

Highclimber

By DICK STRITE

We've been accused of losing northern division, Pacific coast conference basketball games, but losing a state high school football championship is a new crime.

The charge is based on several counts: 1. That we failed to publicize the Eugene Axemen. 2. We should have deleted mention of the 19-6 loss to North Bend. 3. That we've attempted to tear down the Eugene football team instead of build it up.

After more than ten years of listening to people who imagine (sometimes they really have good points of argument) things that do not exist, we should have become calloused to the howl of the wolves. But we worry about such things—not that our chief would give us the "pink slip," but that we've lost a friend.

Opinions expressed in this column are naturally debatable and we would be much happier handing out orchids day after day instead of taking a "crack" at something or someone. Some years ago we defended Fritz Kramer on a very serious charge which we risked the making of several enemies, but were convinced of our right. Last winter we took Ralph Coleman of O.S.C. to task because he officiated a state basketball tournament game between Corvallis and Springfield. More recently we criticized the over-working of Paul Lee, the Corvallis high halfback.

We didn't fear that Kramer's foes, or Coleman, or the Corvallis coach would come to the office and give us a "punch in the nose," but we felt generally uncomfortable because we were fully aware of writing something (however truthful) that would make someone fighting mad. It's something known in the newspaper business as editorial backbone. We'd hate to believe that our readers would want a writer who didn't have the "guts" to say what he believed; to try to remedy what he thought was wrong, just for the sake of being a pleasant fence-sitter.

So, we want to take the opportunity to make a defense of these charges.

1. The circulation of the Register-Guard totals, in round numbers 21,500—and approximately 8500 go on the doorsteps of Eugene residents. We must judge the value of our news and local coverage accordingly. It was a matter of judgment, but our opinion was that there was more reader interest in the Cottage Grove-Lebanon game last week-end than in the Eugene-Albany game (a) within our circulation area there was Lebanon, Sweet Home, Junction City, Springfield, Cottage Grove, Reedsport, and some Eugene interest in a game that not only decided the Tri-County championship, but was a district elimination; (b) Eugene high had already clinched at least a co-championship of the No-Name league and the Axemen were playing an opponent that was not in the running for recognition.

We are not on the school board payroll, but would do anything within reason to help build up a ball club at the request of the coach. Actually, we challenge anyone to compare the column inches in the two Portland papers on Eugene high football against any other school in the state, including any one Portland school. While most of the stories have been about the No-Name league as a whole, Eugene has been majored because of its standing in the circuit. But we'll hit more on this in point No. 3.

The layman probably doesn't consider the unusual local situation, unlike any other up-state newspaper. Eugene high, is a large school with more than 1000 students, but there are 18 other high schools in Lane county, let alone others in our circulation area—and many of them have been sadly neglected and overshadowed by the Axemen. We wonder if the effort to "build up" high school athletics is worth it, and maybe the educators who claim publicity is not a good thing for kids are right. Perhaps the era of some ten years ago—when sports pages were half as big as even the present wartime sections—was the happy period. High school sports received occasional mention in those days.

2. Actually, Eugene did not have an undefeated season and "forgetting" the loss to North Bend would have been deceiving. We thought it only fair, especially to North Bend, to mention the setback, with the notation that the result did not count in district championship consideration. We'll have something to say about the selection of Gresham later on.

3. As the season progressed, we hoped and felt more and more certain that Hank Kuchera was developing a team of state championship caliber. We don't know enough about the game to lend our coaching friends expert advice, but from time to time we have aided them by NOT having the teams win championships before the contests involved.

There is no deadlier opponent than overconfidence, and we honestly did feel that Salem and Albany were definitely stumbling stones, and tried to tone our stories to the possibility of impending dangers. The weak link of the Eugene team was the line, from tackle to tackle, although the line was pretty fair—weak only by comparison to an otherwise title team. We attempted to awaken a new spirit in the efforts of the linemen with criticism. We have done the same thing before—usually at the personal request of the coach.

It's very likely our psychology was wrong—although Eugene DID get by those two potentially tough opponents and the line DID develop into a unit that was virtually on a par with a good backfield and great wingmen.

Ask almost any coach of experience and he'll tell you his worst fear of publicity is to have some lug build up his team as a champion, only to have the team take a nose-dive.

Then again, it's quite possible that a grand old drum-beating about potential champions of the state would have convinced the district committee. A guy's between the Devil and the deep blue sea. It's like a quarterback who calls for a pass from his 10-yard line that makes him a mastermind if it works and a chump if intercepted and turned into a winning touchdown for the opponent.

With the season closed, we had planned another column for today—about Eugene high football and Kuchera. This was destroyed because of the fact that our job wouldn't be worth doing if there was any indication we could be "gotten to" by possible threats of a campaign to MAKE us write "hearts and flowers" in the future. We'd much sooner be digging ditches. Money, outside of being a medium for the support of the four other Strites, has never been the objective of our sports writing. We like the work, despite a 5:50 a.m. daily alarm clock.

And now that our critics have been taken care of (we hope the explanation of our Eugene high football tempo and pointing out our writing policy of the past and the future is clear) we again feel disposed to return to the role of critic.

The District 3 committee that selected Gresham to meet Medford in next Thursday's semi-finals may not have made a mistake (the Gophers may be one of those great little teams, like Bellfountain's state hoop champs) in picking the best team—but if not, the selection was purely luck. The committee would have been much better off had it not made, or attempted to make a long explanation regarding its reason for picking Gresham.

The fact that Eugene, playing one of the toughest schedules in the state, was the logical choice providing the Axemen beat Albany—is besides the point. In comparing Eugene and Gresham on the performance in their games against Oregon City definitely tabbed the gentlemen from Corvallis, Astoria and Milwaukie as knowing very little about the task they were entrusted to perform. Some years ago a football bug, juggling comparative scores, definitely proved that some high school team was 30 better than Notre Dame. Had the committee wanted to make comparisons, it could have also compared Eugene and Gresham by another method (Milwaukie beat O. C. 38-0, Gresham beat O. C. 21-0, Eugene beat Milwaukie 8-0) which would have made Milwaukie 17 points better than Gresham and Eugene 25 points stronger than Gresham. For goodness sakes, you can even make Cottage Grove 11 points better than Eugene by taking the Lions' 27-0 victory over Lebanon, the Warriors' 12-0 win over Albany and Eugene's 27-0 verdict over Albany.

Another point. It was definitely understood that games outside the district would NOT be considered, yet the committee in its statement said, "Eugene, however, suffered a defeat outside the district to North Bend. North Bend was defeated by Marshfield and Couville."

We feel that Kuchera and the Axemen have good reason to feel they "were robbed."

When the state high school football championship plan was first suggested and first set up, the plan was to have both "A" and "B" classes of championship competition, with a smaller school designating at the start of the season whether or not it would compete in "A" or "B" class—an action the schools were privileged to do.

The original plan might well be set up for next season. What is heart-breaking, however, is that Eugene has lost a chance for the 1944 title. There is no remedy for that, and we sincerely hope the fault cannot be placed on our doorstep.

Eugene Gains Second Crown

Corvallis' Paul Lee Wins Scoring Title

FINAL STANDINGS	W	L	Pl.	Opp.
Eugene	5	0	1,000	92 0
Albany	3	3	500	32 49
Milwaukie	3	3	500	45 44
Salem	3	3	400	44 39
Corvallis	3	3	400	43 38
Oregon City	0	5	000	14 91

The No-Name football league, for seven years the recognized grid power in up-state interscholastic football, has virtually wrapped up the 1944 season with the Eugene high Axemen winning its second outright championship in history.

League officials were stunned at the failure of the district committee to select the Axemen as mythical champions of District 3 and as an opponent for the Medford-Tornados in a Thanksgiving Day state semi-final championship battle.

Coach Hank Kuchera's Eugene team, a 50-0 aggregation at the start of the season which roared down the home-stretch, with championship caliber football, amassed a perfect record in league competition. The "Big Purple" won all five league encounters, scoring 92 points without having its goal line crossed. Eugene boasted no one star, but a well-balanced backfield quartet, a pair of great ends in Dale Warberg and Darrell Robinson, and a line that showed defensive improvement in every contest.

Milwaukie Closest Contest Opening with an unimpressive 14-0 victory over Oregon City, the Axemen were never seriously threatened by league opponents, the closest decision coming in the mud here with an 8-0 verdict over the defending champion Milwaukie Maroons.

Eugene's championship, coupled with a 1942 title, tied Milwaukie for the most championships won since the Maroons' crown in 1938. All other years the title has been shared—Eugene and Milwaukie co-winners in 1939, Salem and Albany in 1940, and Salem, Corvallis and Albany finished in a three-way deadlock in 1941.

Paul Lee, sensational Corvallis halfback, won the league's individual scoring championship just as decisively as Eugene won the team title. The hard-working 158-pounder scored six touchdowns and one extra point for the Spartans for a season's total of 37, nine points more than Ray Lakin of Milwaukie whose four touchdowns and four conversions gave him second place with 28.

All-Stars To Be Selected The week's final failed to equal the winning 55-point total by Dick Oberstaller of Milwaukie last year, but bettered his 1943 total of 24 points for the Spartans. Lakin collected only three points last year.

Tied for third place with three touchdowns and 18 points each were Billy Hutchinson, passing left halfback for Eugene, and his right-halfback teammate, Marion Denzer, Jack Cooper of Milwaukie was the third player with 18 points.

Handy Andy Bodner, Eugene fullback, was next in line with 16 points, followed by three others with 13 each—End Dale Warberg of Eugene, Bob Pratt of Milwaukie and Ev Staats of Salem, both backs.

The league coaches—Kuchera, Earl McKinley of Corvallis, Dan Jones of Oregon City, Tom Drynan of Salem, Merritt McKeel of Milwaukie, and Ed Ryan of Albany—are now balloting for the all-league team which is expected to be announced soon by Kuchera, league secretary.

Individual league scoring for the season follows:

PLAYER-SCHOOL	TD	PAT	PT
Paul Lee, Corvallis	6	1	37
Ray Lakin, Milwaukie	4	0	28
Billy Hutchinson, Eugene	3	0	18
Marion Denzer, Eugene	3	0	18
Jack Cooper, Milwaukie	3	0	18
Andy Bodner, Eugene	2	4	16
Bob Pratt, Milwaukie	2	0	13
Dale Warberg, Eugene	2	1	13
Ev Staats, Salem	2	1	13
Bill Barber, Eugene	2	0	12
Art Gottfried, Salem	2	0	12
Gene Zarnes, Albany	3	0	12
Bob Neuman, Albany	1	2	8
Wayne Weston, Salem	1	0	6
Dick Hicks, Milwaukie	1	0	6
Nile Gaster, Salem	1	0	6
Bob Weber, Salem	1	0	6
Bob Miley, Oregon City	1	0	6
Jerry Dechover, Oregon City	1	0	6
Larry Workman, Albany	1	0	6
Art Holthe, Albany	1	0	6
Bill Blumert, Corvallis	1	0	6
Bob Sawyer, Eugene	1	0	6
Da Neil Robinson, Eugene	0	0	0
Bill Moss, Milwaukie	0	0	0
Bill Puts, Eugene	0	1	1

(*) Safety scored for Eugene.

Oregon State Meets Willamette In Opener

CORVALLIS, Nov. 21.—(AP)—Oregon State's basketball team will face Willamette in Friday-Saturday games as the Beavers open a 13-game pre-season schedule.

The teams will play here Friday and at Salem Saturday.

Coach Slat Gilt is building his 1944-45 club around four lettermen, George Sertie, forward; Hal Puddy, center; and Bernie McGrath and Jack Simms, guards.

State Prep Grid Final In Portland December 2

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 21.—(AP)—The Oregon high school football championship will be settled on Saturday, Dec. 2, in Multnomah Stadium in Portland from among the four semi-finalists who meet Thanksgiving Day for the top two spots, it was revealed today.

The Roosevelt high school squad of Portland plays at La Grande and Gresham goes south to Medford in the other semi-final game.

State 'B' Title Tilt Thursday

The Oregon high school mythical state "B" six-man football championship will be at stake Thursday morning at Civic Stadium where the Oakridge Warriors will meet the challenge of an undefeated Banks high sextet, champions of six counties in the northern part of the state. Game time will be 10:30 o'clock.

Another Thanksgiving day sports feature will be served at Cottage Grove Thursday morning when the Tri-County champion Lions meet Junction City in a traditional game, starting at 11:15 o'clock. Cottage Grove, unbeaten this season, will be a heavy favorite over the much-beaten Tigers. It will be the final football game in the area this season.

Coach Jack Walton's Warriors, 40-26 victors over Mapleton in the county championship game last week, will be meeting a formidable foe in Banks, a team that walloped previously unbeaten Knappa-Svensen 36-19 last week-end.

Johnson To Defend Title Against Ross

Gust Johnson, the sensational Seattle Swede who holds the Pacific coast junior heavyweight championship, will defend his crown in the feature match of a holiday show at the Pearl Street arena Thursday night. Matchmaker Don Owen has assured Lane county wrestling followers of a luscious Thanksgiving Day mat feast.

Johnson, the hottest matman in the area at the present time and a grappler who "hit it off" with local fans the first time he appeared here, will defend his title against a formidable foe—Tony "Toledo Terror" Ross.

Although Johnson won the coast crown by winning a nine-man title tournament in Portland recently, Ross bases his challenge claim on a victory scored over the northerner in the inaugural "traveling trophy" tournament here two weeks ago. Johnson was handicapped in the event here when forced to appear in consecutive matches and was assigned the toughest match of the evening in one of the preliminaries—beating the "Grey Mask." He then lost to Ross in the finals.

The last Johnson-Ross skirmish was a rugged affair, giving promise to another slambang battle. Ross, a former welterweight boxing champion wrestles in the same fistic style as Pete Belcastro, Bulldog Jackson and the other villains. But Johnson is capable of handling himself against the roughest and toughest.

Owen did not announce the two preliminary matches, but intimated he was attempting to find an opponent to meet Herb Parks in the semi-final tilt. Holiday matches have always attracted capacity crowds in past years, and Owen warns fans to make early reservations at the Club cigar store.

Jack Dempsey Takes Blame For Long Count In Tunney Fight

CHICAGO, Nov. 21.—(AP)—Commander Jack Dempsey of the coast guard, one-time king of the heavyweights, came back to the scene of his bitterest ring disappointment and blamed himself for that long-argued "long count" loss to Gene Tunney 17 years ago.

Apparently mellowed by the years that have passed since he failed to regain his crown from Tunney here in 1927, and evidently no longer concerned with the length of that count, he told the Quarterback club here:

"Nobody is to blame for that long count. The referee was not responsible for it. Tunney was not responsible for it. The timer was not responsible for it. The only person responsible was myself."

The famous "long count" came after Dempsey had floored Tunney and then failed to go into a neutral corner quickly. Dempsey was here with former lightweight champion Lou Ambers in the interest of the sixth war loan drive.

Northam Takes Singles In Salem Bowling Test

Two Eugene bowling teams, U-Bowl and Dutch Girl, finished third and fourth, respectively, in a 10-team affair held at the Perfection alleys in Salem Sunday. Bradley Pies of Portland won the event. The singles title came to Eugene, however, with Roy Northam taking the top money.

Lou Zamperini, Reported Dead, Talks From Tokyo

TORANCE, Cal., Nov. 21.—(AP)—Louis Zamperini, former U. S. C. and Olympic track star declared officially dead by the army six days ago, is alive, his family said today, after a dramatic midnight broadcast from Tokyo, apparently by Zamperini himself.

Gildo Dossi, an uncle, said he recognized Zamperini's voice. The latter asked his brother, Pete, to keep his gun well oiled and asked that a shipment of phonograph records and personal effects be sent home from Honolulu.



MORRIS INTERCEPTS CALIFORNIA PASS—Bob Morris (24), Southern California left halfback, is tackled by a California player just after intercepting California pass thrown by Bob Edmonston. No. 31 is USC's Travis Manning, right half. This was the last play of the second period of the game at Berkeley, California, won by USC 32-0.

Scribe Eyes Possibilities In Football Bowl Selections

By JACK CUDDY
NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—(AP)—The New Year's Day football bowl game people are getting ready to send out the R.S.V.P. invitations to their annual soirees and the country-wide gridiron guessing contest as to who will go and who will have to stay at home is well underway.

A lot depends upon what may happen this week-end, but as of now it appears that a Jan. 1 lineup of opponents something similar to this may not be far amiss:

Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.—Southern California vs. Georgia Tech or Duke.

Colton Bowl, Dallas, Tex.—Texas Christian vs. Oklahoma A. & M. or Iowa State.

Sugar Bowl, New Orleans—Georgia Tech or Duke vs. Alabama or Tennessee.

Orange Bowl, Miami—Wake Forest vs. Tulsa.

Oil Bowl, Houston, Tex.—Rice vs. Oklahoma.

Sun Bowl, El Paso, Tex.—Randolph Field fliers vs. Second Air Force Superbombers.

Although the Rose Bowl committee openly favors Ohio State, the faculty fathers of the Big Ten are expected to turn down a proposal to lift the ban on post-season games at a meeting this week-end.

Moreover, Michigan's Wolverines are lurking just around the corner and if they hand the Buckeyes their first beating the Rose Bowl boom probably will collapse.

If Georgia Tech passes up a Rose Bowl bid in favor of the Sugar Bowl, Duke, despite its four defeats, probably would have the inside track. The west coast folks haven't forgotten Duke's fine gesture of hospitality when they transplanted the 1942 Rose Bowl game with Oregon State to Durham, N. C., after the Pearl Harbor attack when our Pacific shores were not considered safe from bombing. Neither have they forgotten Duke's last appearance at Pasadena in 1939 when Southern California edged the Blue Devils in the final 30 seconds on a desperation pass to win 7-3 in one of the most thrilling of all Rose Bowl games.

Eugene Recreation

The Penny-Wise Druggists came through their third series test of the Women's bowling league at Eugene Recreation alleys Monday night, sweeping a three-game series with KORE and boosting their league lead to four full games over Goodyear Tires, a 2-1 victor over Monroe Lumber. KORE dropped into third place, six games off the pace.

Hazel Gunderson had a 588 series for Penny-Wise, and Ellen Swennes a 203 single for KORE. Bainbridge had a 167 and Johnson a 449 for the Monroe team.

In other matches, Sands paced H. Gordon to a 2-1 win over Woolworth's with 192 and 494 series. The First National Bankers, led by Van Orden's 164 and 430, defeated U. S. National Bank 3-0. El Capitano defeated Oregon Lumber Sales 2-1, Farmer shooting 175 and 440 for the winners.

Bowling

W	L	Pct.	
MORRISON-HENNING	21	6	778
FARMERS CREAMERY	17	10	620
GOODYEAR TIRES	16	11	529
PIK 'N' PAK	16	11	529
ARMY ENGINEERS	11	18	407
REASON-HALL	10	17	379
MCDONALD CANDY	9	18	332
SEAPPY SERVICE	7	20	239
High Single—Wylie, 342.			
High Series—Young, 652.			

W	L	Pct.	
WILLAMETTE	20	7	741
HOOP-KELLYS	18	9	567
CHULA VISTA	16	9	567
SOUTH FORD	14	13	519
CONCRETE LUMBER	12	14	457
SOUTHERN PACIFIC	12	14	451
PIONEER GROCERY	12	14	451
MANERUD-HUNTINGTON	12	15	444
SPRINGFIELD T&T	9	18	332
MONROE LUMBER	11	18	407
EUGENE PLAYWOOD	10	17	379
High Single—Hassman, 245.			
High Series—L. Bonney, 620.			

W	L	Pct.	
MOOSE	22	5	815
U-Bowl	22	5	815
Retread Tires	20	7	741
Tommy Williams	15	11	503
Seapp Service	15	12	457
Tiny Tavern	13	14	481
Rex Cafe	13	14	481
Whittaker Cement	12	15	444
Super V Market	12	15	444
Ristow Jewellers	11	16	407
Andrus Brothers	10	17	379
White Fuel	9	18	332
River Road Market	9	18	332
High Single—Neuman, 348.			
High Series—McClough, 594.			

W	L	Pct.	
MAJOR LEAGUE BOWLING			
Chicagomette	18	2	704
Coast Cable	17	10	620
Myrins Machine	16	11	529
Goodyear Tires	11	18	407
Coca-Cola	10	17	379
Jim the Shoe Doctor	8	19	296
Individual High—Jones, 569.			
High Series—Jones, 243 (league record).			

W	L	Pct.
GROVE MOOSE	9	1,000
Quality Market	3	300
Grove Hardware	3	300
Kelly Drug	3	300
Gibbers Motors	3	300
Teavaco Oil	2	300
Union Oil	2	300
Shue M. Lumber	2	300
Irish-Swartz	2	300
High Single—Wolford, 200.		
High Series—Olts, 542.		

BASEBALL AT PUERTO RICO

WICHITA, Kas., Nov. 21.—(AP)—Puerto Rico today became the 16th territory or country to be affiliated with the global non-professional baseball program of the National Baseball Congress.

DR. PETERS

CHIROPRACTOR
201 Tiffany Bldg.
Phone 1170
Evenings—Ph. 2494-W

Army And Navy Top Grid Poll

U. S. C. Gains Rating In A. P. Balloting

By HAROLD CLAASER
NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—(AP)—Army and Navy—the teams that met in Baltimore on Dec. 3 in the football game of the December rate No. 1 and 2 in today's Associated Press poll to determine the country's outstanding eleven.

The Cadets, who came from Pennsylvania 62-7 last Saturday, hung onto first place in the poll. The remainder of the top ten was derived from a shakeup that took Duke, despite its 24-7 triumph over South Carolina, and Stanford Southern California.

Navy, 32-9 winner over Purdue, climbed to second place for the third week ago. Ohio State maintained third but Randolph Field, which romped to a 58-0 victory over Southwestern of Texas, skidded from the runner-up spot to fourth.

The fliers were followed by Bainbridge Naval, Michigan, and pre-flight, Southern California. Fourth Air Force and Georgia Tech.

Notre Dame, whose long tenure in the elite ranking was broken