

Automatic Otto

Graham, Browns' Key

By JIMMY BRESLIN
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK — (NEA) — It's an old thing for Otto Graham, this business of playing a game for the championship of professional football. Automatic Otto, 36, the remarkable Cleveland Browns quarterback is called, has been the big item in the last five National Football League championship games.

If you rush Otto, get his throwing touch off its usual feathery, straight-to-the-target style, you'll have a solid chance to beat the Browns.

The situation is unchanged this season, as the Los Angeles Rams and the Browns meet for the league championship, December 26, at Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles. Otto is 34 now, and it's "positively" his last season. But he's still the man to beat.

This is the sixth time the Browns have been in the big one. And it is the third time they've faced the Rams. In 1950, Lou Groza's toe was the difference in Cleveland's 30-28 victory. The next season, the Rams turned back Cleveland, 24-17.

Since then, the Browns have tangled with the Detroit Lions three times, losing two in a row until they broke out with a 56-10 runaway last season.

NOTHING NEW

It appears, then, that there is

nothing really new to say about the Browns and the Rams in a playoff game. That is, until you get to a fellow by the name of Sid Gillman.

This is Gillman's first year as a professional football coach, and he made it a good one with Los Angeles. Brought up after a couple of big years at Cincinnati, Gillman applied a thorough and painstaking touch to the business of running 33 huge and mobile guys who play football for a living.

His efforts resulted in a consistent performance by the Rams. They never lost two in a row and always came back strong after a loss. On Oct. 30, for example, they were beaten by the Chicago Bears, 31-20. The next week, the Rams defeated San Francisco and were back in stride. It was that way from the start.

He got plenty of mileage out of Ronnie Waller, the rookie halfback from Maryland. Then there is Norm Van Brocklin, the sixth best passer in the league and the best punter. Tommy Fears, the sure-handed veteran end, was fifth in receiving. And Tank Younger came along hard at the end.

BROWN'S STYLE

There is a touch of newness, too, to the Browns' style. Paul Brown's club used to give you an overdose of Graham's tosses. As an offshoot of the passing game,

big Marion Motley would go up the middle on a trap play. But Otto's automatic tosses and Lou Groza's field goal kicking were the main weapons.

But this season Brown has gone to the ground. He turned Curly Morrison, the ex-Ohio Stater, from a fullback to a halfback. And Morrison, who was 25th in rushing a year ago, picked up 624 yards this season to rank third. Ed Modzelewski, obtained from Pittsburgh in a typical Brown trade, busted through for 619 yards from the fullback spot. Even Graham began to carry the ball more often, logging it 69 times.

If a winner had to be picked, you'd have to go with Graham and the Browns. Otto's most valuable asset is his absolute refusal to fluster under fire.

You get an idea of this when you note that the Browns failed to place a single pass receiver among the league's top 10. Under Paul Brown's pass patterns, five receivers move downfield. It's up to Otto to pick the right one. He has no steady favorite. He takes his time and gets the right man.

A national television audience, plus an expected 100,000 in the stands fans will see the game. It figures to mean close to \$3,000 per man for the winners.

With that kind of money, they'll play a notch better than for keeps.

Ronnie Knox Takes Part In UCLA Drill

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — It begins to look as though UCLA halfback Ronnie Knox is going to fool everybody and be fit and ready when the Bruins take the field Jan. 2 in the Rose Bowl against Michigan State.

Knox, the team's best passer and punter, took part in Thursday's workout, throwing, running and cutting back on the right ankle that was fractured Nov. 15 in the Washington game. He connected with 14 passes before one was dropped, but was not being rushed.

Dr. Walter Scott, his physician, came out to the practice field to observe the youngster. He saw him get away 20 yards, the first kicking Knox has done since the injury. Ron's average was almost 40 yards a kick, but he wasn't giving the ball everything he had.

Dr. Scott said final X-rays will be taken Saturday, and at that time he can say definitely just what Knox can do.

Coach Red Sanders was in good spirits after the workout and pleased with the progress Knox has made. But he said he may change his mind about no more scrimmages.

"I may have one more, just to get the squad in the pink," Sanders said. He said the scrimmage might be held Saturday or next Monday or Tuesday.

Michigan State, paired back to one-a-day workouts with the only morning chore for the players the welcome one of looking over movie starlets during a Hollywood studio tour. A light afternoon session was scheduled.

Coach Duffy Daugherty said his scrimmage Thursday would be the last for Michigan State.

ICE SHOW SET

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Van, Graham Important To Rams, Browns

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Cleveland Browns-Los Angeles Rams professional championship game on Monday could well be another explosive affair, with it up to quarterbacks, Otto Graham of the champion Browns and Norm Van Brocklin of the Rams, to set off the fireworks.

The Cleveland struggle in the cold at Cleveland in 1950 was a thriller, although it was Bob Waterfield steering the Rams that year, and the 1951 return match for the title here was another dilly.

Lou Groza and his gold-plated toe decided the matter in the final 28 seconds of the 1950 battle, his field goal giving the Browns a 30-28 decision.

But it was Graham and his passing and running who led the charge upfield to give Groza his opportunity.

In 1951, taking over for Waterfield, Van Brocklin killed Graham and the Browns with less than eight minutes to play when he sailed a long pass to one of his ace receivers, Tom Fears, and the 73-yard scoring play brought the Rams in to win, 24-17.

Many of the old and several new stars will be on deck Monday at Memorial Coliseum to renew the title feud, with Graham bidding football goodbye and Van Brocklin undoubtedly hoping Herr Otto makes this retirement stick.

Van Brocklin, the flying Dutchman from Oregon, is strictly a passer. Graham is deadly in both passing and running. So statistical comparisons mean little. In addition, Van Brocklin played most of this season with an injured throwing hand which hampered him considerably.

For the record, however, Graham this season completed 98 out of 185 throws for 1,721 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Van Brocklin completed 144 out of 262 for 1,890 yards and eight touchdowns.

Jumping tryouts were tentatively scheduled for Friday.

St. Mary's Wins

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland University came from far behind to put Thursday night's game with St. Mary's into overtime but ran out of steam and bowed, 70-68, to the touring Californians.

Portland chipped away at the 18-point lead St. Mary's held in the first half and tied the game, 61-61, at the end of regulation time. Mike Wadsworth's push shot put St. Mary's ahead, 69-68 with 1:27 minutes to go in overtime and the visitors clinched the game 30 seconds later on Bill Sanchez' free throw. Sanchez was high scorer with 21 points.

SIX GAMES OVER 200

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jimmy Gray of Cincinnati rolled one of the highest six-game totals in ABC sanctioned play when he totaled 124 pins in the Greater Cincinnati match game tournament. He averaged 237 on games of 302, 237, 225, 257, 278 and 225.

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In Brief

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
OLYMPIC

CORTINA d'Ampezzo, Italy — Argentina withdrew from the Winter Olympic Games because of financial difficulties.

BASEBALL

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Douglas A. Molony of New Orleans was named assistant to Pirate general manager Joe L. Brown.

PHILADELPHIA — Connie Mack celebrated his 83rd birthday one day early.

RACING

MIAMI — Helfast (\$27,600) beat the favored Remand by 2 lengths in the Delano Purse at Tropical Park.

NEW ORLEANS — Adams Off Ox (\$8) won by a head over Leeban Lad in the Mistletoe Handicap at Fair Grounds.

Auburn Led By Bowl Vets

AUBURN, Ala. (UP) — Football fans at Jacksonville, Fla., on Dec. 31 will see five familiar figures on the gridiron when Auburn and Vanderbilt get the 11th annual Gator Bowl underway.

They are Auburn seniors who no doubt will set some kind of record by starting their third Gator Bowl game.

There are two backs and three linemen in the group, and together they have led Auburn from football obscurity in 1952, when the Plainsmen lost eight and won two, to three successful seasons resulting in the three Gator Bowl appearances.

Heading the list is fullback Joe Childress, a line-bunger who demolished Baylor in last year's Gator Bowl by gaining 134 yards, scoring two touchdowns and kicking three points after touchdowns.

JAMES SLOW

The other veteran back is fancy Fob James Jr., a halfback who has the ability to stop and start quickly which more than makes up for a slight deficiency of speed. James scored four times this season on dashes of more than 60 yards, and he promises to be Auburn's closest approach to Vandy's great runner, Charlie Horton.

The other seniors, tackles Frank D'Agostino and M. L. Brackett, and center Bob Scarborough will anchor the Auburn line.

The Plainsmen used a varied offense to win eight games this year — losing only to Tulane and Kentucky. Childress and James carried the brunt of the ground attack for Auburn.

Two youngsters were the key to the Auburn passing attack. Quarterback Millard Howell, Tubbs, named for Millard (Dixie) Howell who was famed at Alabama as the man who threw the ball to Don Hutson, was one of the most improved passers in the Southeastern Conference this season.

PHILLIPS RECEIVING

On the receiving end of many of Tubbs' tosses was sophomore end Jimmy Phillips, a big, fast youth who may develop into one of Auburn's great football players before his college career closes.

The Plainsmen have gotten down to the grind of pre-bowl practice in good spirits and in good physical condition.

Coach Ralph (Shug) Jordan warned his squad that in the Commodore's must be ready to face a hungry team that was knocked out of the Sugar Bowl by a last-game loss to traditional rival Tennessee.

Auburn made its first Gator bowl by Auburn date back into the 30's. In 1937, the Plainsmen tied Villanova 7-7 in the Cuban National Sports Festival (the Rumba Bowl) in Havana, and in 1938 they beat Michigan State 6-0 in the Orange Bowl.

THURSDAY'S FIGHT

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Ex-zard Charles, 194, Cincinnati, outpointed Bob Albright, 218, Los Angeles, 10.

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Henry (Pappy) Gault, 117, Spartanburg outpointed Johnny O'Brien, 117, Boston, 15, (for U.S. bantamweight title).

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Horse Naming Big Sport

By OSCAR FRALEY

United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Jockey Club today is considering the names of the two-year-old thoroughbreds on which you'll be betting your dough next year and the award for originality again must go to Alfred G. Vanderbilt.

To most improvers of the breed this is an annual chore because, my dear, there are so many limitations. But A.G., who does on big game hunting even when the deep freeze is crammed full, accepts it as another challenge.

So, once again, he's come up with a bunch of good ones.

It's not easy, Elhelburt. The Jockey Club is both didactic and dogmatic. You can't use a name which has been registered in the past 15 years. You must restrain yourself to 14 letters, including spaces and with no more than three words.

You can't name a horse after an illustrious person, such as, say, George Washington, nor after a notorious person such as, say, Jesse James. And, if the person is alive, you must have his written consent, providing that he is socially acceptable to horses.

The result is that nine out of 10 suggested names are rejected by the horsey hierarchy.

Some callous soul always is trying to work in the name of a trade product or steal the halcyon of a racing name of a racing immortal, which to the Jockey Club is akin to wearing an orange tie at a Killarney fair.

But they never stop Vanderbilt. He takes the names of the aires and dams and sends a questionnaire to his friends. The results are downright gratifying. As example, his suggested names this year include:

Big Hello, out of the mare "Hy." Eyes Right, by General Staff Front Pew, by Occupy and Good Example.

Romantic Link, out of Slave Breasted.

Sad Awakening, by Loser Weeper.

Salad Days, out of Buffet Supper.

Shill Shock, out of War Jitters.

Thicket, by Count Speed and Not That.

A.G. also is a tongue-in-cheek soul who likes to slip a ruse once past the stiff-lipped Jockey Club if he can manage it. So, this year, his little tricksters include:

Homework, by Discovery and Kitchen Maid.

Age of Consent, by My Request and Novice.

Stout Fellow, by Occupy and Plucky Maid.

But none of these live up to his all-time best, one which indicates that the members of the Jockey Club aren't adverse to a little joke now and then, either.

That one still takes the cantering cake. It was:

Social Outcast, by Shut Out and Pansy.

Quite a fellow, that A.G.

Clinic Planned

For Youngsters

The annual holiday basketball clinic for boys ages 12 through 15 will be held at Mills school 9:30 to 12 a.m. Tuesday, December 27, through Friday, December 30, according to Bob Bonney, city recreation director.

In conjunction with the clinic, a free throw contest for boys of each age within the group will be held. The clinic will consist of fundamentals in basketball skills with informal team play held daily.

Don Megale, Chuck Quinowski, Sam Redkey and Roy Harris will conduct the program.

Boys participating are requested to bring their own gym shoes and towel.

The Duke University football team of 1938 was not scored against in regular season play. But the Blue Devils lost the Rose Bowl game to the University of Southern California, 7-3 on a pass in the final 40 seconds.

Sports World Shorts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lloyd Mangrum who won the Los Angeles Open golf tournament in 1949, 1951 and 1953, has decided to enter this year's \$32,500 event, Jan. 5-9, because of his satisfactory recovery from a rib injury. Mangrum resumed competitive play about a month ago.

NEW YORK (UP) — Yama Bahama of Miami, Fla., winner of his last 18 bouts, has been signed to meet Paola Melis of Montreal in next Monday's TV-radio fight at St. Nicholas Arena in place of Chico Velaz, Velaz pulled out of the fight because of an ailing back and faces a possible 90 day suspension because examining physicians could find nothing wrong.

PITTSBURGH (UP) — Douglas A. Molony of New Orleans, a member of the Louisiana State Bar Assn. and a former ticket agent for the Southern Assn. has been named assistant to Pittsburgh Pirates General Manager Joe L. Brown. Molony also served as traveling secretary, secretary-treasurer and business manager of the Pelicans. He is 28 years old.

HALLANDALE, Fla. (UP) — Willie Hartack, the nation's leading rider who on Wednesday hung up his tack for 1955 with 412 victories, and Frank H. Merrill, Jr., the top trainer of the year, will be honored guests at a "Dinner of Champions" on Wednesday, Dec. 28. Both will be presented with appropriate trophies by James Dunn, president of Gulfstream Park.

LOS ANGELES (UP) — Veeran official Ronald Gibbs of St. Thomas (Minn.) has been named referee for the National Football League championship game Monday between the Cleveland Browns and Los Angeles Rams. Other officials named by Commissioner Bert Bell include Umpire, Samuel Wilcox of Lehigh; head linesman, Dan Tegen of Xavier; back judge, Tay Brown of Southern California; and field judge, William McHugh of DePaul.

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Players from the North and the South began tapering off in training Friday for their annual meeting in the Shrine's all-star charity football game in the Orange Bowl Monday night.

Both squads planned to work on defense to counteract expected passing attacks. Saturday's light practice will conclude preparations for the game.

Three Army players arrived from West Point early Thursday and brought smiles to North Coaches Bernie Crimmins of Indiana and Art Lewis of West Virginia. Don Hollender, Pat Uebel and Ralph Chesnauskas were the late arrivals.

Hollender will be facing his rival of a year ago—Ron Beagle of Navy. Hollender will play right end for the Yankees and Beagle will start at left end for the Rebels.

A new women's bowling record was set in Hawaii when a five-woman team rolled 1037. Lilly Kinzie had 229, Lillian Sato 213, Frances Klein 207, Mildred Omura 206 and Dot Andrade 182.

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MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Pimi Barajas, 116, Tijuana, outpointed Joe Benson, 118, Columbus, Ohio, 10. Reuben Smith, 130, Los Angeles, stopped Cleo Lane, 128, Columbus, Ohio, 8.

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Buckeyes Top UW, Freeman Tallies 34

By JOHN GRIFFIN

United Press Sports Writer

Ohio State's Robin Freeman, once again the "biggest little man" in college basketball, took another long stride today on the road that leads back from bitter disappointment to a possible national scoring championship.

The five-foot, 11-inch Buckeye, who took over this week as the country's top scorer, added another 34 points to his total Thursday night as he paced Ohio State to an impressive 94-73 victory over touring Washington.

That hit his best-in-the-nation average of 34.5 points per game almost on the nose and was added evidence that this year the little senior from Cincinnati intends to go all the way in the point race.

Last year Freeman was the No. 1 scorer in the country for the first five weeks of the season. Then