

The new museum for play-for-pay football in Canton, Ohio, is loaded with smiles, sentiment—and action

By RICHARD McCANN

Director of the National Professional Football Hall of Fame

as told to Chuck Such



These 1906 uniforms typify old-time displays.

Whose use on a football team I still can't fathom.

We have championship pennants, too, one from the Providence (R.I.) Steamrollers of 1928. In those days, players on championship squads received gold footballs. Now that's one item I have yet to find to add to the museum.

Speaking financially, you've probably heard how the old stars played for as little as \$5 a game. That's true, but there was big money to be had, too. Back before the devalued dollar, Jacksonville, Fla., paid Ernie Nevers \$15,000 for signing a contract. Two games later the club went bankrupt, but Nevers had the cash.

College coaches played pro football on Sundays to pick up extra money. Knute Rockne is associated with Notre Dame, but graybeards in Massillon, Ohio, will tell you: "Rockne?—oh, you mean the fellow who played with the old pro Tigers." Of course, the Neaser brothers, great players for the Columbus (Ohio) Panhandles, will dispute this. They played pro games against Rockne six times in a row, and each time Rockne was on a different team. But in the Hall of Fame, we have Rockne's helmet, and it's one he used at Massillon.

WE ALSO have probably the most extensive collection of old team photos in the world. But not all the star players are shown; some were camera-shy in those days. You see, on Saturdays they were simon-pure amateurs at some college and aiming for Walter Camp's All-American list. On Sundays they were miles away butting heads for bucks. Guy Chamberlain was a college coach who used to play end for the Canton Bulldogs to fatten his wallet. Against Can-

ton's great rivals, the Massillon Tigers, he found to his astonishment that the player opposite him was his star college lineman, a six-days-a-week amateur.

Although we've accumulated enough historical items to give visitors a completely new show every six months, we're still looking for relics of the era of Red Grange, Bronko Nagurski, and Jim Thorpe. I want two Thorpe items in particular.

ONE IS the shoulder pads Thorpe wore. Many opponents claimed that Thorpe had sheet-metal or iron ribs fitted into them; no man, they said, could hit as hard as Thorpe did with just human muscle. But Jack Cusack, now a Texas oil millionaire but once Thorpe's mentor, denies this. He bought Thorpe's equipment and says it was the same as other players used. Everybody is pretty sure the equipment still exists, but nobody knows where.

And the other Thorpe treasure we want is his collection of Olympic medals. The medals were taken away from him when it was discovered he had once played baseball for \$50. Football is very proud of Thorpe and the role he played in developing the game, and we'd give those medals proper honor. Once we received a tip they were in a Washington, Pa., shop where they had once been displayed, and we wasted no time in trying to track them down. Unfortunately, all we found was the placard on which they had once been mounted.

Somebody else had long since taken the medals. We wonder where they are today—and how we can get them for Pro Football's Hall of Fame.

... president of major pro league. Thorpe carries ball for Canton against Columbus Panhandles in 1919 game (right).



Family Weekly, September 1, 1963



Sunk

By PERIODIC PAIN

Every month Deborah was sunk by functional menstrual distress. Now she just takes MIDOL and goes her way in comfort because MIDOL tablets contain:

- An exclusive anti-spasmodic that STOPS CRAMPING . . .
- Medically-approved ingredients that RELIEVE HEADACHE and BACKACHE . . . CALM JUMPY NERVES . . .
- A special, mood-brightening medication that CHASES "BLUES."

"WHAT WOMEN WANT TO KNOW" FREE! Front, revealing 32-page book, explains womanhood's most common physical problems. Written by a physician. Write Dept. 38, Box 280, New York 18, N.Y. (Sent in plain wrapper.)



SAVED

BY



CLEANEST, EASIEST, SAFEST
Way To Rid Your Place Of

MICE

d-CON® MOUSE-PRUFE is so clean, so easy to use. You just pull tab, and bait feeds automatically. You never touch a messy, "germy" trap. Best of all, MOUSE-PRUFE, used as directed, is safe to use around children and household pets, yet is guaranteed to keep your place mouse-free—or your money back! Mice hungrily eat MOUSE-PRUFE—can't resist the special, patented-process formula, eat themselves to death—painlessly. Get d-CON MOUSE-PRUFE!



EVERY WEEK
there's good reading in
FAMILY WEEKLY

PHOTO CREDITS

Pages 4, 5: Pix, Wide World.

FALSE TEETH

KLUTCH holds them tighter. KLUTCH forms a comfort cushion; holds dental plates so much firmer and snugger that you can eat and talk with greater comfort and security; in many cases almost as well as with natural teeth. Klutch lowers the constant fear of a dropping, rocking, chafing plate . . . If your dentist doesn't have Klutch, don't waste money on substitutes, but send us 10¢ and we will mail you a generous trial box. KLUTCH CO., Box 380-1, Elmira, N.Y.