

Sports Oddity of Year Goes to Grid Official

AP Poll Agrees Queerest Sport Quirk Came In Army-Notre Dame Football Tilt

By FRITZ HOWELL
 NEW YORK, Dec. 22 (AP)—It was an earth-shaking, once-in-a-lifetime feat, but Ernie Lombardi, molasses-footed catcher for the New York Giants, did NOT contribute 1944's No. 1 sports oddity of the year when he beat out an infield hit against the Boston Braves.

The majority of 88 east-coast sports editors participating in the Associated Press poll agreed today the queerest quirk of the campaign came in the Army-Notre Dame grid game when headlinesman Dr. Dave Reese of Dayton, Ohio, and Denison university was caught between Cadet fullback Doc Blanchard and two Irish tacklers.

Reese, one of the country's top officials, suffered a broken arm and was forced to leave the game, the score of which—Army 59, Notre Dame 0—was another well-backed oddity. The Reese episode, already voted the football oddity of the year, now moves to the top among all sports.

But there were plenty of other "screwy" situations.

For instance, Two-Ton Tony Galento returned to the fistic wars; three horses raced to a dead heat in the \$10,000 Carter handicap at Aqueduct; Tulsa's football team scored 67 points in two straight games—and lost both; Georgia Tech wound up with a minus nine yards against Navy but beat the Middies; Jim Ferrier used his masher as a pool cue in making a golf shot out of a tree, and lost the San Francisco Open by a stroke; Illinois had 10 touchdowns runs called back; four false starts and two run recalls disqualified all six starters in the National AAU 100-meter

dash; the Hume brothers of Michigan, Bob and Ross, ran nine consecutive dead heats, one in the NCAA mile run; one game of the little world series drew more fans than any contest in the major league series; and the matches of a St. Louis fan were set afire by a foul ball hit into the stands.

San Francisco defeated Los Angeles in the final game of the Pacific Coast league playoff on a punt that saw three men, including the batter, score; Elkhart, Ind., high school defeated South Bend Riley, 5 to 4, in a basketball game when a Riley player became "confused" and dropped a pretty one-hander into the wrong basket; Tackle Thad Ellis of North Carolina was transferred to Duke, played a few games, then was shifted back to North Carolina in time to play against Duke; and Leo Cockrell of Durham, Okla., high school held five opponents scoreless in a basketball tournament game, playing alone after four teammates had fouled out.

Among the mixups was: Elroy (Crazy Legs) Hirsch, who won football fame at Wisconsin and then was transferred to Michigan, placed second in the Big Ten broadjump at Champaign, Ill., then hopped into a car and drove 170 miles to Bloomington, Ind., to pitch the wolves to victory in the second game of an Indiana-Michigan baseball double-header.

And at Columbus, Ohio, a left fielder caught his foot in a wire fence, allowing a hit to go for a homer while he was powerless to field. In the same game, after an infield tap went for a homer with two on, the tilt was called off because of fog.

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Godoy Heading Back To U. S. In January
 SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 22 (AP)—Arturo Godoy, South American heavyweight champion who twice lost to Joe Louis in world title bouts, is heading back to the United States in mid-January.

The 200-pound Chilean knocked out Juan Ulrich of Peru in two rounds in his latest comeback start.

Our Boarding House With Major Hoop



Gorgeous George Tangles With Ernie Piluso Tonight

Tonight Gorgeous George Wagner will strut his stuff for the second time in two weeks in the headline bout on the rassing card at the Klamath arena. George is pitted against clever Ernie Piluso, always popular in Klamath mat circles, in a six 10-minute rounds or two out of three falls brawl.

Gorgeous is reported to have stated that he considers each and every one of the grapplers on the northwest circuit vastly inferior to his talents as a crowd artist. The success of the Body Beautiful has not been anything to write the old folks at home about, however, and he had to resort to every mean method in the book to flop Bulldog Jackson here last week.

He is also reported to have said that he might let Piluso stay for a few minutes before giving him the old business, but that it would be no longer than that. Perhaps the reason for George's hurry is so he can get home and press up a few of his robes, or maybe George is just plain lazy and dislikes to exert himself more than is absolutely necessary.

In any event, Ernie is going to have quite a bit to say as to how long the clambake will last, regardless of what Gorgeous says or thinks. Piluso can handle himself with the best of the torso-twisters in either the rough stuff or the orthodox fashion, and the bout should be a bell-ringer.

In a five 10-minute rounds or two out of three falls jamboree, hefty "Blood and Guts" Davidson will bend bodies with tenacious Gust Johnson, a gloomy Gust has proven himself to be one swell grappler and Davidson will no doubt have his hands full when the two boys mix it up in the semi-windup.

The overtime will see Tough Tony Ross butt biceps with Bulldog Jackson. This scuffle is their victory will be by that large a score.

The Tennessee eleven has a definite scoring threat in Buster Stephens, who may break loose at any time and has averaged almost 100 yards per game from scrimmage this year and, mister, that's some average!



OF ALL THINGS

Baseball in December! That's what is coming up at Seattle on the same day Santa Claus pays his annual visit, December 25. The imaginative Seattle boys have labeled the diamond contest as a Frost Bowl game and it may well bear out its title by becoming a frost, but good, as far as a box office is concerned.

The tilt is sponsored by the Seattle 3 and 0 club and will feature a few Coast league hot-shots with the remainder of the team made up of semi-pro stars. Just why it is sponsored we have no idea and we are equally blank as to the purpose of holding the whole clambake in the middle of the winter.

The game should be interesting however, as the boys can use snowballs for baseballs and ski poles for bats, not to mention snowshoes and dog sleds to mosh their way to first base.

We are all in favor of something different, but brother, this isn't merely different, it's downright daring!

ROSE BOWL BOUQUETS
 The Terrible Trojans of Southern Cal are top-heavy favorites to subdue the light but speedy Tennessee Volunteers in their Rose Bowl scuffle January 1. The Trojans are favored by 18 points and they may be that much better than the determined Vols, but they'll have to lay some real football on the line if they dunk their rivals by that margin.

The last time the Tennessee lads made the long trek to Pasadena was in 1940 when Southern Cal gave them a terrific beating in a game that ended 14-0, but was much more lopsided than the score indicates. The Vols are grimly determined to make up for that past humiliation come January 1, 1945 and, while we give the Trojans the duke to topple the visiting firemen all right, we are not so sure that

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 December 30 — At Armory

East-West Stars Begin Practice For Shrine Game

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22 (AP)—An injury which forced Tippy Madarik, Detroit university fullback who played this season with Randolph Field, to decline the chance to play with the West team in the East-West Shrine football game here January 1, leaves the West with only 23 players on its squad.

The two teams assembled today and started practice for the New Year's Day benefit football classic. Tomorrow the two rough stuff or the peninsula, where private workout sessions will get under way.

The West team, coached by Babe Hollingbery and Homer Norton, is committed to the use of the single wing style of offense.

Andy Kerr, head coach of the east team, after a conference with his co-coaches, Dr. George Hauser and Bernie Bierman, has indicated he will use the "T" formation some, but only as supplement device to other standard formations.

CONTRACTS IN OFFING

SEATTLE, Dec. 22 (AP)—Contract will be mailed to prospective members of the Seattle Rainiers of the Pacific Coast baseball league in about a month and a half, Business Manager Bill Mulligan announced yesterday.

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Annual Cage Jamboree Set For Tonight

By The Associated Press
 Railbirds will get their first real inkling of how the northern division cage competitions will stack up this winter when the four clubs tangle tonight and Saturday in their second annual intra-state jamboree in Astoria.

Aside from Oregon State, none of the four clubs have shown particular brilliance in pre-season contests.

Pairings for tonight's dual pits Oregon against Washington, and Oregon State against Washington State, each for a half with a cumulative score. Saturday's schedule will be reversed. Washington and Washington State triumphed in last year's inaugural.

Three of the four participants were busy last night but only Oregon State could fashion a win—a 47-27 triumph over Tillamook naval air station.

Washington dropped a 60-40 game to the Fee's Music Makers, Portland independents, to become the third collegiate club the rose city quintet has toppled. Previous wins were over Oregon State and Oregon.

Oregon dropped a 52-38 decision to the Fort Lewis Warriors, the latter five being greatly abetted by Gail Bishop's 24 points. Hamilton and Wilkins scored 14 each for Oregon. The Warriors also have dumped Washington State but lost to Washington.

Tennessee Vols In Great Shape For Bowl Clash

PASADENA, Calif., Dec. 22 (AP)—The Tennessee Volunteers, all business, are going through two strenuous workouts a day in preparation for their Rose Bowl skirmish with Southern California January 1.

With the exception of Sunday and Monday, when they'll celebrate Christmas like other folks, the Vols are committed to the "two-a-days" from here on out.

Coach John Barnhart says the boys, who were rain and snowbound in Knoxville before leaving, and trainbound en route to California, need work—and work they're going to get.

They seemed to like it yesterday, showing zip and sing in their drills, both devoted to offense. The Vols, however, lights they may be compared to the Trojans, appeared to take keen pleasure in blocking, which, according to their followers, is their strong point. Tennessee's ground game has been solid all season (ask seven defeated opponents and Alabama, which managed to eke out a tie), and it takes sound blocking to make a running offense go.

Tailback Buster Stephens and Casey Stephenson, right half, were getting off long spirals during punting practice yesterday, with the former also on the throwing end for aerial formations.

Coach Jeff Cravath gave his Trojans a chalk talk on defense formations yesterday and then sent his charges through a rugged one-hour scrimmage.

BASKETBALL Results

By The Associated Press
OREGON PREP
 Redmond 29, Springfield 28
 Grants Pass 28, Roseburg 24

COLLEGE
 Fort Lewis (Wash.) Warriors 52, Oregon 38
 Fee's Music Makers (Portland) 60, Washington 40
 Oregon State college 47, Tillamook Naval Air Station 27.

Football Leagues Announce Merger

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22 (AP)—A merger of the Pacific Coast and American Professional Football leagues, has been announced by President J. Rufus Klawans, president of the Pacific coast loop.

"We will have nine or ten teams in the circuit and play a round robin," Klawans said. "This will be a strong league, well financed and we will continue our working agreement with the National league."

Klawans said San Francisco would support two teams, the Clippers and the Packers while Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Diego, Portland, Seattle and San Jose are to field teams and San Fresno a probable newcomer.

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