

# Olympic Champion Critical Of Today's Football Playing

It is reported that Bob Mathias, two-time Olympic decathlon champion, is giving up football because he does not consider it a sport any longer. This is a poor commentary on the gridiron sport, which has been under the attack of commercialism for some time now.

Mathias is probably the best all-around athlete in the country and his record at the 1952 Olympic Games is proof that he has no peer among the athletes in this country. He has been successful at football, as well as other sports, and his disgust with football at this time is the result of his conviction that it is now big business at too many colleges.

MATHIAS SAYS that when any game becomes a contest in which players attempt to inflict injuries on each other, then it has lost its appeal as a sport. Interestingly, Mathias did not include professional football in this category of

criticism, and he believes that the professional sport is played along more mature lines.

Unfortunately, we are inclined to agree with Mathias' criticism of football at most colleges. In fact, it is a rarity in these days to find football played as it should be on a college campus.

EITHER THE GAME is over-commercialized or it has become a combination of business and sport. And it is true that many hundreds of permanent injuries are caused willy-nilly on the football fields of the country each year.

This is a reflection on sports fans and coaches more than it is on the boys who play the game. This indictment is one which every sports fan should take to heart and constitutes a significant indictment of the game as it is played by most college teams today.



## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

### 50 YEARS AGO

August 28, 1903  
Guy Blair, Howard Montgomery and Kaynald Whitehead by their alertness and daring saved the lives of three Franklin men Monday last. While fishing from their own boat the Birmingham boys were horrified to see the other craft tip and dump the men into the lake. Their immediate action saved a happy instead of tragic end to this story.

Oliver Prickett who is well known in this vicinity was up from the south last week renewing old acquaintances. He has grown a little in age but is still the same Oliver through and through.

Burt Brown called on relatives in town Tuesday. He was en route to New York City to purchase goods for a large Saginaw firm with which he has a lucrative position.

Those long cornstalks are beginning to come in again. Frank Young brought one in last week a trifle over 13 feet in length and 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

Two midnight prowlers tried to force entrance into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sunday. They were frightened away by Stewart Leonard who lives with Mrs. Leonard. The two returned later and were again frightened away.

30 YEARS AGO  
August 31, 1923  
Wilmot Cooney, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Cooney, died Saturday night in Detroit. The young Lake youth accidentally shot himself in the leg recently, with blood poisoning resulting in his death.

Acceptance of what is known as the Snow subdivision was made Monday night by village council. The land is at the north end of a tract owned by Mrs. Emma Snow on Adams road and is a little more than seven acres in area.

It is expected that the new Huston building on N. Woodward will be completed and ready for occupancy in about two weeks. Although tenants' names are not released yet it is known that the United States post office will occupy a part of the building.

When Birmingham schools open Sept. 4, 30 of last year's staff members will again report for duty. It was announced that 18 new teachers will join the staff. A summer repair program has put all buildings in excellent shape.

President McBride is soon to name a committee whose duty it will be to make a study of the Village Charter and suggest changes which may improve our present form of government.

15 YEARS AGO  
September 1, 1938  
An outdoor community sing at Pierce athletic field Friday evening, Sept. 16. This community affair will conclude the current program of the summer recreational program and is expected to draw a record crowd.

City Clerk Irene Hanley today announced that absentee ballots would be ready Sept. 3 for voters who expect to be out of town for the Sept. 13 primaries. The final date for absentee applications is Sept. 10.

City Manager D. C. Egbert has been notified by L. M. Nims, state WPA administrator, that work on the Woodward avenue water mains will probably begin at once.

A familiar landmark in Birmingham will soon be moved. C. S. Woodruff has given permission to move the Dixie Drive, which he owns, from its present location on Merrill street and to make necessary changes. The current site has been purchased by a chain store.

Miss Helen Dennis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Dennis, 292 Park, was graduated Tuesday from Mercy college of nursing. Pontiac Commencement exercises were held at the Book Cadillac hotel, Detroit.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Impressions brought back from a one-week's vacation in New England: Boston, and the area surrounding it for a distance of about 50 miles, is steeped in early American history. The people are proud of it, and seem to have gone to great lengths to protect and preserve it as national historical shrines. These include the famous Boston Common, Old North Church, the USS Constitution, which is better known as "Old Ironsides," the Colver's first State House, the village green at Lexington where the first gun in the American Revolution, the North Bridge, and Concord with its world-famous status of the "Minute Man," where the first Revolutionary battle was fought, the homes of Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson and hundreds of other historical points of interest.

So the driver merely takes his chances and works his way across the square or through it to the next street he must drive on. Massachusetts, in particular, recognizes this traffic problem and is taking expensive steps to enlarge its progressive turnpike system. However, don't try to bluff a pedestrian... the law is on his side every time. All in all, New England is a beautiful area, has friendly people, wonderful food, and a pulsing history. All this invites me to return at my earliest opportunity.

A sign of woman's "emancipation" or equal-status-with-men: walking or driving along a public street with a lit cigarette drooping from the corner of her mouth. An interesting theoretical question—how many Birmingham youngsters would have paid a nominal fee to paddle or swim in a municipal pool on those hot August days?

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## Would Have Been Hot Session

Senator Joseph McCarthy, Republican from Wisconsin, has announced that his committee would not hail former President Harry Truman before it to question him on actions taken while he was in the White House. McCarthy announced the following decision after he had been informed by the Justice Department that President Truman cooperated in every way with that Department's effort to eliminate subversive elements.

Whether the Wisconsin Senator, who is chairman of the highly-publicized Congressional group investigating Communist activities in the United States, actually in-

tended to put Mr. Truman through the ropes in a committee session, we cannot say. When reporters approached the former President on the subject, he told them he would not comment since what he would say they could not print.

This indicates that the session between McCarthy and Truman, had it been held would have been a hot one. Judging from the personalities demonstrated by both men, we would say that a session between the outspoken McCarthy and the outspoken former President would be a highly newsworthy event.

## Encouraging Cows "To Let Down"

We folks who live in cities probably know little about the variety of problems the farmers contend with. Take just one—related to the business of operating a dairy farm. Milk cows that eat too much dry food, such as grain, "let down" their milk more slowly than cows that are fed watered grain.

Over in East Lansing, at the cow barns operated by Michigan State College dairymen, experiments are being made on the subject. A recent publicity release from there says: "The cows have developed a lusty appetite for the watered grain—

drinking it instead of lapping it up with the tongue.

"They ate—or drank—the wet mixture in less than half the time they consumed dry food. And they let their milk down faster, so that the Brown Swigs cows went through the milking parlor in much less time than formerly."

So, you see, there is great history and much present experimenting always going on behind that milk bottle left on your porch mornings. Not only does society owe much to the cow, but quite a lot to the men who endeavor to increase its annual give-away program.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The American Bar Association, in a recent convention, voted unanimously against allowing any communist to practice law in these United States. They believe that a lawyer who defends an enemy of our form of government also is an equal enemy of freedom. This unanimous approval is, when you relate it to lawyers, almost a miracle in itself. . . for lawyers thrive on disagreement.

A Michigan State College nutrition expert told a New England audience that folks who live in the midwest are fatter than people who live in other sections of the U.S.A. "Perhaps it's because food is cheaper there," she pointed out. Maybe some Congressional committee ought to look into this.

Leave it to those Iranians to upset the governmental appease. One day Premier Mossadegh is at the top of the heap; the next day he is in jail, and the Shah is back on the throne. In a country where such upsets can occur so easily, how can you expect them to become stable parts of an international pattern for enduring peace?

It is illegal to play bingo in Michigan. Yet perhaps a majority of Michiganders

feel that, when played for charitable purposes, it is all right. So the Detroit city council is going to place the question on the Nov. 3 city ballot—but even if it wins overwhelmingly bingo still will be illegal until the legislature wipes the forbidden statute off the State's books.

According to news reports, about all the Duke of Edinburgh does is to fall off horses, play lacrosse, golf and wear different uniforms at various functions. He certainly is not proving himself the customary handy-man, fixing up things at Buckingham Palace.

Communism, it is being proved in East Berlin, is dedicated to the proposition that it, alone, can feed the hungry masses—and between feeding times, when the people really get hungry, Communism decrees capitalistic food as indigestible for its subjects. Boy! What a time the Kremlin must have in devising excuses and alibis.

## So They Say . . .

The Earl of Home, Minister of State for Scotland:  
"We can build a house but a home must grow."

Nathan Cummings, grocer, just back from Europe:  
"This is the only country in the world where people are worrying about diets and losing weight."

Bernard M. Baruch, retired industrialist:  
"We must stop our armings—even if it means increasing . . . taxes."

Mme. Henri Bonnet, wife of French official, speaking of new Dior hemline:  
"Within six months everyone will be wearing shorter skirts."

Jacob Klein, dean, St. John's College, Maryland:  
"Too many enter college who can't quite read and can't quite write."

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

We come to the defense of one of our favorite places—the Birmingham Community House. Not too long ago one staff member received a comment to the effect that young people had been barred from the Ranch Room because they were non-residents of Birmingham. The insinuation also was made that they were not made welcome because they had not contributed to the House's annual Roll Call. Nothing could be farther from the truth! In the first place, House staffers have no way of knowing who has or has not contributed to the fund. The actual staff workers have little or nothing to do with the drive which is handled by a special committee.

IN THE SECOND place, the only way they could possibly know would be a personal query of every person using the House facilities.

In the third place, the House is not barring anyone whose behavior is satisfactory. Not so many years ago we were in that non-resident bracket but the facilities of the Community House were ours without question. House workers took the time to set us right in our directions and we have our own way.

Staff members were very gracious, very kind and on one or two trips when we became "lost," House workers took the time to set us right in our directions and we have our own way.

WE HAVE KNOWN many who do not live within the confines of Birmingham who use the House. In fact we've been known to wage that a "census" would reveal a great many of those who go there regularly are "outsiders."

We have seen the Community House reserved for the Halloween party and we have known that many of these youngsters were not residents of Birmingham. Probably there were many more whose families had not contributed to the annual Roll Call. And, speaking of contributing,

Who is there who can give a large enough donation to actually pay for what the Community House means?

NO MATTER if one gives \$1,000 and then never goes near the place, or if she has not even seen it. What it represents to the people of this area is something which will be purchased and maintained.

Stop and think of the House as a whole, not just as a building with entrances on two streets.

Stop and think of what it encompasses. Right from the baby who goes there for clinical work through to the grandparents, it has a place for every age. There are enough things there that it can easily encompass a lifetime, in only one day's activities.

IT'S A PLACE where a boy and girl can go for association with their age or their sex normally would not meet. They get acquainted with youngsters attending other schools and living in other sections of the city.

The same basis of fellowship applies to their parents and neighbors.

The Community House is known as "The Heart of Birmingham." It might well take another title—"The Crossroads of the Community."

Want a good used car? Look in the Classified columns under "For Sale—Automobiles."

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