

OF ABSENT FRIENDS

Mr Tobin Rote, a former star quarterback at Rice University and a professional football player for 16 years, passed away on June 27, 2000 in Saginaw, Michigan at the age of 72. A star for the great Rice team of 1949, Rote's passing led them to several wins, including the famous 41-27 win over Southern Methodist in which he threw two touchdown passes. In the Cotton Bowl game at the end of the season, Rote threw two more TD passes in leading Rice to a 27-13 win over North Carolina. Rote played for the Green Bay Packers from 1950-1956, leading the NFL in TD passes (17) in 1955 and passing yardage (2,203) and touchdowns (18) in 1956. He then moved to the Detroit Lions, where he had his greatest day in pro football in the 1957 title game as he passed for four touchdowns in a 59-14 win over the Cleveland Browns. After three seasons (1960-1962) in the Canadian Football League, Rote finished his career with San Diego and Denver before he retired in 1966. After his football days he became a corporate executive in Detroit.

Mr George Musso, a small college player who went on to star in the NFL with the Chicago Bears, passed away on September 5, 2000 in Edwardsville, Illinois at the age of 90. Born in Collinsville, Ill., near St Louis, Musso attended Millikin College in Decatur, Ill. where he was a star athlete in football, basketball, baseball, and track. After graduating in 1933, Musso joined the Chicago Bears where he played for 12 seasons as a guard and tackle (1933-1944), which included four NFL championship teams Musso (6'2" - 270 lbs), was one of the toughest players in the NFL, called by George Halas "the greatest guard" in pro football, and after his career he was named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1982 and the Helms College Football Hall of Fame. Musso went on to serve a total of 20 years as an elected official in Madison County in southern Illinois.

Mr Harry Edelson, a former wingback for Southern California during the glory days of the Howard Jones era, and a long-time high school athletic coach, passed away on June 24, 2000 in Los Angeles at the age of 92. Edelson was a starter from 1927-29 for USC, a period featuring powerhouse teams, including the great 1928 team. He capped off his USC career with two touchdowns in the 1930 Rose Bowl win over Pittsburgh Edelson went on to coach football for 31 years and track for 11 in the Los Angeles high schools, with a 168-30-2 record in football.

LARRY KELLEY

Mr Larry Kelley, former All-America and Heisman Trophy winner from Yale, passed away on June 27, 2000 in Hightstown, New Jersey at the age of 85. Kelley played from 1934-1936, and during his career he developed a reputation as one of college football's most colorful characters. Born in Ohio, Kelley played high school football in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and then attended the Peddie School in Hightstown. One of several elite eastern prep schools that were used as a training ground for the Big Three universities, Peddie School was near Princeton, but the football coach at Peddie was a Yale alumnus, and so he sent Kelley on to New Haven.

Kelley was always a dangerous pass receiver. In his sophomore season of 1934 he had five touchdown receptions for the year, including one of the most legendary in Yale football lore; when he scored on a 43-yard pass play off a fake-punt. His touchdown produced the only points of the day as Yale ended Princeton's 15-game winning streak. For 1934 he received All-America mention from selectors such as Associated Press, New York Sun, Hearst, and Charles Parker.

The season of 1936 was Kelley's greatest. His 54-yard touchdown pass reception against Princeton helped Yale to a dramatic come-from-behind 26-23 win and a 7-1-0 record. During his three years of Big Three competition Yale swept all three of their outings against Harvard, while taking two of three from Princeton. Kelley distinguished himself in these traditional battles by scoring a touchdown in each of the six games.

But the most remembered event of Kelley's career came in the 1936 Navy game Yale was trailing 7-6 as he headed downfield covering a punt, and when the Navy player fumbled it at around the 35, Kelley kicked the ball ahead down to the two yard line where he recovered it for Yale to set-up the winning touchdown and a 12-7 win. The result from the uproar that followed was that the rules were changed to prevent such plays, accident or not. In a 1974 interview with CFHS member Stan Grosshandler, Kelley said, "By accident I kicked it . . . My kicking the ball was entirely unpremeditated . . . I have never had the opportunity to forget kicking that ball; people seem to regard it as the outstanding facet of my career.

Kelley was a unanimous All-America end selection for 1936, and was named recipient of the Heisman Trophy. A colorful and handsome character, after graduation Kelley turned down an offer to play himself in a movie to be entitled "Kelley of Yale." He had other offers also, as he explained in the 1974 interview: "I was drafted by the Lions (NFL) and Branch Rickey offered me a bonus to sign with the Cardinals (baseball); however my coaches had advised against pro sports. . . . I chose to coach and teach . . . I have enjoyed it and never regretted my decision" Kelley would teach and coach for many years at the Peddie School and later at Cheshire Academy.

Kelley was never accused of being humble during his great days at Yale. A Yale teammate was once knocked unconscious at the end of the half, and when he was finally revived in the locker room the coaches asked the player his name, to which he responded, "Kelley". The real Kelley was standing right there, and on hearing this he turned to the coaches and said, "He's obviously suffering from delusions of grandeur."

HARRY NEWMAN

Mr Harry Newman, one of the greatest clutch players in the history of college football during his career at the University of Michigan, passed away on May 2, 2000 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the age of 90. Mr Newman is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

Born and raised in Detroit where he attended Detroit Northern High School, Newman was named captain of the all-City football team for 1928. A highly recruited prep star, Newman decided to attend Michigan after becoming friends with Benny Friedman, the ex-Michigan great, in the summer of 1928 while working as a counselor at a camp in New Hampshire. Early in his sophomore season at Michigan in 1930, Newman came in against Purdue and threw two touchdown passes and was quickly promoted to the first string. By October 1930, the newspapers were calling him the “second Benny Friedman”, while describing his play as “brilliant generalship, accurate passing and sure place-kicking.” Newman’s 1930 season highlights included intercepting two passes against Ohio State, passing for two touchdowns in a 15-7 win over Illinois, and then outdueling Harvard’s great Barry Wood with a 45-yard touchdown pass to Roy Hudson to give Michigan a 63 win over the Crimson Michigan finished the 1930 season with an overall record of 8-0-1, along with a share of the Big Ten championship. United Press named Newman second team quarterback on its All-Western team

After an injury-plagued campaign in 1931, while Michigan was notching another co-championship of the Big Ten, Newman surpassed everything in 1932. His passing and a punt return set-up two touchdowns against Northwestern, while he scored the only touchdown of the day in a 7-0 win over Indiana. He then finished the season with a bang, scoring touchdowns on a 76-yard punt return and a 27-yard run for a 12-0 win over Chicago, and then coming back the next week with a 15-yard field goal that held up for a 3-0 win over Minnesota, to give Michigan a record of 8-0-0 and sole possession of the Big Ten title. After the season, along with being named a unanimous All-America back, Newman received the Chicago Tribune’s Silver Football as MVP of the Big Ten and was voted the Douglas Fairbanks Trophy as the most valuable player in college football for 1932.

In the following summer of 1933, Newman played a starring role in the historic East-West college all-star game that was played at Soldier Field in Chicago as part of the Century of Progress Fair, capping off the night by firing a game-winning touchdown pass. Newman then joined the New

York Giants of the NFL for the 1933 season, and the ex-Michigan great proceeded to lead the league with 11 touchdown passes and 973 aerial yards. In the NFL title game that year Newman threw two touchdown passes, but it wasn’t enough to overcome the Chicago Bears who took the crown with a 23-21 win. Newman would play two more seasons for the Giants before he then joined the Brooklyn Tigers of the American Football League. Retiring from football after the 1937 season, Newman then became an executive with Ford Motor Company in the Detroit area.