



# When Saturday Mattered Most: The Last Golden Season of Army Football

*Mark Beech*

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***When Saturday Mattered Most* is the stirring story of the 1958 undefeated Army football team and the controversial coach who inspired Vince Lombardi**

It was the end of an era, the last season before the surge of professional football began to lure the nation's best young student-athletes away from the military academies. That fall, the Black Knights of Army were the class of the nation. Mark Beech, a second-generation West Pointer, recounts this memorable and never-to-be-repeated season with:

- Pete Dawkins, the Heisman Trophy winner who rose to the rank of Brigadier General
- The long -Reclusive Bill Carpenter, the fabled "lonesome end" who earned the Distinguished Service Cross for saving his company in Vietnam
- Red Blaik, who led Army back to glory after the cribbing scandal and had the field at Michie Stadium named in his honor

Combining the triumph of *The Junction Boys* with the heroics of *The Long Gray Line*, Beech captures a unique period in the history of football, the military, and mid-twentieth-century America.

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