

My football notebook

** In their 1901 season opener Grinnel College defeated Drake 6-5 in one of the earliest night games ever played under electric lights. At the end of the game a Drake player, perhaps influenced by a full moon, slugged and knocked out the referee, W.R. Lane.

** In a game played on November 13, 1909 at Knoxville, Alabama defeated the host U. of Tennessee team by a score of 10-0. The real excitement came as the contest ended when the game's umpire, W.T. Elgin from the U. of Nashville, was attacked by a mob of fans. The Tennessee crowd felt that Elgin had been partial to the Alabama team during the game, and he was quickly surrounded by an angry crowd. Elgin was rushed by police to a street car where the mob again surged around the car carrying the terrified official. He was hissed and cursed and struck on the side of the head with a stone, incurring a serious cut. Police guarded Mr Elgin all the way to his hotel, with the mob trailing along. No mention was made as to how, or if, he ever made it back to Nashville.

** In October, 1936 one-half hour before the Southern California team's special train was scheduled to leave Los Angeles for the game at Illinois, writer Lee Bastajian was told by his paper to make the trip with the Trojans. Bastajian raced home for his toothbrush, commandeered a taxi and took off after the departing train, hoping to catch it at the first stop. The taxi driver finally pulled abreast of the speeding train but, going 60 MPH, he lost control and the auto crashed through a ditch before it flipped over in a farm field. A few days later Bastajian leaned back in his desk chair and read the wire dispatch of the Trojans' 24-6 victory.

** Art Devlin, third baseman for baseball's New York Giants from 1904-1911, was the star fullback for Georgetown U. in 1899 and 1900.