

The Nittany Realm

By BOB VOSBURG

Assistant Sports Editor

The scene is merrie old England late in the 11th century. A bunch of young British chaps are working in a field when one of the boys discovers an old skull. Taking for granted that it was formerly the head of a Danish soldier, and having nothing but utter hatred in his heart for the Danes who ruled his country from 1016-1042, the boy releases his stored feelings by giving the unfortunate skull a vicious boot.

The other fellows, seeing their buddy kicking the skull around the field, decide this must be jolly fun, and soon they too join in the kicking. And in this strange setting football is born.

Since few of the English boys wore shoes, and kicking a hard skull barefooted wasn't too easy on the feet, the boys were forced to abandon their new-found sport. However, one chap who was a little brighter than the rest discovered that an inflated cow's bladder was as good as a skull and football went rolling along.

Teams soon sprang up in the little villages throughout the English countryside. Though fields were marked off with goals at each end, there was no set number of players on a side. As an early set of rules stated "both sides must have an approximately equal number of players." Often this meant anywhere from 19 to 50 on a side.

Football, known in those days as "kicking the Dane's head" or "kicking the bladder," was short lived, however. King Henry II (1154-1189) banned the game from England because his subjects were playing too much football and neglecting their compulsory archery practice.

After the death of Henry, football crept slowly back into England until in 1603 King James lifted the ban and gave the game his regal blessing. Teams grew up in every town in England, and though there were no national rules, play was reasonably standardized.

From the beginning of the game in England until the middle of the 19th century, football was strictly a kicking game with the emphasis on foot.

In 1823, William Ellis, of Rugby College, becoming frustrated when he was unable to kick a bounding ball, reached down, picked it up, tucked it under his arm, and while his teammates and rivals looked on in bewilderment, scampered across the goal, becoming the first man to run with a football. Ellis was a chagrined and unhappy fellow after his stunt, and for a while was a social outcast.

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Tribe Stops Bosox, 6-4; Phils Lose

After their disastrous series with the Bronx Bombers at Yankee Stadium the Cleveland Indians yesterday showed signs of snapping out of the chronic batting slump which has jeopardized their 1951 flag hopes by defeating Boston, 6-4.

A crowd of 20,824 at Fenway park witnessed fireballer Mike Garcia weather a stormy ninth inning in which the Bosox scored two runs on three hits to register his twentieth mound win.

Wight Shelled

Lefty Bill Wight and Garcia hooked up in a 1-1 pitching duel until the sixth inning when the heretofore silent bats of the Clevelanders shelled the stocky portsider for five hits and four runs.

Since the league-leading New York Yankees were idle during the afternoon, the Tribe picked up a half game on the pace-setters. The Yanks, who play the White Sox in a night game, now hold a half game margin.

Athletics Bow

The red hot Philadelphia Athletics, who have made a habit of pushing around American League pennant contenders all season, got a taste of their own medicine yesterday as the Detroit Tigers whipped them, 8-6.

Phils Dumped

The lowly Chicago Cubs rattled the ivy-covered walls of Wrigley Field with line drives yesterday as they pummeled Phillies' pitching for 14 hits and a 7-4 decision before a sparse throng of only 2,929, smallest this year. Randy Jackson, Frank Baumholtz, and rookie catcher Harry Chiti each collected three hits.

Agganis, BU Ace, Discharged

Harry Agganis, former Boston University star quarterback, is slated to be discharged from the Marine Corp within the next two or three days, the AP reported yesterday.

Agganis, a corporal, will be released on a dependency charge, the Camp LeJeune public information office said.

It was not known whether Agganis will return to BU to finish his education. He still has two years of football eligibility left.

Penn State meets Boston University, Sept. 29.

Browns Win, 8-0

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 18 —(AP)— Pitcher Tommy Byrne hurled and batted the St. Louis Browns to an 8-0 victory over the Washington Senators tonight.

Lacrosse Practice

Fall lacrosse practice starts Monday for veterans and candidates. Newcomers should report to Coach Nick Thiel in Rec Hall sometime Monday afternoon.

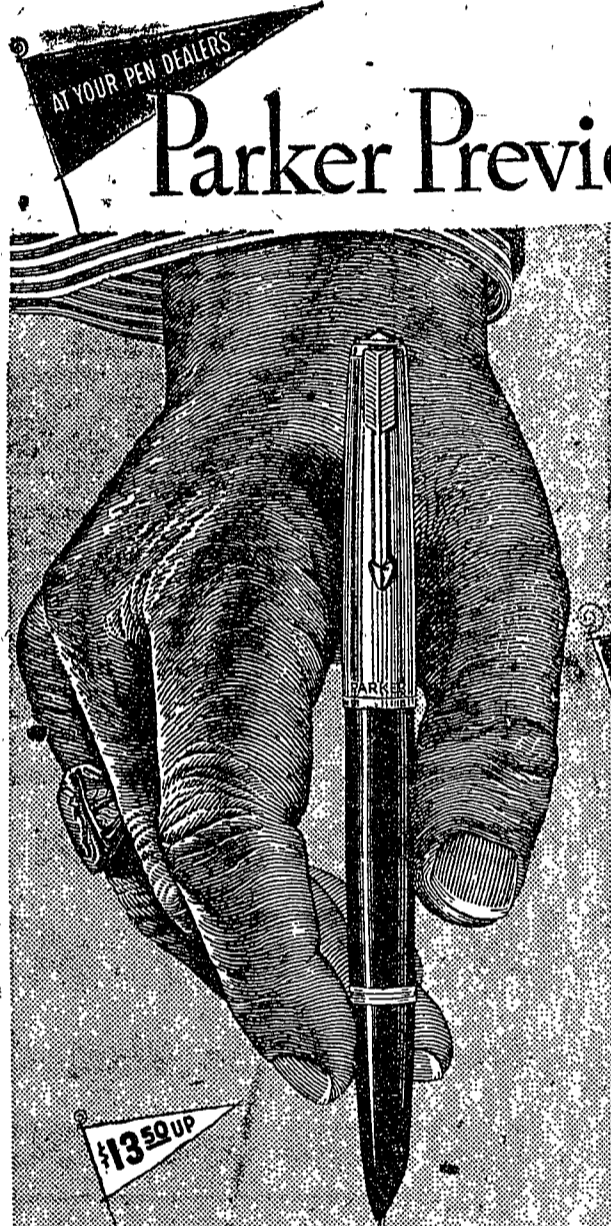
Candidates for assistant managerships should also report to Rec Hall Monday.

All Models, Parker Pens

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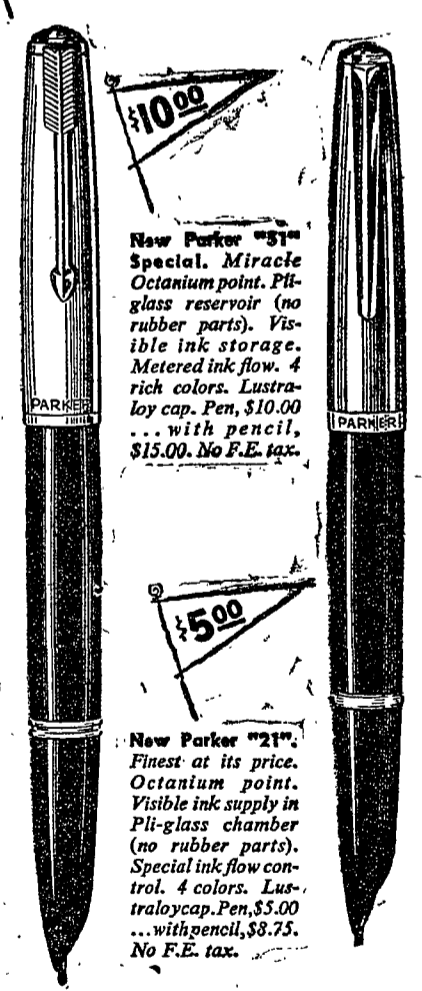


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