

# Owls' Hooper Lands First Team All-Northwest Berth

By JACK HEWINS  
Associated Press Sports Writer

A self-taught lineman who learned his lessons well enough to pass the Little All America test anchors the Little All Northwest football team for 1958.

He is Bill Long, 215-pound center of a Willamette team considered by many to be the best in the history of the region's oldest university. The Bearcats landed two other berths on the 1958 team, placing Stan Solomon at halfback and Gary Raid at tackle.

With Corky Bridges at halfback and Larry Maguire at tackle, Central Washington was the only other Northwest team to earn more than one spot.

Jerry Hillis of Whitman and Norman Hooper of Oregon Tech are the ends, Ed Melbourne of Western Washington and Pacific's animated line plug, Tommy Thompson of Oregon College of Education, are the guards; Jim Bowen of Oregon College of Education is the quarterback; Don Vassos of British Columbia completes the backfield.

## PRIZE PRODUCT

Long is a prize product of what the coaches like to call "desire." The 1958 Little All America center played very little football in high school at Myrtle Point, Ore. The first summer he was home from Willamette he built his own charging sled and wore out a pair of shoulder pads perfecting his charge technique. Bill also is an honor student and activities leader.

He and Raid, a 255-pound steamroller, gave Willamette the most fearsome offensive punch of any small college in the West.

There is nothing small about the All Northwest team for 1958. Hillis, at 180, is the only lineman under 200 pounds. Hooper hits 210, Melbourne 230, Thompson 215 although he stands only 5-feet-9. Larry Maguire, third-team Little All America tackle this year, is another 215-pounder.

Donald "Corky" Bridges, at 190, is the biggest back and compiled one of the nation's most impressive records. He was all-everything in the Evergreen Conference, leading in total offense, rushing, scoring and punting. Corky also is the only 1957 Little All Northwest player to repeat in '58.

Vassos, at 175, was one of the leading ground gainers in the Evergreen loop and an outstanding passer. He was called "The King"—is one of the finest broken field runners the region has ever seen. Bowen earned accolades as the area's finest quarterback. A slender 155-pounder, he passes with startling accuracy and is a strong runner despite his lack of weight.

## HOME GROWN

Vassos and Bowen hail from Canada and Solomon from Hawaii. The rest of the first-team lineup is home grown. Youth threatened to take over the entire roster, with five sophomores on the team. Five others are seniors, one is a junior.

Selecting the best 11 from the nominations of the Northwest regional Little All America Board was no simple task. A crop of excellent guards and tackles was available and, as always, there

was a multitude of top-notch backs.

Board members cooperating were Carl Cluff, Oregon Journal; Pat Frizzell, Portland Oregonian; Leo Handley, Ellensburg Record; Clayton Hannos, Klamath Falls Herald & News; Earl Leubker and Ed Honeywell, Tacoma News-Tribune; Wallie Lindsey, Bellingham Herald; Sherm Mitchell, Jr., Walla Walla Union-Bulletin; Bob Schwartz, Salem Statesman; and Jim Spoerhase, Spokane Chronicle.

The 1958 Little All Northwest lineup:

## FIRST TEAM

End — Jerry Hillis, Whitman, 180, sophomore; Edmonds, Wash.

End — Norman Hooper, Oregon Tech, 210, sophomore; Eagle Point, Ore.

Tackle — Larry Maguire, Central Washington, 215, senior; Chelan, Wash.

Tackle — Gary Raid, Willamette, 255, senior; Woodburn, Ore.

Guard — Ed Melbourne, Western Washington, 230, senior; Seattle.

Guard — Tom Thompson, Pacific 215, senior; Springfield, Ore.

Center — Bill Long, Willamette, 215, senior; Myrtle Point, Ore.

Quarterback — Jim Bowen, Oregon College of Education, 155, sophomore; Calgary, Alta.

Back — Donald "Corky" Bridges, Central Washington, 190, senior; Raymond, Wash.

Back — Stan Solomon, Willamette, 158, sophomore; Honolulu.

Back — Don Vassos, British Columbia, 175, junior; Melville, Sask.

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