



Inventory of the

Don Veller Collection
(MSS 2006-020)

Inventory created by Ginger H. Williams

Copyright Florida State University Libraries, 2007

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Dates: 1948-2003 (inclusive)

Dates: 1993-2003 (bulk)

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

Languages represented in collection: eng

Abstract: Autographs, clippings, manuscripts, photographs, poems, portraits, programs, reports, resumes, and memorabilia documenting the personal and professional life of Dr. Don Veller, longtime Golf and Football Coach for Florida State University.

Portions of collection available online? : No

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Conditions:

Collection is open to research.

Use Conditions:

Copyright has not been transferred to the Florida State University Libraries.

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of University Libraries. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Florida State University Libraries as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Preferred Citation: Don Veller Collection, Special Collections, Florida State University Libraries, Tallahassee, Florida.

BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL NOTES

Don Veller was born in Linton, Indiana, on May 20, 1912. He was a scholar and an athlete. As a high school student his days were filled with competition. He was president of his sophomore, junior, and senior classes, salutatorian of his senior class, a member of the basketball and baseball teams, and captain of the football and track teams. He even participated in the Drama and Glee clubs and still found time to write a daily column for his local newspaper.

While in college at Indiana University, Veller kept up the rigorous schedule to which he had grown accustomed. He retained an A average as he pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Education (1935), with minors in English, History, and Health. In his spare time, he was active on the football, basketball, track, baseball, and wrestling teams. He was a scholarship student while also receiving awards for his superior athleticism. He received his M.S. (1938) and PhD (1950) from that institution as well. As he worked his way through college, he held a variety of low-paying jobs, including foundry work, corn boring, working in an auto shop, highway work,

waiting tables, and writing for the student newspaper. He married his college sweetheart, Miss Frances Brindley of Madison, Indiana.

A man of varied interests, Veller combined his appreciation for the academic environment with his love of sport. After completing his undergraduate work, he was immediately appointed to teach Health and Physical Education classes at a high school in Elkhart, Indiana. There he also began his lifelong career of coaching as the Director of Football programs and an assistant coach of basketball and track.

At the outbreak of World War II, Veller acted as a Special Services Officer in the Air Force at several installations along the East coast. He graduated from the Special Services and Information-Education Schools in Lexington, Virginia, and taught a variety of subjects for the military, including Special Services, Education, and Instruction Methods. Always the sportsman, he created an athletics and conditioning program for the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and scouted for the Third Air Force football team. He retired from the Air Force Reserve Program as a Lieutenant Colonel after 33 years.

In 1946, when Veller was able to continue his civilian career, he returned to the school coaching environment as the Director of Athletics and head football and track coach at Hanover College. After a short stint working for Indiana University as a tennis coach and an assistant football coach to Bo McMillin, Veller came to Florida State University, where he served for four years as its first full-time head football coach. During that time, FSU had its first undefeated season and first bowl victory. After his pigskin days at FSU came to an end, he remained at the university to coach golf until his retirement in 1982. During this time the golf team accomplished many great feats, including an undefeated season in 1957, several nationally ranked teams, and placing fourth in two NCAA Championships. Veller coached PGA Tour players Hubert Green, Paul Azinger, Jeff Sluman, Kenny Knox, and Brian Kamm. After successfully serving as Head Coach of both football and golf, Associate Director of Athletics, and Chairman of Coaching Curriculum, Veller retired as Professor Emeritus in 1982.

During his coaching career Veller still found time to participate in sports journalism. He was a sports commentator on Radio WTNT of Tallahassee, Florida, in the 1950's and 60's. He hosted a weekly sports TV show on Tallahassee's WCTV from 1960 to 1976. By far the most prolific of his journalistic pursuits was his weekly golf column for the Tallahassee Democrat, for which he wrote well over 2,000 columns from 1960 to 2004. He published a book of short poems, "Fluffs, Muffs, and Really Deep Rough", with which he ended these columns in 2000. He also published several articles in sports journals and more than fifty of his humorous golf poems in Golf Digest.

In honor of his numerous athletic accomplishments, Veller was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame (1978), the Florida State University Hall of Fame (1981), the State of Florida Sports Hall of Fame (to which he was inducted along with Arnold Palmer in 1985), the Indiana University Hall of Fame (1986), and the National Golf Coaches Hall of Fame at Pinehurst (1989). He received Indiana University's Distinguished Alumni Service Award, its highest alumni honor, in 1993.

Don Veller died at his home in Tallahassee, Florida, November 10, 2006, just days after the death of Fran, his beloved wife of 70 years.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES

The Don Veller Collection documents the personal and professional life of this accomplished sportsman, first full-time football coach of Florida State University, and longtime FSU golf coach. The collection includes autographs, clippings, manuscripts, photographs, poems, portraits, programs, reports, resumes, and memorabilia. Subjects covered include sports (mainly golf), coaching, and sports education. The collection is significant to scholars studying sports coaching and sports education. It is also a significant resource for those studying the history of FSU sports.

INDEXING TERMS

Personal Names:

Barnes, Craig
Campbell, Doak S. (Doak Sheridan), 1888-1973
Crosby, Jim
Ensley, Gerald
Kirk, Jim
McGrotha, Bill
Veller, Don, 1912-2006
Woods, Tiger

Corporate Names:

Florida State University
Indiana University
Tallahassee Democrat

Geographic Names:

Bloomington (Ind)
Linton (Ind)
Tallahassee (Fla)

Subject Terms:

Coaching (Athletics)
Florida State University -- Athletics
Florida State University -- History
Football
Golf
Golf clubs (Sporting goods)
Poetry

Genre/Format Terms:

autographs
clippings
manuscripts
photographs
poems
portraits
programs
reports
resumes

COLLECTION CONTENTS

Box 1 Folder 1 Biographical (1954-1997) : 12 items

Notes: Includes Veller's Vita, several news clippings about Veller, and a scorecard from an FSU Golf match against Wake Forest, showing the scores of Arnold Palmer et al.

Box 1 Folder 2-3 Awards (undated) : 3 items

Notes: Honorary certificate to Don Veller for service as FSU Head Football and Golf Coach, Honorary Medal for Scholarship and Athletic Prowess, and Indiana University Distinguished Service Alumni Award.

Box 1 Folder 4-6 Photographs (1999-2000, some undated) : 14 items

Notes: Photographs and photo albums. Individuals include Debbie Dillman, Buddy Strauss, June Strauss, Joe Padgett, Andy Urbanie, John Carnaghi, Rob Wilson, Charlie Carr, Stan Marshall, Shelly Boones, Shirley Marshall, Mel Pope, John Olsen, Doug Mannheimer, et al.

Box 2 Folder 1-5 Writings (1979-2001) : 22 items

Notes: Includes a monograph (with autograph and notes) and a manuscript of Veller's "Fluffs, Muffs, and Really Deep Rough", several hundred of Veller's golf poems, and "Seminoles on the Rise: A tabulated history of Florida State University Athletic Program from the beginning," by Rick Wells.

Box 2 Folder 6-7 Other Memorabilia (1948-2000, some undated) : 9 items

Notes: Includes an invitation and program for the dedication of the Don A. Veller Seminole Golf Course, a 1993 Southern Seniors Golf Association Membership Year Book, two FSU tie pins, an FSU Athletic Hall of Fame lapel pin, an Eppes pin, a commemorative 1948 football charm, and a plastic transparent golfer paperweight.