

# A VOTE FOR MICHIGAN

By Joseph LeCastro

1947 Michigan was truly a team that deserves a more prominent place in the annals of college football history. I believe their immense success stemmed from Coach Crisler's understanding of the full substitution rule, and the effect of the two platoon system against teams playing the one platoon style. Many teams of that era would freely substitute whole teams which would play both on offense and defense, but most coaches did not grasp the "specialist" idea that Coach Crisler's Michigan teams embodied. USC and Coach Jeff Cravath seemed to be victims in the 1948 Rose Bowl of the one platoon mentality. Southern Cal, as is stated in the article on the Wolverines, was loaded with stock-piled post-war talent. Ironically, I also think that the specialist system eventually cost Michigan the National Championship, and Bob Chappuis the 1947 Heisman Trophy, because most writers did not really like the system. It was a fairly new development and many did not understand the implications for football of the two platoon system. Many writers considered Johnny Lujack of Notre Dame to be the more complete football player as opposed to Chappuis, because he did play on both sides of the ball.