

Byron Nelson Selected 1944's Athlete-of-Year

Golfer Succeeds Swedish Miler Gunder Haegg; Slats Marion Finishes Second

By HAROLD CLAASSEN
NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (AP)—Byron Nelson, who averaged less than 70 strokes for 78 rounds of big time tournament golf, is 1944's athlete-of-the-year.

Seventy-nine sports writers throughout the country, who scattered in their affections on 40 different athletes, thought enough of Nelson's efforts, however, to name him as the successor to Gunder Haegg, Sweden's miler, who was last year's winner.

Nelson's smooth-as-silk performance on the fairways brought him more than \$45,000 in war-bond prizes as well as 16 first place votes in the present tabulations. Each such ballot was worth three points, two points for each second-place vote and one for a third place mention.

The Toledo shot-maker, who

recently resigned his post to join an umbrella firm, finished with 75 points, only five ahead of Martin (Slats) Marion, Mr. Shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals, recently named the most valuable player in the National Baseball league.

Les Horvath, Ohio State's All-America quarterback and the Heisman trophy winner, was third with 59 points and is the leading amateur. The play-for-fun athletes have topped the poll seven times in the past decade with only Joe Louis in 1935 and Joe DiMaggio in 1941 crashing through from the salaried ranks.

Nelson is the second golfer to have reached the pinnacle in the 14 year history of the poll, having been preceded by Gene Sarazen in 1932.

The 32-year-old shot-maker, 4-F because of a blood condition which causes profuse bleeding whenever his skin is cut, opened the year by taking the San Francisco open last January with a 72-hole card of 275. He then sailed through a spring and summer of almost monotonous winnings, one of his defeats coming in the national NGA championship. Bob Hamilton of Evansville, Ind., won that crown with 1 up victory in 36 holes over the Toledo treader.

He still was in form early this month when he returned to San Francisco to retain his title in the open there with a one-stroke verdict over Sgt. Jim Ferrer of Camp Roberts, Calif.



By PAUL HAINES

HOOKS AND JABS

The services that participated in that swell boxing bout at the armory last Thursday night, promoted by PhM 2/c F. T. Cassidy in conjunction with the Sixth War Loan drive, were definitely not in tip-top shape.

This is not an indictment of that condition, but merely a fact. We think that probably darn few persons realize just how exhausting two or three minutes of dancing around a ring exchanging lefts and rights can be.

Al Burhardt, the colored boy who fought professionally under the moniker "Kid Silk," and was well-known by ring fans throughout southern California, looked exceptionally good against Marine Mike Alfano Thursday night in gaining a TKO. It looked to us that all Al needs is more experience to be a definite boxing threat to some of the big boys in the game.

Sailor Cassidy deserves a star in his crown for his unstinted efforts in instigating, arranging and putting on a fine show. A word of appreciation should also go to Mack Lillard, who made the use of the armory possible.

QUOTE-UNQUOTE

This taken out of Greg's Gossip in the Portland Oregonian from a letter written by John Halvorsen, adjutant of Willapa Harbor post No. 39, American Legion, of South Bend, Wash., explains itself:

"Dear Gregg: Inclosed you will find our check for \$35, which we would like you to turn over to the man in charge of buying recreational equipment for the marines at Klamath Falls."

The check has been forwarded to the recreation officer at the Marine Barracks and we only wish more people and more organizations would make the same swell gesture.

We send many thanks to South Bend and its wide-awake Legion post along with the Oregonian, and agree that they couldn't have chosen a better or more timely use for the money.

Whatsayay we all follow the splendid example set by the South Bend Legion post and climb on the bandwagon for providing winter athletic gear for the boys at the Barracks. Send your donation to the sports editor, Herald and News, or to the recreation officer at the Barracks. Do it now, folks, before it's too late!

Gorgeous George To Meet Piluso In Main Mat Go

Time limits on the rassing bouts will be changed for Friday night's tussles, according to Promoter Mack Lillard. Mat maulers on the circuit complain of the altitude here and all matches will now be rassed by rounds instead of a time limit.

The opener will be four 10 minute rounds or two out of three fives, the semi-windup is set for five 10 minute cantos or two out of three tumbles and the headline event will be six 10 minute frames or two out of three flops.

The headline event Friday night pits Gorgeous George Wagner against popular Ernie Piluso. Wagner of the body beautiful didn't appear too formidable against Bulldog Jackson last week, but perhaps he was bidding his time and will be the Wagner of old when he crunches craniums with Ernie.

Another red-hot card is on deck and the semi-windup tussle will be announced Tuesday.

Vanguards Win First Hockey Tilt of Year

By The Associated Press
Vancouver, Wash., Vanguards moved into the Pacific Coast Hockey league's win column for the first time this season last night with a 4-2 triumph over the Oakland, Calif., Oaks, while the Seattle Ironmen and Portland Eagles played to a 2-2 overtime deadlock.

Eddie Trites rammed home two goals for the Vanguards, both in the game-clinching third period.

Parker Top Net Man

NEW YORK—Frankie Parker and Pauline Betz ranked No. 1 male and female tennis players of country by USLTA.

George (Barney) Poole, army's sterling Plebe end who made The Associated Press All-American first team, is regarded as one of the coming West Point football greats.

Back in the Swing



Slammin' Sam Snead Cops Richmond Open for Second Win of Winter Golf Circuit

By RUSS NEWLAND
RICHMOND, Calif., Dec. 18 (AP)—The man with the Jack Dempsey golfing punch, Slammin' Sam Snead, was back in the winners circle again today, \$1,600 more in war bonds in his pocket, and the Richmond Open championship to his credit.

He won the 72-hole event yesterday with a four round total of 278, six strokes under par.

In the process he set the pace again for another classy field.

Slammin' Sam is just what the doctor ordered for tournament competition. He's won two of the four tournaments now played in the current Winter Open campaign along the west coast.

Discharged from the navy six weeks ago after more than two years' service, the Hot Springs, Va., ball buster immediately set out to prove that champions do come back. Winner of the 1942 National PGA title and a sailor for civies last month and grabbed the Portland Open in his first out.

His victory broke the year's tournament golfing monopoly known as the "Gold Dust Twins," Byron Nelson and Harold McSpaden. Between them they had been cleaning up on most of the events—they're the one-two money winners of the year.

But with siege gun Snead back in action, the old order has changed. He's the man to beat, as well as the gallery attraction.

Snead put together rounds of 70-69-69-70 to win the Richmond top prize. After capturing the Portland Open, good for \$2875 in war bonds, he tied for third in the San Francisco Open and tied for eighth in the Oakland Open last week.

In four tournaments, he has won \$5775 in war bonds.

Finishing a stroke behind Snead yesterday was slender Charles Congdon of Tacoma, Wash., with 70-72-67-70—279.

The high money winner of the year, Nelson, tied for third with his running mate, McSpaden, at

Les Horvath Chosen Most Valuable Player In Big 10 Conference

CHICAGO, Dec. 18 (AP)—Leslie Horvath, Ohio State's great All-America football back who recently was awarded the Heisman Memorial trophy at New York, today had a full-size silver football emblematic of the Western conference's "most valuable player" for 1944. Horvath was awarded the trophy by a board of 20 electors who selected him from among the most valuable players of the circuit's nine teams. The individual players were elected by their own teammates.

Signs Grid Contract

CLEVELAND—Aldo "Buff" Donelli, former Duquesne grid coach, signed new three-year contract as coach of Cleveland Rams, National Pro Football league team.

"TAKE HOME" PAY
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Dec. 18 (AP)—The "take home" pay of six railroad workers was well over \$100 each when they discovered \$663 in currency under a railroad bridge near here.

The bridge is the same under which more than \$2500 has been found in recent months.

One \$18.75 war bond will supply a navy flyer with a fur-lined flying jacket.

Packers Win Grid Crown From Giants

Green Bay Blasts New York By 14-7 Score to Capture Pro Championship Sunday

By TED MEIER
NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (AP)—After a lapse of five years, the Green Bay Packers regained the championship of the National Professional Football league by trouncing the New York Giants, 14-7, before 46,016 at the Polo Grounds Sunday.

A different team from the one that took a 24-0 pasting from the Giants on the same field a month ago the Packers, heavily favored among the Broadway betting fraternity, struck for two second period touchdowns, yielded a score in the last quarter and then thwarted the Giants' desperate attempts to tie in the closing minutes.

Minus the services of Bill Paschal, their star ground gainer who participated in only four plays because of an ankle injury, the Giants gained only 70 yards from rushing, most in the second half, to 162 for the Packers.

Fullback Ted Fritsch, who scored both Green Bay touchdowns, pounded out most of the 162 yards. In the second period after a 15-yard run by Joe Laws put the ball on the Giant 27, Fritsch went off tackle and bulled his way 26 yards to the Giant one. It took him four plays to get over for the touchdown, but he finally did it on fourth down.

The Packers scored their second touchdown a few minutes after using Don Hutson as a decoy. A 24-yard aerial, Irv Comp to Hutson, had made it 29-0 in the last game of their barnstorming tour Saturday night at Salem.

The ball game was close all the way with the Viki playing a completely reversed style of ball from their previous effort Friday. Jim Palmer again paced the Pelicans in the scoring bracket by accounting for 10 points.

This victory brought the K-men up to three wins against two losses on their road jaunt. Coach Marble Cook stated Monday morning that Milwaukee was the toughest quintet the Klamath five faced on the trip. The next hoop tilt for the Pelicans is scheduled January 5 when they travel to Bend to take on the Lava Bears in a two-game series.

Whitehaired Boy



Duane Whitehead, fullback and key defensive man for Southern California, is also a capable ball carrier.

Pelicans Top Salem, 33-29

In a rough, exciting hoop fracas the Klamath Pelicans downed the Salem Vikings, 33-29 in the last game of their barnstorming tour Saturday night at Salem.

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Beaver Manager May Pilot Club From Sidelines

PORTLAND, Dec. 18 (AP)—The possibility that Manager Marv Owen may direct the diamond destinies of the Portland Beavers from the dugout during the 1945 Pacific Coast Baseball league season loomed today.

General Manager Bill Klepper announced Saturday the Beavers had obtained the services of Third Baseman Charley English for Outfielder Norman Dewese in an even swap with the Oakland Acons.

Dewese batted .253 for Portland last year. English, in 124 games with Los Angeles and Oakland, hit .293.

"ERSATZ ENEMY"—Kulter, an office cat, was happy about the Christmas tree employees set up for him until some one put a toy mouse under it. He quickly found out the intruder had no fight in him and was no mouse.

Puzzled, Kulter stayed under the tree, stared at the inanimate rodent. At closing time employees pulled him away but Kulter sprang right back and fixed watchful eyes on the mouse. At last reports, Kulter was still at his forward observation post under the tree.

1944 Horse of Year

NEW YORK—Twilight Tear named 1944 horse of year in poll of 154 turf writers by turf and sport digest.

REST

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 18 (AP)—Sentenced to a jail on a contempt of court charge, a prisoner addressed Judge Ralph Foley:

"Thank you, your honor. I need a rest."

End of Rainbow



Rodney Shirley of Salt Lake measures 14 1/4-pound, 32-inch rainbow trout caught with light fly line following half hour battle

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National Open May Be Revived in 1945

By RUSS NEWLAND
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18 (AP)—The golfing grapevine carries rumors the U. S. Golf association may revive the National Open championship in 1945—it has been a war casualty since Pearl Harbor.

Professionals plying their trade on the current winter tour, now in its west coast phase, have heard the report the USGA executive committee will discuss revival of the country's No. 1 tournament at the meeting in New York, next January 13.

While he has no official voice in the matter, Defending Champion Craig Wood of Mamaroneck, N. Y., is opposed to reviving the U. S. Open during war time. Wood, strapped in his specially designed corset to aid an ailing back, won the Open crown at Fort Worth, Tex., in 1941, the last time the event was held.

Wood explained his stand in this manner:

"I think the U. S. Open should remain suspended until the war

is over. The many good players now in the armed forces should have an equal chance at the championship. It would be unfair to revive the tournament when only those not in service, plus a handful in uniform who might be available, could compete.

"The U. S. Open is the greatest tournament in the world, open to all who can qualify for it by their skill. To try to revive it now would be making a mockery of it. Look at the marvelous golfers who would be denied a chance to play for the title, such as Vic Ghezzi, and the army somewhere in Europe, and Marvin "Bud" Ward, nation-

al amateur champion who is a captain in the air corps, now in the Philippines.

"Ed Oliver, one of our finest players, is in the army and it is doubtful he would be available. Willie Turnesa, the fine little amateur, is in uniform. So are Lawson Little, Johnny Goodman, Ben Hogan and "Dutch" Harrison. Does anybody think the war could wait while these

men took time to get into golfing trim for the National Open?"

Other first flight golfers in the armed forces, all contenders for the National Open, are Paul Runyan, Jimmy Demaret, Horton Smith, Lloyd Mangrum, Chick Harbert, Jimmy Thompson, former Amateur Champion Dick Chapman and ex-national public links winner, Frank Stranacci.

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Webfoots Wallop Marine Five, 70-57, at Eugene

The University of Oregon Webfoots nudged the Leathernecks Saturday night at Eugene for the fourth straight time this season by the count of 70 to 57.

Bouncing back from the near defeat of Friday night, in which the Webfoots barely nosed out the marine five, 68-65, the Ducks drove to an early lead, scoring six points in the first minute of play, while holding the Leathernecks scoreless.

The marines rallied, however, and the Oregon hold a seven-point advantage at the end of the first half with the score 34-27.

In the first few minutes of the second half, the Leathernecks came within two points of knighting the count, but the Webfoots found the right pivotman, forged into point lead, the marines shot their bolt and the margin lead was never seriously endangered during the remainder of the ball game.

Hays held scoring honor for the Ducks with 17 points while "Red" Gilbert attacked the outstanding floor game of the court. Burkland, shooting forward for the ercecks, was evicted from the game early in the second on fouls, and Wilder, forward, also fouled out of the tussle.

Summary:

Beavers Drop First Cage Tilt of Year

By The Associated Press
Northern division Pacific coast conference basketball teams fared well in Saturday pre-season contests, only the Oregon State Beavers losing.

The most spectacular individual exhibition was put on by Gail Bishop, ex-Washington State star now playing for the Fort Lewis Warriors. Bishop, holder of the northern division scoring record, plunked in 29 points against the University of Washington Huskies at Seattle, only to see his team lose, 59-54.

Coach Hec Edmundson's crew presented its smoothest offense of the season and offset Bishop's performance with a well-rounded attack.

At Walla Walla Washington State earned an even break in its two game series and made it three out of four over Whitman for the season, winning 54-35 in a rough and ragged contest. Whitman won 47-37 Friday night.

Vince Hansen, 6 foot 8 inch center who counted 16 points, put the game on ice for the Cougars with four quick field goals at the start of the second half.

At Moscow the University of Idaho turned back Gonzaga university of Spokane 49-43. Substitute Jeff Oversolver of the Vandals scored five field goals in the last five minutes to cement a one-point Idaho lead.

Oregon State dropped its first game of the year, 43-28 to Fee's Music Makers, strong Portland independent, on the Beavers' home floor. The Portland team held a 23-10 halftime advantage and was paced by Charlie Paterson, former University of Oregon negro star, who collected 11 points.

BABY WANTED

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 18 (AP)—More than 30 calls were received in response to a newspaper want ad offering for rent "newly decorated single apartment; all utilities; must have baby." Mrs. Robert E. Hunter, whose husband is in the army overseas, and her 22-month-old son got the apartment.

Orville D. Morse, owner of the apartment house, explained his policy was to rent only to families with children.

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