

Running Game Better, Eagles Seek Top Spot

By RUSS GREEN
United Press Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (UP)—The Philadelphia Eagles' 1954 National Football League title hopes from in 36-degree weather at Cleveland Stadium last Nov. 21 when they couldn't score from the Browns' one-yard line with three minutes to go.

Cleveland's 6-0 victory in that bitterly-contested game marked the turning point in the Eastern Division race. It also emphasized the lack of running strength that has hampered the Eagles since they ruled the NFL in 1948 and 1949 on the ball-carrying of Steve Van Buren.

Philadelphia's sharp passing game and rugged defense has earned it second place or a tie for the runner-up spot behind the Browns for the last three years. But Coach Jim Trimble of the Eagles is tired playing second fiddle to Paul Brown's Browns.

Aid Trimble believes he has the answer this year in the running of rookie fullbacks Dick Bilecki and Ted Wesert plus more depth in most positions.

The exhibition results back Trimble's optimism. The Eagles were the only team in the 12-clubs league to compile a perfect record in the warm-ups, sweeping six games.

Bilecki, a 215 pounder from Maryland, was Philadelphia's first choice in the NFL draft last winter. Wesert, who came to the Eagles from the Navy, never went to college. Their running in the exhibition indicates the club may have the ball-carrying to balance one of the league's best 1-2 passing punches. Adrian Burk and Bobby Thomson are the Eagle quarterbacks and the club feels no other NFL team has two such capable throwers.

To further step up their scoring this year, the Eagles have adopted the "three-and offense" by slipping end Bobby Walford into a halfback spot. This gives Burk and Thomson another top-notch pass receiver in addition to the regular center, Pete Pihos, a master receiver, and Bill Strubling, picked up as a free agent from the New York Giants, probably will be the ends.

In Brief

TENNIS
LOS ANGELES — Australia's Lew Hoad led the way into the third round of the Pacific Southwest Tournament, defeating Earl Baumgartner Oakland, Calif., 6-4, 6-2.

GOLF
OKLAHOMA CITY—Mary Ann Downey, of Baltimore, posted a 2-over par 76 to take medalist honors in the women's Trans-Mississippi Tournament.

RACING
NEW YORK — Noorsaga (521-30) won the \$29,675 Cowdin Stakes after Basher Fantasy was disqualified at Aqueduct.

SALEM, N.H.—Apprentice jockey Dick Lidberg scored on both ends of the \$730.50 daily double at Rockingham Park. He rode Ace Bomb (961) in the first and Palos (\$9.60) in the second.

SAN MATEO, Calif. — Phil D. (\$24.10) took the top event at Bay Meadows.

Postponement Harms Arch Say Charles; Marciano May Retire

By ED CORRIGAN

NEW YORK (AP)—In the opinion of Edward Charles, an expert if ever there was one, the one-day postponement in the heavyweight championship bout between King Rocky Marciano and Archie Moore will hurt the challenger more.

"I think Moore will be the worried one," said Charles, who knocked Archie out once, then twice to Marciano. "He has more imagination than Rocky."

That's a new way of putting it.

There is considerable talk going around that if Marciano wins, he'll retire. One of his close advisers said he wants to quit, that he's tired of the rugged training and life of a hermit that he must live while preparing for a fight, and that he has half a million dollars in the bank.

With conservative investments, he'll get a return of about 15.000

a year for life, the adviser said. If Marciano decides to call it quits, the heavyweight division will be in sad shape. The only promising heavy is Floyd Patterson, the ex-Olympic champion, and he's a year or two away.

Hotel men and restaurateurs were the happiest men in town over the postponement. You couldn't get a closet in the metropolitan area and the eateries were jammed into the small hours this morning.

International Boxing Club President Jim Norris has his problems, too, consider:

"Four different guys called me insisting they get good seats because they were bringing the governor of New Jersey. If all of them are right, the Governor must want to be down."

As usual in title fights, the New York State Athletic Commission will waive its compulsory 14-count rule. Also, neither will be charged with defeat if he is knocked down three times in one round, another commission rule governing lesser fights. The referee is absolute dictator. Even the commission physician cannot order the bout stopped. He can advise the referee—and only when asked.

"Rocky's not going to get cut up like in the Charles fight," proclaimed Manager Al Weill. "That was a lucky one. I even asked Charles if he'd be willing to see Rocky if he was just one of those freak things. When did you ever see a fighter get a cut alongside the nose like that one? Moore may punch us for three or four rounds, but we'll catch up with him."

Moore had his usual gem when

asked how the postponement would affect him.

"One day is a little piece of 20 years," he commented, apparently referring to the length of time he has spent in the ring.



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Dykes Favored To Whip Johnson

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (UP)—Lanky Bobby Dykes, the sixth-ranked middleweight contender, is a 2-1 favorite over George Johnson in tonight's 10-round bout that national home television fans will view instead of the Rocky Marciano-Archie Moore bout.

At stake for the skinny Dykes, of Miami, was a possible non-title bout with middleweight champion Carl (Bobo) Olson.

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