



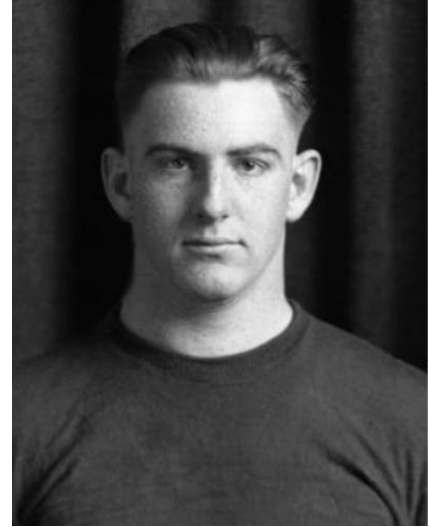
Jack Leonard Blott

Presented to Palestine Lodge No. 357
Bro. Douglas Mooney, Historian

Worshipful Master,

Jack Lenoard Blott was born August 24, 1902 just outside of Youngstown in Girard, Ohio. Jack attended the University of Michigan, joining the baseball team as catcher.

In his obituary, there is a story about an encounter that would change his career and the trajectory of his life. Brother Fielding Yost (Golden Rule 159/Ann Arbor-Fraternity 262), then the head coach of the university's football team, saw him practicing with the baseball squad. Yost was in need of a center to replace College Football Hall of Famer Ernie Vick, and is quoted as saying "that looks like the boy." He interrupted the baseball team's practice to talk to Blott and asked him to come out for football in the fall.



Blott was reluctant, but decided to accept the invitation. It turns out Fielding Yost knew what he was talking about.

Blott, a natural athlete, had played fullback on his high school team. He spent the summer of 1922 snapping a ball into a water bucket on the wall of his parents' house. He joined six other prospective centers at practice, and made the second team. By the time the Wolverines opened their season Coach Yost had named him starting center on the first team. Michigan went 6-0-1 with a tie against Vanderbilt, and won the Big Ten. The Wolverines dedicated the new stadium in Columbus with a Michigan victory. That 1922 team outscored opponents 183-13.

There were high expectations for Michigan in the following year. Blott, who also handled kicking duties, scored the winning field goal in the 3-0 win against Vanderbilt. He also scored a touchdown in the 9-3 win over Iowa, snapping a punt and then recovering the ball that was deflected off of an Iowa player.

In Wisconsin, during the second to last game of the season, Blott suffered a Pott's fracture of his ankle and was carried from the field, ending his playing career for the football team. The Wolverines finished the season 8-0 and won the National Championship. Jack Blott was named the Walter Camp All-American center for 1923.

In baseball he was noted for his power hitting, and was team captain in 1924.

Upon graduation from Michigan he joined the Cincinnati Reds as a catcher. The Associated Press reported the news by calling him "the best backstopper in the Big Ten." Blott played in two games for the Reds before he was offered a position on Michigan's football coaching staff. He

informed the Reds, who found that he'd never actually signed his contract, and headed back to Ann Arbor.

He was a line coach at Michigan until 1934. After an interview at Yale, he became the head coach at Wesleyan. In 1938 there were reports that he was being considered to fill the head coaching vacancy at Michigan, but the job went to Fritz Crisler.



In 1940 he retired from Wesleyan and took a position with Ford, representing the company in negotiations with the UAW.

On February 20, 1944, Palestine Lodge held a "Sports Night" dinner in the Oak Room here at the Detroit Masonic Temple. The night was hosted by Ty Tyson, who had announced the first Michigan Wolverines game on radio, and was the voice of the Detroit Tigers on WWJ. Guests included Ed Hayes, sports editor of the Detroit Times; Tigers beat writer Edward Batchelor, Detroit City Councilman and former Notre Dame All-American Quarterback Gus Dorias; University of Detroit Athletic Director Lloyd Brazil; Wayne State Head Coach Joe Gembis, Chicago Bears Head Coach Hunk Anderson; Fielding Yost; Red Wings Head Coach Jack Adams; and poet J. Fred Lawton.

Palestinians attending included Wilson Edgar, sports editor of the Free Press. After the dinner was concluded, Brother Jack Blott was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by Palestine Lodge No. 357.

In 1945 Brother Blott left Ford and joined Fritz Crisler's coaching staff as the head line coach for the University of Michigan, coaching such men as Brother Gerald Ford (Malta 465/Doric 342). In 1958 Michigan had a change at head coach, and subsequent staff changes. Blott moved on to manage intramural athletics and then the golf course and ice rink.

On June 11, 1964, while mowing his lawn in Ann Arbor, Brother Jack Lenoard Blott suffered a fatal heart attack.

In 1948 he'd been honored at the annual Michigan Football banquet or "Bust." It was noted that he had



FRITZ CRISLER JACK BLOTT
U-M coach welcomes former star center back as assistant

at that time a record of 104-16 as a player and coach with ten Western Conference championships, and victories over Ohio State in 12 out of 14 tries (including six in a row starting in 1922). Throughout his career he played on or coached five National Championship teams for the Wolverines. He developed All-American centers Maynard Morrison and Chuck Bernard.

Brother Jack Blott is honored and remembered by the University of Michigan as both a player and a coach. He exhibited excellence on the field, and dedicated most of his life to coaching and mentoring young men. He is a member of the Wolverines' Hall of Honor.

And he is proudly remembered by our fraternity as a Palestiner.

