

# Better Prep Teams Give Big Ten Edge

By HARRY GRAYSON  
NEA Sports Editor

CLEVELAND — (NEA) — Big Ten teams have thoroughly demonstrated their superiority over those of the Pacific Coast Conference in the Pasadena Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

They excel for the same reason that more bay horses eat more than fewer roans.

In the seven states that embrace Western Conference institutions, there are 233 preparatory schools fielding football squads.

There are only 753 high schools with football teams in the four states comprising the PCC area. That's an average of 233 high schools per Big Ten football foundry, while PCC members fall off to 83 each.

Another reason suggested for the supremacy of the Big Ten is complacency among high school coaches on the golden slope. Midwest high school mentors hold so much security, California coaches have tenure and the wolves howl ever so faintly in the Pacific northwest. Coaches are certain of their jobs year after year. Good, bad or indifferent, a coach remains in California with fewer ulcers than his Midwest contemporary.

Followers of Midwest high school football tolerate a losing character builder no more than the alum-

ni of a Big Ten seat of higher learning.

High schools have the college pitch. Some get help from basketball ticket sales, but football receipts carry the entire athletic load at many Midwest prep schools. Washington High at Massillon, O., for instance, has a more elaborate football set-up and larger attendance than many colleges. The social life of the city spins around its high school football each autumn.

So the coach who doesn't fill the high school stadium doesn't stick around long in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa.

Michigan State's remarkable back, LeRoy Bolden, was almost dropped from his high school team because of a violent temper.

Bolden, who is on the small side, went out for football in his sophomore year, but dropped it after several weeks. He lettered in track at Flint Northern and the coach tipped the football coach that he believed Bolden would make a fine halfback.

Bolden showed promise the next season, but blew his stack if roughed up or things otherwise went wrong. The coach told the youngster that he would have to control his temper.

A sudden recurrence of temper

against a visiting team got Bolden kicked out of a game by the coach.

In front of the entire squad, the coach said to Bolden: "I don't know if you can make the grade because there is no room on the squad for hotheads. I believe it would be better for all concerned if you dropped football."

"It won't happen again," promised Bolden.

It hasn't and Michigan State is happy.

Controlled anger is something else again.

Emotion is no small part of athletics, football in particular.

## TIME OUT



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## Sacrifice Fly Rule Helps Batters

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven major league players, headed by Brooklyn's Gil Hodges, have the sacrifice fly to thank for their .300 or better batting averages in 1954.

Figures compiled by The Associated Press reveal that Hodges wound up the season with 19 sacrifice flies—most in the majors. The Dodgers' first baseman batted .304. Counting the sacrifice flies as times at bat, as was done in 1953, his average would have been .294.

The others to hit .300 or better because of the rule change were Eld Gordon of the Pirates, who hit .305 instead of .298; Andy Carey of the Yankees, .301 instead of .297; Bill Barni of the Cards and Al Rosen of the Indians, both .300 instead of .294; and Mickey Mahile of the Yankees and Jim Finigan of the A's, both .300 instead of .298.

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**WATER PATTERN** . . . Connie Der zip-tagged across the wake of a speedboat at Cypress Gardens, Fla., tuning up for the slalom of the National Water Ski Tournament at Wiers, N.H.

## Time Running Out On A's Sale Offer

CHICAGO (AP)—Arnold Johnson, wealthy Chicago business executive, says time is running out on his offer to buy the Philadelphia Athletics and indicates his patience is doing likewise.

Johnson has offered to buy the Athletics for a reported \$3,375,000. He wants to move the franchise to Kansas City.

"I am getting together a report from my architect, engineers and

even iron and steel contractors to make the Kansas City park into a big league stadium," said Johnson. "At first they told me work would have to start Sept. 15 to 20 if remodeling is to be completed before the 1955 season opens next April.

"That means the deadline has come and gone. They are poised to start work the minute the signal is given. I will have their latest report by this weekend. If they tell me there is not enough time, I'll withdraw my offer."

Will Harridge, American League president, has asked Johnson to hold open his offer and has scheduled a meeting of club owners Tuesday in Chicago to determine the Athletics' future status.

The meeting comes two weeks after a New York session of club owners resulted in granting Roy Mack 14 days to raise \$750,000 to buy control of the Athletics. He has bitterly opposed the wishes of his father Connie and his brother Earle to sell the debt-ridden club to the highest bidder.

Clark Griffith of Washington and Spike Briggs of Detroit have expressed opposition to the A's move to Kansas City. Mrs. Grace Comiskey of the Chicago White Sox also has indicated she would oppose the shift if Griffith did. Approval by six of the eight clubs would be needed for the action.

to be desired", Casanova tongue-lashed his squad over the 7-6 loss to Utah and 12-13 defeat by Stanford. One Webfoot player reported:

"We didn't know the coach could get that mad. He was funny. He told us off real good. We've never seen him that way before and never want to see him that way again."

Texas Christian was to come to Los Angeles Thursday with a sophomore-dominated squad hoping to upset USC in the Coliseum Friday night. TCU lost 21-16 to Oklahoma but outgained the Nation's No. 1 team. TCU beat Kansas and was noised out by Arkansas.

USC will start Jim Contratto at quarter; Aramis Dandoy and Lindon Crow, halves; and Gordon Duval at fullback.

## Coach Picks Team Over Navy Eleven

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Stanford coach Chuck Taylor has come out with his usual pre-game prediction:

"Stanford to win, in a low-scoring game."

Against Navy in Palo Alto Saturday, Stanford will start the same lineup that upset Illinois, said Taylor.

From Annapolis came word that Navy Coach Eddie Erdelatz had made three line changes and was considering three in the backfield. But he wouldn't name names.

Navy advance man John Cox said he was surprised the teams were rated about even. He described the Middies' offense as "spasmodic" and its defense as "not up to par."

UCLA will send 34 players to Seattle for its Saturday game with Washington. Coach Red Sanders cut center Johnny Peterson from the travelling roster to give him a chance to rest an injured knee.

Washington was pummeled by injuries to its last left guard. Reserve Con Walker broke an ankle in scrimmage, leaving junior Earl Montux as the only healthy man in the spot.

California's Lynn Waldorf and Oregon's Len Casanova both moaned to their teams who'll meet in Berkeley Saturday—but Casanova laid it on in a way to make the Ducks fighting mad.

Waldorf said the Bears' offensive blocking "leaves much

Wallace Moon, St. Louis Cardinals centerfielder, speaks mildly for a Texan. The first time he walked to the plate as a major leaguer he hit a home run. "Best ball I ever hit," he said, then shut up.

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