

# Muscle Men Awe Coaches, So Pro Games Look Alike

By MURRAY OLDERMAN  
 NEW YORK (NEA)—The pro coaches are getting so impressed with the muscle men they hire that they stand in danger of letting their game sink into an abyss of sameness.

Almost every team, and that goes for both the National and American Football Leagues, employs the same basic offense, with a tight end, a split end or a flanker back. They all go into the four-man line, with three backs tight and a four-man secondary in an umbrella.

Wasn't it Clemson's Frank Howard who asked Hank Stram, after he was hired to coach the Dallas Texans, "Was it written in your contract, Hank, that you have to use a four-man line?"

The defense mechanism every coach has built into his self-conscious radar goes something like this: "Well, you know you can't run against those big guys, so you got to throw, with trap plays for balance. And we figured out that four big guys up front can do the same job as five or six."

The team are even beginning to look alike in the won-and-lost column, with five of them tied for first place in the eastern half of the NFL, and only one game splitting all the teams in the west.

This balance of competition isn't exactly deplorable.

But pro football sold itself to the public in the last decade with an exhilarating brand of wide open play that showed spontaneous execution.

They were splitting men far out from the line of scrimmage long before Red Blaik put the lonely end into an Army manual. They led the colleges into the exciting red dog patterns.

The greatest anticipation of the 1961 season dealt with the San Francisco Forty Niners' shotgun offense, no more than an old-fashioned spread, but so radical to the present game that it stirred

seasons with the Cardinals because Frank (Pop) Ivy was probably able to survive a couple of losing seasons with the Cardinals because he had the gumption to bring down from Canada the wide open double wing that featured a lot of fumbles but also kept the fans on edge with breakthroughs. Now Pop has begun to swing to the standard stuff.

Allie Sherman got the new York head coaching job by a reputation as a brilliant strategist and promised such new gimmicks as half-backs in motion toward the inside, but they've been quickly forgotten. Coaches don't like to tinker when they have to win to stay alive. Al even hesitated to monkey with the personnel, like that venerable institution, Charley Conerly, until it was forced on him that Y. A.

Tittle, with his greater agility and intrepidity about rollouts, could get the job done.

Al Dorow makes a team of nonentities like the New York Titans tantalizing to watch because he doesn't mind departing from the norm and running like a quarterback isn't supposed to.

Teams like the Colts stand still, doing the same old thing with the same old people.

Predictions for the week:

**NATIONAL**  
 Green Bay to lord it over Baltimore by 6.  
 Detroit to bounce back and past Chicago by 7.  
 Dallas to freeze Minnesota by 9.  
 San Francisco's shotgun to blast Los Angeles by 10.  
 New York to slip by St. Louis by 1.  
 Philadelphia to smoke out Pittsburgh by 3.  
 Cleveland to veto Washington by 10.

**AMERICAN**  
 San Diego to dump Boston by 12.  
 Dallas to saddle Denver by 9.  
 Houston to extinct Buffalo by 3.



Y. A. TITTLE ... greater agility

## Vandals In Tough Row

MOSCOW, Idaho (AP)—Idaho football coach Skip Stahley is smiling and grimacing at the same time these days—the smile for last week's win over San Jose State and the grimace—not just for Saturday's game—but for the next four.

Saturday the Vandals battle Oregon State.

"Oregon State will be tough enough," said Stahley, "mainly because we don't know just what to expect."

"But then come Washington State, Army and Utah State in rapid fire order. It's enough to make a coach turn and run."

Idaho spirit, high from the start despite a lean and lank squad, hit its peak this week in preparations for Saturday's tussle with Oregon State.

A puzzler confronted the Vandal coach and his staff as they prepared for the Beavers. There was a report OSU might return to the single wing after using the T formation in its first two games—both losing battles.

Stahley said: "I don't know what they'll do, but if they do resort to their old single wing they may have difficulty holding the ball for lack of practice, even though they have played the system in the past. Even a slight change requires practice to perfect."

The Idaho coach made this comment after the win last week and served notice on future opponents to beware the Vandal:

"One robin doesn't make a summer, nor one defeat a disaster. Conversely winning one battle does not resolve a war. But rest assured that, although the going will be rough in the weeks ahead, Idaho will be a lot tougher than some opponents had figured on."

# Piersall To Solons For Ace Hurler

NEW YORK (AP)—The Cleveland Indians traded Jimmy Piersall, their fiery center fielder, to the Washington Senators Thursday for Dick Donovan, veteran pitcher, and three other players.

In addition to Donovan, the Indians will get outfielder-catcher Gene Green, utility infielder Jim Mahoney and a third player to be delivered by Jan. 1. No cash was involved.

Piersall, a controversial figure ever since he came up to the American League with the Boston Red Sox 10 years ago, enjoyed his best season in 1961. The 32-year-old Waterbury, Conn., native batted .322 in 121 games, fourth highest in the league, and was one of the best defensive outfielders in the majors.

Donovan also had a fine season with the Senators. The 33-year-old right-hander, after losing his first five decisions, all by one run, came back spectacularly. He won 10 of his last 15 decisions to finish 10-10. His earned run average of 2.40 was tops in the major leagues for those pitchers who had worked enough innings to qualify for the title.

The explosive Piersall, in recent years, made as much news with his extemporaneous stunts on and off the field as with his bat and glove. Only last month, he was accosted by a couple of Yankee Stadium fans, who barged out of the right field stands. Piersall won the verdict by felling one antagonist with a punch and another with a kick in the britches.

Stricken with a mental illness in 1953, Piersall made an amazing recovery and received the most courageous athlete award two years later.

## HEY, LOOK HIM OVER



## ROLLER SKATING HOST

NEW YORK (UPI)—The United States may serve as the host country for the World roller skating championships in 1962, it was announced today by George F. Apdala, president of the U.S. Amateur Roller Skating Association.

Apdala said he will enter a bid to hold the games in New York, Chicago or Los Angeles when he attends the 1961 championships in Bologna, Italy, Oct. 19-23.

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## Fights

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 Los Angeles — Paulie Armstrong, 132½, Los Angeles, outpointed Alfredo Escobar, 132, Los Angeles, 12.  
 Copenhagen — Roy Jacobs, Nigeria, stopped Sander Bonde, Denmark, 4, lightweights.

## Briefs

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**BASEBALL**  
 NEW YORK—Jimmy Adair and Jim Busby of Baltimore and Bobby Bragan, former manager of the Cleveland Indians and Pittsburgh Pirates, were named coaches for the Houston Colts.  
 NEW YORK—Ed Lopat signed as pitching coach with Kansas City Athletics.

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## Miss AMERICA BOWLS



By SHARON KAY RITCHIE  
 Newspaper Enterprise Assn.  
 Pickup is as important in bowling as it is in a car.

If you don't pick up the ball properly, you can throw yourself out of gear before you even get started.

When I began bowling, one of the first things Jan Harman, winner of the Queens' Tournament, pointed out was how to avoid injury and prevent arm strain in this necessary prelude to rolling the ball.

"There are very few ways you can hurt yourself bowling," Jan said, "but the most common injury—and certainly a painful one—is having a return ball ram into your hand while you are picking up your ball."

To avoid this, pick up the ball by placing the hands on the outside of it, away from the line of balls on the rack. Pick up the ball with both hands. Support its weight on the left hand (if you are right-handed). With the weight on the non-bowling hand, you keep the action arm from tiring.

Make sure the ball you pick up is your own. People can be very sensitive about others using their property.

When you pick up the ball, take time to get set properly and comfortably before rolling it, but don't hold up the game by deliberating too long before starting the approach.



SUPPORT WEIGHT ... on left hand

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**College Grid Player Dies**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A college football player died Thursday, 10 days after he received internal injuries while making a tackle during practice.

William Foster, 20, third-string guard for Johnson C. Smith University here, was kicked in the stomach Sept. 20. A surgeon who performed an exploratory operation Wednesday, said the player died of a stoppage in the small intestine.

Foster was a native of Indianola, Pa.

He was the second college player to die this week from football injuries. John Zola, 20, a Lebanon Valley College player, died Monday from injuries he received during a game last Saturday with Drexel Tech.

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