

Some Great Hawkeye Teams

Not long ago an interviewer asked the former great National League pitching star, Dizzy Dean, to evaluate his own career in baseball. With characteristic candor, Dean replied: "The older you are, the better you was." Therein may lie the major pitfall facing one who seeks to evaluate "Some Great Hawkeye Teams" of yesteryear.

Throughout their Western Conference history the Iowa Hawkeyes have been football "Davids" facing a procession of "Goliaths." Unlike David, however, few were destined to vanquish their foes and go down as "great" in the record books. The Hawkeye teams singled out herein can accept praise without limit. Time can neither dim nor add luster to their achievements.

Since the present cycle of great Hawkeye football under Forest Evashevski will be treated elsewhere, attention here will center on the Hawkeyes of 1899-1900, 1921-1922, and 1939.

It is not mere coincidence that three of Iowa's all-time great coaches were identified with these teams. In 1899, young Dr. A. A. Knipe came to Iowa from Pennsylvania and took over Hawkeye football. Dr. Knipe's coaching genius paid off in a single season. He pioneered a new style of play

in which guards and tackles dropped back to form interference. A team that had been little better than mediocre in 1898 suddenly blossomed into a powerhouse that won eight, lost none, and played to a 5-5 tie with powerful Chicago—scoring 221 points to 5 for all opponents. According to the *Hawkeye*:

In perfect accord they worked together day by day, with the utmost self sacrifice and a most admirable spirit. The support that had been given other teams so sparingly was lavished upon the men who were to be responsible for Iowa's honor in the opening season. That was because of their evident determination to pull Iowa out of the rut. And from the very first it was apparent that confidence reposed in these men was not misplaced. As the games went into history it was always a question only as to Iowa's score, for the other team never got anything. True, Chicago managed to place a goal from the 25-yard line before the Iowa team had realized that Chicago was no match for them. State Normal, the Iowa Alumni, Penn, Rush Medic., Ames, and Nebraska were shut out and beaten in succession. Then the decisive victory over Grinnell gave Iowa a clear title to the state championship. East again the men went and played Knox off its feet. Then upon Thanksgiving Day in Rock Island, with no future games for which to reserve strength, the team let loose upon Illinois all its accumulated power. With each game Iowa had displayed new possibilities, and here all were realized. Never did Iowa backs and ends go over, under, or around tacklers as on that afternoon. Guards and tackles cannot do more fearless line plunging than Iowa's men did then. The team that afternoon would have outgeneraled anything in the West. When the score had grown 58 to 0

and time had been called there was no longer any doubt as to Iowa's position. Michigan and Wisconsin had been outdone. Chicago alone could claim an equality.

The 1899 Hawks kept their goal-line uncrossed, Chicago getting its 5 points on a field goal. Just as a sidelight, that 1899 team took in the hefty sum of \$2,134 from all sources—including a "Mikado" benefit. And when the bills were all paid, a profit of \$1,181 remained. In other words, they ran the team an entire season, paid all travel and other costs on \$953.

The next year, 1900, saw the University of Iowa welcomed into the newly-formed Western Conference. Coach Knipe's squad met the challenge by sharing the championship with Minnesota in a brilliant season that included Iowa's first and only victory over Michigan on Wolverine soil. The victory was not a fluke: the combination of Moray Eby and Clyde Williams, both bright Hawkeye football stars, behind a hard-charging line produced three first-half touchdowns and a final score of 28-5. Only a tie with Northwestern marred an otherwise perfect season. The 1900 Hawks kept their goal-line uncrossed for the second season in succession, winning seven, losing one, and tying Northwestern.

National honors were heaped on the coach and squad. Letter-winners in addition to Williams and Eby were J. M. Brockway, E. J. Burrier, G. H. Coulthard, C. W. Dye, W. M. Edson, A. W.

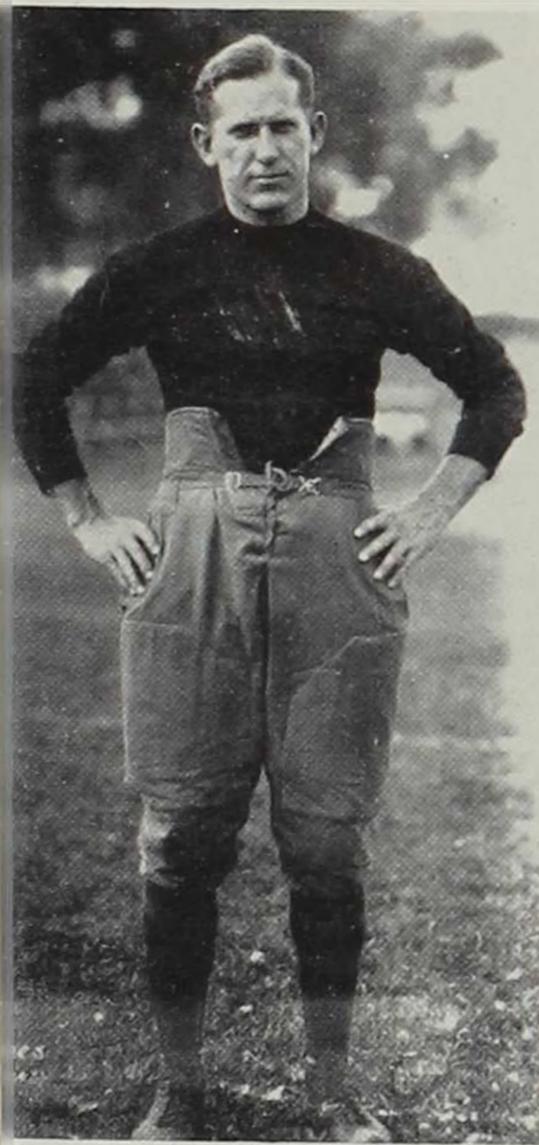
Ely, Capt. J. G. Griffith, John Little, R. A. Morton, F. L. Siberts, J. Warner, and F. Watters. Graduation riddled the squad, and after Clyde Williams was declared ineligible in 1901, the Hawkeye sun waned rapidly.

For the next fifteen years, Hawkeye football followed an all too familiar pattern—an occasional big win, but never enough victories to become a factor in the Conference race. There were good coaches, and some of Iowa's greatest stars played in that period, but the stars were too few, and the coaches mere part-time workers.

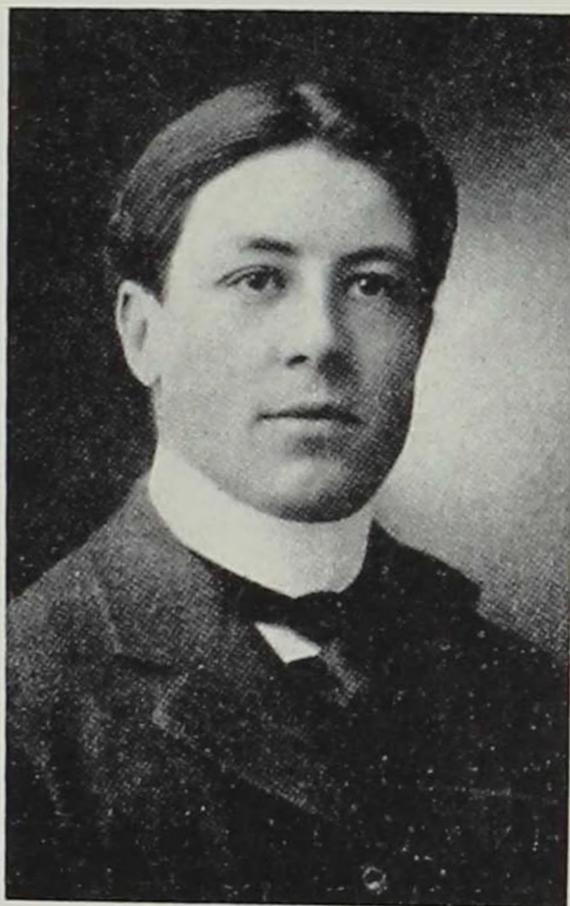
A cycle of football greatness started in 1916 when Iowa hired a full-time football coach. Picked for the job vacated by Jess Hawley was a young coach whose name eventually graced every football Hall of Fame—Howard Harding Jones. World War I held Jones back somewhat, but not for long. For example, Minnesota's mastery over Iowa so rankled Jones that in his second season Iowa broke that jinx and started a string of five straight victories over the Gophers.

But the full flower of Hawkeye glory under Howard Jones did not appear until midway in the 1920 season, after a wobbly start had forced Jones to revamp his backfield. One man, Craven Shuttleworth, must be singled out in that revamping job because he became Iowa's "good luck piece." The Hawks had lost two out of three games before an open date let Coach Jones revise

Three Great Iowa Coaches



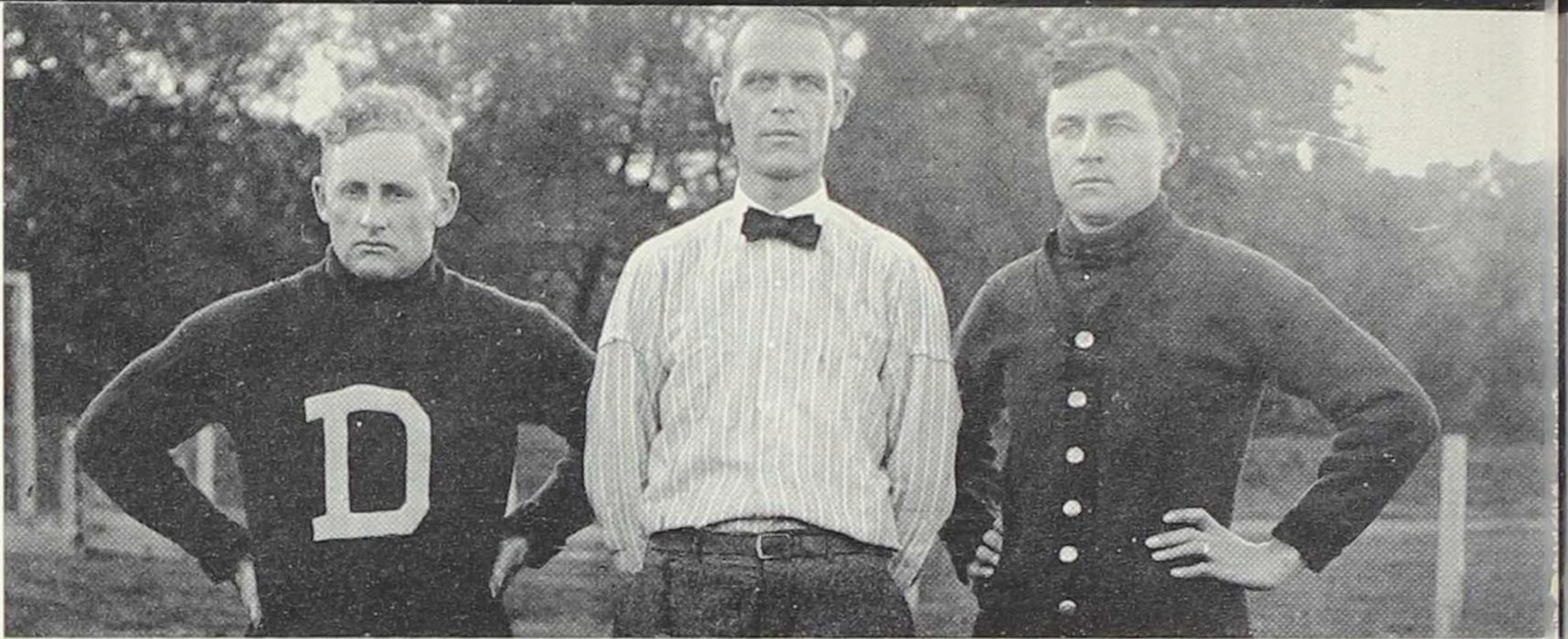
HOWARD H. JONES
(Yale)



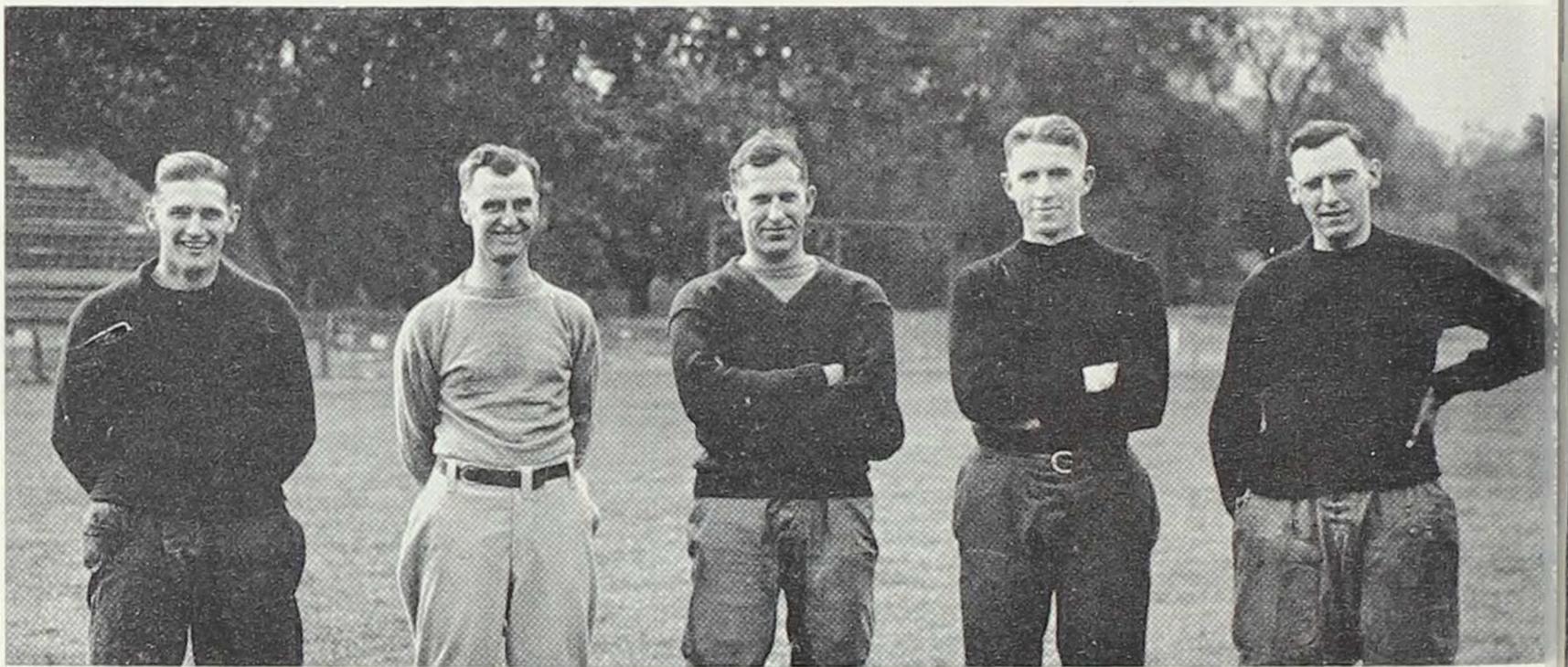
A. A. KNIPE
(Pennsylvania)



FOREST EVASHEVSKI
(Michigan)



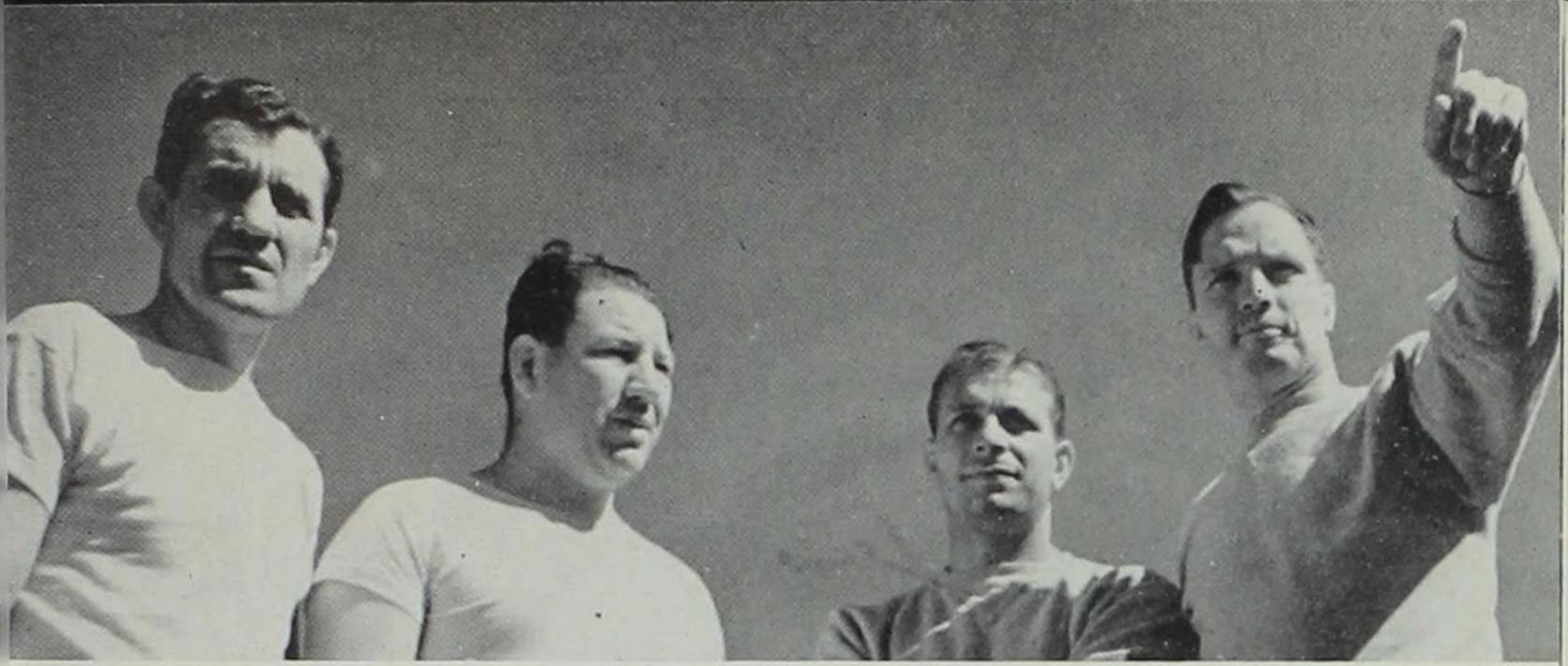
Coach Jesse Hawley (left) and his coaching staff
Hawley, Kellogg, Eby



Above: Howard Jones (center) and his coaching staff
Jenkins, Ashmore, Jones, Reed, Brigham

Below: Forest Evashevski and his staff
Schwank, Piro, Flora, Evashevski, Elliott, Kodros





Eddie Anderson (right) and his coaching staff
G. Devine, Harris, Carideo, Anderson



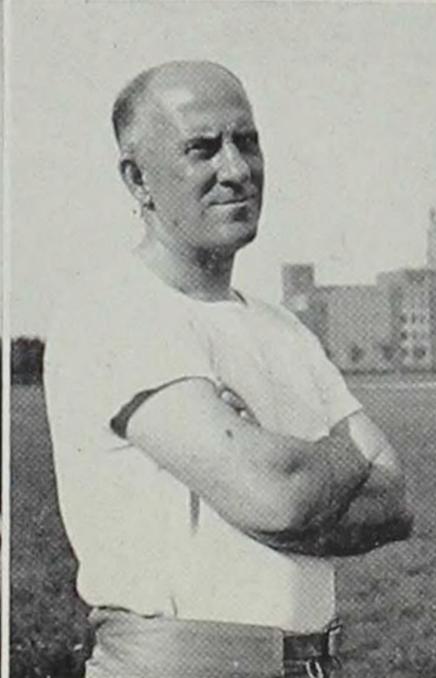
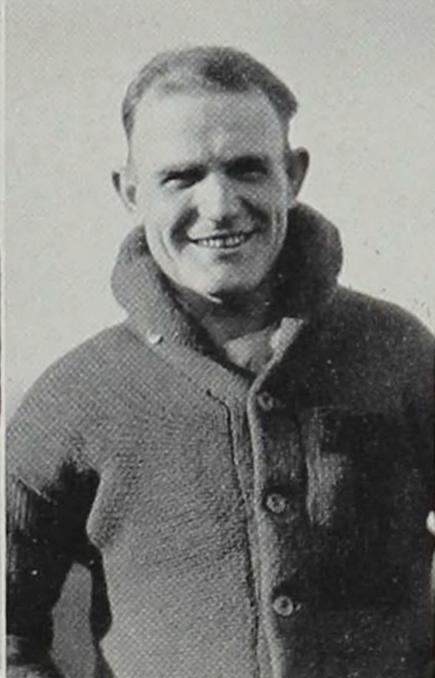
Ossie Solem (right) and his coaching staff
Vogel, Williams, Lynch, Haynes, Boelter, Schammel, Solem

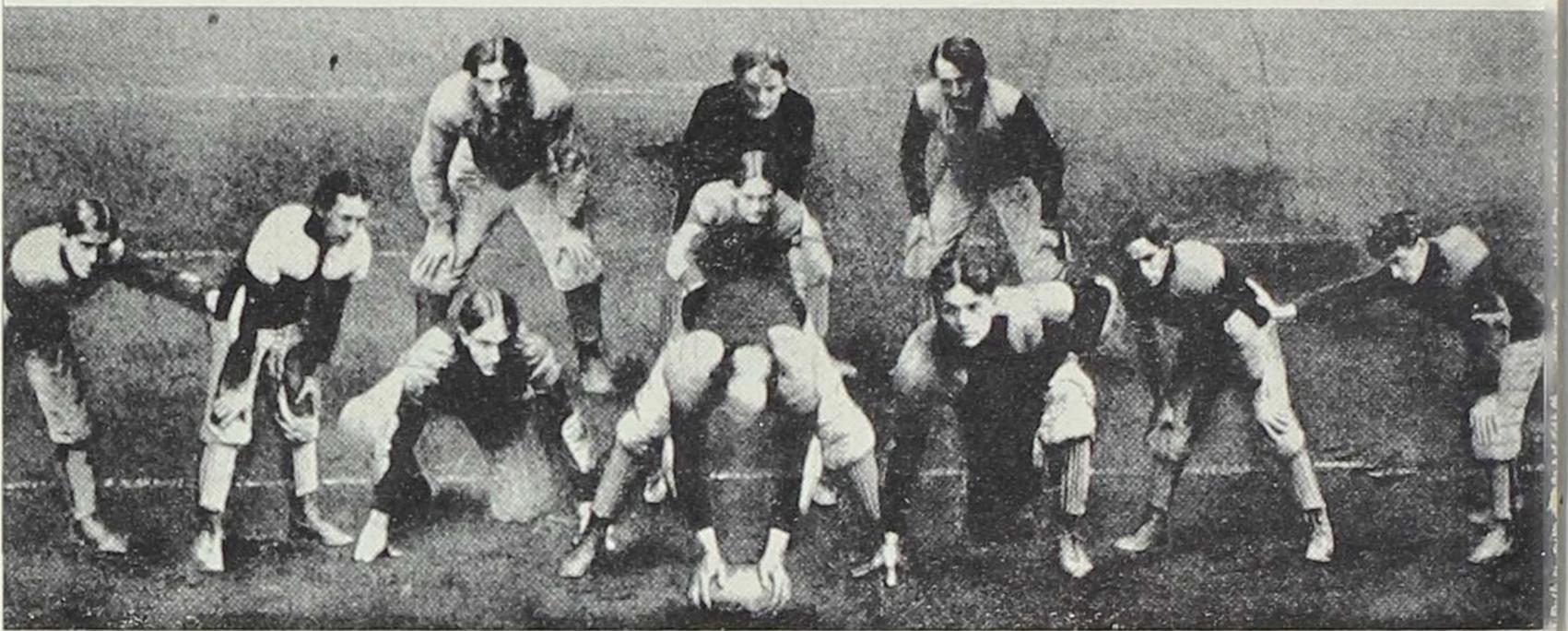
JOHN G. CHALMERS

BURT INGWERSON

IRL TUBBS

LEN RAFFENSPERGE





The Great Team of 1900

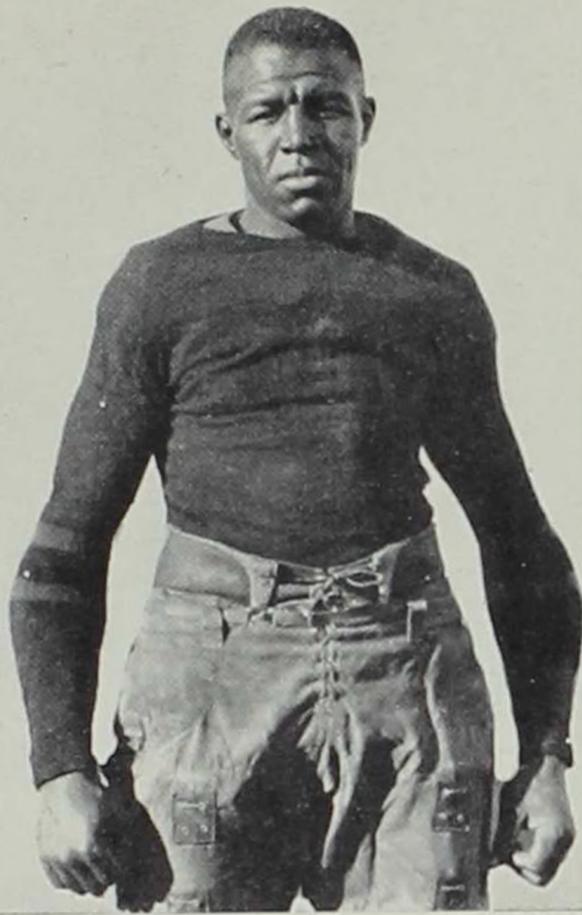


Coach Marc Catlin and Assistant Coach John Griffith
and their squad

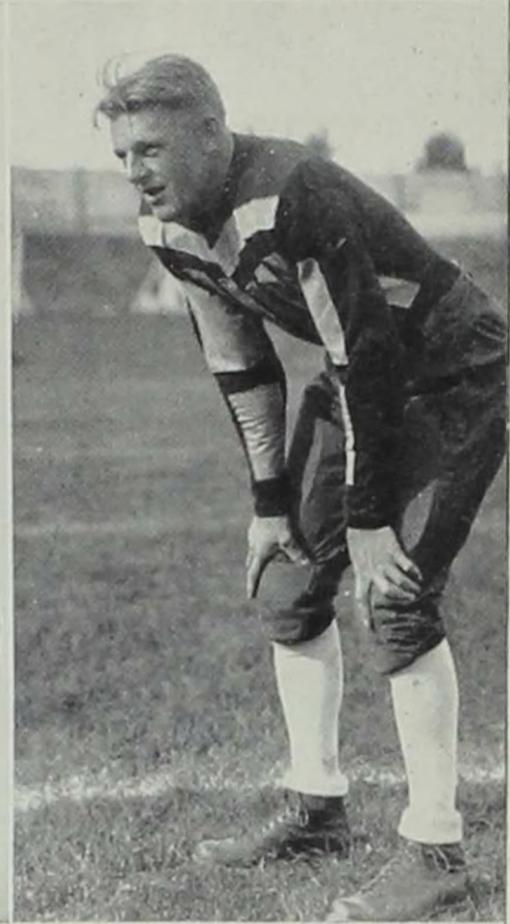
LOYALTY, TEAMWORK, COURAGE, SCHOOL SPIRIT



M. L. MCKINLEY



DUKE SLATER



ORAN PAPE



A tense moment in an exciting game



Enthusiastic crowd greets the Yale victors at the Rock Island Depot

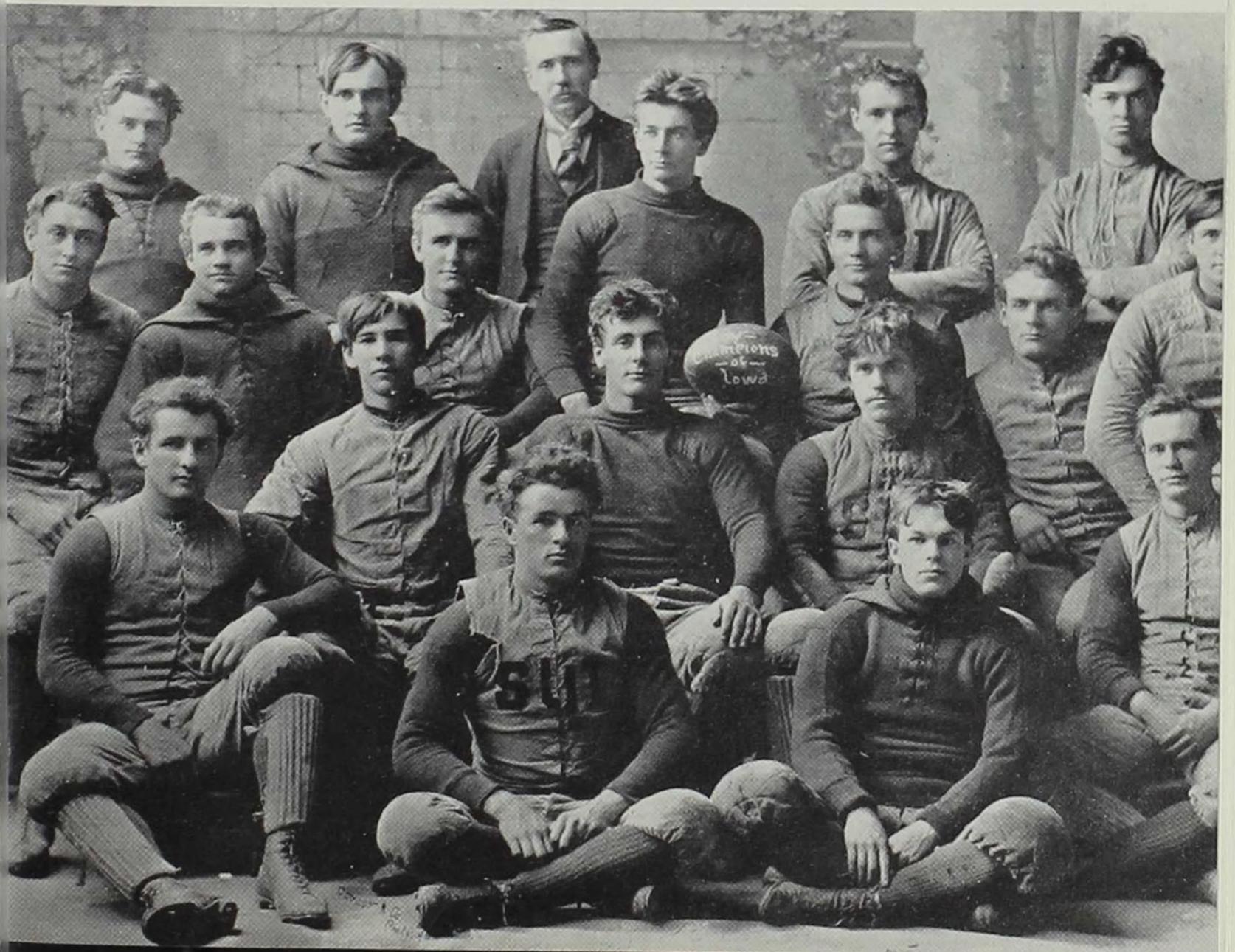
Waiting all night outside Whetstone's to buy football tickets





Above: The 1890 Football Team

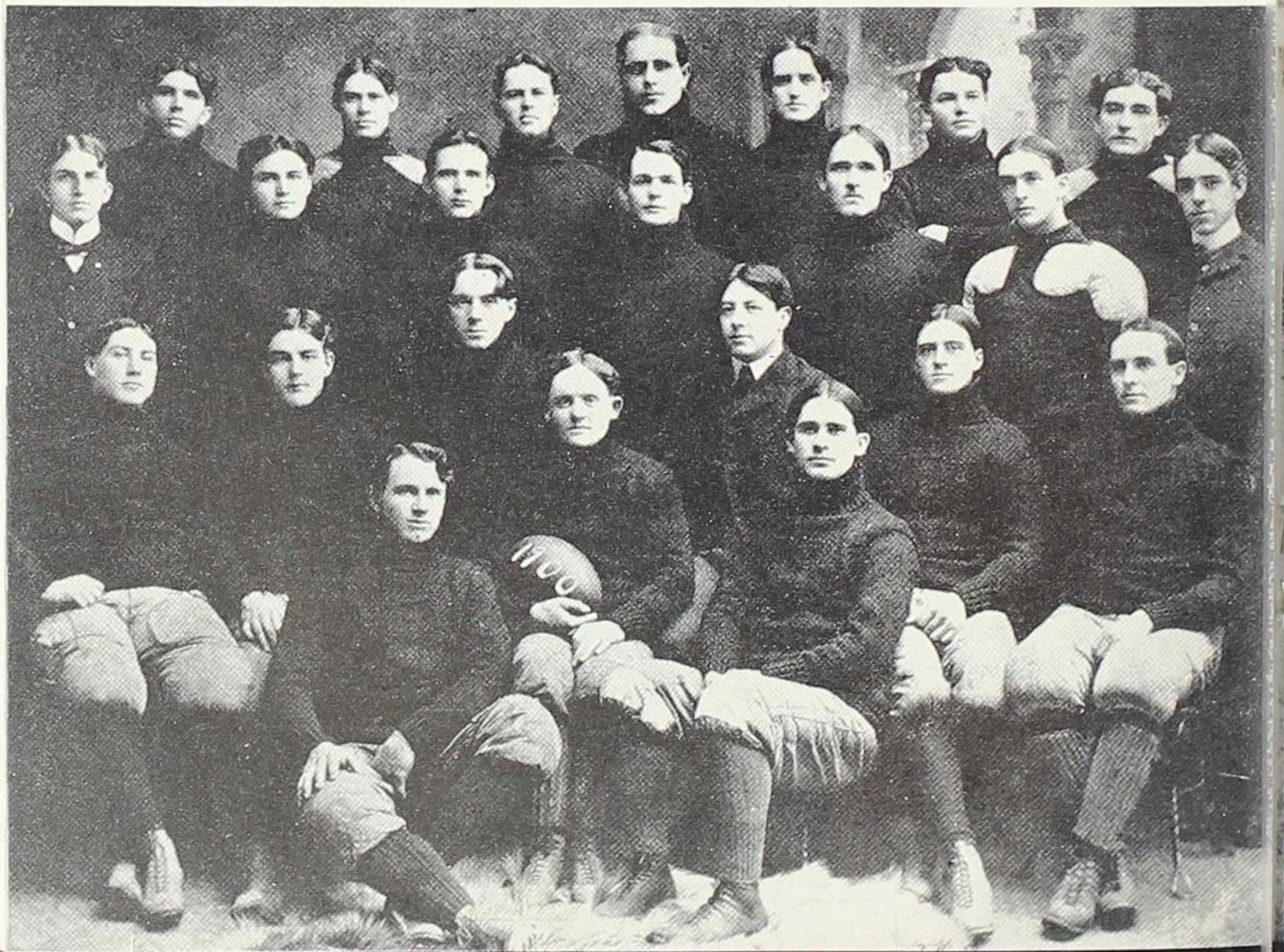
Below: The 1894 Football Team: "Champions of Iowa"





Above: The Championship Team of 1899

Below: The Championship Team of 1900

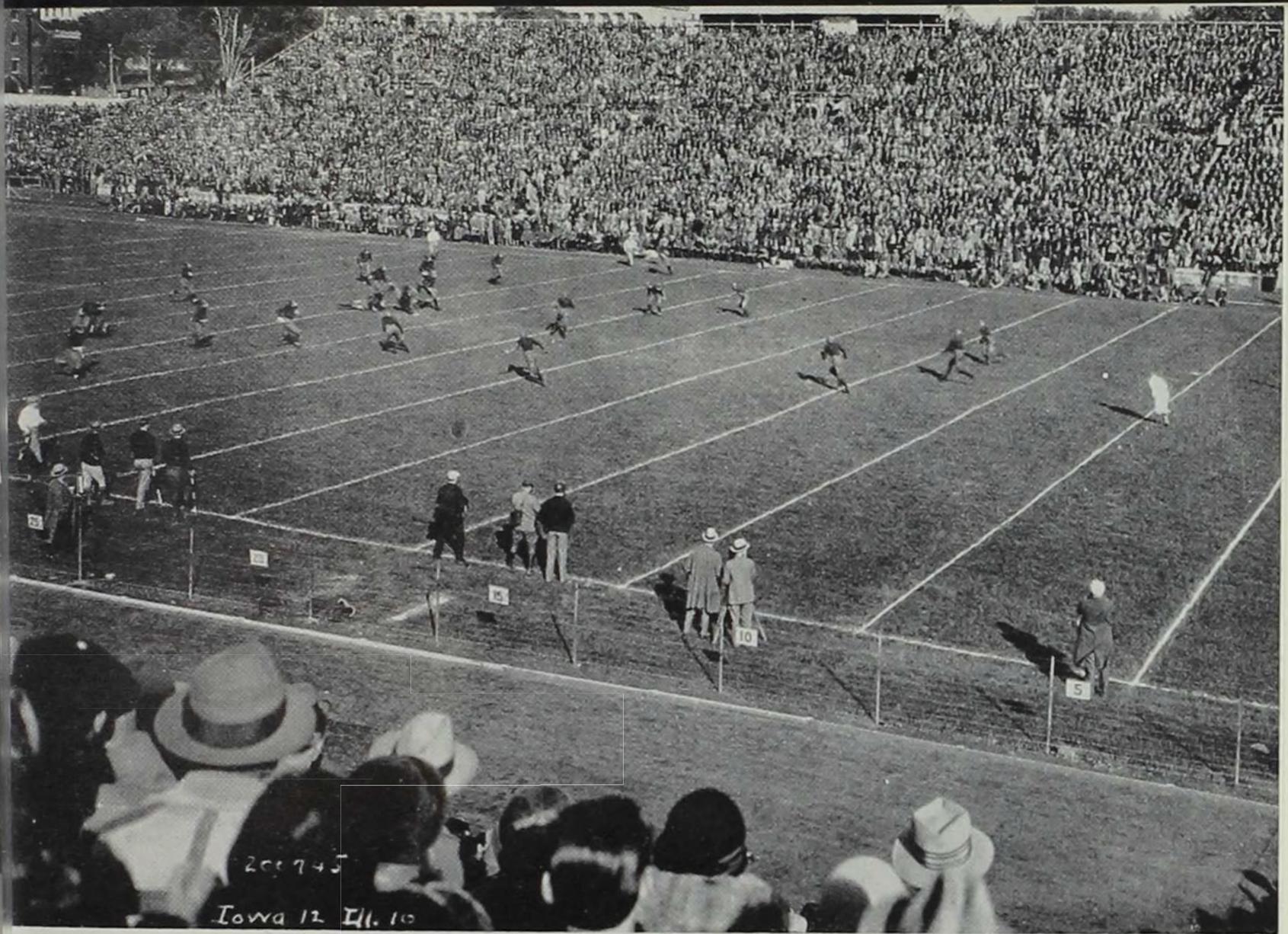




Above: The 1921 Championship Team

Below: The Championship Team of 1922



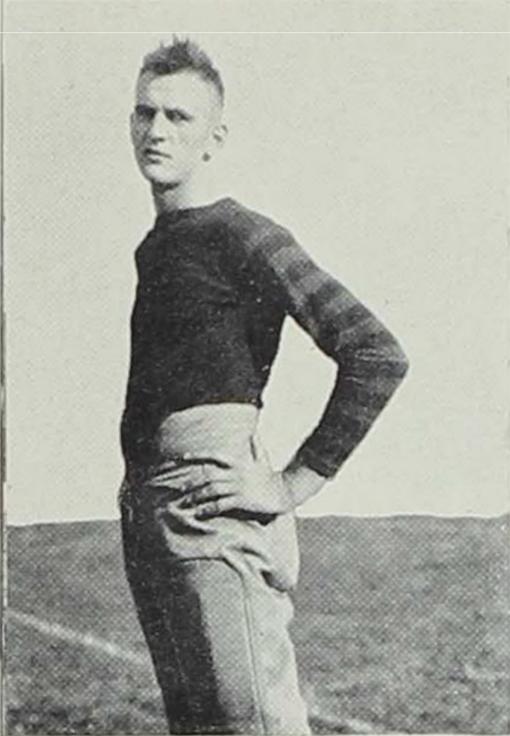


Above: Iowa 12, Illinois 10 in the Old Stadium in 1925

Below: Iowa 0, Wisconsin 6 in the blizzard of 1925



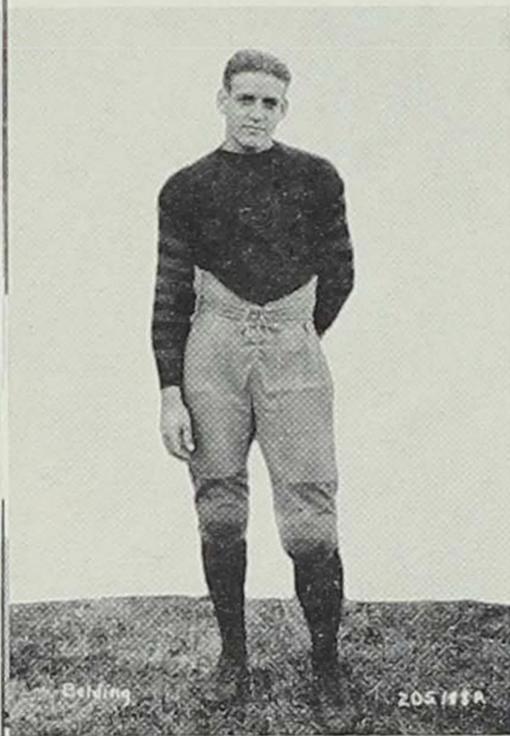
Iowa
All-Americans



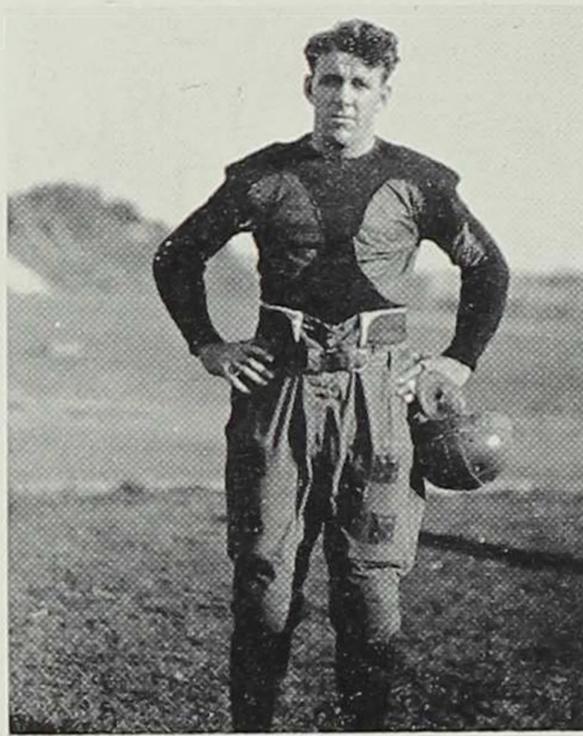
FRED BECKER
tackle, 1916



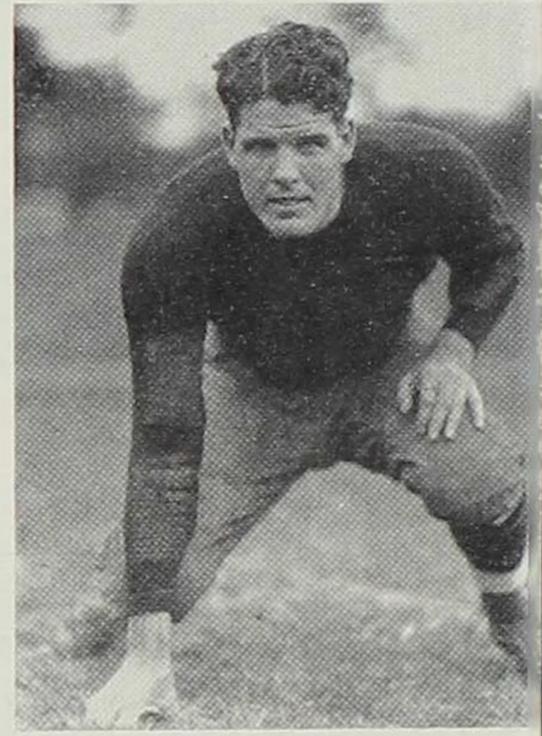
RICHARD ROMEY
end, 1925



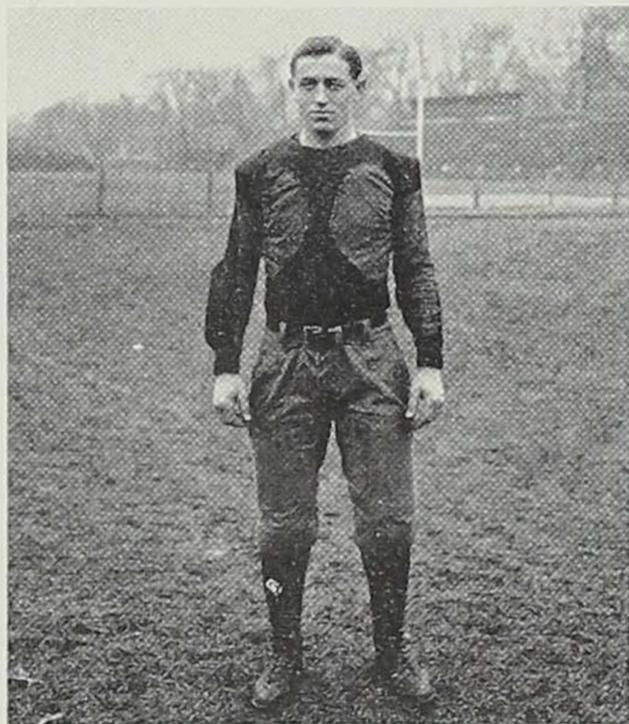
LESTER BELDING
end, 1919



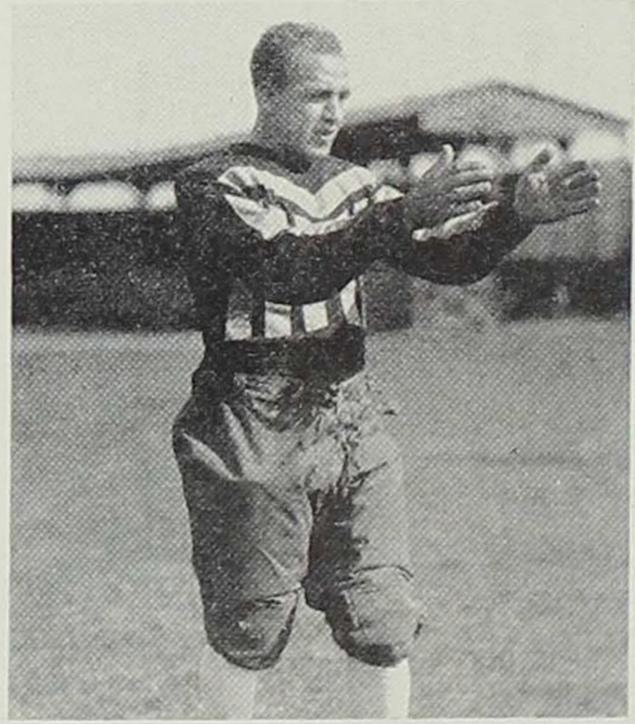
GORDON LOCKE
f, qb, 1922



EMERSON NELSON
tackle, 1926



AUBREY DEVINE
quarter, 1921

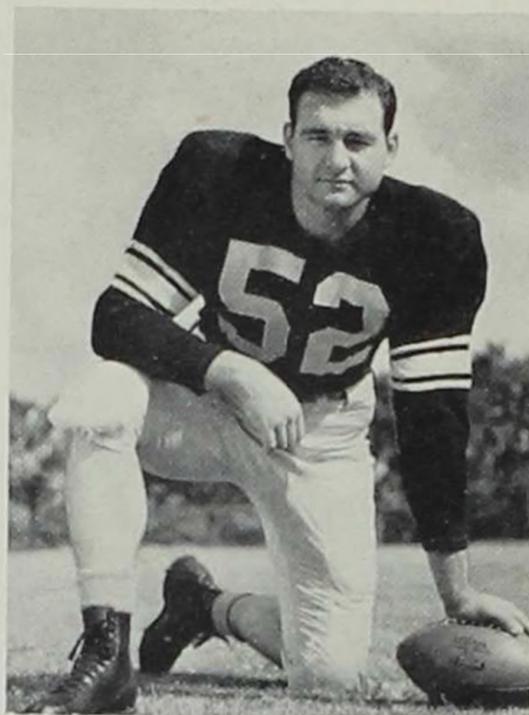


WILLIS GLASSGOW
half, 1929



FRANCIS SCHAMMEL
guard, 1933

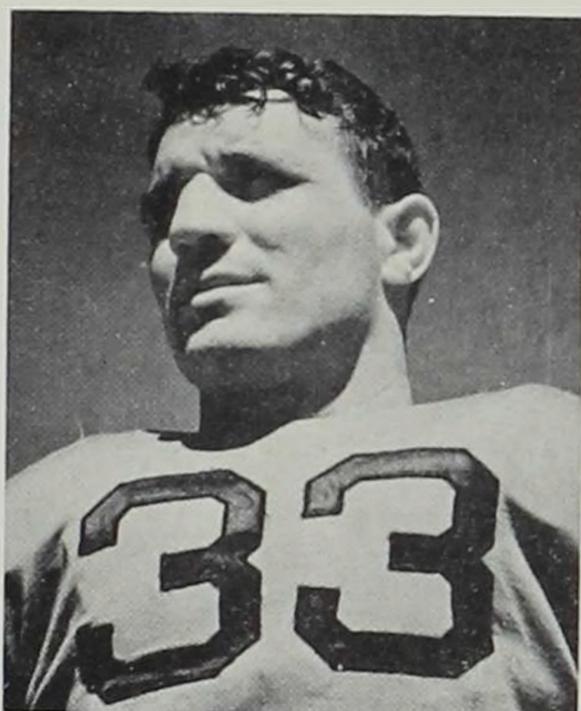
Iowa
All-Americans



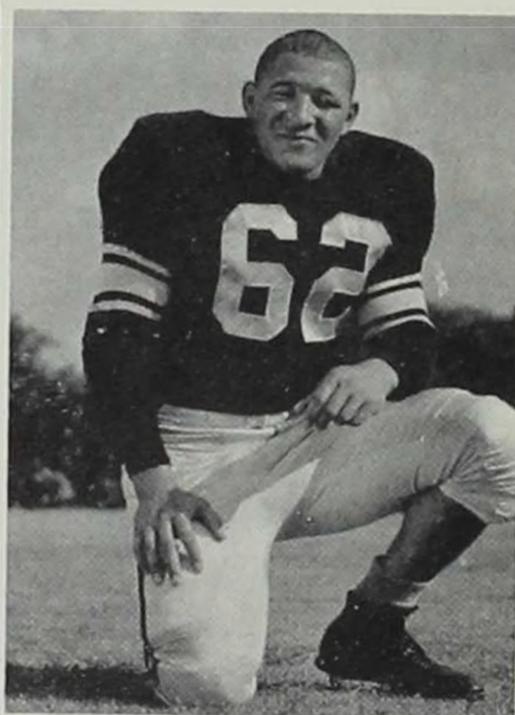
JERRY HILGENBERG
center, 1953



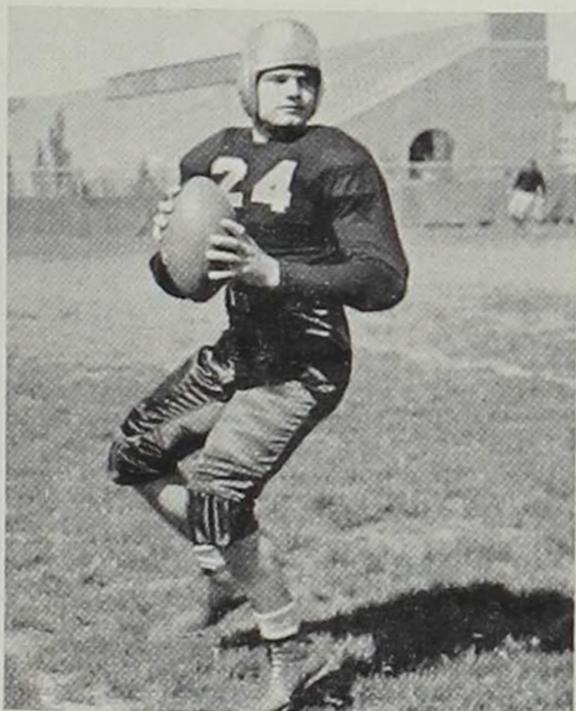
OZZIE SIMMONS
half, 1935



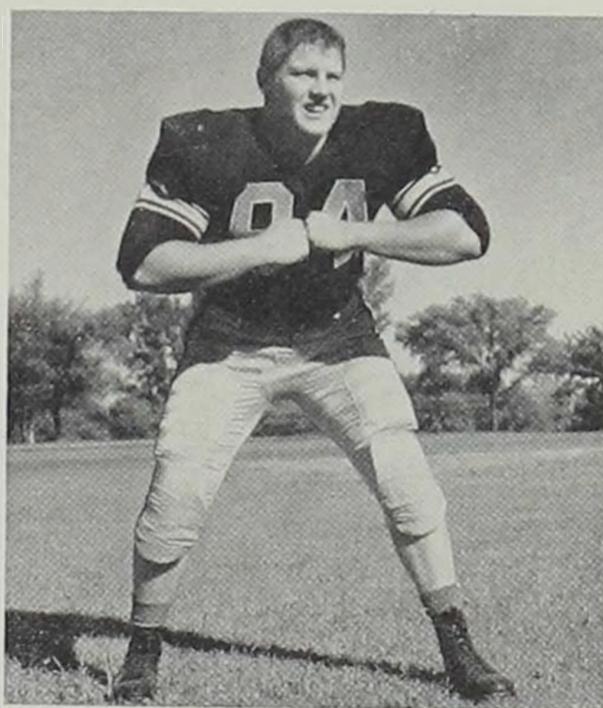
MIKE ENICH
tackle, 1940



CALVIN JONES
guard, 1954, 1955

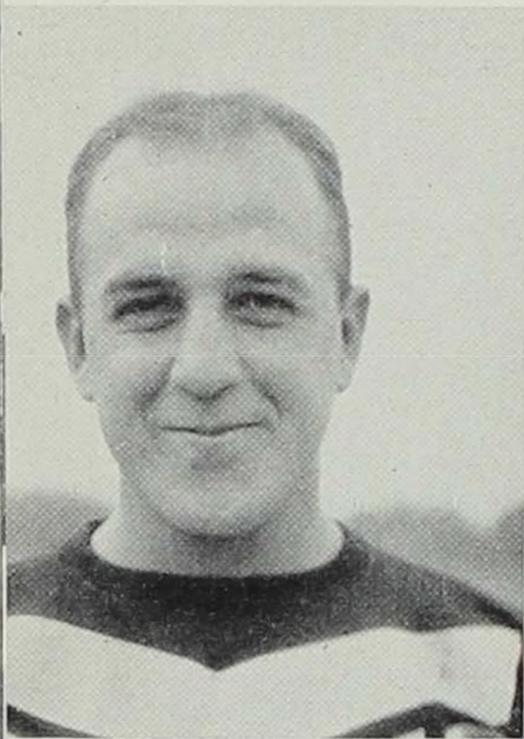


NILE KINNICK
half, 1939

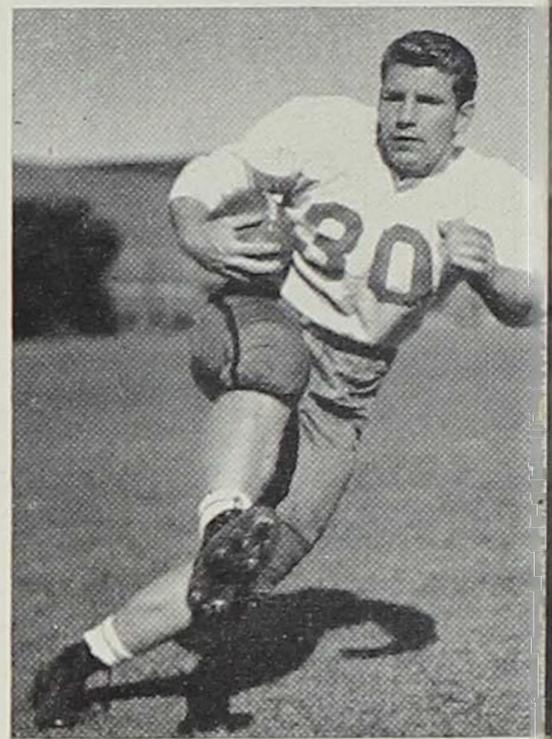


ALEX KARRAS
tackle, 1956

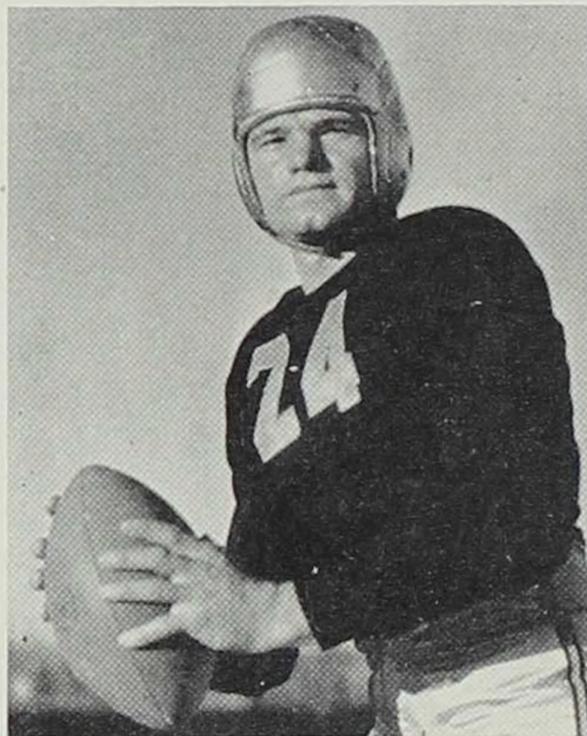
Most Valuable Players in Western Conference



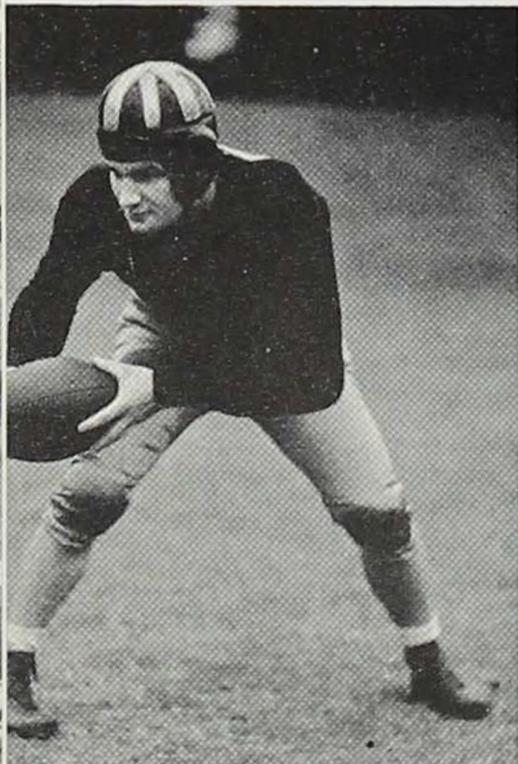
BILL GLASSGOW
1929



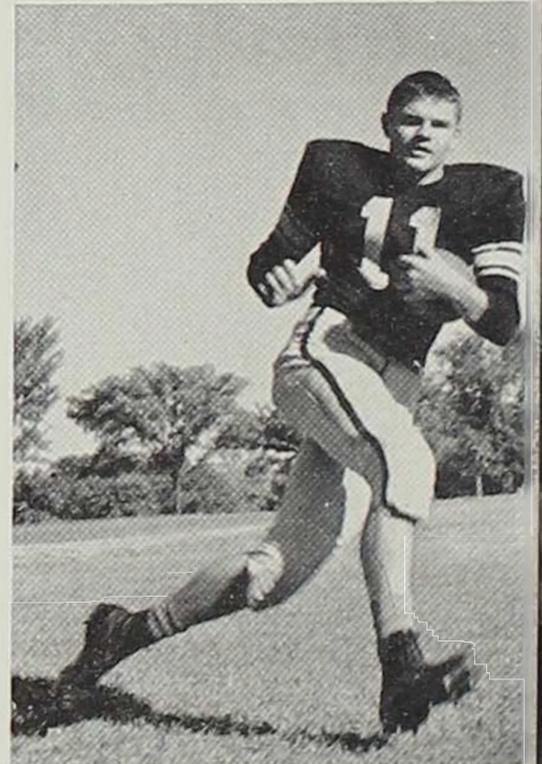
BILL REICHARDT
1951



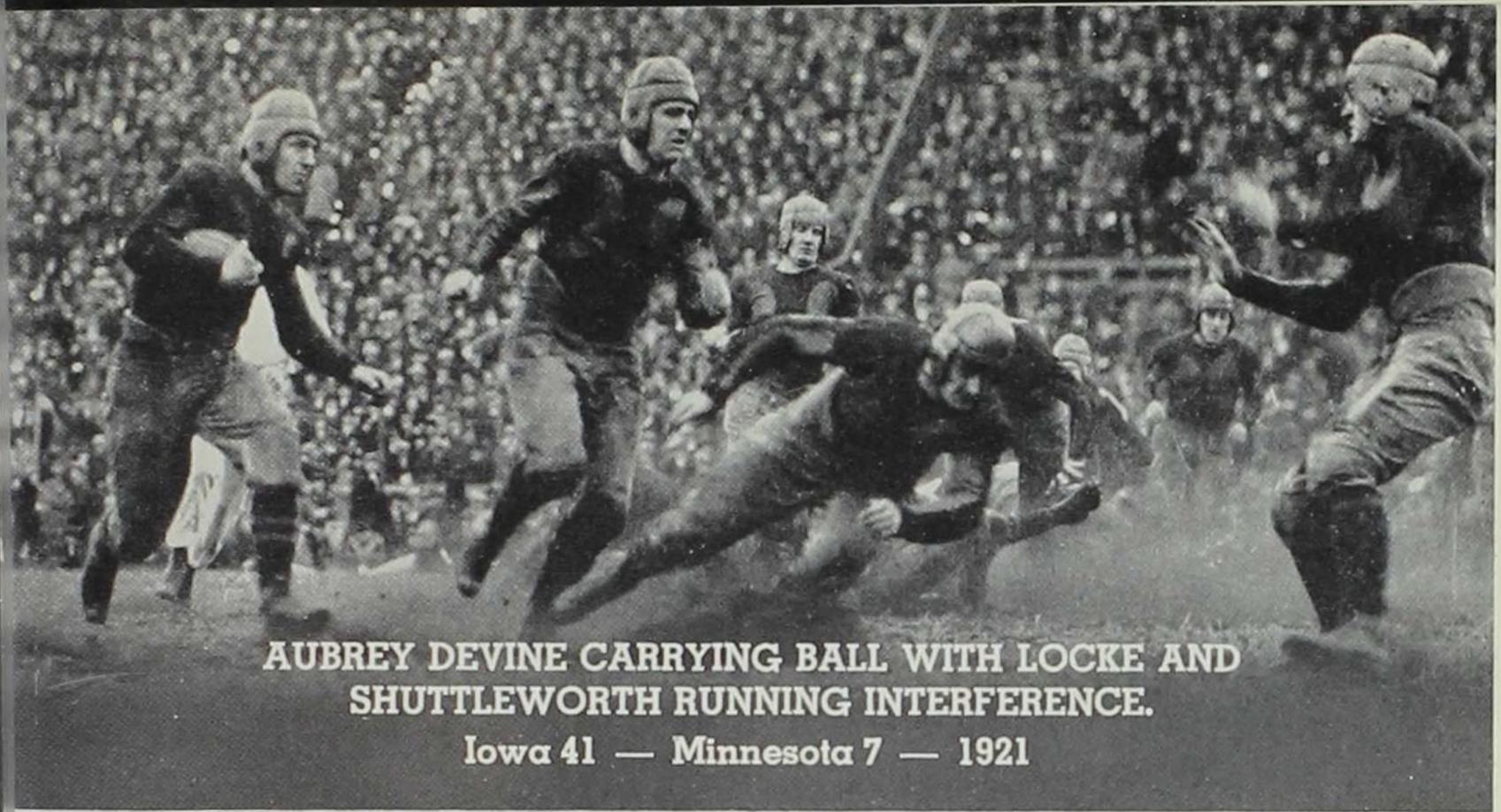
NILE KINNICK
1939



JOE LAWS
1933

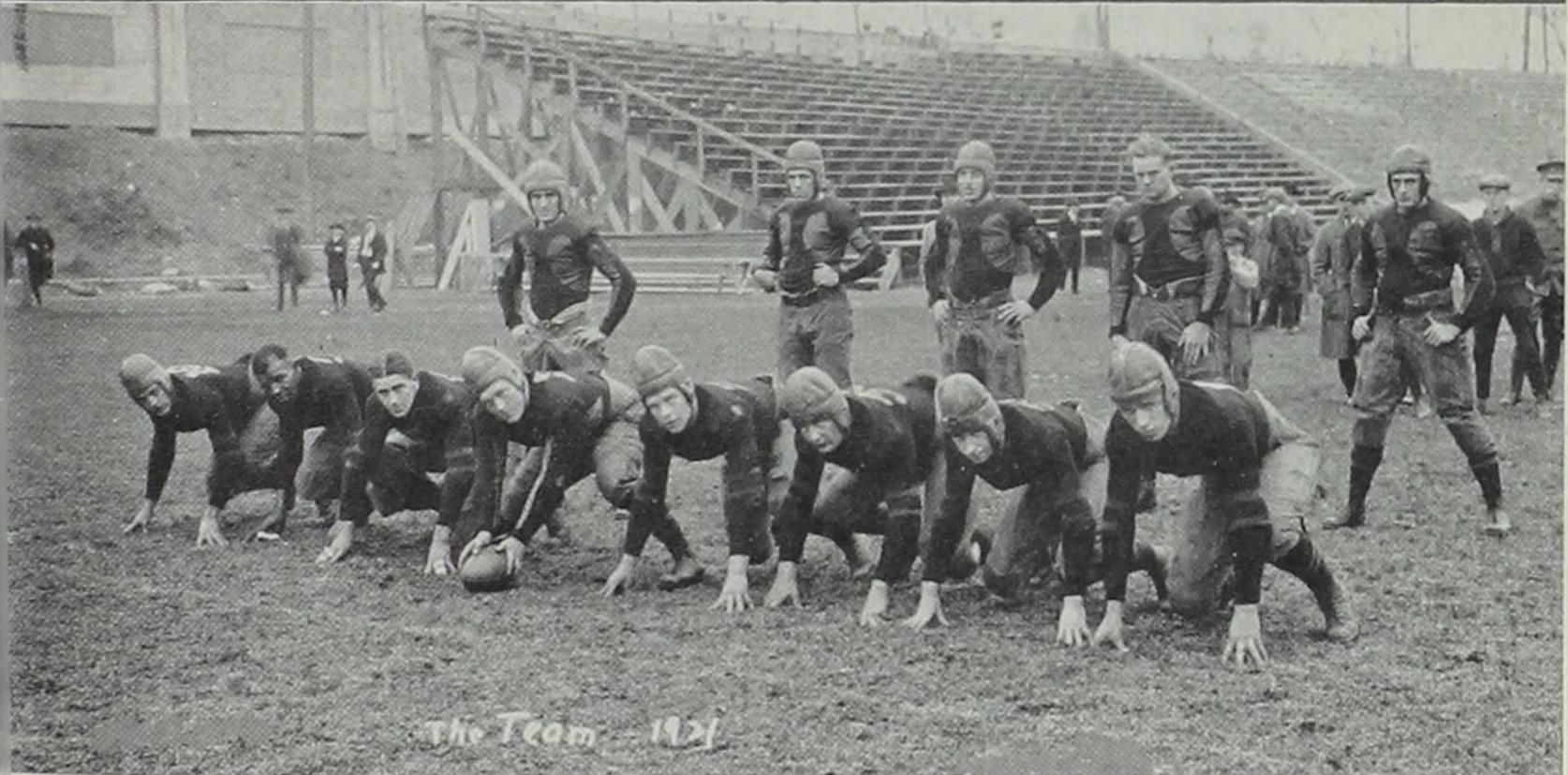


KENNY PLOEN
1956

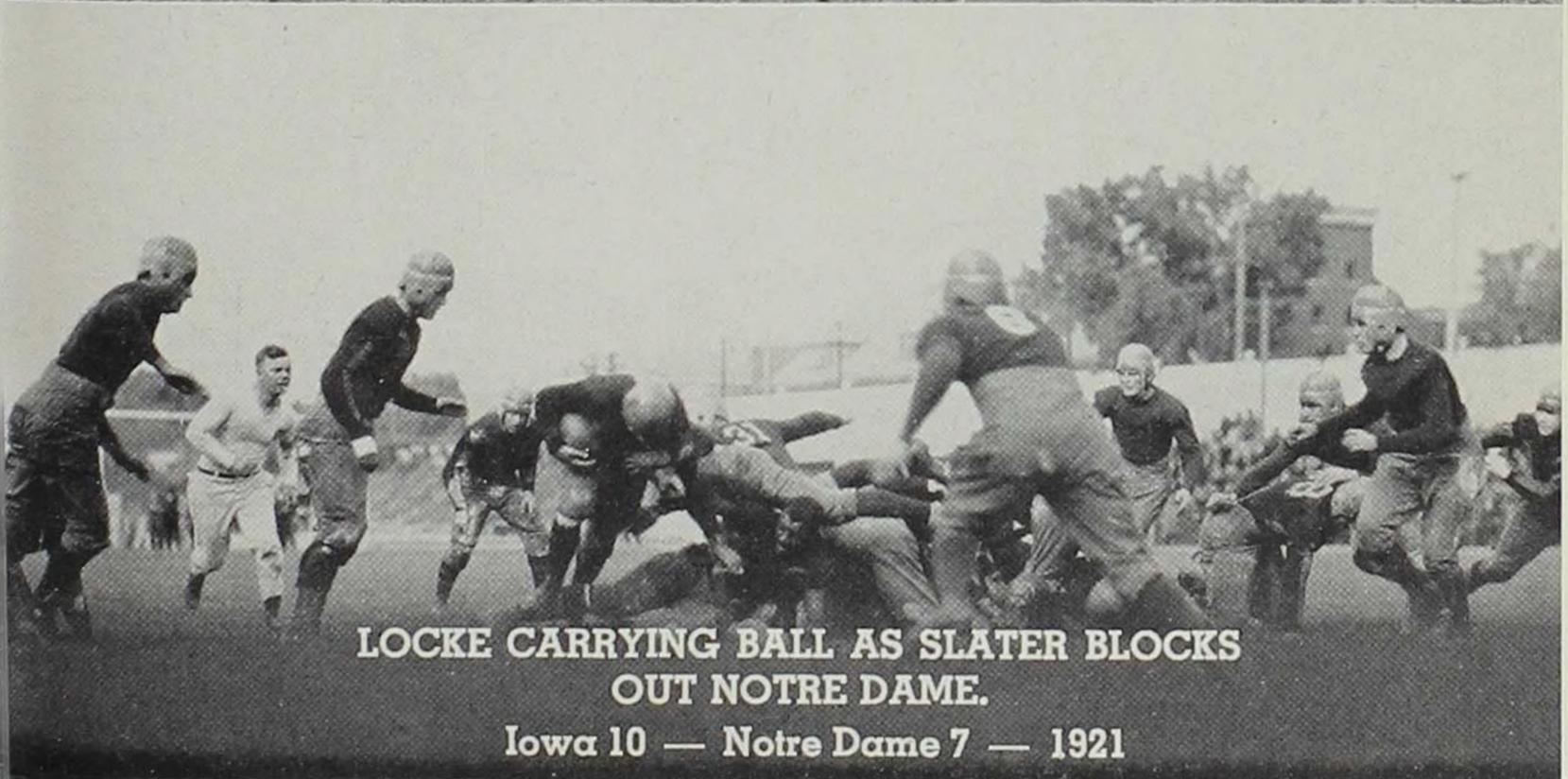


AUBREY DEVINE CARRYING BALL WITH LOCKE AND SHUTTLEWORTH RUNNING INTERFERENCE.

Iowa 41 — Minnesota 7 — 1921



The Team - 1921

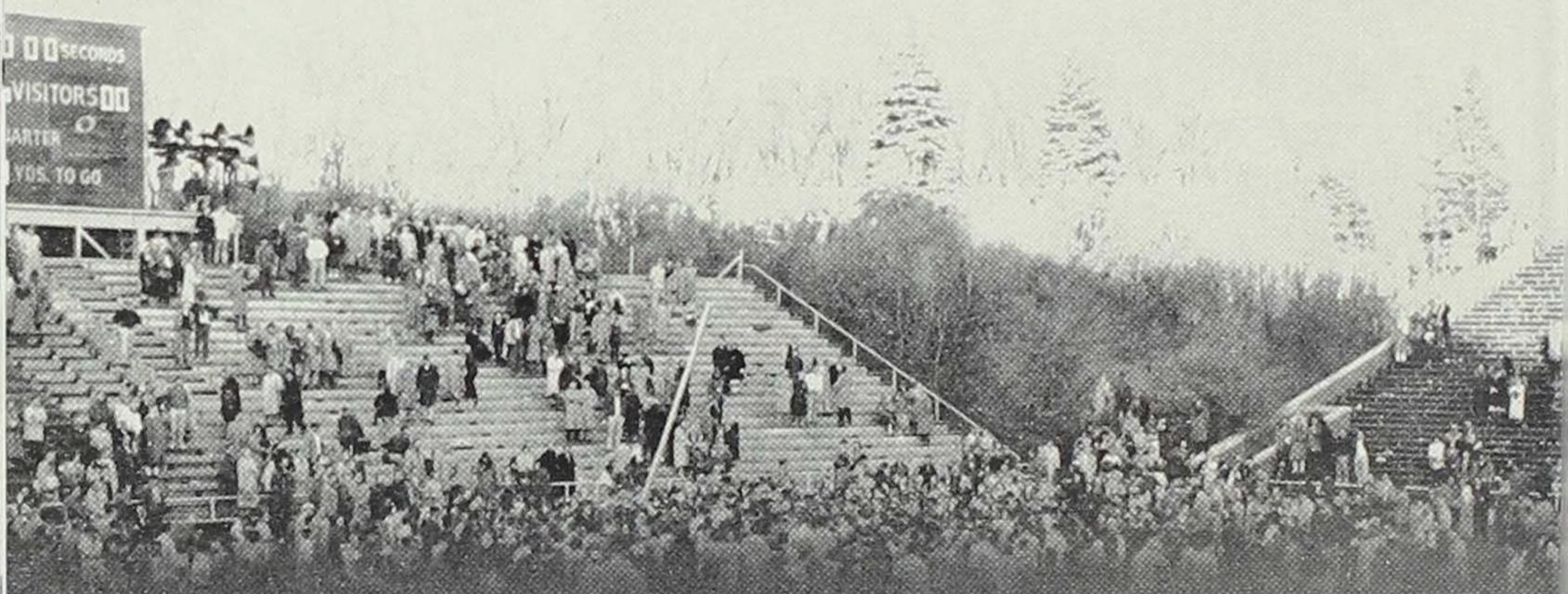


LOCKE CARRYING BALL AS SLATER BLOCKS OUT NOTRE DAME.

Iowa 10 — Notre Dame 7 — 1921

ROSE BOWL BOUND

The forward pass to Gibbons that beat Ohio State — 1956



TEARING DOWN GOAL POSTS AFTER OHIO GAME — 1956

The Des Moines Register Sports

Comic Dictionary

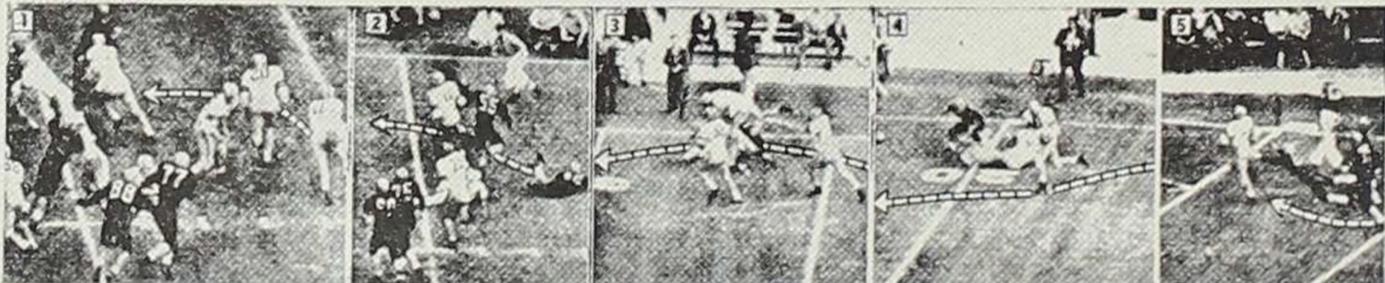
DANDELION—A milder thing which, if given an inch, will take a yard.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1957

9

IOWA ROMPS IN ROSE BOWL, 35-19

Ploen Runs 49 at Start, Hagler Gallops 66 Against Oregon State



JUST FLOEN GOOD — Quarterback Kony Ploen, just as he was during the regular season, was the heart of the Iowa attack in the Rose Bowl game Tuesday.

Here the Clinton senior, with the line of scrimmage at the Oregon State 49, hides the ball (1) gets past the Beavers' all-American tackle (2)

has an uneasy moment as he stumbles at the 32 (3); yanks away from the skidline and a tackler at the 20 (4) and goes all the way as an Oregon State

tackler misses at the 2 (5). Although injured in the first half, Ploen returned to win the game as the game's most valuable player.

See Taylor's
SITTIN' IN
With
the
Athletes

GREAT COMBINATION
PASADENA, CAL. — In
the first meeting by a team
that has always played well.

Statistics

| Team | Yards | TDs | Ints | Punts |
|--------------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| Iowa | 408 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| Oregon State | 19 | 0 | 1 | 10 |

Hawks Sail Along To 408 Yards

By Bert McGrane
PASADENA, CAL. — The sweetest strain ever of "The Iowa" bounced off the rugged Seti Gabriel tomorrow here late Tuesday at Iowa's Hawks eyes sent Oregon State's Pacific Coast champions

crashing to defeat in the Rose Bowl, 35-19.
Switching roles from the mighty defensive combination they have been all the way, the Hawks made it an offensive show as they posted the sixth Big Ten triumph in 11 starts and did it convincingly.
Even before the Beavers had been assigned to the defeat that was inevitable, Iowa's long-dormant followers

pushed the goal posts and shattered them to carry away the pieces of trophies.
Firing Climax
It was the climax of a foot-ball lifetime for Iowa. Never before had any Hawkeye combination reached the level attained by Coach Forest Evashevski's young campaigners.
No Iowa team ever won a Rose Bowl championship.

None flinched to glory as did this risk. And the fumble was not without its serious omens.
Late in the first quarter the great Kony Ploen, key man of the Hawkeyes from 1952 viewpoint, cracked down under a pile-up. They worked over him, then carried him off. He had injured his knee.
Ploen had played only 12 minutes 8 seconds. But he had

directed his team to a 14-0 lead in that brief span.
Ploen rared 48 yards on a touchdown in the game's opening minutes following an Oregon State fumble.
Shortly after the Beavers fumbled again and Iowa recovered, Don Dobson's 57-yard run set up a short touchdown sprint by Mike Hagler from 9 yards out.
That was the two-touch-

Season Records

| Team | Yards | TDs | Ints | Punts |
|--------------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| Iowa | 408 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| Oregon State | 19 | 0 | 1 | 10 |

Bored Iowa Fans Seek

the team. He elevated fiery little Shuttleworth from the scrubs to a varsity blocking back. This was in 1920. Not until the fourth game of the 1923 season did the Hawks lose again, and that was after Shuttleworth had left.

One man did not bring about the football lightning which sent the name Hawkeye blazing across the nation, but it is an oddity that Shuttleworth began playing at the start of the victory string and never played on a loser. Actually, the record book barely mentions Shuttleworth. Blocking backs, just like blocking and tackling linemen, seldom make the headlines, but they do help make great teams.

And that Hawkeye team could block and tackle. Chance put together such offensive stars as Aubrey Devine, Gordon Locke, Max Kadesky, Lester Belding, and Glen Miller. It was their good fortune to be teamed with such dedicated football fundamentalists as Glenn Devine, Johnny Heldt, Chet Mead, Paul Minick, Duke Slater, L. J. Kriz, G. D. Thompson, and Craven Shuttleworth.

Like a Kansas cyclone the 1921 Hawkeyes swept aside all rivals. They won the Big Ten title along with national honors. Not once during the season had the Hawkeyes been behind! Only one team scored more than one touchdown against the Hawks, and that was little Knox after Iowa had made 52 points. Notre Dame,

Purdue, and Minnesota each scored once. No other teams crossed the Iowa goal line.

Two games stand out for special mention. First was the clash with mighty Notre Dame, who brought a 20-game winning streak into Iowa City. Although it was only the second game of the season, the Hawks were ready. In the first quarter, Gordon Locke blasted into the end zone to climax a steady march. Aubrey Devine converted and shortly afterward kicked a 35-yard field goal to give Iowa a 10-0 lead. Notre Dame fought back and scored on a long pass from Johnny Mohardt to Roger Kiley. Buck Shaw converted to make it 10-7 at the end of the first half.

Throughout the second half the Fighting Irish fought fiercely to keep their winning streak alive, but stubborn Iowa defense kept the score at 10-7.

From out of that crucible came the Hawkeye champions. Ten Iowa starters played all the way. Duke Slater stepped into the limelight of national acclaim, never to relinquish it the rest of that, his senior year.

Great though the Notre Dame victory was, even more convincing was a fabulous 41 to 7 victory over Minnesota at Minneapolis, the first Hawkeye triumph on Gopher soil. That was Aubrey Devine's greatest day, his work clinching every All-American honor. The figures on his magnificent afternoon are inspiring even 36 years later. He scored 29 points on four touchdowns

and five conversions, threw touchdown passes of 43 and 25 yards to Lester Belding for the other two Hawkeye scores, ran 162 yards on 34 plays from scrimmage, and picked up another 180 yards running back punts and kickoffs. Near the game's end, Devine was removed from the lineup. As he left the field the partisan Minnesota crowd joined Hawkeye fans in an ovation to Devine that shook the stadium walls.

Graduation took Slater, the Devine boys, and Lester Belding. But Gordon Locke bloomed into All-American brilliance as a senior, scoring 72 points in the five 1922 Big Ten games to set a record that stood until World War II. Again the Hawks were undefeated and untied, sharing the Conference title with Michigan and Chicago. The season's highlight, though, came in non-conference play. Howard Jones's brother, Tad, coached at Yale and the two brothers scheduled a game at Yale—the first intersectional game in Hawkeye history. Yale had one of its greatest teams and the Hawks were underdogs, but Eastern experts were fooled as Iowa beat Yale, 6-0, in a defensive masterpiece. The winning score came on Leland Parkin's short end run, after Iowa's fine blocking had allowed Gordon Locke to drive almost the length of the field.

Graduation losses were heavy after 1922, and while the 1923 Hawks started with wins over Knox and Purdue, the victory string ended at

Iowa's Homecoming when Illinois trotted out a sophomore named Red Grange. His touchdown turned a 6-3 Iowa lead into a final 9-6 triumph for Illinois. A win over Ohio State preceded losses to Michigan and Minnesota. The Hawkeye sun had waned.

To appreciate properly the placing of the famed Iowa Iron Men of 1939 in this select listing of "Great" Hawkeye teams, one must remember that Iowa's ejection from the Big Ten in 1929 had resulted in a decade of football troubles that seemed never to end. Even the arrival of Dr. Eddie Anderson on campus before 1939 spring practice did not offer much hope to long suffering Hawkeye fans. Previous coaching changes had not helped, either. Spring practice brought Dr. Anderson's observation that Iowa had some good players, but not many. Even that was not news. During the dismal decade there had been always a few good Hawkeye players such as Joe Laws, Dick Crayne, Ozzie Simmons, and Zud Schammel, but still Iowa lost.

Against such a gloomy backdrop, the blazing exploits of the fabulous Iowa Iron Men brought Hawkeyeland to its feet, roaring an acclaim which has not yet diminished.

To win was heady wine; to win time after time when every measuring stick said defeat was inevitable was almost more than even the faithful could believe. Heart-stopping Saturdays fol-

lowed one another until the final record that caused national comment, and stands now as an Iowa Golden Hour.

Dr. Anderson was right — Iowa did have a few good players, but not many. Yet they were welded into a mighty defensive machine, held together by a superhuman ability to stay in the lineup, gaining for them the nickname "Iron Men." Nile Kinnick, Mike Enich, Erwin Prasse, Dick Evans, Jim Walker, Al Couppee, Bill Dean, Buzz Dean, Bill Green, Red Frye, Ham Snider, Max Hawkins, Wally Bergstrom, Chuck Tollefson, Ray Murphy, Bruno Andruska, Kenny Pettit, and the rest — Iowa fans will long remember.

After trouncing South Dakota 41-0, the 1939 Hawkeyes nosed out Indiana 32-29 in a thriller. Then came Michigan on its home ground, and a 27-7 defeat, in which Iowa scored first on a pass from Kinnick to Dean. Only the most ardent fans would have dared foretell the outcome of the remainder of the schedule.

The loss to Michigan was soon forgotten in the joy which followed wins over Wisconsin and Purdue. The Hawkeyes were beginning to play like "Iron Men," but unbeaten Notre Dame and powerful Minnesota were still before them.

Undefeated Notre Dame trotted onto the Iowa field confident of an easy victory. But Nile Kinnick's magic foot kept the Irish at bay and added the vital extra point after his own touchdown,

giving Iowa a 7-6 win. The victory fairly stunned the gridiron world.

The team now faced the Golden Horde from Minnesota, Iowa's oldest Big Ten gridiron foe. When the final whistle blew dazed Hawkeye fans stumbled about on stadium sod for hours after the Golden Gophers had been beaten, 13 to 9, by the passing magic of versatile Nile Kinnick.

In the season's finale against Northwestern, minus Kinnick and a dozen others who had taken their lumps in earlier games, Iowa was hard-pressed to escape with a 7-7 tie. It cost the Iron Men a Big Ten title share, an honor unclaimed until the gallant Rose Bowl team of 1956 gave Iowa its first Conference crown since 1922.

But the Cinderella story of 1939 lost nothing by the absence of a title. Post-season honors were numerous — Dr. Anderson named Coach of the Year; Nile Kinnick getting the Heisman Award plus almost unanimous All-American acclaim. Others won numerous honors.

Graduation losses again hit hard, and again the Hawkeye sun waned, brightening at intervals but not blazing again in full glory until 1956 when the Hawkeyes won the undisputed championship of the Big Ten. On January 1, 1957, this fighting aggregation, led by Kenny Ploen, became Rose Bowl Champions, entitling them to be rated with the greatest Iowa teams — possibly the greatest.

TAIT CUMMINS