

Holcomb Picks Wildcats As Tougher Than Buckeyes

'Stu,' Starting Third Year at Purdue, Little More Than Optimistic

Takes First Look at Boilermakers and Gives Hard Work Order for Northwestern

By JIM HEYROCK, Times Sports Writer

LAFAYETTE, Sept. 1.—The canvas curtain was drawn tightly about Purdue University practice field yesterday as Coach Stuart K. (Stu) Holcomb got his first look at the 1949 Boilermakers. Stu, starting his third year as boss of Purdue grid fortunes, is a little more optimistic than the average coach. And from his tone it can be surmised he believes this year's team will be a good one. Holcomb doesn't hold with all the advance notices that have been posted about the coming season's Big Ten champion. And although he's a former Ohio State University football captain, he doesn't believe the Buckeyes are the outfit to worry about this season. The biggest job of the season, Stu believes, is winning the first game against Northwestern. The team he considers tops in the conference.

"I don't see how the writers figure it," said the husky Holcomb yesterday after closing the first drill. "The writers are picking Ohio State. But look at Northwestern, last year's Rose Bowl team, and they're back this season with 31 out of 33 varsity players."

72 Candidates
The Boilermakers swing into action Sept. 24 on a visit to Northwestern.

"We're going to prepare for Northwestern just as hard as we prepared for Notre Dame last year," continued Stu. "And I believe if we can get by them we'll have a good ball team, a winner."

A troop of 72 candidates yesterday to open the drills. Coach Holcomb and his assistants immediately ordered the gates to the field closed and the canvas drawn at the open end.

"Three weeks isn't long to prepare for an opener like Northwestern," is the attitude Holcomb seems to be nourishing.

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Norbert Adams, right halfback; John Kerestes, fullback; Angelo Carnaghi, captain and center; Bob Hartman, quarterback; Kenneth Gorgal, quarterback; Harry Szulborski, left halfback, and Coach Stu Holcomb (left to right) go over some of the plays during the opening drills yesterday.



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N.Y. Grid Game Gets Slow Start

Tim Mara's 'Pros' to Meet Mrs. Helen Reid's Grads in Opener

NEW YORK, Sept. 1.—It is commonly believed by outsiders that life in the big town is keyed to a fantastically swift pace. This isn't a faithful picture of how we do things around here. For example, we're playing our first football game of the season tonight. In other sectors, supposedly more tranquil and less hurried, the season's been under way for two or three weeks.

Our belated inaugural pits Mr. Tim Mara's professionals against Mrs. Helen Rogers Reid's college grads in the Polo Grounds. The profits go to that newspaper's fresh air fund. In the beginning it was not easy to sell this game, especially to Broadwayites.

In due course they came to understand their contributions enable Mrs. Reid—who has come to be known as the first lady of football—to send hundreds of New York kids to summer camps in the country where some of them get to see a cow for the first time, an experience, which while novel, can scarcely sharpen their appreciation of artistic loveliness.

ON THE college squad are most of the name players of the East. John Weber, Chip Cannon, Gene Rosenthal, Lou Kusserow, Rip Rowan, Pete Williams, Bobby Jack Stuart, Joe Steffy, Chuck Bodnarik, and Bob Sponaugle.

Mr. Mara's professionals—the Giants, you know—have gone radical this season. They have embraced the T. For an event of comparable surprise and daring you'd have to go all the way back to the day Roger Breenahan wore shin guards in public for the first time. Under Coach Steve Owen, Mr. Mara's artisans always, up to now, were slavishly devoted to the single wing, an offensive idiosyncrasy handed down by Walter Camp.

There are two reasons for the switch to the T, a pattern of play which is said to have been used in the hinterlands the last 20 years with interesting results. One is that the Giants lost money in '47 and '48. Perhaps the other reason isn't important. Anyway, it has to do with the presence of Charley Conerly.

AL SHERMAN who once punched the clock for Lex Thompson, the grand old man of pro football, installed the T for Mr. Mara. The T stresses deception, elusiveness, finger tip blocks and speed—plus power in the fullback position—and requires a special class room technique.

New rules, of course, will be in force at tonight's game. I say "of course" because each year there are new rules in football, the only sport known to man, b.e.a.s.t. or Bill Bingham, which simply can't make up its mind. Two are designed to stimulate the attack.

ONE: A punt from scrimmage into the end zone is no longer an automatic touchback with the ball being put in play on the 20. If a player is so minded he can run with it. And here's where the attack is encouraged: Even if the player's downed before reaching the goal line it's still a touchback. So what can he lose?

TWO: Heretofore an incomplete pass in the offensive team's own end zone was a safety. Now it's just another incomplete pass. The purpose here is to embolden end zone gamblers. You know what this portends, don't you? More desperation passes in the closing minutes.

THE FOOTBALL fathers have also acknowledged that there have been times when the game was not always conducted on the highest possible level of sportsmanship. One of the new regulations has to do with illegal use of hands in close-up blocks. The aim is to eliminate or at least minimize slugging.

Tie in State Meet
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CULVER, Ind., Sept. 1.—Dr. T. V. Petranoff and Ray Robinson, both of Indianapolis, tied for low gross honors in the Indiana senior golf tournament with 78s here yesterday.

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Big Ten Grid Teams Put in Hard Work Before Race for Title

Wes Fesler, Ohio State Coach, Believes Team Might Be Good at First Practice

By ED SAINSBURY, United Press Sports Writer

CHICAGO, Sept. 1.—The grueling day-to-day head bumping that's part of the production schedule for every Big Ten football team began today with every club in the circuit hard at work for the chase for the league's 54th grid title.

Only one coach in the league, Wes Fesler at Ohio State, was willing to admit that his team might be good on the opening day of practice.

"We have a good football team," Fesler said, but he was reluctant to classify it as "great" because two guards and two backs from the 1948 team were missing.

Defending champion Michigan's Coach Bennie Oosterbaan solved one problem with speed. Halfback Wally Teninga definitely will not be switched to quarterback, he said, "as we have five promising candidates to choose from."

More Injuries
At Northwestern Bob Voigts immediately put his crew to hard work with guards, tackles, ends and centers getting down to scrimmage among themselves immediately after the first hour of lectures and calisthenics.

"We have more injuries now than any time last season," Voigts said, "but the team is in good spirits and we hope we can stay away from more injuries."

Bernie Bierman at Minnesota proclaimed that, his Gophers, among the four top title favorites, had no favorites. Each job is open, he said, and "we're going to give everybody a chance."

Illinois' Coach Ray Eliot, expecting to rely on sophomores, looked for an uncertain future.

On Same Spot
When a team is trying to fight out of the second division, he said, "there is no way to tell how strong we will have to be to cope with the improved teams in the conference."

At Purdue Stu Holcomb foresaw an opening game exactly similar to the Boilermakers' first contest last year, against Notre Dame, when Purdue went down to a 28-27 defeat.

"We're on the same spot against Northwestern as last year against Notre Dame for the opener," he said, but he neglected to point out that the opening loss for his club was widely blamed for its miserable season.

Most Important
Frank Leahy at Notre Dame warned his team that each opponent would be the most important on the schedule.

"Gentlemen," he said, "never forget that Indiana is the most important game. After that the second contest, with Washington, will be the most important we play."

Promising right halfback Jerry Fiske led the return of 63 candidates at Iowa. Coach Eddie Anderson said there would be no scrimmages for the next few weeks. Al Di Marco, last year's ace passer and quarterback, returned as a part time coach.

Sixty-seven men turned out at Wisconsin. Captain Bob Wilson worked out at offensive end, although his post as defensive line backer will be unchanged. Morning and afternoon drills were scheduled until school starts.

Gonzales and Brink Clash In Tennis Amateur Finals

Defending Champ Faces Nether Who Knocked Out Italy's Del Bello

FOREST HILLS, N. Y., Sept. 1 (UP)—Defending Champion Dick (Pancho) Gonzales of Los Angeles was scheduled today to bump into giant-killer Jim Brink of Seattle as five seeded stars bid for three berths in the quarter-finals of the U. S. Tennis championships.

Brink, a tall, determined left-hander with plenty of punch, was the lone unseeded player in the group of six. He knocked out ninth-seeded Vic Seixas of Philadelphia in the first round, rallying after being two sets down, and later accounted for Marcello Del Bello of Italy's Davis Cup team in straight sets.

Gonzales, who did a lot of giant-killing himself last season when he won the title at the age of 20, caught up with the field yesterday by downing Straight Clark of Pasadena, Cal., in straight but bitterly fought sets, 6-4, 7-5, 7-3.

Mulloy Gets Ampon
Fourth-seeded Gardner Mulloy of Coral Gables, Fla., drew little Felicissimo Ampon of the Philippines, sixth foreign seed, in another third-round match.

Six second-round matches were halted or rained out completely yesterday, including the feature, a seeding Wimbledon Champion Ted Schroeder of La Crescenta, Cal., against Vladimir Cernik of Czechoslovakia, 10th seeded foreigner. All six will be cleared up today.

Women's Division
In the women's division, top-seeded Louise Brough of Beverly Hills, Cal., leads three other Americans against foreign stars in a bid for the quarter-finals.

Mis Brough, the Wimbledon champion and current title favorite, drew Kay Tackett of Britain, third-seeded Doris Hart of Jacksonville, Fla., was scheduled to play Mrs. Molly Blair of Britain, seventh-seeded Beverly Baker of Santa Monica, Cal., was paired

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Brooks set a record with a long cast of 47 feet in the 4-ounce event while Moore won the 3-ounce distance event with an average cast of 339 feet, four inches.

Wins Guest Tourney
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