

Additional Sports

St. Mary's Gaels' Story Of Triumph Reads Like Novel

San Francisco, Dec. 21 (AP)—A "rags to riches" story that probably never before has been equaled on the gridiron tells the tale of how St. Mary's Gaels galloped into the New Orleans New Year's day Sugar Bowl against powerful Oklahoma A. and M.

Beaten in every tilt they played during 1944, when they kept football going "for the love of the game," the Gaels came back in 1945 to capture seven, lose one and win acclaim as the finest grid ensemble in the west—and draw the richest bowl plum possible for a western non-conference football team.

The war-time story of the Gaels largely is built around genial Jim Phelan, their quick-witted Irish coach, who decided that if the boys wanted to play football during hostilities, he would string along with them.

Football Power In prewar days the Gaels at ways were a football power. Then the navy moved in and took over most of the campus. The enrollment at St. Mary's dwindled to around 100 students, but the morning Mick still filled a football team.

His 1943 outfit won a couple, "Ries Radio Sales & Service 120 Oregon — Phone 801"

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Today's Sport Parade

By Hal Wood (United Press Sports Writer) San Francisco, Dec. 21 (AP)—Late Christmas gift suggestions: For Jimmy Phelan and his Sugar Bowl St. Mary's college

dropped five; in 1944 the team lost all five games on the schedule. But the boys still enjoyed playing against the "big names" in the service—so Jimmy let them.

"I never enjoyed coaching so much in my life as I did in 1944—and I never learned more about the game," Phelan said at the end of the season.

Results Are Good What he learned he put into use this year—with startling results. One of the things he found out was that 17-year-olds, if given the proper sets of plays, could hold their own against mature men.

So he lined up a husky band of kids just out of high school and a few discharged war veterans. Among these was Herman Wedemeyer, the boy who developed into everybody's All-American, a quadruple-threat back, from Honolulu, who had played with the 1943 team.

A brilliant quarterback, Dennis O'Connor, was a hold-over from the winless 1944 club. He and Wedemeyer are the only sophomores on the starting eleven—all the rest are freshmen.

Player Imported A seat back, Charles (Spike) Cordiero, also was imported from Honolulu. A husky bunch of durable youngsters was rounded up from California high schools for the forward wall.

For this club Phelan developed a wide-open brand of offensive ball designed to take advantage of the kids' speed. Under the guidance of quarterback O'Connor; with the running of Cordiero and the passing, running and kicking of Wedemeyer, the system paid big dividends.

Good Drawing Card The Gaels were the finest drawing card in the west. They played to 390,000 fans as they beat: California, 20-13; in the opener; Stockton army commandos 26-0; University of Nevada 39-0; Amos Alonzo Stagg's college of Pacific, 61-0; McLellan field fliers, 58-0; University of Southern California (the Rose Bowl team), 26-0; Fresno State, 32-5; and then lost the final to UCLA 13-7, in the last 30 seconds of the season.

The odds are reported 3-1 against the Gaels in their Sugar Bowl battle against the Oklahoma A. and M. outfit. But if westerners have learned one thing about football this year, it is this: "Never sell St. Mary's college Galloping Gaels short!"

GRID GREENHORNS Eaton Rouge, La. (AP)—Two Louisiana State footballers were really greenhorns at the start of the season. Guard Herd Miller had never played the game before and fullback Joe Bartus played only 43 minutes in four years in high school.

Previously the game commission had received requests for the open season because elk were reported damaging ranchers' hay stacks.

Bulletin Classifieds bring results

Curb On Lofty Players Studied

New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—Basketball coaches, hesitant about "competing with Barnum and Bailey for the seven and eight-foot giants," may have found their answer today in legislation prepared by coach Bruce Drake of Oklahoma.

As chairman of the research committee of the National Basketball Coaches' association, a group instructed early this year to investigate possibilities of curbing the domination of the game by big centers, Drake has made an intensive study of the problem.

Goes Wrong Way "Right now the game is going the wrong way," he said. "Some center who is seven-foot nine or eight feet will come along and then what will happen? My plan will curb their scoring power, although these big fellows still will be able to control most rebounds and jump-balls."

Drake's plan to be offered to the association, calls for a half circle marked off on each end of the court. This half-moon figure will begin in the middle of the free throw lane, three feet from the bottom of the circle. It would run to two points at the end of the court, totally embracing that patch of offensive territory usually worked with high scoring results by the huge centers. No player would be allowed in the territory for more than three seconds.

Or, an alternate plan would find two 45 degree lines marked from the edge of the free throw lane just three feet from the circle's bottom to the end of the court.

"It would keep the big guys out of their favorite territory," Drake said, "they'd have to be better shots to work outside of the area, and there would be more emphasis on ball-handling, mapped-out plays and team speed."

The sooner coach added that the suggestion would not be a disadvantage to teams which rely on the zone defenses because they still could have their zone men in the usual spots.

Report is Simple It was a simple report that she had transferred Surgeon Lt. Brodsky to the Frederick Victory "by breeches buoy in heavy seas," and was standing by. That was at 4:05 p.m.

Less than four hours later, the Knoxville radioed that the doctor was back on board, and that he reported the operation a success.

"We are resuming our station," the message concluded. "The Frederick Victory is proceeding to New York."

According to physicians, Ludwig's angina is a severe throat infection which may be caused by an abscess or a swelling. Either must be removed immediately.

Identity of the soldier was not revealed. Brodsky was believed to be a member of the Boston, Mass., public health service.

The Frederick Victory is due in New York Dec. 24.

OPTIMISM PAYS OFF Fort Warren, Wyo. (AP)—After serving overseas for two years, a GI who had been stationed here, came back recently to the No. 2 tailor shop in the basement of the main PX. He wanted to pick up some clothes he had left there to be cleaned two years ago. Sure enough, his clothes were ready and waiting. The clerk recognized him, too.

Jack Solomons Is Called Threat

New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—Jack Solomons, visiting British boxing promoter, declared today that Bruce Woodcock of England is a "definite threat" to the world heavyweight championship that he might beat either Joe Louis or challenger Billy Conn.

Solomons, who arrived yesterday by trans-Atlantic plane from London, emphasized that Woodcock is a much better fighter than was Tommy Farr of Wales, who gave Louis such close title opposition in 1937.

Terse Words Tell Of Sea Operation

New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—Three brief radio messages intercepted by the air sea rescue office of the eastern sea frontier today told a dramatic story of a successful race for life at sea.

It began early yesterday when the 7,607-ton Frederick Victory, with 1,652 troops aboard, radioed from a point west of the Azores that a soldier aboard needed an immediate throat operation.

"Seriously ill soldier aboard. Possibly Ludwig's angina. No diptheria present. Advise if qualified surgeon aboard. We are army troopship," read the message, addressed to the north Atlantic patrol.

U.S.S. Knoxville, a coast guard weather ship, sent the next message.

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State Democrats Flailed By Erwin

Portland, Ore., Dec. 21 (AP)—Warren Erwin, democratic member of the state legislature and one-time candidate for congress, today flailed the democratic state leadership for failing to put democrats in congress.

He also predicted that Harold E. Stassen, former governor of Minnesota, would be the "man to beat" in the 1948 national election.

Erwin labeled the recent democratic nominating assembly in Salem a "disappointing affair."

In an address before the Willamette Democratic Society, Inc., Erwin declared the party leaders had known for weeks "what was going to happen" and said "someone should be blamed" for the failure to turn out the necessary 250 voters required to nominate Bruce Spaulding, Salem attorney, as the party candidate for congressman from the First district.

ALL MARINERS WELCOME. Boston (AP)—The nation's oldest marine society—the Boston Marine society—has opened its doors to seamen from all over the United States. Heretofore only

native New Englanders were eligible for membership. The society still treasures "The Box"—a heavy, leather-covered, brass-studded box once used as the society's bank. From this box were taken funds to help assist needy members of the society. Birth and death columns in the Danville, Ill., Commercial-News have been combined under one head: "Who-Where-When."

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