

- I. Pre Colorado College years
  - A. Clark attended Central High School, Pueblo, Colorado (class of 1926).
  - B. High school sports
    1. Football
    2. Basketball
    3. Baseball
    4. Tennis
    5. Track
      - a. best events - 100 yards and high hurdles
  - C. First contact with Colorado College
    1. "Bully" [W.D. Van de Graaff] and some others came down to Pueblo to interview Clark.
      - a. He had already decided to go East for school (North Western).
        - i. He went there and after two weeks he decided that he wanted to come back to C. C.
        - ii. He had been told that if he changed his mind he was welcome to come back to C. C.
        - iii. He got homesick so wired to C. C. that he wanted to come.
        - iv. The people at Northwestern wanted him to stay but didn't pressure him much.
        - v. C. C. sent him money to come to Colorado Springs.
- II. First impressions of Colorado College
  - A. He was happy to get back to Colorado.
- III. Life at C. C.
  - A. Clark joined Phi Gamma Delta fraternity
  - B. Lived with Dr. Vanderhoof (Richard)
  - C. He had a job with Billy Jones at a restaurant.
    1. He ate his meals at the restaurant rather than on campus.
  - D. Ralph Gilmore, biology professor, was his major professor.
    1. Gilmore was also a Phi Gamma Delta.
  - E. Clark majored in Biology.
    1. He had no intentions of going to medical school.
    2. He intended to go into athletics (coaching), so Gilmore wasn't as hard on him as he was on pre med students.
- IV. Athletics at Colorado College
  - A. Freshman Football
    1. Clark's vision was impaired in one eye.
      - a. His eyes got worse from studying
      - b. He got glasses.
      - c. The bad eye never affected his football.
  - B. Freshman basketball
    1. They won the Eastern division Rocky Mountain Conference title.
    2. Coached by [Alvin G.] Twitchell
    3. Played Montana State in the playoffs
      - a. Won the first game, lost the next two
  - C. Track
    1. Joe Irish---coach
      - a. Clark liked him very much, thought he was smart and knew what he was doing.
      - b. Anything Clark wanted, Irish could get for him.

2. Sixteen-pound hammer throw
  - a. It became an event in Clark's second year at C. C.
  - b. Neither Clark nor Coach Irish knew how to throw it, but Irish read books and taught Clark.
  - c. After practicing with the hammer his arms would be so tired that he couldn't hold them up to comb his hair.
3. Clark was a member of the U. S. AAU team.
  - a. They went to Pittsburg to compete.
  - b. They competed against Great Britain in Chicago.
- D. First year in varsity football (1927)
  1. The only game they lost was the championship game against the Colorado Aggies.
    - a. Clark recalls that the Aggies were big.
    - b. They always had trouble with that ball-club.
  2. Clark made the All-Conference Team as a sophomore.
- E. 1928 football season
  1. It was Clark's biggest season.
  2. One of the most important games was against Utah.
  3. Allen Gould of the Associated Press chose him for the Associated Press All-American Team.
  4. He was the leading scored in the Rocky Mountain Conference.
    - a. 105 points in the season.
    - b. 1351 yards rushing in eight games; average: 169 yards/game
      - i. The reason he could gain so many yards in one game was because there weren't as many players in those days and once you were in the game, you stayed in.
    - c. He recalls making several touchdowns in one game against the University of Wyoming. The coach of Wyoming had said before the game that the passing of Clark might hurt them but the running wouldnt.
  5. Other players on the 1928 team
    - a. Doc Weaver - center
    - b. Dick Leggett - 175 lb. tackle
    - c. Swede Vandenburg
    - d. Arlie [Arlington] Beery
  5. When Clark was selected as All-American, easterners said "Who in the hell is Dutch Clark and where in the hell is Colorado College?"
    - a. Allen Gould was criticized for picking Clark, an unknown.
    - b. When Clark was later a successful pro, Gould went to great lengths to point out that he had been right in 1928.
- V. "Bully" Van de Graaff - football coach
  - A. Personality
    1. A great coach---"the most honest and most sincere man that I ever met in my life."
    2. Clark feels that Bully had a lot to do with all the good things that happened to him during his life.
    3. "I could always count on him as a friend."
  - B. Van de Graaff was known for his trick plays
    1. The center stuck the ball behind the guard's leg, the halfback came and picked it up. Everyone went one way and he went down the other side of the field with the ball.
      - a. This play was illegal and Van de Graaff had to stop using it.

2. Van de Graaff "had a brilliant mind as far as football was concerned."
3. Short kicks - Van de Graaff assigned Clark to do all the short kicks.
  - a. Clark practiced short kicks a lot on his free time and was able to kick the ball up so that when it hit the ground, it went right back into the arms of the kicking team.
  - b. Short kicks had to go at least ten yards.

#### VI. Social life at Colorado College

- A. Clark was a Phi Gamma Delta
  1. He wasn't very active in fraternity social activities except freshmen year when they made him participate.
- B. Murray's Drug Store
  1. Half of his life was drinking malted milks at Murray's.
- C. Student support for athletics
  1. C. C. probably had as much support considering the size of the school, as any school in the country.
  2. Students used to see the team off at the train when they traveled.

#### VII. 1929 - Clark's last college season

- A. There were many close games that season.
- B. A game against Denver University had a final score of 3-2.
  1. Clark kicked a field goal which went straight over the goal post
  2. Ken Pomeroy claimed that it was good.
  3. Clark wanted to talk to the coach but the referee wouldn't let him.
  4. He then asked for a time out which the referee [W. N. Ryder] denied him.
  5. He went to Bill Grimes, who talked to the referee. They got the time out, looked in the rule book and found the kick was good. Ryder had to reverse his decision and give C. C. the field goal.
  6. He needed a cordon of police to escort him off the field at the end of the game.
  7. The D. U. fans were furious.
  8. Ryder never refereed another game in the Rocky Mountain conference.
  9. Clark remembers another play in that game more clearly than this kick.
    - a. He punted, then was knocked off his feet.
    - b. Then a little fellow named Smith "that could fly" caught the ball and ran to the right
    - c. Clark caught him even though he ran 100 yards in 9.8 seconds compared to Clark's 10.0.
    - d. When he tackled him the ball bounced out of his arms and across the goal line for a touchback.
    - e. That saved the game for C. C. because D. U. would have had a touchdown.
- C. The final game of the season was played in Pueblo at the request of Clark's hometown fans.
  1. They were going to give him a car but it was against the rules--- he would have been ineligible for Spring sports.
    - a. Mr. Bud Hoag, owner of the Pueblo Star Journal was going to give the car to Clark.
    - b. He waited until the end of the year then gave him the car--- a brand new Pontiac.

- c. Clark was to be married in Pueblo the day he graduated. He drove the new car from Colorado Springs to the wedding, and the car stalled on the way to the wedding because he drove it too fast for a brand new car.

#### VIII. Basketball at C. C.

- A. Clark made All-Conference four straight years.
- B. Games in Gunnison
  1. To go to Gunnison, they would come "out of the Springs on a sleeper, and take the narrow guage over the hill since we couldn't go over Monarch pass in a car."

#### IX. Baseball at C. C.

- A. Clark decided to play in his Senior year
  1. He would hit flies to the baseball team for fun, so the coach (Twitchell) asked him to go out for the team.
- B. He did track at the same time but by his senior year, it didn't take much of his time, so he could do both
  1. Some days he ran track meets in the morning and played baseball in the afternoon.
- C. He pitched and played in the outfield.
- D. He made All-Conference in baseball (and 3 other sports).

#### X. Decisions after graduation

- A. He stayed at C. C. and assisted Van de Graaff and coached basketball and baseball.
- B. University of Wyoming also offered him a position to assist football coach Dusty Rhoades and to coach basketball.

#### XI. He started pro football the next year.

- A. It was during the depression.
- B. He had always wondered if he was as good a football player as they said he was. So as long as it was okay with C. C. he decided to go play Pro Ball.
- C. He still came back and coached basketball and baseball (1931).
- D. He started his pro career with the Portsmouth Spartans (NFL).
  1. It was his only offer from a pro team.
  2. Stu Clark of D. U. told his brother Patsy Clark, who was in charge of the Spartans, about Dutch Clark.
  3. The salary was \$140/game plus a different salary for each practice game.
    - a. It was good money in the depression, but they weren't always paid what was due them.
  4. Portsmouth qualified for the league playoffs against the Chicago Bears in Clark's second year there.
  5. They were supposed to play Green Bay in the championships in Clark's first year, but it was called off.
  6. Clark didn't play in the game against the Bears either.
  7. He was the leading scorer in the league in his first two pro years.
  8. He was the All-League Quarterback.
  9. The following year he quit because he didn't always get paid, due to the depression.
    - a. Instead he took a job at Colorado School of Mines as coach and athletic director for one year.

## E. Detroit Lions

1. Portsmouth sold the franchise to Detroit so Clark went back to them.
2. In the meantime Colorado University lost their basketball coach Henry Iva (??) and asked Clark to coach for one year.
  - a. He took the job, and did that as well as playing for Detroit
  - b. One of the C. U. Basketball players that Clark coached, ? White, is now a member of the supreme court.
  - c. As an athlete, White could do almost anything---football, baseball, basketball. He wasn't great at any of them but was good at all of them.
3. The Detroit Lions won the championship in 1935
  - a. They beat the New York Giants 27-7.
4. 1936- The Lions set a record for yardage gained as a team.
5. Clark was later a player/coach at Detroit for two years.
  - a. He was the last player/coach in the NFL.
6. He did the place kicking, drop kicking and a little punting.
  - a. He did short punting and Frank Christiansen did long punting.
7. Clark made a lot of long runs.
  - a. He would "cut back against the grain" a lot.
  - b. Clark thought he was about as good a runner as the NFL had until [Gale] Sayers came along from Chicago.

## XII. Coaching

- A. He left the Lions and went to coach for Cleveland Rams for four years.
  1. He assisted Jimmy Phalen,
- B. He coached for Detroit University.
- C. Retirement from coaching
  1. It got to be bothersome
    - a. He had to spend half his time at luncheons, dinners and at boys' homes.
    - b. Recruiting was difficult
  2. He went to work for Colonial Broach and Machine Company (a Tool and Dye Company).
    - a. George Christiansen, a tackle for the Lions, got him this job.

## XIII. Highlights of his career

- A. Coming from a small school then being selected for All-Pro five straight years, and justifying Allen Gould's selection of him for All-American.

## XIV. Bully Van de Graaff

- A. He would go kick the ball with Clark just for fun.
- B. He was "High Class," honest and sincere.
- C. He was very inspirational.