

# Western Mail Bag

## Odell Not Carrying A Lily To Gridiron Funeral

By JACK HEWINS

SEATTLE, May 11 (AP)—They do say things are getting so bad out beyond the Mississippi that people don't remove their hats any more when they speak about The West.

Howie Odell, newly arrived from a place out there called Yale, has sensed the sadness over this state of football affairs. "People here," observed the head man of the University of Washington gridiron department today, "appear bitter."

This is like saying a fish can swim. Ever since the Rose Bowl game (let's skip lightly over the details), the west coast has had the feeling its football was being highbrowed around the country. Matter of fact, you could locate a lot of arched brows right around home.

Alumni of the college of "There have been giving the grads of The West a verbal mauling." Rough, that is.

Odell has seen western college play only in motion pictures, but he isn't carrying a lily for the west's football funeral. Not as long as

he can count up to six. In half a dozen games between Big Nine and Pacific Coast conference teams last fall they came out even—three and three. "And," added Howie, "the West scored the most points."

"The top teams in the Midwest last year were the top teams in the country," said Odell. "They clipped everybody. When you compare entire conferences it comes out more evenly."

As for the East coast versus the Far West, Howie would compare only his Yale team of last year with what he has seen in spring practice at Washington: "I think my Yale first string could beat my Washington first eleven."

"But my Washington third team could mop up my Yale thirds. Here in the west we seem to have more power in depth. When we lost a varsity man back there—blooie!—there went the season. Here we could replace him with a man almost as good."

If the East does have an edge it is, he thought, in the passing ability of its quarterbacks. Dartmouth, Columbia, Harvard had great passers—and I had a good one myself at Yale. The top Midwest teams had brilliant throwers. The West had boys like Oregon's Norm Van Brocklin and George Murphy and Jim Powers of Southern California, but didn't seem to have them in numbers.

Odell, incidentally, was a coach of the East in the last East-West game. His team tried 26 passes, completing 16; the West tried 25, completed four, had five intercepted. Pitching for the East was Johnny Lujack.

If things keep going for Odell the way they have this spring, the fans will start calling him "Hard Luck Howie."

He lost his varsity quarterback for keeps when Dick Ottele revealed he had signed a pro contract. Then veteran QB Joe Stone broke a finger on his passing hand. Anse Mc-

Stimulation of the optic nerve by a bright light may cause sneezing, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

# SPORTS IN COMMIE-DOMINATED EUROPE KILLED

NEW YORK (NEA)—Sports in communist-dominated Europe, particularly tennis, are doomed.

This is the confirmed belief of Sidney B. Wood, for years one of America's top-flight tennis men. Wood is well informed, having returned recently from France, where he conferred with leading players from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and other countries getting orders from the Kremlin.

"Jaroslav Drobny and Vladimir Cernik would like to come to this country permanently if possible," says Wood. They are the Czech aces who got to the Davis cup interzone final against Australia last year.

"Drobny told me he wanted to quit his native land so he could keep playing tennis," asserts Wood. "He already had been informed

by Communist of Czech sports Karel Kozeluh that he and Cernik would make no more trips abroad this year.

"That's why they hustled to Italy and tried to make a clean break."

Officials appointed by Russia advised Drobny that no country under the communist thumb would be permitted to compete out of its own sphere starting next year, Wood reveals.

In other words, there will be no Czechs, Yugoslavs, Hungarians or Romanians at Wimbledon or in cup competition in 1949.

Drobny and Cernik know what to expect from their Russian protectors. As they related to Wood: "We spent three weeks in Russia playing exhibitions. We were under guard day and night, NKVD men even sleeping outside the door of our quarters."

"Before each match we were told how long it would last and who would win. Naturally, we obeyed orders."

Dispatches from Italy stated Drobny was to fly from Rome to Prague. It was the second reservation he had booked in a week, however, and he did not show up for the first one. He was in Rome, eating in his room, refusing to talk.

Cernik reportedly was ill somewhere in Italy.

Whatever happens, it is Wood's opinion that Czechoslovakia is through as a tennis power.

Moscow already is greatly annoyed at Drobny and Cernik, and two other singles players have been named to play cup tennis for the Czechs.

The situation will be saved, at least temporarily, if France or Sweden triumphs in the European zone.

"I'm doing my best to bring some of the European players over here, those under Russian control and others," says Wood. "When I saw and talked to those poor guys who can't walk around the corner without Stalin's OK, I felt I had to do something."

Wood had high hopes Drobny would come here directly from Italy, regardless of reports to the contrary.

The best hockey player in Europe, Drobny undoubtedly could land with the Boston Bruins, who have a line on his services.

He could play tennis only as an individual and not as a Czech cup representative, but Wood doesn't think that would bother him in the slightest.

"Once Drobny and the others got here, their worries probably would be over," concludes Sidney B. Wood. "The big job is leaving Europe."

"They certainly can't do any good for the game or themselves if they stay."

"And well they know it."

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# WIBC Keg Tourney Finished

DALLAS, May 11 (AP)—The Woman's International Bowling Congress has finished its first Texas showing today with one record tied, two of last year's championships surpassed and the most prize money in the hands of Shirlee Wernecke of Chicago.

Not a single 1947 winner was able to repeat.

An anti-climax comes Thursday night when doubles teams that tied for first place participate in a roll-off for the title. These combinations are Edna Harold and Marge Slogar of Cleveland and Margaret Cass and Marie Matthews of Beverly Hills, Calif. Each rolled 1188.

Miss Wernecke took down \$262.50 in prize money by capturing first in singles with 496, rolling high singles game of 279, second in all-events with 1848 and teaming with Mary Sims to win sixth in doubles with a combined 1160.

Irene Behrman of Erie, Pa., rolled a game of 289 that equalled the previous high, set by Emma Wilson of Chicago in 1942 at Milwaukee.

A total of \$62,386 in prize money was distributed by Mrs. Emma Phaler of Columbus, O., WIBC secretary. Some 6418 teams and individuals shared in the awards which ranged from \$350 down to \$3.00.

The 1948 tournament will be at Columbus, opening April 24.

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# Javelin Hit Kills Middie

ANNAPOLIS, Md., May 11 (AP)—A javelin killed Midshipman George J. Eliopoulos, naval academy athlete.

Capt. E. B. Taylor, navy athletic director, said the 23-year-old victim "was struck in the neck by a javelin that slipped from the hands of Midshipman George B. Stone."

Eliopoulos pulled the spear from his own neck, but collapsed and died within four minutes.

Taylor said Stone was "hospitalized suffering from shock."

The two boys had been working out together at the Thompson stadium when the mishap occurred.

Eliopoulos, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Eliopoulos of Rawlins, Wyoming, was an academy track man and varsity basketball player. He came here about three years ago from the University of Wyoming. Stone's home is in Kingsport, Tenn.

Ex-Coach Dead

SALT LAKE CITY, May 11 (AP)—Harvey R. Holmes, 75, first coach at the University of Utah and former University of Southern California track and football mentor, died last night of heart disease.

Cullough, star quarter from Chaffey Junior college, got lonesome after enrolling at Washington and went home.

Marvin Preacher, Franklin signed to coach Odella's freshman but decided he'd prefer to stay in the East. Neil "Skip" Stahley left the head-coach job at George Washington to guide Odell's backfield, only to be hired away by Toledo university.

The "Hard Luck" moniker may stick, but they'll never tag the personable Odell with the nickname of a famous Washington coach of another era—"Gloomy Gil" Dobie.

# Garden Makes Video Peace

NEW YORK, May 11 (AP)—The Twentieth Century Sporting club, having made peace with ring managers over television receipts, sought hurriedly today to line up a Madison Square boxing card for Friday night.

Members of the New York Boxing Managers Guild ended a six-week boycott of the promotional organization yesterday after Twentieth Century agreed to pay boxers 25 per cent of all television money. That's half of Twentieth Century's take.

Madison Square Garden, which as a partner splits the receipts with Twentieth Century, has refused to cut in managers and boxers.

End of the boycott was announced by Charley Johnston, president of the managers guild which controls most of the name in the metropolitan area.

Firemen Called To Trash Fire

City firemen were called out at 7:53 last night to extinguish a small trash fire behind Drew's Manstoe on Main.

The blaze was put out in short order and no damage resulted.

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# Fremonters Tip Mills Nine, 4-3

Fremont defeated Mills 4-3 in the top bracket of the city grade school class A softball tourney yesterday, and remains as the only unbeaten team in the meet.

Wayne Elliott, who hurled a no-hitter Saturday, was the winning pitcher. In the lower bracket Pelican eliminated Roosevelt, 11-5. Mills plays Riverside this afternoon at the KUHS practice field.

OCEAN PARK, Calif.—Glen Flanagan, 125, St. Paul, stopped Ramon Ruiz, 124, Mexico City (7).

It pays to use the Want-Ads!

# Rasmussen Vaults

EUGENE, Ore., May 11 (AP)—George Rasmussen, sophomore vaulting star, will represent the University of Oregon at the Fresno west coast relays this week-end, Coach John Warren said today.

Rasmussen has cleared 14 feet, 2 inches this season.

Georgia, Louisiana, North and South Carolina and Texas require school attendance only to the age of 14.

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# Accident Victims Very Pale Faced

DALLAS, May 10 (AP)—The accident victims weren't exactly pale from fright but they had white faces anyway.

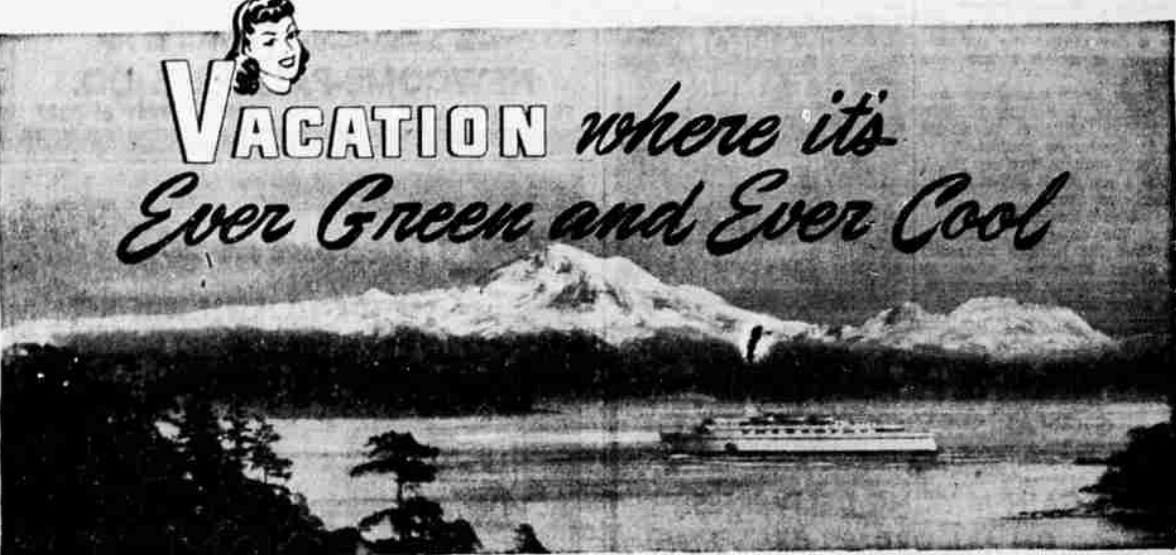
O dump truck loaded with freshly made mortar, trying to avoid an accident with a city bus Monday, tilted against the passenger vehicle. Fresh mortar sloshed through the open windows on the passengers.

"They looked like ghosts as the mortar dried on their faces," a police accident investigator said.



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