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The Historical Pro Football "Scrapbook"

by ERWIN L. HESS

Collecting sports material is a favorite hobby of

American boys, but is usually forgotten as years roll by. Here's the story

of a hobby that was continued, and the world's greatest pro football scrapbook is the result.



JIM
THORPE



RED
GRANGE

BACK in 1920, when I was a boy of 14, I saw my first Packer game while on a visit to Green Bay. I liked it.

Like the boy who is inspired to save ball players' pictures after seeing a baseball game, I saved the next day's sports page from a Milwaukee paper. On that page was printed the story of the game I had seen . . . it was the size of a small want ad. I decided to have a hobby, it was a most unusual one, saving sports pages which told of Packer games . . . and more yet, of anything else pertaining to pro football.

My hobby was started! I managed to secure several back numbers of 1919 papers after I learned that the Packers were founded the year before—in 1919. Thereafter, I saved sports pages which carried any little item on pro football. The papers were saved and put into the sideboard. My boyhood hobby wasn't just the usual passing fancy—mine stuck! And today I possess the greatest historical pro football collection in existence.

In the early years my collection thrived mainly from papers of Milwaukee—then Chicago, too. Living in Bear-Packer territory, those two teams naturally received a larger "play up" in my collection. However, *anything else* on pro football in those days *was also saved*, and the other teams were all given equal representation in a smaller way.

Now, my collection has grown into an immense project. For the past ten years it includes material from papers of Milwaukee, Chicago, New York, De-

troit, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Green Bay, San Francisco, Cleveland, Indianapolis, San Diego, Tulsa, Pittsburgh, and others. Also, *every magazine* which carries pro football articles or pictures, Sports Review, Canadian papers, and any other printed matter on pro football and pro football history prior to 1919.

What makes my collection so valuable is that it is pro football history . . . complete! Nothing is missed! What-



Few indeed are the lads who haven't saved sports write-ups and pictures cut out of newspapers and magazines.

ever took place in pro football is in my collection! All of the games, general pro football news items, scandals and early-day "blasts" at pro football, everything, good or bad, editorials on pro football, feature articles, thousands of pictures, cartoons, drawings, etc., magazine stories and articles, any little item on pro football.

All of this not only from the National Football League but also from the other leagues . . . the old American League of the "twenties" . . . the rival league which operated in 1940-41 . . . the recent All America . . . Canadian pro football . . . even bits on minor league and semi-pro football.

Even advertisements are included to add "color" and completeness to the collection . . . TV and radio sponsors' ads . . . railroad "specials" to the games—and so on. Nothing has been missed for thirty-four years.

Five years ago, when my pile of sports pages was very high, I struck upon an idea to give my collection a "new look." I bought several hundred sheets of white-colored mounting cardboard. Each sheet is uniformly the same in size—17½ by 23 inches in size. Since then, in my spare time, I have been transforming the original material into pro football "sports pages."

On each sheet are ruled, lightly in pencil, eight column guide lines. Then the boxing, wrestling, bowling, billiard and other sport news is discarded after the pro football material is clipped. The pro football clippings are care-



Erwin L. Hess (left) and his scrapbook. Hess is assembling a layout with pro football clippings. His son, Dale, is pasting clippings in proper places on another page. In foreground are shown two completed pages resembling sport pages.

fully assembled until an attractive layout takes shape. When the layout is satisfactory, the loose clippings are pasted in their proper places. The result: A sports page—a pro football “sports page.” Each sheet resembles a sports page but everything on each sheet is pro football.

I am a “typesetter” with a pair of scissors and my son, Dale, who is 14, is the “printer”—as he helps diligently by pasting down clippings after I have assembled a satisfactory layout.

In this unique manner, the entire collection will be made. At present, the season of 1942 is completed in “sports page” fashion. I estimate that when the season of 1953 is completed in this manner, there will be 2,000 pages.

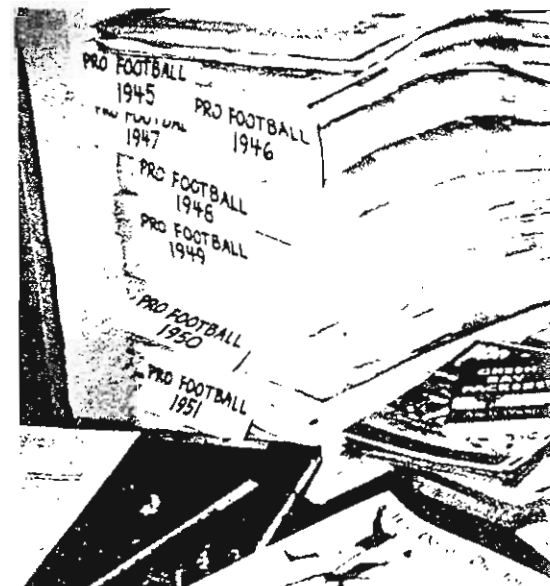
The collection is a tremendous project, as pro football grew, so did the

collection. It means as much to me as do the Bears to Halas and the Redskins to Marshall. It is called a “scrapbook” because it consists, throughout, of previously-printed pro football matter. It is a “book” written by the sports writers down through the years, 34 of them. Years ago the “scrapbook” was my secret little, unknown hobby. Now, that it has taken on its “new look”, many rabid pro football followers are curious to see it.

Those who have seen it, pass the word to others, and when the football season rolls around, my wife Yvonne makes appointments for those who are curious to see the “scrapbook” . . . and there are many. The unique way in which the “scrapbook” is presented, fascinates those who see it—the “sports page” style.

THE END

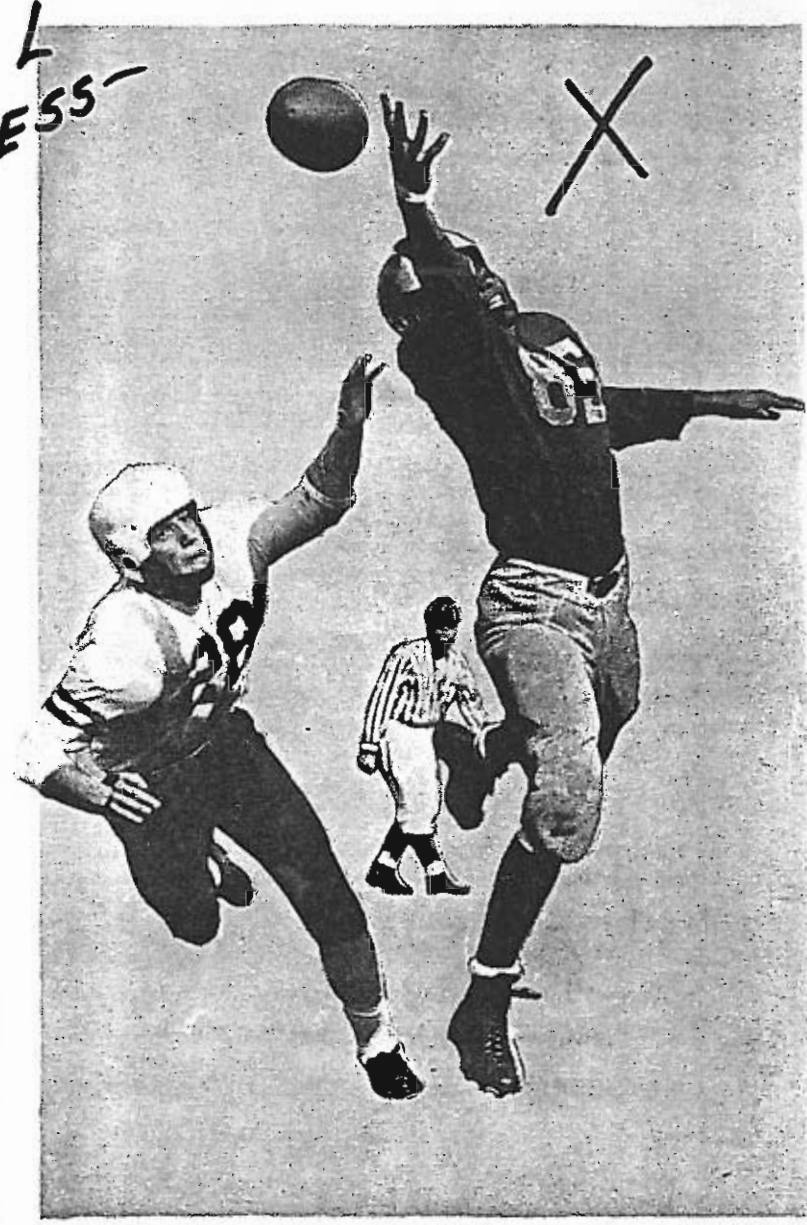
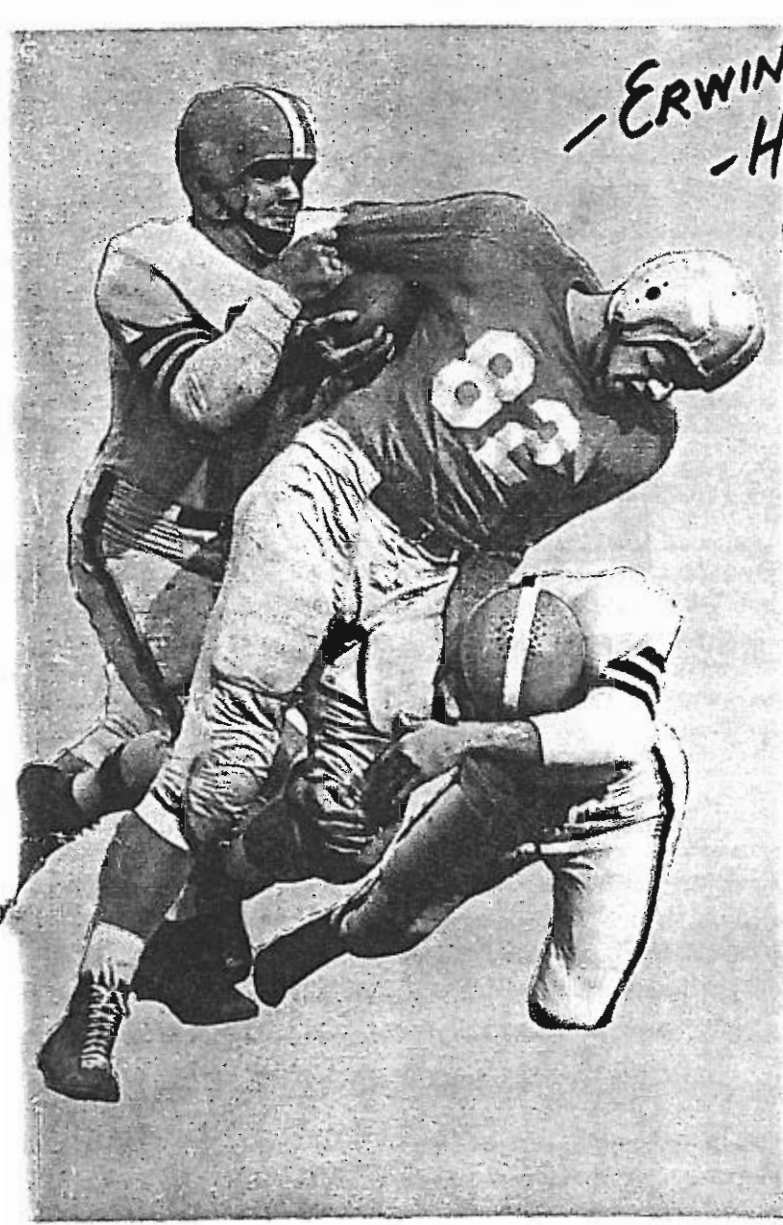
Here are stacks of Hess' pro football material that he will eventually cut out and put into “sports page” form.



FOOTBALL

PRICE 50c

1953 COLLEGE and PRO ISSUE



- ★ WILL COLLEGE FOOTBALL REGAIN AMATEUR STANDING? ★
- ★ HAS THE PACIFIC COAST CAUGHT UP WITH THE BIG 10? ★
- ★ THE MAN PRO FOOTBALL FORGOT ★ MICHIGAN STATE STORY ★
- ★ COLLEGE & PRO FORECASTS ★ 1953 SCHEDULES ★ RECORDS ★

Grange's Status as College Player Under

The Leader Page of Sports

as Illini Under Fire; He Has Signed.

Marquette by Inju Four

PAGE NINE

MILWAUKEE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1925.

PAGE NINE

ENCE TO ED

the multitude of professional offers that have been made him. "I'm still pretty much of a kid," he explained, smiling. "My dad and I have been pals. He has paid my way through school and I wanted to talk it over with him before making my decision."

All Sorts of Contracts.
Red has been offered contracts to sell real estate, to sell insurance, to act in the movies, to go on the legitimate stage, and to play professional football.

"But I have not signed a contract for anything," he stated positively. "It would be a violation of the university's rules and until next Saturday's game is over I'm going to be loyal to my school and give it everything I have. After that game, I'll be ready to talk business."

Asked concerning persistent rumors that he will play in a professional football game in Chicago Thanksgiving day and in other parts of the country between that date and the first of the year, Grange simply smiled and said:

"Well, I've had a lot of offers, but I don't like to sell things. I think I'd made a rotten salesman. But I do like to play football."

Not Signed to Play.

Grange gave the lie to reports from Florida that he had signed a contract to play professional football.

"I'm not saying that I won't," he explained. "Some of my advisers have frowned on professional football, but the way I figure is that, my own business and my father has left it to me to decide. After all, I'll soon be forgotten down on the campus and some of the fellows who are now my best friends wouldn't loan me a dollar 10 years from now if I was broke. And I haven't much money."

Newspapers Blamed.

Speaking to a gathering of prominent athletic officials Stoddard said that all the stuff being printed about Red Grange made him "sick" and he blamed the newspapers for manufacturing heroes and placing the future of a college star in peril.

If the newspapers are to blame for the fame of Red Grange, which has attracted enough offers to make him a rich young man almost over night, there are only two things that can be done about it. The games must be played in private, so the eyes of experts cannot see a star player, or the college officials must induce a young man not to play too well.

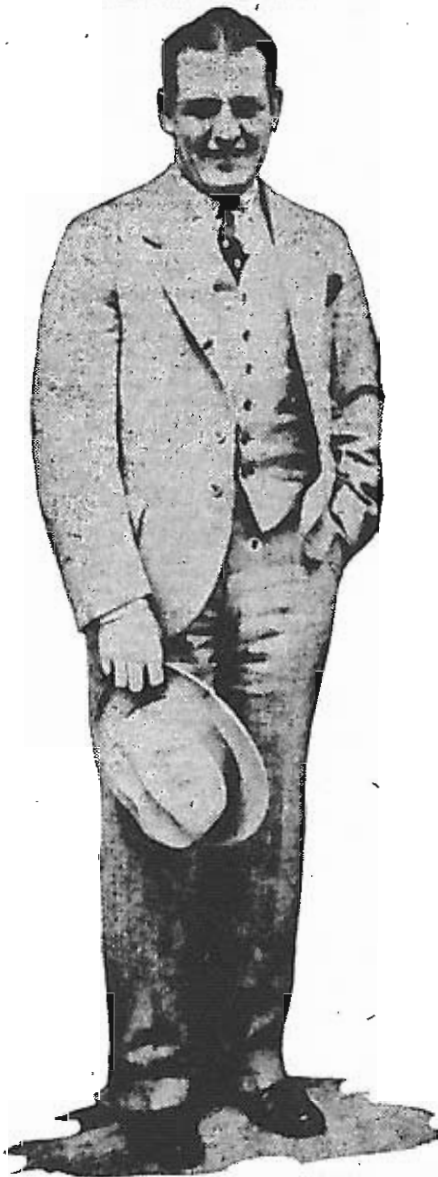
Stoddard has not made known any intention to present the problem to the football rules committee, or the intercollegiate associations, but from several sources it was learned today that the situation brought about by the tremendous demand for the Illinois star is certain to be discussed.

Colleges to Blame.

"The colleges are as much to blame as the individual," a prominent athlete said today. "The colleges that have a Grange, an Oberlander or any great star, capitalize themselves upon the reputation of their star and yet they complain when a star who has been exploited for a gate attraction has an opportunity to capitalize a little on his own reputation."

"The case of Grange is an isolated one and there is no real reason to get into a panic. Grange probably can take care of himself without any advice."

HERE HE IS; RED, THE GREAT



Here is a picture of Red Grange, football player, as he appeared on much sought University of Illinois a visit in Milwaukee last summer.



GREAT PASSERS



GRANGE CASE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

BY HENRY L. FARRELL

Staff Correspondent The United Press

NEW YORK — Red Grange and his million dollar promoters have presented a new problem to the purists and the guardian angels of clean football that will be considered at the winter meetings of the several collegiate athletic governing bodies. The storm breaking around the head of the "Wheaton Iceman" and Illinois football star, on the eve of his last game, is attracting attention throughout the grid world.

Among others who insist that something should be done to stop the exploitation of football reputations is Louis A. Stoddard, chairman, Yale football committee, and president of the United States Polo Assn., but he admits that he doesn't know what should be done.



Grange

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GRANGE SIGNED BY PRO

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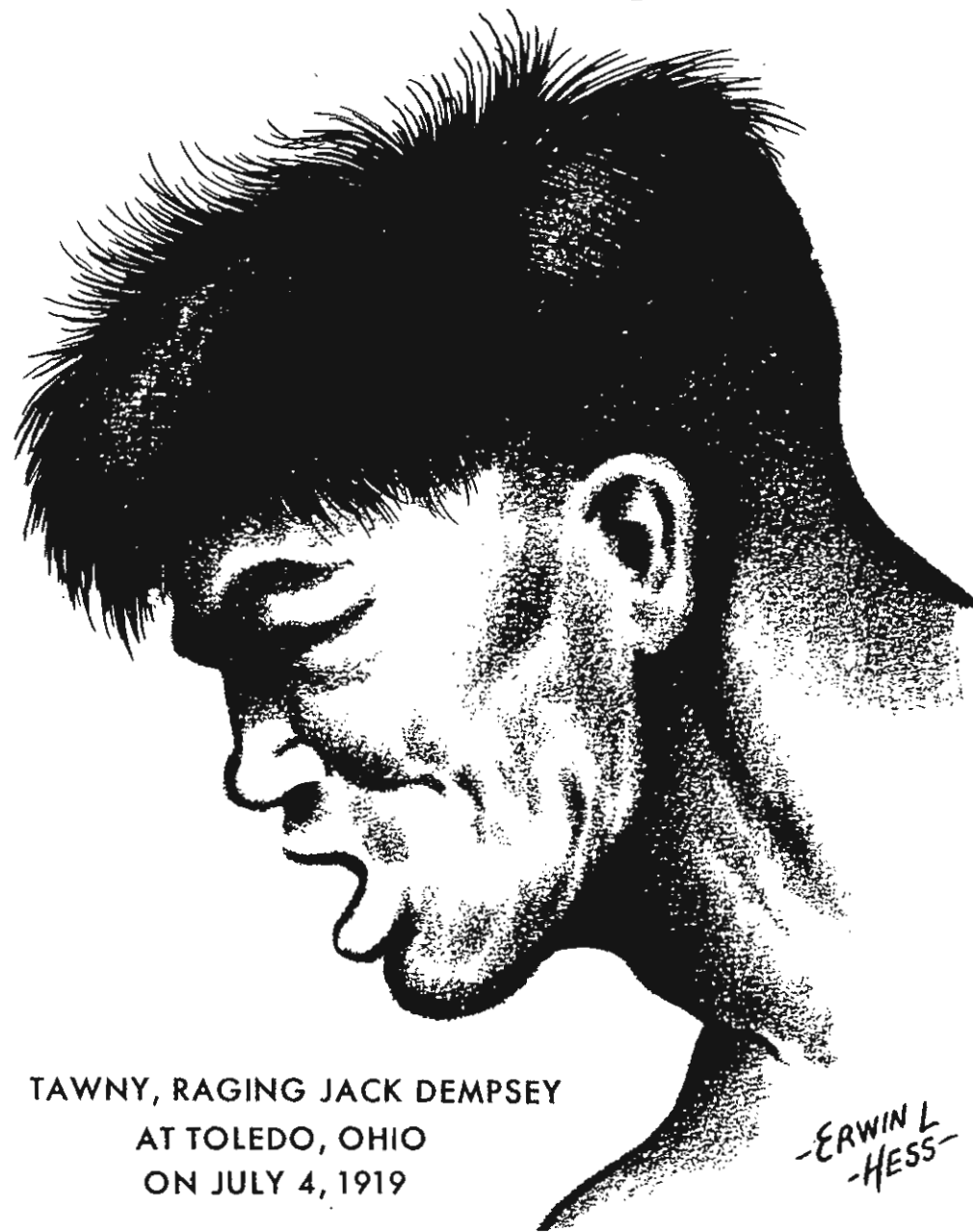
JACK DEMPSEY

STILL KING OF THE RING

Up to this day Jack Dempsey is still considered by millions throughout the world as THE champion. Oldsters remember him vividly, but younger generations do not. So, mainly for them, Pictorial News-Advertiser will present an exclusive feature for several weeks. Erwin L. Hess will write and illustrate it, along with old photos of his famous fights.



JACK DEMPSEY, the former world's heavyweight champion is shown here with Erwin L. Hess (the little fellow.) The photo was taken in 1929. Now Pictorial News-Advertiser will give its readers a special feature of Dempsey by Hess.



TAWNY, RAGING JACK DEMPSEY
AT TOLEDO, OHIO
ON JULY 4, 1919