



**Walter Havighurst Special Collections and University Archives
Miami University Libraries**

**Cradle of Coaches Archive
Sid Gillman Collection**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Identifier: Mss. Coll. Cradle: Gillman
Repository: The Walter Havighurst Special Collections and University Archives, Miami University Libraries, Oxford, OH
Title: Sid Gillman Collection
Creator: Gillman, Sid, 1911-2003
Date [inclusive]: Circa 1944 - 2004
Extent: 1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language: English
Location: Manuscript Shelving

PREFERRED CITATION

Researchers are requested to use the following citation in all footnote and bibliographic references:

Sid Gillman Collection, Cradle of Coaches Archive, The Walter Havighurst Special Collections and University Archives, Miami University Libraries, Oxford, OH

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sidney Gillman was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on October 26, 1911. He played end at The Ohio State in 1933 and for the Cleveland Rams in 1936. He took assistant coaching positions at Denison University, The Ohio State University, and Miami University from 1937 to 1943; becoming head coach at Miami in 1944, which culminated in an undefeated final season and a Sun Bowl championship. Following a short assistantship under Earl Blaik at West Point, Gillman accepted the head coaching position with the University of Cincinnati. After ten years in college football, Gillman's overall statistics were a phenomenal 81-19-2.

Gillman made the move to professional football by becoming head coach (and later general manager) for the Los Angeles Rams (1955-59). In 1960, the team name was changed to the Los Angeles Chargers, and in 1961 they moved to San Diego (1961-71). From 1973-74, Gillman coached the Houston Oilers.

Throughout his professional football coaching career, Gillman led the Rams to one NFL championship and the Chargers to five AFL title games.

Following his many years as head coach, Gillman consulted for the Philadelphia Eagles, New Orleans Saints, Washington Redskins, and the Los Angeles Express (USFL). He retired in the late 1980s.

Gillman is credited with transforming the passing game by employing deep downfield passes, referred to as the *West Coast offense*. Additionally, he was the first to use film to review play strategies and execution, to place players' names on the backs of their jerseys, and is credited with conceptualizing the Super Bowl four years ahead of the first AFL-NFL championship game.

Gillman was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1983 and into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1989.

He died peacefully at home on January 3, 2003 in Carlsbad, California at the age of 91. At the time of his passing, Sid was survived by his wife of 67 years, four children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Sid Gillman Collection forms a portion of the Cradle of Coaches Archive and includes 18 playbooks, spanning the length of his professional career. These playbooks were the personal working copies of Gillman and contain extensive original hand notes, drawings, magazine clippings, and ideas written on slips of paper.

Most of the playbooks contain a "BOOK CONTENTS" page, which appears to be a recent addition (i.e., was not a part of the books during Gillman's days). The playbooks in this collection are not ordered chronologically, nor do the numbers assigned to each playbook (e.g., Book #10) follow any logical order. These idiosyncrasies are maintained in this collection. Several playbooks are autographed by Sid Gillman across the front page in blue felt-tipped pen.

In addition to the playbooks, this collection includes biographical information about Gillman from several websites, a testimonial from a former colleague of Gillman's, news clippings, and original reel-to-reel footage of the University of Cincinnati football team from the 1940s.

ARRANGEMENT

NOTE: The playbooks in this collection are not ordered chronologically, nor do the numbers assigned to each playbook (e.g., Book #10) follow any logical order. These idiosyncrasies are maintained here.

Series I: Playbooks

Subseries I: Miscellaneous Undated Playbook Pages

Subseries II: Miscellaneous Undated Playbook Chapters

Subseries III: Complete Playbooks

Series II: News Clippings, Testimonials, Web Articles, and Game Programs

Subseries I: News Clippings

Subseries II: Gillman Testimonials

Subseries III: Website Articles about Gillman

Subseries IV: Game Programs

Series III: Reel-to-Reel Football Footage

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Conditions Governing Access:	This collection is open for research.
Conditions Governing Use:	This collection is under the rules and regulations of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections and University Archives, Miami University Libraries. The Walter Havighurst Special Collections and University Archives, Miami University Libraries, owns the property rights to this collection. Learn more about our policy here: https://spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/permission/
Custodial History:	Two Miami University alumni from Urbana, Ohio, Gerald Stout ('52), Nick Selvaggio ('88), and Gerald's son, Steve Stout, donated the collection to the Walter Havighurst Special Collections and University Archives.
Accruals:	No further additions are expected.
Processing Information:	Collection processing completed 2009/05/20 by Kimberly Shann. Finding Aid revised 2019/08/05 by Tiffany Dogan and Cody Sprunger.

RELATED MATERIALS

Miami of Ohio – The Cradle of Coaches, by Bob Kurz. Central Printing Co., Dayton: 1983. LCCN: 83-50645. SPEC GV711.K87 2002

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Gillman, Sid, 2011-2003
 Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
 University of Cincinnati
 Los Angeles Rams (Football team)
 San Diego Chargers (Football team)
 Houston Oilers (Football team)
 Football -- 20th century
 Coaching (Athletics) -- 20th century

COLLECTION INVENTORY**Series I: Playbooks****Subseries I: Miscellaneous Undated Playbook Pages**

Box	Folder	Item	Description	Date
1	1	1	Shotgun: Basic Protection (vs. basic fronts) Hand note at top reads, "Sid: Your working copies."	undated
1	1	2	Shotgun: Basic Protection (vs. set left)	undated
1	1	3	Shotgun: Stub Protection	undated
1	1	4	Shotgun: Will Protection	undated
1	1	5	Nickel Fronts vs. Shotgun	undated
1	1	6	Shotgun: Rose Protection Weak, Lou Protections Weak (Rose Mirrored), Lou Protection Strong with Coaching Points	undated

Box	Folder	Item	Description	Date
1	1	7	Basic Nickel Fronts – Regular Protection	undated
1	1	8	Basic Nickel Fronts – Flare Protection with Nickel Fronts vs. Shotgun	undated
1	1	9	Formation Variation & Field Distribution: Ace Base	undated
1	2	1	Miscellaneous playbook pages	undated

Subseries II: Miscellaneous Undated Playbook Chapters

Box	Folder	Item	Description	Date
1	3	1	Zone the Receiver	undated
1	3	2	Fresno	undated
1	3	3	Ram	undated
1	3	4	Combo	undated
1	3	5	Trick	undated
1	3	6	Nickel	undated
1	3	7	Star	undated
1	3	8	Waco	undated
1	3	9	Dakota	undated
1	3	10	Alignment & Charges	undated
1	3	11	Force	undated
1	3	12	Slide	undated

Subseries III: Complete Playbooks

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	4	Book #10 – Mid 1950s Los Angeles Rams (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book may contain a number of play types including 49 Offense, Number Game, Number, Pattern, Quick, Slank with “Problem Coverages”, Flare, Flood, Slant, and Hash	circa 1955 – 1959
1	5	Book #10 – Mid 1950s Los Angeles Rams (Part 2) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book may contain a number of play types including Cross, Corner, Delay, Dash, Fade, Cross, Check, Check Thru, Hide, Motion, Nickel Coverage, Monster, Over Under, Mirror, Comeback, and Soft Spots	circa 1955 – 1959
1	6	Book #11 – Late 1950s Los Angeles / San Diego Chargers (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book may contain a number of play types including Pass Protection, Back Protection, Straight Back Protection, Play Pass Protection, Quick Protection, Waggle Protection, and Roll Out Protection	circa 1958 – 1960

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	7	Book #11 – Late 1950s Los Angeles / San Diego Chargers (Part 2) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book may contain a number of play types including Weak, Straight Back, Play Pass, Roll Out, Run Pass Protection, Waggle, Screen, Draw, Slip, Slant Quick, Quicks, Loose 6, 4-4, 5-1, Double Wing, Oklahoma, Over 50, Double TT, Colts Offset, and Over 20	circa 1958 – 1960
1	8	Book #15 – 1970s-80s Philadelphia Eagles with contents list Book contains Defensive and Offensive Line terms with definitions and play schematics created by Gillman while he served as a consultant for the Philadelphia Eagles	circa 1978
1	9	Book #12 – 1985 Philadelphia Eagles (Part1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line terms and play schematics that teach techniques and philosophies including team policies and schedules	1985
1	10	Book #12 – 1985 Philadelphia Eagles (Part2) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including 30 Defenses, Short Yardage and Tough Territory, Prevents, Different Formations, Audible and Talk Terms, Dogs, Shotgun, and Kicking Game	1985
1	11	Book #13 – Early to Mid 1960s San Diego Chargers with contents list Book may contain a number of play types including Stutter, Flip with Motion, Stutter Buck, FO Option (counter), Power, Stutter Plunge, Stutter Buck-strong, Scissors-Trap 4-5, Scissors Power, Trap 63 Round, Dive, Sucker 65, Trap Cup, Cross Buck, and Counter	circa 1964
1	12	Undated Defensive Playbook with index page Book may contain a number of Defensive Line play schematics, theories, and terms including position responsibilities	undated
1	13	Book #16 – 1981-82 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line terms and play schematics that teach techniques and philosophies including team policies and schedules	1981- 1982
1	14	Book #16 – 1981-82 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 2) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Alignment and Charges, 40 Defenses, Force, and Nickle	1981- 1982
1	15	Book #16 – 1981-82 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 3) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including 30 Defenses, Short Yardage and Tough Territory, Prevents, Different Formations, Audible and Talk Terms, Dogs, and Shotgun	1981- 1982

1	16	Book #17 – 1980 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics that including CAL Techniques, Pass Protection, Quick Series and Protection, Firm Series and Protection, and Flare Series and Protection. There are also a number of schematics from various teams such as the Washington Redskins and Chargers	circa 1980
1	17	Book #17 – 1980 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 2) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including East Series and Protection, West Series and Protection, North Series and Protection, South Series and Protection, Buck Series and Protection, Stub Series and Protection, Base Pass Action, Play Pass Action, Run Pass Action, Bootleg Series, and Waggle Series. There are also schematics from the Green Bay Packers	circa 1980
1	18	Book #1 – Early to Mid 1960s San Diego Chargers (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Coverage, 30, 43, 42, 31/38, 41/46, 5 Down Lineman, Dog, Nickle, 47, 48, 46, 5 Lineman Down, 50, Automatic, Tom Landry, Under, Over/Under, Flex, Basic, Philosophy and Principles, Secondary Techniques, and Terms/Nomenclature	circa 1963
1	19	Book #1 – Early to Mid 1960s San Diego Chargers (Part 2) Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Defense Pass Rush Techniques, LB, Defense, Bill Arnsberger, and Coverages	circa 1963
1	20	Book #2 (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including General Offensive Information, Defensive Information, Offensive Line Fundamentals, Standard Blocks, Offensive Back Fundamentals, 20-30, 40-50, 60-70, 80-90, and Passing Game	undated
1	21	Book #2 (Part 2). Contents List found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics	undated
1	22	Book #3 – Early 1960s Los Angeles / San Diego Chargers (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book only contains drills Gillman used for the entire team	circa 1961
1	23	Book #3 – Early 1960s Los Angeles / San Diego Chargers (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1; This section of the book contains drills that were used for specific positions or techniques such as agility, offense, defense, quarterback drills, line drills, pass defense, pursuit drills, pass rush drills, and tackling drills	circa 1961

1	24	Book #4 (Part 1) with contents list for entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Cut, 46 Slant, Run, and Cut 34/35	undated
2	1	Book #4 (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Cross and Dive	undated
2	2	Book #5 – 1972 New Orleans Saints (Part 1) with contents list for the entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Passing and Pass Routes.	1972
2	3	Book #5 – 1972 New Orleans Saints (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1 ; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including N.O. Saints Offense 1972, Pass Protections, Pass Routes, Deceptives, Individuals and Series, Coverages, Play Action, and Screens	1972
2	4	Book #6 – 1971 Washington Redskins (Part 1) with contents list for the entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Defensive Planning, Offensive Diagrams, Defensive Diagrams, Techniques and Rules of Basic Line Play, and Line Backers and Defensive Backs Pass Defense	1971
2	5	Book #6 – 1971 Washington Redskins (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Team Outlook and Goals, Players Workbook, and Coverages and Buzzes	1971
2	6	Book #7 (Part 1) with contents list for the entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Baylor Passing Attack, Moves and Short	undated
2	7	Book #7 (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including XZ Goal, Quick Out, XYZ Hook, Move, XZ Turn In, XZ Medium, Glance, Comeback, Double Out, Hook Out, Stick, XZ Hook In, Break Points, XZ Out, XZ Deep, Long, Corner, Up, Out and Up, Ally OOP, XZ Hook Up, XZ Bend Up, Bend X7 Corner, Post, Post Hook, XZ Corner, Slant Corner, Corner, and XZ Long	undated

2	8	Book #8 – 1979 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 1) with contents list for the entire playbook This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Green Bay Ready List, Dallas Ready List, Chicago Bears Ready List, Tampa Bay Ready List, Houston Oilers Ready List, St. Louis Cardinals Ready List, Detroit Lions Ready List, Situation Offense, New Passes vs. Cleveland Browns, New Play Offense vs. Tampa Bay, plus Pass Protection, Dogs and Blitzes by Field Position, Dogs and Blitzes by Down and Distance, Dogs by Formation/Fronts/Down and Distance and Field Position, Philadelphia Eagles vs. Tampa Bay NFC Playoffs, plus Tampa Bay Player Roster, Analysis of Tampa Bay Defensive Backs, and Chicago Bears Statistical Coverage Analysis, plus Chicago Bears Game Plans - Offensive/Defensive	1979
2	9	Book #8 – 1979 Philadelphia Eagles (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics titled “Game Plans- Offensive/Defensive”. Teams included in this are: Cardinals, Redskins, Cowboys, Oilers, and Lions	1979
2	10	Book #9 – 1973 Gillman Notebook (Part 1) with contents list for the entire playbook. This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Gillman Notebook, Game Plan, Scramble, LBs, Defensive Definitions and Locations, Ends, and Line Calls	1973
2	11	Book #9 – 1973 Gillman Notebook (Part 2) Contents list found with Part 1; This section of the book contains a number of Offensive and Defensive Line play schematics including Numbering System, Development of Backs, Buzz, Pass Receivers – Flare, Drills, Ideas, Sacked, Abbreviations, Defense, Sight Adjustment, Start Counts, Drills, Front, Form, Pass Organization, Practice, Techniques, Two Minute Drill, Audibles, Special Teams, and Tackling	1973

Series II: News Clippings, Testimonials, Web Articles, and Game Programs

Subseries I: News Clippings

Box	Folder	Item	Description	Date
2	12	1	<i>Chargers</i> , by Jerry Magee Unknown publication	circa 1971
2	12	2	<i>Gillman Returns as Charger Coach, But Faces New Personnel Problems</i> , by Jerry Magee Unknown publication (Buffalo?)	1971

Subseries II: Gillman Testimonials

Box	Folder	Item	To	From	Description	Date
2	13	1	Steve Stout	Keith Lincoln	Correspondence sharing thoughts about Sid Gillman as a coach Attached is a brief career biography of Keith Lincoln, printed from Wikipedia (Photocopy)	2004/02/ 17
2	13	2	Steve Stout	John Rauch	Correspondence sharing recollections of Paul Brown, Sid Gillman and Weeb Ewbank (Photocopy)	2004/04/ 14

Subseries III: Website Articles about Gillman

Box	Folder	Item	Description	Date
2	14	1	<i>Gillman Rocked the Cradle</i> Printed from the Miami University Cradle of Coaches website	1997/10/ 06
2	14	2	<i>Cradle of Coaches</i> Printed from Miami University Athletic Traditions website	1997/10/ 06
2	14	3	<i>Gillman helped engineer West Coast offense</i> Printed from the ESPN website	2003/01/ 07
2	14	4	College Football Hall of Fame, Sid Gillman member biography	after 2003
2	14	5	<i>Sidney 'Sid' Gillman – Football Coach</i> Printed from "The Rifleman" website Includes a photograph of Chuck Connors with Sid, who appeared on the program in a cameo role.	after 2003

Subseries IV: Game Programs

Box	Folder	Description	Date
2	15	Miami University vs. Western Michigan University Official Football Program Game was held at Miami University, Miami Field, Oxford, Ohio	1944/09/ 30

Series III: Reel-to-Reel Football Footage

Location	Description	Date
Closed Stacks	University of Cincinnati	1940s