



RELAXING with his foster brother Aaron Lugo, Klamath's All-American John Witte looks through a high school year book remembering his prep days at KUHS. The Oregon State football star is home for the holidays.



WASHING dishes took up some of the vacation time of Witte, as here he makes up for lost time by discussing past events with his mother, Mrs. John E. Witte. Joining in the conversation is Roberta Lugo, center, one of John's foster sisters.



FOOTBALL and Christmas tree decorating was the topic of conversation as John and his father, John E. Witte, right, put the finishing touches on the family tree at their home on the Lakeview Highway. In the background is a team picture of the 1952 OSC grid club.



AUTOGRAPH time drew the INS All-American together with two Klamath Junior High students as Dennis Johnson, left, and Bobby Thompson, right, gather with a football here for a few minutes. Carolyn Lugo, Witte's other foster sister, listens in front of the trio.

Klamath All-American Home For Christmas Vacation

John Witte Spending Holidays With Family

By CLAYTON HANNON

How does it feel to be an All-American?

"Wonderful, unbelievable," says John Witte, Klamath Falls' contribution to the world of football standouts.

Witte, Oregon State College's 210-pound All-American tackle, is home for the Christmas vacation, and to reminisce the past football season with his family and friends. And what a bag load of events the 1951 Klamath Union High School graduate has to look back upon.

The first team All-American selection of Witte by the International News Service last month climaxed a life-long dream. "I just couldn't believe it," said Witte while relaxing at the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Witte on the Lakeview Highway.

"When they (the INS) telephoned me the day after Thanksgiving, it was something out of this world. It has been something I have always thought of, but never planned on receiving."

The modest Oregon State junior first started on the road to football fame in the seventh grade at Allamont Junior High School in 1945 under the coaching of A. C. Olson, who was also principal at that time. Olson is presently the principal at Twyla Ferguson school. In 1945 and 1946, John was tabbed as a future high school star while wearing the Allamont colors, and the talk was correct.

In his first year at KUHS, Witte played under the coaching of Charles McLinn and Paul McCall where he again was touted for a bright football future. His sophomore year, John earned the first of three varsity football letters at Klamath Union under head coach Bob Henderson and his assistants Len Surles and Dwight French.

CLASSIC Witte's high school gridiron career closed in 1951 at Portland when John and teammate Bill Toole starred for the "Upstarters" in the Shrine football classic. Witte was selected the game's outstanding lineman and Toole the top back. Again local boosters predicted John would garner still more honors in college, but few realized just how correct they were at that time.

After three years at OSC, and two in the service on Uncle Sam's team, Witte has climbed to the top of the college football ranks as an All-American, the very first such award ever to be bestowed upon a Klamath Basin athlete.

In 1951 and 1952, Witte lettered for the Orange under Kip Taylor, then he volunteered to serve his military hitch. While at Fort Ord and Fort Richardson (Alaska), John found time to continue his first love, football.

At Fort Richardson, John was a member of the team that finished the season with an 8-1 record. A teammate of Witte's was Dave Mann, ex-OSC star, and now with the Chicago Cardinals.

There were doubts in John's mind when he returned to Oregon State this past year if he would be able to "cut the mustard." Needless to say, the doubts were unfounded. Not only did Witte prove to himself he could still walk with the best, but he convinced football fans all over the nation he was the same old "Battling Beaver" that carried the OSC standards before his service stretch.

This past year, John has been honored by many sources other than a INS first team All-American title. The Associated Press tabbed John for a third team A-A vote, which in itself is a good sized recognition. The AP, INS and United Press all tabbed John for All-Coast recognition. Yet, the only weekly Negro magazine in the country, placed the Oregon State tackle on their first team All-America along with such stars as "Hopalong" Cassidy and Bob Pelagari.

The OSC team members and coaching staff awarded John the Outstanding Lineman trophy, and the ex-KU athlete was named to seven of the eight Pacific Coast Conference All-Opponent teams—UCLA, California, Oregon, Washington, USC, Idaho and Stanford—the only one Witte missed was USC, and the reason was probably that the Trojans and Beavers didn't meet on the gridiron.

DRAFTED John, a recreation education major, was drafted last January by the Los Angeles Rams of the NFL, and he indicated he will try his hand at pro football after graduation. With size and speed, Witte would make the Rams a good man to have around.

UCLA is the top team that Oregon State met this year, according to Witte, while Stanford's Bill Tarr is the leading backfield man. Eved Robinson of Washington is the best lineman in John's book. Gil Moreno of UCLA and Oregon's hardluck halfback, Dick James, also rank high in the mind of the Klamath Falls gridder.

Wrestling is now the center of attraction for the football A-A, as he also seeks to work his way to the top of the AAU grappling picture. As a freshman matman, "Big John" finished second in the Intercollegiate wrestling program. In high school John won three state championships for Dutch Simmons at Klamath Union.

There is a possibility that Witte may earn a spot on the United States Olympic grappling team for next year's Olympics but would have to lay out football if he did. If this would be so, what would John do? We asked him this question which stopped the big tackle longer than any opposing footballer has this past year. According to John he hadn't given the idea much thought. "We'll have to wait and see what the future brings," was Witte's reply after long deliberation.

Basketball SCORES

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY GAMES
Paris Island (N.C.) Christmas tourney:

Elon 100, Pfeiffer (N.C.) 77 (championship);
Paris Island Marines 78, Georgetown (Ky.) 75 (for 2nd);
East Carolina 83, High Point 53 (for 5th);
Erskine 77, Piedmont 69 (for 7th).

OTHER GAMES
San Francisco 61, Loyola (La.) 43
Spring Hill (Ala.) 63, Washington State 60

MIDWEST
Iowa State 87, Vanderbilt 76
Illinois 82, Oklahoma 58
Michigan State 72, Wyoming 62
Oklahoma A&M 70, Baylor 51
Washington (St. Louis) 55, Cornell 50

SOUTHWEST
Oklahoma City 64, Texas Christian 54

FAR WEST
Montana 60, Whitworth 46

EAST
St. Francis (Brooklyn) 87, Queens (N.Y.) 63

Oregon Prep Basketball
Boise (Idaho) 48, Baker 40
Milwaukie 68, Oregon City 30
McMinnville 45, Albany 43
Tillamook 53, Toledo 38
Siletz 43, Tillamook Catholic 25
North Salem 73, Hudsons Bay (Vancouver, Wash.) 32
Dallas 56, Forest Grove 43
Monmouth-Independence 40, Stayton 40
Maupin 49, Arlington 41
Seaside 61, Rainier 53
Clatskanie 68, Nehalem 60
Pacific University Tournament (Vancouver, Wash.) 32
West Linn 42, Newberg 27
Milton-Freemwater 46, St. Helens 38 (championship)

SNAPSHOT
Knappa 50, Warrenton 32
Banks 45, Sherwood 44

SATURDAY GAME
California 78, Dartmouth 59

MSC Students Plan Mass Move

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP)—When some 2,700 Michigan State University students take off Monday for the Rose Bowl festivities in California, it will be the largest peace-time, non-military point-to-point mass movement by train in history.

So say representatives of 11 major railroads who pooled equipment to provide modern, light-weight cars for the six student special trains.

Another 1,800 students will travel by plane and auto to Pasadena to watch the Spartan football team play UCLA on Jan. 2.

Gal Golfers Selected Top NW Sports Story

By JACK HEWINS
Associated Press Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP)—The Pacific Northwest's golfing gals rate No. 1 on the Sports Story Parade for 1955.

Were you on hand when Miss Lesser in the major amateur tourneys eyes would deserve top ranking, but the region's feminine divo-makers made a team bid for the nation's golf crowns and as a team they deserve recognition.

There were many other headline events in many other sports, and a few momentous, unforgettable thrills.

Remember the flip of the Slo-Mo-Shun V?

Were you on hand when Washington touched a match to that 80-yard touchdown fuse that blew up the myth of Southern California football power?

Were you holding your breath at Corvallis last spring as Oregon State barely failed in the final seconds to catch the University of San Francisco, eventual national collegiate basketball champions?

Numerous sports events, both scheduled and unexpected, turned the national spotlight on the Pacific Northwest. Not always were its reflections pleasant. The "rebellion" (or choose your own word) of football players at the University of Washington made big news but made nobody happy.

AERIAL LOOP
The Gold Cup race again packed the shores of Lake Washington with a quarter-million people and provided a double climax, both scheduled and unexpected, turned the national spotlight on the Pacific Northwest. Not always were its reflections pleasant. The "rebellion" (or choose your own word) of football players at the University of Washington made big news but made nobody happy.

The second was the winning of the cup by the Gale V of Detroit, which failed to win a heat but took the trophy on the basis of the best total time. Most of the crowd went home believing Miss Thriftway, by winning two of the three heats, had won the race.

And the whole country chuckled sympathetically when a hardy fan bought the only ticket sold at the gate for the Washington State-San Jose State "ice bowl" football game.

But none of the news rates above the stories on the golfing gals. These personality kids picked off four national titles, half of them going to Princess Pat, Seattle's design.

The largest craft to be displayed at the New York motor boat show Jan. 13-22 will be a 61-foot luxury promenade deck motor record.

sweet swinger won the Women's Western Amateur and followed up with the women's National Amateur championship.

REGARDED Earlier in the year Miss Lesser had retained the South Atlantic crown and won the Helen Lee Doherty tourney, often regarded as the feminine equivalent of the Master's.

Carole Jo Kabler of Roseburg, Ore., won the National Junior Girls golf title, defeating another member of the Northwest "team" in the finals—Joanne Gunderson of Seattle. Joanne took the Western Junior crown and her opponent in the finals was Anne Quast of Marysville.

The fourth member of the team—Ruthie Jensen of Seattle—won the Pacific Northwest Amateur and Miss Quast won the Washington State Women's and Junior Girls championships.

Another Seattle youngster jumped—literally—into national prominence when Ragnar Ulland made the United States Olympic ski jumping team. Three national ski meets were held in the Northwest mountains: the national jumps at Leavenworth, the giant slalom at Stevens Pass and the cross country at Willamette Pass.

The best of the rest, listed by sports:

RUNNERS-UP Baseball: Northwest League succeeds defunct Western International, mostly under home town ownership. Seattle Rainiers win Coast League pennant, then lose Mgr. Freddie Hutchinson to St. Louis Cardinals. Softball Pitcher Bobby Pessler hit hard in hardball debut with Rainiers. Cheney Studs runners-up in national amateur baseball. Portland Beavers announce plans to move into Multnomah Stadium.

Boxing: Pat McMurry of Tacoma recognized as one of nation's most promising heavyweights but shelved by broken hand. Bobby Woods fights two champions within three weeks at Spokane, dropping decisions to Sandy Saddler (in December, 1954) and Jimmy Carter.

Speedboats: Ted Jones, "forgotten man" of boat racing, recognized as genius of design when Miss Thriftway wins two Gold Cup heats. Every boat in the race patterned on Jones' Slo-Mo-Shun design.

Basketball: Elgin Baylor, Northwest's leading scorer with College of Idaho, transfer to Seattle University Swede Halbrook quits Oregon State. Phil Jordan leaves Whitworth but team wins Evergreen Conference title.

BOWLING

MOOSE PA'S LEAGUE

Merrill Moose	W 1
O'Hair's Chapel	40 20
Johnny's Tavern	35 25
Klamath Printing	30 30
Lucky Lanes	21 39
C. P. & W. W. Ward	18 42

Last night's results:
O'Hair's 1 Klamath Printing 3
Lucky Lanes 4 C. P. & W. W. Ward 6
High team game — Johnny's Tavern 82
High individual game — Merrill Moose 276

High team series — Merrill Moose 2766
High individual series — Charley Brightman 613

JUNIOR GIRLS LEAGUE

Fumbling Five	W 1
Smudge Pots	10 6
Cyclone Champs	9 7
Bowling Tornados	8 8
Alley Cats	7 9
Misses From Mars	4 12

Last night's results:
Smudge Pots 2 Misses From Mars 0
Alley Cats 0 Cyclone Champs 2
Fumbling Five 1 Bowling Tornados 1

High team game — Fumbling Five 728
High team series — Fumbling Five 1410
High individual game — Sandra Dexter 141

High individual series — Sandra Dexter 237

JUNIOR BOYS LEAGUE

Gutter Boys	W 1
Hot Shots	19 5
Hot Shots	16 8
Hot Shots	9 15
Hot Shots	4 20

Last night's results:
Gutter Boys 3 Short Sports 0
Hot Shots 3 Mustangs 0

High team game — Gutter Boys 246
High team series — Gutter Boys 1628
High individual game — Keith Baxter 142

High individual series — Keith Baxter 271

HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Strikers	W 1
Big Five	8 3
Hot Shots	16 8
Sixth Street Wreckers	5 4
Pin Cats	3 7
Hot Shots	3 7
Wild Cats	0 6
Grubbers	0 3
Pin Busters	0 0

Last night's results:
Pin Busters 1 Pin Cats 0
Sixth Street 2 Beavers 1
Big Five 1 Strikers 2

High team game — Strikers 221
High team series — Strikers 1773
High individual game — Gordon Sellers 140

High individual series — Gordon Sellers 308

Browns Favored Over Rams In NFL Playoff

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24 (AP)—The defending champion Cleveland Browns arrive on the battle scene Saturday, very definitely set on defeating the Los Angeles Rams and capturing the National Football League crown for the third time for their coach, Paul (The Master) Brown.

The experts say the Browns will succeed in the nationally televised game in Memorial Coliseum Monday. The feat, if achieved, will serve as a handsome Christmas present for the coach and a fitting going-away gift for the top field general in professional football, quarterback Otto Graham.

Ram fans could look back to 1961, however, when this same Graham, who will be playing his last game, and such grid gladiators as Lou Groza, the kicking specialist; Dante Lavelli, Len Ford, Abe Gibron and other Cleveland veterans, came here favored to lasso the Rams for the championship.

They failed. The Ram field marshal, Norman Van Brocklin, and his left end, Tommy Fears, crushed their hopes with a 73-yard touchdown pass play that won the game in the final quarter, 24-17. Game time: 1 p.m. PST.

Bobo Olson a few weeks back, Sugar Ray grew sweet in the hearts of boxing fans all over the nation. He did what others couldn't... COMEBACK.

Bill Vukovich's flaming death on the Indianapolis Speedway and the Nashua-Swaps match race were neck and neck for our third ranked sports story, but the tragedy won out. "Vuky's" death cut short a bid for an unprecedented third "500" victory. And to top off the fickle finger of fate's blow to the racing world, Vukovich was leading when the accident occurred. Nashua showed Swaps what the bottoms of horseshoes look like as Willie Shoemaker pushed the Belair Stud entry all the way in the \$10,000 match race.

Jack Fleck's Open win was a Horatio Alger tale come true. Fleck came in as a nobody and left a shalldom's king among kings. Bantam Ben Hogan's legs were just a game too rubbery when he and Fleck went into a playoff after the game veteran made a tremendous late rally to tie the unknown on the final three holes. It might have been just another fight for Rocky Marciano, but for Archie Moore it was a life-long dream. But just like Marciano's other 47 opponents, again Archie soon woke up. By stepping Moore with his axe-hand methods, Marciano punched his way into the open with no logical contenders.

Tabors' mile run of 3:59 was rare, but the fact that two other tracksters also ran under the four-minute barrier in the same race is even more interesting. The \$1,251,000 sale of Nashua was news because it marked a new high for a horse sale. Many will argue the value of Nashua, but the Horse of the Year will be remembered in time to come. The Aussies made a shambles of the Davis Cup play last August, in a year that the U.S. team of Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas was supposed to come through with flying colors.

The tenth place deadlock was another tough selection since Campbell's record breaking 218 mph over Lake Meade to establish a new world speedboat mark turned in another "impossible" performance. Few people ever thought the 200 mile mark on water was possible, yet Campbell's Bluebird skiffed along the water 16 miles better. Williams' return to the Boston Red Sox made the American League race a dandy. It is hard to say just where the Sox would have finished if Thumping Ted hadn't been around.

A happy and prosperous new year to all of our readers, and here's hoping that the year 1956 brings bigger and better sporting events to you, if 1955 can be surpassed.

Greetings to All
It is the season to be jolly, and happy are we to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.
Mr. & Mrs. Smith
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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
May the spirit of this joyous season remain with you always...
May We Take This Means of Saying "THANK YOU" For Your Patronage This Year
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