

Joe Francis Plans Pro Gridiron Sport Try Again in 1959

Joe Francis, ex-Oregon State college star, "definitely" plans to have another try next season at professional football.

Francis was a rookie quarterback on the squad of the Green Bay Packers during the past season. He, his wife, Dixie, and their small son, Mark, are visiting here during the holidays at the home of Mrs. Francis's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Neathamer, 119 Jeanette st.

The griddler remarked that the pro game is real tough but that he liked it very much.

Played Little
Joe did not get to play much before the final game of the season when he guided the Packer offense most of the way against the Los Angeles Rams. The quarterback said that he got play about four minutes in a game with the San Francisco Forty-Niners but had only five or six minutes in action up to

that time. Rest of the time he was on the sidelines learning. Francis said that he would have liked to have played more but remarked that his coach, Scooter McLean, knows the game and knew what he was doing.

The opportunity to play so much in the final game with the Rams "gave me a lot of confidence," Francis declared.

Joe stated that he was "mostly on the phones" during Green Bay contests and ventured that he would make a good operator. After the start of the playing season he was used strictly on offense and only at quarterback.

Fans Back Packers
"My teammates were swell," Francis declared. He praised Green Bay, a town of some 60,000 people, for backing football "to the end." He reported that the stadium seats 30,000 to 32,000, that the stadium is sold out before the season begins and that fans fill the stands even in a bad losing season like the Packers experienced this fall.

After the holidays Joe will return to Corvallis and Oregon State where he says he has one subject to go before getting his degree in education. He plans to be a teacher and coach.

Francis said he was "kind of glad" to get back to the coast when the Packers made their last trip west. Green Bay was having 8 degrees below zero weather at the time. He reported, however, that the Wisconsin country was nice and that he did some hunting before the cold weather came along.

When Francis goes back to Green Bay, he'll perform for a new coach. McLean resigned the post this week.

Montana Next For Webfoots

University of Oregon, Eugene — Coach Steve Belko's Oregon Ducks, idle for a week during the fall term final examinations, return to non-conference competition next Monday and Tuesday against the Montana Grizzlies of the Sky-line conference at McArthur Court.

Belko's mixmaster offense, which has come up with three straight victories after an opening game loss, will get another good test from the Grizzlies in the final home appearance of the Webfoots before the conference season.

The Ducks, who have shot well both from the field and the free throw line, still have the rebounding problem to solve. In the four starts this season the backboard play has been a tough disadvantage for the Webfoots to overcome and they have yet to rebound an opponent.

Stick to Top Eight
If the Montana series follows form, Coach Belko will again stick fairly close to the top seven or eight players who have done most of the playing this season. This group includes Dale Herron, Stu Robertson and Denny Strickland along the front line and Chick Rask and Bud Kuykendall in the backcourt.

The key reserves are still Jerry Anderson up front and Butch Kimpton at guard, although the return of Henry Ronquillo from the injured list adds some much needed depth at forward. Leon Hayes, the Cottage Grove rookie, saw his first action in the Wichita game and his steady improvement may mean that he will join Kimpton as one of the guard substitutes.

McLoughlin 9th Victor

McLoughlin Junior high ninth grade cagers stood off the Phoenix high freshmen 28 to 23 yesterday.

The Pirates put up a hustling game and effective zone defense against McLoughlin which played a slipshod game with spotty rebounding and only 230 field goal shooting.

The Bulldogs had quarter spreads of 8 to 0, 11 to 8 and 17 to 13. George Clearwater had 10 points for McLoughlin and Colfax eight for Phoenix.

Coach Dale Bates platooned with his McLoughlin squad.

LINE-UPS:
23 McL. 9th Phoenix 9th 23
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10 Clearwater Vesson
4 Laurance Colfax 8
Gardner Johnson 4
Substitutes — For McLoughlin, Renner 7, White, Offord, Lowery, Clausen, Ackley, Darby, Plankenhorn 3, Heyerman; for Phoenix, Baker Bullard, Hutchinson, Caster, Yarnell 2, Harris 4.

SPORTS SPORTSCASTS

KYJC-Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Medford-South Eugene High basketball.
KBES-KOTI-TV - Friday, 7 p.m., Pat McMurtry-Nino Valdes boxing; Saturday, 11 a.m., Holiday bowl; Sunday, 11 a.m., New York-Cleveland pro football.
KMED - Friday, 7 p.m., McMurtry-Valdes fight; Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Medford-South Eugene basketball.

Sport Parade



By OSCAR FRALEY
Sports Writer
United Press

New York—UPI—Weather and the second half staying power of the Cleveland Browns shaped up today as the deciding factors in their playoff battle with the New York Giants at Yankee Stadium on Sunday.

It's even money as these two pro titans go at it for the Eastern division championship of the National Football league. And it's a game which makes the following

championship battle with the Baltimore Colts almost anticlimactic.

Given good footing, the choice in this corner is Cleveland.

Yet it has to be an "if" proposition. Because a bad weather could immobilize the speedy Browns' attack and in a crunching head and head power battle, that rugged Giant defense once again could grind down and contain the Browns in the late stages.

Oklahoma Opposes 1st East Bowl Foe

(This is the third of 10 dispatches on the football teams playing in the post-season bowl games.)

By JACK BRANNAN
Norman, Okla. — (UPI) — Oklahoma may be the elite of football's bowl society, but it shows no "manners" on the gridiron.

The Sooners, a band of ravenous youths from farms in Oklahoma and Texas, are stingy with touchdowns, take advantage of others' mistakes, use gang-up tactics and practice deception.

Nevertheless, Oklahoma will be appearing in its seventh bowl game in the last 11 years Jan. 1 against Syracuse in the Orange Bowl at Miami, Fla.

No other team has played in as many bowl games during the same period. Oklahoma has won five of its six New Year's Day ventures since Coach Bud Wilkinson took charge in 1947. The only defeat was a 13-7 setback by Kentucky in the 1951 Sugar Bowl.

Syracuse, however, will give Oklahoma its first bowl test in Eastern football standards. All other Oklahoma bowl opponents during Wilkinson's tenure have been from the South.

Returns to Basic Formula
After an early experiment with a multiple offense, Oklahoma this year returned to its basic formula of using the power of the split-T formation and the frequent substitution of fresh teams.

But the defense won almost as much notice as the offense because of its stinginess. The opposition this year scored only six touchdowns and 49 points, while Oklahoma accumulated 279 points and a 9-1 season mark.

Wilkinson, habitually calm and philosophical about the game he coaches, has a simple explanation for Oklahoma's continued success.

"We always play as well as we can," he said, "because we always expect to meet a fine football team."

The driving force of both phases of Oklahoma's machine is All-America center Bob Harrison. The 211-pound co-captain has won acclaim throughout the Southwest for his ability to diagnose the offense from his linebacking position and to open holes in the middle of the line for his ball carriers.

Oklahoma's offense this year is more versatile than it was at the end of last season when the Sooners crushed Duke, 48-21, in the Orange Bowl.

Wear Down Opponents
The ability of Oklahoma to wear down its opponents by sheer manpower, a vital factor in its winning, is indicated in the fact that the first and second units played almost equal amounts of time this year during the first three quarters, while the reserves handled most of the fourth quarter chores.

The first team scored 18 touchdowns and yielded three, and the alternate unit scored 17 times and gave up two touchdowns.

The ability of halfbacks Brewster Hobby and Jimmy Carpenter to throw the running pass has improved the aerial game, and fullback Prentice Gault's explosive running has added considerable power to the ground attack. Gault, the first Negro to play for Oklahoma, was the team's leading rusher for the season, averaging six yards in 105 carries.

The loss of starting quarterback David Baker, who was expelled from school earlier this month, has created a problem at that position which Wilkinson said he will wait until the last minute to solve.

Bobby Boyd, who led the team in scoring and passing even though he was alternate quarterback during the season, and sophomore Bob Cornell are the most likely replacements for Baker.

Copper Bowlers Clash at Tempe Saturday Night

Tempe, Ariz. — (UPI) — The Southwest will match its reputation for aerial wizardry against stars from the rest of the nation Saturday night in the inaugural Copper Bowl football game.

However, there are indications the beefy boys from elsewhere might do a little throwing themselves, and they've got the gunners too.

This means the air probably will be full of footballs when the stars from the Southwest schools tangle with the Nationals, picked from coast to coast.

Fudged Some
The selection committee fudged a little in its chores and brought some players from the Rocky Mountain area and the Middle West to represent the southwest.

"The fans want to see that ball in the air," said Southwest coaches Frank Kush, Arizona State and Frank Broyles, Arkansas. "We're going to accommodate them."

On the firing line for the Southwest will be Jerry Bell of Texas, Joan Hangartner of Arizona State, and perhaps Fred Glick of Colorado State, who is being used as a halfback.

The Nationals will rely on John Green of Chattanooga, and Tom Greene of Holy Cross, to counterattack in the air, utilizing a spread and straight-T offense devised by co-coaches Don Clark of USC and Phil Dickens of Indiana.

Raft Would Be Fight Sponsor

Miami—UPI—Actor George Raft and Cuban contractor Chile Mendoza awaited a reply today from heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson to their \$400,000 offer for a February title defense at Havana.

Raft, part owner of a plush Havana hotel, announced the offer in Miami Thursday night, and said Patterson's manager seemed "very interested" when the guarantee was made to him by telephone.

The challenger could be selected by Patterson and D'Amato, preferably from among the top three contenders, Raft said. And the bout would be staged in the new 22,000-seat Havana Sports Palace. It probably would be televised to homes in the United States.

Basketball Refs Meet Monday

Regular meeting of the Rogue Valley Basketball Referees association will be held on Monday, Dec. 22, at Medford High school.

Assignments for games Jan. 2 through 21 will be made. Commissioner C. A. Meyer issued the usual reminder that referees must attend the meeting in order to get assignments.

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