1964 Football Team

MAC University
Division Championship
A Message From
The Family of Don Enders

Don Enders retired on June 1, 2008 from Turpin High School, Cincinnati, Ohio, after 23 years of teaching science courses. When asked what he was planning to do in retirement, he responded enthusiastically, “I am going to write my history so my kids can tell their kids about my early years in Pennsylvania.” Each day during the summer of 2008 Don spent several hours on our porch composing his history on his laptop. Several chapters are devoted to his years at Gettysburg College, including his senior years when the Bullets won the MAC University Division title. We hope you will enjoy Don’s memories that are chronicled in the following pages.

Eve, Colby, Andrea and Natalie

(Don’s wife, son, and two daughters)
Don Enders’ Memoirs
Gettysburg College Football: 1964 Season

The 1964 Gettysburg College Football Team defeated Bucknell, Delaware, Lehigh, and Lafayette. That is the only Bullet Football Team to ever defeat those four teams during the same season. In fact, no other Bullet Football Team has ever defeated three of those schools during the same season. The 1964 Bullets also became the only football team in Gettysburg College history to capture the Middle Atlantic Conference University Division Championship!

The success of our team was the result of some significant events that occurred long before we began preparing for the 1964 season opener against Hofstra. After a disappointing three wins and six losses in 1962, an anonymous letter was sent to Athletic Director Henry T. Bream. The letter was critical of the football team’s uniforms and the direction provided by the coaching staff. (While the letter was written to appear as if it was composed by a junior team member, it was actually written by a sophomore.) Mr. Bream met with the team that winter and basically made a “deal” with us, promising new uniforms and helmets in return for our maximum effort to prepare to play our best football while representing Gettysburg College. Gone were the foam-padded helmets, baggy uniform pants and gray socks. In their places were blue suspension helmets, tight white game pants and white socks that completely changed the look of our team. And while the coaching staff was not changed, the Delaware Wing-T was replaced with a Pro-Set and a much more open, aggressive offense was installed during spring practice.
Our 1963 season started slowly, as we lost three of our first four games. That was followed by a four-game winning streak, including wins over Lehigh and Lafayette, as the team showed constant improvement. Even though we dropped a hard-fought 48-36 contest at nationally-ranked Wittenberg in our last game, the 1963 season had been very encouraging. Progress was made, team unity improved greatly, and our football program was headed in the right direction. It is important to add that our winning season in 1963 was accomplished in spite of many key injuries. We finished the season with 27 players in full uniform for the Wittenberg game.

By far, the most significant factor in the 1964 team’s success was the arrival of Jim Ward with the freshman class in 1962. Jim Ward was a 6'3", 185-pound athlete who possessed unbelievable skills, not just in football, but in basketball and baseball too. He could run, throw, punt, and look better in his uniform than any of his teammates. He did not smoke, drink, or use bad language. He led with his outstanding athletic performance and was the best offensive weapon on the 1964 team.

The final significant event occurred on the day that we reported to prepare for the 1964 season. All of the team members arrived on time, except one, and as we gathered, I realized the importance of that one missing teammate. Rich Masin, AKA: “Bo Mace”, was a 6'2", 225-pounder who played tight end in our Pro-Set. He could run, catch, and block and his absence was troubling since he was a key member of our experienced and skilled offensive line. Rich’s best friends were certain that he was coming to football camp, but I was relieved when he eventually arrived. It was as if we now had all of the pieces in place to have one of the best football seasons in the history of Gettysburg College.
The first week of school each fall consisted of fraternity and sorority rush, so the campus was active as the freshmen adapted to college life, attending the social events held by the fraternities and sororities as well as the first home football game on Saturday afternoon. Hofstra was our first opponent in 1964 and the Flying Dutchmen were easily defeated, 27-7. Immediately our focus changed to Bucknell, our next opponent, on the Bison home field. To understand the significance of this game, it is necessary to review the history of the 1964 seniors in our games with Bucknell. We traveled to Bucknell early in our sophomore year to play the Bison in Christy Mathewson Stadium. When we entered our locker room at halftime of that game, we led the game, 21-0. The coaches went over the plans for the second half, but there was no emotional message to prepare us for the second half. As we left the locker room, I specifically remember thinking that if we could score 21 points in the first half, Bucknell could certainly score 22 in the second half. They did, and that loss set the tone for the remainder of the season. We were not a united team, nor did we have much confidence in our ability to play winning football.

Bucknell came to Gettysburg in 1963 and beat us on our home field. The disappointment of those two losses in 1962 and 1963 was not the only reason that we had developed a deep resentment of the Bucknell football team. Not only did they have some outstanding players, we always believed that they player harder than should have been allowed after the whistle. And while other opponents of ours displayed sportsmanship and respect for us after a game, regardless of the outcome of the game, we believed that Bucknell never showed us any respect. Therefore, it was easy for them to become our most hated opponent. (I always salute the Bison whenever I drive through Lewisburg and Christy Mathewson Stadium with a hand gesture. Since the Bison is a singular mascot, it only takes one finger to complete the salute.)

important factor that enabled our team to be successful? I would answer it this way:

We were a group of football players who came to Gettysburg without promises of championships, but rather probably for a variety of other reasons. We were fortunate to have not just skilled players, but depth. That enabled us to have players who could capably fill a position if there was an injury and also provided opposition in practices which made our daily work more productive. We respected our coaches and they worked hard to prepare us as well as possible. But I believe the most important factor to our success was that we all loved to play football and we recognized the importance of teamwork and how much fun it was to be part of a group of really good, young athletes. We put aside our fraternity affiliations when we entered the locker room and became a team. Most of us were from public schools in Pennsylvania or New Jersey so we were happy to be at Gettysburg College, representing the Orange and Blue against other college football teams in and around our home states.

And so what began in August of 1964, as the Phillies were blowing the National League pennant, ended in a crushing defeat at Temple. But we did what no other Bullet team ever did! We beat Bucknell, Delaware, Lehigh, and Lafayette in a single season. We also won our league championship and we created a lifetime of memories. More significantly, I believe that what we accomplished strengthened our ties to Gettysburg College, increased our loyalty to our alma mater, and made us appreciate our four years as Bullets, proudly wearing the Orange and Blue, of course given to us by Pappy Swope!
sending press releases to our home town newspapers and local media. Alan Browne was our quiet and unassuming student manager who assisted in practice and game operations. Charlie Stetler, the Gettysburgian’s Voice of the Bullets, did his weekly editorials to “fire up” the student body. Our spirited cheerleaders and band were “with us” for every step of our historical climb to our MAC title.

Conclusion

Success did not end at graduation for the members of the 1964 football team. Here are some examples: Jim Ward played for six years in the NFL; Tom McCracken flew 357 successful combat missions during the Vietnam Conflict; Mark and Ken Snyder were selected to coach in the prestigious Pennsylvania Big 33 Football Classic in 1980 (a victory, of course); three team members (Pat Noonan, Barry Shaw, and Dick Shirk) served on the College Board of Trustees; three players (Rod Kuhns, Tom Hardy, and Bob Nye) earned Doctor’s degrees; five players (Jim Ward, Ken Snyder, Joe Egresitz, Irv Strohecker, and Dale Boyd) were inducted into the College Hall of Athletic Honor; and my Girls’ Basketball Team in Willingboro, NJ, won the 1978 Group 4 State Championship.

Football success at Gettysburg College did not end in 1964. Two years later, Dick Shirk, Rod Albright, and Brian Tierney led the 1966 Bullets to the Lambert Cup which is awarded annually to the best small college football team in the East. Coach Barry Streeter’s Bullets were the Centennial Conference Champions in 1983, 1984, and 1985, with the ‘85 squad reaching the NCAA Division 3 semi-finals.

It would be interesting to have each player on the 1964 team answer this question: What was the single most
Force pilot and lost his life in Vietnam) and Frank Wolf-
gang brought three chickens, painted blue, to the pep rally on Friday night. Those same chickens were on dis-
play, hanging from the flagpole outside of the SAE frater-
nity house the next morning. Their necks were purposely wrung to serve notice of what lies ahead to all of the Delaware fans who would drive by on their way to our stadium.

In 1964, college football was played under the rules of limited substitution. Players could only reenter a game once per quarter, so our team was organized into two squads. The First Team consisted of the best players who were expected to play both offense and defense. One player, usually the quarterback, was permitted to substitute freely, so neither Jimmy Ward nor I played signif-
ificant time on defense. Our Second Team’s primary job was to play defense and to give the First Team a rest. When the Second Team got the ball, the instructions were to create as much offense as possible. Since we did not have a sophisticated running game, it meant that the quarterback’s role was to throw the ball. And since I was the Second Team quarterback, and I had absolutely no intention to run the ball personally, our offense used the forward pass to set up an occasional running play. It was great fun and we were fairly productive.

The two-team concept was very significant in the Dela-
ware game. With the Blue Hens leading the game by a touchdown in the second quarter, the Second Team de-
fense held the Hens deep in our territory. Then our Sec-
ond Team offense started a drive that Admiral Dave Nel-
son, the Delaware Head Coach, probably found hard to accept. Tight end Pat Noonan caught a short out pass and rambled 40 years into Delaware territory. Then Tom McCracken picked an excellent time to catch his first var-
sity touchdown pass. Tom never played high school football because Annville High School only had soccer in

Coaching Staff

Our football coaching staff consisted of all Gettysburg College graduates: Gene Haas, Geno Hummel, Howard Shoemaker, Jack Ridinger, Curt Coull, and Ray Reider. Each of them served under the direction and leadership of the legendary Henry Bream. The Varsity coaches (Haas, Hummel, and Shoemaker) were all eventually inducted into the Gettysburg Hall of Athletic Honor for their contributions as players, coaches and leaders at our alma mater. All of these men were more than football coaches on the gridiron. They were role models, advis-
sors and friends who impacted our lives forever!

Special Support

Behind the scenes were others who made major contribu-
tions to our success. Bob Kenworthy, our dedicated and loyal Sports Information Director, had the job of

Concerned that we have the best available and we often had friendly, bantering interchanges with Pappy to begin our football afternoon. Then we went into the training room of Rome Capozzi and his young assistant, Lefty Biser, to have our ankles taped before practice. Rome had been at Gettysburg College for a very long time. He was the trainer when my Dad was a Bullet in the early 1930’s, so his knowledge of athletic training was unsur-
passed. More importantly, he talked with us and often brought the history of Gettysburg teams of the past to our attention. He not only helped repair injured bodies, but he added focus and perspective to our season. Lefty and Rome were an outstanding team and whenever we returned to campus, Lefty was one of the first people we would seek so we could catch up and renew our friend-
ships. The dedication to Gettysburg College displayed by these three men was a gift to our team and their con-
tributions to our success cannot be, nor should they be, overlooked.
commanded the respect of his teammates. Mark’s game-ending interception in the Delaware win was a season highlight.

Jim Stouffer, Steve Gotwals, and Bill Lake each suffered career-ending injuries and could not participate in the 1964 season. Steve and Bill stayed with the program and served as assistant coaches on the freshman football team.

Oh, and then there was me! Beginning as the freshman quarterback of a team that won four of five games, I went into my sophomore year hoping to challenge for the starting QB position. Eventually that happened without productive results. So I found myself on the bottom of the depth chart at quarterback for the start of the 1963 season. Since Vance Johnston was a senior and Jim Ward was a sophomore, quarterback was covered. In 1964, after a productive spring practice, I was pretty well set to be the quarterback of the Second Team whose primary role was to play defense. When we did get the ball, I was coached to be aggressive and to throw the ball. So that is what I did and the Second Team offense was productive and I had a chance to contribute during my senior year.

Trainers and Equipment Manager

It is impossible to tell the story of the 1964 team without including the role that was played by our two trainers and our equipment manager. When we came into the locker room to prepare for practice, we went to the equipment cage to get our washables from Pappy Swope. Hard to believe that a tee shirt, a jock, a pair of socks and a towel could be so important to one person, but they were to Pappy. Consequently, he issued them carefully, in an almost guard-like manner. That was because he was
It is also important to understand how our offense was aligned. Ken Snyder and Dale Boyd lined up at our flanker positions (now called wideouts). The offensive line was made up of a center, two guards, a tackle, and two tight ends. In order to determine which tight end was an eligible pass receiver, the flanker to his side would move back to one yard behind the line of scrimmage, thus becoming the fourth “back”. Of course, there was a quarterback and two running backs. Somehow our alignment became confused during the fourth quarter of the Albright game and Jim Ward’s apparent TD pass, which would have given us the lead, was called back due to an ineligible receiver downfield. The ride home from Reading was not pleasant, although the loss did not jeopardize our chance to win the Middle Atlantic Conference University Division Championship since Albright was in the College Division.

Once we got over the shock of losing to Albright, we rolled through the next four games. Against Lehigh, Tony Presogna and Albie Hallam caused a fumble on the opening kickoff. Bob Furney scooped up the fumble for a TD and the romp was on. The 39-7 win was the most lopsided Bullet victory in the entire 46-year Gettysburg-Lehigh series. Coach Gene Haas always got excited about Muhlenberg since the Mules were the Bullets’ most intense rivalry when he played football for Gettysburg College. We were kind of amused at his intensity since we realized that they were not good enough to beat us, so our 51-20 victory at home was not unexpected. Our trip to Fisher Field in Easton to meet Lafayette resulted in a more competitive game, but even though the final score was only 21-3, we never felt as though we were in jeopardy of losing. Our next game against Juniata College was fun, we scored frequently and the Second Team got to play a lot in a 41-17 victory.

The final game of the regular season was against Tem-
settled in Dallas where one of his daughters married Roger Staubach’s son.

Dale Boyd came to Gettysburg after a year at VMI. Teaming with Ken Snyder at wide receiver, he was the speed guy. Dale also ran track, but he was a football player and his presence opposite Snyder presented a major challenge to any defense. Tom McCracken and Pete Wolynec were the two wide receivers on the Second Team and Ray Frick was a lineman whose size, strength, and determination increased his role as the season progressed.

Ron Brentzel was one of the few players on the team from western Pennsylvania. My image of him was burned into my mind after the Delaware victory. He walked off the field silently, helmet in hand. He was tired, bloodied, and muddy, and his hair was drenched in sweat. The look on his face was one of complete content. He played on the offensive and defensive lines and therefore was in on virtually every play while the First Team was on the field. Ron was a warrior before the term became popular. Ken Snowe, a Wake Forest transfer, shared playing time with Brentzel and Tierney, while Tom Hardy, Lloyd Grumbein, and John Hilty added size, strength, and experience to our offensive and defensive lines.

The Seniors

While Jim Ward was the offensive leader of the 1964 team, Ken Snyder, from Hershey High, was a co-captain and a teammate who commanded the team’s respect, not only for his play, but also his involvement with all of his teammates. In addition to having the best hands on the team, he was an elusive runner without blazing speed, but always seemed to be able to make the big catch in clutch situations, none bigger than the one he pleased in Philadelphia. During the first part of the 20th century, Temple had fielded football teams that were competitive on a national level. We had defeated Temple, 22-15, in 1962 in Temple Stadium. The 1963 game, which was to be played in Gettysburg, was cancelled when President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. The decision was made late on the night before the game, and since there was little interest in rescheduling the game, our 1963 season was over and we had compiled a hard-earned 5-4 record.

As we prepared for our trip to Philadelphia, there were rumors that a victory, an 8-1 record, and the league championship would earn us a trip to the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Florida. The campus was excited and we practiced enthusiastically throughout the week. On Thursday, there was an informal pep rally at practice and Dr. Hanson, the College President, spoke to the team, showing the importance of what was lying ahead. Temple’s game plan simply overpowered us. They blitzed linebackers and stunted linemen with the sole purpose of putting maximum pressure on our passing attack. We had no answers and subsequently lost, 32-20. It was a crushing defeat and I remember sitting in the locker room of the Temple Stadium taking off my equipment for the last time. As I did, I realized that I had been playing football since I was in elementary school and wore an old leather helmet to play pick-up games. This was now the last time I would ever dress in a football uniform, run onto a field, and play a game that we loved. Tears welled in my eyes and I carefully took off each piece of equipment, holding it one last time: the helmet that had protected us but also produced raw irritation to our foreheads and ears when they were first issued to us the previous year; shoulder pads and hip pads that I wore to protect my lower back; cleats; pants; and thigh pads - done! All of it was then stowed into a canvas travel bag that we would return to Pappy Swope, the equipment man, when we
returned to Gettysburg. We returned everything except for the gray tee shirts that we wore under our shoulder pads. Those became our self-issued reward for the 1964 season.

**The Sophomores**

While the 1964 team was lead by its seniors, the influx of sophomores with size, skill, and speed was essential to the team’s success. Joe Egretz and Rich Masin were the bookend ends on the varsity line. They were large, athletic, and powerful players. Joe, who eventually became a small college All-American, had massive hands that made him an excellent receiver as well as a defensive end who rarely missed a tackle. Rod Albright, who never lost a high school football game at York Suburban, started in the backfield with Tony Presogna, while Brian Tierney was a gifted starting lineman.

Bill Brooks was not tall but his guard play on the Second Team was essential to the success of that unit. In addition, Bill was a unique personality! My favorite memory of him was on the bus as we returned to campus after a road game. He would quiz us about popular music, giving clues about the length of the song and the color of the label on its 45 record. If we were stumped, he would begin singing the song and often times other team members would join in. One of the best parts of playing quarterback in 1964 was that we called our own plays. Often my offensive linemen would come back to the huddle and tell me that they could block their opponent in a specific direction. Sometimes I would use the information to set up future plays, but the interaction was often significant and I remember Bill being a frequent contributor. After graduation, Bill became a college football coach at Canisius and later was a very successful motivational speaker. His battle with renal cancer was heroic and his loss was felt by all of us.

Craig Markel came to Gettysburg from Lock Haven High School. I believe that we viewed him with some skepticism initially since he was only 5’6” tall, but his speed and elusiveness made him a major contributor to the Second Team offense as he often snuck through the taller linemen on draw plays or caught flare passes and outran defenders. Bill Brewer, Albie Hallam’s backup, Tom Wuerstle, and Bob Kinsey (whose brother, Ron, starred for Bucknell) each had impressive sophomore seasons and later played significant roles on the Bullet team which captured the 1966 Lambert Cup.

**The Juniors**

While the sophomores were integrating themselves into the 1964 team, the juniors were contributing skill and leadership, but not in large numbers. Jim Ward was the quarterback and his athletic ability and dedication to that role was admirable, even to the Second Team quarterback. He was the absolute image of the All-American Boy. He initially played three sports at Gettysburg. When members of fraternities tried to attract his interest, he politely told them that he believed that it would interfere with his involvement in football. He did not break training rules and was almost too good to be true, until our senior year during a pre-season practice. As we were running offensive plays, Jim’s center must have snapped the ball into one of his fingers. Jimmy shook his hand and said a very bad swear word and said it loudly! The whole practice stopped and we all broke into a roaring cheer for him and his new vocabulary, which we never heard from him again. After graduating from Gettysburg College, Jim was drafted by the Baltimore Colts where he was scheduled to eventually become the Colts’ quarterback when legendary John Unitas retired. Unfortunately, a knee injury limited his professional career. But he and his wife (also a Gettysburg graduate) eventually