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Portland, Oregon.

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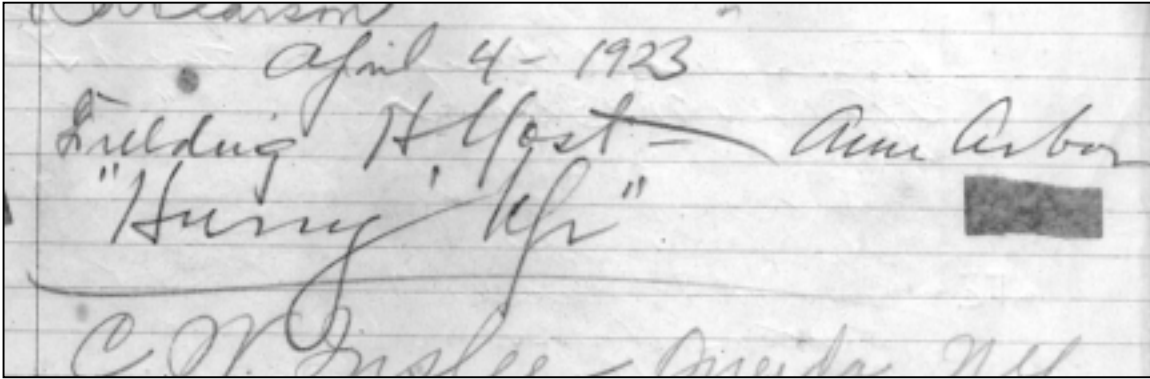
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FIELDING H. YOST

C23-19

Signed Guestbook: April 4, 1923



Names evident above:

Fielding H. Yost....Ann Arbor....."Hurry Up"
C. W. Inslee.....Oneida, New York

Fielding H. Yost Vitae:

Profession: Football coach, Director of Athletics:
University of Michigan

Born: April 30, 1871/Fairview, West Virginia
Died: October 20, 1946 (Age 75)

Age at Chalet: 51 years



"HURRY UP!"

**DETAILED STUDY OF YOST ENTRY----->>
FOLLOWING PAGES**

DETAILS / FIELDING H. YOST ENTRY

Head football coach

Fielding Harris Yost was 30 years old when he was hired as head football coach at the University of Michigan in Anne Arbor, and he would remain at Michigan until his death. During his tenure he would bring national fame to his Wolverine football teams. At the time of his Chalet visit, he was in his 23rd year as head football coach at Michigan and had become athletic director two years earlier in 1921.

The records established by Yost and his football teams are legendary. In his first year of coaching the Wolverines, his team won all 11 games, including the first ever Rose Bowl in Pasadena, where they defeated Stanford 49-0. The team scored 550 points that season, averaging 55 points per game, a feat that inspired the label "point a minute" for the team's overall scoring achievement. Since the length of football games back then were the same as today with 60 minutes of active play, one must ask how 55 points per game equates to a point per minute. The math works out when we find that in those days it was possible for a game to consist of less than 60 minutes because a team could concede the game if they were being severely trashed. This astounding "point a minute" productivity was repeated the following four seasons.

Fielding Yost's first season with the Wolverines also set a record in the defense department when the team was not scored upon for the entire season, a shutout that has never been duplicated at Michigan. This first astounding season was obviously not a case of beginner's luck as his teams continued on through 1905 with a win-loss record of 55-1-1, outscoring opponents by an average of 50-1. (It should be noted that a touchdown was worth 5 points during that period.) Yost's biographer, John Behee declared that *"No other coach and no other football team ever so dominated their era as Fielding H. Yost and his Michigan teams from 1901-05."*

From 1921-41 Yost was Michigan's athletic director, and the imprint he made on the athletic programs at the campus is still visible today. In 1927 his energy and foresight resulted in an 84,000 capacity Michigan Stadium, an extremely bold move, considering that the city of Anne Arbor had a population of 28,000. He dictated that the stadium must be aligned North and South to reduce the glare of sunlight, as the sun naturally migrates from east to west. It is now acknowledged that because of Yost's innovation, you find that today's football fields normally follow his plan.

Champion ego

One of Yost's most defining character traits was his blatant self-glorification, a feature that some found offensive but others found endearing; he was one of those rare characters who could boast and be liked for it. The fact that he didn't take himself all that seriously and was not vindictive, no doubt softened the impact. The famous sports writer, Ring Lardner, was once asked if he had ever talked to Yost. *"No"*, he said, *"my father taught me to never interrupt."* Lardner, who had previously interviewed Babe Ruth, Bill Tilden and Knute Rockne, also remarked of Yost that he *"had more personality than any other man I have ever met."*

Last five years

Yost retired in 1941 as a professor emeritus with little formal assignment. He was given a room in the Yost field house where he was in the habit of leaving his office in the afternoon and wandering about campus to BS with cronies and brag about old victories. On occasion he would become disoriented and the campus police would be sent to put him back on track. Sadly, in his later years, he came to feel unappreciated and overshadowed by the likes of Knute Rockne and Alonzo Stagg.

Other

- "Hurry up Yost" was a nickname that Yost picked up somewhere in his coaching career. It seems evident that the phrase would never have stuck if it were not truly representative of his personality.
- Yost innovated a number of football tactics, i.e. a no-huddle offense, the fake kick and the position of linebacker. He was a great believer in the forward pass; he wanted his receivers well down the field where he considered an interception equivalent to a punt. He was manic about preparation, preached a tough defense and emphasized techniques to avoid fumbles.
- Yost coached the University of Michigan for 25 seasons, with a 165-29-10 record. The winning percentage of .809 was not broken until Bo Schembler came along 60 years later.
- The Millennium Rose Bowl in Pasadena was the 86th Rose Bowl. Wisconsin defeated Stanford by a score of 17-9, a noble loss by Stanford when compared to Stanford's performance in the 1st Rose Bowl in 1902. With eight minutes left to play, and the score 49-0, Stanford asked permission to concede the game. Yost's Michigan Wolverines graciously accepted.
- The tournament association made a profit from the first Rose Bowl but thought that the Michigan rout over Stanford would make future games less appealing. The next year they replaced the football game with a chariot race and 16 years would pass before a football game would again follow the Rose Parade in Pasadena.
- The first Rose Bowl, played in Tournament Park in Pasadena, was attended by 8,000 spectators. Many who held reserved seats were left standing on the sidelines when the first 2500 entering the stadium stormed the higher priced seats.

Source:

(1) Most of the factual material for this account of Fielding Yost came from an article written by John U. Bacon for the *Detroit News* on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Fielding Yost's death. (October 20, 1996) This article, available on the Internet, is titled: *"Special profile: U-M coach and athletic director Fielding Yost created many of today's standards"*