



Herald and News Sports Editor

Sport Scribes "Ain't Talkin' "

Sports writers who handle prep affairs in the state of Oregon are hanging their heads.

And for good reason. Your writer joins the line-up at the walling wall after the surprising Tigers upped and smacked the Pelicans out of the quarter-final.

Now the question is: "Just how good are Don Mabey's La Grande Tigers?"

My answer to this query hasn't changed. I saw them in action Friday night under the La Grande arcs. I also saw the kingpin of Oregon's high school footballers, in the opening skirmish against Klamath under the Modoc lights.

The Tigers are good enough, in my opinion, to wrap up the state title and tuck it away in the school's hope chest.

They'll have to down Marshfield Friday night to get a shot at the Generals. This hurdle will be accomplished without too much trouble. I look for a Tiger victory in the neighborhood of 26 to 7.

Then comes Grant in the final (providing, of course, the Generals get over Hillsboro, which should be done).

The Tigers are still smarting over the 14-0 defeat dished out by Medford in the 1944 state finals.

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THE MASTER—Pouring it on or keeping the score down, Frank Leahy offers an interesting picture in emotions and moods directing the mighty Notre Dame football team from the sideline. The biggest winner ever to come out of Winner, S. D., has lost only five while winning 76 games in

eight years as a head coach, is currently on an unbeaten streak of 35. This year's edition of the Irish is extraordinary as a fashion show of football. Its coach is a perfectionist who isn't satisfied even with perfection.

Walkie-Talkie for Quarterback by 1953? Scribe Claims Field General Doesn't Need Brains Anymore

By HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Sports Editor

NEW YORK (NEA)—After hearing J. V. Sikes speak, John R. Thomson predicts that by 1953 every good quarterback will be fully equipped with a walkie-talkie, with the conversation running something like this:

Signal-caller to the bench:

"What's the play?"
Coach to quarterback: "Refer to situation A. Use play 435 with opposition A if opposition uses 5-2-2-1. Revert to option B if defense is orthodox."

"The requirements of football used to be brain and brawn," comments Sports Editor Thomson of The Kansas City, Kans., Kansas.

"Now all a player has to be is a good pawn with brawn."

Thomson takes the view that J. V. Sikes, the Kansas coach, admitted almost as much when he said the rules "don't give us quite as much control of the quarterbacking as we'd like." From that it can be assumed that coaches want the privilege of sending a man in to call every play.

"There was a time," adds Thomson, "when one of the requirements of a good quarterback was a generous supply of brains. A lad who wasn't afraid to take a chance. A kid who could size up the opposition, and call plays he thought would work."

He reiterates a pet peeve of this and many other corners. "What's even worse is the way high school coaches have taken the game away from the kids."

"It's getting so the one thing a player doesn't have to do is think. 'Maybe a high school lad passes, runs, kicks, does a fair job of backing up the line. Hopes are high as he goes to college, but in three years what do you find? He's a specialist. Backs up the line when Dear Old Siwash is deep in its own territory, and the opposition is passing a lot. The minute the foe switches to the ground, however, out comes our hero. After all, what's he

got that sophomore understudy for?"

Things aren't quite that bad, although John R. Thomson is closer to being right than George Munger, who contends football has been given back to the athletes by its refinements.

Pennsylvania's coach is convinced that football has gone so far in developing strategy a coach no longer is able to call plays from the sideline.

As Munger stresses, today a team must know how to meet and beat varying defenses instantly. No one can call plays from down to down. The winning team nowadays is the one which adjusts to the defense after the ball is snapped. Ball-carrier and blockers must be able to read just to defensive variations the second they happen.

So, even with the quarterback being thoroughly briefed while the defensive platoon is attempting to hold the line, a shifting defense still puts a premium on quick thinking.

Interest High on Tigers

By The Associated Press

Class B high schools held the gridiron alone on this turkey day. Oregon's finalists were to emerge from today's games at Klamath Falls and Forest Grove.

Class A schools and six-man teams play tomorrow night and Saturday in their semi-finals for the state titles.

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Split T Explained Here's Why Sooners Boast Grid Record

By DAVE CAMERER

NEW YORK (NEA)—Bud Wilkinson describes the difference between the T and Split T, the latter as executed by all-conquering Oklahoma, stampeding with the frightening speed of a prairie fire along the Cherokee Strip.

"The most difficult thing we have to teach," says the Sooners' young coach, "is the proper adjustment of our splits in the line, so our boys know how to take the best possible advantage of the defensive alignments."

"Believe me, they vary. There is little difference in playing any of the line positions, as the linemen do practically the same thing. They must be able to split properly."

"Ends must be able to handle passes. With this thrown in, you could say end is the most important position."

"In the backfield, we also like to feel that our boys can adjust very rapidly to a man in front of them, even though they may have planned to hit on the opposite side of the man as the ball was snapped."

"Our offensive formation is so spread and spaced that we hit with what amounts to a straight single-wing buck from end to end."

"The Split T breaks that swiftly, and when it can be attacked so quickly at any point, the defensive line has no time to fill in adequately the area being struck."

"We make half again as much yardage going wide, but in almost every case we fake inside, as does Army. If our faking is good, the defense will be held in, which helps outside plays more than anything else."

"Naturally, speed is the most important single factor. The ability of our line to charge together with the snapping of the ball and block solidly is next. In the backfield it's speed first, courage and the ability to hit hard and quickly."

Predominantly a running team, Oklahoma tops all major college teams in yards gained rushing, also leads the nation in defense. Through the Iowa State and sixth victory, the Sooners rushed for 1983 yards in 346 attempts, an average of 330.5 an outing. Coach Wilkinson's men are second only to Texas Western, proud minion of the Tequila conference. Notre

Dame is third, Boston university fourth, Cornell fifth, Wyoming sixth, Army seventh, Marquette eighth, Idaho ninth and Virginia 10th.

Any college or high school coach who reads, interprets and really understands Wilkinson's sermon on the Split T, especially his gospel re line play, could have his mother-in-law design his offense, and still go to town—provided he had the horses!

P. S. — Bud Wilkinson has the horses.

SPECIAL DEER SHOOT APPROVED

PORTLAND, Nov. 24 (AP) — A special antler deer hunting season in the John Day area has been set by the state game commission for December 15-18.

The commission reported yesterday, after a hearing, that 1000 tags would be issued. Applications, plus \$5, must be in the commission's office here by November 30. The tags will be mailed.

The hunting area is about 60 miles long and seven to eight miles wide. The season was set to reduce the deer population threatened by starvation this winter.

Cold Grid, Hot Seat

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Nov. 24 (AP) — They may be playing football in the Ice Bowl game here January 2 in frigid temperatures, but the customers can get the hot seat.

At least, that's the plan of Ladd air force base officers. They're going to install aircraft heaters under the bleachers, with canvas ducts carrying heat the entire length of the stands.

The University of Alaska will clash an Air Force eleven.

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Herman's
826 MAIN STREET

City Cagers Start In January

The city basketball league will be launched the second week of January, it was decided at an organizational meeting Tuesday night at the city hall.

New president of the loop is Sam Nealin, who will serve on a temporary basis. Secretary-treasurer is Sam Smith.

The deadline for entering a team in the city cage loop was set at December 10. Definite favor was shown toward splitting the league into two divisions.

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