



THROUGH THE KNOTHOLE by Larry Dennis

Losing More, but Smarter

I guess I'm just easy-going. I can't get too upset because the Big Ten is losing more football games than it wins against outside competition.

I've been a Big Ten football fan all my life. I'll be honest about it . . . I like the big crowds, I like the bands and the majorettes and the cheerleaders. And I like the football.

I still like the football, even though I can no longer boast that it is by far the best in the country. It is still as good as there is, but other teams and other leagues obviously are making inroads . . . at least for a while.

There is, of course, a reason for it. They make the football players in the Big Ten be smarter these days.

If there has been a decline in quality, the basic reason for it is the rule installed in 1962 which requires prospective players to have a grade predictability of 1.7 (C-minus), based on high school class rank and aptitude test scores, before they can receive financial aid.

At Northwestern, entrance requirements are even higher than that.

Academics Are the Thing

The conference also forbids red-shirting, limits each school to 30 new football scholarships a year (as opposed to 40 or more elsewhere), and does not allow junior college transfers to become immediately eligible until they have completed two full years, which keeps them from spring practice and virtually eliminates their use.

The latter three points I might argue with. They contribute nothing to academic excellence. But I cannot quarrel with making a boy prove he is college timber before granting him aid.

I covered football at the University of Iowa during a stretch in which the Hawkeyes won three Big Ten championships and two Rose Bowl games. There were some fine gentlemen and true scholar-athletes who contributed to that success.

But I also was burdened with having to interview people like Alex Karras, now a professional star.

The Karrases Can't Make It

Karras said recently in a national magazine, "I hated the university, I hated the coaches . . . I hated college football with a passion. I wouldn't walk across the street to see a college game. All those poor guys out there killing themselves for nothing. Anyone who thinks it's glamorous ought to go out and get the hell beat out of him like I do every Sunday, and then he'll see how glamorous it is . . ."

I feel so sorry for Alex Karras, whose college career was the springboard to a long-term contract with the Detroit Lions for more money than most top executives make.

But I don't have to deal with the likes of him anymore. Now I talk with people like Woody Campbell and Phil Clark and Denny Boothe and Ken Ramsey . . . intelligent, articulate young men who are in school for more than one reason. They are in school to play football, and nobody denies that. But they also are there for an education, and they are getting it.

The Alex Karrases can't make it into a Big Ten school anymore, and I have to think the Big Ten is better off because of it.

Unfortunately, until last January, his kind could get in almost anywhere else . . . at Alabama, at Nebraska, at Arkansas, and at most of the other football factories across the country.

Room for Students

But in January the National Collegiate Athletic Association passed a rule requiring a 1.6 grade potential before a boy can get aid. This is still not as stiff as the Big Ten requirement, but it will help level things off when this year's freshmen become seniors.

This I buy. I see nothing wrong with giving a boy an education because he is a good football player . . . or a potential scientist, or a good trombone player. But I want him to be a qualified student, because room for students of any kind is getting scarce. I want him to have earned the right to a college education through application of his God-given talents to his primary and elementary curriculum.

I have two children who probably will never play college football—a daughter who is not built right and son who is not built big enough. They also probably will not be geniuses. Hopefully, they will be decent students. When they reach college age, I want there to be a spot for them. I do not want that spot filled by an athlete who is there only because he is an athlete and was able to sign his name to a grant-in-aid.

So, cheers for the Big Ten, and may its athletes always be scholars as well.

And I'll still like the football.

New Trier's Harriers Go To Maine

It is not likely that another state cross-country champion will come from New Trier East this year, but the Indians figure to make a strong showing in the district despite many injury problems.

Four of coach Ben Almaguer's runners have been out for the season, and at least three will remain missing for the state competition.

New Trier East and New Trier West are entered in the Maine West district on Oct. 29.

Mike Collins of East won the individual state title last year. York High School was the team champion and is a strong contender this year.

The first five finishers and members of the first and second-place team at each of 12 districts will qualify for the state event Nov. 5 in Urbana.

Twenty-five schools are entered in the Maine West district.

Each school is allowed to have seven runners in the district, with the first five runners across the finish line figuring in the team's score. The course will not be longer than two miles and not less than one and seven-eighth miles.

Entries at Maine West:

Arlington Heights, Forest View, St. Viator, Fenton, Maine West, Elgin, Larkin, Elk Grove, Evanston, St. George, Glenbrook South, Conant, Lake Park, Prospect, Notre Dame, Glenbrook North, New Trier West, Fremd, Palatine, Maine East, Maine South, Niles East, Niles North, Niles West, New Trier East.

Two Wilmette Golfers Qualify in Rusty Nail

Holes in one, scored by two Wilmette men, may win one of them a trip to Scotland for two plus a cash prize.

Edward Buckler and Otto Niehus both scored their aces at the Thorngate Country Club and are now entered in the Rusty Nail Sweepstakes. Announcement of the winner will be made early next year.

KURZAWSKI SLIPS

Chico Kurzawski of Northwestern slipped from third place to tenth place in average kickoff returns for major colleges after four games, with an average of 18.6 yards per return.

Waukegan Is Saturday's Foe Indian Soccer Team Moves Toward Title

New Trier East's undefeated soccer squad will invade Waukegan Saturday after taking another step towards the Suburban League championship last week with a win at Morton East.

The booters also beat Lyons of LaGrange in a nonconference game.

Coach Peter Periera's team won 4-2 Saturday over a Morton team

which has been bolstered recently with the addition of three foreign exchange students.

The Mustangs were the first team to score against New Trier this year.

Rick Udesky scored the first goal for New Trier late in the second quarter. It was the only score of the first half.

Dave Brook added the second goal early in the third quarter, but Morton came right back to score on a scramble in front of the New Trier goal.

Steve Roskam added the third Trevian tally after taking a lead pass from Dave Barnhill. Brook followed with his second goal before the Mustangs ended the scoring in the last minute of play.

The explosive offensive power of New Trier overwhelmed Lyons 10-0 last Wednesday. The 10-goal performance broke the existing school record set in 1963 in an 8-0 victory over St. Joseph and equalled last year against New Trier West.

The record-breaking attack was led by Brook and Barnhill, each with three goals. Bob Hrudka scored twice, while Dusty Schleuter and Roskam tallied once each.

Ski Club Sets Trips, Lessons For Youngsters

The Snowflake Club of Lake Forest has issued an invitation to skiers eight years through high school age to join the club, which is now in its fourth season of operation.

The club is now accepting members for this winter. The purpose of the organization is to promote proficiency in skiing by providing instruction as well as transportation to different ski areas throughout the winter season.

One-day sessions are planned for areas in Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

Buses will leave from Winnetka, Kenilworth, and Glencoe every Saturday at 9 a.m. and will return at 5 p.m. The trips will begin after Thanksgiving.

During the Christmas holiday period extra weekday trips are scheduled, including an overnight stay at a Wisconsin ski area and a vacation trip to the Rockies next spring.

Robert Dieden is the director of the club. He is a physical education instructor in the Lake Bluff schools.

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I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

By Abe Fell

Here's an oddity about one of the top runners in the National Football League — Amos Marsh of Detroit . . . Marsh now ranks 6th in total yards gained among all ball-carriers in the NFL and he was the top ball carrier for Detroit last season — yet he never carried the ball even once in his college career at Oregon State! . . . In college, he was a lineman.

Here's a football oddity . . . Did you know that Ben Agajanian, a man who played in both the National and American Football Leagues in recent seasons, and who was one of the greatest field-goal kickers of all-time, actually had only one toe on his kicking foot! . . . His 4 other toes were shorn off in an elevator accident many years ago.

Here's an oddity about the New York Jets of the American Football League . . . In EACH of the last three seasons, the Jets — oddly enough — have finished with the identical record of 5 wins, 8 losses and one tie!

I bet that you didn't know that the Fell Company has the best "Mod" styles this side of Carnaby Street.

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