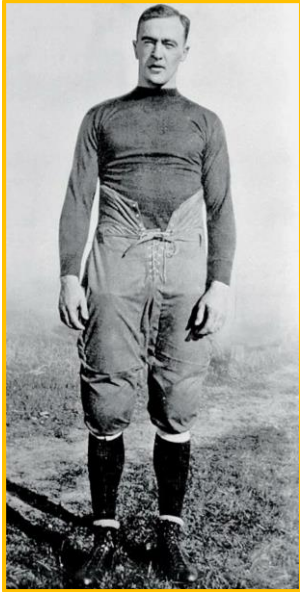


Win One for The Gipper

Notre Dame football star George Gipp could do it all – run, pass and punt with unparalleled skill.



Gipp, nicknamed The Gipper, was selected as Notre Dame's first Walter Camp All-American. He played several positions, particularly halfback, quarterback and punter. Gipp entered Notre Dame intending to play baseball for the Fighting Irish, but was recruited by Knute Rockne for the football team, despite having no experience in organized football.

During his Notre Dame career, Gipp led the Irish in rushing and passing each of his last three seasons (1918-1920). His career mark of 2,341 rushing yards lasted more than 50 years until Jerome Heavens broke it in 1978. Gipp threw for 1,789 yards, scored 21 career touchdowns, averaged 38 yards a punt, and 22 yards per kick return in four seasons of play. Gipp is still Notre Dame's all-time leader in average yards per rush for a season (8.1), career average yards per play of total offense (9.33), and career average yards per game of total offense (128.4).

Gipp died on Dec. 14, 1920. It is believed that he contracted strep throat and pneumonia while giving punting lessons after his final game, Nov. 20, against Northwestern University. Since antibiotics were not available in the 1920s, treatment options for such infections were limited and they could be fatal even to young, healthy individuals.

It was on his hospital bed that he is purported to have delivered the famous "win just one for The Gipper" line. He apparently said this to Knute Rockne, the football coach of Notre Dame. The full quotation is:

"I've got to go, Rock. It's all right. I'm not afraid. Some time, Rock, when the team is up against it, when things are wrong and the breaks are beating the boys, ask them to go in there with all they've got and win just one for The Gipper. I don't know where I'll be then, Rock. But I'll know about it, and I'll be happy."



Rockne used the story of Gipp, along with this deathbed line, to rally his team to a 12-6 upset of the previously unbeaten Army team in 1928. The phrase "win one for The Gipper," was later used as a political slogan by Ronald Reagan, who in 1940 portrayed Gipp in the movie "Knute Rockne, All American," and was often referred to as The Gipper.

(more)

That's a great story, and it is often referenced, even today, when football is being discussed – and particularly the line “win one for The Gipper,” is invoked as a source of motivation in sports, business or other fields of endeavor.

We in Life Care and Century Park, however, have greater incentives for daily wins in our buildings:

1. Our patients and residents. They are our mission; their well-being is all-important.
2. Our Lord. He is the one who called us and equipped us to take care of His frail and infirm children. He deserves our best.

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter