

# SOPHOMORE ALL-AMERICANS

(Editor's Note: Society member Henry Bryan is one of the foremost experts on the All-America team phenomenon. Recently Henry sent US an Associated Press article from 1941, which announced a "Sophomore" All-America team for the recently ended 1941 football season, and he believes that this is quite possibly the only time such a mythical eleven was ever selected. The unbylined AP article about the many sophomore stars of college football that season follows, with some brief comments from Henry at the end of the article.)

New York - Seldom has a football season produced as many sophomore stars as the intercollegiate campaign just ended. Every section boasted first year aces. Almost every major team counted on the performances of one or more rookies. There were enough real standouts to make up all-star sophomore teams for each conference or sector, and from these athletes a mythical 1941 sophomore All-America.

Associated Press 1941 Sophomore All-America Team		
E	Bob Gantt	Duke
T	Gil Bouley	Boston College
G	William Ward	Washington State
C	Jim Wright	S.M.U.
G	Weldon Humble	Rice
T	Jack Helms	Georgia Tech
E	Art Santow	Missouri
B	Billy Hillenbrand	Indiana
B	Angelo Bertelli	Notre Dame
B	Otto Graham	Northwestern
B	Pat Harder	Wisconsin

Several sophomores were good enough to get all-star rating in their sections. In perhaps the toughest league in the country - the Western Conference - one sophomore made the all-star club and another paced the sector's scorers. Billy Hillenbrand of Indiana, rated as one of the finest youngsters to come along in many years, made the Big Ten top team while Pat Harder, Wisconsin's fullback, led the group in scoring with 72 points.

Harder and four other sophs earned spots on the second club. They were end Bob Shaw and guard Lyn Houston, both of Ohio State, Otto Graham of Northwestern, and Bill Garnaas of Minnesota. Another Midwestern rookie, Angelo Bertelli, was the

passing ace who sparked Notre Dame to its first unbeaten season since Rockne's days.

One of the aces on Duke's fine unbeaten team, and an All-Southern choice, was Bob Gantt, 210-pound end. South Carolina's halfback Stan Stasica was another sophomore to make the All-Southern team.

Three of the aces of Missouri's Big Six champions - end Art Santow, center Jack Keith and quarterback Maurice Wade - were sophs. Oklahoma had a quartet of fine rookies in end Jim Tyree, tackle Plato Andros and backs Joe Golding and Eddie Davis. Nebraska bragged about guard Herb Von Goetz and tackle Howard Martig.

The Southwest as usual had a fine collection, including Kit Kittrell, who almost single-handed sent Baylor to a 7-7 tie with Texas; Emery Nix of Texas Christian, whose pass beat the Longhorns; Weldon Humble, a great Rice guard; Jim Wright, SMU's husky center; and Willie Zapalac, fine Texas A&M blocking back

The East regarded Gil Bouley of Boston College as one of its best tackles. Joe Martin, fullback, was the youngster who made Cornell's offense go. Fordham had two crack soph backs - George Checerko and Joe Andrejco. Ralph Hill and Bob Margarita starred for Army and Brown

respectively.

Leon Diner, Denver end, and Gus Shannon, Colorado guard, were the best rookies in the Big Seven Conference of the Rocky Mountain area. The Far West liked the looks of Ralph Heywood, Southern California end; William Keig, Montana tackle, and William Ward, Washington State guard. In the Southeast, Jack Helms, Georgia Tech tackle; Bernie Rohling, Vanderbilt fullback; Billy Murphy, Mississippi State back; and Lawrence Rice, Tulane center, were among the best in that region of the country.

From Henry Bryan: This 1941 Sophomore All-America team is something I stumbled across while researching something quite different. Of interest about this mythical sophomore team of 1941 is the fact that all four backs, plus Wayne Humble, are now all members of the College Football Hall of Fame. Two others, Bob Gantt (Duke) and Gil Bouley (Boston College) were selected for various first team All-America units after 1941.

The only two players who didn't distinguish themselves after 1941, possibly because of the war, were Jack Helms and Art Santow. Helms lettered at Georgia Tech in 1941, 1942 and 1945; while Santow apparently never played again for Missouri, and I can find no record of him playing later for another school. Perhaps some Society member can clear up the mystery of Art Santow.