



*Ernest Cosmos Quigley, celebrated major league umpire, 1913 to 1938. Photograph courtesy of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence.*

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# ERNIE QUIGLEY: AN OFFICIAL FOR ALL SEASONS

by Larry R. Gerlach

Sports fans, broadcasters, and writers spend much time debating who was the greatest player, coach, or manager in various sports. What about officials? Essential for the conduct of games, they are largely forgotten in historical memory. Baseball is the most historically conscious sport, yet *Sports Illustrated* in 2006 announced its all-time all-star team without including a single umpire. Only eight men in blue are enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, leaving many important officials unremembered. One such former major league umpire, Ernie Quigley, is not in baseball's pantheon of immortals and his obscurity is the more regrettable because he was once "the most famous man in the field of sports."<sup>1</sup>

Ernest Cosmos Quigley was a celebrated major league umpire from 1913 to 1938, who concurrently gained national prominence refereeing major college football and basketball games. Quigley proudly declared he had officiated "on more basketball courts, college gridirons, and baseball fields than any other one man!"<sup>2</sup> He estimated that in forty years he had worked some 5,400 baseball, 1,500 basketball, and 400 football games. For twenty-seven years he officiated all three sports, logging 100,000 miles a year traveling coast-to-coast from his home in St. Marys, Kansas, on two-lane highways and coal-burning trains. The first and only year-around major sports official, Quigley annually officiated

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1. Tom Verducci, "Alltime [sic] All-Star Team," *Sports Illustrated* 105 (October 9, 2006): 41–45. Enshrined are Bill Klem, Tommy Connolly, Billy Evans, Cal Hubbard, Jocko Conlan, Al Barlick, Nestor Chylak, and Bill McGowan. Number nine, Doug Harvey, was elected in 2009. For a synopsis of Quigley's officiating career, see Larry R. Gerlach, "Ernest Cosmos Quigley," *Biographical Dictionary of American Sports: Baseball*, ed. David L. Porter (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1987), 291–92; "Director of Athletics, Ernest C. Quigley," one-page typescript (resume), E. C. Quigley, News Bureau, morgue file, University Archives, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence (hereafter cited as "Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library"); *University Daily Kansan*, December 12, 1960; and for materials related more generally to Quigley's career in major league baseball, see Major League Umpire Correspondence, 1904–1934, Ernest Quigley Collection, University Archives, PP 337, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence.

2. Advertising flier, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library. Two other major league umpires had dual officiating careers: Charlie Berry, American League 1942–1962, refereed National Football League games for twenty-four years and Bill Stewart, National League 1933–1954, officiated National Hockey League contests for eleven years.

about 205 athletic contests: basketball from January to March, baseball from April to September, and football from October through November. Quigley was able to combine major league umpiring with officiating other sports because in the 1920s colleges typically scheduled eight football and eighteen basketball games per year. During one six-month period he worked the World Series, the Harvard-Yale football game, the Rose Bowl, and the national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball tournament. It was a grueling schedule, unprecedented in the history of sports officiating. Many years, during his “off month” of December, Quigley traveled throughout Kansas with his wife teaching contemporary dance classes.<sup>3</sup>

In his day, Ernie Quigley was the most widely known sports official in the country. Although he served the National League for thirty-one years as an umpire, umpire supervisor, and public relations director, “Quig,” as he was familiarly called, is virtually unknown to baseball fans and students of the game today. A detailed compendium of Canadian-born major league players, coaches, managers, and umpires, the latter including arbiters Jim McKean and Paul Runge, omits Quigley.<sup>4</sup> Few college football and basketball fans or historians know about him. Despite his prominence in the annals of Kansas sports, most notably as athletics director at the University of Kansas (KU), Quigley is unfamiliar to followers of the Jayhawks or the state’s sport history. And those writers and organizations that have recognized his achievements have perpetuated erroneous information about his career. Upon Quigley’s death in 1960, Bob Hurt, sports editor of the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, proclaimed: “E. C. Quigley is dead but his resounding foghorn voice will forever echo over the Kansas sporting scene.”<sup>5</sup> The echo has dimmed over the years, but there is no

gainsaying the contribution Quigley made to sport in Kansas and the nation during his remarkable career.

Ernest C. Quigley was born March 22, 1880, in Newcastle, New Brunswick, Canada. His parents, Lawrence B. Quigley, an Irish immigrant, and Mary J. Weir Quigley, of Saint John, New Brunswick, married in 1876 and had four sons; the youngest died in infancy, while Ernie was the second of the three boys who survived. The brothers grew up in a strict Catholic household in keeping with the example of Lawrence’s brother, Richard Francis Quigley, a prominent Saint John lawyer who published staunch defenses of orthodox church teachings. Sometime in the early 1880s the family moved to Kansas, first Atchison and then Concordia, where Lawrence, a salesman, sought new opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

Ernie attended Concordia High School, lettering in football as a running back and baseball as a first baseman. In 1900 he entered the University of Kansas as a member of the junior class of the School of Law, an enrollment status then available to high school graduates.<sup>7</sup> The Sigma Chi pledge quickly discovered that athletics competed seriously with legal studies as he lettered in two sports during the 1900–1901 academic year. That

U.S. Olympic qualifying tournament, not the Olympic championship game. See “History,” in *Kansas Men’s Basketball Media Guide 2007–2008* (Lawrence: University of Kansas, KU Athletics, 2007), 134; “Ernest C. Quigley,” Hall of Fame Inductees, <http://kshof.org/sites/resources/apps/records/halloffamer.asp?id=125>. His Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame plaque incorrectly says he played basketball at Kansas under James Naismith and umpired in the National League until 1945 (his last season was 1938): <http://www.hoophall.com/hall-of-famers/tag/ernest-c-quigley>. See also “Famed Sportsman, E. C. Quigley, Dies,” *Topeka Capital-Journal*, December 11, 1960; “Funeral Services Are Set Tuesday for E. C. Quigley,” *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, December 12, 1960.

6. Mary Kilfoil McDevitt, archivist, Diocese of Saint John, New Brunswick, to author, March 18, 2008. All four Quigley boys were born in March: Richard, who died at age one in 1878 of “inflammatory croup”; Robert in 1879; and Lawrence in 1888. In addition to newspaper commentaries, Richard published two books: *Ipse, Ipsa: Ipse, Ipsa, Ipsum: Which? Controversial Letters In Answer To The Above Question* (1890) and *Mary, The Mother Of Christ In Prophecy And Its Fulfillment* (1892). For vital statistical information on the Quigley family, see U.S. Census, 1900, Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas. Founded in 1867, Cloud County experienced rapid population growth increasing from 2,323 in 1870 to 15,343 in 1880, or 561 percent, and to 19,295 by 1890, or 26 percent. For the family’s move to Kansas, see *Kansas City Times*, December 11, 1960; Kansas State Census, 1885, Atchison, Atchison County.

7. The 1900–01 University of Kansas catalog stipulated that “graduates of colleges or universities, normal schools, accredited high schools or academies” may be candidates for admission to the law school’s Junior Class. Barry Bunch, archivist, Spencer Research Library, to author, February 19, 2002.

3. “Quigley of National Sets Umpiring Record,” newspaper clipping, Quigley File, National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, New York (hereafter cited as “Quigley File, NBL”); *University of Kansas Alumni Magazine* 59 (December 1960): 38. After the 1914 baseball season, Quigley and his wife took a course in a New York dancing academy, which lead to their decision to teach “the newest prances in the social realm.” *Sporting Life*, January 2, 1915; newspaper clipping, Quigley File, NBL.

4. William Humber, *Cheering for the Home Team: The Story of Baseball in Canada* (Erin, Ontario: Boston Mills Press, 1983), 149; articles about Quigley’s officiating career appeared in newspapers across the country including in the *Willard* (New Mexico) *Record*, June 10, 1920; *San Jose* (California) *News*, March 15, 1939; and the *Hartford* (Connecticut) *Courant*, April 23, 1940.

5. Both the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame and KU basketball media guides state Quigley participated in four sports at KU, began officiating sports after breaking his hand, and officiated “the 1936 Olympic basketball finals”; he actually lettered in two sports at KU, began officiating long before breaking his hand, and refereed the finals of the



The highlight of E. C. Quigley's collegiate sports career surely came on Thanksgiving Day 1900, when the "fastest man on the Jayhawker eleven" (front row, second from left) turned in "the star play of the game" by returning a punt sixty-five yards for a touchdown against archrival, the University of Missouri. A reporter called Quigley's performance "probably as brilliant a play as will ever be seen on a Kansas City gridiron, and it undoubtedly equals anything that has ever been done here in the past." The team's photograph (above) appeared in *The Jayhawker*, 1901.

fall he was the star halfback on the football team and the following spring a remarkably versatile performer in track and field competing in six different events—the 100-, 200-, and 400-yard dashes as well as the hurdles, high jump, and pole vault.<sup>8</sup>

8. Sandy Padwe, *Basketball's Hall of Fame* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1970), 178; and Ronald L. Mendell, *Who's Who in Basketball* (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1973), 186. Quigley is not listed as a letter winner in the *Kansas Men's Basketball 2008–09 Media Guide* (Lawrence: University of Kansas, KU Athletics, 2008), 136. See also, "KU History, 2007–08 Kansas Basketball," [http://www.kuathletics.com/auto\\_pdf/p\\_hotos/schools/kan/sports/m-baskbl/auto\\_pdf/mbaskbl-0708-mg-seven](http://www.kuathletics.com/auto_pdf/p_hotos/schools/kan/sports/m-baskbl/auto_pdf/mbaskbl-0708-mg-seven); see also the KU yearbook, *The Jayhawker 1901* (Kansas City, Mo.: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co. [1901]), 130. Quigley set records in the standing high jump (6' 4 1/2") and the pole vault (7' 7 3/4"). In the vernacular of the day, the yearbook referred to the high jump as the Spring Board High Jump and the pole vault as the High Dive. The Spring Board High Jump (a.k.a. standing high jump), in which the athlete stands still and jumps with both feet together, was an Olympic event from 1900 to 1912. Claims that he lettered as a quarterback in football and played basketball under the legendary coach Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game, are incorrect.

The highlight of Quigley's collegiate sports career surely came on Thanksgiving Day 1900, when the "fastest man on the Jayhawker eleven" turned in "the star play of the game" by returning a punt sixty-five yards for a touchdown against KU's archrival, the University of Missouri. A reporter called Quigley's performance "probably as brilliant a play as will ever be seen on a Kansas City gridiron, and it undoubtedly equals anything that has ever been done here in the past." When Quigley kicked the extra point, the final score of the 6-6 tie game, the reporter quipped: "He could almost have had the state of Kansas for the asking."<sup>9</sup>

9. *Kansas City Star*, November 30, 1900; *Lawrence Daily Journal*, November 30, 1900; *Kansas University Weekly*, November 24, 1900; *Kansas University Weekly*, December 8, 1900; *Kansas City Star*, December 15, 1944, in *Athletes Clippings*, vol. 1, G-R, Library and Archives Division, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka. The latter student weekly skipped a week, perhaps because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Scoring rules initially emphasized kicking (extra points and field goals) over running (touchdowns). From 1883 to 1897 touchdowns were worth



Quigley chose to relinquish gridiron stardom at KU in 1901 for a position as the head football coach at the Missouri State Normal School in Warrensburg. The following year, instead of returning to Lawrence, he accepted the position of athletics director at St. Mary's College, twenty-five miles northwest of Topeka. Only twenty-one years old, Quigley (pictured above, right, with the captain of his 1902 football team) left the rector's office with multiple assignments: athletics director; coach of all sports, including baseball, basketball, football, and track; professor of physical education; and teacher of English, history, and mathematics—all for \$50 per month.

Quigley's gridiron reputation was such that in September 1901 he decided to relinquish stardom on the Jayhawk football team and accept a \$150 stipend as the head football coach at the Missouri State Normal School in Warrensburg, now the University of Central Missouri, some ninety miles east of Lawrence. Under Quigley's stern discipline the Normals posted one of the finest seasons in school history as they steam-rolled

four points, field goals five, and extra points two. From 1898 to 1902 touchdowns and field goals were worth five points, conversions one. The current scoring system was established in 1912.

opponents on the way to a 9–1 record and the Missouri-Kansas Inter-State Championship.<sup>10</sup> Because the absence of uniform national rules allowed individual schools to determine eligibility, Quigley was also the team's star running back. Prior to the game against the University of Missouri on October 19, both schools challenged the eligibility of several opposing players. Although Missouri State agreed that Quigley would not play, the Tigers left the field just before the kick-off, thereby forfeiting the contest. The Warrensburg press claimed player eligibility was a bogus issue, asserting that the university squad "sneaked off the grounds to avoid a drubbing by the brawny boys of State Normal."<sup>11</sup>

His love of sports superseded Quigley's plans to become an attorney. Instead of returning to the University of Kansas in 1902, he accepted that summer the position of athletics director at St. Mary's College, a religious school for males in St. Marys, Kansas, twenty-five miles northwest of Topeka. Only twenty-one years old, Quigley left the rector's office with multiple assignments. For \$50 per month, he served not only as athletics director, but also as coach of all sports, including baseball, basketball, football, and track; professor of physical education; and teacher of English, history, and mathematics.<sup>12</sup> From 1902 to 1914 Quigley's St. Mary's teams reportedly were "bywords in the athletic realm of Kansas," winning numerous championships in all sports in the Central Conference. His baseball teams gained special notoriety

10. Although school records and publications list him as a football letterman in 1901, KU game accounts make no mention of Quigley. Since Warrensburg is close to Lawrence and there was no regularly scheduled day for playing games, it is possible, if unlikely given the travel conditions at the time, that Quigley attended class and played for the Jayhawks while also coaching and playing for Missouri State. It is more probable that he dropped out of school. The historical narrative in the Central Missouri football media guide refers to Quigley as "previously captain on the Kansas team." "Mules Football History," in 2009 *Mules Football Media Guide*, by University of Central Missouri, 107–8, at [http://www.ucmo.edu/athletics/football/guide/09%20Guide/2009FBGuide\\_86-117.pdf](http://www.ucmo.edu/athletics/football/guide/09%20Guide/2009FBGuide_86-117.pdf); Robert McCutcheon, athletics media director, University of Central Missouri, to author, email, February 18, 2008; *The Jayhawker*, 1901, 130.

11. (Warrensburg) *Journal-Democrat*, October 25, 1901; and (Warrensburg) *Standard Herald*, October 17 and 24, 1901.

12. *Sporting News*, December 21, 1960. Staff at St. Mary's and the St. Marys branch of the Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library have been unable to provide information about Quigley's tenure at the college. During the summer of 1903 he also carried the mail between St. Marys and Topeka; his performance in this capacity during that year's flooding prompted the *Topeka State Journal* to comment: "It is needless to call attention to the physical endurance Mr. Quigley has shown in his work of the past week." His June 2 round-trip included journeying by train, railroad handcar, and boat as well as swimming three hundred yards through swift current and walking fourteen miles. *Topeka State Journal*, June 6 and 8, 1903.



as he annually arranged games between his best players and town teams in the area. To supplement his income he began officiating college sports, football in 1904 and basketball in 1906, as well as playing professional baseball.<sup>13</sup>

Additional income proved handy when he and Margaret S. Darlington of Concordia married on February 21, 1906. Margaret, born September 1, 1882, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, moved as a young girl to Concordia, but later returned to Pennsylvania to attend Swarthmore College. The local newspaper hailed the marriage of the physical education instructor and the “prominent leader of the young society of the town,” sweethearts since childhood, as “the culmination of one of the prettiest romances ever told.” As Ernie’s career developed, Margaret, cofounder of the St. Marys Literary Club, assumed primary responsibility for raising their two sons, Ernest C. “Mike,” Jr., and Henry H. “Heinie,” both of whom attended KU.<sup>14</sup> In addition to managing E. C. Quigley Motor Company, the “Squire of St. Marys” tended to registered boars, sows, and gilts on the Quigley Hampshire farm. “Don’t say hogs, say Hampshires,” was Quigley’s stock comment to interviewers. “What’s my hobby?,” he asked. “I raise the best darn Hampshire hogs in the country. Hog raising is one of the greatest businesses in the world. I’m proud to be called a hog raiser.” And when questioned about his favorite food, he replied: “Pork chops, and don’t ask me why.”<sup>15</sup>

13. Quigley’s teams reportedly won nine championships in his first decade at St. Mary’s. Quigley was head football coach for thirteen years and head basketball coach for nine years; his tenure as baseball and track coach is undetermined. His baseball squad played town teams in Salina, Great Bend, Junction City, and Kingman among others. Craig Lammers, “Spotlight on a Scout: Ernie Quigley,” *Society for American Baseball Research, Scouts Committee Newsletter* [n.p.]: [n.p.] (2008): 1; see also “Director of Athletics, Ernes C. Quigley,” one-page typescript, biographical sketch, [December 1944], Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library; *Kansas City Times*, December 11, 1960; *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 1, 1958.

14. *Concordia [Kansas] Empire*, February 22 and March 1, 1906; *St. Marys [Kansas] Journal*, February 23, 1906; *Graduate Magazine of the University of Kansas* 4 (April 1906): 267; *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 3, 1954; *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, October 2, 1958; *St. Marys [Kansas] Star*, October 9, 1958. Margaret’s parents were prominent community members; her father, Walter, had served as mayor, and her mother was an officer in the Ladies Library Association.

15. Quigley sold Mitchell automobiles, *Saint Marys Star*, December 15, 1960; Dean Sims, “Hampshires and Hard Work,” *The Jayhawker 1945* (Lawrence, Kans.: Jayhawker Yearbook Staff, 1945): 37, 78; *Topeka State Journal*, March 30, 1935.

Ernie Quigley was an all-sports enthusiast, but he favored baseball. Professional baseball flourished in towns large and small across the country in the first decade of the twentieth century, thanks in large part to the formation in 1901 of the National Association, which imposed classifications and regulations on minor league baseball. National Association leagues increased from fifteen in 1902 to thirty-five by 1905, affording players greater opportunity to play for pay.<sup>16</sup> Ernie Quigley, soon to be married, did just that, turning professional in 1905 with the Topeka White Sox of the newly formed Western Association. In announcing the team’s roster, the *Topeka Daily Capital* noted that Quigley, “as Irish as his name suggests [with] good honest sorrel hair and freckles,” has “a great reputation as a coach and general all around noise maker.” After the first exhibition game, the newspaper remarked that he was “a fast, graceful fielder,” who “stands up to the plate well and acts like a hitter.” A few games later the paper gushed: “Quigley played great ball around the ‘near’ side of the infield” and “to all appearances, is the most finished short stop ever seen in this league. If his arm is as good as his head and footwork he will have all the others looking like amateurs.”<sup>17</sup>

A May 9 game between Topeka and Wichita found two future major league umpires on the field: Quigley at shortstop for the visitors and Clarence “Brick” Owens, the game’s lone arbiter. The challenges of officiating were demonstrated to Quigley and all in attendance when the crowd went “frantic, threatening violence against the umpire” after an “out” call went against the hometown Wichita Jobbers. After the game spectators “started for the umpire,” who was “escorted to safety” by police amid “enraged fans demanding his blood.”<sup>18</sup> Over the

16. The tri-state Central Association, which fielded teams from Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas, including from Leavenworth, Topeka, and Wichita, began the season as Class D, but advanced to Class C on June 2. Also debuting that year was the first all-Kansas circuit, the six-team Class D Kansas State League. For annual rosters of minor leagues and teams, see Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, eds., *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* (Durham, N.C.: Baseball America, Inc., 1970). An excellent survey of early baseball in the state is Harold C. Evans, “Baseball in Kansas, 1867–1940,” *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 9 (May 1940): 175–92; Gerald K. Barker, “You Can’t Do That!” *The Sporting Scene, Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin* 55 (December 1978): 73–78.

17. *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 9 and 13, 1905.

18. *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 9 and 10, 1905. Owens, who received his career-long nickname the previous year after a brick thrown by a spectator hit him in the head, apparently left town after the game as the teams played the next day without an official umpire.



From 1902 to 1914 Quigley's St. Mary's teams reportedly were "bywords in the athletic realm of Kansas," winning numerous championships in all sports in the Central Conference. His baseball teams gained special notoriety as he annually arranged games between his best players and town teams in the area. Pictured above is the 1903 St. Mary's baseball team. To supplement his income he began officiating college sports, football in 1904 and basketball in 1906, as well as playing professional baseball.

next five years Quigley continued to play professional baseball while managing Shawnee in the short-lived independent South Central League in 1906 and two Class D Central Kansas League teams, Salina in 1909 and Junction City in 1910. Fired in June 1910 as manager of the languishing Junction City club, he briefly tried his hand at umpiring in the league, then joined the Green Bay Bays of the Class C Wisconsin-Illinois League.<sup>19</sup>

Whatever Quigley's reasons for abruptly moving from Kansas to Wisconsin, a career-changing incident occurred when he broke his hand while playing first base for Green Bay. Unable to play, Quigley agreed to replace

veteran umpire Lynn W. "L. W." St. John, who wanted to return to his college job. Working as an official in the single-umpire system posed significant challenges, but Quigley's brief experience in the Kansas State League in 1910 demonstrated he had the fortitude and rectitude required for the job.<sup>20</sup> In one of his early experiences as umpire, Quigley admonished Harry Short, Concordia's player-manager, to "Hurry Up!" when he kept sauntering to the dugout after being put out at first base. The

19. Quigley managed the 1909 Salina Trade Winners to second place in the Class D Central Kansas League. He also had a brief managerial stint in 1910 with Clay Center of the Central Kansas League. Ernest C. Quigley, career service card, NBL; Lammers, "Spotlight on a Scout: Ernie Quigley," 5-7; *Kansas City Star*, February 2, 1950. Some references say that in 1910 he played in the Wisconsin State League; the league, organized in 1905, was reorganized in 1908 as the Wisconsin-Illinois league. Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, eds., *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*, 2d ed. (Durham, N.C.: Baseball America, 1997).

20. After both major leagues adopted the two-umpire system in 1912, it became increasingly common in the minors. By 1933 three umpires were the norm; four umpires became standard in 1952. Larry R. Gerlach, "Umpires," in *Total Baseball*, eds. John Thorn and Pete Palmer (New York: Warner Books, 1989), 466-67. L. W. St. John, the umpire Quigley replaced, was coach and athletic director at Ohio Wesleyan University and later athletics director at The Ohio State University. Curiously, he umpired under an alias, Larry Jacks, not an uncommon practice. The amateur sports world frowned on professional sport association, so many players and administrators used assumed names; in this case, St. John did so to protect his reputation as a college athletics director. *Kansas City Star*, February 5, 1950; *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 1, 1958.



*Quigley's rapid ascent through the umpiring ranks culminated in June 1913 when the National League's president hired him as a substitute umpire, and he broke in later that month behind home plate in New York City. Apparently his nervousness showed, for in the middle of the game John McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, left the dugout to assure Quigley that the diamond and rules at the Polo Grounds (pictured here during the 1913 World Series) were the same as in all ballparks. Quigley went on to serve as a National League umpire for twenty-six years, a career highlighted by the chance to officiate thirty-eight games in six World Series. Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.*

umpire successively called two strikes on the batter followed by "Strike three, side's out, who's the next hitter?" Quigley steadfastly refused to discuss the matter further with Short. After becoming a full-time umpire in the Wisconsin-Illinois League, Quigley exhibited an exuberance that would mark his officiating career. Future Hall of Famer Casey Stengel, for example, recalled the time Quigley announced the lineup to the crowd in Fond du lac, Wisconsin, from behind home plate, and then, sprinting to right field, gave "the batteries" to the spectators "sittin' on top of the railroad cars" positioned on the tracks that ran behind the ballpark.<sup>21</sup>

21. *New York Times*, October 21, 1973; Lammers, "Spotlight on a Scout: Ernie Quigley," 6-7. Quigley also proved a keen judge of talent, convincing the Brooklyn Superbas—later Dodgers—scout Larry Sutton to sign Charles Dillon "Casey" Stengel. He also launched the careers of other major league players. While managing in the minors, he recommended Josh Billings to Cleveland Indians scout George Huff and signed Charles "Babe" Adams, Claude Hendrix, and Clyde Milan to professional contracts.

Quigley returned to the Wisconsin-Illinois League in 1911, advanced in 1912 to the Class B New York State League, and in 1913 reached the Class AA International League (later AAA), then the highest classification of minor league baseball. Like every International League umpire, Quigley had trouble with the rowdy Baltimore team. He had been in the league only thirteen days when, after ejecting all the reserve players from the Orioles dugout twice in three days, he was summoned to league headquarters in New York City. Thinking he was about to be fired, Quigley was shocked to learn that President Edward Barrow, future New York Yankee executive, had sold his contract to the National League (NL).<sup>22</sup> Quigley was headed to the majors.

Quigley's rapid ascent through the umpiring ranks culminated in June 1913 when NL President Thomas J. Lynch, former major league umpire, hired him as a

22. *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 1, 1958.



substitute umpire. Quigley broke in as the home plate umpire in the first game of consecutive doubleheaders of the season on June 25 and 26.<sup>23</sup> Apparently his nervousness showed, for in the middle of the game John McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, left the dugout to assure Quigley that the diamond and rules at the Polo Grounds were the same as in all ballparks. The reassuring comments helped: the next day McGraw came out in the fifth inning and said, "Say, young man, you look a damned sight more at home today." Quigley continued to prove his mettle, umpiring thirty-six games through September 8; the next year he became a full-time member of the staff. At the end of the 1914 season, his first full season in the majors, he was offered the position of head baseball coach at Purdue University. Forced to decide between a career as a coach or an official, Quigley turned down Purdue and resigned from St. Mary's in order to remain a major league umpire while also pursuing an unprecedented full-time multi-sport officiating career.<sup>24</sup>

Quigley served as a National League umpire for twenty-six years, a career highlighted by the chance to officiate thirty-eight games in six World Series.<sup>25</sup> Quigley's World Series assignments included the infamous 1919 Black Sox series between Chicago and Cincinnati, in which eight White Sox players were banned for life from baseball, accused of conspiring with gamblers to lose the series to Cincinnati. As an eyewitness—he umpired home plate in games three and seven—Quigley was often asked about the controversial series, but declined to discuss it. Quigley never umpired an All-Star Game, as the mid-season classic debuted in 1933, near the end of his career. He did officiate at several annual Chicago City series between the White Sox and Cubs, however, and was behind the plate for the historic regular season

game on June 1, 1923, when the New York Giants beat Philadelphia 22–8, setting a league record by scoring in all nine innings. He achieved another distinction when in 1920 he and Charles "Cy" Rigler became the first National League umpires ever to "hold out" for more money; they eventually signed improved contracts before the season began.<sup>26</sup>

During his lengthy umpiring career, Quigley experienced the trials and tribulations common to his profession. There were the physical dangers of standing behind home plate. In 1923 he was hospitalized for several days after being knocked unconscious by a foul tip to the left temple. In 1934 a foul tip hit him on the jaw; temporarily unable to speak, he had to communicate his condition with pencil and paper. And in August 1934 he was overcome with heat exhaustion after the first game of a doubleheader in Philadelphia.<sup>27</sup> Sometimes he just had a bad day. A Detroit reporter graphically described the embarrassments of "Professor Ernie Quigley, the learned historian and pig fancier of St. Mary's [sic] Kansas" while umpiring home plate in the 1935 World Series: "He lost his cap in the first inning, thereby exhibiting his nude and gleaming scalp"; found his pants heavily "dusted with dirt" after a play at the plate in the second inning; and in the fourth inning, while racing toward the Detroit bench looking skyward to track a foul pop-up, he "slipped in a puddle and was like to bust his neck falling into the Tigers dugout."<sup>28</sup> On another occasion, in an alarming turned amusing incident, Quigley collapsed unconscious in the umpire's dressing room after a 1933 game at Wrigley Field. Rushed to a hospital, he had not suffered a stroke as feared, but instead had backed into an exposed electrical wire while exiting the shower. He suffered no burns, and contrary to doctor's orders returned to the diamond the next day. It was a matter of "just one live wire meeting another," he told the doctor.<sup>29</sup>

As with all umpires, Quigley's decisions occasionally prompted arguments from players and managers, as well as boos and even barrages of bottles from fans. On

23. *New York Times*, June 25–27, 1913. The *Times* announcement of Quigley's appointment incorrectly referred to him as the "former director of athletics at Kansas University" instead of St. Mary's.

24. Unidentified newspaper article, February 15, 1915, Quigley File, NBL; McGraw quotation in *Kansas City Star*, February 5, 1950.

25. Quigley umpired the following World Series: 1916 between Boston and Brooklyn; the 1919 Black Sox series; 1921, the bitter cross-town-rivals subway series between the Yankees and the Giants, Babe Ruth's first as a Yankee; 1924 when the Washington Senators beat the Giants for their first World Series title; 1927 when the Yankees, generally regarded as the greatest team in major league history, swept the Pittsburgh Pirates and Ruth swatted a record sixty home runs; and 1935 when the Detroit Tigers won their first World Championship by beating the Chicago Cubs. He was crew chief for the 1927 Series. Gene Carney, *Burying the Black Sox: How Baseball's Cover-Up of the 1919 World Series Fix Almost Succeeded* (Dulles, Va.: Potomac Books, 2007); Daniel A. Nathan, *Saying It's So: A Cultural History of the Black Sox Scandal* (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2005).

26. He had signed a contract by April 19, but for some reason did not umpire until May 11. *New York Times*, February 11 and April 20, 1920. No information is available about salaries. See also Carl Lundquist, "Ernie Quigley: Umpired the 'Black Sox' Series," *Referee* 19 (November 1994): 22; *Topeka Capital-Journal*, December 11, 1960; *New York Times*, June 2, 1923; October 3, 1925; and September 28, 1926.

27. *New York Times*, July 12, 1923; May 5 and 6, 1934; and August 5, 1928. On May 4, 1934, he suffered severe muscle contusions, not a broken jaw, and missed only four games, returning to the field May 9.

28. *Chicago Daily News*, October 7, 1935; see also the *New York World Telegram*, October 7, 1935.

29. *New York Times*, May 26, 1933; *Sporting News*, December 21, 1960.

balance, however, he had appreciably fewer confrontations than most arbiters owing to his professorial posture, decisive-ness in upholding decisions, and total command of the rulebook. He repeatedly demonstrated knowledge of the most intricate applications of both playing and scoring rules and adamantly refused to tolerate verbal abuse.<sup>30</sup> Instead of debating decisions, Quigley turned challengers away by sternly asking, "Now just what was it you said?" Repeating the uncomplimentary remark resulted in ejection from the game. Assertive in exhibiting authority, he once ended continuous carping from the Chicago Cubs and their star outfielder when, according to the *New York Times*, he vigorously "shook his finger under Arnold Statz's nose" and then "stormed over to the bench and threatened to sweep it clean." The lone instance of Quigley losing control occurred early in his career on July 24, 1915, when he punched Johnny Evers in the face, claiming that the Boston second baseman had stepped on his foot during an argument that ensued when Evers, for some reason, did not promptly go to first base after receiving four balls. Umpire and player were each fined \$100: Quigley "for failure to handle the resulting situation in a proper manner" and Evers for not promptly taking first base.<sup>31</sup>

Quigley enjoyed universal respect for his demeanor as well as his expertise. At a time when players and managers like John McGraw were openly combative and profoundly profane, some umpires retaliated in kind with vulgarities and insults. But Fred Lieb, the most prominent baseball writer of his day, who covered baseball for three New York City newspapers from 1909 to 1934, recalled that Quigley was "strictly high class" and "spoke with the diction and proficiency of a college professor." Lieb recalled when McGraw once shouted "don't put on any airs with me," Quigley replied, "one doesn't put on airs by speaking good English." To a player's uncomplimentary comment, he typically responded, "Sarcasm, sir, is the weapon of the weak-minded." And to Boston's Heinie Mueller, adept at berating umpires in German and English, Quigley sharply admonished: "Moderate those languages, young man."<sup>32</sup> An example of the respect accorded Quigley occurred one afternoon at the Polo Grounds when he called out Giants outfielder Ross Youngs before he had gotten half way to first after



Quigley's career took another turn in December 1940 when Ford Frick simultaneously announced the legendary Bill Klem's appointment as umpire-in-chief and Quigley's designation as the league's first full-time director of public relations. According to Fred Lieb, a weekly columnist for the *Sporting News*, with the possible exception of Klem (pictured here in 1914), "no National League umpire of his day commanded as much respect as did Quigley." Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

laying down a drag bunt. The New York dugout and the stands erupted with derisive and menacing comments. Quigley recalled in 1958: "The argument evaporated in an instant" when Youngs quickly admitted that he had illegally bunted when out of the batter's box. Quigley even enjoyed the respect of adversaries. He regarded Boston's Tony Boeckel, with whom he had numerous run-ins, as "the most pestiferous player in uniform," but when an illness sent Quigley to the hospital, Boeckel was the only person to send flowers.<sup>33</sup>

Quigley's contributions to umpiring extended beyond the professional diamond. After the 1928 season,

30. *New York Times*, June 15, 1924; August 12, 1920; August 17, 1927; July 13, 1931; and July 22, 1934.

31. *Sporting News*, July 29, 1915; *New York Times*, June 9, 1922; *Kansas Alumni*, 83 (June 1985): 19; *Sporting News*, December 21, 1960.

32. *Sporting News*, July 29, 1915; *New York Times*, December 5, 1929, and December 11, 1960.

33. *New York Times*, January 9, 1927; *Topeka Capital*, August 1, 1958.

he spent three months on an instructional mission to Japan with three recently retired ballplayers including Ty Cobb. Quigley, now the second most senior National League umpire, said he was “treated like royalty” by Japanese players and coaches as he umpired a number of ballgames, including the “Japanese World Series”; lectured and conducted clinics at Kobe, Waseda, Meiji, and Osaka universities; and established schools for baseball umpires and basketball referees.<sup>34</sup> Occasional service assignments included umpiring New York City high school championship games, serving as the umpire supervisor for three American Legion Junior World Series, and, at the behest of National League President Ford Frick, presiding as umpire-in-chief of the first National Semi-Pro Congress tournament in 1935 and again in 1937.<sup>35</sup>

Quigley’s retirement at the end of the 1936 season coincided with his selection by President Frick to be the NL’s first supervisor of umpires.<sup>36</sup> His duties as umpire-in-chief were to supervise the current umpire staff, review complaints of umpire decisions and performances, adjudicate fines levied for confrontations with umpires, and interpret rules for Frick and the teams. The personal esteem he enjoyed with players and managers served him well in his first year. Frick, knowing that his decision to have umpires strictly enforce the balk rule would be very unpopular, dispatched Quigley to team locker rooms to personally explain the decision and its consequences.<sup>37</sup>

Quigley’s knowledge of the rules was legendary. The undisputed authority on baseball rules, he routinely received inquiries about interpretations from across the country and as far away as Australia and Japan. John Kieran, senior sportswriter for the *New York Times*, opened a 1940 column detailing Quigley’s interpretations

of several arcane rules applications: “It’s too bad that there isn’t space . . . to give any interested reader a fair idea of what a man may expect when he asks a question about a baseball rule . . . to Ernie Quigley, the National League Supervisor of Umpires.” His mastery of the rulebook was crucial when Frick in 1939 ordered a review of the rules hoping to create a uniform code for both the major and minor leagues. Summoning the league’s umpires to a three-day meeting at Cincinnati’s Netherland Plaza Hotel to review “every word of every rule,” Quigley employed the professorial posture he had honed at St. Mary’s, turning room 702 into a schoolroom, diagramming rules on a blackboard and then posing questions to the group about the basic rules as well as unusual situations and vague applications. The arbiter who wished to answer had to raise his hand and, when called upon, stand to comment.<sup>38</sup>

Quigley’s career took another turn in December 1940 when Ford Frick simultaneously announced the legendary William J. “Bill” Klem’s appointment as umpire-in-chief and Quigley’s designation as the league’s first full-time director of public relations.<sup>39</sup> Quigley’s last act as umpire supervisor, choosing between two candidates of markedly different physical appearances for an opening on the staff, illustrated his personal decisiveness and the professional respect he had garnered throughout his career. Both major leagues preferred the presumed authority personified by tall, well-built umpires and the NL umpires supported the “bulky football type.” But Quigley ignored the preferences of the league and its umpires by selecting the man similar in appearance to himself—5’ 7”, 160-pound John “Jocko” Conlan, who remained on the staff for twenty-four years and in 1974 became the fourth umpire elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame.<sup>40</sup>

34. The other players were Yankee pitcher Bob Shawkey and Giants infielder Freddy Hofmann. The “Japanese World Series” was between university teams; there were no professional baseball leagues in Japan at the time. *Sporting News*, November 15, 1928; *New York Times*, December 9, 1929; *Time* 12 (December 24, 1928): 25; and Joseph A. Reaves, *Taking in a Game: A History of Baseball in Asia* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002), 58–59.

35. *New York Times*, June 17, 1935, and April 13, 1937; *Topeka Journal*, April 12, 1937.

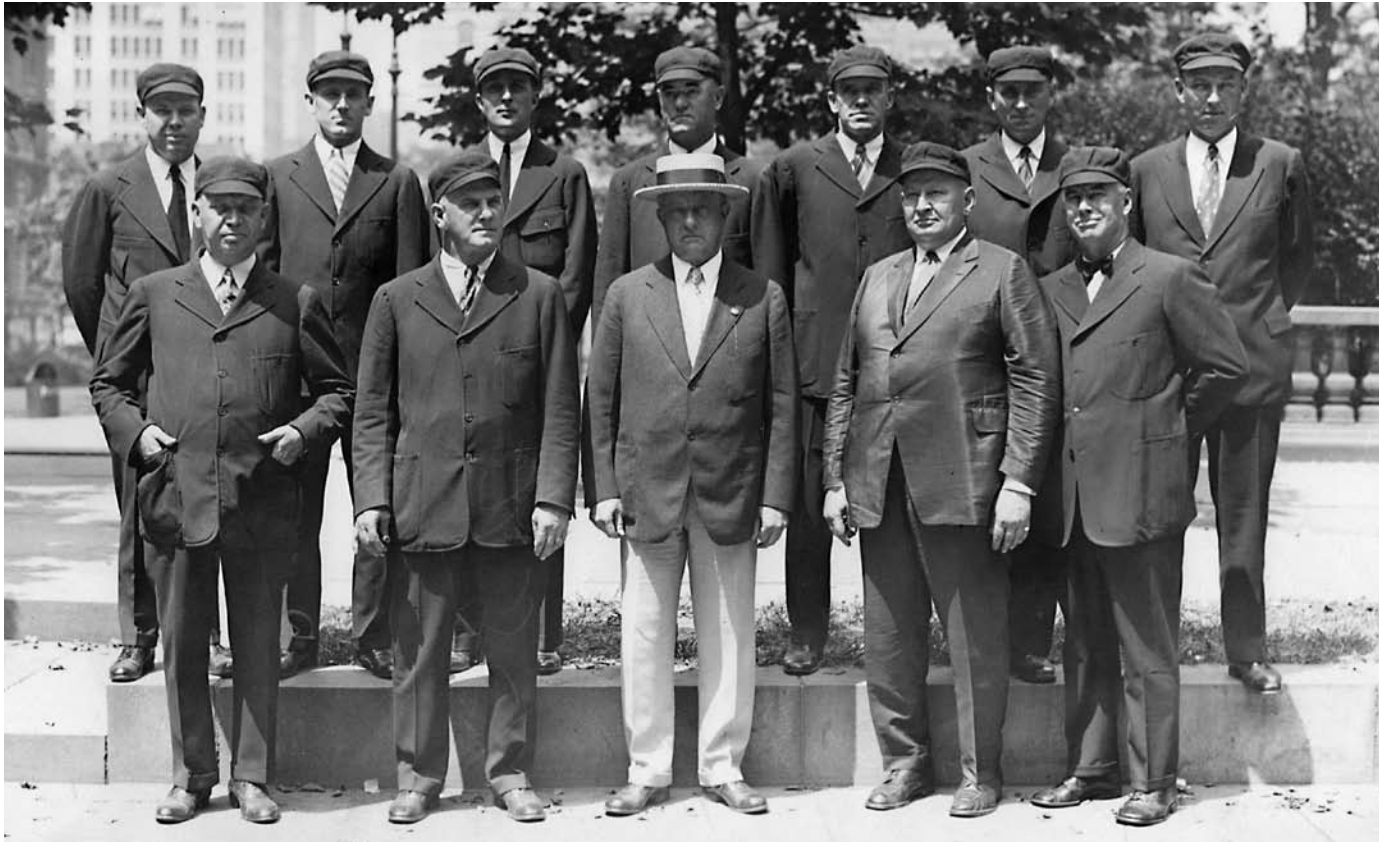
36. The administrative appointment theoretically ended Quigley’s on-field duties, but he returned to the diamond as replacement umpire. From the 1937 season opener on April 19 to May 31, Quigley umpired all but one game at third base, the least demanding position, and, except for one series in Boston, he umpired only Dodgers and Giants games in New York City to accommodate his supervisor duties. In 1938 he umpired third base for two July games in St. Louis and a September series in Brooklyn. *New York Times*, April 17, and May 2, 6, and 17, 1937; July 11 and September 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 1938.

37. *New York Times*, May 21, 1937, and July 27, 1938; *New York Herald-Journal*, May 21, 1937.

38. *Sporting News*, December 14, 1939; *New York Times*, December 9, 1940; *San Jose Evening News*, August 16, 1940; *Chicago Tribune*, September 20, 1940.

39. *Chicago Tribune* and *New York Times*, December 11, 1940. The reassignment was both political and practical. A member of the National League since 1905, Klem, the most famous and respected major umpire, retired in November 1940. When Tommy Connolly, Klem’s famous counterpart in the American League retired in 1931, he became major league baseball’s first umpire supervisor, so the NL followed suit with “the King of Umpires.” Because Quigley had represented the league on numerous occasions while umpire supervisor, the expansion of his public relations functions was apt. In recognition of his skill in identifying new talent, he continued to be in charge of scouting for new umpires. For biographical sketches of Klem and Connolly, see Porter, *Biographical Dictionary of American Sports: Baseball*, 109–11, 309–10.

40. Frank V. Phelps, “John Bertrand Conlan,” in Porter, *Biographical Dictionary of American Sports: Baseball*, 109; Jocko Conlan and Robert Creamer, *Jocko* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1967); Mike Schatzkin, *The Ballplayers* (New York: Arbor House, 1990), 887.



*Although overshadowed in the minds of fans and historians by some of his more flamboyant National League colleagues such as Bill Klem, Cy Rigler, and George Magerkurth, Quigley's on-field reputation and administrative contributions following retirement testify to a long, distinguished, and influential career as major league umpire. The highly visible, personable and outgoing Ernie Quigley (front row, right) did much to put a "human face" on umpires, thereby countering the conventional negative attitudes toward baseball's men in blue serge suits. Photograph courtesy of the author.*

Quigley's gregariousness and enthusiasm made him the perfect choice as the league's director of public relations, a position he held until July 1944. Once he accepted this position he no longer worked as an umpire, though he did continue to referee basketball until 1942 and football until 1943. Sensitive to verbal abuse from fans and press coverage that called attention to controversies, umpires typically were reticent and inconspicuous off the field. Quigley, however, relished the spotlight. He eagerly made a well-publicized appearance on a WEAF radio sports interview program in New York, for instance, explaining how umpires dealt with difficult and unexpected situations. He also regularly joined civic leaders at a variety of celebratory community affairs ranging from the annual Brooklyn Dodgers Knot-Hole Club fete to a joint Sportsmanship Brotherhood-New York City Baseball Federation dinner honoring Connie Mack, the seventy-eight-year-old owner-manager of the Philadelphia Athletics. And he occasionally returned to the field as a celebrity umpire, as he did for the annual

1941 Army-Navy Day game at West Point and benefit games between two New York military bases. It was commonplace for baseball players to endorse a variety of commercial products, but Quigley was the first sports official to do so, declaring in his role as the umpire supervisor for a newspaper advertisement: "We solved the timing problems of baseball when we adopted Longines Watches for the use of all umpires."<sup>41</sup>

Ever the ambassador for sports, Quigley reached out to the public in numerous ways. From 1938 to 1940 he taught a three-week summer school course in the Physical Education Department at Columbia University, devoting a week each to the rules of baseball, basketball, and football. When asked by a student if it was possible for fans to see a play better than the umpire, Quigley said if that happened he would "put the ump in the stands

41. *New York Times*, July 4, 1937; unidentified newspaper advertisement, September 29, 1940, Quigley File, NBL; see also *New York Times*, July 31 and August 1, 1937; April 13 and 15, 1940; June 1 and 13, and October 4, 1941.

and feed him hot dogs and soda pop instead of paying him with his salary." To facilitate instruction on baseball rules in his "Techniques and Mechanics of Umpiring" course, he invented "Magnetic Baseball," a magnetized "blackboard" featuring the outline of a baseball diamond. By using a series of colored magnetized rings to represent players and umpires, he was able quickly and clearly to diagram positioning on various plays. The invention and the course was enthusiastically endorsed by the press; a *New York Sun* editorial praised Quigley not only for "the technical details of the instruction," but also for recognizing that "the art of umpiring" involves "certain moral and psychological values that are even more important than the mechanics."<sup>42</sup> In the late 1930s or early 1940s, Quigley joined with fellow National League umpire Charley Moran, a former football player and coach, to publish educational pamphlets on "All phases of Foot Ball, Basket Ball and Base Ball." Perhaps his most effective outreach activity was the thrice-weekly evening radio program he hosted for seventeen years, from the late 1920s to the mid-1940s at 9:30 p.m. on station WIBW in Topeka, in which he talked about sports in general and answered questions from listeners.<sup>43</sup>

Although overshadowed in the minds of fans and historians by some of his more flamboyant National League colleagues such as Bill Klem, Cy Rigler, and George Magerkurth, his on-field reputation and administrative contributions following retirement testify to a long, distinguished, and influential career as major league umpire. In 1960, looking back over a half-century of covering baseball, Fred Lieb, who wrote a weekly column for the *Sporting News*, declared: "It is doubtful if any man ever had the rules of baseball, football and basketball at his finger tips as did Quigley. Unless it was Bill Klem, no National League umpire of his day commanded as much respect as did Quigley."<sup>44</sup> No less significant was his public persona: the highly visible, personable and outgoing Ernie Quigley did much to

put a "human face" on umpires, thereby countering the conventional negative attitudes toward baseball's men in blue serge suits.

Just as Quigley was a multisport athlete, so, too, he was a multisport official. Umpiring major league baseball was his greatest officiating achievement, but refereeing football and basketball brought even more recognition, albeit in the less well-publicized environs of college towns. Quigley did not officiate in major professional leagues in football or basketball partly because of geography, but also because college football and basketball overshadowed their professional counterparts until after World War II.<sup>45</sup>

Football was Quigley's earliest officiating venture. For forty years, from 1904 to 1943, he witnessed firsthand the evolution of the sport from a brutal, mass-formation running game, nearly abolished in 1905 because of crippling player injuries and even deaths, to sophisticated offenses featuring forward passing and from a regional athletic spectacle to a nationally popular sport.<sup>46</sup> Quigley usually officiated twenty or more college games a year, frequently two per week, mostly in the Missouri Valley, Big Six (now the Big Twelve), and Rocky Mountain conferences. He missed only three seasons during his career: in 1918 when he coached St. Louis University; in 1928 because of his baseball trip to Japan; and in 1938 due to a severe ankle injury in September that kept him on crutches until the start of the 1939 baseball season. A referee—the head official—for most of his career, he was in demand for "big games" across the country including Army-Navy, Michigan-Illinois, and five Harvard-Yale contests as well as four major postseason bowl games—three Rose Bowls in 1920, 1925, and 1927 and one Dixie Classic (now Cotton Bowl). So great was his reputation that in the 1930s Quigley commanded \$500 plus expenses to referee a Harvard-

42. The *Sun* explained: "The art of umpiring is more than the art of enforcing all the rules with strict accuracy and impartiality. It is the art of making the nine men on the field, the supernumeraries in the coaching boxes, the reserves in the dugout, the fans in the stands know not only that you are the boss but also that you know your business and will stand for no nonsense. It is an art which all instructors of the youth of the land might study to their profit." The *New York Sun* quoted in "Magnetic Baseball A La Quigley," August 1941 press release, Quigley File, NBL; photocopy also in Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library. See also *New York Times*, July 30, August 3, and 11, 1941; *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 3, 1941.

43. The pamphlets were "written and published by MORAN-QUIGLEY ATHLETIC BUREAU, 18 West 25th St., New York"; copy of "Forward Pass" in author's possession; radio program advertisement, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library.

44. *Sporting News*, December 21, 1960.

45. Until the 1960s, professional basketball and football were overwhelmingly located in the northeastern section of the country. Robert W. Peterson, *From Cages to Jump Shots: Pro Basketball's Early Years* (Lincoln, Neb.: Bison Books, 2002); Murry R. Nelson, *The National Basketball League: A History, 1935-1949* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2009); Peter King, Will McDonough, and Paul Zimmerman, *75 Seasons: The Complete Story of the National Football League, 1920-1995* (Nashville, Tenn.: Turner Publishing, 1994); Robert W. Peterson, *Pigskin: The Early Years of Pro Football* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).

46. In response to nineteen gridiron fatalities in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt threatened to abolish the game unless major rule changes were made. The changes, chief among them legalizing the forward pass, increased safety. John Sayle Watterson, *College Football: History, Spectacle, Controversy* (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002); Ronald A. Smith, *Sports and Freedom: The Rise of Big-Time College Athletics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1900).



Yale game, while the usual rate for football officials was \$50 per contest.<sup>47</sup>

He thought refereeing football was easier than umpiring baseball in one fundamental respect: football players, he observed in 1914, “usually vent their enthusiasm on their adversaries instead of taking it out on the officials.” In 1948 a Des Moines sportswriter, noting that Quigley “never was one to do things in a lusterless way if he could reach the objective dramatically,” recalled the time the referee threw a penalty flag, but instead of simply saying “backfield in motion,” shouted “gentlemen! Your backfield was in motion. They were running like deer!”<sup>48</sup> Ever the innovator, Quigley made a device to help him keep track of each team’s downs; he recalled that on several occasions he had to correct inaccurate designations on the scoreboard and chain-pole marker. His football officiating career ended in 1943 when he wound up at the bottom of a pile of players with a broken foot.<sup>49</sup> As with baseball, Quigley’s command of football’s rulebook was legendary; after retiring from the gridiron, he served as the ranking member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football Rules Committee from 1946 to 1954.

His lone post-St. Mary’s venture as a football coach was a frustrating one-year stint at St. Louis University in 1918. Because of a manpower shortage like that at other schools during World War I, Father H. A. Hermans, the athletics director, decided to allow freshmen to play varsity football and hired Quigley “with great optimism” to fashion a strong Billiken eleven. Quigley was able to accept the position because the major league baseball season ended on September 2, a month early due to World War I exigencies. When preseason drills opened on September 30 the press reported “the most strenuous practice” ever seen at the school as Quigley “cracked the whip at every stage.”<sup>50</sup> But within a week of the first game on October 7, a massive outbreak of Spanish influenza wracked the nation; for more than two

months the greater St. Louis quarantine that closed schools, churches, and other public places also crippled the SLU football program. With spectators banned from attending, home games were cancelled and Quigley found it difficult even to arrange away contests. A makeshift schedule of small colleges, military installations, and two universities produced three wins, two losses, and a tie; a 19–0 whipping by the Washington University Pikers in the final game of the season was an apposite conclusion to a frustrating season for Quigley, who thereafter stuck to officiating.<sup>51</sup>

Ernie Quigley began refereeing basketball in 1906, and during his thirty-seven years calling the sport rose to the top of basketball officialdom in the United States. In addition to a full slate of regional college games every year, he was selected to work premier national contests. He officiated more national tournaments than any other referee in history: three for the NCAA, including one championship game; nineteen consecutive for the AAU, then the premier basketball organization in the country; and the inaugural 1937 tournament of the National Intercollegiate Basketball Association (NIBA), composed of small colleges and universities excluded from the NCAA and the first national tournament to invite participation by historically black colleges.<sup>52</sup> He also served as supervisor of tournament officials for the NCAA from 1940 to 1942 and for the NIBA from 1939 to 1942. When basketball became an Olympic sport for the first time in 1936, Quigley was chosen to referee the April 1936 basketball playoff tournament in Madison Square Garden in Boston, Massachusetts, including a semi-final and the championship game, to determine the United States’ entry in the Berlin Olympics. He was also supervisor of officials for the tournament. Perhaps his proudest basketball moment came when he and his son Heinie, who followed his father into officiating, teamed up to work a University of Kansas-Washburn University game.<sup>53</sup>

47. *Des Moines Register*, February 10, 1975; *San Jose News*, March 15, 1939. The Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association, created in 1907, split in 1928. The larger schools continued as the MVIAA, popularly known as the Big Six; the smaller schools formed the Missouri Valley Conference. In 1964 the MVIAA was renamed the Big Eight Conference. The Rocky Mountain Conference was based primarily in Colorado. In 1938 the larger members of the Conference left to form the Mountain States Conference (a.k.a. Skyline Conference); most of those members are now in the Mountain West Conference.

48. *Des Moines Register*, April 15, 1948; *Sporting Life*, December 12, 1914.

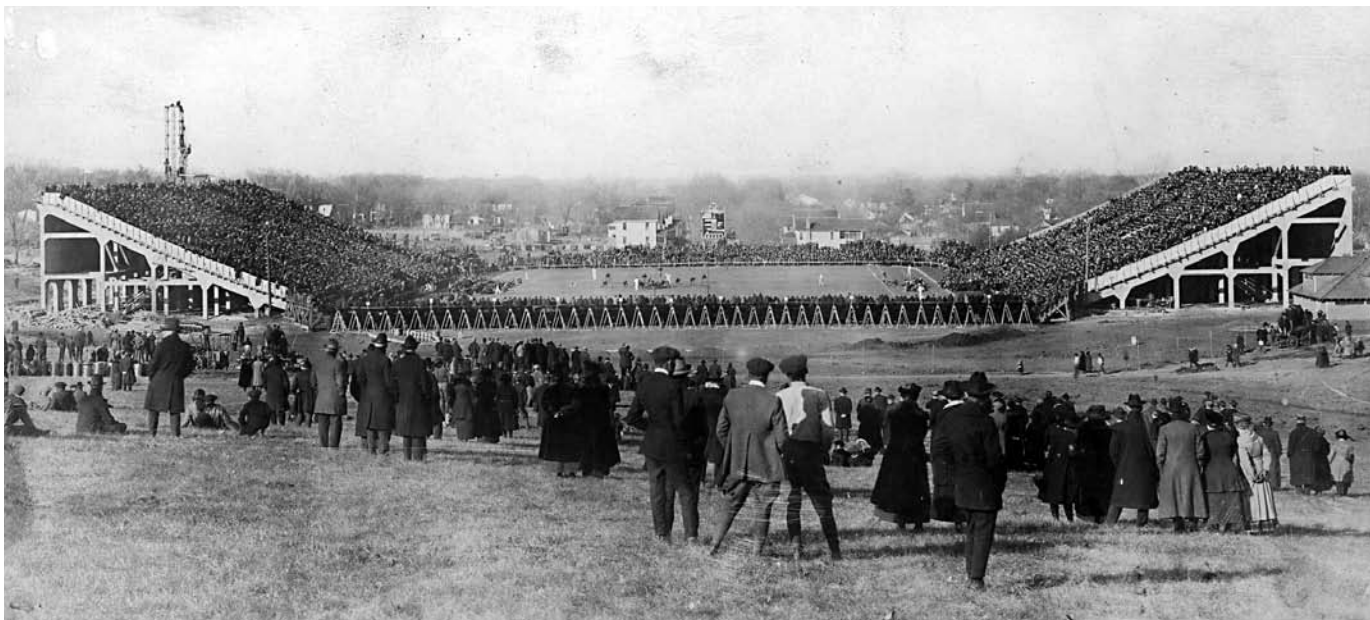
49. Lundquist, “Ernie Quigley,” 22; Quigley interview, *Spartanburg* (South Carolina) *Herald*, December 20, 1940.

50. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 1, 1918.

51. See, for example, *ibid.*, October 8, 17, and 30–31; and November 6, 7, 8, 15, 20, and 29. On the influenza pandemic see Alfred W. Crosby, *America’s Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

52. The more prominent AAU teams were professional. Players, ostensibly assigned to white-collar jobs, were in reality hired to play basketball. Adolph Grundman, *The Golden Age of Amateur Basketball: The AAU Tournament, 1921–1968* (Lincoln, Neb.: Bison Books, 2004). The NAIB was reorganized in 1952 as the current National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA); James Naismith, former KU basketball coach, was a founder of NAIB tournament.

53. The date of game is unknown, but took place when Washburn and KU played annually from the 1933–1934 to the 1938–1939 seasons. *Kansas Men’s Basketball Media Guide, 2007–2008*, Records, 193–94; see also *New York Times*, March 31; April 3, 5, and 6, 1936.



Upon taking over as athletic director at the University of Kansas on August 1, 1944, Quigley immediately faced a formidable financial problem—a \$113,000 debt on the football stadium. The \$700,000 required to build the facility in 1921 plus an additional \$325,000 for 1927 remodeling, which created the north bowl, was to be paid off by bonds, donations, and gate receipts. The latter must have been good for the last game of the stadium's inaugural season (above), when Kansas defeated Missouri 15 to 9 before an estimated crowd of nearly 15,500 fans. But less than stellar performances on the gridiron in the years to follow led to diminished attendance and donations. Without the external revenues that heavily subsidize present-day athletics departments, Quigley devised an ingenious way to liquidate the debt, and his one-man fund-raising campaign worked: by June 1946 the balance was down to \$48,000. When success on the gridiron that year produced football receipts that "exceeded our budget estimate by a sizable amount," the bonds were paid off, and the final interest payment was made as scheduled in 1949, not long before the stadium picture on the facing page was made.

Quigley's greatest officiating notoriety came on the basketball court, where he was far more animated and demonstrative than on the diamond or gridiron. Departing from the customary staid demeanor of sports officials, Quigley became the first flamboyant, "colorful" official, famous for exaggerated verbal and physical gestures as well as unorthodox behavior. To Quigley, the whistle was merely a device to announce a referee's presence. His trademark call became world renown. Upon detecting a violation, Quigley pointed an accusing finger at the offending player and in a stentorian voice shouted: "You can't d-o-o-o that!"—a call invariably echoed by the spectators. There usually followed a slap on the back or backside and a brief lecture on the infraction that always ended with the rhetorical query: "Young man, do you understand me?"<sup>54</sup> In 1950 Bob Klenck, later head basketball coach at St. Louis University, recalled telling his teammates: "I can stand the foul, but I can't stand his punishment." Reflecting on his

officiating career, Quigley conceded that "it might have looked like I was overdoing it, but I didn't see it that way. Anyway, there was never any doubt in anyone's mind when I called an out or whistled a foul." His trademark call was so well known that in July 1945 he received a letter at the University of Kansas from Europe addressed only as "You Can't Do That! U.S.A."<sup>55</sup>

Showmanship aside, sports writers stressed that Quigley always "radiated authority and competence." A law unto himself on the court, he reacted swiftly, often unconventionally, to anyone who challenged his decisions. He was quick to call a foul should a player deign to "talk back," and should a coach dare come onto the court to argue, Quigley loudly announced that he would award a free throw for every step it took the coach to retreat to the bench. In 1975 veteran sports-writer Maury White recalled the night when "some coach stormed onto the floor" and then stopped still; as Quigley began to announce his penalty, two players

54. University of Kansas Sports News Bureau press release, August 2, 1945; James A. Naismith, *Basketball: Its Origin and Development* (1941; reprint, Lincoln, Neb.: Bison Books, 1996), 80; *Des Moines Register*, February 10, 1975.

55. University of Kansas, Sports News Bureau, news release, August 2, 1945, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library; Klenck and Quigley quotations are from the *Kansas City Star*, February 5, 1950.



came out and carried their coach back to the bench. The crowd roared at the clever stunt; Quigley's reaction is unknown. He took no guff from fans, awarding multiple free throws to visiting teams as long as the home crowd continued objectionable behavior.<sup>56</sup> The ex-Jayhawk called at least seven successive technical fouls on the crowd at Missouri in 1915 for "hooting and yelling" at his decisions. At the end of the game several hundred students descended upon the embattled referee cursing and shouting, "Let's punch his head off." Escorted to the official's dressing room by the coaches of both teams and several faculty members, Quigley suffered "numerous bruises" but no serious injuries.<sup>57</sup>

Quigley did not play for the Jayhawks' legendary coach, fellow Canadian Dr. James A. Naismith, but the inventor of the game credited "the dean of basketball officials" with a major innovation in the rules. Because the baskets were initially located directly above the end lines, Quigley found it difficult when refereeing to see if players were in or out of bounds as they took shots and maneuvered under the goals. At St. Mary's he experimented successfully with extending the end line two feet; in 1917 the National Basketball Rules Committee adopted his innovative idea, creating an

"end zone" two feet beyond the goal thereby extending the court to its current dimensions, ninety-four by fifty feet. Always looking to improve the game, he convinced the Missouri Valley basketball coaches in 1927 to adopt an innovative "dual system" of officiating in which the referee and the umpire had equal authority to enforce the rules from every angle on the court.<sup>58</sup>

By 1944, Quigley—now sixty-three years old, retired from all officiating, and confined for much of the year to a desk job far from Kansas—undoubtedly missed the excitement, drama, and challenge of firsthand participation in multiple sports. A new opportunity presented itself in July when Dean Nesmith, head athletics trainer at the University of Kansas from 1938 to 1983, called upon Quigley at his office in New York City. Nesmith was on a mission: Would Ernie Quigley return to his alma mater as the director of athletics? Chancellor Deane W. Malott, anticipating a post-World War II boom in enrollment and thus student activities, wanted a higher profile athletics program. Basketball under Forrest C. "Phog" Allen was a perennial success, but other sports, notably football and track and field, had not done well in Big Six competition for more than a decade. The internal favorite for the position was Acting Athletics

56. *Des Moines Register*, April 15, 1948; and February 10, 1975.

57. Missouri lost 28–19 to Kansas Agricultural College (now Kansas State University) on March 1, 1915. *Columbia Daily Tribune*, March 2 and 3, 1915; *Sporting Life*, March 13, 1915. The number of fouls was reported as seven, twelve, or seventeen. Seven would seem to be the likely number, but Quigley may well have called more. The next night he refereed the game between the same two teams, calling "very few fouls."

58. *New York Times*, December 2, 1927; Naismith, *Basketball*, 97–98. See also Harold C. Evans, "Some Notes on College Basketball in Kansas," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 11 (May 1942): 199–215.

Director Karl Klooz, bursar and secretary of the Athletic Board, but Malott preferred Quigley. Despite his well-known indifference to organizational tidiness, lack of management skills, and volatile personality, Quigley's experience, reputation, and contacts in sports as well as his personal style, judgment, and business acumen fit the bill.<sup>59</sup>

In the twilight of his career, Quigley, who previously had been offered the athletics director position three times, decided to return to Mt. Oread. His explanation was both facetious and heartfelt: "Since I didn't know whether they would offer it to me again, I decided to accept." He added: "If I could close my athletic career as director of athletics at my alma mater, I ought to feel a lot of pride in being selected to do the job there."<sup>60</sup> As to concerns about him taking on such a demanding job at age sixty-three, he retorted that he felt like he was "only about forty one" and was "big enough and strong enough to carry the load down there."<sup>61</sup>

As word spread that Quigley was the leading candidate for the athletic directorship, the school's newspaper enthusiastically supported his appointment because "the venerable Kansan's long years of officiating have given him worlds of knowledge on most any sport." In announcing Quigley's appointment on July 24, 1944, Chancellor Malott gave the same rationale: "The University is taking another step in the rehabilitation of its athletic program. Mr. Quigley's long familiarity with all phases of sport assures the University of an aggressive and able leadership in the field of athletics."<sup>62</sup>

Quigley reported for duty August 1, 1944. Pursuant to taking the assignment, the Quigleys moved from St. Marys, their residence since 1906, to Lawrence, buying a house near campus at 1509 Stratford Road. Being

athletics director at the University of Kansas was vastly different from his previous tenure at St. Mary's College in terms of the size and complexity of programs, but it required the same kind of energy, commitment, and vision. Quigley's impact on Jayhawks athletics was extraordinary; it constituted nothing less than a major revitalization that not only produced immediate results, but also created the foundation for future success.

He immediately faced a formidable financial problem—a \$113,000 debt on the football stadium. The \$700,000 required to build the facility in 1921 plus an additional \$325,000 for remodeling in 1927 was to be paid off by bonds, donations, and gate receipts. But less than stellar performances on the gridiron led to diminished attendance and donations; the Memorial Corporation, the initial fund-raising organization, contributed virtually nothing in later years. Without the external revenues that heavily subsidize present-day athletics departments, Quigley devised an ingenious way to liquidate the debt. To supplement his personal fund-raising efforts, which brought in \$35,000, he wrote to alumni and other interested individuals urging them to buy war bonds payable to the Alumni Association, explaining that they would get a tax deduction for purchasing the bonds and the university could use them to pay off its debt. Quigley's one-man fund-raising campaign worked: by June 1946 the balance was down to \$48,000. When success on the gridiron that year produced football receipts that "exceeded our budget estimate by a sizable amount," the bonds were paid off in June 1947 and the final interest payment was made as scheduled in 1949. After he liquidated in less than three years the financial albatross that had compromised the department for nearly a quarter of a century, the Athletics Board formally expressed gratitude to Quigley "for his tireless efforts in eradicating the debt." Quigley modestly quipped: "Naturally I am mighty pleased to have this load off our necks."<sup>63</sup>

Quigley's determination to pay off the debt reflected the fiscal conservatism with which he operated the athletics department. Despite antiquated facilities and poor equipment, he fought with coaches and staff over expenditures for improved facilities, new equipment, and higher salaries for assistants. Cliff McDonald, Jayhawk running back from 1947 to 1949, recalled that

59. Nesmith recalled: "Quigley's desk was always covered with a huge pile of letters. Ernie Quigley never filed or threw away anything mailed to him. He would read a letter and then simply throw it down on the pile. As the years passed, the pile got bigger and bigger. When Quigley left, the secretary went through all the correspondence on his desk. In one of the opened envelopes she found a World Series check from the National League that Quigley had never cashed." Mike Fisher, *Deaner: Fifty Years of University of Kansas Athletics* (Kansas City, Mo.: The Lowell Press, 1986), 132–33; *The Graduate Magazine of the University of Kansas* 42 (May–June 1944): 12.

60. *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, August 1, 1944.

61. *Graduate Magazine of the University of Kansas* 42 (May–June 1944): 12.

62. *University Daily Kansan*, July 4 and 25, 1944; later that year the *Kansas City Star* launched a twenty-five part series on the storied career of the new director by Ernest Mehl, "'You Can't Do That.' The Personal Experiences of E. C. Quigley," *Kansas City Star*, December 10, 1944–January 21, 1945, in *Athletes Clippings*, vol. 1, G-R, Library and Archives Division, Kansas Historical Society.

63. Clifford S. Griffin, *The University of Kansas: A History* (Lawrence, Kans.: University of Kansas Press, 1974), 417; *University Daily Kansan*, *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, and *Kansas City Star*, March 27, 1947.



- ★ Famous Athlete
- ★ World-Renowned Umpire
- ★ Rule Book Authority
- ★ Radio Sports Commentator
- ★ Athletic Director
- ★ Successful Coach
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## **E. C. "Ernie" QUIGLEY**

**with a Thrilling Message for American Youth**

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- 13 years as a Head Coach of Football; 39 years of officiating in Football Conferences all over the U. S., including 3 Rose Bowl, 5 Harvard-Yale Classics, 1 Cotton Bowl; current member of NCAA Football Rules Committee
- 9 years as a Head Coach of Basketball; 37 years of officiating in Basketball in almost all Conferences including Olympic Play-offs in Madison Square Garden; National AAU, NAIB, and NCAA Tournaments; member NCAA
- 19 years as Director of Athletics in Colleges and Universities
- Officiated on more basketball courts, college gridirons, and baseball fields than any other one man!



## **The Man Who Made Famous Athletes Observe The Rules of The Game with**

*Instead of enjoying a relaxing life of leisure in "retirement," Quigley commenced a new, rigorous undertaking that consumed his time and energy. He established a lecture circuit, speaking at high school assemblies and banquets about the importance of attending college. Quigley drove to schools throughout Kansas, as well as Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma; the Topeka State Journal reported on January 5, 1953, that since September 1952 Quigley had talked to 105 high schools, sometimes addressing three or four schools in one day. Flier courtesy of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence.*

"Mr. Quigley was very conservative with the athletic department's money," noting that the players had towels that were "made out of strands like ropes," that the whirlpool was an oil drum cut in half and set in the shower, and that practice t-shirts and socks were "cut down so that no one would take them from the locker room." At times Quigley's temper, frugality, and stubbornness confounded staff and coaches. When Dean Nesmith, chief athletics trainer and trusted administrative aid, suffered third-degree burns on his body and legs after a boiler hose burst, Quigley refused to use

departmental funds to pay the hospital bill. On the other hand, Nesmith recalled the time he ordered one cigar during a business lunch; Quigley seemingly "got mad as hell," then bought him a whole box "with a big grin." "Funny," Nesmith recalled, "how Quigley could be a great guy one day and grouchy the next."<sup>64</sup>

Parsimony was a principle to Quigley: "I don't see why everyone associated with the department shouldn't believe in thrift."<sup>65</sup> He practiced what he preached, taking

64. Fisher, *Deaner*, 20, 162–63.

65. *Ibid.*, 215–16.



it upon himself to save money by performing custodial and maintenance tasks such as painting facilities, lining the football field, digging post holes, picking up scraps of paper from the grounds, and making the rounds of locker rooms to be sure the lights had been turned out. Always the innovator, however, Quigley had six floodlights installed on the football practice field believing that adding an hour to practice during the last three weeks of the season would eradicate the “bugaboo of blackout drills.” The former two-sport letterman was also concerned with the welfare of athletes. He established both a scholarship and a work program for KU athletes and, at the national level, was instrumental in changing NCAA rules to allow schools to interview prospective athletes.<sup>66</sup>

Retiring the debt was Quigley’s greatest short-run achievement, but in the long run his greatest accomplishment was launching a major resurgence in the athletics program. When Quigley became athletics director, KU sponsored only four sports: football, basketball, and indoor and outdoor track and field. He promptly expanded the program by reinstituting sports cancelled due to World War II—baseball, golf, and tennis in 1946–1947 and swimming the following year. But his greatest long-term contribution to the future of KU athletics was hiring four of the finest coaches in school history. He said his philosophy for hiring personnel was simple: “I wanted results.”<sup>67</sup>

Football was his primary concern. The Jayhawks had not won a conference title in thirteen years, so when Henry Shenk’s squad posted a third straight losing season in 1945, Quigley moved quickly to recruit George Sauer, former Nebraska All-American halfback, as head football coach. The impact was dramatic. In 1946, Sauer’s first season, the Jayhawks went 7–2–1 and were conference cochampions with Oklahoma; the next year Sauer’s 8–1–2 team outscored opponents 304–102, was undefeated in conference, and again shared the title with the Sooners (7–2–1), whom they tied 13–13. The 1947 team finished the season ranked twelfth in the prestigious Associated Press poll, the school’s highest ranking ever; produced KU’s first football All-American athlete, running back Ray Evans; and received an invitation to the 1948 Orange Bowl, the first

bowl appearance in school history. The Jayhawks lost to Georgia Tech 20–14, but the game brought \$50,000 to the athletics department treasury.<sup>68</sup> Moreover, Sauer’s success stimulated an increase in football attendance, which also significantly increased revenue.

Although Quigley was perturbed when Sauer left in 1948 for the U.S. Naval Academy, a departure due in part to the coach’s failure to “unravel Quigley’s well-secured purse strings” for upgrading facilities and staff compensation, the football program was now on “solid footing.” Quigley promptly hired Jules Verne “J. V.” Sikes, who before leaving in 1953 increased excitement by bringing the passing game to Kansas football.<sup>69</sup>

Quigley’s second major hire, Bill Easton in 1947, brought glory days to cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field programs that had not won a conference title in a decade. The most successful and honored coach in Jayhawk history, Easton’s cross country teams won sixteen conference and one national championship; the track squad won NCAA titles in 1959 and 1960, finishing in the top four times. In all, from 1947 to 1965 his teams won thirty-nine conference championships, eight consecutive from 1952 to 1959, with titles in all three sports. Easton coached thirty-two All-Americans and eight Olympians, including Al Oerter, four-time Gold Medalist in the discus. Following retirement, Easton was inducted into seven halls of fame.<sup>70</sup>

Quigley also took steps to ensure the continued success of Phog Allen’s basketball program. In 1949 he hired former Kansas cager Dick Harp as an assistant and eventual successor to the sixty-four-year-old Allen; from 1957 to 1964 Harp led the Jayhawks to two conference titles and two NCAA tournaments, including the historic three-overtime loss in the championship game in 1957. In addition, Quigley launched a fund-raising effort to build a state-of-the-art basketball arena. In 1947 he went to Topeka to lobby personally for legislative funding. The effort, which failed, elicited a strong rebuke from

66. KU News Release, July 1, 1950, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library; *Kansas Alumni Magazine* 59 (December 1960): 38; *University Daily Kansan*, December 12, 1960.

67. Fisher, *Deaner*, 216; Erin Penning, University of Kansas Media Relations, email to author, April 12, 2010. Information about teams provided by Candace Dunback, Booth Family Hall of Athletics, University of Kansas.

68. For Sauer’s tenure and the Orange Bowl, see Fisher, *Deaner*, 150–75; *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, January 2, 1948. See also Marc S. Maltby, “George Henry Sauer, Sr.,” in *Biographical Dictionary of American Sports, 1989–1992 Supplement*, ed. David L. Porter (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1992), 474–75.

69. Fisher, *Deaner*, 162–63; for Sikes’ record, which included one losing season in six years, see *2009 Jayhawk Football Media Guide* (Lawrence, Kans.: University of Kansas Athletics Department, 2009), 194, 196. For a brief biographical sketch, see “Jules Verne (J.V.) Sikes,” [http://www.kusports.com/football/unforgettable\\_hawks/](http://www.kusports.com/football/unforgettable_hawks/).

70. Adam R. Hornbuckle, “Millard Elsworth ‘Bill’ Easton,” in *Biographical Dictionary of American Sports, 1992–1995 Supplement*, 660–61.

one legislator: "What do you consider of the greatest importance—dormitories, classrooms or a field house? You can't have them all."<sup>71</sup> Rebuffed but not defeated, Quigley continued the quest into retirement, taking great pleasure in the 1955 opening of Allen Field House, named in honor the legendary Jayhawks basketball coach.

Quigley refused to sign a contract upon taking the athletic director's job, asserting: "I will stay there as long as they want me."<sup>72</sup> They wanted him. Four times the Kansas Board of Regents ignored the state law requiring university department heads to retire at age sixty-five, thereby allowing Quigley to continue until he left the position at age seventy. Quigley formally retired in July 1950, but agreed to stay until September 2 to assist his replacement, ex-KU athlete, Arthur C. "Dutch" Lonborg. The KU news department bulletin announcing Quigley's retirement emphasized the general public's sense of his principal achievement, noting that the "hustling, fiery athletics director" had received just accolades for "directing a rebirth of athletic successes at K.U.," as his six-year tenure had produced one of the school's "brightest athletics periods." But Quigley considered his major success to be paying "the stadium debt off in 1949." Assessing his tenure with modesty and honesty, Quigley mused: "When I first came to handle the department there was only one way to go because we couldn't have been any worse off."<sup>73</sup>

Retirement posed a challenge for Quigley. He and Margaret attended sporting events, but Ernie admitted it was "hard to see them from a spectator's standpoint for almost the first time in my life."<sup>74</sup> He continued to participate in the weekly sports talk radio programs on KLWN in Lawrence that he began after becoming the KU athletic director. And there was now more time to attend to his hobbies. He was an avid collector of antique glassware, an interest

that began in childhood when he admired a set of Venetian bottles in a silver filigree container given to his mother as a wedding gift. And he continued tending to his beloved Hampshires on a 128-acre farm eight miles northwest of Lawrence.<sup>75</sup>

A set of six matched pipes from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce was an apt retirement gift as Quigley was a habitual pipe smoker, but instead of enjoying a relaxing life of leisure he began at this late stage of his life a new, rigorous undertaking that consumed his time and energy. Concerned that less than half of Kansas high school graduates went to college, Quigley, who left KU after his freshman year, established a lecture circuit, speaking at high school assemblies and banquets about the importance of attending college. Booked through the lecture bureau of the KU extension department, he drove to schools throughout Kansas as well as Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma. The *Topeka State Journal* on January 5, 1953, reported that since September 1952 Quigley had talked to 105 high schools, sometimes addressing three or four schools in one day.<sup>76</sup>

Quigley suffered severe emotional and physical setbacks in autumn 1958. He underwent extensive cancer surgery in September, and on October 1, lost his beloved wife of fifty-two years. He was devastated by her death. It was Margaret who had primarily raised their sons and accorded Quigley unwavering support for his all-consuming officiating career practiced largely away from home. When baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis wondered how his wife liked her husband being gone 325 nights a year, Quigley quipped: "Mrs. Quigley likes it fine. We're constantly getting reacquainted." The quick quip surely masked a deeper emotion. His health declining, he lived his final years in a Lawrence rest home. He was hospitalized in early December 1960 and died a few days later on December 10 at age eighty-one. Following a funeral mass at St. John's Catholic Church in Lawrence, Ernest C. Quigley was interred in the city's Mt. Calvary Cemetery.<sup>77</sup>

Quigley's passing evoked effusive praise about the man and his works. The Kansas alumni magazine aptly hailed him as "an all time great among the colorful

71. *University Daily Kansan*, March 25, 1947; for Harp's record, see *Kansas Men's Basketball 2008–09 Media Guide*, 133, 154; "Richard Harp," *Oread Online*, University of Kansas, <http://www.oread.ku.edu/Oread00/OreadMar31/deaths.html>; "Former Jayhawk coach Dick Harp dies at 81," *Topeka Capital-Journal*, March 19, 2000; Abram Goudsouzian, "'Can Basketball Survive Chamberlain?': The Kansas Years of Wilt the Stilt," *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 28 (Autumn 2005): 150–73. Wilt Chamberlain, named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, led number two ranked Kansas, 24–2, against number one ranked North Carolina, 31–0, in the 1957 title game; the Tarheels won 54–53 in three overtimes. The game is generally called the greatest championship game in NCAA history.

72. *Erie (Pennsylvania) Dispatch Herald*, July 25, 1944.

73. Fisher, *Deaner*, 215–16; KU News Release, July 1, 1950, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library; *New York Times*, January 29, 1950; *Kansas City Star*, February 5, 1950; *Lawrence Journal-World*, July 1, 1950.

74. *Kansas City Star*, February 2, 1950.

75. *Topeka State Journal*, January 5, 1953; radio program advertisement, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library; *Lawrence Outlook*, March 15, 1956; *Kansas City Star*, February 5, 1950; *Kansas City Star*, July 21, 1938; *Topeka State Journal*, March 30, 1935.

76. *Topeka State Journal*, January 5, 1953; *Lawrence Journal-World*, September 14, 1960; KU News Bureau press release, April 1956, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library.

77. *St. Marys Star*, October 9, 1958; and December 15, 1960; *Sporting News*, December 21, 1960; *Topeka State Journal*, December 8, 1960.



Despite a frenetic coaching and officiating schedule, the “Squire of St. Marys” tended to registered boars, sows, and gilts on the Quigley Hampshire farm. “What’s my hobby?,” Quigley once asked rhetorically: “I raise the best darn Hampshire hogs in the country. Hog raising is one of the greatest businesses in the world. I’m proud to be called a hog raiser.” In later years, Ernie and Margaret Quigley managed a 128-acre farm eight miles northwest of Lawrence. Photograph courtesy of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence.

sports figures of the United States,” who “brought dignity, integrity and showmanship to the sports scene to a degree unequalled by any other person.”<sup>78</sup> Quigley best summarized his life in sports in a set of advertising flyers for his speaking engagements. In one flyer, and entirely in character, he described himself as “Famous Athlete, World-Renowned Umpire, Rule Book Authority, Radio Sports Commentator, Athletic Director, Successful Coach, Administrator & Teacher, Public Relations Director, Popular Speaker.” In another he noted: “There is no man now living who knows more about the Games, the science of playing, the art of officiating, the players and coaches than Ernie Quigley.” There is no arguing with his self-descriptions, but perhaps the best epitaph came from his alma mater’s student newspaper: “The most famous man in the field of sports.”<sup>79</sup>

Befitting his long and distinguished contributions as a player, coach, official, administrator, promoter and broadcaster, Quigley received numerous illustrious

honors. In 1953 he received the highest award given by the National Baseball Congress, and in 1956 the Helms Foundation presented him at the annual NCAA meeting with “the highest honor that can come to men who work in sports and is awarded on the basis of a man’s contribution to athletics.”<sup>80</sup> In recognition of his contribution to KU athletics as well as his career as major league umpire, the school’s first baseball field, built in 1958 just south of Allen Field House, was christened Quigley Field. It remained so for twenty-seven years when the name was changed to Hoglund Ballpark in recognition of a major financial donation for improvements to the facility. In 1961 he received dual posthumous honors: Quigley became the second referee enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, and he was selected a Charter Inductee to the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, now located in Wichita.<sup>81</sup>

80. *Lawrence Outlook*, March 15, 1956; *Kansas City Star*, April 1, 1953.

81. The \$115,000 donation came from Forrest Hoglund, former Jayhawk baseball player and retired chairman and CEO of Enron Oil and Gas Company. Official Athletics Website of the University of Kansas, Facilities, <http://kuathletics.cstv.com/facilities/kanhoglund-ballpark.html>; *Kansas Alumni Magazine* 83 (June 1985): 10. Quigley Field is one of two baseball fields ever named in honor of an umpire; the other honored a minor league umpire, John Ducey Park in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It was torn down in 1995 and rebuilt as Telus Park; see <http://www.digitalballparks.com/Pacific/Telus.html>.

78. *Kansas Alumni Magazine* 59 (December 1960): 38. For extensive obituaries, see the *Kansas City Times*, *Topeka Capital-Journal*, and *New York Times*, December 11, 1960; the *Lawrence Journal-World*, and *University Daily Kansan*, December 12, 1960; and *Sporting News*, December 21, 1960.

79. *University Daily Kansan*, December 12, 1960; undated Quigley speaking engagement flyers, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library.

Ernie Quigley's career personified the coming age of sport in America during the first half of the twentieth century. For fully fifty years he was an eyewitness, indeed an active participant, as college sports grew from a regional enthusiasm to a national obsession. Football gained greater acceptance as it evolved from "flying wedge" to "split-t" formations as evidenced by the increase from a single postseason bowl game in 1916 to eleven in 1950. Basketball grew more popular, evident in the founding of three national tournaments from 1937 to 1939, as scoring increased after the demise of two-handed, underhand shooting.<sup>82</sup> Even interest in the "national pastime" rose dramatically when the "scientific" or "inside" baseball of the "dead ball era" prior to World War I succumbed to the age of the home run launched by Babe Ruth in the 1920s.

The so-called "Golden Age of Sport" Quigley experienced was vastly different from the world of sport when he died in 1960. In his time major intercollegiate and professional sports were racially segregated and varsity programs for women were virtually unknown. His was an era dominated by a handful of commanding personalities who, taking advantage of inchoate and loosely applied regulations, maximized individual initiative and authority. Thus he was able to develop a highly personalized style of officiating that would later be considered unacceptable. Prior to the expansion of intercollegiate athletics after World War II, college sports administration was limited in terms of specialization and bureaucratic structure. Consequently, at St. Mary's in 1902 Quigley served as athletics director, coached four major sports, and taught multiple academic classes in addition to playing professional baseball and officiating college football and basketball games. Forty-some years later, as athletics director at KU he not only managed a budgetary self-supporting department, but also performed fund-raising, publicity, maintenance, and custodial duties while hiring solely at his discretion four coaches in major sports.

Ernie Quigley was a proverbial one-of-a-kind, a conspicuous contributor, pioneer, and innovator in varied sports endeavors. After twenty-six years as a prominent major league umpire, he became the league's first umpire supervisor and then the first director of public relations. He was the first umpire, indeed official of any sport, to become extensively involved in community activities designed to promote athletics, whether with

the unique course offerings at Columbia University or the thrice-weekly radio program in Kansas. He was the first, and still the only, person to officiate the three major American sports in the same year, and he did so for twenty-seven years. Breaking with convention, he was the first official to warrant the sobriquet "showman" for his extraverted demeanor and unconventional enforcement of rules. He was an extraordinarily successful college athletics administrator. During fourteen years at St. Mary's as athletics director and coach of four major sports, he single-handedly created the school's highly successful intercollegiate athletics program, and during six years at KU he resolved the department's financial woes, added five sports, and hired coaches who elevated the program to new heights. In addition to incalculable contributions in officiating college sports for forty years, including refereeing twenty-four national basketball tournaments, he was an influential voice in formulating NCAA rules. Perhaps his most enduring innovation was extending the end line of the basketball court thereby greatly facilitating play under and around the basket.

It is no exaggeration to claim, as it often was, that Ernie Quigley was truly "a legend in sports officiating." Yet he has become almost lost in historical memory.<sup>83</sup> His profession is partly to blame as it is tradition for sports officials to appear as restrained, nondescript enforcers of rules, highly visible yet invisible participants in contests. Quigley was one of the few exceptions to the norm, but the anonymity characteristic of the officiating profession eventually caught up with him as well. Except for some dedicated aficionados at baseball's Hall of Fame, few visitors to sports halls of fame have ever heard of the officials enshrined therein.

The historical obscurity of sports officials is regrettable given their indispensable role in enabling games to be played efficiently and according to the rules, but in Quigley's case it is the more disconcerting. His numerous, varied, and important contributions to the history of sports officiating and intercollegiate athletics administration are more than sufficient to warrant a notable place in the annals of history. As veteran sportswriter Maury White of the *Des Moines Register* aptly noted: "The Quigleys of the world should never be forgotten, particularly in the territories they once roamed and ruled."<sup>84</sup> [KH]

82. The NAIB in 1937, the NIT (National Invitational Tournament) in 1938, and the NCAA in 1939.

83. KU News Bureau press release, April 1956, Quigley file, UA, Spencer Research Library.

84. *Des Moines Register*, February 10, 1975.