

Army-Navy Gridiron Menus...Bon Appetite from Great Philadelphia and New York Restaurants

Introduction

Don't you love a terrific college football game played over a great football weekend? Such a weekend typically involves 1) two great football teams, 2) a historic and long-running football rivalry between the two teams and 3) a game host city that understands and appreciates the important traditions associated with hosting a major national sports event.

A football rivalry between Army and Navy would certainly meet these requirements. Army and Navy are special teams as West Point and Annapolis have served as the source of America's military leaders and ____ Presidents for over the past two centuries. The annual Army-Navy football game has been played 114 times beginning in 1890 with breaks only in:

- 1894-1898 (resulting from a fist-fight between a retired general and a retired admiral at the 1893 game in Annapolis)
- 1917-18 (World War 1)
- 1928-29 (Disagreement over Army player eligibility).

Philadelphia and New York lead the list of Army-Navy host cities, Philadelphia with 85 and New York with 11.

These annual Army-Navy games are where good friends or classmates make a weekend of it, participating in a pep rally or joint Army-Navy gala on Friday night, attend the game and associated activities on Saturday and then celebrate their team's victory (or defeat) at a fine restaurant on Saturday

evening before returning home on Sunday.

In fact, one of the big clues indicating that a big college football game such as Army-Navy is scheduled is the creation of game specific souvenir menus by major host city restaurants or hotels.

Game specific souvenir menus are rarely, if ever, seen anymore. When was the last time you saw such a menu?

This article includes information on some of my favorite gridiron menus... restaurant or hotel menus associated with Army-Navy football games for the 60 year period between 1906 and 1966.

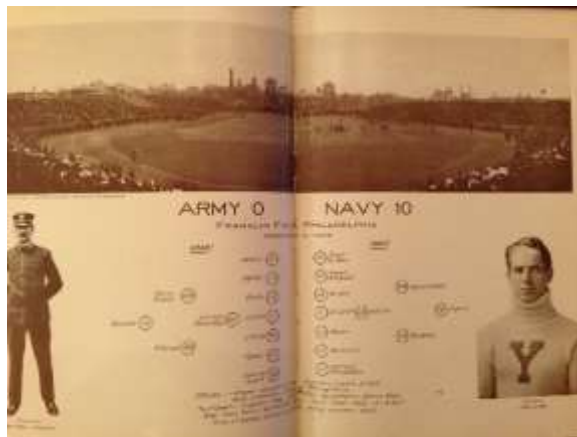
Presented below are seven restaurant souvenir menus organized in chronological order. In each case, I'll refresh your memory about the game and tell you a little about the host city restaurant or hotel that prepared the menu. Finally, just for fun, my wife, Roxanne, and I will place an order had we been lucky enough to attend the big game! Drinks are included only when listed in the menu! Bon Appetite!!

Separately, I plan a future article on menus created for another great rivalry, Navy-Notre Dame, which has been played annually without a break since 1927. I'll include the menu for the Navy N Club banquet, where Knute Rockne served as the guest speaker in Annapolis, 5 months before the first Navy-Notre Dame game!

1906 Army-Navy, Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia

The Game. A crowd of 34,000 witnessed the 1906 Army Navy game at University of

Pennsylvania Franklin Field in Philadelphia...the seventh time Army and Navy met at this site.



The star of the game was Navy Fullback Jonas Ingram who scored the only touchdown in a 10-0 Navy victory. Jonas Ingram went on to win The Medal of Honor at Veracruz in 1914 and attained the rank of Admiral in WW2. He served as head navy football coach in 1915 and 1916 and Navy Athletic Director from 1929-1930. Jonas Ingram negotiated the first football game played between Navy and Notre Dame in 1927!

The Bellevue Stratford. The Bellevue Stratford hotel opened in 1904. Over two years in the making and costing over \$8,000,000 (in 1904 dollars), the Bellevue-Stratford was described at the time as the most luxurious hotel in the nation and perhaps the most spectacular hotel building in the world. It initially had 1,090 guest rooms, the most magnificent ballroom in the United States.



From its beginning, the Bellevue-Stratford was the center of Philadelphia's cultural, social and business activities. All U.S. Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt through Ronald Reagan have been guests at the hotel, which is respectfully called the "Grand Dame of Broad Street."

The hotel closed in 1976 following unwelcomed worldwide notoriety when, what was called "Legionnaire's Disease," killed 29. The hotel reopened in 1979 as part of the Fairmont chain as The Fairmont Philadelphia. In 1980, the name reverted to The Bellevue-Stratford.

By the mid-1980s, the hotel, which had become The Westin Bellevue-Stratford, was struggling to fill its hundreds of rooms, and closed in 1986. The hotel reopened in 1989 as Hotel Atop the Bellevue.

In December 1996 the hotel joined Hyatt and was renamed Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue. In 2010, the name was shortened to Hyatt at The Bellevue.

I've always loved the Bellevue Stratford. It was always Navy football Headquarters

when I was at the Academy. I stayed in room 1150 on December 2, 1967...the day we beat Army 19-14!

The Menu

This is a terrific game specific menu with a great depth and breadth of gourmet items. The front and rear menu covers are shown below. An inside page actually printed the score, "Score, Navy....10, Army...0."



Here's the dinner that my wife and I have elected to order!

Roxanne

Cream of fresh archichoke carnot	\$0.50
Tournedos of beef cheron	\$1.25
Salad Romaine	\$0.40
Cream Bellevue Stratford	\$0.30
Café noir	\$ 0.15

Gerry

Oysters Mignonette	\$0.50
Green turtle soup	\$0.50
¼ celery fed duck av navet glace	\$1.00
Boston cream pie	\$0.25
Total Bill	\$4.85
Total Bill in 2014 dollars	\$113.03

Eddie Ewen was awarded the following year after a 7-0 win over Army!!)

Nov 29, 1919, Army-Navy, Hotel Commodore, New York

The Game. The Great War caused the cancellation of the Army Navy football game in 1917 and 1918. The series resumed on November 9, 1919 before a crowd of 45,000 at the Polo Grounds in New York City. In a hard fought game, Navy tackle Clyde King kicked two field goals resulting in a 6-0 Navy win. Mids snake-danced under the goalposts to celebrate the victory.



The Captain of the 1919 Navy team shown on the program cover is Eddie Ewen, who was captained both the 1919 and 1920 teams. Later, Eddie Ewen was one of the Navy's great carrier force commanders during World War II where he was awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star and two Legion of Merit awards. He retired from the Navy as a Vice Admiral and died in 1959.

(I don't want to brag...but my wife has a gold football on her football bracelet that

The Commodore Hotel. The Commodore Hotel, right next door to Grand Central Station, is still in New York as the Grand Hyatt New York rebuilt by Donald Trump.



The original Commodore opened on January 28, 1919, only 10 months before hosting the Navy football dinner. It was owned by a company in which Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt had a controlling interest. Coincidentally, the hotel was named the Commodore hotel!

Donald Trump bought the hotel in 1977, when its owner was bankrupt. Trump decided to completely rebuild the hotel which re-opened in 1980 as the Grand Hyatt New York.

The Menu.



This small football shaped, nautically oriented menu was prepared for the Navy football team members following the game, not the entire Brigade of Midshipmen. The fixed menu includes consume madrilène, celery, olives, fruit de Mer Admiral, Breast of Chicken Hatteras, Hearts of Lettuce a la Mahan, Mousse Beresford and café noir!

This menu looks great to me and my wife!

Nov 26, 1921, Army-Navy, Hotel McAlpin, New York

The Game. The 1921 Army Navy game, which marked the 24th battle in the series, was again played at the Polo Grounds, now before a crowd of 50,000. The middies disembarked from a ship on the 155th Street Pier and marched through a torrential downpour to the stadium. Playing against Army star Ed Garbisch, Navy earned its third straight shutout against Army by a score of 7-0.



THE ARMY-NAVY FOOTBALL GAME

The Navy team captain that day was E. T. "Swede" Larson who was playing in his third win over Army. As a Marine Colonel, he coached Navy Football for the 1939, 1940 and 1941 seasons, beating Army an additional 3 times. His last game as coach was the 1941 game, a week before the Pearl Harbor attack. After the 1941 game, he resigned as coach saying, "'This will be the last football game for me for a while. There's a bigger game coming up and I'm going to be in it."

Swede fought at Tarawa, Kwajalein and the Marshall Islands and died of a heart attack in 1945.

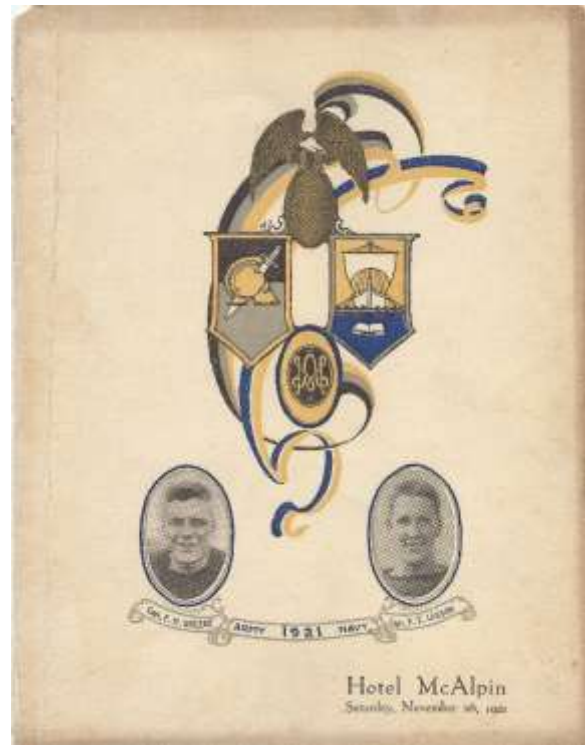
The Hotel McAlpin. The Hotel McAlpin was constructed in 1912 on Herald Square, at the corner of Broadway and 34th street in Manhattan by General Edwin A. McAlpin. When opened, the McAlpin was the largest hotel in the world. Boasting a staff of 1,500, the hotel could accommodate 2,500 guests.



The McAlpin family sold the hotel in 1938. It was managed by the Knott Hotel Chain until 1952. In 1954, Sheraton Hotels took the hotel over and it was renamed the Sheraton-McAlpin, then later the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel.

In the late 1970s the building was converted to 700 rental apartments. The building is currently a rental building known as Herald Towers.

The Menu. The Saturday, November 26th menu pictured the Army and Navy captains on the cover, including Navy Captain Swede Larson!



Here's the dinner that my wife and I have elected to order!

Roxanne

Gumbo creole soup	\$0.40
Imperial Quail en cocotte	\$1.75
New string beans	\$0.55
Mashed potatoes	\$0.25
Vanilla custard pie	\$0.30
Coffee (small pot) with cream	\$0.25

Gerry

McAlpin special Bronx cocktail	\$0.40
Challard White Burgundy (bottle)	\$4.00
Imperial Russian caviar	\$2.25

Green turtle soup	\$0.65
Rack of venison, currant jelly sauce, brussels sprouts and chestnuts	\$1.15
Pumpkin pie	\$0.30
Total Bill	\$12.25
Total Bill in 2014 dollars	\$147.16

**November 30, 1935, Army-Navy, Kugler's
Coffee Shop, Philadelphia**

The Game

1935 was the last year that the Army-Navy game was played at Franklin Field. Army beat Navy handily by a score of 28-6.



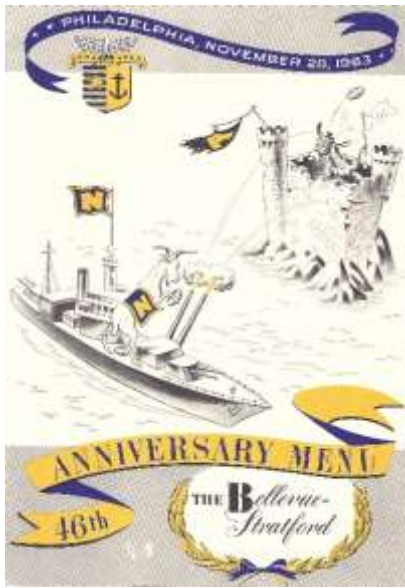
The Menu

Thirteen members of the 1935 Navy football team were killed in World War Two!

Kugler's Coffee Shop

Kugler's Restaurant opened in 1899. Originally located at 34-36 South Broad Street, it had at one time been referred to as the "largest and most beautifully appointed restaurant in the city." I have no idea when or why it was closed! If you're interested, I can send you a copy of their 1902 "catfish and waffles" menu! I'll pass on that one.

The Menu



This is the menu prepared for the “Varsity Football Squad” at the Bellevue-Stratford the evening after the game. The menu included hearts of pascal celery, ripe and queen olives, potage dubarry aux profitroles (whatever that is!), grilled sirloin of prime beef, sauce bordelaise, noisette potatoes persilliees, petit pois frais beurre, hearts of lettuce salad and vanilla surprise...a great meal after a tough loss!

One notable feature of the menu was the rear cover, which presented a copy of the rear cover taken from the 1907 Army-Navy menu from the Bellevue-Stratford!



December 1, 1962, Army – Navy, Adelphia Hotel, Philadelphia

The Game

Roger Staubach was the star of his first career start against Army, scoring two touchdowns and completing 11 of 13 passes for 188 yards and two more touchdowns. Final score: Navy-34, Army-14!

President Kennedy attended what was to be his final Army-Navy game.



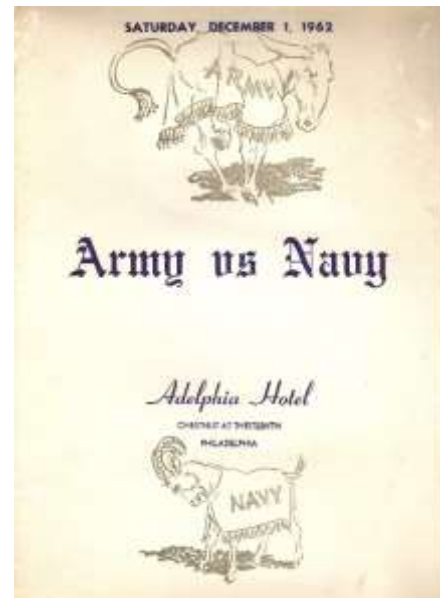
The Adelphia Hotel

The Adelphia Hotel was completed in 1914 at the intersection of 13th and Chestnut Street in Downtown Philadelphia and was designed by the famous architect Horace Trumbauer. The Adelphia was advertised (during this era) as one of the best hotels in Philly. It was a beautiful 20-story twin towered 400-room hotel that offered four restaurants. It also had a rooftop garden restaurant, a nightclub in the basement, and one of the most beautiful ballrooms in Philadelphia. Today, the building has

become an apartment complex and is called the "Adelphia House"



The Menu



Roxanne

French onion au gratin	\$0.35
Half roast spring chicken, celery dressing, cranberry sauce, buttered peas, tossed green salad, Italian dressing	\$3.25
Layer cake	\$0.30

Gerry

Marinated herring in cream sauce	\$0.65
Roast prime rib of beef au jus, white kernel corn saute, tossed green salad, blue cheese dressing	\$4.75
Sherbert	\$0.35
Total Bill	\$9.65
Total Bill in 2014 dollars	\$74.96

December 2, 1967, Army-Navy, JFK Stadium, Philadelphia

The Game

In 1967, the Vietnam war was raging and the Army-Navy game was attended by “more cabinet officials, high ranking politicians, and Army and Navy brass than had attended since the 1941 game just before Pearl Harbor.” For me personally, the game was my first and only start during my two-year Navy football career. More importantly, my Class of 1968 had yet to beat Army in three previous contests. This was our last chance.

Although Army was favored, we roared off to a 17-0 lead through the end of the third quarter... but then the tide began to turn. Army inserted Jim O’Toole at Quarterback in the fourth quarter. He led Army to two quick scores making the score 19-14 with 7:05 left. Army kicked off and stopped us. With 4:32 left, Army advanced to the Navy 23. It was cold, dark

and the noise from 102,000 fans was deafening. Navy had to hold! On third down, Army fumbled and our Ray DeCario recovered!! Pandemonium!!



John Cartwright and the Navy offense held onto the ball and ran out the clock...Navy 19, Army 14!

JFK Stadium

The scene where the menu was presented was Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, constructed in 1926 and renamed as JFK Stadium in 1964 following the assassination of President Kennedy.

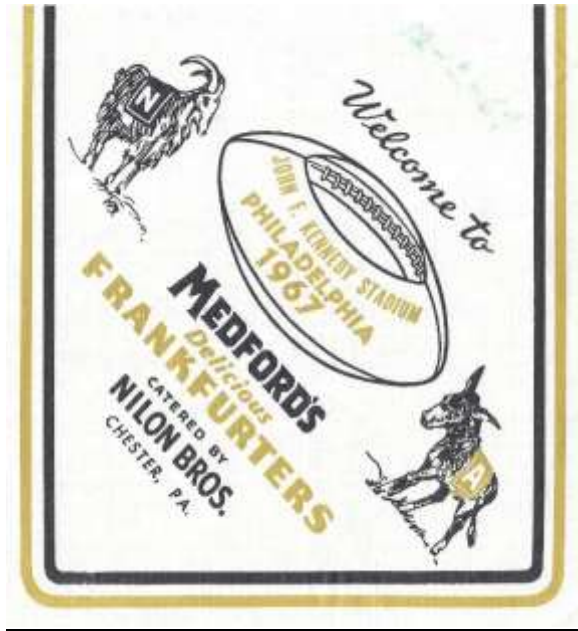
Nilon Bros, from Chester, PA, became the concessionaire for the annual Army-Navy football game beginning in 1952...and, in fact, continued to run the Army-Navy game concession at Veterans Stadium until 1986 after JFK had been torn down. In the 1960’s, Mr. Nilon was a business advisor to heavyweight boxing champion Sonny Liston!

The Menu

The 1967 Army Navy menu is a humble one...much humbler than the glorious 1906 Bellevue Stratford menu. It is a simple napkin created specifically for the 1967 Army-Navy game!

My wife, Roxanne, will order for herself only as I am either on the field or in the locker room!

Roxanne will have a...delicious Medford's frankfurter...with ketchup, mustard, onions and relish...the cost, priceless!



Summary

I would like to admit that I love ESPN, High Definition TV and football tailgates. But before these technical and social innovations, life was a lot simpler. What could be better than participating in all the pomp of an exciting Army-Navy football game followed by a great dinner with family, friends and classmates?

Bon Appetite and Beat Army!