

28/3/23

Intercollegiate Athletics

Coaches

Ray Eliot Papers, 1905-1980

Ray Eliot Chronology

1905 - June 13, Born Raymond Eliot Nusspickel in New York City, NY
1924 - Brighton, MA High School graduate
1924-27 - Kents Hill Seminary, Kents Hill, ME graduate
1928 - Enrolled in University of Illinois
1929 - June 27 marriage to Margaret Crowley
1932 - June graduate with B.S. in Education
1932-33 - Assistant Football Coach, Illinois College
1933-37 - Baseball Coach, Illinois College
1933 - Daughter Jane born
1934-36, Football Coach, Illinois College
1937 - Changed name from Raymond Eliot Nusspickel to Ray Eliot
1938 - Columbia University M.A.
1942 - January 29 appointment as Head Football Coach, University of Illinois
1947 - January 1 Rose Bowl victory over UCLA, 45-14
1951 - January 22 Rejection of head coaching offers from Southern California, Stanford, and Texas
1952 - January 1 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford, 40-7
1953 - Nov. 21, 39-14 win at Northwestern brings Big 10 co-championship
1955-56 - President, American Football Coaches Association
1959 - March 12 Announced plan to retire after 1959 season
1959 - Nov. 22 Wins final Big 10 game at Northwestern, 28-0
1960 - January 27 Ray Eliot Testimonial Dinner at Chicago Illini Club
1960 - Associate Director, Athletic Association
1961 - Amos Alonzo Stagg Award
1965 - Honorary Life Member, American Football Coaches Association
1973 - Retirement Dinner
1974 - Honorary Assistant Athletic Director
1979 - May 11 appointment as Interim Athletic Director
1980 - February 24 death

The Ray Eliot Papers include correspondence (Boxes 1-3), clippings (4-5), photographs (6-7), plays (8), programs (9), subject files (10-11), scrapbooks (12-13), and oversize material (14-15). On June 4, 1981, the initial acquisitions from the Athletic Association amounted to 1.1 cubic feet. On May 11, 1995, an additional 22 cubic feet of material came from grandson Doug Cartland. When processed, the total was 6.6 cubic feet, plus artifacts.

Box 1: Correspondence, 1921-55

Baptismal Certificate and report cards, 1921
 Kents Hill Seminary, 1926
 Marriage certificate and photograph and Honeymoon Travel Diary, June 27 - July 8, 1929
 Illinois events, programs and awards, 1930-31
 Illinois diploma and Illinois College position, 1932
 Illinois College programs, 1933-36
 Clippings, birth certificate and name change, 1937
 Delta Theta Epsilon, 1938
 Jane's 1933 birth certificate, 1940
 Alpha Sigma Phi newsletter, congratulatory letters, Bob Elson interview & Alex Agase, 1942
The Lettermen's Letter, March 1942
 Awards and certificates, 1950
 Champaign property deed, 1951
 Telegrams, Rose Bowl ticket and commentary, 1952
 John "Rocky" Ryan, 1954
 1956
 Recruiting and football position charts, 1958
 Illinois positions, retirement, 1959 season, testimonials from former players and University Trustees, 1959

Box 2: Correspondence, 1960-73

Fritz Crisler, Grand Rapids, MI certificate, 1960
 Chicago Illini Club Book of Testimonial Letters:
 Administrative, Staff Associates, I-Men, 1942-59
 Big Ten Coaches Present & Past, Jan. 27, 1960
 Nebraska offer & Ralph Edwards, 1961
 Arnold Air Society, 1965
 Stadium parking, 1966
 Speaking engagements, 1967
 Bristol, VA speech, 1968
 Furman Bisher (Atlanta Journal) on unsportsmanlike play, 1969
 J.C. Caroline Football Hall of Fame nomination, 1970
 Ray Eliot Football Hall of Fame nomination, 1971
 Athletic Association job description, 1972
 Maxwell Air Force Base speeches, Bob Broeg, 1973
 Ray Eliot retirement dinner letters in book, Oct. 1973
 Arrangements, Oct. 1973
 Sept. - Nov. 1973

Box 3: Correspondence, 1974-798

Athletic Association, Maxwell Air Force Base, Jan. - Sept. 1974
 Travel, Grange Banquet, 50th Anniversary of the Stadium, Oct. 1974
 Nov. - Dec. 1974
 Speaking engagements (7 folders), 1975
 Speaking engagements, Athletic Association (3 folders), 1976
 (3 folders), 1977

1978

Illinois House Resolution 419, June 28, 1979

Air University Award for 1956-79 lectures, 1979

Memorial tributes, Margaret Eliot birth certificate, 1980

Tribute by LaRue Van Meter, 1981, 1983-84, 1993

"Illinois College Years" biography chapter by Doug Cartland with Charles Bellatti's comments,
June 14, 1994

Box 4: Clippings, 1920-50

Brighton MA, High School football team, 1920

Kents Hill, ME, baseball team & Wilton, ME, semi-pro baseball team, 1925-26

Illinois Freshman football team, Oct. 6, 1928

Football prospects & "All-Americans" team, 1929

Illinois baseball and football teams, 1930

Football games, 1931

1932

Illinois College coaching appointment, football and baseball games, 1933

1935

1936

Farewell Party at Jacksonville & WILL radio talk, 1937

Illinois hockey team, 1938

Feb. 11-22, 1938

Football, 1939

1940

Bob Zuppke's last season, 1941

Ray Eliot's appointment as football coach, Jan. 29, 1942

Football games, 1943

1944

1945

Illinois' 20-0 win over Northwestern, Nov. 24, 1946 & Rose Bowl Trip, 1946

Illinois' 45-14 Rose Bowl victory over UCLA, Jan. 1947

"A Coach Doesn't have to be Tough," by Tom Siler in Saturday Evening Post, Nov. 27, 1947

Box 5: Clippings, 1951-80

Thumbnail sketch of Ray Eliot in Dr. Pepper ad, The Mentor, Nov. 1951

Football & Rose Bowl trip, 1951

Illinois' 40-7 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford and return trip, 1952

Chuck Flynn on 1952 Rose Bowl, 1953

Air Force Football Clinics in Germany, July 4, 1954

"Ray Eliot, Top Football Coach...and Fisherman," by Ira Morton, Hunting and Fishing, Oct.

1954

Minnesota and Michigan victories, 1955

Publicity, fishing, Jim Minor, 1956

Maine coaches meeting, June 18, 1957

Football, 1958

Final season stories, 1959

Corpus Christi, TX banquet, March 1, 1960

American Football Coaches Association Amos Alonzo Stagg Award, Jan. 10, 1961

Philadelphia speech, 1962
 Illinois Hockey Club, 1964
 Banquet speeches, 1965
 Houston, TX Touchdown Club, Oct. 1966
 Continues as Athletic Association Assistant Director, Kents Hill reunion, 1967
 Indiana State University speaker, Sept. 1968
 Houston, Miami, and Binghamton speeches, 1969
 1970
 Illini Club of Sarasota, Jan. 29, 1971
 Robert Irsay, 1972
 Ray Nitschke, Ray Eliot Weekend (Nov. 2), 1973
 I-Men's Banquet, Honorary Assistant Athletic Director, 1974
Daily Illini feature story, Oct. 8, 1975
 North-South Shrine All-star Game, Pontiac, MI, 1976
 Retirement, 1977
 Obituaries, 1980
 Bob Broeg, "Mr. Illini" article in Illinois Update, Sept. 7, 1984
 Bill Burrell, Nov. 9, 1993

Box 6: Photographs, 1905-51

Ray Eliot, 1905-32
 1933-79
 Illinois Field, Oct. 17, 1914
 Memorial Stadium, 1924
 Kents Hill, 1924-27
 Photographs, 1929
 1931-32
 1939
 Family, 1936-38
 Photographs, 1937
 1939
 Summer camp, ca. 1939
 Sky Line Ranch, Moose, WY, ca. 1940
 Eliot, Jane C., 1940-51
 Photographs (4 folders), 1940-44
 (5 folders) 1946-59
 Barney's ball Lake Lodge, fishing, ca. 1950
 Photographs, 1951
 Rose Bowl Trip, Santa Fe train scenes, reception, Dec. 1951

Box 7: Photographs, 1952-79

Photographs (2 folders), 1952-53
 Japan Coaching Clinic Banquet, July 1953
 Photographs, 1954
 East-West Football Game, ca. 1954-60
 Photographs (5 folders), 1955-59
 U.S. Air Force, Europe, Football School, Berchtesgaden, July 6-10, 1959
 Photographs (10 folders), 1960, 1962-63, 1965-70, 1973

U.S. Air Force Academy, Jan. 11, 1974
 Photographs, 1979
 Football coaches meetings
 Football players
 Friends, Bierman - Sweden
 Friends, unidentified
 Social Events
 Speaking
 Speaking at rallies

Box 8: Plays

George Halas (Chicago Bears) and Varsity Plays, 1938
 Football Roster, 1941
 Offensive Formations and Play Book, 1941
 H. Grange T-Formation Plays, 1945
 Play Guide for UCLA Rose Bowl Game, 1947
 Plays and 1951 Roster, 1950
 Plays, 1951-52
 Northwestern scouting report on Illinois, Nov. 1952
 Plays, 1953
 1954
 1955
 ca. 1955
 1956
 "Reaction Time in Offensive Backfield Football Positions," by Carl E. Grad, M.S. thesis in Physical Education, 1949
 8 mm. Sound Film Clips of Ray Eliot on sidelines and comment on game plays
 Looseleaf notebook on College Football, containing information and outlines on color, time, coin toss, statistics, teams, strategy, behind the scenes, preparing, schedule making, attack, defense, legal help, jokes, public relations, money, business manager, parking, rules, evolution, democracy, players, spectators, demands, greatest game, football coaching, night before, doctor and trainer, spring practice, movies, and scouting

Box 9: Programs, 1923, 1925, 1947, 1951-52, 1954, 1959-60, 1971-74, 1978-79

Michigan, 10/18/23
 Michigan, 10/24/25
 Tournament of Roses Review, 1947
 Pittsburgh, 9/27/47
 Wisconsin (Eliot's 10th Anniversary), 10/6/51
 Tournament of Roses Official Program, 1952
 East-West Shrine Game (35th), 1/2/60
 Iowa (Coaches), 11/20/71
 Ohio State (Ray Eliot Day), 11/3/73
 California (1940s stars), 10/5/74
 Northwestern, 9/9/78
 Stanford, 9/23/78
 Purdue, 10/21/78
 Missouri, 9/15/79

Iowa, 10/6/79
 Michigan, 10/20/79
 Ohio State, 11/3/79
 Michigan State, 10/22/88
Illio, 1960

pp. 355-370 on Ray Eliot & 1959 football season

Box 10: Subject File, Air Force - Football Courses & Clinics

Air Force, Football Coaches Clinic for Army & Air Force, Germany, 1954, 1959
 Air Force Training Speech, Squadron Officers School, audiotape and 8/23/96 audio cassette,
 Aug. 3, 1979

Tape Recording, Speech before Squadron Officer School (SOS) Air Force
 Training Program, August 3, 1979

Transcript:

- 10 Introduction
- 35 Eliot begins; has spoken to SOS "graduates" 76 times
- 46 Definition of football coach
- 62 First trip to Rose Bowl in 1947; summary of reasons for success
- 83 Principles of athletics and life learned through sports; success in both dependent upon realistic attitudes; "regardless of the odds"; no job is insurmountable for a real athlete
- 103 Critics of football, unsportsmanlike conduct; indictment of sport in Saturday Evening Post by Furman Bisher; Eliot claims that a number of collisions is small, given amount of contact in game; comparison to rudeness, lack of courtesy in life
- 130 Importance of courtesy
- 137 Leadership determined by one's actions, not conversation
- 145 Importance of building the "whole person" with the "will to win" and the "proper state of mind"; courage and leadership come from the heart
- 157 Virtues of self-denial and self-discipline
- 166 Proper attitude of loyalty, to one's family and country
- 170 Definition of sportsmanship: "doing unto others as you would have them do unto to you"
- 180 Importance of pride; Ray Nitschke All-American Football player and man, pride of Green Bay Packers
- 190 Being a "team person"; combination of pride, confidence, and the "will to win" results in the "whole man"
- 200 Game against Wisconsin (c. 1953-54), odds against Illinois; Illinois winning 10-6; Chuck Boerio, linebacker, shouting "send Ameche at me"; held the line, Illinois victorious; the one yard that separates greatness from mediocrity
- 225 Importance of never giving up, regardless of odds; 1944 football team filled with 17 year olds; led U.S. in yards gained, story of the Great Lakes game, odds against Illinois; 26-26 tie; real athlete responds to a real challenge
- 258 Sports as classroom for proper mental and physical attitude; "anything that's competitive will make you grow"; story of Spike Moran in WWII and the "spirit of the America"

- 279 Poem: "If you think you can, you will...it's all in the state of mind"
 284 Conclusion

American Football Coaches Association Proceedings, 1956, 1960-61
 Army, UASSAREUR Football Coaches Clinic, Frankfurt Germany, July 12-23, 1954
 Artifacts List, 1996
 Athletic Association Steering Committee, 1975-77
 Athletic Coaching, Four Year Course Bulletins, 1922-25
 Colorado High School Coaches Association Clinic, Pueblo, Colorado, August 17-20, 1960
 Contracts, Retirement Information, 1964-6, 1973-74, 1976-77
 East-West Shrine Football Classic and Hospitals, 1955, 1960, 1972
 Eliot, Margaret Crowley & Child Family, 1980
 Football Courses & Clinics, 1950-60

Box 11: Subject File, Football Notes - Zuppke

Football Notes, Illinois Football Coaches Association, April 20-21, 1979
 Golf Course, Savoy, Land Acquisitions, 1953, 1958
 Illinois College, Football Record, 1932-36
 Illinois, Course Papers, 1931-32
 Income Tax returns, 1942-43
 Injuries, Treating & Preventing Athletic Injuries, "Hamilton's Wheel"
 Kiva Summer Camp, Croton Reservoir, New York, 1936
 Campers and Counselors
 "Leadership Development" audiotape, 1961

Transcript:

- 1 No introduction; tape begun in mid-sentence
 4 Address to audience; comments on his last season as coach (1959); explanation of loss to Michigan and summary of game
 38 Comments on University of Illinois Alumni; grateful for support (positive and negative of Alumni)
 53 Education that football (other sports as well) has given him; importance of facing facts in sports; "every principle that guides us on the athletic field guides us in life."
 69 Response to question of younger coaches, "What are the most important qualities of a young athlete?"
 78 Not physical process that determines success; psychological will power that determines great athletes
 88 We perform that which we will to be done. Importance of conditioning the mind to do the "big jobs."
 94 Difference between men lies in their minds and their hearts, not their bodies.
 100 "Have you got it?"; "it" is not physical strength, but an inward driving force, first ingredient of "it" is courage - "the courage to throw your bodies around in reckless abandonment in the field of play"; contact courage important in football; importance of hitting quickly, decisively
 111 Second ingredient is game intelligence - smartness on and off the field; common sense
 115 Third ingredient - most important one of all - "the proper state of mind"; that within you which says "I can; I will; I must; that regardless of the odds, I'll get the job done"
 122 Sportsmanship defined by the golden rule; only when the odds are against you

- have you achieved something good
- 136 Example of Charles Lindbergh as someone who achieved something against the odds; importance of humility in sports; loss to Michigan in season opener after Rose Bowl victory
- 144 Athletics as a "great leveller"
- 150 In any game, what counts is mental drive, more knowledge or physical strength
- 156 Reminiscence of Wisconsin game, Illinois leading 10-7 with minute and a half to go; spirit of the Fighting Illini; Illinois victory, able to hold Wisconsin at the one yard line
- 180 War years at Illinois; 1944 season; led U.S. in yards gained, with mostly 17 year olds on team
- 185 Great Lakes game in 1944; learned a big lesson about youth of America, who have accepted and won every challenge put before them; 26-26 tie at end of game; Eddie Bray tackle at end of game
- 212 The most important ingredient in any game is the "Never say die" spirit
- 214 Example of Lou Boudreau, manager of Cleveland Indians baseball team; drove in winning runs, with two strikes against him
- 225 Teddy Roosevelt quote: "It is not the critic who counts...; the credit belongs to a man who is actually in the arena; who tries, and comes short, and tries again..."
- 230 Example of Olympic swimmer with one leg; will to win determined his success
- 240 All great deeds in the world come from the heart of man; example of Spike Moran in WWII
- 260 "The will of Man" has always led the country; what makes America great
- 264 Poem: "If you think you can, you can...it's all in the state of mind; Think that you can and you will; sooner or later the man who wins is the man who thinks he can..."
- 273 Long quotation from General MacArthur on the education of sports; sports builds character; teaches us to be proud as well as compassionate..."; sports are crucial in molding the "whole man"
- 285 Conclusion

Nusspickel, Anna, 1904, 1938, 1953, 1958

"The Proper State of Mind" audiotape, ca. 1969

Speech Material, 1945-75

Stadium Notes (1924) and Gymnasium plans (1926)

Vitae, 1936-42

Zuppke, Bob, sketch by Charles Bradford

Box 12: Football Scrapbooks, 1943-47

Newspaper clippings on Illinois football games

Rose Bowl Scrapbook, Dec. 1946 - Jan. 2, 1947. "Illini Win Rose Bowl Classic," clippings from Chicago, Champaign-Urbana, and Los Angeles newspapers with columnists' and sports writers' accounts of the Rose Bowl game and pre-game and parade event

Box 13: Football Scrapbooks, 1948-51, 1953-54, 1959

Newspaper clippings on Illinois football games

Box 14: Football Scrapbook, 1955; Coaches Clinic, 1953; Congratulatory Letters, 1959
(oversize)

Newspaper clippings on 1955 Illinois football games
Far East Military Football Coaches Clinics, Yokohama, Japan, July 13-24, 1953
Congratulatory letters upon retirement

Box 15: Documents, 1929, 1950-75; Photographs, 1947-75; Newspapers, 1959; Sports
Scrapbook, Illinois & Illinois College, 1931-38 (oversize)

Documents, 1929, 1950-75

Zuppke's Best Illini Football Players, ca. 1929

Pic "The Football Heretic, Coach Eliot...Okay with Players - Disliked by...Alumni" by Tommy
Divine, Sept. 1947

Saturday Evening Post, "A Coach Doesn't Have to be Tough," by Ray Eliot, pp. 23, 151-154,
Sept. 27, 1947

Football Digest, Coach of the Week Award, Nov, 19, 1950

Sam Newman's "Big Ten Roundup" cartoon, Nov. 8, 1951

Illini Club of Cincinnati certificate, Jan. 9, 1952

National Football Clinic, Honorary All-American citation, March 11, 1957

Look article on student aid in the Big Ten, June 26, 1957

Football schedule table mat, 1959

Helms Athletic Foundation, Hall of Fame award, ca. 1959

Joe Parrish, "An Unfortunate Time to Pay a Call," cartoon, Chicago Tribune, Nov. 20, 1959

Larry Hill's cartoon for Ray Eliot speech to Illinois-Indiana Oil Producers, ca. Feb. 1960

David Condon's "I Men Gather to Honor Eliot," column in Chicago Tribune, ca 1975

Photographs, 1931, 1947-75

Ray Nusspickel, 1931

Rose Bowl, Players carry Ray Eliot off the field, Jan. 1, 1947

Illinois state office holders group photographed by Gov. Dwight Green, ca. 1947

Ray Eliot, Lou Boudreau, Wally Roettger, Oct. 1948

25th Anniversary Banquet of Illinois Division of American Association of University Women,
Chicago, April 22, 1949

Illinois Club of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27, 1951

Illinois and Northwestern, East-West Game (?) Coaches, 1953

"Tug" Wilson, Ray Eliot, and associate, ca. 1955

American Football Coaches Association, 33rd Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 10, 1956

Mounted photos of Chief Illiniwek (Oct. 14, 1959) and Ray Eliot in East team Coach's car, Dec.
1959

North Football Squad, Blue-Gray Game, Montgomery, AL (2 photos), ca. 1960

Sketch of Ray Eliot by Don Smith, 1964

Sketch of Ray Eliot, Officers Dining-In, Hill Air Force Base, 1970

Sketch of Ray Eliot by Farrell R. Collett, 1975

Newspapers, Nov. 15 - Dec. 31, 1959

Champaign-Urbana Courier (11/22-24) and News-Gazette (11/15, 22, 24; 12/31) and
Chicago Tribune (11/22; 12/15)

Box 16:

K-R Speakers, 1964

Air Force Base Speeches, 1966

Quarterback Club Correspondence, 1963–1968

Maxwell Air Force Base Speaking Engagements, 1964-1972

All-America Speakers, 1964

Correspondence (includes hand-written indexes to all letters 1962-1972 located in alpha '62-65 folders)

A-Z: 1962-1965

A-E: 1966-1972

Box 17:

Correspondence

F-Z: 1965-1972

Speech, Assembly Hall, October 1979. Audio reel.