Intercollegiate Athletics
Coaches
Ray Eliot Papers, 1905-1980

Ray Eliot Chronology
1905 - June 13, Born Raymond Eliot Nusspickel in New York City, NY
1924 - Brighton, MA High School graduate
1924-27 - Kents Hill Seminary, Kents Hill, ME graduate
1928 - Enrolled in University of Illinois
1929 - June 27 marriage to Margaret Crowley
1932 - June graduate with B.S. in Education
1932-33 - Assistant Football Coach, Illinois College
1933-37 - Baseball Coach, Illinois College
1933 - Daughter Jane born
1934-36, Football Coach, Illinois College
1937 - Changed name from Raymond Eliot Nusspickel to Ray Eliot
1938 - Columbia University M.A.
1942 - January 29 appointment as Head Football Coach, University of Illinois
1947 - January 1 Rose Bowl victory over UCLA, 45-14
1951 - January 22 Rejection of head coaching offers from Southern California, Stanford, and Texas
1952 - January 1 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford, 40-7
1953 - Nov. 21, 39-14 win at Northwestern brings Big 10 co-championship
1955-56 - President, American Football Coaches Association
1959 - March 12 Announced plan to retire after 1959 season
1959 - Nov. 22 Wins final Big 10 game at Northwestern, 28-0
1960 - January 27 Ray Eliot Testimonial Dinner at Chicago Illini Club
1960 - Associate Director, Athletic Association
1961 - Amos Alonzo Stagg Award
1965 - Honorary Life Member, American Football Coaches Association
1973 - Retirement Dinner
1974 - Honorary Assistant Athletic Director
1979 - May 11 appointment as Interim Athletic Director
1980 - February 24 death

The Ray Eliot Papers include correspondence (Boxes 1-3), clippings (4-5), photographs (6-7),
plays (8), programs (9), subject files (10-11), scrapbooks (12-13), and oversize material (14-15).
On June 4, 1981, the initial acquisitions from the Athletic Association amounted to 1.1 cubic feet.
On May 11, 1995, an additional 22 cubic feet of material came from grandson Doug Cartland. When processed, the total was 6.6 cubic feet, plus artifacts.
Box 1: Correspondence, 1921-55

Baptismal Certificate and report cards, 1921
Kents Hill Seminary, 1926
Marriage certificate and photograph and Honeymoon Travel Diary, June 27 - July 8, 1929
Illinois events, programs and awards, 1930-31
Illinois diploma and Illinois College position, 1932
Illinois College programs, 1933-36
Clippings, birth certificate and name change, 1937
Delta Theta Epsilon, 1938
Jane's 1933 birth certificate, 1940
Alpha Sigma Phi newsletter, congratulatory letters, Bob Elson interview & Alex Agase, 1942
The Lettermen's Letter, March 1942
Awards and certificates, 1950
Champaign property deed, 1951
Telegrams, Rose Bowl ticket and commentary, 1952
John "Rocky" Ryan, 1954
1956
Recruiting and football position charts, 1958
Illinois positions, retirement, 1959 season, testimonials from former players and University Trustees, 1959

Box 2: Correspondence, 1960-73

Fritz Crisler, Grand Rapids, MI certificate, 1960
Chicago Illini Club Book of Testimonial Letters:
  Administrative, Staff Associates, I-Men, 1942-59
  Big Ten Coaches Present & Past, Jan. 27, 1960
Nebraska offer & Ralph Edwards, 1961
Arnold Air Society, 1965
Stadium parking, 1966
Speaking engagements, 1967
Bristol, VA speech, 1968
Furman Bisher (Atlanta Journal) on unsportsmanlike play, 1969
J.C. Caroline Football Hall of Fame nomination, 1970
Ray Eliot Football Hall of Fame nomination, 1971
Athletic Association job description, 1972
Maxwell Air Force Base speeches, Bob Broeg, 1973
  Arrangements, Oct. 1973
  Sept. - Nov. 1973

Box 3: Correspondence, 1974-798

Travel, Grange Banquet, 50th Anniversary of the Stadium, Oct. 1974
  Nov. - Dec. 1974
Speaking engagements (7 folders), 1975
Speaking engagements, Athletic Association (3 folders), 1976
  (3 folders), 1977
1978
Illinois House Resolution 419, June 28, 1979
Air University Award for 1956-79 lectures, 1979
Memorial tributes, Margaret Eliot birth certificate, 1980
Tribute by LaRue Van Meter, 1981, 1983-84, 1993
"Illinois College Years" biography chapter by Doug Cartland with Charles Bellatti's comments, June 14, 1994

Box 4: Clippings, 1920-50

Brighton MA, High School football team, 1920
Kents Hill, ME, baseball team & Wilton, ME, semi-pro baseball team, 1925-26
Illinois Freshman football team, Oct. 6, 1928
Football prospects & "All-Americans" team, 1929
Illinois baseball and football teams, 1930
Football games, 1931
1932
Illinois College coaching appointment, football and baseball games, 1933
1935
1936
Farewell Party at Jacksonville & WILL radio talk, 1937
Illinois hockey team, 1938
Feb. 11-22, 1938
Football, 1939
1940
Bob Zuppke's last season, 1941
Ray Eliot's appointment as football coach, Jan. 29, 1942
Football games, 1943
1944
1945
Illinois' 20-0 win over Northwestern, Nov. 24, 1946 & Rose Bowl Trip, 1946
Illinois' 45-14 Rose Bowl victory over UCLA, Jan. 1947
"A Coach Doesn't have to be Tough," by Tom Siler in Saturday Evening Post, Nov. 27, 1947

Box 5: Clippings, 1951-80

Thumbnail sketch of Ray Eliot in Dr. Pepper ad, The Mentor, Nov. 1951
Football & Rose Bowl trip, 1951
Illinois' 40-7 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford and return trip, 1952
Chuck Flynn on 1952 Rose Bowl, 1953
Air Force Football Clinics in Germany, July 4, 1954
"Ray Eliot, Top Football Coach...and Fisherman," by Ira Morton, Hunting and Fishing, Oct. 1954
Minnesota and Michigan victories, 1955
Publicity, fishing, Jim Minor, 1956
Maine coaches meeting, June 18, 1957
Football, 1958
Final season stories, 1959
Corpus Christi, TX banquet, March 1, 1960
American Football Coaches Association Amos Alonzo Stagg Award, Jan. 10, 1961
Philadelphia speech, 1962
Illinois Hockey Club, 1964
Banquet speeches, 1965
Houston, TX Touchdown Club, Oct. 1966
Continues as Athletic Association Assistant Director, Kents Hill reunion, 1967
Indiana State University speaker, Sept. 1968
Houston, Miami, and Binghamton speeches, 1969
1970
Illini Club of Sarasota, Jan. 29, 1971
Robert Irsay, 1972
Ray Nitschke, Ray Eliot Weekend (Nov. 2), 1973
I-Men's Banquet, Honorary Assistant Athletic Director, 1974
Daily Illini feature story, Oct. 8, 1975
North-South Shrine All-star Game, Pontiac, MI, 1976
Retirement, 1977
Obituaries, 1980
Bob Broeg, "Mr. Illini" article in Illinois Update, Sept. 7, 1984
Bill Burrell, Nov. 9, 1993

Box 6: Photographs, 1905-51

Ray Eliot, 1905-32
1933-79
Illinois Field, Oct. 17, 1914
Memorial Stadium, 1924
Kents Hill, 1924-27
Photographs, 1929
1931-32
1939
Family, 1936-38
Photographs, 1937
1939
Summer camp, ca. 1939
Sky Line Ranch, Moose, WY, ca. 1940
Eliot, Jane C., 1940-51
Photographs (4 folders), 1940-44
(5 folders) 1946-59
Barney's ball Lake Lodge, fishing, ca. 1950
Photographs, 1951
Rose Bowl Trip, Santa Fe train scenes, reception, Dec. 1951

Box 7: Photographs, 1952-79

Photographs (2 folders), 1952-53
Japan Coaching Clinic Banquet, July 1953
Photographs, 1954
East-West Football Game, ca. 1954-60
Photographs (5 folders), 1955-59
U.S. Air Force, Europe, Football School, Berchtesgaden, July 6-10, 1959
U.S. Air Force Academy, Jan. 11, 1974
Photographs, 1979
Football coaches meetings
Football players
Friends, Bierman - Sweden
Friends, unidentified
Social Events
Speaking
Speaking at rallies

Box 8: Plays

George Halas (Chicago Bears) and Varsity Plays, 1938
Football Roster, 1941
Offensive Formations and Play Book, 1941
H. Grange T-Formation Plays, 1945
Play Guide for UCLA Rose Bowl Game, 1947
Plays and 1951 Roster, 1950
Plays, 1951-52
Northwestern scouting report on Illinois, Nov. 1952
Plays, 1953
  1954
  1955
c. 1955
  1956
"Reaction Time in Offensive Backfield Football Positions," by Carl E. Grad, M.S. thesis in
  Physical Education, 1949
8 mm. Sound Film Clips of Ray Eliot on sidelines and comment on game plays
Looseleaf notebook on College Football, containing information and outlines on color, time,
  coin toss, statistics, teams, strategy, behind the scenes, preparing, schedule making,
  attack, defense, legal help, jokes, public relations, money, business manager, parking,
  rules, evolution, democracy, players, spectators, demands, greatest game, football
  coaching, night before, doctor and trainer, spring practice, movies, and scouting


Michigan, 10/18/23
Michigan, 10/24/24
Tournament of Roses Review, 1947
Pittsburgh, 9/27/47
Wisconsin (Eliot's 10th Anniversary), 10/6/51
Tournament of Roses Official Program, 1952
East-West Shrine Game (35th), 1/2/60
Iowa (Coaches), 11/20/71
Ohio State (Ray Eliot Day), 11/3/73
California (1940s stars), 10/5/74
Northwestern, 9/9/78
Stanford, 9/23/78
Purdue, 10/21/78
Missouri, 9/15/79
Iowa, 10/6/79  
Michigan, 10/20/79  
Ohio State, 11/3/79  
Michigan State, 10/22/88  
Illio, 1960 pp. 355-370 on Ray Eliot & 1959 football season

Box 10: Subject File, Air Force - Football Courses & Clinics

Air Force, Football Coaches Clinic for Army & Air Force, Germany, 1954, 1959  
Air Force Training Speech, Squadron Officers School, audiotape and 8/23/96 audio cassette, Aug. 3, 1979

Tape Recording, Speech before Squadron Officer School (SOS) Air Force Training Program, August 3, 1979

Transcript:

10 Introduction
35 Eliot begins; has spoken to SOS "graduates" 76 times
46 Definition of football coach
62 First trip to Rose Bowl in 1947; summary of reasons for success
83 Principles of athletics and life learned through sports; success in both dependent upon realistic attitudes; "regardless of the odds"; no job is insurmountable for a real athlete
103 Critics of football, unsportsmanlike conduct; indictment of sport in Saturday Evening Post by Furman Bisher; Eliot claims that a number of collisions is small, given amount of contact in game; comparison to rudeness, lack of courtesy in life
130 Importance of courtesy
137 Leadership determined by one's actions, not conversation
145 Importance of building the "whole person" with the "will to win" and the "proper state of mind"; courage and leadership come from the heart
157 Virtues of self-denial and self-discipline
166 Proper attitude of loyalty, to one's family and country
170 Definition of sportsmanship: "doing unto others as you would have them do unto you"
180 Importance of pride; Ray Nitschke All-American Football player and man, pride of Green Bay Packers
190 Being a "team person"; combination of pride, confidence, and the "will to win" results in the "whole man"
200 Game against Wisconsin (c. 1953-54), odds against Illinois; Illinois winning 10-6; Chuck Boerio, linebacker, shouting "send Ameche at me"; held the line, Illinois victorious; the one yard that separates greatness from mediocrity
225 Importance of never giving up, regardless of odds; 1944 football team filled with 17 year olds; led U.S. in yards gained, story of the Great Lakes game, odds against Illinois; 26-26 tie; real athlete responds to a real challenge
258 Sports as classroom for proper mental and physical attitude; "anything that's competitive will make you grow"; story of Spike Moran in WWII and the "spirit of the America"
279   Poem: "If you think you can, you will...it's all in the state of mind"
284   Conclusion

American Football Coaches Association Proceedings, 1956, 1960-61
Army, UASSAREUR Football Coaches Clinic, Frankfurt Germany, July 12-23, 1954
Artifacts List, 1996
Athletic Association Steering Committee, 1975-77
Athletic Coaching, Four Year Course Bulletins, 1922-25
Colorado High School Coaches Association Clinic, Pueblo, Colorado, August 17-20, 1960
East-West Shrine Football Classic and Hospitals, 1955, 1960, 1972
Eliot, Margaret Crowley & Child Family, 1980
Football Courses & Clinics, 1950-60

Box 11: Subject File, Football Notes - Zuppke

Football Notes, Illinois Football Coaches Association, April 20-21, 1979
Golf Course, Savoy, Land Acquisitions, 1953, 1958
Illinois College, Football Record, 1932-36
Illinois, Course Papers, 1931-32
Income Tax returns, 1942-43
Injuries, Treating & Preventing Athletic Injuries, "Hamilton's Wheel"
Kiva Summer Camp, Croton Reservoir, New York, 1936
  Campers and Counselors
"Leadership Development" audiotape, 1961

Transcript:
1   No introduction; tape begun in mid-sentence
4   Address to audience; comments on his last season as coach (1959); explanation of lose to Michigan and summary of game
38  Comments on University of Illinois Alumni; grateful for support (positive and negative of Alumni)
53  Education that football (other sports as well) has given him; importance of facing facts in sports; "every principle that guides us on the athletic field guides us in life."
69  Response to question of younger coaches, "What are the most important qualities of a young athlete?"
78  Not physical process that determines success; psychological will power that determines great athletes
88  We perform that which we will to be done. Importance of conditioning the mind to do the "big jobs."
94  Difference between men lies in their minds and their hearts, not their bodies.
100 "Have you got it?"; "it" is not physical strength, but an inward driving force, first ingredient of "it" is courage - "the courage to throw your bodies around in reckless abandonment in the field of play"; contact courage important in football; importance of hitting quickly, decisively
111 Second ingredient is game intelligence - smartness on and off the field; common sense
115 Third ingredient - most important one of all - "the proper state of mind"; that within you which says "I can; I will; I must; that regardless of the odds, I'll get the job done"
122 Sportsmanship defined by the golden rule; only when the odds are against you
have you achieved something good

Example of Charles Lindbergh as someone who achieved something against the odds; importance of humility in sports; loss to Michigan in season opener after Rose Bowl victory

Athletics as a "great leveller"

In any game, what counts is mental drive, more knowledge or physical strength

Reminiscence of Wisconsin game, Illinois leading 10-7 with minute and a half to go; spirit of the Fighting Illini; Illinois victory, able to hold Wisconsin at the one yard line

War years at Illinois; 1944 season; led U.S. in yards gained, with mostly 17 year olds on team

Great Lakes game in 1944; learned a big lesson about youth of America, who have accepted and won every challenge put before them; 26-26 tie at end of game; Eddie Bray tackle at end of game

The most important ingredient in any game is the "Never say die" spirit

Example of Lou Boudreau, manager of Cleveland Indians baseball team; drove in winning runs, with two strikes against him

Teddy Roosevelt quote: "It is not the critic who counts...; the credit belongs to a man who is actually in the arena; who tries, and comes short, and tries again..."

Example of Olympic swimmer with one leg; will to win determined his success

All great deeds in the world come from the heart of man; example of Spike Moran in WWII

"The will of Man" has always led the country; what makes America great

Poem: "If you think you can, you can...it's all in the state of mind; Think that you can and you will; sooner or later the man who wins is the man who thinks he can..."

Long quotation from General MacArthur on the education of sports; sports builds character; teaches us to be proud as well as compassionate..."; sports are crucial in molding the "whole man"

Conclusion

Nusspickel, Anna, 1904, 1938, 1953, 1958
"The Proper State of Mind" audiotape, ca. 1969
Speech Material, 1945-75
Stadium Notes (1924) and Gymnasium plans (1926)
Vitae, 1936-42
Zuppke, Bob, sketch by Charles Bradford

Box 12: Football Scrapbooks, 1943-47

Newspaper clippings on Illinois football games


Newspaper clippings on Illinois football games
Box 14: Football Scrapbook, 1955; Coaches Clinic, 1953; Congratulatory Letters, 1959 (oversize)

Newspaper clippings on 1955 Illinois football games
Far East Military Football Coaches Clinics, Yokohama, Japan, July 13-24, 1953
Congratulatory letters upon retirement

Box 15: Documents, 1929, 1950-75; Photographs, 1947-75; Newspapers, 1959; Sports Scrapbook, Illinois & Illinois College, 1931-38 (oversize)

Documents, 1929, 1950-75
Zuppke's Best Illini Football Players, ca. 1929
Pic "The Football Heretic, Coach Eliot...Okay with Players - Disliked by...Alumni" by Tommy Divine, Sept. 1947
Football Digest, Coach of the Week Award, Nov. 19, 1950
Sam Newman's "Big Ten Roundup" cartoon, Nov. 8, 1951
Illini Club of Cincinnati certificate, Jan. 9, 1952
National Football Clinic, Honorary All-American citation, March 11, 1957
Look article on student aid in the Big Ten, June 26, 1957
Football schedule table mat, 1959
Helms Athletic Foundation, Hall of Fame award, ca. 1959
Joe Parrish, "An Unfortunate Time to Pay a Call," cartoon, Chicago Tribune, Nov. 20, 1959
Larry Hill's cartoon for Ray Eliot speech to Illinois-Indiana Oil Producers, ca. Feb. 1960
David Condon's "I Men Gather to Honor Eliot," column in Chicago Tribune, ca 1975

Photographs, 1931, 1947-75
Ray Nusspickel, 1931
Rose Bowl, Players carry Ray Eliot off the field, Jan. 1, 1947
Illinois state office holders group photographed by Gov. Dwight Green, ca. 1947
Ray Eliot, Lou Boudreau, Wally Roettger, Oct. 1948
25th Anniversary Banquet of Illinois Division of American Association of University Women, Chicago, April 22, 1949
Illinois Club of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27, 1951
Illinois and Northwestern, East-West Game (?) Coaches, 1953
"Tug" Wilson, Ray Eliot, and associate, ca. 1955
American Football Coaches Association, 33rd Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 10, 1956
Mounted photos of Chief Illiniwek (Oct. 14, 1959) and Ray Eliot in East team Coach's car, Dec. 1959
North Football Squad, Blue-Gray Game, Montgomery, AL (2 photos), ca. 1960
Sketch of Ray Eliot by Don Smith, 1964
Sketch of Ray Eliot, Officers Dining-In, Hill Air Force Base, 1970
Sketch of Ray Eliot by Farrell R. Collett, 1975

Newspapers, Nov. 15 - Dec, 31, 1959
Champaign-Urbana Courier (11/22-24) and News-Gazette (11/15, 22, 24; 12/31) and Chicago Tribune (11/22; 12/15)
Box 16:

K-R Speakers, 1964
Air Force Base Speeches, 1966
Quarterback Club Correspondence, 1963–1968
Maxwell Air Force Base Speaking Engagements, 1964-1972
All-America Speakers, 1964
Correspondence (includes hand-written indexes to all letters 1962-1972 located in alpha ‘62-65 folders)
   A-E: 1966-1972

Box 17:

Correspondence
   F-Z: 1965-1972