

# --Beau Geste--

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Linn county on Shuttleworth's bid of \$116,000, their disappointment could be felt throughout the big Iowa field house.

**But when Bill Fletcher, captain of the runnerup Thunderbolts, took the ball from Shuttleworth and promptly asked the Waverly captain to step forward, a roar of mingled delight and surprise exploded in the Waverly cheering section.**

Fletcher repeated his request, and finally all five Waverly starters came forward. "Are there five captains on this ball club?" inquired Auctioneer Brayton.

The crowd of 6,500 then heard Fletcher tell the Waverly boys they were as clean a team as the Thunderbolts had met all year. And then: "This ball belongs to the best team in the state, so we want you to have it to put in your trophy case back home."

He then gave the ball to Jim Strotman, Waverly's star guard.

Before he yielded the stage to Fletcher, Shuttleworth, who won all-Big Ten mention as a halfback on Howard Jones' undefeated football teams at Iowa in 1921 and 1922 and whose son, Bill, is a star on the Franklin cage squad, said:

"These boys have come a long way against heavy odds. We're very proud of them—just as proud as if they had won. That's why we bought the ball—we wanted them to have it, **to do with as they wish.**"

Fletcher took over from there, and a gesture without parallel in Iowa high school basketball — since the bond auction is a war-time innovation—was written into the books.

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