

The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST—Mostly cloudy, mild with thunder showers today, tomorrow. High middle 60's; low tonight 53; high tomorrow 68.

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**FINAL
HOME**

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Bo McMillin, Indiana's Great Ex-Coach, Dies

By FRANK ANDERSON
Times Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Mar. 31—Alvin N. (Bo) McMillin's long fight against cancer is over. One of football's greatest figures, Bo died in his home here today at 57.

The long battle for life ended at 2:30 a. m. for the famous former Indiana University and Philadelphia Eagles coach. He died peacefully, his family gathered around his bed. The quietness of his passing was in sharp contrast to the blazing deeds he had performed in over 30 years as player and coach.

For months the sports world had known cancer was one foe Bo couldn't beat. But the firebrand of the locker room and the playing field held on with all the fierceness he had displayed as a great quarterback and coach.

Cancer Primary Cause

The first announcement of Mr. McMillin's death gave the cause of death as a heart attack. But a check with his family and his physician, Dr. James Topolius, confirmed cancer as the primary cause.

Services will be at 10 a. m. Thursday in St. Charles Catholic Church here, with burial in Bloomington Cemetery. The body was taken to a mortuary where friends may call up to Wednesday night. It will be taken to Mr. McMillin's home, where he lived with his wife and four of their five children, for about two hours Thursday morning until time for the funeral.

Football coach at Indiana from 1934 until 1947, Mr. McMillin served as the school's athletic director in 1946 and 1947. In 1948 he accepted a \$30,000-a-year contract to coach the professional Detroit Lions. He said at the time it was the "hardest decision I ever made."

After three seasons as Lions' coach he signed to lead the Eagles of the National Football League. Last fall he took a leave of absence from the Eagles because of ill health. He returned to Bloomington to recuperate. Recently, doctors said he seemed to be improving.

Started at Center

A legend in football, Mr. McMillin's career started at Centre Mill in Danville, Ky. There he won lasting fame as the quarterback of the storied "Praying Colonels," upstarts of mighty Harvard and other big teams in the early 1920's.

The white-haired McMillin had gained a place on Walter Camp's All-America team in 1919. As a coach he was the inspiration of many other men who gained All-America honors.

The recent scandals in sport shocked Bo, who exemplified the best in collegiate sport. He rarely fielded a world-beater on the gridiron, but he always enjoyed his work. As he would say at Indiana:

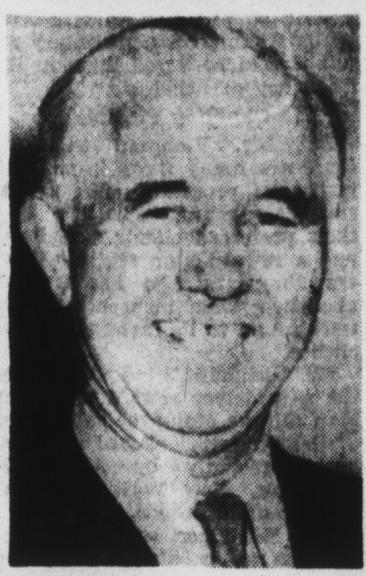
"We didn't win 'em all, but my didn't we have fun."

Him It Was a Game

Fun with the game he loved was Bo's only desire. To him football was a game and should be played as such.

Mr. McMillin was responsible giving Centre College the nickname "Praying Colonels." During games he would lead the players in prayer for victory. Still devout as a college coach, he said the Rosary every night before an Indiana game. A lover of the clean life, he never swore or drank.

Bo McMillin was soft-spoken. "Oh, my side and body," and "May the saints save us," were the harshest words he ever spoke. When he signed with the Lions



BO McMILLIN . . . the end of the road.

In 1948 he turned his back on 28 years of collegiate coaching. Even as a professional mentor his heart was always with his "pore little boys" at Indiana.

Bo became ill last November.

The Eagles refused to name a new head coach and appointed Assistant Wayne Miller to fill the gap until Bo's return. Mr. Miller was named head coach for the 1952 season when it appeared Mr. McMillin would not recover sufficiently to resume full-time duties.

Probably the peak of his coaching career was reached in 1945 when he was named Scripps-Howard "Coach of the Year" after his "pore little boys" won Indiana's first Big Ten crown.

He was a shrewd strategist and master of all the game's fine points. But he would have achieved greatness on his pre-game locker room speeches alone. Many Indiana players spoke of his talks as "things of beauty."

"We would have died for Bo," said Billy Hillenbrand, one of his greatest halfbacks at Indiana.

Produced Many Stars

The speedy Hillenbrand was only one of a long line of outstanding backs Mr. McMillin produced at Indiana. Others included Pete Pihos, Lou Saban, Bob (Hunchy) Hoernschemeyer, Frank Filichok and Corby Davis. Most went on to stardom in the professional game.

Water Main Limit Assailed

By JOE ALLISON
Indianapolis' ban on new water main construction is posing a threat to the homebuilders of the county, and may cause stagnation of the city's growth.

John Bauer, president of the Marion County Residential Builders, told the Works Board today that the entire housing industry in Indianapolis is periled by the ban and its continuation may mean a new effort to bring public housing to the city.

He added that Mr. Truman agreed with him on "the possible necessity" of a steel price rise and told him to go ahead with a compromise plan aimed at holding increases in both wages and prices.

Tip the Scales

Price Controller Ellis Arnall and Economic Stabilizer Roger L. Putnam tipped the scales against Mr. Wilson at a long White House meeting.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Wilson recalled that he had told the President at Key West that he stood around for a while and when the crew went on the job to erect further housing, they were proceeding on a plan where there would be a 65-foot front to the houses.

He got testimony that they changed as many as 27 houses.

Houses were put on a 120-foot frontage which resulted in almost doubling the necessary roadways, the electrical distribution.

Stevenson Won't Toady Even to Toad

CHICAGO, Mar. 31 (UP)—Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, boomed as a Democratic presidential possibility, said today that Illinois "looks even better" to him after his visit to Washington.

He arrived here by plane from Washington and read to newsmen what met him a statement he had written in longhand while en route.

His statement indicated lack of enthusiasm for the presidential boom, but avoided saying he would not accept the nomination.

"My status is quo as my quo is status," Stevenson said.

(Literally translated, status quo is "the state in which," or the state in which something is.)

"Of course, the news from Arizona is very significant," Stevenson said.

Mr. Stevenson had an inspection at Taft, Truman and Eisenhower in a toad derby at Arizona State College.

Mr. Stevenson said that for himself, he is "hopping" down to the State Hospital for the Insane at Manteno, Ill., for an inspection.

"I hope the doctors don't suggest that I prolong my trip to Manteno," he said.

Arrested Two

Trooper Lee intercepted them at Oakland at 3 a. m., arrested two 19-year-olds for carrying concealed weapons, and sent the trio to the Juvenile Center here.

As for the two Fortville girls, they were home in bed, unaware of the consequences of their long-distance romance.

The contenders met again near

Price Curbs Rocked as Wilson Quits

Chief Mobilizer,
Truman Clash

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—The wage-price stabilization program was rocked to its foundations today by Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson's stormy departure from the government.

The former General Electric president, who held the second most powerful post in the administration, resigned in angry protest against President Truman's handling of the steel dispute.

Although steel union and management representatives scheduled new bargaining talks in New York today, government hopes for averting a nationwide strike on Apr. 8 plummeted almost to zero.

Senate action on a one-year extension of the controls law, scheduled for a committee vote today, was called off to permit senatorial tempers to cool.

Some Republicans demanded that the legislation be put on ice until the steel crisis is settled and Mr. Wilson's successor is chosen.

Mr. Truman said Presidential Assistant John R. Steelman will serve as acting director of defense mobilization for the time being.

Downey Rice, sub-committee counsel, developed the story in questioning William J. Cassidy of the Army Audit Agency.

Was in Morocco

The story's locale is a place in Morocco called Nausseur. Army engineers are supervising construction of the air bases and many officers are assigned to the project. At first quarters were not available.

Officers and their wives lived at hotels in Casablanca and other cities. Meanwhile, plans for housing projects were drawn and prefab houses ordered.

The dwelling for the colonel's lady was the first one put together. Inside, this was no ordinary prefab house. For instance, \$2100 was spent for floor covering. Supposedly, this particular covering was being tested—but no such experiment had been authorized, according to Mr. Cassidy.

The house was erected on a lot 65 feet wide. A 30,000-gallon water tank was built—later to be used by the entire project. But when the colonel's house was the only one there, water was hauled eight miles and then pumped into the tank.

An \$8000 generator was installed to provide lights, and another \$8000 generator was put up as a standby.

By this time, the colonel and his lady were the envy of the other officers and their wives. Some began to complain.

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In his letter of resignation, Mr. Wilson recalled that he had told the President at Key West that he stood around for a while and when the crew went on the job to erect further housing, they were proceeding on a plan where there would be a 65-foot front to the houses.

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