

# An N★ Collection

## The Fine Art of Collecting Navy Football Memorabilia

### Navy vs. Army

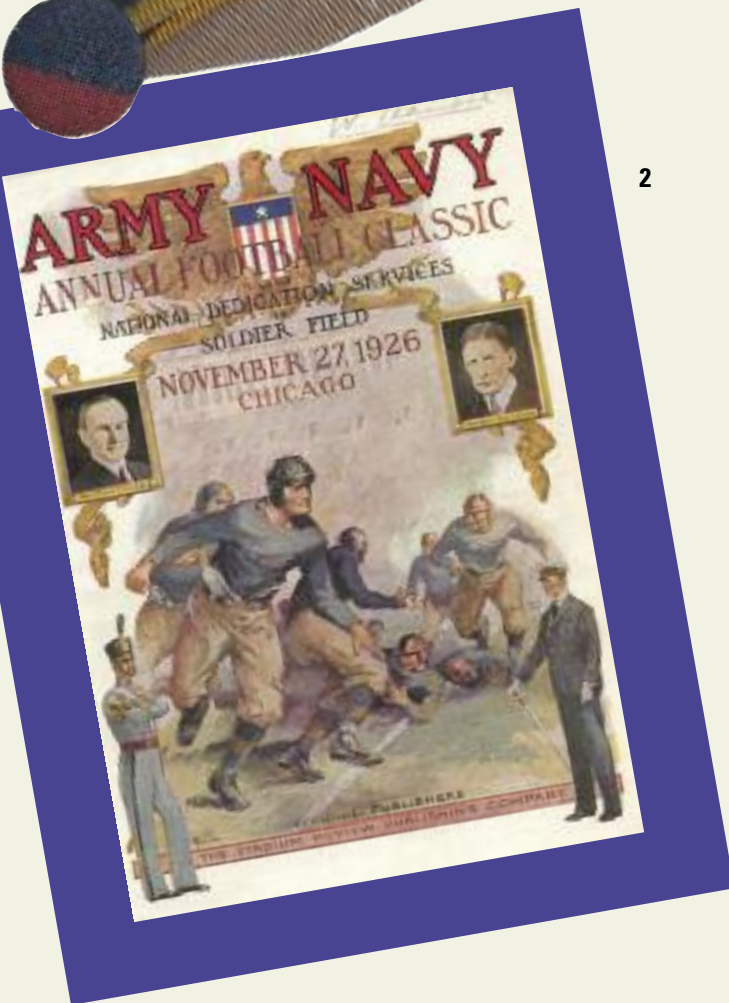
In the September-October issue of *Shipmate*, Captain Gerry Motl '68, USNR (Ret.), gave readers a glimpse into his amazing collection of Navy football memorabilia by sharing several pieces that highlight the historical significance of the Navy-Notre Dame football rivalry. In this issue, Captain Motl shares some interesting items from his collection that represent the long history of the Army-Navy football rivalry.

"I think my favorite items are associated with the 1967 Army-Navy game," said Captain Motl. "I started that game, and that was the only game I started at the Naval Academy, so I certainly value those items. It was also the only time we beat Army in my four years."

For Captain Motl's wife, Roxanne, it's her Army-Navy bracelet that stands out from the rest of the collection. "It's a beautiful bracelet and it certainly has a lot of historical value," said Roxanne. "From my perspective, having his football on the bracelet, as well as the other years, is certainly something I value so that makes it my favorite."

Visit [www.usna.com/multimedia](http://www.usna.com/multimedia) for a video of a closer look inside Captain Motl's amazing collection. Contact Captain Motl directly at [gerrymotl@gmail.com](mailto:gerrymotl@gmail.com) with questions.

*Go Navy! Beat Army!*

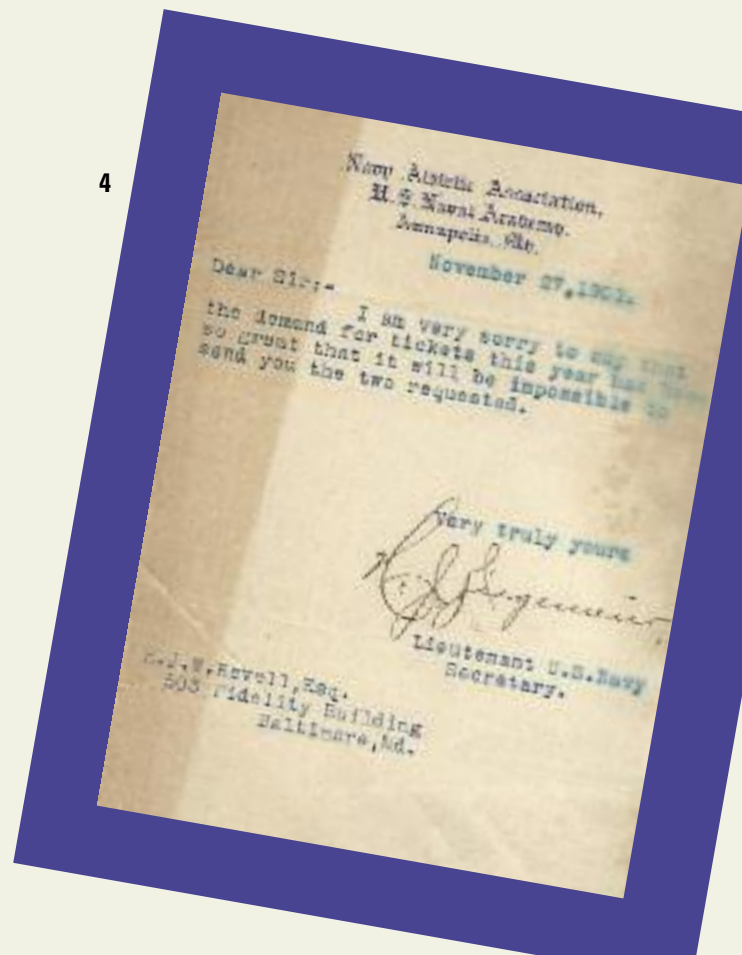


1. **1911 Army-Navy Usher Pin.** Navy's 1911 undefeated football season ended with a 3-0 victory over Army at Franklin Field. One of the game ushers wore this pin as he watched future-ADM Richard E. Byrd, Class of 1912, start as end for Navy.
2. **1926 Army-Navy Program, Dedication of Soldier Field.** Navy was universally recognized as the top American football team in 1926, completing the 1926 season with a 21-21 tie with Army. This game served as the dedication game of Soldier Field in Chicago. Navy Coach Bill Ingram had just moved from Indiana to take over as Navy head coach, bringing his assistant, Rip Miller, as his line coach. Miller was a member of the "Seven Mules" who blocked for the "Four Horsemen" during the 1924 Notre Dame championship season. John Wilson served as the Ingram's backfield coach. This Army-Navy game was so significant that Knute Rockne, head coach of Notre Dame's football team, attended the game even as his own team was losing to Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh.
3. **1935 Tom Hamilton Football Board Game.** By 1935, Tom Hamilton '27, Navy's hero quarterback of the 1926 Army-Navy game, had returned as Navy head football coach.



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The glow of the 1926 Navy National Championship had yet to fade, so to cheer up football fans during the Great Depression, Parker Brothers created a new football board game entitled "Tom Hamilton's Game, Pigskin." The game featured a game board illustrating ball possession during the entire 1926 Army-Navy game.

4. **1901 Navy Athletic Association Letter.** You may think it's difficult to get tickets to Army-Navy games now, apparently that has been the case for 110 years. A disappointed attorney found he was unable to join President Teddy Roosevelt to see the 1901 Army-Navy game, the third game played at Philadelphia's Franklin Field. Though Navy lost to Army 11-5, MIDN Chester Nimitz, Class of 1905, was attending his first Army-Navy game as a Naval Academy plebe.

5. **Army-Navy Football Bracelet.** Navy football players who play in a win over Army used to receive a little gold football inscribed with the year, score and the player's name. The three gold footballs on this bracelet are from 1926 (this game was the National Championship 21-21 tie with Army at Soldier Field and the football belonged to Navy coach John Wilson), 1941 (another of Coach Wilson's footballs, this game was played as the Japanese Army was approaching Pearl Harbor) and 1967 (this game was the 19-14 win over Army, a game in which CAPT Gerry Motl '68, USNR (Ret.), played).

6. **1906 Army-Navy Victory Postcard.** In 1906, Navy returned to Franklin Field after five straight losses to Army and emerged victorious with a final score of 10-0. The first win in six years created ecstasy as indicated in a postcard from a loyal Navy fan. "We made the Army blue. We chased their team around the field and scored a point or two." It was at this Army-Navy game that the Navy march, "Anchors Aweigh" (composed by MIDN Alfred Miles, Class of 1907) made its debut.

7. **1967 Army-Navy Football.** Navy football players who beat Army also receive a souvenir game ball that is signed by the entire team. This is the game ball received following the big 19-14 win over Army in 1967. This was the first win since 1963, the year Roger Staubach '65 won the Heisman Trophy and the only win over Army for the Class of 1968.