

DREAM TEAM



NEA Announces All-Pro Team

By MURRAY OLDERMAN
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK (NEA) — Glittering reputations don't always make for all-star selections in professional football where a man is paid according to his ability to perform, and an All-America bows to an allums from Magnolia A & M if the latter blocks and tackles more sharply.

The 1954 NEA All-National Football League offensive and defensive alignments, chosen by balloters from all cities in the circuit, built a credible case for this exhibition by hauling a half-dozen comparative unknowns out of limbo and installing them on the pedestal they deserve.

No longer is there the predilection for the big linebacker or end who stoves mightily when he is young and hungry but grew complacently half a step slower while his running mate covered his mistakes. On this team, the running mate gets the nod.

PRODUCED

So you'll find names like Robinson, St. Clair, Boyd, Zatkoff, Kiesel and Hill on the list — men who've produced.

OFFENSE

E—Bob Boyd, Rams
E—Harlon Hill, Bears
T—Bob St. Clair, 49ers
T—Lou Groza, Browns
G—Abe Gibrón, Browns
G—Dick Stanfel, Lions
C—Bill Walsh, Steelers
QB—Bobby Layne, Lions
HB—Ollie Matson, Cards
HB—Doak Walker, Lions
FB—Joe Perry, 49ers

DEFENSE

E—Len Ford, Browns
E—Norm Willey, Eagles
T—Leo Nomellini, 49ers
T—John Kiesel, Browns
MG—Dale Dodrill, Steelers
LB—Wayne Robinson, Eagles
LB—Roger Zatkoff, Packers
HB—Tom Landry, Giants
HB—Dick Lane, Cards
S—Bobby Dillon, Packers
S—Jack Christiansen, Lions

tackle Bob St. Clair, a 6-8, 250-pound giant. His running mate, Groza, edged Lou Creekmur of the Lions primarily because of the game winning qualities in his place-kicking foot.

Top guards were a scarce commodity this year, when running games spluttered. Stanfel is recognized by his own mates as their finest offensive player. Gibrón has no peer at pass protection for Otto Graham.

OFFENSIVE

The shade between offensive centers like Walsh and Bill Johnson of the 49ers is infinitesimal, but Walsh stayed healthier this season. Likewise it was tough to choose at quarterback between perennials Layne and Graham, and in this case you only go with Bobby because of the greater option threat presented by his running ability.

Hugh McElhenney of the 49ers was a cinch halfback choice until he was separated from his shoulder in mid-season, leaving the field to Matson and Walker. Ollie's the one-man team. Walker, with better support, is the one-team man, enjoying his finest clutch season.

E—Andy Robustelli, Rams
T—Dave Hanner, Packers
T—Ray Krouse, Giants
MG—Les Bingaman, Lions
LB—Don Paul, Rams
LB—LaVern Torgerson, Lions
HB—Warren Lahr, Browns
HB—Tom Keane, Colts
S—Jerry Norton, Eagles
S—Emilen Tunnell, Giants

It wasn't even close at fullback. Of all 22 selections, Joe Perry was the only unanimous one. Testimonial finished.

Ford may be the greatest defensive end in the history of football, and certainly no one has ever rushed a passer with the wild abandon of Wild Man Willey.

To insiders, the best tackle in football is Kiesel, not as colorful as some of his contemporaries but 100 per cent effective. Now that he no longer has to go both ways, Nomellini exerts all his power to piling up blockers with his grappling paws.

Les Bingaman of the Lions has a 140-pound pull on the scales over Dodrill, but the Steeler mid-

deman has the mobility to go back and knock down passes or cover the flanks and the catlike quickness of a Bill Willis in his charge. His greater utility demands recognition.

ILLUSTRIOUS

Robinson and Zatkoff are the unusual strong men who've been buried by more illustrious companions. They're not spectacular in operation behind a line, but try getting around them.

The comebacks of 1954 are halfbacks Landry and Lane, the former relegated to playing coach in the belief he was slipping and the latter peddled by the Rams to the lowly Cards. Both had unusual success combating enemy passes.

What's better to have at safety than a couple of former track men, Dillon and Christiansen? Great recovery speed keeps them on top of the play all the time. Dillon is a marvel on pass defense despite the handicap of one glass eye, and Christiansen has superseded the Giants' Em Tunnell as the biggest punt return threat in football.

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Trabert, Seixas Tip Tennis Foes

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas sent the United States into a 2-0 lead over Sweden Thursday in the interzone final for the right to challenge Australia for the coveted Davis Cup—symbol of world tennis supremacy.

Two-headed Tony, his booming game drawing admiring applause from the packed stands of the Milton Courts, blasted Sven Davidson 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, while Seixas, the American champion, outbattled Lennart Bergelin, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Now Seixas and Trabert need only win the doubles Friday or two of the remaining singles tests on Saturday to take the best-of-five series and move on to the challenge round two weeks hence.

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Bobo Olson Defends Crown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Screams of anguish echoed from one sector of the French boxing front today but the fact remains that America's Carl (Bobo) Olson still holds a firm grip on the world middleweight championship.

Olson, 26, always a cruel but seldom a killing puncher, stopped Pierre Langlois, 29, of France last night after 58 seconds of the 11th round.

Slated for 15 rounds, the nationally televised attraction was halted by Referee Ray Flores because of the unsightly condition of Pierre's left brow and eyelid.

A noisy crowd of 16,543 at the Cow Palace paid a gross of \$107,000 which returned a net of \$89,308, after taxes.

UNMERCIFUL

Olson first ripped open the brow in the best round of the fight, the sixth, and gave it an unmerciful lashing in the torrid 10th.

Langlois, his chance of overtaking the front-punching Olson fast disappearing, came out for the 11th with the cut temporarily mended by his handlers.

It took Olson but a few seconds to start the blood pouring again, and that's when Flores stepped in. Dr. Robert Ladd, St. Louis Athletic Commission physician, examined the cut and advised that to let Langlois continue would be to risk serious eye injury.

There were some boos from the gallery, mainly because they hated to see a fight stopped.

Langlois' manager Jean Bretonnel and his voluble American representative George Kanter of New York were fuming.

Barely in the dressing room, Kanter, who speaks good French said in plain English:

"The public was cheated."

"Langlois was coasting in the 10th and 11th rounds in order to finish strong."

"The doctors and referees in California are lousy. In New York they are okay."

Kanter said Olson butted Pierre in the 10th round.

Informed of this, Olson retorted, "If anybody butted in the 10th round, it was Langlois when he weaved and shook his head in the corner."

Olson, shuffling, chopping in one round, standing off and slashing away from long range in another, was far in front at the finish.

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