

'We have done the right thing, the clean thing, and this will live with us.'

he had more than an administrative stake in the matter. "Only thing to do is concede," he said. "But Dartmouth will not accept," he added decisively. I called Jim Lynch in Washington. "Don't hesitate. Do it quickly," he urged. I then conferred with Louis C. Bochever '12, the university's director of public relations, and planned the public announcement.

Carl and I then went to the training-table lunch, I with severe misgivings. This was a great group of young men and a superb football team, Number One in the country in all the national polls. We, in effect, were losing their first football game for them in over two years on a giveaway. No one had ever given a game away before. One doesn't correct officials' mistakes. Even they can't correct them or retract them after the fact. So how do you justify such a thing to these guys?

Well, it was not bad at all. Carl spoke slowly and placidly and explained the sequence. "We scored on a fifth down and on a play when we should not have had the ball in our possession. And it was the last play of the game so nothing could have happened after that." There were some grumblings at first, but Captain Walt Matuszak '41 spoke up in support of our suggestion that we offer the game to Dartmouth, and most of them agreed.

Telegrams were immediately dispatched to Dartmouth Coach Earl Blaik, Athletic Director Bill McCarter, and Captain Lou Young.

'NO VICTORY WILL BRING SUCH GLORY'

No one felt very noble or gallant about it, I'll

tell you. It was a thing that had to be done but it was a melancholy task. And at the time I, at least, had no awareness of the drama or the lasting significance of it.

That came very soon, though. That afternoon the place was a madhouse. Phones ringing, newspapermen, movie men, radio reporters descended on us from all over.

Dartmouth accepted, and the record book had to be erased to make it Dartmouth 3, Cornell 0 instead of Cornell 7, Dartmouth 3. The bookies refused to pay off on the Monday score. Cornell, a 15-1 favorite (they did not employ the point spread in those days), was the winner on Saturday, the day of the game. And that was that.

President Day came up to practice that Monday afternoon and spoke to the squad. "You're the greatest football team I've seen in forty years of association with the sport at Dartmouth, Harvard, Michigan, and Cornell. It is a perfect team, a great credit to the university and to the coaching ability of Carl Snavely. We have done the right thing, the clean thing, and this will live with us. We shall not have to spend the rest of our lives apologizing for a tarnished victory."

How prophetic that was. No victory or bundle of victories have or will ever bring the glory this loss with honor has.

I called Asa Bushnell, commissioner of officials, to notify him of Cornell's decision. He sent this wire to referee Red Friesell: "Cornell has decided to forfeit Saturday's game to Dartmouth. Don't let this get you down, down, down, down, down. Regards, Asa."