

# CADET TEAM GAINS 9-6 UPSET VICTORY

## Blanda Kicks Field Goal and Eckert Has Touchdown for Army Against Syracuse

embattled cadet resistance sufficiently to save their cause.

Army not only yielded ground grudgingly, but also dented the vaunted Syracuse defense consistently enough to hold the ball for long periods.

On its late depredations, Syracuse had a 42-yard edge in ground gained, 232 yards to 190. But the more significant statistical figure, perhaps, was Army's fourteen first downs to Syracuse's thirteen. Highly important also were the three fumble recoveries by the cadets, who did not once lose the ball on bobbles.

New York, which had been on a lean ration of college football in recent years, surely had its appetite for the varsity game whetted by this contest. It was jam-packed with drama, heroics and fierce effort by both sides.

### Syracuse Wins Toss

Syracuse won the toss and elected to receive. A short Army kick-off put the Orangemen in good position on their 42, but they couldn't advance and had to kick. That was pretty much the story of the first half, although the action became more explosive as the game developed.

Midway in the first quarter, Rushatz pounced on the first of Syracuse's fumbles on the Orange 29. Three downs netted only two yards for Army, so Tom Blanda tried a 45-yard field goal.

There was a moment of shocked confusion when John H. Coles, the referee, signaled from behind Blanda that the kick was good. But he merely was indicating the accuracy of its direction. The boot failed to carry far enough and bounced between the posts, which was quickly verified by the downfield officials.

After continuing to keep Syracuse bottled up, Army initiated a drive from its own 38 late in the first quarter. With the help of a 15-yard roughing penalty, the cadets advanced to a first down on the Syracuse 18 after the teams had exchanged goals.

When three rushing plays failed to move the ball beyond the 12, Blanda again essayed a field goal. This time he cleared the cross-bar, with something to spare, from 29 yards out.

After the kick-off that followed, Syracuse got moving on attack for the first time. Pete Brokaw, Art Baker and Ernie Davis quickly advanced the ball to Army's 44.

Then on a quick-hitting counter-thrust at Army's right side, Brokaw burst into the clear. He raced full tilt down the middle to Army's 20. But, hit hard there, he lost the ball and, after a wild melee in which players on each side were diving for the pigskin Bob McCarthy of Army captured it.

Aided by a roughing-the-kicker penalty, Army advanced to Syracuse's 16, where Blanda just missed connection with Joe Blackgrove on a pass into the end zone.

Furious but inconsequential action followed in the last two minutes before half-time. A pass interception by Rushatz gave Army another shot at a score from the 20, but Ericson promptly intercepted an Army pass on the 5.

Out to midfield on a lightning bolt of 18 yards by Davis, Syracuse came close to breaking receivers clear on a couple of long passes, but Army defenders bobbed out of nowhere to knock them down and the half ended with Syracuse in possession on Army's 44.

### Score in Sixteen Plays

Army returned Syracuse's second-half kick-off to its 32, then took off on what proved to be the game-winning drive. The cadets went the distance in sixteen plays, all but two of them on the ground.

The 190-pound Rushatz, hitting the line with 220-pound impact, carried nine times for 46 yards, including one burst of 28 yards to Syracuse's 27.

After Rushatz had hammered to another first down, Army still had 2 yards to go.

Running out from the bench while his team was in the huddle, Eckert replaced Blanda at quarterback. The sophomore carried on the winning play. He faked to Rushatz, thrusting into the line, slid to the right, feinted a pitchout to George Kirschenbauer, who was circling wide from left halfback, then cut sharply inside the Syracuse left

## Statistics of the Game

	Army	Syr.
First downs .....	14	13
Rushing yardage...	160	172
Passing yardage...	30	60
Passes .....	4-14	6-14
Interceptions by ...	2	2
Punts .....	4-39	4-39
Fumbles lost.....	0	3
Yards penalized....	20	75

end and slashed over between converging tacklers.

Blanda's conversion attempt was wide, but the 9-0 count on the scoreboard sent the Corps of Cadets into a frenzy of delight.

Army stopped Syracuse after kick-off, but the cadet line, which had played with little relief, obviously was getting weary.

From its 5-yard line after a punt, Syracuse roared swiftly to the Army 42 on thunderous running by Davis and Baker.

But on the first play of the final quarter, a Syracuse hand-off went astray. Gerry Clements retrieved the ball for Army.

Syracuse was back in possession almost immediately when a pass by Blanda to Kirschenbauer bounced into the hands of Davis on the Syracuse 18.

From there, Syracuse went all the way in eleven plays. With Davis contributing whirling runs of 24 and 13 yards, the Orange quickly reached Army's 13. The cadets braced there, but on third down with 12 to go, Easterly rolled out, spotted Ericson free in the end zone and fired a strike to him.

Syracuse faked a placement conversion and tried a pass instead. It missed connections.

With a full eight minutes to go, Army was in trouble. The cadets could not gain and had to punt. Syracuse put the ball in play on its 28 and made a first down on the 39.

But there Army called a halt to the advance. On fourth down, with 10 to go, Tom Gilburg

dropped back in punt formation. Everyone, including Army, knew it was a fake. Gilburg passed. Zailskas flashed in and picked off the toss on the Syracuse 45. He returned it to the Syracuse 15 before Dave Meggsey knocked him out of bounds.

### Near Goal Line at End

With Zailskas, Kirschenbauer and Glen Adams carrying, Army punched out a first down on the 3. The cadets tried to go on for a touchdown, but were a couple of feet short when time ran out with one down to go.

Waht counted, though, was that they had kept the ball out of Syracuse's hands for the last three minutes. That insured their hard-won victory.

Used sparingly in the first half, the 205-pound Davis wound up with 110 yards gained in eleven whirlwind rushes. He won the vote for the game's outstanding back by a narrow margin over Rushatz, who made 87 yards on twenty-two rushes for Army. Vanderbush was an overwhelming choice as the outstanding lineman.

### Corps of Cadets Parades

The stands already were well populated at 12:30 P. M. when the West Point Corps of Cadets, 2,500 men strong, marched on the field, led by the United States Military Band. The gray-clad cadets, deployed in twenty-four companies, all but covered the gridiron when they had taken their positions.

They saluted both stands smartly, then broke ranks on the double, and took seats in the lower deck on the left-field side, to use a baseball point of reference.

By way of showing Army's defiance, the cadet cheerleaders planted a marker at midfield and spotted a couple of dozen oranges around it. "Slash Syracuse" signs adorned the field barrier facing the Army stands.