

# Leahy Takes Time to Rate the Fighting Irish of '49

**By FRANK LEAHY**  
*(Notre Dame Head Grid Coach)*  
*(A Capital Journal Feature)*

Inasmuch as our Notre Dame schedule does not open until this coming Saturday, and an intra-squad scrimmage kept us from witnessing any outside games over the week-end we should like to take this opportunity to discuss our own potentialities for 1949 so that our readers may know what to look for when the "Fighting Irish" take the field.

Realizing that a pessimist is a poor company in any group we definitely do not want to give the impression that we are prematurely "alibi-ing" for what is undoubtedly will be Notre Dame's poorest season in the past few years. No major college team in recent football history has gone four consecutive seasons without defeat and we are not egotistical enough to think that we can

establish such a record.

Even the most optimistic of Notre Dame's followers will admit that the loss of seven regulars from our 1948 starting eleven will leave our team considerably weaker, and there is no football fan in the country who will not agree that the 1949 schedule is one of the toughest ever faced by Notre Dame. Pre-season All American teams have Charlie Justice, Doak Walker, and Eddie Price in the starting backfield; we face all three.

The writers who are picking Notre Dame to be the number one team in the nation are doing so for one of two reasons. Either it is wishful thinking on the part of men who have followed the team for many years, or in some cases the writer has not been thorough enough to contact anyone at Notre Dame or even to witness a practice session.

One writer who picks Notre

Dame to be national champion informs his readers that we have 41 backs on our squad when in reality not more than 19 backfield candidates have been present at

any time during our fall practices. We are deeply appreciative of all the fine publicity Notre Dame receives but we believe that such inaccuracy is unfair to all concerned, particularly to our football candidates.

In North Carolina, Tulane, Southern California and Southern Methodist, we meet the teams favored to win their respective conferences by the pre-season dopesters, while once again Purdue looms as the "dark horse" of the Big Nine. "Biggie" Munn's Michigan State "Spartans" are looked upon as one of the toughest independent teams in the nation. The above appraisal very definitely does not mean that we are overlooking the potentialities of Washington, Indiana, Navy and Iowa, but rather because the first mentioned group have received so much national recognition in the past year it is natural that Notre Dame rooters think of them first when the word "defeat" is brought up.

We are well aware that the return of Howie Odell to the Washington coaching helm, coupled with one of the largest groups of Junior College transfers to any college in the country will spell trouble for all opponents of the "Huskies."

Indiana and Navy are both in their second year of rebuilding under very successful coaches,

and a look at the record books proves that neither Clyde Smith nor George Sauer will suffer many defeats once their system is properly installed. Iowa cannot be feared enough as Eddie Anderson holds the distinction of derailing more undefeated Notre Dame football teams than any other coach in the country.

Of the four returning starters from last year three will be on the gridiron when the opening whistle sounds. Co-Captain Leon Hart will be at his usual right end station with Co-Captain Jim Martin making his initial appearance at tackle.

Paucity at the tackle post caused us to switch Jim in spring practice, and his willingness to work exceptionally hard at the new assignment has won him the nod over last year's starter Ralph McGehee. Bob Tonneff, 19-year-old sophomore, will be at the other tackle, and either Bob Lally or Fred Wallner at right guard. On the left side Paul Burns will open at guard in place of the injured

Frank Johnson, while veterans Bill Flynn and Bill Wightkin and newcomer Jim Mutscheller are battling for the starting end job. Center is still a struggle between Walter Grothaus and Jerry Groom.

The backfield will be composed of Emil "Red" Sitko, Fort Wayne, Indiana fullback, who will be commencing his fourth season as a Notre Dame regular, Baltimore's Bob Williams, at quarterback, with Bill Gay, and Larry Coutre at the halfback spots.

Our honest opinion is that the 1949 Notre Dame football team will lose a few games. How many we don't venture to say, but we can state that the people who come to see us perform will see American football at its best even though the blue and gold standard bearers may end up on the small end of the score on more than one occasion. This year's team may be defeated, but it will not be outfought or humiliated.

## SPORTS

LOCAL \* UNITED PRESS \* ASSOCIATED PRESS \* NEWS AND FEATURES

Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, September 20, 1949—Page 11

### Portland to Continue Senators in WI League

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 20 (U.P.)—The management of the Portland Beavers notified directors of the Western International league that they would operate a team under their franchise in the class B loop next season.

Announcement of the intentions of the handling of the Salem Senators by the Portland operators was made by League President Robert Abel. It came at a post season meeting of WI league directors held Monday in Tacoma.

was presented WI directors by Mayor V. L. Koelker of Kennewick.

A Wenatchee group, including Mayor Arthur Pohlman, former team President Joe Brownlow and William B. Bell, opposed shifting the team and immediately applied for the Bremerton franchise. Also seeking the Bremerton club is Frank Burrell, Jr., San Jose, Calif., who would shift it to Eugene, Ore., where he has made tentative arrangements for a stadium.

Abel told Burrell his proposal would have to be sanctioned by six of the eight board members. A decision will be reached at a later date.

The Tri-City are of Pasco, Kennewick and Hanford, Wash., received a formal answer to his bid for a franchise. The directors ruled that the Wenatchee franchise would be transferred if the Tri-City group can show it can construct a suitable park.

(The Monday edition of the Portland Journal of Commerce indicated that construction of the Tri-City park was under way with a seating capacity of 4000.)

Abel also announced the formal withdrawal of Bremerton from the league with Eugene, Ore., and Wenatchee immediately seeking the franchise.

Present Wenatchee operators would run the Tri-City team. The application for the franchise

### Ex-Gridder Hurt In Lumber Yard

Scotts Mills, Sept. 20 — Robert Kellis, 26, former Silverton football star, was hospitalized in Silverton Monday following an accident at the lumber yard operated by his father, Raymond Kellis. Kellis was nearly smothered when a load of wood fell from a chute and was rescued by fellow workers. No bones were broken but he received severe bruises, according to word from the hospital.



### Big Problem

Jack Verhoff, a sophomore tackle prospect for the Columbus Aquinas high school football squad, presents definite uniform problems. Coach Jack McAndrew is rigging a makeshift uniform for the 6-foot, 2 1/2-inch, 265-pound boy. Since young Verhoff wears a size 14 shoe, the only available equipment to fit him was a head-gear. McAndrew says Verhoff will be fitted out. He's too big a lineman to be lost for want of a uniform.

## National Race Tightens as Brooklyn Pitching Improves

*(By the Associated Press)*  
 Brooklyn's "B" twins—Ralph Branca and Rex Barney—have hit their old stride again and the Dodgers' pitching staff appears at peak strength for the stretch run in the tight National league pennant race.

This is disconcerting news for the St. Louis Cardinals, who saw their lead chopped to a game and a half last night and who have a three-game series with the pursuing Dodgers coming up tomorrow.

two of the games as originally planned. Newcombe will pitch the first one, he said, followed by Preacher Roe and Branca or Barney as starters in the other two.

While the National league was growing tighter, the American began to loosen up a bit. The New York Yankees increased their lead to three full games of the idle Boston Red Sox by trimming Cleveland, 6-0.

It was the fourth straight triumph over first division foes for the Yankees and their ninth victory in the last ten games.

Lefty Ed Lopat pitched a five-hitter in shutting out the Indians, recording his 15th victory of the season. Bob Feller was Cleveland's losing hurler.

Rookies John (Jock) Thompson and Ed Sanicki were the Phillies who jolted the Cardinals. Thompson, a 29-year-old left-hander, held the Cards scoreless for six innings and went all the way while giving up 11 safeties. Sanicki, a 22-year-old out-fielder, batted in three runs for the Phils, two of them on a homer.

In the other National league games, the New York Giants won a ten-inning affair from Pittsburgh, 6-4, and the Boston Braves whipped Cincinnati, 6-2.

Ralph Kiner hit his 50th home run of the season for the Pirates to become the first player in the National league to hit that mark twice. Kiner, who is pressing Hack Wilson's league record total of 56, puled 51 in 1947.

Warren Spahn turned in his 19th pitching victory for the Braves in the game at Cincinnati which was a replay of the previous day's 1-1 tie.

The only other game in the American league saw the Philadelphia Athletics push over three runs in the eighth to subdue the St. Louis Browns, 7-4. Dick Fowler won his 14th game of the season, going all the way.

**Major Standings**  
*(By United Press)*

AMERICAN LEAGUE				NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.	Team	W	L	Pct.
New York	21	31	.401	St. Louis	21	32	.398
Boston	20	35	.361	Brooklyn	20	34	.366
Detroit	18	42	.302	Philadelphia	17	44	.277
Cleveland	18	43	.297	Cincinnati	17	44	.277
				Pittsburgh	15	46	.244
				Chicago	15	46	.244

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Branca and Barney, the erratic roommates who fell short of the 20-game victory marks predicted for them in the spring, may play a big role in the important St. Louis stand.

Both fashioned notable conquests the last couple of days over the Chicago Cubs. Manager Burt Shotton, who has used them spasmodically, indicates they can expect regular work here on out.

Barney turned in one of the best pitched games of the season yesterday in shutting out the Cubs on hit, 4-0. He faced only 28 men, none reached second and the only blow off him was Phil Cavarretta's single opening the eighth.

It was his eighth victory against eight defeats but a vital one for the Dodgers.

A few hours later the Cardinals ran afoul a couple of Philadelphia rookies and lost to the Phillies, 4-3, to have their advantage whittled to 1 1/2 games.

This adds new pressure to the Dodger-Cardinal series opening with a day-night doubleheader in St. Louis tomorrow.

Shotton announced he would not use big Don Newcombe in

### Pacific Coast Teams Get Set for Second Rounders

Seattle, Sept. 20 (U.P.)—Coach Howie Odell put his University of Washington Huskies through their roughest scrimmage of the season yesterday in preparation for the battle with Minnesota in Minneapolis next Saturday.

Eugene, Ore., Sept. 20 (U.P.)—Coach Jim Alken of University of Oregon planned today to put his charges through a heavy defensive workout. The Ducks open their conference season Saturday against the Idaho Vandals who crushed Willamette 79-0 last week.

Pullman, Wash., Sept. 20 (U.P.)—Coach Phil Sarboe reported today that his veteran Washington State fullback, John Monlux, broke a leg in Saturday's game against Utah State and will be out for the season. Meanwhile, the Cougars prepared to meet the Montana State Grizzlies this Saturday. WSC was upset 13-12 last year by the Grizzlies.

Reno, Nev., Sept. 20 (U.P.)—Coach Joe Sheketskis reported today that Nevada's 41-21 vic-

## Coast Grid Bosses Bemoan Victory and Defeat Alike

*By HAL WOOD*  
*(United Press Sports Writer)*  
 San Francisco, Sept. 20 (U.P.)—The waiting and the moaning was terrific; crocodile tears rolled down faces and every word was uttered with tongue in cheek as the first Monday quarterbacking session of the Northern California Football Writers' association was held here today.

Every winning coach had a good word to say for the losing opposition; but he wasn't so sure about his own club. The losing coaches lauded the winners and felt sorry for themselves.

It went something like this:

Marchie Schwartz, Stanford (winner over San Jose State, 49-0)—"San Jose really wasn't that bad. We were weak on blocking. San Jose really has a better club than shown. However, our Harry Hugasian is a fine halfback."

Lynn Waldorf, California (winner over Santa Clara, 21-7)—"When Santa Clara marched for that touchdown in the first quarter, our team was weaker on defense than at any time since I came here. We have no ground power and we lack blockers. But our outfit developed from a squad to a ball club in that game."

Joe Verducci, St. Mary's (beaten by Oregon, 24-7)—"Our team didn't play well at all. Oregon has a well-jelled ball club, in mid-season form. How come we don't hear any yelling this year about that P. E. 196 class? I can't predict victory over California."

Joe Kuharich, University of San Francisco (lost to COP, 6-7)—"College of Pacific is better than last year. We spent ourselves in the first 20 minutes of play."

Hank Johnston, Harvard publicity man (team didn't play, but he watched Stanford)—"We'll be stronger on both offense and



**Double Trouble** California's Paul Baldwin (ground) and Dick Groger stop Santa Clara halfback Paul Conn in the second quarter of the University of California-Santa Clara game at Berkeley, Calif. Conn gained 12 yards on a right end sweep. Coming up in the rear is Don White (84), Santa Clara. California won, 21-7. (Acme Telephoto)



Emil Sitko  
Running Star



Bob Williams  
Needs Experience

## Skits and Scratches

*By FRED ZIMMERMAN, Capital Journal Sports Editor*

### Hunters on Their Marks

With an eye on the calendar for that long anticipated October 1, hunters are cleaning their weapons, checking their ammunition and in other ways making ready for the dash to their favorite deer grounds. There is no shortage of ammunition and those individuals who during the war years put callouses on their consciences by doling out a cartridge at a time at exorbitant prices have retired from business.

However, high velocity rifles and some top quality shotguns remain on an allocation basis insofar as the dealer is concerned and there is no indication of an easing off in prices. The principal reason for the shortage dates back to the war, naturally. But the fact that there are 17 million more shooters now than there were in 1939 plays an important part in the situation. As for the supply of game, a wildlife census conducted this year comes up with the report that is a 12 percent increase in the number of ducks and 32 percent in the geese population. As for big game "there are more deer in the country than when Columbus discovered America."

### Rule Changes

To the untillated fan the game of football resembles a cross between a battle royal and a dog fight even though play is governed by a set of 70 rules, each with one to eight variations. Few fans ever take the trouble to thumb through a rule book and for this reason Abb Curtis, supervisor of Pacific Coast conference officials has selected a few of the more important changes in regulations for public consumption. The much discussed rule on "clipping" has been changed so that a legal block from the rear is legal "if the initial contact is made above the waist of the man getting blocked." That puts it up to the official to determine at what point on a man's anatomy contact was first made.

### Kicks from Scrimmage

A ball kicked from scrimmage that crosses the goal line is not automatically dead as it was last year. This will permit "run outs" by the receiving team if they so desire, and also make possible the recovery of a fumble for a touchdown for the kicking team on such kicks that are handled by the receiving team. Another angle in the booting department: A scrimmage kick that crosses the line of scrimmage and then rebounds behind the kicking team's line of scrimmage may not only be recovered behind the line by the kicking team but also may be advanced. Also, mere recovery of such a kick by the kicking teams makes a first down.

### Four New Aerial Rules

A forward pass that touches an ineligible man is not automatically dead. The defensive team may intercept and advance such passes. Successive touching of a forward pass by two or more ineligible players of the offensive team does not make a pass incomplete. One eligible player may deflect, and then a second eligible player may complete the catch and advance the ball. An incomplete forward pass that becomes incomplete behind the goal line of the passing team is regarded as any other incomplete pass in the field of play, and counts a down rather than a "safety". Ineligible players of passing team must remain on or behind their line of scrimmage until the pass is "touched".

### Athletic Releases

Best publicity in the amateur sports field to cross our desk is the material received from Michigan State college. It is well edited, varied and issued with regularity. No doubt the publicity department is given considerable consideration when the budget is adopted. The Coast conference is doing a lot better in the publicity and information lines and Bill Stratton's releases out of the conference bureau in Los Angeles are timely.

### Is It Idaho's Year?

Can Idaho be as good or Willamette as bad as the 79-0 defeat of the Bearcats by the Vandals indicates? Another week or two should provide the answer. Idaho runs smack up against the University of Oregon's front running Webfoots next Saturday at Eugene. Coach Chester Stackhouse will take his 'Cats to Ellenburg for a collision with an outfit that should be nearer their classification. The Vandals scored three of their touchdowns on intercepted passes and rushed Willamette's tosser unmercifully. On the other hand the Bearcats were not able to lay a hand on the Vandal forward passer, whose protection was well high air tight.

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## Stayton Tennis Court Is Moved

Stayton—The tennis court at the Stayton city park is now ready for play after it was moved from its former site near the business district. Willamette university has loaned one of its nets for use until a new one can be bought. The Lions club is considering the purchase of the net. Rules for use of the court have been posted.

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