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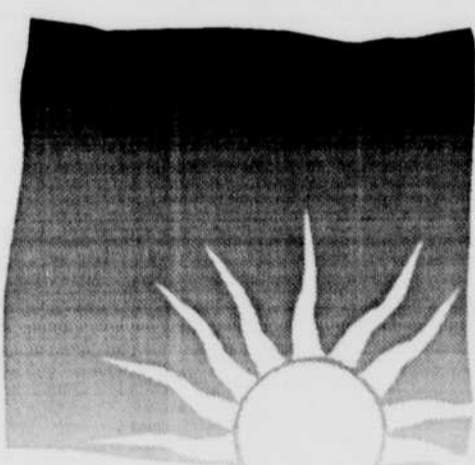
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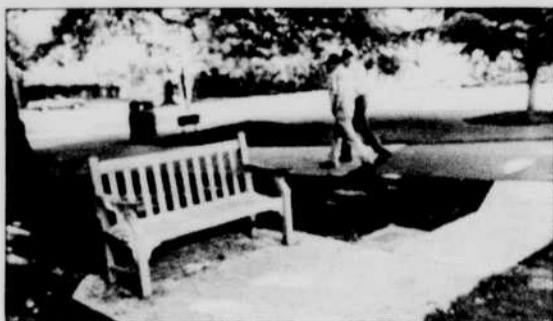
SPORTS

Van Brocklin — fighter and lover

Bench, plaque mark spot where he met his wife in 1946



From the Sidelines
 by
ASHLEY CONKLIN



Most people are either lovers or fighters. Norm Van Brocklin was both.

The Dutchman was one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever play and his fiery competitiveness led both himself and his teams to greatness.

Sportswriter Murray Olderman captured the Van Brocklin temperament in a book on NFL quarterbacks: "He was Ted Williams in shoulder pads — a bit more approachable, not as profane, but just as truculent and equally the artist. What Williams was to hitting, Van Brocklin was to the forward pass."

Van Brocklin was also a romantic, marrying the biology lab instructor he met as a student at the University. The Dutchman didn't know losing, whether on or off the field. That's how he got Gloria Schiewe to date and later marry him.

Olderman also mentioned this in his book, debating whether one could be both a fighter and a lover.

"Van Brocklin is a paradox in many ways," Olderman wrote. "There's the calm, reflective side. ... His dedication affects the kids who play for him, who know he's a hard man and take his comments, which can sometimes be cruel ..."

Van Brocklin's great feat in the game of love is even marked on campus. A bench and plaque in front of Deady Hall mark the spot where Van Brocklin met Gloria 45 years ago.

The two met under a shady maple tree in front of the campus' oldest building. The memorial, dedicated to "Gloria Schiewe, Class of '46, Norm Van Brocklin, Class of '49" was dedicated earlier this year by their children — three of their own and three adopted from a friend who died in an auto accident.

The plaque, in the concrete slab below the five-foot wooden bench, simply says it all: "It is here

we met and here we will always be."

On campus, that memorial is seemingly the only reminder that Brocklin passed through the University before his greatness on the NFL grid-irons.

Maybe because Van Brocklin only played two seasons at quarterback for the Ducks and left before his senior season, he is remembered more by the NFL than the University. Sure, many still consider him a legend, but when Bill Musgrave was overhauling the passing record books last fall, Musgrave was compared to all the great Oregon quarterbacks of the past — Bob Berry, George Shaw, Dan Fouts and Chris Miller — except Norm Van Brocklin.

Perhaps the best tribute to Van Brocklin is the bench and plaque honoring the special affair he and his wife enjoyed before he died in 1983 and she in 1987. The marriage, the children and now the bench show a special side to the Dutchman, one many didn't know existed. We would much rather remember the greatness of the quarterback, coach and husband than we would his orneriness.

The bench that remembers Van Brocklin and his wife's love is a part of history that we might consider our own someday, just like they did.

The bench has romanticism apart from the Dutchman and Gloria. It is a beautiful, cozy, shady getaway under that big tree where many can recline in its comfort away from the searing summer sun.

It is a place where a fighter could easily become a lover, too.

Sports Action adds preseason games

SALEM (AP) — Preseason games will be included for the first time when the Oregon Lottery's Sports Action game begins its third season at the end of the month, a lottery news release said Monday.

Sports Action is based on the outcome of professional football games. More than \$4.25 million in prizes were awarded through the game last year.

Due to new legislation, all proceeds this year will fund athletics and academic schol-

arships at Oregon's public colleges and universities.

"Our players have told us that they want Sports Action proceeds to benefit Oregon's colleges, so we're very pleased about the change," Lottery Director Jim Davey said in the news release. "Sales for the first two years of Sports Action were over \$14.1 million, and we're projecting record sales for this year's game."

Sports which produce no revenue, such as gymnastics

and swimming, will get 70 percent of the money, with the rest given to revenue producing sports, such as football and basketball. Women's sports will get half the money.

Each Wednesday the lottery issues an official list of the football games and the odds for the week. Players select the number of events — 3 through 8, 10, 12, or 14 — they wish to play. Players must match all events selected to win.


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