



# **Carlisle vs. Army: Jim Thorpe, Dwight Eisenhower, Pop Warner, and the Forgotten Story of Football's Greatest Battle**

*Lars Anderson*

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A stunning work of narrative nonfiction, *Carlisle vs. Army* recounts the fateful 1912 gridiron clash that pitted one of America's finest athletes, Jim Thorpe, against the man who would become one of the nation's greatest heroes, Dwight D. Eisenhower. But beyond telling the tale of this momentous event, Lars Anderson also reveals the broader social and historical context of the match, lending it his unique perspectives on sports and culture at the dawn of the twentieth century.

This story begins with the infamous massacre of the Sioux at Wounded Knee, in 1890, then moves to rural Pennsylvania and the Carlisle Indian School, an institution designed to "elevate" Indians by uprooting their youths and immersing them in the white man's ways. Foremost among those ways was the burgeoning sport of football. In 1903 came the man who would mold the Carlisle Indians into a juggernaut: Glenn "Pop" Warner, the son of a former Union Army captain. Guided by Warner, a tireless innovator and skilled manager, the Carlisle eleven barnstormed the country, using superior team speed, disciplined play, and tactical mastery to humiliate such traditional powerhouses as Harvard, Yale, Michigan, and Wisconsin—and to, along the way, lay waste American prejudices against Indians. When a troubled young Sac and Fox Indian from Oklahoma named Jim Thorpe arrived at Carlisle, Warner sensed that he was in the presence of greatness. While still in his teens, Thorpe dazzled his opponents and gained fans across the nation. In 1912 the coach and the Carlisle team could feel the national championship within their grasp.

Among the obstacles in Carlisle's path to dominance were the Cadets of Army, led by a hardnosed Kansan back named Dwight Eisenhower. In Thorpe, Eisenhower saw a legitimate target; knocking the Carlisle great out of the game would bring glory both to the Cadets and to Eisenhower. The symbolism of this matchup was lost on neither Carlisle's footballers nor on Indians across the country who followed their exploits. Less than a quarter century after Wounded Knee, the Indians would confront, on the playing field, an emblem of the very institution that had slaughtered their ancestors on the field of battle and, in defeating them, possibly regain a measure of lost honor.

Filled with colorful period detail and fascinating insights into American history and popular culture, *Carlisle vs. Army* gives a thrilling, authoritative account of the events of an epic afternoon whose reverberations would be felt for generations.

"*Carlisle vs. Army* is about football the way that *The Natural* is about baseball."

—Jeremy Schaap, author of *I*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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#### **Irene Forrest:**

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#### **Wanda Pence:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a publication. The book Carlisle vs. Army: Jim Thorpe, Dwight Eisenhower, Pop Warner, and the Forgotten Story of Football's Greatest Battle it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book possesses high quality.

#### **Robert Jones:**

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