- 42-52 We played before crowds of 18,000 to 20,000 people at Illinois Field.
- 53-59 I returned as assistant coach in 1921. In 1920, I got \$120 a month as a college graduate in engineering when I went to work for the Iowa State Highway Commission.
- 60-63 Mr. Huff offered me \$2,700 to return. It was a big raise.
- 64-75 George Huff was a great leader and believed in amateur athletics. He was respected.
- 76-102 Times have changed. He advised me. Taylorville (Illinois) vs. Litchfield (Notre Dame) game. Mr. Huff just rules them ineligible. Huff was greatly respected.
- 103-155 In a smaller university, students knew him. 6 to 10,000 attended baseball games. There was more tradition and loyalty in those days. Men smoked on the west side of Wright Street. Freshmen wore little green caps until May, when the caps were burned at an Illinois Field bonfire. Then the students snake danced through the local theatre. Students did not walk on an emblem on the floor in Lincoln Hall. I loved the old traditions. Now many faculty men do not have the loyalty of older faculty.
- 156-174 Block I and card systems were developed after World War II.
- 175-205 Huff was universally admired and respected. No pressure for professionalization. We have had a few coaches. Illinois alumni did not pressure coaches to win. The pressures on Illinois came from other schools. Illinois was late in helping athletes.
- 206-224 Paying boys for work was unsatisfactory. Big 10 grants in aid were a good thing as boys cannot study, participate in sports and work.
- 225-242 I played football, basketball and baseball and graduated in engineering, but I could not do it today.
- 243-249 In the early 1930s, players began to get jobs and rooms.
- 250-289 Robert Zuppke - I played under Zuppke and coached with him. He was one of a group of outstanding coaches. He was opposed to professionalization and would not recruit. As freshman coach, I spoke at athletic banquets.
- 290-307 Illinois loyalty. 1965 team were all from Illinois except for two.
- 308-317 Zuppke worked hard. He was a great strategist and psychologist. You could never get very close to Zupp.
- 319-338 In 1919, when we beat Ohio State for the championship, I was injured. Knocked out. When I regained consciousness, Zupp said, "Burt, you're the best tackle I ever had." That's the only compliment I ever got in my three years for

- Zupp. It made me feel so good, I never will forget it.
- 339-359 Students today are bigger and better trained. More scholarships are available.
- 360-396 You couldn't compete in three sports today. Competition was not as keen in those days. More specialization today. I had my schedule arranged. 8 o'clock classes. I studied from 7 to 11 every night and got up at 7 a.m. I was on a schedule. I had some free time on weekends.
- 397-424 Danville. I didn't go there. They said there used to be a lot of dives.
- 425-450 1922 Freshman team was great. I was coach. Moon Baker, Red Grange. That team won the 1923-24 championships. They nearly beat the varsity in 1922.
- 451-465 Red Grange had a fine reputation as a runner when he came. Michigan game.
- 466-485 When Illinois played Iowa. Red returned kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown. As coach at Iowa, we beat Illinois 12 to 10.
- 486-502 After a bad defeat by Ohio State, the players were unhappy.
- 503-542 If they lose, we try to build their spirit up. If they make a mistake, we don't condemn them. We show them the good points and mistakes on Sunday films.
- 543-599 I have enjoyed coaching at Illinois, Iowa, Northwestern and Louisiana State. I am now working on grants-in-aid. We get checks from former athletes.
- 600-622 Earl Britton, Judd Timm, Nowack, John Karras, Alex Agase, Butkas, Grabowski.
- 623-665 Great teams in 1914, 1916 upset of Minnesota, 1919, 1923-24, 1928-29, 1946, 1951.
- 666-688 1942 - When Ray Eliot took over, alumni helped recruit a good team. They returned after the war.
- 689-779 First Rose Bowl game in 1946. The Californians wanted Army to play UCLA. Adverse publicity was used. Team was ready. We won easily. We have won three Rose Bowl games.
- 780-811 Victory Homecoming in 1919 was a 10-0 win over Chicago. We went on to win the championship.
- 812-839 1923 Stadium opening game. Rain and mud all over. Many shoes were found after the game.
- 840-872 Traditions. Interscholastic circus. Stunts. Diving into a tank. Conference baseball game and track meet.
- 873-899 Cheerleading is much more organized now. I cheer for the high school tournament team with the prettiest cheerleaders.
- 900-982 1916-1920 fraternity life. Small, well organized group. Hazing rules. It was fun. No beating up. Tubbing in ice water, putting out a fire with mouthfuls of water.
- 983-995 Tugs of war over the Boneyard. You wore old clothes as they would smell after you were through.
- 996-1043 Many fraternities. 30 to 40. Rushing in the fall.
- 1044-1075 Sororities. Family ties. Changing times.
- 1076-1127 Construction of Memorial Stadium. Zuppke did a tremendous job in speaking. Students all contributed. The students sent off and met the team train.
- 1128-1163 I don't see where students have time to get out. We had house rules.

- 1-21 The school was smaller.
Dean T. A. Clark kept track of individuals. He peered over his glasses when he had you in a bind. Clark once wrote a rhetoric theme for an athlete who kept getting E's. Clark's theme got an E. The prejudiced rhetoric instructor probably did not return.
- 22-50 Clark treated everybody fairly. Student leaders had more recognition then. Our communications system is bad. A small group of students want publicity.
- 51-68 Dean of Men Clark was important. Handled student discipline. Faculty had teas for students.
- 69-97 Huff and Clark were close associates. University had a responsibility for the students. Admires Dr. Henry.
- 98-128 Criticism of Zuppke. Players thought he was too tough on them. He could be very sarcastic at times. If they worked, he was all right. Zuppke was a small fiery individual who liked to talk.
- 129-148 We beat Ohio State 7-0 for our first win one year. He kicked a penny and gave a pep talk.
- 149-169 Grange and Zuppke. Grange fast and elusive. He ran the 440 in under 50 seconds.
- 170-195 Grange, Number 77, was idolized. He was once elected to the trustees. He played with the Chicago Bears. Pyle took charge of Red Grange as his manager.
- 196-214 Championships in football and basketball.
- 215-225 1919 basketball team played together. When one man got the flu, the team lost.
- 226-267 SATC in World War I. Flu epidemic. 3,300 slept in Armory. Small football crowds as SATC students could not attend games. We were in the Army.
- 268-274 When the armistice was declared to officers marched us around town at 2 in the morning.
- 275-287 Pushball contests on the morning of Homecoming. The field was wet down and became muddy.
- 288-299 World War I. School of Military Aviation.
- 300-335 In a basketball game against Minnesota in Men's Old Gym, George Horlas knocked Gillis into a pole. He enlisted in the Navy before Illinois played at Minnesota. Snowstorm kept officials away. Cadets officiated.