

Julia F. Anderson

\$1.00

THE

JACK TRICE

SCRAPBOOK



DOCUMENTS, LETTERS, & CLIPPINGS

reprinted to honor

AN IOWA STATE SPORTS LEGEND



by
The "Jack Trice Stadium" Committee

Out of ISU's past... a man you should know:

JACK TRICE

Fifty years ago, Jack Trice played one college football game for Iowa State—only one. But a few weeks ago, the Government of the Student Body voted unanimously to ask that Iowa State's new \$7,000,000 football field be named JACK TRICE STADIUM. In the opinion of many people, that one game was enough. Half a century after he played in his one game, students at Iowa State and the people of Iowa are rediscovering who Jack Trice was and the ideals he exemplifies. Here is the story of Jack Trice.

HIS ONE GAME

It is October 6, 1923. Iowa State is playing at Minnesota. Old newspapers tell us that the game is bitterly fought, "both sides desperate for a score." It's the third quarter, and Minnesota is ahead 14-10. They try a crossback play. A hole opens in the Iowa State defensive line. Jack Trice rushes to fill it, throws his body into the play with a "roll block"—a move too dangerous for today's football. He lands on his back in front of three charging Minnesota players. He stops the play but is trampled.

Afterwards, Trice tries to get up and wants to stay in the game. His teammate, Harry Schmidt, helps him to the sidelines. The Minnesota fans are on their feet chanting, "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry." His injury is serious; something has broken inside.

Jack Trice was rushed to a Minneapolis hospital, but doctors allowed him to return to Ames with the team. No charter airlines then, Trice was brought home in a pullman coach, lying on a straw mattress. The next day at the Iowa State College hospital, he died—the only athlete ever to lose his life competing for Iowa State.

FIRST BLACK PLAYER

Jack Trice fought hard to stay in that one game at Minnesota, but he had fought even harder to play with his teammates against any rival school. Jack Trice was black. Jack Trice was Iowa State's first black athlete fifty years ago, when blacks were seldom accepted at most colleges and almost never on their athletic fields.

If Trice faced pressures, Iowa State also faced pressures in having a black player. Both were exceptions in the midwest. Before the season started, some opposing schools asked our coach not to use a black.

RESPONSE TO HIS DEATH

The response to Jack Trice's death was a major episode in Iowa State's history. His teammates were deeply moved, the community mourned, and the student body quickly showed the respect and affection they felt for "the man who gave his life for Iowa State." Students submitted poems to the campus newspaper; fine words were spoken; classes were cancelled. At the funeral service held on central campus, members of his team carried the casket to a platform by the Campanile. It was draped with a Cardinal and Gold blanket. Speeches were given; of course they said he was "an honor to his race," but they also said he was a man, "a fine man."

President Pearson, calling him "an honor to Iowa State," read to the crowd a letter which Trice had written to himself the night before the game. The campus was filled with 6000 people—more than came to games in those days. Later, when teammates set out milkcans on the steps of Beardshear and Curtis Halls, students contributed over \$4000 to be given to the family of Jack Trice. The students respected him.

His teammates respected him. They were the ones who insisted that he be allowed to play, just as they had insisted that he be allowed to eat with them in the segregated diningroom of a Minneapolis hotel on the night before his first game. The remainder of the season the football squad wore black armbands. They won games for Jack.

THE BRONZE PLAQUE

To make sure that Iowa State would not forget Jack Trice, the Varsity Club of 1923 left a permanent reminder of what Trice had meant to them. In the Old State Gym, a plaque is inscribed with the thoughts Trice recorded on Curtis Hotel stationery the night before that "first real college game of my life." The words on the plaque, in the days following his death, made Jack Trice a national figure. As far away as Seattle, editorials were written on his character and sportsmanship. But during the last fifty years, that plaque has become covered with bird droppings and dust, and Jack Trice has been almost forgotten. Last fall, however, the plaque was noticed.

Some students became intrigued by the story behind the plaque. They asked questions, looked into old records, interviewed those old enough to remember. What they found out led them to form The Jack Trice Stadium Committee. What they found out made them recognize in Jack Trice the highest ideals of sportsmanship and manhood.

THE ATHLETE

Jack Trice had been a superb high school athlete in Ohio. He came to Iowa State at the urging of his coach, Sam Willamon. As a freshman he immediately made an impression on his fellow athletes. The impression still lingers. Harry Schmidt, a member of that team, was recently interviewed and remembers Trice vividly:

"Jack Trice was an outstanding athlete. In 1922 when he was a freshman, I was on the varsity and we were scrimmaging against him. I've never been blocked so hard in my life. After his death we continually had Jack in mind. Had he been with us he would certainly have made All-conference his sophomore year, because he was really tremendous. I think he would have made All-American on the team we had. He would have made all the teams that would recognize a Negro at that time."

Mr. Schmidt, who had stayed on at Iowa State as part of the Athletic Department until his recent retirement, was then asked what he thought of a Jack Trice Stadium. He answered quickly, "I'd be in favor of it. I'd vote for it."

Was one game enough?

THE MAN

Jack Trice was born in 1902 in Hiram, Ohio. His father, who had moved there as a farm laborer, is remembered for having wanted an education badly enough to begin grade school at the age of twenty-six. Mr. Trice later taught Sunday school, and the children of the community loved him. He became successful enough to be able to buy the farm he had come to work on. He died when Jack was still a boy.

Jack Trice was devoted to his mother. Her character is perhaps best told in a letter from Dr. Gaylord Bates, a childhood friend of Jack: "She had a wisdom and a dignity admired by all the women in the community which must have made itself felt on her boy. She had more tragedies to cope with than anyone should be called upon to bear, being widowed early and losing her only child at the time he offered such great promise."

In the same letter, Dr. Bates recalls Jack's childhood: "He engaged in all sports with considerable ability and in the activities of Sunday school and of the Boy Scouts as intimately as any of his colleagues. He was a very pleasant and enjoyable companion and I think all of us were richer in experience for having had him in our community."

The newspaper editor, A.R. Sicuro, from Trice's hometown was asked about Jack Trice a couple months ago. He responded with two editorials about him which included a personal recollection: "Many, many summers ago a husky, handsome young man used to run past my house on Vine St. and wave a friendly greeting to my playmates and me. His name was Johnny Trice and we youngsters liked him because of his friendliness and because we heard he was a crack football player at Iowa State, a fact confirmed by the big "I" on his sweater. . . Everyone who remembers Trice will, I'm sure, be very happy if the new Iowa State stadium is named after him."

In the summer which Mr. Sicuro recalls, Jack Trice was working for a highway crew to pay for his second year at Iowa State. That same summer, he married Cora Mae Starland, who returned with him to Ames to major in home economics. There were no scholarships for athletes in the early twenties. They were a poor family, so Jack Trice and his wife both worked while in school. And his mother, back in Ohio, worked in a laundry to help pay for the college education.

Trice studied hard to take advantage of his opportunity. The Registrar's records show that his average college grade was ninety percent. Trice was a major in Animal Husbandry whose ultimate plans were to use his knowledge of agriculture helping black farmers in the South. He pursued this dream with the same dedication to high ideals that made him a great athlete. His dream was cut short in that one game, played in an Iowa State uniform.

We can never know how much Jack Trice might have accomplished if he had lived. That is a sadness of any youthful death, and his life was exceptionally full of promise. It is easy to speak sentimentally of carrying on his spirit. But it is enough to say simply that Jack Trice is a name for Iowans to be proud of, a name worth remembering.

WAS ONE GAME ENOUGH?

A football stadium can be more than cold cash and concrete. Iowa State University has not yet chosen a name for its new \$7,000,000 structure, although the administration has picked a committee which is responsible for this decision. Occasionally a stadium gets named after a dimly-remembered coach or All-American. Or a stadium gets named after some big-money man who can afford to buy the honor. Iowa State is fortunate to have an alternative.

Fifty years ago, a young player died in a football game. For the fifty years ahead of us, Jack Trice Stadium can symbolize his ideals of sportsmanship, courage, and dedication. This stadium can be more than cold cash and concrete. It can be an idea. Yes, one game was enough.

PLEASE HELP:

The Jack Trice Stadium Committee is a group of Iowa State students and faculty members. We believe that the name "Jack Trice Stadium" is one way in which this university can show that college athletics should be founded upon the ideals of the student-athlete, not upon scores and gate receipts.

The Committee exists only to inform students of Iowa State and citizens of Iowa about Jack Trice and what he symbolizes. We have no official role in the naming of I.S.U.'s new stadium. We can influence that decision **only with your support**. If you agree with us in this idea, tell your friends about Jack Trice.

(This is the text of a pamphlet which was printed and distributed in the spring of 1974, by the "Jack Trice Stadium" Committee.)

PART 1:

BACK IN 1923

FOOTBALL TEAM TO APPEAR IN GOLD

Willaman Designs New Uniform
for Grid Men

When the Iowa State varsity football player plows his way thru the opposing lines on State field Saturday he will be hindered by at least six pounds less equipment than he was last season, due to the introduction of outfits specially designed by Sam Willaman, Ames mentor.

"The new equipment will reduce the weight of the player's equipment by about one-third," Coach Willaman said. "Our intention is to reduce the weight and gain speed without sacrificing protection to the individual player."

One improvement over last year is the introduction of the new style shell trouser which contains no pads. All body and hip pads are strapped to the player and in this way do not hinder his movement. New shoulder pads, weighing a few ounces less than those of last fall, will be used.

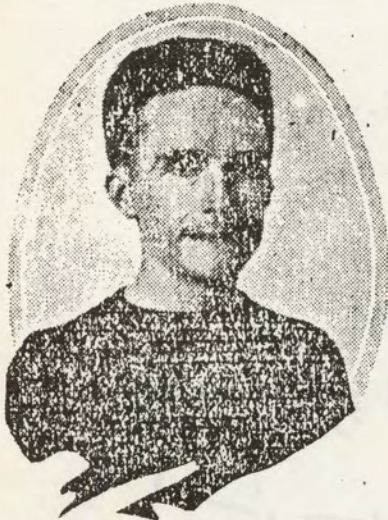
"Backfield men," stated Coach Willaman, "will be provided with 'game' shoes for use in games only. They will have other shoes with a little more weight for practice scrimmages and running signals."

The color of the Iowa State football jersey, which has for years been cardinal with gold numeral, has been reversed. The new jersey is gold with cardinal numeral. According to Coach Willaman, this step was made necessary owing to the large number of teams that have maroon or cardinal jerseys. Last fall Iowa State played four teams with the same color jersey. In one game, played with the thermometer at 90 degrees, the Cyclones were forced to wear two jerseys in order to get a contrast.

IOWA STATE STUDENT
DEVOTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BETTER AND GREATER IOWA STATE
AMES, IOWA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1923

(Note the Iowa State Daily article of Sept. 17, 1974, with the guest editorial opinion of William Thompson.)

NEW PREP COACH



William H. Thompson, formerly director of athletics at Kingfisher college, in Oklahoma, who has been appointed freshman coach. He is a graduate of Omaha university, where he was a star in football, basketball and track. It is expected that he will issue his first call for candidates within a few days.

THOMPSON NAMED FRESHMAN COACH

University of Omaha Star Selected By Council

William H., "Bill" Thompson, University of Omaha football, basketball and track star for three years and later director of athletics at Kingfisher college, Kingfisher, Okla., is the new freshman coach and head of intra-mural athletics. Thompson won out in a field of 30 noted high school and college coaches, a number of whom made personal trips to Ames.

While a student at the University of Omaha, Thompson made an enviable record as an athlete. He won three letters in football, three in basketball, and one in track. During his high school and college career as a football player "Bill" worked at the quarterback position, leaving behind him the record of being a hard, sure tackler and a field runner.

SCHEDULE ONE OF HARDEST IN AMES' HISTORY

Forty Men Report 3 Times Each Day To Willaman

Facing one of the toughest and classiest schedules of recent years, which includes the winner of the Missouri Valley title and the runner up of last season, about 40 aspirants including 14 letter men are working out twice daily, with skull practice evenings under the tutelage of Head Coach Sam Willaman and Assistant Coach Frank Willaman, on State field. Eight games will be played in all.

Aided by the revival of the old Ames spirit, a season of football, and spring practice during the spring quarter, Coach Willaman has laid the foundation for a system at Iowa State, and the results of this effort are already much in evidence as the coach has a squad, composed in the main of the men who went through the spring workouts. In fact, all of the spring candidates of last year reported and bear the earmarks of the early training.

Are in Good Condition

Spending the first few days in athletics and other conditioning performances the squad is being a strenuous workout in the mental of the game, namely, blocking and tackling, the two most important and outstanding points of the game. Drilling and other fundamentals was greatly appreciated this spring by the men that the men gained and the practices of the previous quarter.

Coach Willaman has a full complement of equipment for the varsity football team of the outstanding feature of the outfit being designed for the departure from the Ames campus is the most important changes in the new uniforms. All of the men are giving evidence of considerable ability during spring training.

CYCLONES PLAY OPENING GAME WITH MINNESOTA

Large Number of Fans Plan to Go to Twin Cities

Iowa State will participate in the opening ceremonies that mark the beginning of the 1923 grid season at the University of Minnesota when the Cyclones meet the Gophers in the latter's first game on Northrop field Saturday, Oct. 6.

Full of the new spirit that is permeating through the Ames campus this fall that is sure to mean fighting teams as in days of yore a goodly number of students are planning to make the journey to the Twin Cities, and rides in various means of transportation around the campus are at a premium. Each fraternity house on the campus is sending a couple or three carloads and a bus load will leave Friday noon besides the numerous fans who will arrive by the other well known routes.

Were Over...



THE CURTIS HOTEL
MINNEAPOLIS

Oct 5, 1923

To whom it may concern:—
My thoughts just before
the first real college game of
my life. The honor of my
race, family, & self are at stake.
Everyone is expecting me to do
big things. I will! My
whole body & soul are to
be thrown recklessly about on
the field tomorrow. Every time
the ball is snapped I will be
trying to do more than
my best.

On all defensive plays I must
break thru the opponents line
at stop the play in their
territory. ~~Be sure of your~~
intention & sight low with
your eyes open and toward
the play. Roll block the interference
Water out. ~~As~~ ~~to~~ ~~s~~ ~~back~~
and reverse and run. ~~Be~~
on your toes every minute
if you expect to make
good.

(meeting) 7:45
back



JACK TRICE DIES FROM INJURIES; HURT SATURDAY

Postpone Song Week in Honor of Star

Jack Trice, fighting Iowa State tackle, died at 3 p. m. today in spite of every care and precaution.

Death resulted from an injury to the abdomen in the third quarter of the Minnesota game last Saturday. In an off-tackle play, Trice, on his back to the ground, was trampled on.

Within ten minutes after he was hurt Jack was rushed to a hospital a half block from Northrup Field, and was later brought to Ames in a Pullman, and was taken immediately to the College hospital.

After the accident, Jack would not be carried off the field, but walked off.

His condition was good, however, until 4 p. m. yesterday, when his respiration began to increase in time, and all available local doctors were called. Doctors Ghrist and Bush were reached, and entered into a conference with Dr. Edwards, College hospital head, and Dr. Dvorak, athletic trainer.

At 10 p. m. Dr. Edwards summoned Dr. Oliver J. Fay, of Des Moines, one of the best known specialists in stomach troubles in the United States, and he arrived at 1:30 a. m.

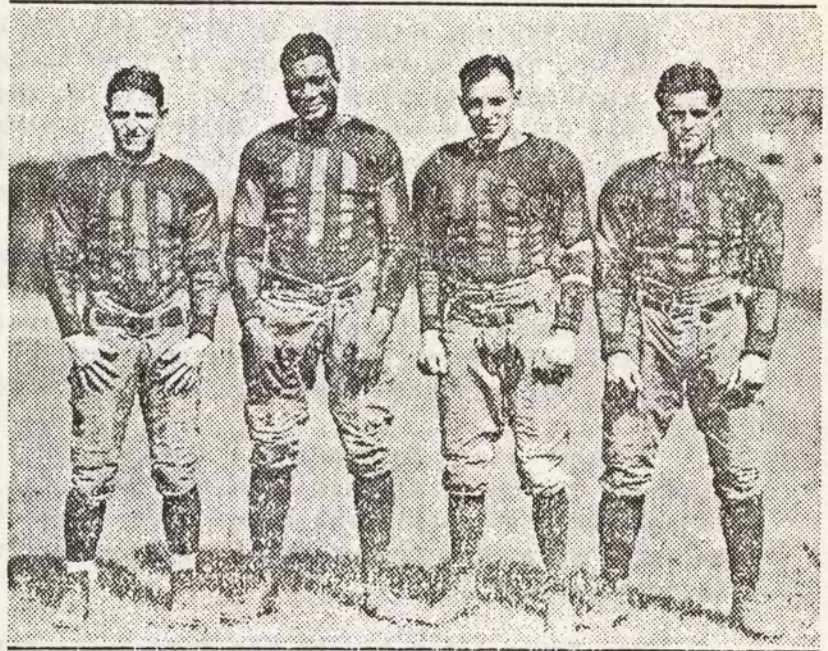
An operation was considered, but Dr. Fay thought the danger would be too great, so no operation was performed.

Football practice for the prep and varsity squads has been cancelled this evening, and the program of Song Week, which was to start today, will be cancelled.

Complete details of funeral arrangements are not yet available.

With him since his injury has been his wife, whom nurses in the hospital say is bearing up bravely.

QUARTET HELPED HOLD GOPHERS



Four of the Cyclones who held the Minnesota team to a 20-17 score at Minneapolis last Saturday afternoon. Johnnie Behn, at the left, zigzagged thru the field in some runs which brought praise from many football critics watching the game. Jack Trice played about half the game after having been injured in the shoul-

der and internally, and was taken out. Jack died this afternoon as a result of the injuries received in the game.

Norton Behn, for his dodging ability, was also highly praised by followers of the grid sport. Nave, at the right, substituted for Snyder in the third period.

NOTE: On October 10, 1923, The Iowa State Student newspaper published its Jack Trice memorial issue. It contained the story of Jack's death and the campus funeral services, along with poems, eulogies, and reminiscences. The only original copy of that issue was recently removed by someone from the I.S.U. Library archives without authorization. Therefore, that significant material cannot be reprinted here.

FROM: Hiram Township (Ohio) Historical Society Records

Contributed by Mrs. Gerald Bennett, Secretary

November 28, 1973

GREEN TRICE

Green Trice who worked for Mr. Wallace Ford, was a colored man, one of the very few who ever lived in Hiram. Mr. Ford lived north of Hiram. He had been personal secretary to President James A. Garfield, active in state politics, and later a trustee of Hiram College until his death.

Frank Taylor, a farmer in Hiram and who had worked with Green, told of a mark on Mr. Trice's hand, a mark left by having been shot with an Indian arrow. Also, that the only time Mr. Trice said he was really scared and thought that his "time was up", was during the Indian Wars when the Indians set fire to the circle in which the men were camped. But, by the quick thinking of his Captain, who set a back fire from the center, the men were able to jump over and were saved.

Mr. Trice had had no schooling when he came to Hiram, but he started in the first grade even tho' he was probably 20 or 25 years old at the time. Helen Turner Schoenberger (sister of Professor Jesse Turner) told of how he would swing the little children (of which she was one) at recess time by making a swing with his arms. All of them loved him and he was so good to them.

Another story told of Mr. Trice was that during the time when the Hiram people attended church in the old YMCA building, two of the local boys would go to Sunday School and then start back home. When Green Trice met them on his way to church, he would take each boy under his arms and take them back with him. He was seen doing this many times.

Mr. Trice later bought the Ford farm, married Anna Wilkerson, a Garrettsville girl.

Their son Johnny attended school here through the 8th grade and was well known to many of us. He was fatally hurt in a football game in 1923 while playing for Iowa State. All three of this family are buried in the Hiram cemetery.

JOHNNY TRICE

(Taken from a letter written by Dr. Gaylord Bates - October 16, 1956)

"Johnny Trice's name has rarely entered my mind since his death in the fall of 1923 and yet it does bring pleasant recollections. You have probably found out in your research that Johnny was playing football for Iowa State and was fatally injured in the Minnesota game of that year.

He had left Hiram at the end of the eighth grade to live with an uncle in Cleveland and to attend East Technical High School. That decision was a tribute to the shrewd judgement of his mother who felt that Johnny had lived too sheltered a life in Hiram and that he needed to be better prepared for maturity. This was chosen to get him among people of his own kind, to meet the problems that a negro boy would have to face sometime, and to give him an opportunity to make social contacts with people of his own race. You will recall that he made a brilliant record in football under Sam Willaman at East Tech and in fact went with their championship team to play a post-season game, I believe with Tacoma, in his senior year. Mr. Willaman then went to Iowa State as coach and Johnny followed him there with the ultimate idea of being trained in agriculture and then going down south to work with his own people. I believe my recollection is fairly accurate on those points.

"My recollection is that he was one grade behind me through school and that in the two-grade school rooms that we used, that we were together at least half of the time during the eight grades. He was a happy-go-lucky kid of barely average acholarship but with a hearty good humor that made him indistinguishable from his schoolmates at work, play or in social affairs. He was always a part of our school parties in various homes, with never a thought of any difference of color of skin. He engaged in all sports with considerable ability and in the activities of Sunday School and of the Boy Scouts as intimately as any of his colleaugues. He was as full of fun and practical jokes as anyone else. He could not be accused of any more deviltry, and certainly no less than the rest of us engaged in.

"A most vivid recollection is of the discipline that his mother had over him. You will recall that she was a very hard worker and had little time to cater to his whims. She gave him plenty of time to play but she also insisted that certain chores be done at her convenience and not his. Being an ordinary boy, he many times tried to escape from his chores to play ball with the rest of the kids, and I'll never forget his dejection when his mother's voice would boom out to call him back to work and break up a ball game. He certainly was loyal to his mother and I am sure caused her no more anxious moments that the rest of us did our mothers. As was the pattern in that community in those days, he was occasionally spanked or whipped if he didn't mind and his crocodile tears and cries of pain were as spiritous as any.

"It can be said that he took the kidding and pointed remarks of college students with respect to his race with good grace and if he became angry maintained perfect self-control. He was a very pleasant and enjoyable companion and I think all of us were richer in experience by having had this colored boy in our community. All of this is by way of paying particular tribute to his mother who was quite a remarkable character. She had a wisdom and a dignity admired by all of the women in the community which must have made itself felt on her boy. She had more tragedies to cope with than anyone should be called upon to bear, being widowed early and then losing her only child at the time he offered such great promise. I called upon her in Ravenna shortly before her own death and there was evident this same wisdom and dignity. She spoke of these things and of her own life without any trace of bitterness"

(This letter was written to the Hiram Township Historical Society)
Gaylord's father was President of Hiram College when Gaylord and Johnny were boys.

FROM: Hiram Township (Ohio) Historical Society Records

Contributed by Mrs. Gerald Bennett, Secretary

November 28, 1973

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Ames, Iowa. December 5, 1923.

Dear Professor Willaman:

Mrs. Anna W. Trice, John's mother, wrote to me recently that she had found a poem which gave her some comfort and I asked her to send it to me. It is reproduced below.

Mrs. Trice writes that President Bates of Hiram College spoke at John's grave and mentioned the fact that all four of John's grandparents were slaves but that in this country it is possible for the grandchildren by right living and perseverance to reach out and obtain nobler and higher things. She adds that when she sees worthless people who are a menace to themselves and everyone around them she wishes they would realize that if they would do their part they would be helped as John was.

R. A. PEARSON President

THE IDEALIST

He followed his dream and men counted it madness;
He followed his dream up the mountain's steep side;
"See! here in the valley are music and gladness;
Why then take the highway, the hard way?" they cried.

At length from above them we heard a faint calling;
His scorners turned quickly from feasting and play,
To look toward the mountain height grim and appalling;
"The luck of a fool -- he has treasure!" said they.

With ropes and with staves they toiled after, and found him
Midway of the mountain, his treasure outspread;
"Let us share it!" they clamored, pressed rudely around him;
"Take all -- it is yours; I go higher," he said.

Jesse Brown Pounds, Hiram, Ohio.

(From the college president to the head football coach:)

(A faculty resolution from 1923:)

It is with a feeling of profound regret that the Industrial Science Faculty mourns the loss of ^{Mr.} Jack Trice, a student of the Agricultural Division, who lost his life for Iowa State College in a football game last Saturday played with an honorable competitor, the University of Minnesota.

To those who ^{know} Mr. Trice more intimately there comes a feeling of deep sorrow, that a life so full of promise should be cut off at an early age. We wish we might impress upon the student body the indomitable courage of Mr. Trice; the determination to do something for his fellow men, be it little or great, that there may be to the student body a new spirit of incentives to fellowship and work.

The Iowa State College Student in an editorial makes the following comment: "How tragic that the five thousand of us here could not have known him as his teammates did. Killed in football, on the field of action, struggling, fighting and sacrificing all, dying for Iowa State, for us. What could be nobler, more heroic? Trice was to be a leader in his race. His friends, snatching up and cherishing the spark of life which he gladly allowed to sputter and go out, will in the name of Jack Trice, become the leaders".

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this note of appreciation be spread on the minutes and a copy sent to the bereaved family.

COMMITTEE

R. H. Parmelee

Sam Hillman

W. F. Hoover

The Iowa State Student

Member Iowa College Press

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A Little Band of Black

For 1923, Cyclone football is done.

Rooters have watched eagerly as a gold-sweatered gridman plowed and zig-zagged down the field, ringing up a gain for Ames.

When there have been fumbles, every eye in the stands was focused on the sweater of the man on the bottom of the scrambled pile, to discover whether it were gold.

Those golden sweaters have been in the public eye during the whole season.

But the sweater was not entirely gold.

A little band of black has encircled the left arm of each jersey, and though they have been inconspicuous during the play on the gridiron, they have not been unnoticed.

The mourning ribbon means to all who see it that one of the team died, while fighting, and symbolizes the depth of feeling experienced by the team at the loss of Jack Trice.

The eleven on the field have been conscious of the touch of black on the arm, as if Jack Trice had laid a hand on the arm of his fighting mates, urging them on, telling them again in the words of his secret letter:

"Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good."

They have remembered Jack, and recalling his sacrifice, have "carried on."

Others Have Said Fine Things

Tributes were paid to Jack Trice by men in all parts of the country, men who had seen in him the determination to prove the worth of his race.

On the desk of the writer of this, is a rather bulky pile of papers, includ-

ing a letter from Pres. L. D. Coffman, of Minnesota university, editorials clipped from many papers of Iowa, Minnesota and other states, a clipping from the Afro-American, a great national newspaper for the Negro race, resolutions passed by the industrial science division and others, of Iowa State, and a letter from Mother Trice.

Some of the finest things were said by the Minnesota Alumni weekly. Perhaps the best statement of Jack's controlling purpose was made in that paper.

"He knew that if anything was to be accomplished for the Negro race it must be done through the achievement of individuals. It would take the resounding character of a few to show the worth of a race. And so, he saw within his immediate grasp an opportunity to forge ahead in that individual spectacularity—as a class fighting spirit—which was necessary to his cause. He was alive to his moment."

A Trice Memorial

But we cannot allow men in other schools or other states to be the authors of the finest appreciations of his life.

The crowning tribute must come from the minds and hearts of this college, where he silently struggled, and where his heroic life was uncovered by Death, for the whole world to see, and pattern after.

Some tribute, some tangible thing, must be set up to the memory of Jack Trice. Then all who come into the influence of this memorial, whatever it may be, will experience the steadfastness of purpose which was Jack's.

What form this tribute may best take cannot yet be known, but the thought and comment of a student body can determine it.

TIME
TO
ACT
AT
LAST

?

The Iowa State Student, November 26, 1923

PART 2:

THE REDISCOVERY

**IN MEMORY OF
JACK TRICE
WHO DIED OCTOBER 8, 1923,
OF INJURIES RECEIVED IN THE
AMES-MINNESOTA FOOTBALL GAME**

**"MY THOUGHTS JUST BEFORE THE FIRST
REAL COLLEGE GAME OF MY LIFE:**

**"THE HONOR OF MY RACE, FAMILY, AND
SELF IS AT STAKE. EVERY ONE IS EX-
PECTING ME TO DO BIG THINGS. I WILL.
MY WHOLE BODY AND SOUL ARE TO BE
THROWN RECKLESSLY ABOUT THE FIELD.**

**"EVERY TIME THE BALL IS SNAPPED, I
WILL BE TRYING TO DO MORE THAN MY
PART. FIGHT LOW, WITH YOUR EYES OPEN
AND TOWARD THE PLAY. WATCH OUT FOR
CROSSBUCKS AND REVERSE END RUNS. BE
ON YOUR TOES EVERY MINUTE. IF YOU
EXPECT TO MAKE GOOD."**

JACK.

iowa state scientist

November, 1957

Vol. 11 No. 3

JACK TRICE

Victor on the Fatal Field

by Tom Emerson, S. Jr.

WHEN THE SMOKE of battle had cleared and the final score was tallied, it was noted that the boys from the Iowa Agricultural College had a total of 22 points while the Nebraska team had none.

The year was 1891 and this was the beginning and end of Iowa State's only undefeated football season. That lone victory resulted in the birth of football at Iowa State College.

Most fans know that football was started at Iowa State in 1891, and a greater share know that George Washington Carver became the first IAC athletic trainer in 1894. The following year an outmanned and outclassed team of eleven husky footballers from the Iowa Agricultural College descended upon the Northwestern University Kickers and blasted them by a 36-0 score. The next day a Chicago newspaper carried the headline

"Struck By a Cyclone" and followed up with the quote, "Northwestern might as well have tried to play football with an Iowa cyclone as with the Iowa team it met yesterday." That was the origin of the nickname, "Cyclones."

These historical football events are of common stock to most Iowa State grid fans. Yet, probably one of the most significant happenings in this college's history remains one of the most silent.

This is the story of Jack Trice, the first Negro to participate in Iowa State athletics. And the first man ever to die as a result of direct participation in intercollegiate athletics at Iowa State.

Trice enrolled in Animal Husbandry at Iowa State College in the fall of 1922, coming here from East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio, with 6 other Tech boys. Jack had barely enough acceptable credits to gain conditional entrance in the freshman class, but during his first year he not only made up his lacking high school credits, but passed 45 hours of college work with an average of over 90 percent. While he was doing this, he continued to support his mother and wife by working part-time. All the while Jack was practicing with the Cyclone freshman football and track teams.

As a freshman, Jack was not only a most promising gridder, but he also won the shotput event in the Missouri Valley Conference Freshman meet.

In the fall of 1923 Trice returned to Ames with his wife and together they began working out their educations. Jack rapidly became known as one of the stalwarts in the Cyclone line. He was a tower of strength, alert to every change in the tide of battle, fighting with all his strength and knowledge of the game, but always squarely and cleanly. Jack's ability was summed up in a football report given in the Iowa State Student, October 3, 1923. "In the line, the big colored boy, Jack Trice is by far the most outstanding performer and gave evidence of being one of the best tackles in the Missouri valley."

However, the Cyclones' first real test was 3 days away. On Saturday, Oct. 6, the Staters were to meet Minnesota at Minneapolis. The Gophers, boasting several all-conference veterans, were considered by leading football experts to be the best team in the mid-west.

Thursday, Oct. 4, Coach Willaman ran his charges through a short signal drill and then they attended a

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pep rally before leaving by way of bus for Nevada and the awaiting railway car. At the rally Coach Willaman said, "Minnesota may have it over us in speed and knowledge of the game, but they cannot have any more determination to win than has Ames."

The Iowa State Student reported that "fans flocked to Minneapolis for the game". One bus had 40 fans. Others started afoot, trusting to the fortunes of the trail for more speedy transportation. Roads are in excellent condition from Ames to Minneapolis. The entire distance is 251 miles and if the weather conditions are suitable, the trip can be made in approximately 9 hours.

Upon their arrival in Minneapolis, Coach Willaman ran his 27-man squad through a light workout at Northrup Field.

On the eve of his first great intercollegiate effort, as if inspired, Jack Trice wrote a statement of his ideals of the game in which he played with so much credit to himself, his teammates and his coach until he met with the accident which resulted in his death. This statement, written on a crumpled bit of Curtis Hotel stationery, was intended for no eyes but his own. The piece of paper was not found in his jacket pocket until the day of his funeral.

The following afternoon, Jack Trice, the first Negro ever to oppose a Gopher eleven, went down in history. Minnesota, playing its opening game, was getting much more than it had expected. After two quarters, the Cyclones, outweighed 15 pounds per man, had fought tooth and nail with the favored Gophers and had done a good job of containing the Minnesota offense.

During the intermission Coach Willaman asked Trice, "How are you, Jack?" Jack replied, "I'm O.K., but my shoulder hurts a little." Midway in the third quarter the Gophers had possession of the ball. They lined up in their usual "I" formation. At the snap, the Minnesota team surged into the play, off left tackle. Jack crouched for the explosion, saw he could not make the tackle and threw himself in front of the interference. In the collision that followed Trice was twisted over on his back and the Gophers kept coming, trampling Trice.

He was removed from the game at once, although he protested that he could continue play, and walked off the field with the aid of two teammates, one being present Cyclone tennis coach and intramural director, Harry Schmidt. Trice was taken immediately to a Minneapolis hospital where physicians declared his condition was not so serious as to prohibit his removal from Minneapolis to Ames. He returned with the team, the Cyclones having lost a 20-17 decision, arriving in Ames Sunday morning. He was taken to the college hospital at once, where it was said he was doing well until 4:00 p.m., when his respiration became irregular, increasing gradually. Hopes were retained that the sturdy player would survive his injuries. It wasn't until late Sunday that it was discovered that Jack's "aching shoulder" was caused by a broken collar bone.

Dr. Oliver J. Fay, of Des Moines, one of the leading stomach specialists in the country was called into consultation at 1:00 a.m. Monday. The doctors decided that an operation was inadvisable. Jack grew weak rapidly and died at 3:00 p.m. Monday. Cause of death was hemorrhaged lungs and internal bleeding throughout

the abdomen. The Ames Daily Tribune being delivered at the time of Trice's death said that "Jack Trice, colored tackle, was forced out of the game in the third period with internal injuries and it will probably be 4 weeks before he will be in condition to scrimmage again."

On Tuesday, October 9, 1923, at 3 p.m., college classes were suspended and nearly 4,000 Iowa State College students and faculty members formed a semi-circle to the northwest of the campanile. They stood with bowed heads while those who knew the star gridiron player best told the simple story of their friend's life. Before the wooden platform rested the gray casket with the Ames blanket of cardinal and gold covering it.

What happened next is best described by the Oct. 10 Des Moines Register. "Jack Trice, Negro, a sophomore, winning his spurs in his first big college football game, spoke posthumously today to his fellows of Iowa State college and to athletes and true sportsmen throughout the land an athletic creed which will live long in the annals of his college.

"On the eve of the Iowa State-Minnesota game at Minneapolis Saturday, in which he received injuries that caused his death, Trice set down the words of a letter. This letter, intended for no eyes but his own, was found in the pocket of his jacket today and was read to 4,000 students and faculty members who attended a memorial service this afternoon near the campanile for the dead athlete.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—

"My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life. The honor of my race, family and self are at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I WILL! My whole body and soul are to be trown recklessly about on the field tomorrow. Every time the ball is snapped I will be trying to do more than my part. On all defensive plays I must break through the opponent's line and stop the play in their territory. Beware of mass interference. FIGHT low with your eyes open and toward the play. ROLL. BLOCK THE INTERFERENCE. Watch out for cross bucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good.

Jack"

The Ames Chamber of Commerce and Cardinal Guild immediately began raising a fund to defray all funeral expenses. The fund's total, \$2,259 paid for funeral expenses, lifted the mortgage which Mrs. Trice had placed on her home so Jack and his wife could attend school and provided a \$580 nest egg for both Jack's wife and his mother.

The Jack Trice story did not end in 1923, nor did it end in Ames. The story of Jack's death became a nationwide legend. Stories like the following appeared in many newspapers.

Editorial in the Minnesota Alumni Weekly, Oct. 18, 1923.

"When the whistle sounded at the Ames-Minnesota game a week ago, and Jack Trice was carried off the field, the contest passed into the hands of another referee. The succeeding fight was brief and decisive; the

(Continued on Page 20)

the winning team was not impeded by the crows obscuring their countenances, and however the whiteness of their fleshless bones the weight of them was excessive. Death scored a touchdown, but the defeat of Jack Trice was a triumph. For Death always loses when a hero dies.

"The order of life seldom attains the heights of heroism; when it does, history is made. History and accomplishment: these deaths are not futile. Martyrdom is not an empty mask.

"In the death of Jack Trice there was sufficiently that note of heroism to account the measure of its gain. A hero died from that afternoon on Northrop Field. Nothingless: a hero with all the blaze of glory and spectacular accomplishment which is due heroic martyrdom. Conscious of the noticeable racial incongruity of his situation, he saw the stage set with unusual possibilities.

"He was genuine, a thoroughbred. Not daunted by the immensity of the racial vortex into which he had thrown himself, he saw the injustice of that supremacy and sought to prove its fallacy. He knew that if anything is to be accomplished for the Negro race it must be done through the achievement of individuals. It would take the resounding character of a few to show the sort of a race. And so, he saw within his immediated grasp an opportunity to forge ahead in that individual spectacularity — as a clean, fighting spirit — which was necessary to his cause. He was alive to his moment. Like all great moments, moments, it had its foreboding — a hint that perhaps the surge of that moment would be too great for the walls of life to hold it back. On the night before the game at the Curtis Hotel he wrote his simple introspection.

"The bit of paper was found in his coat pocket after his death the following Monday. Booker T. Washington speaks through that simple note, reminds the men fortunately possessing the glandular government of a pale epidermis that a black once held ideals and a conception of living which have not been surpassed.

"He died fighting. There is not greater claim to heroism. Yet his was more. He fought alone where others fought in a group. His was a stalwart purpose, for the moment transposed into a game of men bucking men, college contesting college. Not an alien, perhaps, but an incongruity. A natural ironicism by which he stood, of necessity, alone. And in his aloneness at that moment of battle he became heroic.

"The grim spirit of resolve was never choked by the fullness of any moment. His chest was crushed during the second play of the game. The pain that must have been there would have made another call for a substitute. But Jack Trice remembered his purpose. He fought on though Death hovered on his haggard lips, lips that doggedly reminded him of his cause: 'The honor of your race is at stake . . . you must go on.' Against his will he was carried from the field. On Monday he died.

"With the quickly aroused tenderness of a crowd, Minnesota responded at the game: when the Negro player was carried off, the stands rose in a body and shouted: "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry," Mr. Luchring, Mr. Spaulding, Captain Martineau and other regular squad members wrote words of condolence to

Trice's school, his friends and family. And perhaps Minnesota alumni through their own organ should add, with our students: 'We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry.'

Now his team mates wear a stripe of black around the left sleeves of their cardinal and gold jerseys for him. Of all those who have seen how they have played thru all the games since Minnesota who can doubt that he has impressed the spirit of his play upon them? Who can doubt that Jack Trice is carrying on?"

The Seattle Post Intelligencer, after quoting the immortal letter Jack wrote:

"So Jack Trice, negro tackle on the Iowa State football team, wrote down his thoughts in Minneapolis the night before his first big game. And the next day, on the field, he was killed in action. Will anybody say that the boy's death was a waste? Will anybody say that the spirit he exceded and of which he left the record to burn in the hearts of men who shall follow him was not a high and flaming thing?

"Will anybody say that 'after all, he was only going to play in a game,' or that 'if he had lived he might have been a useful citizen.'

"Useful! So he might have been and would have been. No boy with that light in his heart could have failed to lead men on. But has he not been useful?

"He was not playing a game only. He saw himself as a symbol, and the game as life. Not what he played, but how he played it, counted. A negro, he stood for honor, for courage, for aspiration. He went to college to learn to be a good farmer, and he would have been a good farmer, for he was a man.

"He was only playing a game, but he played it as a soldier dies for his country. He was only a negro boy in an agricultural college, but he left a message that will not be forgotten while determination endures. All he did was his best.

"The letter in his monument, and it is a monument of which his race, and his family, and his college, and his country may be proud.

"Only a game — till John Trice made it a beacon." An unknown author composed the following poem which appeared in a Minnesota newspaper:

Trice

Tribute to him, who, in the first fair flush
Of Glory, won upon a fatal field
Fell, hurt, before the fierce contested rush
And joy of worthy battle; fell to yield —
Not to the charging line that swept along;
In body stricken; but with changless mind
That gained respect of friends and foe in throng
Who witnessed it; and in the groups aligned.
A heart, that with loyal aim beat fast
For that to which his fealty was pledged;
The honor of the dead was first; he, last
As in the plunging mass the form was wedged.
Tribute to him; for in a worth foe
The steel of character is just and pure,
Built on such precepts as we fail to know —
The bedrock of true manhood full as sure,
Honor to him, as truly modern knight
Who, striving, fell before the shock of fight,
Nor knew the shock alone; for either side
Bows saddened head for him who, fighting died.

—C. A. W. (No one knows who) . .

His record stands squarely behind the assertion that he if alive today could say truthfully 'I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course. I have kept the faith.'

Trice: a forgotten story remembered

by JIM SMITH and
ALAN BEALS

Over the years Iowa State football tradition has been strengthened by memorable, exciting happenings in university life.

There was ISU's exciting football beginning in 1891, George Washington Carver who was first Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Athletic trainer in 1894, and the reign of the "Dirty 30" in the 1950's.

But probably the most significant happening in this university's football history remains the most silent.

On October 6, 1923, Jack Trice, the first Black to actively participate in Iowa State Athletics lost his life throwing a block in a Minnesota-Iowa State football contest.

While a plaque in his memory hangs forgotten and unkept in the old State Gym, decorated in spots with bird droppings, tomorrow's football game with Colorado will mark the 50th anniversary of his tragic death.

Trice, in losing his life, became, on that fatal date, the only man ever to die as a result of direct participation in Iowa State athletics.

Jack enrolled in Iowa State College in the fall of 1922 to study animal husbandry. He came to Ames from East Tech High School in Cleveland, Ohio with six others.

Jack had barely enough acceptable credit to gain conditional entrance in the freshman class, but during his first year, he not only made up his lack of high school credits, but passed 45 college hours with a 90 per cent average. He did this while supporting his wife and mother, working part-time and practicing with the football and freshman track teams.

He finished his freshman year and returned to Ames as a sophomore the fall of 1923. He and his wife both worked for their educations doing odd jobs.

During his development as a



Jack Trice

ballplayer that fall, Jack became known as one of the stalwarts of the Cyclone interior line.

Newspaper accounts reported on Oct. 3, three days prior to his fatal contest, that "In the line the big colored boy, Jack Trice, is by far the most outstanding performer of the game and gave evidence of being one of the best tackles in the Missouri Valley."

Jack's ability on the gridiron was well thought of by the media, his friends, teammates and coach.

According to newspaper reports, before the start of the Minnesota game, Cyclone Head Coach Sam Willaman said, "Boys, I know of two men on this team I know will fight" and the first name he mentioned was Jack Trice.

This confidence in him against Minnesota which was noted to be the best team in the country, led Jack on the eve of the contest to write a letter to himself of his plans for the game.

The letter, found in his jacket pocket the day of his funeral was



The plaque honoring Jack Trice hangs on the wall of the State Gymnasium where it goes unnoticed by students using the gym for classes and recreation. Trice, the first black to star on an Iowa State football team was killed from injuries suffered in the Ames-Minnesota game fifty years ago Saturday.

meant for his eyes only and was written on a crumpled piece of Curtis Hotel Stationery in Minneapolis, Minn.

It read: "My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life:

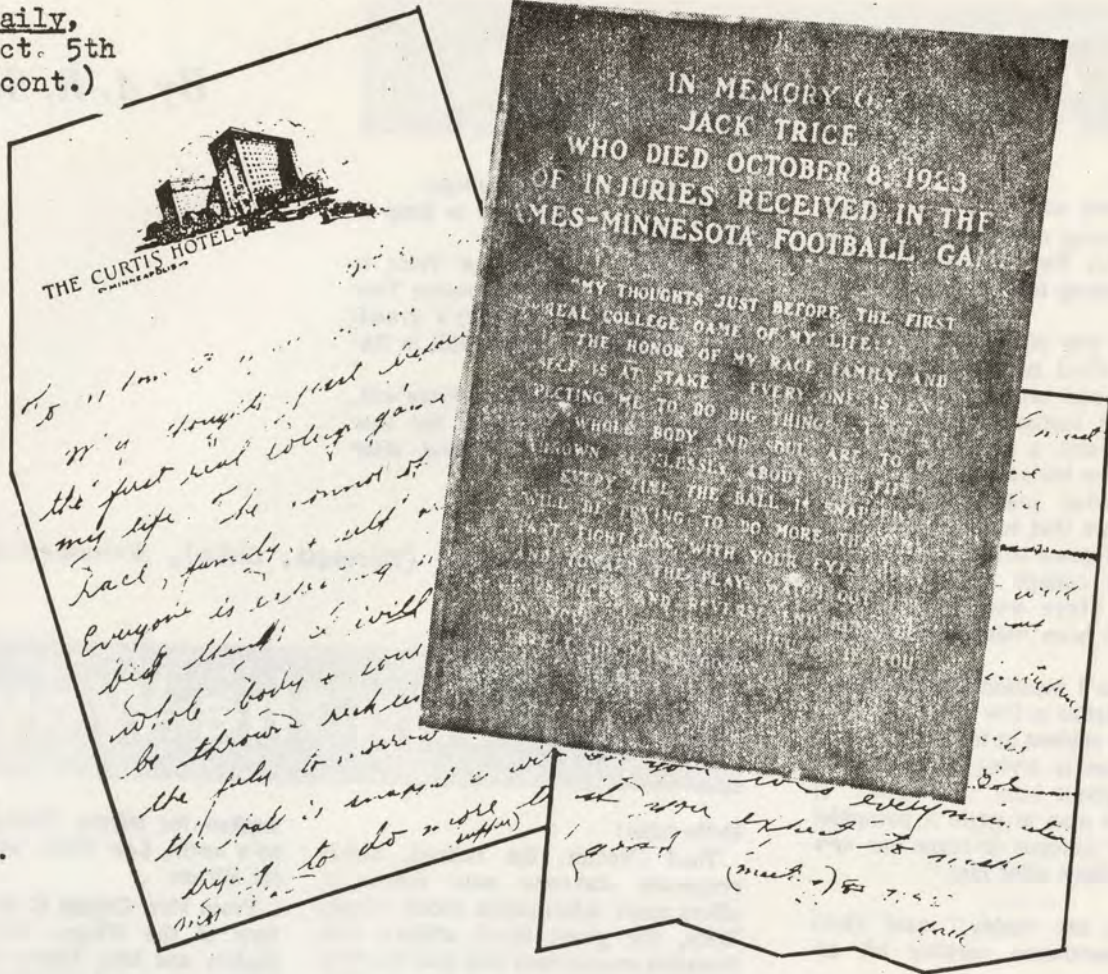
"The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Every one is expecting me to do big things. I will. My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field.

"Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low, with your eyes open and toward the play. Watch out for crossbucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good. Jack."

Jack "fought low, with his eyes open and towards the play" as he promised. In the third quarter of the game, Jack crouched to block a rushing mass of Minnesota players. Seeing he could not stop the ball carrier, Jack threw himself in front of the line of blockers to leave an opening for his teammates.

con't

Daily,
Oct. 5th
(cont.)



The night before the Ames-Minnesota game, in which he suffered fatal injuries, Trice sat in the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis and wrote some thoughts to inspire his play the next day. The note, found in his pocket the day of the funeral, is preserved in the Special Collections section of the Library. The plaque honoring Trice recounts some

of his thoughts written that night before "the first real college game of my life." Trice died the Monday following the game. Funeral services held on Central Campus the next day were attended by most of the 4,000 students and faculty at the college.

Funeral attended by 4,000

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The move cost him his life. He was trampled under several players of the opposing team.

He was helped off the field by two fellow teammates, one being Ames resident Harry Schmidt, an ex-director of Iowa State intramurals and former ISC tennis coach.

Jack was taken to a Minnesota Hospital, where doctors examined him and declared his condition not so serious. He travelled back to Ames with the team laying on a straw bed of a Pullman and was taken immediately to the college hospital.

He died on Monday of hemorrhaging lungs and internal bleeding throughout the abdomen. He also suffered a

broken shoulder blade.

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1923, classes were suspended and the 4,000 Iowa State students, and faculty formed a semi-circle northwest of the campanile while friends told the simple story of his life. Before the wooden platform rested a gray casket with the college blanket of cardinal and gold draped over it. ISU paid its last tribute to Jack.

The memory of Jack was lost in history by most Iowa Staters, but Schmidt had a few memories of Jack.

"He was a very good fellow," Schmidt said, "he didn't speak out much. He kept his place."

Schmidt said Jack "acted like any respectable black man should in those days."

He said it wasn't hard to

remember Jack. He said Jack blocked him once and it was the hardest he'd ever been blocked.

Jack had many obstacles to cross in his short lived career. He faced the problem of paying for his schooling and of a deep-rooted racial prejudice of the times. He had to work twice as hard to accomplish what his white teammates accomplished.

When the Cyclones take the field tomorrow against Buffaloes of Colorado, maybe the thought of Jack Trice will be with some of us.

There's an excerpt from an Iowa State poem during the time which goes, "State College of Iowa, I Gave to Thee My Allegiance, the Strength of My Life . . .," and so goes the memory Jack Trice.

Along the Way

By A. R. Sicuro

Hello folks!

Many, many summers ago a husky, handsome young man used to run past my house on Vine St. and wave a friendly greeting to my playmates and me.

His name was Johnny Trice and we youngsters liked him because of his friendliness and because we heard he was a crack football player at Iowa State University, a fact confirmed by the big "I" on his sweater.

The following year we heard the shocking news that he had been killed in a football game between Iowa State and another college whose name escapes me. There were ugly rumors that he had been mauled because he was black.

The reason I mention Trice is that I received a letter a few days ago from Pam Dee, a student at Iowa State. "My English class is trying to gather information about him," she said. "If possible, we plan to write a pamphlet to persuade officials to name our new football stadium after him."

"He was my buddy," said Herb Proctor, courthouse parking lot attendant.

From Herb, I learned Trice starred at Cleveland East Tech High and spent the summers in Ravenna with his grandmother on W. Highland Ave. One reason he came here was that he worked for the Portage County Highway

Dept. to earn money for college.

"Johnny ran all the time to keep in shape," Herb recalled.

Another who remembered Trice is former Ravenna Service Director Tom Ewell. Tom recalled Johnny's grandmother worked at Redfern Mill in Ravenna.

Everyone who remembers Trice will, I'm sure, be very happy if the new Iowa State stadium is named after him.

The Record-Courier (Ravenna, Ohio), November 27, 1973

Along the Way

Hello folks!

Thad Proctor, the retired, highly respected Ravenna auto mechanic, offers more information about Johnny Trice, the great black athlete with Ravenna connections who was killed in his first football game with Iowa State University 50 years ago.

Recollections about Trice appeared here last Friday in connection with an inquiry from an Iowa State coed, who said her English class is starting a campaign to have the new Iowa State stadium named in his honor.

Thad, whose family was close to the Trices here, said it was Johnny's mother, Anna, who lived on W. Highland Ave. in Ravenna, not his grandmother."

"Johnny was one of the greatest athletes in Cleveland East Tech history and worked in Ravenna in the summer," Thad recalls. "He had decided not to attend college but he was swamped with offers and finally accepted one from Iowa State because it included a scholarship for his wife, a former Youngstown girl."

After his death from a crushed chest in Iowa's first game with Minnesota, a letter which Johnny had written his mother but was never mailed was found in his effects. It revealed that for some reason he had feared the opening game.

In Trice's honor, Iowa State erected a memorial at the first gate of its stadium shortly after Johnny's tragic death, Thad said.

Thad recalled that Trice's mother had

worked for Hiram College and Johnny's uncle, Lee Trice, played football for Hiram.

From Mrs. Gerald E. Bennett, secretary of the Hiram Twp. Historical Society and Mrs. Harry Dade, also of Hiram, I learned that Johnny grew up in Hiram until he was through the eighth grade. Then his mother decided he should live in Cleveland so he would learn the problems facing blacks.

"The Trices were so well treated, without discrimination, that Mrs. Trice thought Johnny did not realize the problems he would face later," Mrs. Bennett recalled.

Both the parents and Johnny are buried in the Hiram Cemetery.

Mrs. Bennett recalled that the late Miner Lee Bates, then president of Hiram College, delivered a eulogy for Johnny and indicated the opposing team had been out to get the star footballer because of his color.

A cousin of Johnny, Charlie Bunch, graduated from Ohio State University as an electrical engineer and opened a factory in Cleveland. Later, he established an electrical business in Cuba, N. Y., became a millionaire and spent his last years in Beverly Hills, Calif.

'Jack Trice Stadium' proposed by students

by GERRY FORGE
Sportswriter News Analysis

Naming the new \$7 million football stadium is probably the last thought in the minds of Iowa State University Foundation and stadium officials right now, but that's not true for a small group of English 105 students.

As matter of fact, they've already organized a strong effort to get the stadium named after Jack Trice, an ISU football player who died of injuries received in an ISU-Minnesota football game in 1923.

Trice was the first black football player for Iowa State. He is the only athlete ever to be killed while participating in sports competition for Iowa State.

Trice lived most of his life in Hiram, Ohio. He was the son of Green and Anna Trice. Green Trice was an Indian fighter who had moved to Hiram shortly after Indian wars.

Trice was a dedicated athlete who captured the respect of his fellow teammates with his tough, aggressive play. This type of play probably cost him his life.

An article was written in the ISU Daily earlier this fall just before the Colorado game, which marked the 50th anniversary of Trice's death. This article by Daily sports editor Jim Smith & Allen Beales is what led to the forming of the "Jack Trice Stadium Committee." The committee is composed of Pam Dee, AA ID 1, Melinda Jones, Hist.

1, Lonnie Coleman, S&H 3, Dave Stevens Arch 1, and Bill Walsh I Ad 1.

A resolution introduced by the group to GSB Senate Tuesday night regarding the stadium name was passed unanimously.

"The article was bought up in class. We discussed it as a group and decided to do something about Trice," said Dee. "We liked the story and thought the stadium would be a good commemoration in his honor."

Dee was instrumental in obtaining much of the information on Trice. While acting as committee chairman, she wrote letters to Ravenna and Hiram, Ohio where Trice lived and attended school.

"The letter I got from the Ravenna Records Courier on Jack Trice was filled with good things about him, such as how good natured he was and how hard working he was," said Dee.

"He seems like a nice person and he interests me," she said.

"If they (ISU) gave out a dedication, I don't think there is anyone more deserving of it than Jack Trice." Melinda Jones added, "I think it would be absurd for them to overlook his name when considering a name for the stadium."

Lonnie Coleman, a senior Cyclone football player, said the stadium should be named after Trice because, "The dude gave his life for the team and the school. Just reading the note he wrote to himself before the game against Minnesota proves his dedication."

Coleman added, "Every football player who steps on the field puts himself in the same frame of mind as Trice did."

Coleman also thinks that if the stadium would be named after Trice, it would help the football program immensely. "Think of the impact it would make on players being recruited to know that the stadium was named after a football

player who had given his life for the game," said Coleman.

Every member of the committee has his own ideas about Trice. Each member said his name represents something different to them. For example, Dave Stevens said, "He represents what a collegiate athlete is to me. A strong and powerful man with devotion and loyalty to friends and family."

Trice's devotion to his family goes unquestioned. While Trice attended school, he played football and worked in the afternoon to support a wife and a mother. An article printed in the Ravenna Record Courier, carried an excerpt from a letter written by Dr. Gaylord Bates, an old friend of Jack Trice. In the letter, Dr. Bates wrote, "My most vivid recollection is of the discipline that his mother had over him. When his mother's voice would boom out over the football games were were playing, he would stop playing and go to her."

John Martin, who recently visited Ravenna, Ohio said, "I know Trice is no Carver or Beardshear, but he gave his life for the school and the team and I don't think these facts can be overlooked when the time comes to choose a name for the stadium."



Maury White

A LITTLE BIT About a Lot of Things:

A GROUP OF students at Iowa State has started a drive to name the new stadium in honor of Jack Trice, a Cyclone football player who died of injuries received in a game with Minnesota in 1923. Trice was a black, back in a time when few were in college athletics...

Iowa State Daily February 7, 1974 Rusted fading plaque last Jack Trice remembrance

The man is dead, but his legend lives on in the hearts of several Iowa State students.

That man is Jack Trice, who died as a result of injuries received in a football game in 1923. A rusted and fading plaque to his remembrance hangs forlorn in state gym, but Trice was all but forgotten until an sentimental English instructor and his students decided Trice should relive.

money," he said.

"Obviously it's a story touching a lot of people associated with Iowa State, but I'm not real familiar with it," he said.

He said there are some positive things in the students' efforts, but the foundation is concerned with attracting money from donors. He said in the past that naming university structures after the big donors has generally been the case.

Morton said top university officials are the ones really involved in choosing the name. "Our job is to raise the money and get the stadium built on time."

Well, when they do start to think of naming the \$7 million dollar complex, they'll have something else to consider.

At least those students think so. They'll have to decide between a dedicated football player who gave his life playing football, establishing a tradition and attitude for others to follow, and a dedicated alum or friend who gave his money for the stadium for other players to play in.

Student John Martin said, "I know Trice is no Carver or Beardshear, but he gave his life for the school and the the team and I don't think these facts can be overlooked when the time comes to choose a name for the stadium."

Martin is not saying that Trice went out there planning to give his life, but he is saying we should take notice of a hard working dedicated individual whose concern was for bettering himself, his family and the institution he served.

"The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will. My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field.

"Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low, with your eyes open and toward the play. Watch out for crossbucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good. Jack."

And so it was with Jack Trice.



cyclone sidelights

by jim smith

They've started a drive to name the new stadium after him. "Jack Trice Memorial Stadium," no less.

The group has gone as far as to gain the endorsement of the Government of Student Body in its efforts. GSB passed a resolution in their behalf by a unanimous decision.

The instructor, Alan Beales came to me in October with the information on a story about Trice during the 50th anniversary of his death. It was a very moving experience. As a result, his student group was born.

These students feel that Iowa State has a tradition of naming its structures after those alums and friends who donate the millions and thousands of dollars to the fund and they're afraid this is what will happen this time.

"If they gave out a dedication, I don't think there is anyone more deserving of it than Jack Trice" said Melinda Jones, one of the committee, "I think it would be absurd for them to overlook his name for the stadium."

According to ISU Foundation Executive Secretary Joe Morton, there hasn't been any concern yet of stadium officials as to naming the stadium. He appeared sympathetic to the students' cause, but said he doesn't know the pros and cons on the matter. "I just raise the

point of view

Ames Tribune, May 9, 1974 ("Letters to the Editor") Who could disagree?

To the Editor of The Tribune:

On Oct. 9, 1923, The Ames Tribune carried the account of the death of ISU's first black athlete in a football game at Minnesota. The story was picked up and carried all over the nation in news stories and editorials. Six thousand stood with bowed heads honoring this man during his funeral in Ames. His teammates stood behind him under pressure. After his death all of the Cyclones wore black arm bands during every contest. A letter found shortly after his death is a living memorial to the ideals of this fine student—athlete set for himself.

A plaque in the southwest corner of the State Gym contains the words in the letter:

"My thoughts just before the first real college football game of my life.

"The honor of my race, family and self are at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will! My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about on the field tomorrow. Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. On tall defensive plays, I must break through the opponent's

line and stop the play in their territory.

"Beware of mass interference, fight low, with your eyes open and towards the play. Roll back the interference, watch out for cross bucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good.

"Jack"

A move is underway to name the new Cyclone football home after Jack Trice. Who could disagree with that choice?

Mike Swan
1452 Breckinridge Court

Not enough

To the Editor of The Tribune:

On Oct. 8, 1923 Iowa State's first black athlete died of injuries received in his college football debut.

His teammates and fellow students remembered him fondly as an outstanding athlete and an above-average student.

The only memorial to him is a plaque on the southwest side of the old State Gymnasium depicting the ideals he held dear. These alone are a tribute to himself and to Iowa State.

But I do not believe it is tribute enough! In choosing a name for the new I.S.U. football stadium presently under construction, it is the opinion of many people, including myself, that no name is more representative of Iowa State than that of Jack Trice.

Mike Nostwich-707 Hodge Ave.
Chrm., Jack Trice Memorial Stadium
Committee—Ames High

How about Jack Trice?

People often claim that big time intercollegiate athletics serve only one god—money. Money provides equipment and scholarships for athletes, provides salaries for coaches and builds football stadiums.

Now that money is building a football stadium at Iowa State, money's pervasive role threatens to penetrate the one symbolic gesture—providing the stadium with a name.

Tuesday night on a local radio station, Director of Athletics Lou McCullough said there is "a good possibility" that the new football stadium will be named after the largest contributor to the stadium drive.

If this happens, who knows what obscure—yet rich—man would catapult into instant immortality. The stadium may be named after someone who never attended or taught at Iowa State.

Just think. John Doe Stadium; it would be part of our vocabulary, like C.Y. Stephens Auditorium and Fisher Theater.

Naming the auditorium and little theatre after these money-men made sense because without their contributions these facilities, appreciated by the general public, might not have been built.

But in the naming of the stadium, Iowa State has two alternatives to naming it after the man who can afford to buy the honor.

Members of the Advisory Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Streets (chaired by Virgil Lagomarcino, education) could recommend the stadium be named after nobody in particular; the stadium might be called "Cyclone Stadium" in reference to the football team's nickname.

Or, committee members may choose a man making notable contributions to athletics at Iowa State, though not necessarily in the monetary sense.

One man who made the ultimate contribution to Iowa State athletics—his life—is being touted by various persons on campus.

Jack Trice died from injuries suffered in a 1923 game against Minnesota. It was the first and only game he played for Iowa State.

There is reason to believe Trice "gave it all he had" even before his tragic accident. He was Iowa State's first black athlete 50 years ago, when blacks were a rarity at most colleges, not to mention the colleges' athletic fields.

It would be a fitting tribute to a man, and hopefully an accurate reflection of our priorities, if the stadium were to be named Jack Trice Stadium.

Persons desiring the stadium be named after Jack Trice may send their requests to: The Office of the President, Iowa State University, 117 Beardshear Hall, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Persons may also obtain petitions next Tuesday at one of the ticket booths across from the Memorial Union Commons.

The stadium can be more than cold cash and concrete. It can be an idea. One game was enough—let's hope the University recognizes this fact. (Staff opinion)

Red Peppers

By Gus Schrader



Jack Trice Stadium?

A group known as the "Jack Trice Stadium committee" is seeking to have Iowa State's new \$7 million football stadium named after the only athlete known to have died as a result of injuries suffered in an Iowa State athletic contest.

Jack Trice played only one football game for the Cyclones, but the committee thinks that was enough to make his name worthy of being immortalized.

Trice was Iowa State's first black athlete. He came to Ames in 1922 after a superb high school career at Hiram, Ohio.

Iowa State faced considerable pressure for trying to use a black player, although the U. of Iowa had played several black players previously—the late Fred "Duke" Slater, all-American tackle from Clinton, the most notable. He made all-American at Iowa in 1921.

Anyway, Iowa State yielded to this pressure and held Jack Trice out of games at Nebraska and St. Louis. The team decided to use Jack despite the opposition of the other schools, and he played in the contest at Minnesota Oct. 6, 1923.

Minnesotans Sorry

Old newspaper accounts of that game said Minnesota was leading 14-10 in the third quarter. "Both sides were desperate for a score," one story said, when Minnesota tried a cross-buck play.

A hole opened in Iowa State's defensive line. Jack Trice rushed to fill it, throwing his body into the play with what they called a "roll block" in those days but regarded as being too dangerous for today's football.

At any rate, he landed on his back in front of three charging Minnesota players. He stopped the play, but was trampled. His injuries included a "crushed abdomen."

Trice tried to get up and wanted to stay in the game. His teammate, Harry Schmidt, helped him to the sideline. The news account said Minnesota fans rose to their feet and chanted, "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."

Trice was taken to a Minneapolis hospital, and doctors allowed him to return to Ames on the train with his teammates, who lost the game 20-17.

Next day at the Iowa State hospital, Trice died. To make sure the school did not forget him, the Varsity club of 1923 had a plaque made, inscribed with the thoughts he recorded on Curtis hotel stationery the night before "the first real college game of my life."

The words on the plaque made Trice a national figure for a time. Newspaper editorials all over the country paid tribute to his character and sportsmanship.

However, the memory was not as lasting as the varsity club had hoped. During the last 50 years the plaque had become covered with bird droppings and dust. Jack Trice was all but forgotten until the plaque was noticed last fall.

'More Than My Part'

Here is what the plaque said:

"My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life: The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will. My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field. Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low, with your eyes open and toward the play. Watch out for cross-bucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes and every minute if you expect to make good."

After Jack's death, classes were canceled for the funeral service held on the campus. His teammates placed milk cans on the steps of Beardshear and Curtiss halls and students contributed more than \$4,000 for his family.

His teammates wore black armbands the rest of the season and vowed to play the games "for Jack." The Iowa State team had a 4-3-1 record that season.

Recently the Iowa State student body government voted unanimously to ask that the new stadium be named for Jack Trice. Petitions are being circulated to immortalize the name of "the only athlete ever to give his life for Iowa State."

Trice petitions to committee

Four representatives from the Jack Trice Stadium Committee presented petitions yesterday to Virgil Lagomarcino, chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Streets.

The petitions, containing 3,226 signatures from Iowa State students, faculty and interested townspeople, asked that the new football stadium be named "Jack Trice Stadium" in honor of ISU's

first black athlete who died 51 years ago in a football game against Minnesota.

According to Bob Hedrick, student on the Jack Trice Stadium Committee, these petitions are only the first group of petitions to be presented to Lagomarcino's committee.

Hedrick said there seems to be strong student support for naming the football stadium after Jack

Trice. "I did a lot of door-to-door canvassing," Hedrick said. Out of the 365 people he asked to sign, only three refused.

"The people on the Jack Trice Committee think naming the stadium after someone like Jack Trice, who gave his life to Iowa State, is a lot more important than naming the stadium after the highest contributor," Hedrick said.

After the presentation, Lagomarcino said that to his knowledge, circulating a petition for the naming of a building after a particular person has never been done before. He said the petition is "indicative of student interest."

"You can be assured the committee (on Naming Buildings and Streets) will take a look at all alternatives (in naming the stadium)," he added.

Lagomarcino said the committee would also consider Athletic Director Lou McCullough's suggestion that the new football stadium be named for the highest contributor.

Iowa State Daily, May 4, 1974:



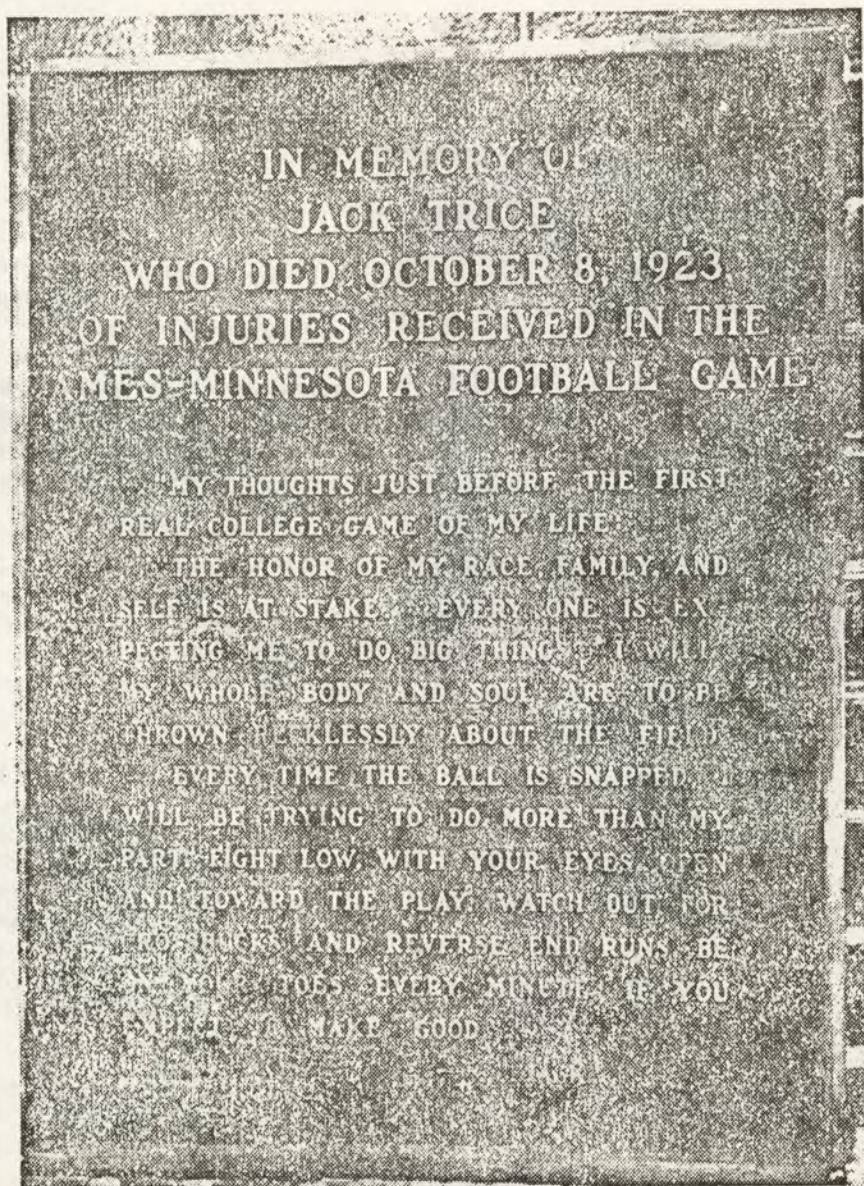
Trice committee seeks signatures

The Jack Trice Stadium Committee had a small but important exhibit on the south side of Beardshear Hall. The committee seeks to have

the new \$7,000,000 ISU stadium named after Jack Trice. Trice was ISU's first black athlete and was killed in his first intercollegiate

football game in 1923. The committee is seeking names for a petition requesting the stadium be named after Trice.

Want ISU Field Named After Trice



Jack Trice's plaque in Iowa State Gym

Black Gridder Died After 1923 Minnesota Game

AMES, IA. (AP) — Jack Trice played in his first football game for Iowa State College in 1923 and three days later he was dead.

Now a move has begun to name the new Iowa State University stadium here after the black player.

Prejudices already had kept him from playing for Iowa State College in games at Nebraska and St. Louis.

But the team and coaches had rallied behind him. He was to be a starter in the Minnesota game.

Scribbled Thoughts

On the eve of the game, he sat in his Curtis Hotel room in Minneapolis and scribbled on hotel stationery: "My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life.

"The honor of my race, family and

self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will.

"My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field. Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low, with your eyes open and toward the play. Watch out for crossbucks and reverse end runs.

"Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good."

Newspaper Accounts

Newspaper accounts of the Oct. 6, 1923, game had Minnesota leading, 14-10, in the third quarter and with possession of the ball.

On the next play the Iowa State defensive line buckled and Trice rushed in. He stopped the play but landed on his back. Three charging Minnesota players ran over him.

Newspapers reported that as Trice was helped to the sidelines, Minnesota fans rose and chanted: "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."

Trice was returned to Ames in a Pullman railroad car — lying on a bed of straw — and taken to the school hospital.

Internal Bleeding

He died Oct. 8 of hemorrhaging lungs and internal bleeding in the abdomen. He also suffered a broken shoulder blade.

His personal note of inspiration was found in his jacket pocket the day he was buried.

After his death a plaque in his honor was placed in the Old State Gym. It was covered with dust and bird droppings when it attracted the curiosity of English teacher Alan Beals in 1973. One of his classes tracked down the story behind the obscure plaque.

Growing Support

Student and faculty support is growing to name the new \$7.1 million Iowa state stadium after Trice, says English teacher Charles Sohn, a backer of the move. The student governing body voted unanimously for it.

"The only noticeable reluctance to support the name 'Jack Trice Stadium' has been from university officials who would have the most influence in such a decision," Sohn said.

"Students would now resent the naming of the stadium after someone such as a large contributor."



Jack Trice

DES MOINES TRIBUNE, MAY 31, 1974

Stadium Likely Named in Fall

By Phil Maly

The naming of the new Iowa State football stadium won't be done for at least three months, but backers for naming it in honor of Jack Trice already have begun a small campaign, Charles Sohn, an ISU English teacher, indicated Friday.

Sohn says his seven active committee members have approached Iowa State's Advisory Council on Naming Buildings and Streets, "but things are indefinite at this time."

The Advisory Council will recommend a stadium name—probably next fall — to W. Robert Parks, the school president, and he in turn will recommend a name to the State Board of Regents.

"The idea to name the stadium after Jack Trice originated in my

freshman English class last year," Sohn says. "We had half white and half black students in the class."

"One of the students did some door-to-door campaigning and of 365 students contacted, only three didn't want to sign a petition in favor of 'Jack Trice Stadium.'"

Sohn says one group his committee hasn't gotten in touch with is the Iowa State Athletic Council, "which would be very influential," he adds.

Sohn explains that his committee won't be very active this summer because most of the members have returned home for vacation.

"Alan Beals and I remain on campus, though, to do some so-called agitation."

"Of the faculty members contacted," he adds, "none gave negative response but some were non-committal."

Omaha World-Herald

Sports

Omaha World-Herald, Friday, May 31, 1974

ISU May Name Stadium for Negro

Ames, Ia. (AP) — Jack Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would play in his first college football game. He couldn't know that three days later he would be dead.

Student and faculty support is growing to name the new \$7.1 million Iowa State stadium after Trice, said English teacher Charles Sohn, a backer of the move. The student governing body voted unanimously for it.

Trice was Negro. Prejudices of the day had already kept him from playing for Iowa State College in games at Nebraska and St. Louis.

But now the team and coaches had rallied behind him. He was to be a starter.

On the eve of the game, he sat in his Curtis Hotel room in Minneapolis and scribbled on hotel stationery: "My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life."

In that brief note of reminder he said, "The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will.



Trice

"My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field. Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low, with your eyes open and toward the play. Watch out for cross-backs and reverse end runs."

"Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good." Newspaper accounts of the Oct. 6, 1923, game said Min-

nesota was leading, 14-10, in the third quarter and had possession of the ball.

The next play was a cross-back, one Trice had cautioned himself about. The Iowa State defensive line buckled and Trice rushed in. He stopped the play but landed on his neck. Three charging Minnesota players ran over him.

Newspapers said that as he was helped to the sidelines, Minnesota fans rose and chanted: "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."

Trice was returned to Ames in a Pullman railroad car — lying on a bed of straw — and was taken immediately to the school hospital.

He died on Monday of hemorrhaging lungs and internal bleeding in the abdomen. He also suffered a broken shoulder blade.

His personal note of inspiration was found in his jacket pocket the day he was buried.

Trice was born in Hiram, Ohio, where he attended school through the eighth grade before the family moved to Cleveland.

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Saturday, June 1, 1974

Iowa State may name new stadium after obscure hero



AMES, Ia., May 31, [AP]— Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he was a college football star known to...

14-10 in the...



To Subscribe Call Circulation, 221-
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News, For Classified Ads Call

KANSAS CITY STAR

KANSAS CITY, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1974 - 36 PAGES

Why Not Jack Trice Stadium?

Ames, Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would be a college football star. He had cautioned himself. Iowa State defensive line buckled and Trice rushed in. He stopped the play but landed three charges. His classes tracked down the story behind the obscure plaque. Student and faculty support is growing today to name the million Iowa State 'Jack Trice Stadium' from university teacher Charles in su

MAIN EDITION



First Black... Jack Trice, the first black athlete at Iowa State University, died Oct. 8, 1923, two days after he was injured in his collegiate debut at Minnesota. An obscure plaque in his honor was found at the university last year. —

Waterloo Courier

Waterloo, Iowa, Friday, May 31, 1974— 28 Pages— 3 Sections

Drive under way to name new ISU stadium for Trice

(AP) — Jack Trice good."

Minnesota in

Newspaper accounts of the

Oct 6 1923 game said Minne-

14-10 in the

He came to Iowa State College (now University) in 1922 and was majoring in animal husbandry, carrying a grade average of 90. He and

Mae, worked

in

"The newspaper that makes all North Iowans neighbors"

GLOBE-GAZETTE

MASON CITY, IOWA 50401

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1974



Move to name Iowa State stadium after first black Cyclone gridded

Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice made Minnesota in 1923 knowing he in his first college football game didn't know that three days later he would be dead. Prejudices of the day kept him from playing for the Cyclones at Nebraska

Jack Trice



Iowa State defensive line buckled Trice rushed in. He stopped the gridders on

SPORTS

The saga of a football player facing the great moment of his life

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
Sat., June 1, 1974
PAGE 23

"My whole body and soul was to be thrown recklessly away from me any time and chanted: "We're sorry, Aines, we're sorry." Trice was

Students seek honor for ex-Scarab athlete

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice, who starred at Cleveland East Tech High School, made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would play in his first college football game. He couldn't know that three days later he would be dead.

Trice was black. Prejudices of the day had already kept him from playing for Iowa State College in games at Nebraska and St. Louis.

But now the team and coaches had rallied behind him. He was to be a starter.

On the eve of the game, he got in his Curtis Hotel room in Minneapolis and scribbled on hotel stationery: "My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life."

In that brief note of reminder he said, "The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will.

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Jack Trice

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"Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good."

Newspaper accounts of the Oct. 6, 1923 game said Minnesota was leading 14-10 in the third quarter and had possession.

The next play was a crossback, one Trice had cautioned himself about. The Iowa State defensive line buckled and Trice rushed in. He stopped the play but landed on his back. Three charging Minnesota players ran over him.

Newspapers said that as he was helped to the sidelines, Minnesota fans rose and chanted: "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."

Trice was returned to Ames in a Pullman railroad car-lying on a bed of straw and was taken immediately to the school hospital.

He died the next Monday of hemorrhaging lungs and internal bleeding throughout the abdomen. He also suffered a broken shoulder blade.

His personal note of inspiration was found in his jacket pocket the day he was buried.

Trice was born in Hiram, Ohio, where he attended school through the eighth grade before the family moved to Cleveland.

Trice was an all-scholastic at East Tech in 1922 and 1923.

He came to Iowa State College (now University) in 1922 and was majoring in animal husbandry, carrying a grade average of 90. He and his wife, Cora Mae, worked part-time so he could stay in school.

After his death a plaque in his honor was placed in the Old State Gym. It was covered with dust and bird droppings when it attracted the curiosity of English teacher Alan Beals in 1973. One of his classes tracked down the story behind the obscure plaque.

Student and faculty support is growing today to name the new \$7.1 million ISU stadium after Trice, said English teacher Charles Sohn, a backer of the move. The student governing body voted unanimously for it.

"The only noticeable reluctance to support the name 'Jack Trice Stadium' has been from university officials who would have the most influence in such a decision," Sohn said.

8 Friday, May 31, 1974

Students want ISU stadium named for black gridder Trice

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would not know that three days later he would be

placed in the Old State Gym. It was covered with dust and bird droppings when it attracted the curiosity of English teacher Alan Beals in 1973. One of his classes tracked down the story behind the obscure plaque.

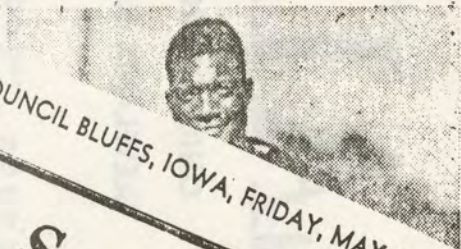
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ts of the O was leading possession



COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1974

Sports News Council Bluffs Nonpareil

'23 Cyclones—One Black, One Dead

Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would not know that three days later he would be

Three charging Minnesota players ran over him. Newspapers said that as he was helped to the sidelines, Minnesota fans rose and chanted: "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."

Bed Of Straw

Trice was returned in a Pullman car and taken to a hotel in Minneapolis.

was black. Prejudices of the day had kept him from playing for Iowa State in games at Nebraska and St. Louis. But now the team coaches had rallied behind him. He was to be a starter. On the eve of the game he sat in his Curtis hotel in Minneapolis.

SECTIONS

PAGES

TELETYPE

DUBUQUE, IOWA, and EAST DUBUQUE, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1974

Iowa State students back obscure martyr for honor

"The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will."

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would be placed in the Old State Gym. It was covered with dust and bird droppings when it attracted the curiosity of English teacher Alan Beals in 1973. One of his classes tracked down the story behind the obscure plaque.

to the sidelines. Minnesota fans chanted: "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."



Trice Played With Honor

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice, a black athlete who died two days after suffering severe injuries in a football game at Minnesota on Oct. 6, 1923, is remembered for his first play in 1923 knowing his first play.

The next play was a cross-kick, one Trice had cautioned himself about. The Iowa State line buckled and he was pushed in. He stopped the ball on his back, giving Minnesota players a chance to score.

Trice said that as he stood on the sidelines, the crowd rose and chanted "Trice, we're with you."

Trice returned to Ames in a Pullman railroad car—Lyons and was buried in the school cemetery.

IN MEMORY OF JACK TRICE WHO DIED OCTOBER 8, 1923 OF INJURIES RECEIVED IN THE AMES-MINNESOTA FOOTBALL GAME

MY THOUGHTS MUST REPEAT THE FIRST OF GREAT COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES. I REMEMBER THE HONOR OF MY RACE, MY COUNTRY AND MY STATE AT STAKE. EVERY ONE IS EXPECTING ME TO DO BIG THINGS. I WILL TRY MY WHOLE BODY AND SOUL WARE TO BE THROWN SECRETLY ABOUT MY OWN INTERESTS. THE BALL IS SNAPPED. I TRY TO GET IT TO MOVE THAN MY OWN INTERESTS. I TRY TO GET IT TO MOVE THAN MY OWN INTERESTS. I TRY TO GET IT TO MOVE THAN MY OWN INTERESTS.



Thoughts

Jack Trice, (left), Iowa State's first black athlete died two days after suffering severe injuries in a football game at Minnesota on Oct. 6, 1923. Trice's thoughts before playing in that game were found on an obscure plaque (above) found recently. Students and faculty have begun a movement to name the new \$7.1 million ISU stadium after Trice.

THE FORUM

Fargo - Moorhead SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1974

Support Grows for Naming Iowa Stadium After Black Player Killed in 1923 Game

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Jack Trice made the trip to Minnesota in 1923 knowing he would play in his first college football game. He said he would not know that three days later he would be dead.

"My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field. Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low."

rose and chanted: "We're sorry Ames, we're sorry." Trice was returned to Ames in a Pullman railroad car—Lyons and was buried in the school cemetery.

After his death a plaque in Old State Gym was placed in his honor.

Second Class

(An example of letters received by the "Jack Trice Stadium" Committee:)

FRED R. SOLDWEDEL
LIFE INSURANCE BROKER
PEKIN, ILLINOIS 61554



June 5, 1974

Mr. Charles Sohn
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Mr. Sohn:

I want to congratulate you on your effort to create the memorial for Jack Trice. I attended Iowa State in 1927 and 1928. The plaque mentioned in the enclosed article was proudly displayed in the gym at that time, and was an inspiration to the entire student body. There were a lot of people around then who had seen that game, which was the final one for Jack Trice. I was told that every time he was tackled he was stomped upon, kicked and bitten, and he took an unmerciful beating before the play that they now write about. The coach offered him the opportunity to leave the game, but he refused. Any of his friends who remain living today know this is true.

The most thoughtless official of Iowa State University should appreciate the tradition he stood for and should endeavor to instill this kind of courage and loyalty in their present and future students. The plaque was covered with bird droppings, because we so soon forget.

Jack Trice was ahead of his time, and he was a real pioneer in helping us to overcome bigotry as to race, religion, and the color of one's skin. The plaque impressed me while I was at Iowa State, and I hope it will do the same for thousands of others.

I am writing this from Barnes Hospital where I am a patient for a few days. The article was in the St. Louis Globe Democrat on June 2, 1974.

Sincerely,

Fred R. Soldwedel

Wm. H. Thompson

306 SOUTH 57TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68132

July 2nd,
1974

Mr. Alan Beals
The Jack Trice Stadium Committee
Box 1175 I S U Station
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Mr. Beals:

In reply to your excellent letter of June 24th, I would like to congratulate you for your dedicated effort to preserve for Iowa State University the memory of Jack Trice and the values he represents.

In answer to your question about my letter to Mr. Sohn, I will say that I would be pleased to have you make any use of it that will help the cause.

While I knew Jack Trice as Freshman Coach only a year, I observed him in practice. Our discussions were friendly, serious and always on a superior level. I was impressed by the fact that he was dedicated and idealistic. He loved the game for what it taught him of manhood. He gave his life in his effort to excel. Jack loved life, the good life and we talked of high achievements and worthy causes which would be open to him because of a good education, which he was determined to get at Iowa State.

I was familiar with the situation that caused his death. A Minnesota backfield had been stopped, time after time by Jack's courageous charges. Finally through frustration the Minnesota backfield to a man made a concentrated effort to block Jack. Because of exhaustion or accident, Jack was unable to complete the defensive maneuver that would have saved him. The Minnesota backfield ran over him while he was flat on his back and crushed his vital organs.

I accompanied the body to his home and met his family. They were just the kind of people that would have a son like Jack. They were fine - God fearing, industrious - folks, who couldn't quite understand how the pursuit of an education could deal such a cruel blow.

Jack Trice was a credit to his family, his college, his race and his country.

It was nice to hear from you. I appreciated your letter and I am sincerely interested. I hope that you will keep me advised.

Sincerely,

Wm. H. Thompson

(A letter from the only surviving member of the 1923 Cyclone coaching staff)

Sports Illustrated

JUNE 10, 1974 60 CENTS

SCORECARD

Edited by ANDREW CRICHTON

IN MEMORIAM

Sentiment is running high at Iowa State to name the new stadium for an ex-football player and not, as ordinarily happens, after the heftiest contributor. The player, Jack Trice, was no All-America. Except for one game—the only game he ever played for the Cyclones—he was not even a starter.

That was 50 years ago. In the noiseless footsteps of time since then, memory of Trice on the Ames campus had all but vanished. One day last year English teacher Alan Beals became curious about a plaque attached to the Old State gym. Under a coat of dust and bird droppings was a tribute to Trice. Beals assigned some students to find out why.

Jack Trice, they learned, was a sophomore in 1923. He was married, majored in animal husbandry with a 90 average and played football. He also was black. Because of that, he was kept out of the first two games of the season, but the team and coaches rallied behind him and he started against Minnesota at Minneapolis.

Ahead 14-10 in the third quarter, Minnesota ran a cross buck and the Iowa State defensive line crumbled. Trice rushed in to close the gap. He stopped the play but fell on his back, and three charging Minnesota players ran over him. As he was carried from the field Minnesota fans rose and chanted, "We're sorry, Ames, we're sorry."

Trice returned to Ames lying on a bed of straw in a Pullman railroad car. He was taken immediately to the college hospital, but two days later he died of hemorrhaging lungs and internal bleeding.

The day Trice was buried friends found in his jacket pocket a note that he had written to himself in a Minneapolis hotel room on the eve of the game. Headed "My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life," it read: "The honor of my race, family and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will. My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field. Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part."

Petitions are available at all
Des Moines Inter-City Churches.
Massive Support from Des Moines
Citizens can make the —
"JACK TRICE STADIUM"
at Iowa State a reality.

Iowa Bystander

serving
Iowans

since
1894

The Black Voice of Iowa

Vol. 80

Thursday, June 20, 1974

No

Seek to Name

Iowa State Stadium

For Trice

Murdered in 1923 While Playing Football Against University of Minnesota

by James B. Morris, Sr.

The new football stadium at Iowa State University is about completed and they are hoping it will be ready for the coming football season.

The Board of Athletics will be naming the stadium in the very near future. The student body has voted to name it the "Jack Trice Stadium" in honor of the outstanding Negro football player who was murdered in a game with the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis in 1923.

Trice came to Iowa State following an outstanding career as a high school player in Ohio. He earned a berth on the Iowa State football squad as a tackle. The school had played a game with St. Louis and Nebraska and each school had demanded Trice be taken out of the game and Iowa State bowed to the demand.

Apparently Minnesota made no such demand, possibly because prior to 1923 its squad included an outstanding Negro end, Bob Marshall (He married Irene Knott of Great Falls, Montana whom I dated in Great Falls, Montana while living there in 1915 and 1916).

Trice knew that he was being watched and on the spot. This is evident in the note which he penned in his hotel room and was found later.

With Minnesota leading in the third period 14 to 10 its hoard of players rushed the Iowa line which buckled. Trice moved in to break up the play but in the course of it he was knocked to the ground and three players jumped on him while he was lying down, puncturing his lungs and breaking one of his breast bones. His body was removed to Ames in a pullman car where he died in a hospital two days later. Quoting the bible, "Greater love hath no man than this, that man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Iowa State broke off athletic association with Minnesota and this continued for many years thereafter.

**Nile Kennick
Stadium at
Iowa City**

The Iowa City Stadium is named for Kennick, an outstanding quarterback on its football team. Following his graduation he entered the Navy

as a flyer and was serving in the Pacific area on an air craft carrier. He left on a routine mission but his plane never returned. Neither he nor the plane was ever found. Kennick had brought glory to Iowa football and it is appropriate the stadium bears his name.

The students at Iowa State voted to name the stadium for Jack Trice. No man has ever given more to the football squad at Iowa State than Trice and it should be an honor to name the stadium for him in light of the supreme sacrifice he made for his team.

Petitions are being circulated at Ames in support of naming the stadium after Trice. Other communities including Des Moines are doing the same.

Anyone who desires to support this view may sign one at 400 7th in West Des Moines or at 221 Locust St., Marjorie Smith - 4023 Cottage Grove and other friends of this cause.

"My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life:

"The honor of my race, family, and self is at stake. Every one is expecting me to do big things. I will my whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field.

"Every time the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part. Fight low, with your eyes open and toward the play. Watch out for crossbucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good."

Jack.



Coach remembers Jack Trice

Editor's note:

Although building contractors for the new football stadium have said as recently as two weeks ago that the stadium will be ready for use this season, no action has been taken on naming the stadium.

Last spring, over 4,000 persons signed petitions to have the stadium named after Jack Trice, a black football player who died during an Iowa State v. Minnesota game in 1923.

These petitions were submitted to Virgil Largomarcino, chairman of the Committee for the Naming of Buildings and Streets.

The committee has taken no formal action on the proposal.

The Reasons for naming the Stadium after Trice, an idea supported by the Government of the Student Body and the Daily staff, are best presented in the following interview with William Thompson, Omaha, Nebraska, the only surviving member of Iowa State's 1923 coaching staff. The interview, submitted as a guest editorial, was made July 29.

"I knew Jack Trice. I was the freshman coach at Iowa State when he was a sophomore. Jack was an outstanding man in any company, and when the freshmen played the varsity we had to have two or three men on Jack. The way Jack played, he gave everything he had all the time. Jack used a block against the Minnesota backfield that was a

dangerous block, in my opinion, a roll block. Jack had the misfortune of landing on his back and the Minnesota backfield just walked all over him.

"Well, (after his death) it fell to me to go back to Ohio with the body, as a member of the coaching staff. I met his mother and his folks, and they were good, God-fearing, real people, hard working. And they couldn't understand why this had to happen. It was a real sad affair for me. And the students at the college did all they could to try to assuage their grief. When Jack was gone, why, it was like it took the spirit out of the team. Jack was one of those boys that always led; he was in there first.

"The thing that interests me about this proposal is that it puts a kind of spiritual thought on the naming of the stadium. What's a stadium for? If the game has any educational value, if the game means anything to the man who's playing it or the man who's watching it, it should mean something in terms of courage and the spirit of enterprise, self-sacrifice, and in giving of oneself. Now all these things are embodied in the legend of Jack Trice.

"And I didn't think there was anybody over at Iowa State who had the imagination or the understanding of what the game was about to even think of that. When I saw it in the paper, I was really very pleasantly surprised.

"You see in those days, the game was played more for the sake of the game. We

couldn't promise a guy anything, except an education. The game meant something more than money and victory. To me, that's why the naming of that stadium after Jack appealed to me, because they'd be naming it after a spirit that was illustrated in one game, and it's a kind of touchstone. He was a fine man . . . a leader.

"Jack represents the spirit of Iowa State athletics. What is that? That's complete dedication and courage, which is the ultimate virtue, because the other virtues don't mean anything if you don't have courage. And it seems that when you dedicate yourself, you give it all. Those are values of life, illustrated by this one little boy in just about three-fourths of a game. What he showed there has lived for over fifty-one years. When somebody comes into The Jack Trice Stadium, there are some overtones.

"Iowa State has an opportunity to do something from an idealistic standpoint, and if we need anything these days, it's ideals.

"The issue is simple: the spiritual part of the game. If you name it after someone who gives a lot of money, he was not the boy who was down there in the heat of battle. This Jack Trice thing is like holding a light, like carrying a torch, and if athletics means anything, that should be it.

"I think it would be great if Iowa State had the vision to put that light on the stadium."