

# 1944 BANNER YEAR IN ATHLETICS

## New Records Chalked Up To Feature Sports Year

### Sports World Willing to Comply With Government Demands On All Athletic.

By PAUL HAINES  
The year 1944 was a superlative one in the world of sports, even though many of the outstanding athletes of the decade are involved in the grim business of defeating the German and Japanese hordes on many fronts throughout the world. It is well for these heroes to know that they will return to a country free from internal dissension, where competitive sports will play a major part in the building and shaping of American youth.

As this is being written, sports in general is in a state of animated suspension through the recent government ban on horse racing, which seems sure to be followed by more prohibitive government demands on other



## from MIDFIELD

By PAUL HAINES

### SUGAR BOWL ODDS

The Duke Blue Devils are given the edge by the boys with the old moola on the line to topple the Alabama Crimson Tide in their Sugar Bowl clash at New Orleans on New Year's Day. Several weeks ago we waxed poetic and gave the nod to the 'Bama boys to cop this one and not only because we couldn't make a rhyme any other way, either.

We have quite a bit of faith in foxy Frank Thomas, who guides the gridiron destiny of the 'Bama bombers and we honestly feel that this one may be an upset. The Duke lads pack plenty of power in the right places this year but it quite possibly will be offset by the heady tactics employed by the Crimson Tide.

We wouldn't go so far as to bet grandma's false teeth on the outcome, but we still say, Alabama!

### COTTON BOWL ODDS

The rip-roarin' Oklahoma Aggies, paced by Bob Fenimore, are established favorites to dehorn the Horned Frogs of Texas Christian in their Cotton Bowl fracas at Dallas January 1. We think the bookies called the shot right on this tussle and nothing short of the Frogs growing teeth will turn the tide once the Aggies go on the march.

### ORANGE BOWL ODDS

Come New Year's Day in sunny Miami, the ramblin' wrecks from Georgia Tech are figured to lower the old boom on their Tulsa rivals in the Orange Bowl scuffle. Again we'll ride along with the smart money and climb on the Georgia Tech bandwagon. They did it last year, they can do it again!

### ROSE BOWL ODDS

There doesn't seem to be much doubt about this one, but we still feel that 18 points and Tennessee is a good bet even if you lose. The Volunteers have smashing Buster Stephens to further their touchdown cause and, although we like the Trojans to cop the hunting, we somehow think that the California lads are in for a big surprise at Pasadena.

Instead of inhaling the fragrance of roses, the Trojans may be sniffing at Buster's heels at least once. So, while we pick Southern Cal, we believe the Vols will score, and maybe more than once!

### Seattle Stars Down Hollywood Wolves

SEATTLE, Dec. 29 (AP)—The Seattle Stars returned to the top of the Pacific Coast Hockey League ladder today by virtue of a powerful 11-3 repulsing of the Hollywood Wolves last night. Nine goals poured into the net in the final period, six of them by the winners who returned to tonight's hockey after displaying "Fancy Dan" offensive in the middle frame.

### Five Captains Not Enough

PHILADELPHIA—Pennsylvania has two ex-college basketball captains. Howard Dellmar, 16-foot-six center, led Stanford. Bugler captained American University of Washington. The other members of the team are—Bob Carlson, Don Casey and Jack Lane—led high school combinations. Yet the team, 17-point favorites, is expected to have much, 50-0, at Convention Hall.

sports, both professional and amateur. The sports world has expressed itself as more than willing to cooperate to the utmost of its ability with the demands of our government. So, with the immediate future of the American sport world hanging in the balance, here are some of the outstanding athletic events of 1944:

In a six-game struggle the St. Louis Cardinals topped the scrappy, never-say-die St. Louis Browns to win the world series. Each game was a titanic battle and was the first all-St. Louis series played in the history of baseball.

A skyscraper Utah quintet won the national basketball title at Madison Square Garden by nosing out a game St. John's five in the finals.

Leslie Horvath, the Buckeye block-buster from Ohio State, won the Heisman trophy by being voted the outstanding college football player of the nation in a poll of 700 sports writers.

Warren Wright's Pensive came in under the wire in front to win the 70th running of the classic Kentucky derby at historic Churchill Downs.

Jim Tobin, Boston Brave hurler, carved himself a niche in baseball's hall of fame by pitching a night, no-run game against the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 27. Marty Marion, Card shortstop, was voted the most valuable player in the National League, while Harold Newhouser, great pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, won that honor in the American circuit.

Arne Anderson of Sweden set a new world record for the mile with the time of 4:01.6 at Stockholm July 18, while Gil Dodds of Boston came up with a new indoor record for the same distance in Chicago in 4:06.4.

A 3-year-old filly owned by Warren Wright, Twilight Tear, was named the "horse of the year" due to her impressive record of 11 straight track victories and her triumphs in the Pimlico Special and Arlington Classic.

Set, Frankie Parker saw a lifetime ambition come true when he captured the national men's singles tennis title at Forest Hills by outstroking Bill Talbert.

One of the most beloved characters of the sports world, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, high commissioner of baseball for a generation, passed away in Chicago. For the present, Ford Frick, Will Harridge and Leslie O'Connor will guide the destiny of baseball.

In a grid classic played at New York's Yankee stadium, probably the greatest Army eleven that ever wore cleats blasted Notre Dame, 59-0, and then clinched the national title by overpowering a game Navy team, 23-7, at Baltimore.

Shammin' Sammy Sneed, the golfer with the Jack Dempsey punch, proved that they do come back by winning the first major tournament he participated in after more than two years in the navy by grabbing first honors in the \$15,500 Portland Open.

These, then, are the great sporting events of 1944. GI Joes all over the world followed these athletic activities with the greatest interest through an unsurpassed radio program that made it possible to bring these contests to them first hand, whether in a slit trench somewhere in Europe or in a foxhole on some far outlying island in the South Pacific. They still want their sports when they come home, too. They've proven that.

## Sun Bowl Tilt Will Feature Razzle-Dazzle

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 29 (AP)—The old razzle-dazzle, the wide-open brand of football which has marked many a grid game in the southwest, promises to give an expected near-record crowd an interesting afternoon when the University of Texas meets Southwestern of Texas in the Sun Bowl New Year's Day.

Both the Southwestern Pirates and the Pumas from south of the border play "thrill a minute" football, featuring tricky passes and speedy backs.

The Mexicans may need their classiest tricks for this 11th cactus classic, the waging gentry opines. Mexico Mentor Bernard A. Hoban, former Dartmouth player, says his team will average only 165 pounds. "We'll be outweighed 18 pounds per man," he said, "but we are used to that. We'll give 'em a real battle, and I wouldn't say it is impossible for Mexico to win."

### BASKETBALL SCORES

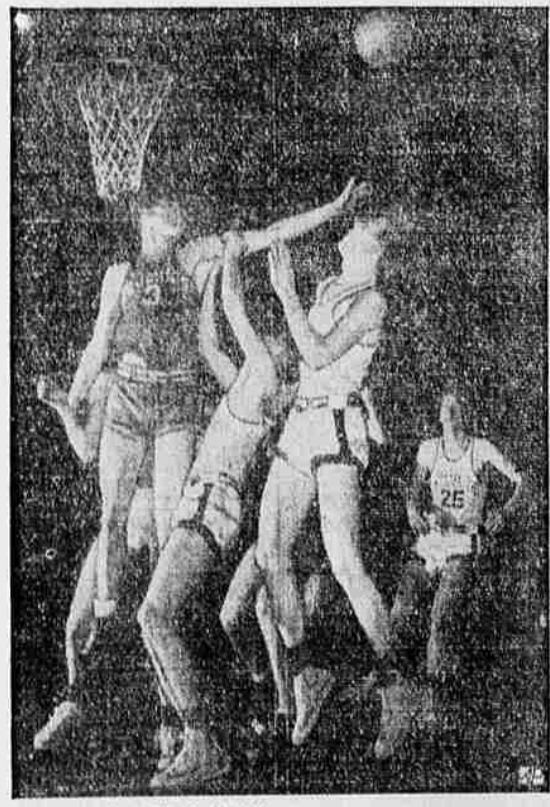
OREGON PREP  
By The Associated Press.  
Pleasant Hill 33, St. Mary's (Eugene) 24.  
Eugene 47, University (Eugene) 15.  
Medford 29, Albany 15.



PAYOFF PLAY AS CARDS WON SERIES—The Cardinals won the world baseball series in an all-St. Louis six-game struggle with the Browns. Here Ray Sanders, Card first baseman, comes home in fourth inning rally that won final game, 3-1.



ARMY TOUCHDOWN ROMP—Standout football team of the year was Army, victor over all opposition, including Navy. Here John Minor runs to a score against Notre Dame, beaten 59-0.



UTAH CAGERS WIN—Herb Wilinon and Arnold Fern of Utah, with competition from Bill Kostorfs (3) of St. John's, leap for a rebound in the Madison Square Garden basketball final which gave Utah the national title.



GRIDIRON STAR—Les Horvath of Ohio State University, shown with the Heisman trophy, was voted the outstanding college football player in a poll of 700 sports writers.

## Tennessee Set for Rose Bowl Fray With Trojans

### Annual Grid Classic May Narrow Down To Battle Between Individual Backs

PASADENA, Calif., Dec. 29 (AP)—If the Rose Bowl game built by Tennessee Southern California and Tennessee New Year's Day narrows down to a battle of individual backs, it will probably be a duel between the skillful right arm of Trojan Capt. Jim Hardy and the sturdy legs of Freshman Buster Stephens, the Vols' jolting tailback.

In throttling seven and tying two opponents in nine games, Hardy's spectacular passing has

been the spark of the T-model machine Coach Jeff Cravath has built. Hardy, in his third and final year, set a new USC record by completing 53 of 102 passes for 684 yards and eight touchdowns. That's an average of 52 per cent.

Stephens, in eight games of which the Vols won seven and tied one, rolled up 632 yards in carrying the ball 101 times. Despite his inexperience, the 21-year-old freshman is already being favorably compared with such volunteer immortals as Bobby Dodd, Gene McEver and Beattie Feathers.

Hardy doesn't do much running, and Stephens doesn't do much passing—although he may have to cut loose in this game. The Vols completed only 15 of 55 tosses tried, and Buster looped eight of those.

On the statistical chart, Hardy has the better chance to shine. Opponents have completed 40 per cent of attempted passes against Tennessee, and Coach John Harnhill, aware of that, has held long drills on pass defense almost daily since the Vols arrived here.

In the Trojan forward wall, anchored by Tackles John Ferraro, 235 pounds, and "Pecwee" Peahar, 285, Stephens probably will run into his toughest line of the year.

Only light workouts are slated by the two teams for today, and the Vols may take in another sightseeing tour. They paid their first visit to the movie studios yesterday.

## Orange Bowl Coaches Toss Bouquets

By WILBUR JENNINGS  
MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 29 (AP)—Rival Orange Bowl coaches tossed verbal bouquets to each other today and tried to drop the other's team with the robes of the favorite.

Coach W. A. (Bill) Alexander, of Georgia Tech, declared, "Henry Frnka is one of America's smartest young coaches. We always look for an unexpected when we play him."

Countered Tulsa's Frnka: "Bill Alexander to my mind is among the greatest football coaches of all time. I always learn something new when I watch his teams play."

The veteran Alexander pausing, as he mapped out a play to use against Tulsa in the Orange Bowl New Year's Day, came up with the thought that the odds shouldn't be in his favor. "They should be the other way around."

Frnka thought the odds were "just right" and hoped his team would remain the "underdog" at 7 to 5 or 2 to 1.

Alexander, to support his belief about the odds, recalled he had only three men on his squad which met and defeated Tulsa 20-18 in the Sugar Bowl last January 2, while Tulsa "has 10."

## Jim Walthall Giving Horvath Close Race For Left Half Slot

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29 (AP)—West Virginia's Jim Walthall was giving All-American Les Horvath of Ohio State a close race for left half starting honors today as the east squad practice scrimmaged for the 20th annual intersectional Shrine all-star classic here New Year's.

Observers said Walthall threatened to take an edge on passing. Both are triple threats. Meanwhile the west team instituted a two-in-backfield system using Bob Kennedy, quarterback from March field to do the signal calling on one, and Bob Waterfield, UCLA quarter as "brains" of the other.

## Marine-Navy Hoop Battle Postponed

The basketball game between the marine cagers and the naval air station quintet, scheduled for January 3, has been postponed indefinitely. Capt. W. R. Ourand, marine athletic officer, disclosed this morning.

A future match between Klamath's two military teams is still under discussion, and Captain Ourand expects to have arrangements made for a game later in the cage season, probably to be played on a neutral court.

## Aggie Coach Expects Hard Bowl Battle

DALLAS, Dec. 29 (AP)—Both times that big Jim Lookabaugh saw Texas Christian's Horned Frogs play they were defeated, but the coach of the Oklahoma Aggies said today he had no illusions of any easy job when his Cowboys meet the Frogs in the Cotton Bowl.

"We don't pay much attention to the score, you know," Lookabaugh drawled. "I saw a well-balanced T. C. U. team—one that can run, pass and kick. That's what I'm concerned about."

"Sure, we outscored them this season but they had a better defensive record. I can't see where the folks get this 21-point stuff. We have a hard day's work ahead with T. C. U."

The arrival of the Aggies yesterday brought an immediate boost at the box office where Jimmie Stewart, secretary of the Cotton Bowl Athletic association, reported ticket sales well ahead of last year for the same period.

## More Generous Opening Of Closed Hunting Areas Promised for Next Season

OLYMPIA, Dec. 29 (AP)—Friendlier feelings between sportsmen and timber land owners promise to result in a more generous opening of closed hunting areas in 1945, State Forester T. S. Goodyear said today.

"Especially good progress was made this year in acquainting sportsmen and land owners with each other's problems," Goodyear said. "Many logging operators and land owners entirely eliminated corridors along fishing streams from their closures. Many areas previously closed in the early spring were left open until June, or even later, to give fishermen a break. Previously,

2,339,840 acres of forest land were closed to the public prior to June 1, but this year only 725,760 acres were so closed. And at the beginning of the fall hunting season in October, all closures were lifted by request of the land owners.

"Apparently the sportsmen appreciated the privileges extended to them and reciprocated by exercising extreme care with fire while in the woods."

Goodyear said he hopes sportsmen and the Keep Washington Green committee will meet during the winter to work out mutually satisfactory programs for the coming year.

## Stephens Captures RBI Crown

By JERRY LISKA  
CHICAGO, Dec. 29 (AP)—Shortstop Vernon Stephens batted a modest 293 last season, but his "clutch" hitting which sparked the St. Louis Browns to the American league pennant gave him the prized runs-in-batted-in championship with 109.

Official figures released today showed Stephens, who was runner-up in home runs with 20, two less than champion Nick Etten of the New York Yankees, edged Boston's Bob Johnson by three in capturing the R. B. I. crown.

The Brownie slugger topped his 1943 total of 91 by 18 and was nine shy of the previous season's winning 118 by Rudy York of Detroit.

Despite Stephens' individual championship, the Browns were third in team runs-batted-in behind the Red Sox, who aggregated 691, and the Yankees, who had 631, but the pennant winners emerged with a new league record for hitting into the fewest double plays, 93. The former record of 94 was shared by three clubs.

Two other players attained the 100 mark in R.B.I.—Johnny Lindell of the Yankees with 103 and Stan Spence of Washington with 100. In 1943, only York and Etten drove in 100 or more runs.

Home-run king Etten also drew the most walks, 97, topping Johnson by two and falling nine below the 1943 winning total of 106 by Charley Keller of the Yankees. Jim Seerch of Cleveland won the undesirable distinction of striking out most, 89 times, followed by New York's George Stinnewiss with 87.

George Kell of Philadelphia set the pace in grounding into double plays with 28, while George McQuinn of the Browns thumped into only one twin killing in 146 games. Bob Ortiz of the Senators was the best pitcher's target. He was hit eight times by pitched balls.

WOOD  
Not Seasoned  
at Dorr, California  
For sale  
FIR and PINE SLABS  
12" x 12" x 12' Per Cord  
Dry or Green  
No Delivered  
By W. F. Carson  
Dorr, Calif.

When in Medford  
Stay at  
HOTEL HOLLAND  
Thoroughly Modern  
Joe and Anne Earley  
Proprietors

Eddie Eittrheim's  
**Steak House**  
126 South 7th St.  
\* Grilled Steaks  
\* Merchants' Lunch, 60c  
Hamburgers • Barbeque  
Chili  
OPEN 24 HOURS

TRUCKS FOR RENT  
You Drive — Move Yourself  
Save 1/2 — Long and  
Short Trips  
STILES' BEACON SERVICE  
Phone 8304 1201 East Main

for  
**HARTFORD**  
Accident and Indemnity Company  
**INSURANCE**  
Lee  
**T. B. WATTERS**  
General Insurance Agency  
FIRE . . . AUTOMOBILE  
615 Main St. Phone 4183

**A  
MAN'S  
WHISKEY**

Blended Whiskey  
• 86 Proof  
• 57 1/2% Grain  
Neutral Spirits.  
The LANS-  
downe Distil-  
lery, Havre de  
Grace • Md.

**Lansdowne  
Reserve**