Sideline Chatter

Society member Frank Phelps is in the process of reorganizing his sports library, and has found an item he would like to dispose of to someone who will give it a good home. Frank has a XEROX copy of Football Y Men 1872-1919: Men of Yale Series, Volume I; which gives lifetime biographical facts on all lettermen for the period. This XEROX copy of the very hard-to-find 135 page book (2 book pages per 8 1/2 x 11 sheet) is available to the first member who contacts Frank at:

Frank Phelps 253 Bernard Drive King of Prussia, PA 19406

"There was an interesting coincidence in the November issue. The "Ventan Yablonski" mentioned in my article on Fordham, returned from WW-II military service and played at Columbia, which was the subject of the cover story. When 'Vitty', as he was called in my freshman class at Fordham, returned in 1947 he found that Coach Jim Crowley was gone. So Yablonsky decided to enroll across town at Columbia and play for Coach Lou Little."

Ed Gilleran Helena, Montana

"I recently came across another one-armed college football player - Ed Neeley of Dartmouth who received some All-America mention in 1917. I continue to look for college gridmen who played with some type of physical handicap."

Henry Bryan 41 LaDue Terrace St Louis, MO. 63124

"Just a note to let you know that a big fan of the CFHS Journal is Vic Bottari. He was a consensus All-America on the great 1937 California team which defeated Alabama 13-0 in the 1938 Rose Bowl game, where Vic scored both of Cal's TD's. Vic is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, and today he is 82 and sharp as a tack In the first week of this past October, Vic was signally honored with the first Glenn Seaborg award; given to an outstanding Cal alum for ability, community service and citizenship. Vic's many honors also include a Bronze Star for his service on the carrier Enterprise in WW-II"

Chuck Hoonan Moraga, Cal.

"Once again I come pleading for some attention to the early days of college football, that is pre-World War I (or pre-1918 if you choose). For quite some time now there has been a real shortage of articles in CFHS that address topics in that era. Those of us who consider the earlier years of college football as being possibly the best of all, would be most appreciative of any articles concerning the pre-1920 era that the editor might shake from the trees. Please . . . "

Lefty Farnsworth Key West, Florida

Society member Bob Kirlin of Spokane, Washington sent along a list of the greatest football players of the first half of the 20th Century, as selected by the Associated Press in 1950. He also raises some questions about just what qualifications the selectors had, who were so busy in the past year putting together all of the "greatest of the century" lists. What makes the question pertinent was the substantial "revisionism" done by ESPN and its so-called experts, in its list of the 100 greatest athletes of the century; where in many cases it reversed and altered rankings which were established 50 years earlier by voters who had actually SEEN many of the people they were rating. I personally found the whole ESPN thing a big joke, with absolutely no historical significance or validity. The top football players selected by 1950 voters were: Jim Thorpe (Carlisle), Red Grange (Illinois), Bronko Nagurski (Minnesota), Ernie Nevers (Stanford), Sammy Baugh (TCU), Don Hutson (Alabama), George Gipp (Notre Dame), Charlie Trippi (Georgia), Sid Luckman (Columbia), Steve Van Buren (LSU), Willie Heston (Michigan), and Chick Harley (Ohio State).