

Football Fans To Be Provided With New Guide

Associated Collegiate Press Backs Movement To Supply Accurate Information

The following discussion of the movement to provide football fans with more accurate information about the sport was written exclusively for the Mercer CLUSTER and the Associated Collegiate Press by Joseph Petritz, director of sports publicity at the University of Notre Dame.

The Official Football Guide for 1936 lists the names of some 75 football players, who, in 1936, made punts of between 71 and 80 yards on the fly.

I watched Bill Shakespeare, Notre Dame's all-American half-back of 1935, for three years, kicking opponents dizzy. During that time and for several years previously I saw many of the games, other famous distance kickers—Kabealo of Ohio State, Bobby Hogan of Pitt, Dick Nesbitt of Drake, later of the Chicago Bears, and others—and I have yet to see a punt travel 70 yards in the air from the line of scrimmage.

The point is not that the Official Football Guide is necessarily wrong, for it is possible that with a strong tail wind a man might kick a ball the prodigious distance upwards of 71 yards.

What I wonder about, though, is whether the kicks were measured from the line of scrimmage or from the spot where the kicker stood.

In Notre Dame's thrilling game with Pittsburg last fall, Acting Captain Peters booted the place kick in the last two minutes of play which settled the issue in favor of the Fighting Irish, 9 to 6. The ball was on the 18-yard line before the center passed it back. Peters stood on the 26-yard line to make this epic effort. The goal posts were 10 yards behind the goal line. The question arose then whether the kick should be scored as an 18-yard kick, a 26-yard kick, or a 36-yard kick. Many valuable words and much precious time were wasted by writers who were conscientious enough to clear up the point.

It is not an infrequent occurrence for an ambitious college publicity man, trying to push one of his school's stars into an all-American berth, to list the average yardage gained by the player in response to inquiries about the player, but to neglect to specify whether these yards were made on running plays, passes he caught or threw, kickoff returns, punt returns, or even on punts. Maybe his average runs up around 7 to 10 yards a trip. Possibly his average on running plays from scrimmage is three yards.

These random examples will serve partially to make the point, that the keeping of football statistics varies greatly throughout the country, and in its ambiguity takes something from the enjoyment and understanding of the game.

The rest of the point could best be made by illustrations showing the various charts different schools use to present the statistics to the working press at the conclusion of the game. Lines run one way on some, another way on others. Some include yardage that others omit. Terms used by two or more schools may mean different things in different parts of the country.

To the American College Publicity Association goes credit for the first move made to date, to my knowledge, to clarify and standardize both the method of keeping these statistics and the charts on which they are presented.

Asked to speak at a district meeting of the ACPA at the conclusion of the 1935 season, when

the welter of charts and misunderstanding of that season was fresh in my mind, I suggested that these forms be clarified and standardized for 1936. Homer Dunham 1935 ACPA Vice-president in charge of athletics worked on the forms and methods I suggested to him after a personal survey of methods used all over the country, and the association adopted the suggested forms at its June 1936 meeting.

This means that some 360 member schools will be keeping statistics in the same way and presenting them on identical charts this fall. It means that the newspapermen writing against time will not have to pore through long columns of figures, reading every heading in an effort to find the number they want, then re-read the heading and compare it with others to be sure they have not misled, and, for example, included under total yards gained from scrimmage, only those made by carrying the ball.

The college publicity men have no desire to force upon the public or the press forms which they do not want. The charts, as accepted by the ACPA, however, are believed to be the simplest and most complete yet devised. Copies of them have been sent to many of the nation's best known football writers. They have been unanimous in their approval of the idea of standardizing the figures. From some have come suggestions for clarifying the charts still further.

The Association of Football Writers of America, headed by Stanley Woodward of the New York Herald-Tribune, is expected to pass on the charts at an early date. The association was formed at Notre Dame on the eve of Notre

Dame's opening game with Kansas last fall with the announced purpose of correcting press box abuses.

While the old method of presenting game figures can hardly be called an abuse—for each publicity man conscientiously made his own forms and tried to give the best service he could with them—it was at least an inconvenience.

All suggestions made by the end of the current season will be discussed at the 1937 meeting of the ACPA, the charts modified where necessary and then offered to the football rules committee for final approval by that body.

For those of a technical turn of mind, we submit here some of the regulations to be used in 1936 by ACPA schools:

All runs, and passes will be measured from the line of scrimmage to the point where the ball is declared dead.

All punts will be measured from the line of scrimmage to the point of furthest advance. In the case of balls punted over the goal line for touchbacks, measurement will be from the line of scrimmage to the 20-yard line.

WHO'S WHO

(Continued from Page Three)

Dr. John B. Clark, dean of the arts college; W. J. Bradley, professor of history; Dr. John D. Freeman, professor of Christianity; Dr. B. D. Ragsdale, Baptist historian and educator; and Joseph Robinson, professor of English.

The three Mercer trustees listed in the new volume are Bascom S. Deaver, federal judge; Dr. W. G. Lee, chairman of the board of the

Ministerial Group Hears President

Professors, Students At Initial Meeting

With an unusually large number present, the Mercer Ministerial association held its first meeting Tuesday night.

The group was addressed by Dr. Spright Dowell, Mercer president who welcomed new members of the organization. Teachers in the school of theology were also present. The meeting was very informal.

Mercer Graduate Appointed To Post

Former Student Is Zoology Instructor At Miami

Dr. Henry Frederic Strohecker, graduate of Mercer, was recently appointed assistant professor of zoology at the University of Miami.

While at Mercer, he was awarded the Blalock medal, which was given to the most outstanding student in the science department. After being graduated from Mercer in the summer of 1926, Dr. Strohecker was instructor at Lanier high school for boys. Leaving this post he went to the University of Chicago where he received his doctor's degree in zoology.

Dr. Strohecker has published several articles, and a number of others will appear soon, in "Ecology", a science magazine.

First National Bank and Trust company in Macon; and Thomas E. Ryals, lawyer.

B.S.U. Council Has First Meet Of Year

Religious Group Makes Plans, Hear Reports

The Baptist Student union council held the first meeting of the 1936-1937 school year Tuesday morning in Roberts chapel.

Robert Smith, president of the council, had charge of the meeting during which various officers were called upon to give reports of the work they have done and plan to do this year.

"The B. S. U. is making a special effort to do a greater amount of work here than they have ever done before," Robert Smith said, "and we will try to reach every student on the campus this year."

Alumni Office Helps In Trustee Election

Two Men To Represent On Board

The alumni office is preparing of mail ballots to members of the alumni association for the election of two men to represent the alumni on the Mercer university board of trustees, according to Dr. Wilbur Stout, director of the alumni office.

The voter will check two names on a ballot listing five nominations. The men nominated are John B. Guerry, '05, Montezuma, R. C. Gresham, '11, Moultrie, Eugene Cook, '27, Wrightsville, John Westmoreland, '14, Atlanta, and Ellis Sammons, '00, Macon.

Capacity Audience Views Rice Pageant

Local Players Aid In Commemoration Of Baptist Leader

The Frustrations of Luther Rice a pageant by Dr. Rufus Weaver former president of Mercer, commemorating the death of Luther Rice, a pioneer Baptist leader, was presented before a capacity audience Monday night in the University chapel.

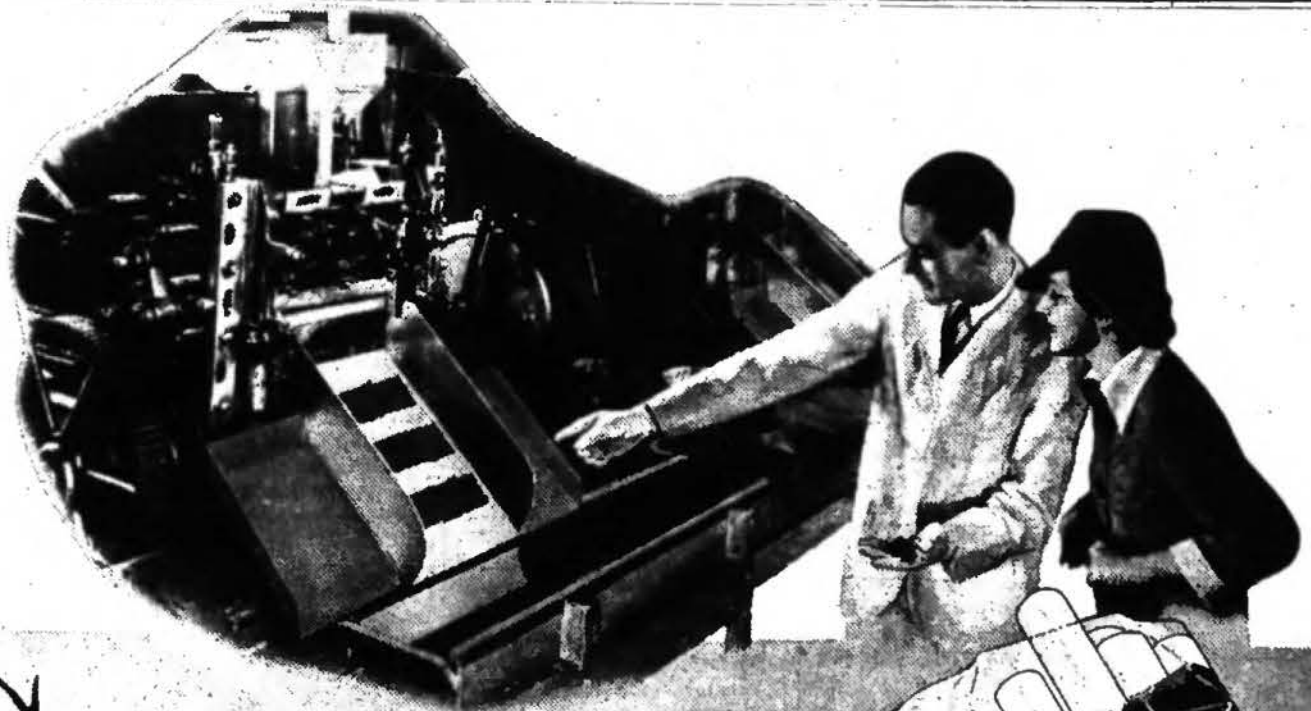
The play was presented by a local cast with the cooperation of the Mercer Players. The pageant, composed of six episodes in the life of Rice, was directed by Dr. Wilbur Stout, director of the Players.

The character of Luther Rice was taken by the Rev. L. H. Wright, pastor of the Tenth Square Baptist church. He was supported in the minor parts by members of the Mercer faculty and student body, and several Macon citizens.

The episodes presented a connected story showing the disappointments of the early Christian organizer and were effectively produced by the players. The narrator for the production was Dr. E. E. Overton. A quartet under the direction of Maines Rawls furnished music for the program.

Science has loaded man with benefits, but the careless and prodigal use of them is pathetic.

We must hold the torch of liberty aloft so that others may see its light.



Chesterfield

Wins

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