

# Jack Eller, Noted Fence Flier, Fresh From the Trenches, Tells of Athletics Among Fighting Men in France

## ELLER BACK WITH NEWS OF THE BOYS

Great Hurdler Meets Athletes a-Plenty in Seven Months Sojourn in Trenches.

WITH 69TH AT BACCARAT Goes Over Top With 'Em at Chateau Thierry and Stages Big Meet at Colombes.

By GEORGE B. UNDERWOOD.

Right from the front line trenches Jack Eller, national hurdling champion, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921, holder of many fence flying figures, and boxer, wrestler and oarsman besides, brings some mighty interesting information and observations.

Unable to get his leave of absence from the New York Police Department further extended, the athletic cop returned home to New York a week ago after seven months of active service with the Y. M. C. A. in France, most of the time right in the thick of the fighting.

There are those of us who cannot go," continues Jack, "but there isn't one of us who cannot at least buy a Liberty bond. That's what the Commissioner called me back for, to help the Police Department sell \$50,000,000 worth of Uncle Sam's fighting bonds. The man or woman who doesn't buy a bond, and buy to the limit of his bank roll, is not worthy of being called an American.

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"The trouble with people over here," says Eller, "is they don't hate enough. It's an unpleasant word to use, but hate, hate, hate is what is filling the hearts of our boys in France. It's sending the Hindenburg line crumbling. One cannot be there long without having the feeling encompass him. It grew upon me as I saw the boys in the long line of refugees from the stricken fields, beheld our boys blown and battered to smithereens or sent to their doom, by dirty Hun tricks and subterfuge while men would not stoop to it. It culminated in a wave of anger that almost drove the mad when I hurried to a church that had been bombed in Paris and heard the shrieks and moans of the women, children and babes who only a short month before had been offering up their prayers to the Creator.

"I would there with my feet slipping and sliding in the blood and crushed to pulp remains of innocent mothers, wives and children. And I'll say right here that I cried till there wasn't a tear left in me, and with every gulp I swore the Hun would pay for the dastardliness of it all.

"There wasn't one of us that terrible day," continued Eller, "his voice quivering with emotion, "who did not make a great vow in his heart that the Hun should pay for it. There wasn't one of us that there can be no peace till those terrible scores are settled, and the love of God and the brotherhood of man as with a hot iron are burned into the heart of the Hun."

Eller arrived in France last February, and for two months spent most of his time with the Iowa and Alabama regiments in the vicinity of Badoonville on the Luneville sector in the foothills of the Vosges. The sector was under constant shell fire, barrage and gas attacks. There were three different trench lines, and trencher Eller had to visit three times a day, carrying tobacco, cigarettes, matches, coffee, chocolate, candies and cakes—the latter to light the dugouts—to the soldiers.

"I had one rather amusing experience there," laughs Jack. "I was making my way along a line of trenches when suddenly a big German shell burst with a big 'boom' behind me, blowing in the walls and throwing the timbers and dust all around me. With my arms and hands pounding my back and bumping against the sides of the trench I took it on the head. Despite the weight I was carrying I don't think I was hurt, but my palms days ever did a hundred as fast as I did.

"But fast as I went Hines kept following me. I hadn't run sixty yards when there was another terrific explosion just behind me. Once again I flattened myself and waited for the next shell to come to stop falling. Then I started another desperate sprint. The Hun fire searching along the line kept chasing me. It was duck and run, duck and run, half a mile before I had sense enough to seek a dugout. I didn't enter it. I fell in it. I have to laugh yet when I think of the capture of the Hun and the soldiers' faces there in the dugout when I came tumbling and rolling into their midst."

Later at Badoonville Eller spent twenty days in a dugout, dealing out supplies to the soldiers from 4 A. M. until midnight daily. Then he was placed in charge of the canteen at Baccarat. Five miles behind the lines, and in charge of the athletic and recreational activities of the soldiers, Jack McGee, the former Boston distance runner, trained bowldoin athletes, and left his job at the University of Maine, were among his assistants.

"Part of the Rainbow Division was on that sector," says Eller, "and I met many of my pals in the 165th—the old Sixty-ninth. While at Baccarat I ran into Capt. Jimmy Archer, the old pugilist fighter; Capt. Tom Kelly, the former New York University football captain and N. Y. A. C. shotputter; Bertain, Gene Harlan, Ed Johnson and the Foe, the Millrose athletes, who were members of the old Seventy-first N. Y. unit transferred to the 165th; Pat Flynn, the ten mile champion, and a lot of the boys from the Knights of St. Antony and Loughlin Lyceum of Brooklyn.

At Baccarat I laid out a fifth of a mile track and promoted a weekly meet. Most of the athletic events consisted of hand grenade contests and relay races. Of course we had lots of baseball, and at night in the cinema theatre we staged boxing and wrestling matches. There, ninth, and I wish some of the New York fight fans could see some of the mills and fights. Why, they'd crowd more action into one round than ordinary boxing has in five rounds.

"And say, the same bunch that used to play Gaelic football every Sunday at Celtic Park cleaned up at soccer all along the line at Baccarat. You know soccer long has been the rage in France and Italy. There were many French and Italian regiments at Baccarat. The Celtic Park Par-ks boys from the 165th met the French and the Italians at their own game and swept the boards. All the time I was at Baccarat the Celtic Park Gaela did not lose a single match. They won every game except two, which resulted in ties.

## Off With Army Brogans, On With Spiked Shoes, Often Is Slogan Over There



FINISH OF 100 METER RACE AT COLOMBES, SECOND FROM LEFT - FRED MURRAY, NEW YORK, A. C. ABEL KIVIAT, IRISH AMERICAN A. C. WINNING 1500 METER EVENT AT BIG PARIS MEET



ANDRE FRANCE, LEADING HOME ELLER, AMERICA, THE LAST LEG OF RELAY RACE

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"When the drive at Chateau Thierry started I went there from Paris as a volunteer worker. For three days and three nights there was no time for sleep. I followed up the boys with supplies, and then when I ran out of things I volunteered as a stretcher bearer and lasted thirty-eight hours at that. What I saw at Chateau Thierry if anything, I would not want to see again.

It was Eller who promoted the big Independence Day meet on the race course at Colombes, near Paris. There the soldiers of the Allies met in friendly rivalry, with an international relay race between France and the United States as the feature. Uncle Sam was represented by a number of athletes, including the world's half mile and quarter mile record holder, Lieut. Tommy Lennon, the former U. of P. and Cornell A. C. star; Sergeant Kline, the corking sprinter from Hamline University, and Eller himself—but France's flying four, Tiesler, Beudon, Gauthier and Andre, brought the Tricolor home in front.

"It was I who lost the race," says Eller, "for Andre wallowed me on the last leg. Max Kline, Lennon and Kline all beat their men, and was sent away with a three yard lead on the anchor leg. Andre outtired me and showed me how much he enjoyed the joy of the thousands of French soldiers and people who attended the games.

Murray, Kiviatt and Danooes. "Though we were beaten in the relay race at Colombes, the lion's share of laurels went to America. Fred Murray of the New York A. C. the intercollegiate football champion, won the shot put and was second in scoring distance. Eachman, Betty and Masterson played well for Brooklyn Prep. The lineup: Flushing Field, 25 to 6. The Long Island champions swept aside the city Catholic High Schools champions like a gust of wind would sweep dust. The Navy's game with Lebanon Valley, the Lehigh-Union Lafayette Muhlenberg and practically all of the other contests scheduled in the East were cancelled. In the West there were quite a number of contests, with the Kentucky State triumph over Indiana and Michigan's victory over Case featuring. The scores: At Ann Arbor—Michigan, 21; Case, 6; At Berea, Ohio—Wesleyan Reserve, 20; Baldwin-Walkers, 9; At Bloomington, Ind.—Kentucky State, 24; Indiana, 7; At Akron, Ohio—Akron University vs. Hiram Normal, called off account influenza. At Pittsburg—Pittsburg-Great Lakes and Carnegie Tech-soldiers games cancelled owing to influenza.

At Troy—Rensselaer Poly-Middlebury game postponed. At Alliance, Ohio—Mount Union, 59; Kenyon, 9. At Columbus, Ohio—Ohio State, 41; Wesleyan, 9. At East Lansing, Mich.—Michigan Athletic, 50; Albion College, 1. At South Bethlehem, Pa.—Lehigh-Union game cancelled. Indiana. At Lincoln, Neb.—Iowa, 12; Nebraska, 9. At Atlanta-Georgia Tech, 23; Clemson, 9. At Newport-Navarro Naval Station, 4; Springfield, 10. At Washington, Pa.—W. and J., 7; Indiana, 18. At Beaver Falls, Pa.—Geneva College, 9; Kiskiminnies Springs, 7.

WILLIAMS DELAYS FOOTBALL. Change in Schedule. Special Dispatch to The Sun. WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Oct. 5.—Williams has been compelled to postpone the opening football season because of the influenza epidemic. The town is under quarantine and the Board of Health has placed the ban on public gatherings. Negotiations with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy to open the season here to-day were called off. It seems to be doubtful if the Purple will be able to get away to a start next week unless conditions improve. Practice is being held regularly, however. The tentative schedule calls for six games instead of eight. It follows: October 12, Middlebury at Middlebury; October 18, Union at Williamstown, October 24, Hamilton at Clinton, N. Y.; November 2, Wesleyan at Williamstown; November 9, Springfield at Williamstown; November 16, Amherst at Amherst.

YANKEES WILL PITCH. Caldwell and Keating at Olympic Field To-day. The league pitchers, both from the Yankees, who are featured in the double bill at Olympic Field in Harlem this afternoon. The Lincoln Giants will meet the Plainfields in the opening encounter and the Highbridge club in the second game. Ray Keating will pitch for Plainfield and Ray Caldwell will do similar duty for Highbridge. Langford and Williams will be the choices for the Lincolns. It will be Caldwell's first experience against the Olympic Field club. Keating lost to the Lincolns recently.

SHIPYARD SOCCER. The first game in the Soccer League of the New York district, American Emergency Fleet, will be played to-day at 2 o'clock at Morse Oval, Fifty-second street and Second avenue, Brooklyn, between the Morse Dry Dock and the Robbins Dry Dock. The league is composed of teams from the Morse, Robbins, Standard, Downey, Tietjen & Lang, Federal, Submarine and Newburgh shipbuilding plants.



UNCLE SAM'S RELAY TEAM - LEFT TO RIGHT - KLINE, ELLER, MEREDITH AND LENNON

France's flying four, winners of the relay race, left to right, Andre, Tiesler, Beudon, Gauthier.



SOME OF THE OLD FIGHTING 69th AT BACCARAT, DECORATION DAY



JACK MCGEE, FORMER BOWDOIN TRAINER, AT THE FRONT.

"JACK" ELLER, GREAT ATHLETE WHO HOPES SOON TO RETURN TO THE FRONT.

DISC SERGT. JIM DUNCAN, TOPICUS CHAMPION, SHOWED POLIUS HOW TO SCALE SAUCER

FLUSHING STARTS WITH BIG VICTORY. Brooklyn Prep Is Beaten by 52 to 0.

Flushing High School yesterday opened its gridiron season in a blaze of glory, downing the Brooklyn Prep eleven at Flushing Field by 52 to 0. The Long Island champions swept aside the city Catholic High Schools champions like a gust of wind would sweep dust.

Brooklyn Prep late in the last quarter had the leather on Flushing's ten yard line, but was unable to advance. The team was within scoring distance. Eachman, Betty and Masterson played well for Brooklyn Prep. The lineup: Flushing Field, 52 to 0. Brooklyn Prep (10): Gladding, 10; Left end, 10; Right end, 10; Tackle, 10; Guard, 10; Center, 10; Quarterback, 10; Fullback, 10; Back, 10; Linebacker, 10; Defensive back, 10; Safety, 10; Punter, 10; Kicker, 10.

PENN STATE ON EDGE. Varsity Beats Freshmen, 35 to 0, in Prep for W. and J. Game. STACY COLLEGE, Pa., Oct. 5.—Penn State opened its preparation for the Washington and Jefferson football game with a full time scrimmage session to-day. Coach Beadek pitted his regulars against the club eleven in a regulation contest. The varsity pushed over five touchdowns and kicked goals for a total of 35 points while the freshmen were held scoreless.

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## High Schools Off on Soccer Season

Morris, Stuyvesant, Manual and Childs Win Their Opening P. S. A. L. Games.

## LOW SCORES THE RULE

Morris High and De Witt Clinton soccer teams had a sharp battle in the P. S. A. L. series at Crotona Park yesterday, the decision finally going to Morris High by a goal to nothing.

Stuyvesant Beats Bushwick. Bushwick High School's soccer succumbed to Stuyvesant High in the championship game at Crotona Park yesterday. Stuyvesant winning by the close score of 1 goal to 0. Cohen, at center for Stuyvesant, was the only one of the twenty-two players able to get past the defense. The lineup: Stuyvesant (11): Bushwick (9):

Stuyvesant (11): Bushwick (9): West, 1; Right back, 1; Left back, 1; Center, 1; Quarterback, 1; Fullback, 1; Back, 1; Linebacker, 1; Defensive back, 1; Safety, 1; Punter, 1; Kicker, 1.

## COLUMBIA VETERANS REPORT TO DAWSON

McCabe, Zychlinski, Canapary and Shaw Again Put on Uniforms.

Columbia University is in training for a military football season. There will be a series of interdepartment army training corps games to replace the old collegiate competitions on the gridiron. All week the student soldiers who are trying out have been drilling on South Field under the supervision of Coach Dawson and Trainer Gus Peterson.

Only a few of the old Columbia gridiron stars have returned to try out for the new team. Angus McCabe, quarterback two years ago; Lech Zychlinski, backfielder and champion wrestler; Charles Shaw, intercollegiate half mile champion, and Canapary, varsity halfback last year, S. A. T. C. men, are expected to furnish strong material for the military eleven.

Evander Childs obtained the verdict at soccer over Prospect Park by a goal to 1 in the P. S. A. L. series at the Prospect Parade Grounds yesterday. At half time honors were even at 1-1. Childs scoring off a pass by Hale for Evander after the first half.

MIDDLES OUT OF LUCK. Ingram, Star Halfback, Ill; Schedule Galley West. Special Dispatch to The Sun. ANNAPOLIS, Md., Oct. 5.—The serious illness of Middles, star halfback of the Naval Academy football team, is the latest piece of hard luck in an early season of unprecedented misfortunes which have beset the team.

COMMERCIAL TIES WITH MT. VERNON. Second Game of Season Ends in 6 to 6 Score. The High School of Commerce football team in its second contest of the season at Mount Vernon High School yesterday called on its brother Gerberick in the opening quarter registered Commercial's lone tally. He ran back a Mount Vernon punt for thirty yards, then ran around right end for a touchdown. Commerce then played on the defensive and held its opponents scoreless until the last quarter, when it put in second stringer, Ed Stuyvesant, who scored a touchdown.

SOCCER GAMES TO-DAY. With the champion Bethlehem opposed to New York in a National League fixture at Lenox Oval this afternoon, and the U. S. P. A. cup drawings at the Grand Central Hotel, the soccer season will be on in earnest. To-day's programme includes the following: National League. New York vs. Bethlehem at Lenox Oval; Babcock & Wilcox vs. Scottish Americans at Bayonne. Merchant Ship F. C. at Paterson. N. Y. Combination League. Prospect F. C. vs. Rangers at Prospect Park; White Rose vs. Longfellow at Astoria.

RICKENBACKER IS HONORED. Eddie Rickenbacker, the once noted automobile racer and now famous as an ace among aviators, has been enrolled in the Legion of Honor as a reward for his splendid service as an aviator.

## DE WITT CLINTON WHIPS CONCORDIA

Manhattan Champions Roll Up 25 Points to None at Bronxville.

## FREELANDER THE STAR

Frelander, the Red and Blue big halfback, started the ball rolling early in the first quarter and registered another touchdown in the second quarter. Frelander tallying his first touchdown ran around left end for thirty-five yards. His second touchdown in the second period was also the result of a run around left end. This time the Red and Blue player only had to run twenty yards. Both times Isenberg, although he played a strong game for Clinton, failed to kick.

Clinton's final tally came in the third quarter at Lake, scoring a fumble run around left end for fifteen yards for a touchdown. This time Isenberg successfully kicked the goal.

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