[This is the twelfth of a series of articles on famous headliners of other years whose careers and contributions to sport have perhaps become obscured by time and the exploits of more widely publicized successors. All of them rank among the greatest in their respective fields.]

BY ARCH WARD.

The late Knute Rockne was only an assistant coach and professor of chemistry when he made the discovery that was to elevate Notre Dame to a position of national importance in football.

Watching a group of students kick a ball on the campus in the fall of 1916, he noted one gangling youngster who was drop kicking farther than most varsity players could punt. The youngster was a freshman and his name was George Gipp.

Rockne urged him to report for football. Gipp did and in his first year he kicked his way to immortality when against Western State Teachers' college of Kalamazoo, Mich., and not Western Reserve of Cleveland, as the record books have erroneously reported for the last twenty years, he drop-kicked 62 yards.

*Notre Dame Not Yet Accepted as Power.*

Gipp, a half back, was Notre Dame's first All-American. Prior to 1919, when as a junior, he led the Irish to the first of two successive undefeated seasons, Notre Dame had become widely known for the feats of redoubtable Red Salmon in 1900, the famed Dorais to Rockne passing combination of 1913, and not Western Reserve of Cleveland, as the record books have erroneously reported for the last twenty years, he drop-kicked 62 yards.

Gipp's matchless ability and spectacular achievements lifted Notre Dame to a place among the foremost teams of the nation, a position which Rockne later made secure and which Notre Dame has successfully maintained since.

Gipp was colorful, silent and sophisticated beyond his age when he first began attracting attention at Notre Dame. He was a daring competitor and mechanically perfect on the field.

In 1917, his sophomore year, he led a rally against the Army at West Point, going 36 yards off tackle in three smashes to place the ball on the five yard line. Walter Miller carried it over, giving Notre Dame a 7 to 3 victory.

Two weeks later he suffered a fractured ankle at Sioux City, Ia., when at the end of a 35 yard run against Morningside, he was hurled against the fence. The injury kept him out for the remainder of the season, but he returned in 1918, during which Notre Dame placed an abbreviated schedule.

**Leads Rally to Beat Army in 1919.**

In 1919 he led another rally against the Army. A first period touchdown and a second period field goal had given Army a 9 to 0 lead, when Gipp took charge. He threw a long pass to Pete Bahan, placing the ball on the 10 yard line, then carried it over in three smashes, making the score at the half, 9 to 6. In the third quarter he threw a long pass to Eddie Anderson, former De Paul coach now at Holy Cross, putting the ball on the seven yard line. Walter Miller carried it over, giving Notre Dame a 13 to 9 victory.

The following week he passed to Danny Coughlin and Bernie Kirk, later an All-American end at Michigan, to defeat Michigan Aggies, 13 to 0, and against Purdue he threw two touchdown passes to Kirk after the Boilermakers had taken a 7 to 0 lead. He led Notre Dame to a 14 to 6 victory over Morningside the same year, passing for one touchdown and running 19 yards for the second after Morningside had gotten away to a 6 to 0 lead.

These achievements, although singularly impressive at the time, were merely preliminaries to the spectacular and tragic windup of his career in 1920. He began building up to a grand climax by passing three times against Nebraska to advance nearly the length of the field and give Notre Dame a 9 to 7 lead after trailing 7 to 2. Later he passed to Anderson for another touchdown as Notre Dame won, 16 to 7.

**Crowd Awed into Silence as Gipp Leaves Field.**

Two weeks later he gave the first of three exhibitions which were to stamp him for immortality. At West Point, where all of New York that could crowd in the small stadium came to see this wonder man of the west, the Army jumped into a 7 point lead early in the first quarter. Gipp went 25 yards off tackle, recovered a fumble by Quarter Back Brandy to keep the march alive, then passed 30 yards to Roger Kiley, now a Chicago attorney and alderman, placing the ball on the five yard line. John Mohardt carried it over and Gipp kicked the tying point.

Gipp passed 55 yards to Kiley for a touchdown in the second quarter, out Army led at the half, 17 to 14, on another touchdown and a field goal. Carrying the ball on every play, Gipp brought it nearly the length of the field to the 5 yard line at the start of the third period, and Mohardt scored again. He returned the ensuing kickoff 45 yards to Army's 45 yard line, passed 15 yards to Coughlin, then cleared the way for Chet Wynn as the full back smashed over from the 10 year line, giving Notre Dame a 27 to 17 victory.
Remember?
Notre Dame’s
George Gipp

(Continued from first sports page)

Sprints 80 and 92
Yards Against Purdue.
The next week against Purdue, he played less than a half, but gained 171 yards by passing and over 250 by running, breaking off the tackles for touchdown sprints of 80 and 92 yards. On Nov. 13, 1920, in the mud at Washington park in Indianapolis, where Notre Dame was playing Indiana, the Irish went into the fourth quarter beaten 10 to 0 with Gipp on the sideline. He had suffered a dislocated shoulder in the third quarter.

Barry and Moharat fought their way to the 2 yard line, from where Brandy went over. They came back later winding up a long march on the 1 yard line. The excitement was so tense and the Notre Dame players so aroused Rockne feared disaster. This was the place for a steady, dependable man who could be trusted to hold on to the ball—a money player. And Gipp was the man. With his left shoulder crushed, he returned to the game, took the ball off tackle and nearly crashed through the fence at the end of the gridiron, giving Notre Dame a 13 to 10 triumph.

Contracts Throat Infection
on Visit to Loyola.
The next day Gipp appeared at Loyola university, where Grover Malone, an old teammate was coaching, and gave Loyola players some pointers on passing and kicking. It was on the field at Loyola that he contracted the throat infection which in 48 hours was to send him to a hospital where he died 12 days later.

Walter Camp’s selection of his All-American team was not published until after Gipp’s death, but the husky loose jointed half back was told of his selection on his death bed. With customary restraint he said:

“That’s Jake,” then passed off into a coma.

After one of the most impressive ceremonies in the school’s history, Gipp’s body was shipped back to Calumet, Mich., whence he had come in 1916 hopeful of making the basketball and baseball teams. Gipp had no thought of entering football until Rockne saw him drop kick. He was an excellent basketball player and while in the hospital, received an offer from the Cubs. He also was an accomplished three cushion billiard player.

A week later at Northwestern, while Notre Dame was running over the Purple, the stands sent up a continual cry “We want Gipp!” Gipp, the incomparable, sat on the bench huddled in blankets and coats, his shoulder swathed in tape and bandages. In the last few minutes, Rockne, according to the pleas of alumni and Purple fans, sent him in. He threw six passes, one to Roger Kiley for 30 yards and another to Barry for 45 yards and a touchdown.

Rockne Quit to Put Fight In Fighting Irish