

## Sideline Chatter



“Tell Bob Kirlin I have solved the problem of the myriad of so-called “Best” lists. I never read them I did not vote in the SABR top 100 poll, nor have I ever read the results of the voting even though it appeared in our local newspaper. Perhaps creditable lists could be compiled by members of SABR, PFRA and CFHS, but NOT by the cute boys and girls who were born in 1970, write for the media, and think that Joe Namath invented football.”

Stan Grosshandler

Raleigh, North Carolina

“Many college football fans are not aware of a little anecdote about why Tommy Harmon of Michigan came to wear uniform number “98”. When Tommy was a great high school football and track star in Gary, Indiana, his hero was Jay Berwanger, the star back who wore number 99 for the University of Chicago. When Harmon got to the University of Michigan he wanted to hopefully follow in the gridiron footsteps of Berwanger, including wearing Jay’s uniform number. But after his dad advised him that this might be taken as a sign of cockiness on Tommy’s part, he decided to just subtract one from the uniform number, and so he came up with ‘old 98’ for Michigan, and still was able to pay tribute to his sports hero.

Tom Klinefelter

Livonia, Michigan

“In the last issue of the CFHS Journal there was an article about Jackie Fellows and the outstanding Fresno State team of 1942. The article concluded by suggesting that Fellows had sort of disappeared from the football scene after that season. Actually, the Marines V-12 program signed up at least five (5) of the Fresno State players from that 1942 squad, and sent them to Southern Cal. The players were Jack Patlee, Louie Futrell, Mike Garzoni, Dick Handley and Fellows. All played for USC except Fellows, who was ineligible for some unknown reason. Fellows and Handley later returned to Fresno and lettered in 1946.”

John Gunn

Gulf Breeze, Florida

“Like everyone else (secretly), even the dummies on cable all-sports TV assembled “greatest” player and team lists because it’s fun. Just once it would be nice if they included some voice of the past on their juries, to remind them of the old names. One pre-season magazine cooked up an all-century team. This was a valuable service, in the absence of other voices for the college game’s past, such as a new comprehensive history to upgrade Allison Danzig’s work.”

“But how to convey comparisons of players through time and in succeeding levels of greatness. A children’s author named Willem Van Loon wrote The Arts in the 1930s; and in it he compared great painters and composers as mountains on a landscape. Some move upward, past previous standards and heights of achievement. My own notion of eternal standard includes ‘enhancement’, where great players from one era would be great in another, in addition to which they would be proportionately bigger and stronger, in keeping with the growth of the modern-era players.”

Phil Allen

Berkeley, California

“Jackie Fellows did achieve some post-season honors in 1942 for Fresno State, and his football career did continue beyond the war. Bill Stern selected him for his All-America team published in Look Magazine. Stern’s article called Fellows “a triple threat performer of great ability and a superlative blocker and tackler”. Fellows was also named to the Associated Press Little All-America second team in 1942. After the war Fellows was back at Fresno State in 1946. The 1947 NCAA Football Guide lists his passing statistics on page 88 as follows: 10 games, 43 completions in 108 attempts for 509 yards with nine interceptions. (Not too super.) Fellows is mentioned in both the 1946 and 1947 Street & Smith Yearbooks (despite the fact he had graduated in the spring of 1947), and is also mentioned in the 1946 Illustrated Football Annual. Fellows did not

play professional football, but the 1997 Fresno State football guide lists him as being drafted by the New York Giants in 1946. Fellows did not participate in the 1947 East-West Shrine game, and the 1997 Fresno football guide lists four Bulldog player numbers retired, but Fellows is not among them.”

Henry Bryan

St. Louis, Missouri

FOR SALE Scarecrow Press is releasing the newest college football book written by Dr Gerald Gems of North Central College, who is also a member of CFHS. The title of this new book is For Pride, Profit, and Patriarchy: Football and the Incorporation of American Cultural Values. The book covers a number of issues, including the rise of football, militarism and leadership training, multicultural football, along with an analysis of the ways in which football addressed the cultural and ideological tensions within society during its period of development in the late 1800s. To order the book, or obtain more information on it, call Scarecrow Press at (800) 462-6420.

## READ THIS - VERY IMPORTANT

At long last it appears that the editor (that's Ray Schmidt) of this little publication is going to be able to finally realize a long-time dream and relocate out to PAC-10 country. This obviously means goodbye to Big Ten country; but when Penn State joined the conference and then they started making overtures to Notre Dame, that was more than I could take. Anyway, BE ADVISED - because I will be moving, getting settled, and looking for a new home through most of the summer, the CFHS Journal is going to take a short holiday. The August issue of CFHS will not be coming out until October, or more likely in November. We will get back on schedule as soon after as possible. Thanks for your understanding, and GO CAL! GO UCLA!

ALSO - This is your LAST CHANCE to purchase a copy of the following two books, which are about to become VERY rare as all the ones left are going out to the trash:

- 1) Bernie McCarty's classic work All-America: The Complete Roster of Football's Heroes 1889-1945. Just \$10 (includes shipping, and all proceeds go to his widow).
- 2) The definitive study of 1890s minor league baseball (yes, I said baseball) by Ray Schmidt, entitled Two-Eyed League: The Illinois-Iowa of 1890-1892. Just \$7 (includes shipping).

Checks for either or both books MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 6, and should be made payable and sent to:

Ray Schmidt

13848 W. Rockbluff Way

Lockport, Ill. 60441

