

Sideline Chatter



“I would like to inform CFHS members that there is an internet web site that includes several items of college football data. The site name is: <http://www.yourdailynews.com/sports> AND once there you can find links to a summary of the Associated Press final polls since 1936, the complete record of Notre Dame football (1,059 games after the 2000 season), and more. If there are any questions or comments I can be reached via e-mail at: macor@kearfott.com”.

-- George S. Macor

Warren, New Jersey

“I was wondering if anyone was familiar with the career of a Chicago player named Ken Rouse who was awarded the Chicago Tribune’s trophy as the Big Ten’s MVP for the 1927 season. That season the conference happened to feature Herb Joesting of Minnesota (probably the national player of the year), not to mention Bennie Oosterbaan of Michigan. Rouse played center for a 4-4 University of Chicago team, while Oosterbaan was a unanimous All-America end and Joesting was a consensus All-America fullback. So how could Rouse win the Silver Football as MVP?”

-- Kevin Hynes

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EDITOR COMMENT: The history of the Chicago Tribune’s Silver Football award (given for the Big Ten’s MVP) contains a number of curious winners through its long past. The eligible candidates for each season’s award were arrived at by the players of each team voting to select the MVP of THEIR team. Then from the team MVPs a Big Ten MVP was selected by a group of sportswriters – no doubt late at night. Ken Rouse was apparently a decent lineman, as he did receive some All-America mention for 1927 as follows: Associated Press 3rd team; Walter Eckersall 2nd team; United Press 3rd team; and A-A Board 3rd team. Big Ten historian Dick Parker has promised to write a future article on some of the strange Silver Football selections.

“There are loads of Tommy Prothro ‘stories.’ He was independently wealthy and didn’t take any paychecks during his ten years at Oregon State. He had them split among the assistant coaches. Prothro also owned a couple of Coke bottling companies, along with large Cadillacs that he always had his assistants drive for him. Football was a challenge to him as the other games he mastered: chess and bridge.”

-- Bob Gill

Milwaukie, Oregon

FOR SALE: A book on the history of Kansas State football, entitled Wildcat Gridiron Guide: Past & Present Stories About K-State Football. The 288-page book, with many pictures, is available for \$16.95 PLUS \$3 shipping, by calling 1-888-457-8228, or by mail from:

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“Ple-e-e-ase can we have an occasional article on pre-1920 college football? That’s history too.”

-- Lefty Farnsworth

Key West, Florida