

Army Coach Blasts Critics Of Cadets 'Soft' Schedule

By OSCAR FRALEY
(United Press Sports Writer)

New York, Dec. 1 (AP)—Earl (Red) Blaik, Army's football coach, usually is a mild, genial man but he exploded today all over the critics of undefeated West Point's "soft" schedule with the assertion that "we don't give a damn how we are ranked."

"We may appear to be a football power but we aren't," insisted the tight-lipped Blaik, whose teams have gone 20 games without defeat. "We have a lot of players who are not above average and maybe not even average."

- The square cut army touchdown teacher also asserted:
1. The Army-Navy game should not be shifted about the country, particularly not to the west coast.
 2. The extra point is not unfair, because the breaks balance up.
 3. Banning the two-platoon system would set football back a generation as it speeds up the

game and is safer. Army has been criticized frequently for "padding" its slate with such weak rivals as Davidson and V.M.I. instead of playing an all-major slate such as Navy's. But Blaik asserted that the schedules are drawn up so far in advance that the strength of any opponent cannot be anticipated.

"They talk about V.M.I.," Blaik said a bit bitterly. "The last time we played them they had Joe Mussa and Bosh Pritchard, now with the pro Eagles, and we had a hard time beating them, 26 to 21."

"Our policy is seven major games — and we don't care what anybody thinks," he added. "We don't want to force the cadets into any harder football and we don't give a damn how we are ranked by anybody. If they want to put us 15th it's okay with us. All we want to do is to enjoy our football."

Accepting the Lambert trophy, emblematic of eastern grid supremacy, for the fifth time in six years, Blaik said he was against shifting the Army-Navy game to the west coast.

"The corps deserves to see the game," he argued, "and we figure it would cost more than \$1,500,000 to go to the coast. Figure it out, there are 2,500 cadets and it would cost about \$400 for each one."

As for next season, the Army coach disclosed that his team will meet Colgate, Penn State, Michigan, Harvard, Columbia, Penn, Stanford and Navy — "with New Mexico thrown in."

Athletics Sign Last Member of Champion Trio

Philadelphia, Dec. 1 (AP)—It'll be like old home week around Shibe park next spring with Mickey Cochrane, Jimmy Dykes and Bing Miller whooping it up as they did in the Philadelphia Athletics' championship days 20 years ago.

The triumvirate was completed yesterday when the Athletics announced the signing of Cochrane and Miller as coaches to replace the dismissed Al Simmons and Earl Brucker. Dykes was with the club last season as coach.

The signing of Miller, for the last eight years coach of the Chicago White Sox, was expected. But the signing of Cochrane came almost as a complete surprise.

Cochrane has been out of the major league picture since August, 1938, when he was released as manager of the Detroit Tigers after winning two American league pennants and one world championship in five years.

Aiken's Gift Car Traced to Reno—His Former Home

Eugene, Dec. 1 (AP)—University football coach Jim Aiken may soon have his gift car oack Eugene police expressed this hope Wednesday after they had received notice that a quartet of auto thieves had been captured in Seattle.

In custody in Seattle were Albert Brown, June Lowery, Milton Dolan and Jessie Griffith, two youthful couples who had admitted auto thefts, service station holdups, and bad check crimes throughout the far west.

They said they stole Aiken's 1949 sedan about a month ago from in front of his home and had traded it soon after in Reno to a used car dealer, getting a cheaper car and cash. Eugene police have wired the auto dealer in Reno for information on the car.

Warren Changes Webfoot Platoon Idea for Star

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 1 (AP)—A sophomore hot-shot has changed Coach John Warren's plans to install a two-platoon system for the University of Oregon basketball team.

Warren had planned to have a "big team" and a "little team," alternating them to throw the opposition off-balance. But along came "little" Ken Hunt of Coos Bay, Ore. He showed so much ability that Warren now thinks Oregon will fare better by mixing the two platoons together.

Hunt will be in the starting lineup tomorrow night when Oregon tackles Utah State at Salt Lake City. With him will be Urban at the other forward post, Bob Amacher at center and Paul Powers and Mel Krause at guards.

Lewis Didn't Shoot Santa

Chicago, Dec. 1 (AP)—In Pittsburgh a news broadcaster began his program: "John L. Lewis just shot Santa Claus"—and then went on telling of the coal strike.

In Chicago a dozen children promptly grabbed their telephones last night and called the Sun-Times. "Say it isn't so!" they begged. The newspaper obliged.

Indians Confident Gordon To Return to Second Base

Cleveland, Dec. 1 (AP)—The Cleveland Indians acted pretty confident today that Joe "Flash" Gordon will be back at second base for them in the spring.

General Manager Hank Greenberg says: "I'm convinced Gordon will be back."

At his home in Eugene, Ore., Gordon says: "I'll think it over." Gordon earlier this week said he wanted to drop out of major league baseball next year and play in the Pacific Coast league, preferably with Portland, which is much interested in his proposal.

But Greenberg told Joe by telephone yesterday that a deal like that is "out of the question." Asked later whether his hope to play in the minor league still stood, Gordon replied: "Well, I can still hope, I suppose."

Greenberg said he told Gordon "we consider him the best second baseman in baseball and we couldn't possibly turn him loose."

"We'll send Joe a contract the same time we send out all the others, and I'm sure he'll sign it and send it back. We can use him."

Incidentally, Gordon heard that the Sacramento Solons of the Pacific Coast league were interested in his services. Just to cover the angles, he telephoned his pal, Sacramento City Manager Bartley Cavanaugh.

Then he requested the following home run dope:

How far is it from home plate in your stadium to the left field wall? Also, what direction is the prevailing wind in your ball park?

Gordon hit 20 home runs with the Indians this past season.

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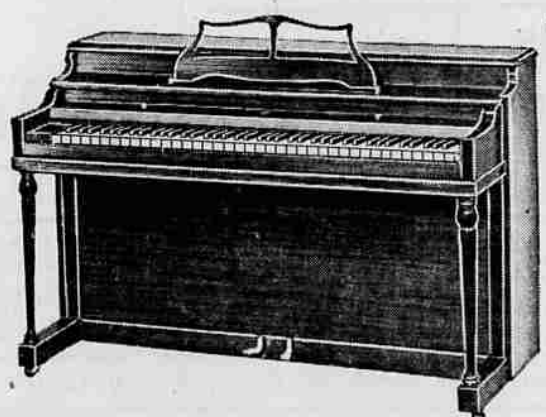


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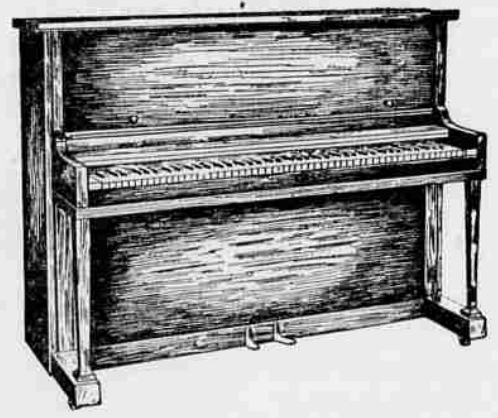
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