

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By TOM CHAPMAN
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In the week of football upsets just concluded, three pertinent comments by three coaches have brought to light the "crying towel" philosophy that has been proven to work time and time again. The coaches are Terry Brennan, Bobby Dodd and Paul Bryant. The teams are Notre Dame, Georgia Tech and Texas A&M, the latter two undefeated, the other heading for its worst season in history.

Brennan, caught in the middle of the nation's toughest schedule, remarked after Oklahoma's 40-0 win over the Irish, "One of these days these kids are going to be real good. It doesn't happen when you play two great teams like Michigan State and Oklahoma in succession, but just wait."

Here we find the result of an old Frank Leahy philosophy that worked fine, for him! Every season he would bemoan the prospects of playing such a tough schedule with such a small and inexperienced team, and every season the Irish would sweep on to other football heights. Comes the time when sportswriters realize that picking Notre Dame for national honors is as safe as picking a Big Ten team to win the Rose Bowl, and of course, the Irish are ranked among the grid powers of '56 in the pre-season football magazines.

But Notre Dame has been sidetracked, not once, but four times already, with Navy, Pittsburgh, North Carolina, Iowa and USC awaiting their chance, and Brennan can do nothing but "wait 'til next year."

Bryant Says, 'We'll Win!'

"Bear" Bryant, the transplanted Kentuckian coaching at A&M has come up with a philosophy which closely resembles that of Chuck Taylor's weekly advice to the sports public, notably, "We'll win!" Bryant has added a couple of other lines, and his phrasing goes something like this, "Everybody wants to beat us and they're playing 108 per cent against us, so we have to play 110 per cent if we are to beat anybody." To top it off, it works. The Aggies came up with a fourth quarter touchdown Saturday night to down previously unbeaten Baylor, and virtually clinch a Cotton Bowl bid. The week before that, A&M upset Texas Christian.

You may recall that Taylor has used this method of confidence since he took over the reigns at Stanford. (Read about it in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post.) Last year when the Indians were two touchdown underdogs to Ohio State, Taylor told the weekly Touchdown Club, "We'll beat Ohio State and stop Hopalong Cassidy." Not only did Stanford win 6-0 but Cassidy was held to his lowest rushing total of the year. Wonderful, isn't it?

Georgia Tech 'Great'

Now, we shall turn to the last momentous comment, the words of wisdom from Tech coach Bobby Dodd, who noted, "I hesitate to call a team 'great', but if these boys keep playing the way they have been after the Kentucky game, I'll have to call them great. I have never had a team with such terrific threats and no weaknesses. They can do everything."

Dodd could be right. The Associated Press weekly pigskin poll rates the Engineers one step below the Sooners of Oklahoma, but it might be an awful big step considering the potency of the Sooner attack. Still, a team with "no weaknesses" must be tough, and Georgia Tech has had numerous Bowl teams in years gone by.

We can see by the oratory of these football tutors, that this is no ordinary sport, where a coach is just content to win, or lose as the matter may be. Could we be approaching the era of a coach's debate at halftime, instead of the bands and girls?

Forgotten Hero Department: Clarence (Bevo) Francis, former all-time scorer for Rio Grande college, has quit professional basketball for a kiln firing job at the Wellsville China Co. . . . Johnny Podres, Brooklyn pitcher, was awarded a medical discharge from the Navy.

Bailey Awaits Games, Writes of Trial Race

(This is a letter received October 25th from Jim Bailey to Oregon track coach, Bill Bowerman.)

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your letter and words of sound advice. Don't be concerned any further about the reports of "cockiness" etc., because there has been a complete switch. Many newspapermen have written articles defending me and praising me, and actually they love the opportunity to write a little "colorfully" about me, being so outspoken.

Twenty thousand people attended the second day of the Trials in Melbourne on Saturday and they gave me a great cheer when I ran out onto the ground in preparation for the race.

The Melbourne people, of course, would still like to see John Landy beat me. I would also like to have the opportunity of having him run against me on his home ground. After all he was running in America in a strange place where he had never run and I had the advantage.

John is a great runner; I respect him and I hope he is able

to represent our country in the Games. Anyhow, the press is now right behind me and singing my praises.

In the race Saturday, 1500 meters, I was extremely careful to avoid any contact, and when a Victorian elbowed me three times, I just let my arms drop to my sides and there were oos and aaahs from the crowd.

About the race, Lincoln ran extremely well, leading from the 800 meter to the 1200 meter mark, showing a lot of courage and finally coming up to my shoulder on the last curve after I had passed him at the three-quarter mark. I led the last 330 yards.

The leaders did very close to 60 seconds for each lap, and our time was, as I think you have already heard, 3:44.4. This was very satisfactory as the track was very soft after having been flooded by a heavy rain.

Really, I don't think I felt extremely up to running. I had worked a little bit too hard and I was gutting in the straight. I tell you what I did the previous week. Sunday was a hard day of grass running.

Monday, I ran five times, a half mile in about 2:5 for each half. Tuesday was light work, and Wednesday I ran a three quarter mile in 3:6 followed by five 440's in :56 to :57. Thursday was very little, Friday two and a half laps in 2:36 and Saturday was the race.

My legs felt stiff and tired the day after the five 880's, this is probably too hard a week to do my best on Saturday. Do you think? It will be about the end of the month before I can hear from you, but I would like your ideas on the schedule from now in to the competition, Bill.

Janet has been having a marvelous time staying at one of Melbourne's best hotels and being treated royally by the people in Melbourne. Believe me, she is an outstanding emissary of good will for the United States and the state of Oregon also.

Not long to wait now. I send best greetings to all of the people in Eugene.

Jim Bailey.

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