

Duck Tracks

By Gordon Rice
Emerald Sports Editor

This year's Rose Bowl game proved just what everybody knew it would before the season started—that the best team in the Big Ten is better than the second best team on the Pacific Coast.

It proved that because of a ridiculous rule that forbids a team to play in the bowl two years in succession. The rule is part of the Rose Bowl agreement between the Big Ten and Pacific Coast conferences. It represents a compromise between the two conferences, in that the Big Ten had previously allowed a team to participate only once in three years.

But compromise or not, the regulation can only have the effect of killing interest and reducing the prestige of the Rose Bowl, which has been generally regarded as the greatest of the bowl games.

Some 12,000 Rose Bowl ticket holders didn't appear for this year's game because of the rain that fell most of the day. But it's extremely doubtful that those 12,000 would have stayed home if UCLA instead of the unloved USC Trojans had been playing Ohio State. Bad weather has never been known to distract sports fans if the attraction is good enough.

Hayes Comments

Ohio State Coach Woody Hayes added a few more thousand Westerners to his already sizeable army of enemies with his statement that four and possibly five Big Ten teams other than his own Buckeyes could have beaten the Trojans.

But privately, a number of Pacific Coast fans admitted that the outspoken Hayes just might be right. We can't agree with that viewpoint and we think this same rule is partially to blame for it.

Bruins Obviously Better

Red Sanders' UCLA Bruins were so obviously superior to everyone else on the Coast that they made the other teams look weaker than they actually were. Had UCLA played in the Rose Bowl and given a demonstration of its power, fans and sportswriters would have come away with the impression that it takes a pretty good team to stay within 35 points of the Bruins.

Hayes' comments, incidentally, drew replies from Coast sportswriters that UCLA could play Ohio State and USC on the same day and beat them both.

The Rose Bowl isn't the only post-season contest that lost favor with the fans because this same rule forced second-rate teams into the contest. The Orange Bowl, with its tie-up with the Atlantic Coast and Big Seven conferences, found itself in the embarrassing position of having to invite Nebraska, which had a record of six wins, four losses and one tie.

Nebraska Worst Yet

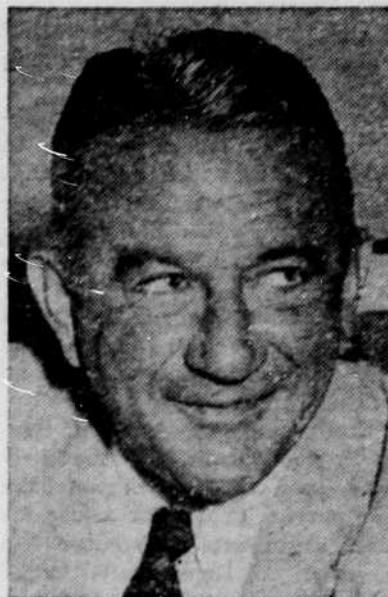
The Cornhuskers, with the worst record of any team ever to play in a major bowl game, got there because they were the second best team in the Big Seven, and lost a 55-7 decision to Oklahoma. But Oklahoma couldn't participate because the same rule exists in the Big Seven.

The Atlantic Coast conference, unhindered by any regulations, sent its strongest team and Nebraska got massacred.

Proponents of the rule contend that bowl participation is a burden on both the school and the team, which must keep in training for another five weeks and spend Christmas away from home. But they don't realize that such a regulation, combined with the trend toward bowl agreements between conferences, is rapidly killing the prestige and the fans' interest in post-season games.

A bowl invitation used to be the cherished goal of any team, and a strong team might be invited to any post-season contest. The competition between bowls to land the national champion added to the interest of the fans.

Now half the participants of the four major bowls are limited to the teams in a certain conference, and because of one crippling regulation may not even be the best team in that conference.



RED SANDERS
Bruins Too Good

Big Ten Irked at NCAA Over Grid TV Policies

NEW YORK-(AP)-The Big Ten swung the big club of a threatened boycott or secession over the NCAA Thursday in an effort to bring about a change in the system of controlling football television.

In the strongest statement yet to come from this powerful conference, H. O. (Fritz) Crisler, Big Ten spokesman at a NCAA round table discussion of TV, said the conference could not accept another control plan similar to the one in effect during 1954.

He indicated that if the 1955 NCAA TV committee should present another national game-a-week plan, the Big Ten would reject it and then likely would be forced to adopt a conference TV program of its own.

Schools Pressured

This threat, partly implied and partly spelled out in Crisler's lengthy speech, resulted largely from the pressure put on the conference colleges by state legislatures. So far, Crisler said, the institutions—nine of them state supported—have managed to head off legislative action but they can't be expected to hold the line indefinitely.

"If the 1954 plan or something similar to it is brought down, we feel we have the right to reject it," Crisler said. "In conscience we feel we have the right to abstain from participating. And in that case I doubt that we could hold the line and not participate in television somewhere."

Jitters Hit NCAA

While Crisler left a number of loopholes through which the Big Ten could continue to participate in a national program, the threat sent a wave of jitters over the college athletic leaders gathered for the 49th annual NCAA convention.

Five proposals were listed for discussion at Thursday's round table meeting and a sixth was added when Bob Kane, Cornell athletic director, read a proposal adopted by the Eastern College Athletic Conference last month. At the end of the discussion, the members voted in a secret straw ballot on their preferences among these plans. The result was not disclosed although the Rev. Edmund Joyce of Notre Dame said he would ask to have it made public at the NCAA business session Friday.

Coaches Like Old TV

Crisler's vigorous presentation of the Big Ten case for regional TV was the high spot of a busy

day in which members of the American Football Coaches association voted informally by a 3-1 margin in favor of the 1954 type of TV controls and in which assorted committees cleaned up the preliminaries to Friday's convention meeting.

The Big Ten threat brought an immediate reaction from Eastern representatives who questioned the feasibility of regional TV and the propriety of letting legislators dictate college politics. NCAA leaders, obviously disturbed, were inclined to discount the possibility of a Big Ten withdrawal and had nothing to say about possible action if it should take place. The greatest danger to an NCAA national program would be the loss of attractive Big Ten football games, almost essential in attracting a sponsor to pay for a program.

The Pacific Coast conference also has proposed a regional control plan but there was little indication of support from other sections.

Basketball Referees Sought For IM Play

The intramural athletic office requests that all persons interested in refereeing intramural basketball during winter term apply in person or leave a note at the intramural office in the men's PE building. The pay is 85 cents per hour.

Social Pressure Too Much?

Do you feel tired, run-down, hot, bothered, irritated, etc.? Is "quiet" winter term with its dances, fire-sides, assemblies, special days, mid terms (and studies?) and other assorted hoop-la driving you into a mouth-foaming frenzy? Well, at Rod Taylor's the only thing that foams is the beer. Things are quiet; no social pressure; you'll like it. Try it: That's

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