ichigan State, Georgia Tech, Maryland, Rice, Texas Tech

Fearless Fraley for Favorites

By OSCAR FRALEY
United Press Sports Writer

EW YORK—Nothing is as redictable, it is said, as a an or a New Year's Day l game but from this corner ppears today that Jan. 1 is g to be a fine day for the ball favorites.

l of the contests in the five bowls look like close ones, while no runaways are anated, these post season cons usually provide more than ir quota of upsets simply bee of the long layoff in comition.

ating chalk, from here it s like:

Rose Bowl — Michigan State over UCLA.

Sugar Bowl — Georgia Tech over West Virginia.

Orange Bowl—Maryland over Oklahoma.

Cotton Bowl—Rice over Alabama.

Gator Bowl—Texas Tech over Auburn.

Each of the selections is, at the moment, the favorite. The odds-makers quote Michigan State by 6; Georgia Tech by 13, Maryland by 6½; Rice by 7½ and Texas Tech by 5½. With those kind of odds, the best bet among the underdogs would seem to be Alabama. Bowl by bowl it shapes up this way:

ROSE BOWL

UCLA and State both beat one common rival, Oregon State, the Uclans by an edge of 41-0 and State by 34-6. But the midwesterners are winding up their first year of Big Ten competition and would like to go all the way and regain the prestige which the conference lost in last year's Rose Bowl contest. Offensively Michigan State has a flock of fast backs with which to out speed Paul Cameron, UCLA's big hun.

SUGAR BOWL

Georgia Tech has a good defense and lost to Notre Dame's powerhouse by only two touchdowns. West Virginia scored a pair of fine victories in downing Pitt and Penn State. However, Tech had early season difficulties shifting over to the one-platoon system and became increasingly stronger.

ORANGE BOWL

This should be a whale of a game and Maryland figures to be extended to the final gun for the first time this season. However, Jim Tatum and his boys would like to put a clincher on their mythical number one ranking and will be out to down Oklahoma by more than Notre Dame did, the Irish having squeezed past the Sooners, 28-21.

COTTON BOWL

Alabama had trouble getting started this season but was roaring down the stretch. On the other hand, Rice made a habit out of winning the ones it had to have.

GATOR BOWL

Fighting for a place in the football sun, Texas Tech will go all out and rates an offensive edge as the national scoring champion. On one comparative game, Tech beat Mississippi State, 27-20, while Auburn played State at 21-21 tie.

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Michigan State Squad Shines In Hotel Fire, Drill for Bowl

From UP, AP Reports

The Michigan State Rose Bowl football squad got a little unscheduled Sunday exercise in a burning hotel.

The players snapped into action when a fire broke out in the third floor wing of the plush Huntington Hotel where they are staying, causing smoke, water and heat dmage estimated at $25,000.

Several team members, some of whom were billeted in the wing, manned fire hoses, helped spread the alarm, and aided occupants of 10 rooms to safety.

"The Michigan State boys get all the credit for putting the fire out," declared Hotel Manager Stephen Royce. "It was well under control when the fire department arrived."

DOOR BROKEN

Royce said two players, Bill Quinlan and Hank Bullough, rescued an elderly guest confined to a wheel chair by breaking down the door to his room and wheeling him to an elevator.

While some of the players made sure none of the hotel residents were in danger, others, according to Royce, manned fire fighting equipment and prevented the flames from spreading.

Among those who helped extinguish the fire, Royce said, were center Joe Badaczewski, tackle Jim Jebb, center Fred Rody, fullback Evan Slonac, guard Gene Lekenta, and team manager Keith Darby.

The fire, which started in a linen closet, blistered walls and ceilings in the wing and gutted the closet. Most of the damage was caused by smoke, Royce said.

A lot of hard work meanwhile is on schedule this week for the squad in preparation for its Rose Bowl game with UCLA on New Year's Day.

MSC football boss Biggie Munn proved it's pretty hard to please a coach after a late Saturday afternoon scrimmage session that had a crowd applauding and sports writers burbling.

There were eight touchdowns made in the session. Most of the scoring plays didn't satisfy the coach.

ONE DANDY

"There was one dandy though," Munn admitted. "Everyone carried out their assignments perfectly on that one."

On this play quarterback Earl Morrall heaved a 70-yard touchdown pass to end Ellis Duckett.

West Coast sports writers, casing the MSC squad, were particularly impressed by Leroy Bolden, the hard-hitting, high scoring, pint-sized Spartan who bowled through his teammates with methodic fury.

The Bruins also scheduled two-a-day practice sessions, resuming Monday. Coach Red Sanders, who has missed three drills because of a chest cold, hoped to be back on the field.

Seattle Couple Leads Netters

SEATTLE (AP) — Two Seattle players have been ranked No. 1 in Northwest tennis for 1953, Fred Fisher getting the call in the men's singles division and Janet Hopps taking top spot in women's singles.

Two of the region's outstanding young stars, Bill Quillian of Seattle and Don Flye of Tacoma, were unranked by the Pacific Northwest Lawn Tennis Association for "insufficient data."

The Association explained that a player must appear in one major and one minor regional tournament to earn consideration. Quillian and Flye spent much of the season touring the tourneys in other areas

Also unranked for insufficient data were Paul Willey and Lawrence Barclay of Vancouver, B.C. and Doris Popple of Oswego, Ore.

Following Fisher on the men's singles rating board were Jack Lowe, Seattle; Emery Neale, Portland; Wally Bostick, Seattle; Clyde Knox, Hugh Findlay and Jack Neer, all of Portland; Jim Macken and Bill Green, Vancouver, B. C.; Les Batten, Spokane, and Jim Skelton, Vancouver, B. C.

A Patient Man

Ez Waits For Chance At Champ

By HAL WOOD
United Press Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Ezzard Charles is a patient man.

It seems he has been waiting nearly all his life for important events involving him to take place. Of course, when the time finally rolls around and opportunity knocks, Ezzard doesn't slam the door. He takes advantage of every opportunity.

So the soft spoken former heavyweight champion of the world isn't at all bitter about getting the run around on a chance to regain his crown.

WAITED BEFORE

"I waited for a long time to get the title in the first place," he says. "So I guess waiting a little longer won't hurt. Although I'll have to admit I've been ready quite a while."

Ezzard and his co-managers, Jake Mintz and Tom Tannas, are so certain that they can lick anyone in the world right now that they are ready to take on all comers in order to get a chance at Rocky Marciano.

"Why, we'll be glad to fight Nino Valdes again if it means we will get a chance at the crown," says Tannas. And Charles nods his head in agreement. Ezzard is in no particular hurry. Anything the managers say is okay with him.

DRAMATIZES A POINT

It might be said that the Cincinnati star has the patience of Job.

A good example happened in his dressing room the other night just after he had knocked out Coley Wallace. He was bathed in sweat. I asked him why Wallace didn't stick out his left more often (Wallace had a five and one-half inch reach advantage and the thought was that he could have kept Ezzard off balance more easily).

Charles considered this carefully for a while then, tired as he was, he eased up out of his chair, stood up, took a crouching stance and started weaving, explaining why the left jab wouldn't bother him.

After going 10 furious rounds, that was the height of patience—to start shadow boxing for a reporter.

Baker Favored 8-5 To Defeat Henry

NEW YORK (AP)—Big Bob Baker of Pittsburgh was favored at 8-5 to turn the tables on Clarence Henry of Los Angeles Monday in their return 10 round television bout at Eastern Parkway Arena.

In their previous meeting, Nov. 23, 1951, explosive Henry knocked out Baker in the eighth round.

However, Baker was favored today because Henry has been inactive since he was beaten by Archie Moore in June, 1952. Henry suffered an eye injury in the bout. Moore later became light heavyweight champion.

In 35 professional bouts, Baker has won 32, had one draw, and scored 17 knockouts. Henry lost but four of 40 bouts. He had one draw and knocked out 19.

Annual Ocean Dip

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — About 25 members of the Dolphin Club hopped into the chill waters of the Pacific Sunday in the club's 55th annual midwinter swim.

As a warmup, the hardy swimmers, ranging from 12 to 86, tramped seven miles from their clubhouse to the beach.

Cue Artist Dies

TOKYO (AP)—Kinrey Matsuyama, 56, diminutive Japanese cue artist who several times was runnerup in world or U.S. three cushion billiard tournaments, died Sunday night following a heart attack. He finished, second to Willie Hoppe in the world tournament at San Francisco last year and was sixth at Chicago last spring.

Cleveland Improved For Pro Grid Playoff

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Browns, who once thought championships were as easy to get as good conduct medals, make their second try Sunday to regain the National Football League crown they lost in 1951.

Coach Paul Brown, as cautious as he is eager to win, remarks his players "haven't got it until they get it." But there's not much doubt the improved Browns are in a better position to beat the Detroit Lions this time than they were last year when the Lions dropped them in the championship playoff, 17-7.

All the Clevelanders, except linebacker Tommy Thompson, are in good shape physically.

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