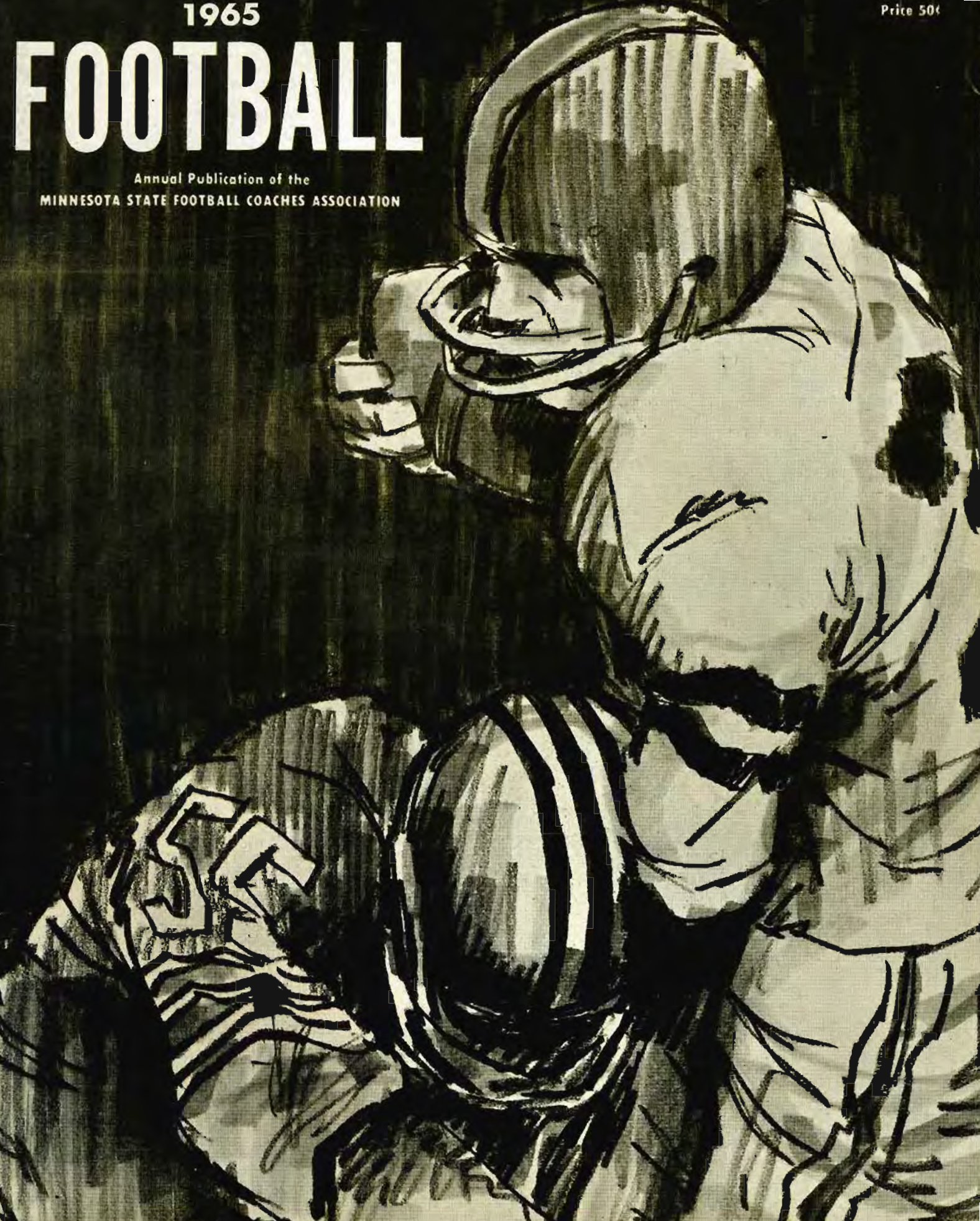


1965

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# FOOTBALL

Annual Publication of the  
MINNESOTA STATE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION



1965

# FOOTBALL

ANNUAL

## Minnesota State Football Coaches Assn.

P. O. Box 8364  
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This publication is issued annually by the Minnesota High School Football Association as a media for the exchange of ideas and technique in the game of football.

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# Table Of Contents

Editorial.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Basic Defense 4-4-2-1.....	4
What Is A Coach?.....	7
Scouting Prep Football.....	9
Sports Profile: Vern Morrison.....	14
The Action Pass.....	16
Introduction of the Pro-Style Offense.....	20
The Coaching Ladder.....	23
Football Action Photos.....	25
"Football Hall of Fame".....	31
Football Action Photos.....	34
O-U-C-H! Those Defenses!.....	41
The Rise of 9-Man Football.....	46
A Counselor Looks at Football.....	49
The Flip-Flop Offense.....	52
District News.....	54
The 5-4 Defense.....	56
Hijinx in the Huddle.....	61



COVER ARTIST — The striking front cover artwork is the work of one of the nation's outstanding young commercial artists — George Karn of Minneapolis. Karn, a former professional hockey player with the Minneapolis Millers, coached hockey and served as an assistant in football at South St. Paul High School. For the past seven years he has been devoting full time to his career as a commercial artist.

**EDITORIAL:****Thoughts on the 'Coaching Wringer' and Pressures for Removal**

BY STEVE SILIANOFF

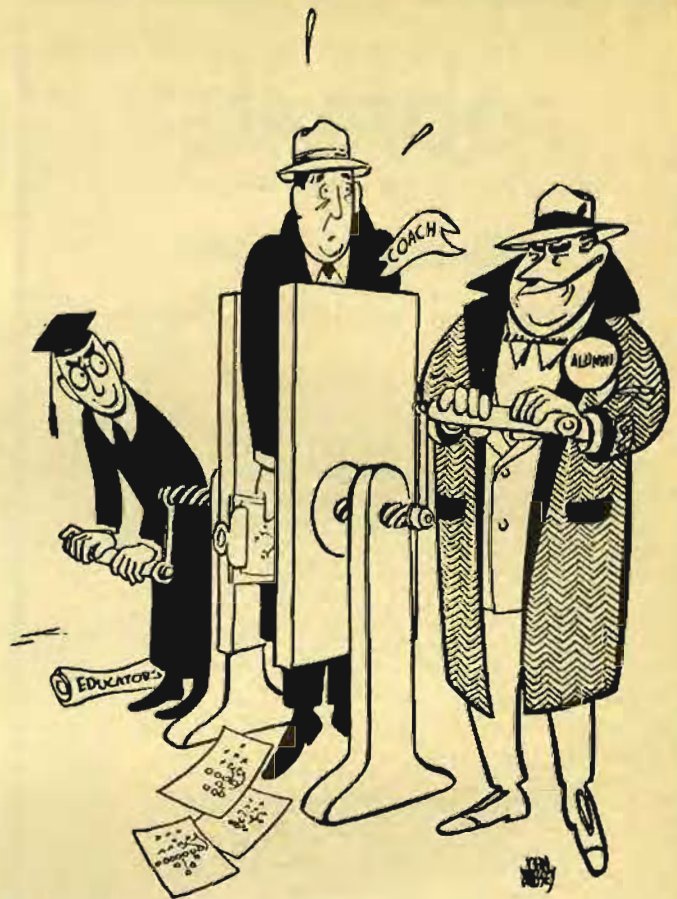
Past President of Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association

The following thoughts are an open letter to our administrators and to those people of responsible position in our communities with relation to the removal of a dedicated coach. These thoughts have germinated because of an incident in our Conference which may also be happening in other localities. The viewpoints expressed come from one who has participated as a player and as a coach. The primary issue is one relating to responsible democratic decisions based on law (above all moral law) and not the whims, prejudices or materialistic views of a few in responsible positions. It might be considered a question of ethics.

We all like to win, but in each contest 50% of the contestants will win and 50% will lose. Those of us in the coaching profession know that there is much to learn that can be of lasting value in the lives of each of our students by losing as well as by winning. In fact the task is more difficult when losing, but can be a better teaching - learning experience. The primary purpose of our athletic program is to give our young people an opportunity to gain physical, emotional, and group relation experiences. These experiences will train and strain their self-disciplinary development in conjunction with the gaining of a feeling of sacrifice for the good of a total unit which is based on externally directed discipline. The practices and the contests are intended to make each participant learn to strive honestly beyond mediocrity. If this is accomplished then the coach, the participants, and that particular activity is successful and educational. It is at this point that weak or unknowing administrators can create conflict and undermine the program. The coach should be judged on having accomplished the above objectives and in helping prepare young gentlemen to face life. A winning final score is not the way to judge, although this is the "popular" way. Those in responsible positions should use criteria for judging, whether or not the ideals and values that an athletic program should expound are being formulated, otherwise the whole athletic program is a mockery.

I think that we are aware of coaches who have "winning records" but subject their participants to "cheating" or extreme bending of the rules. They certainly are not teaching desired goals in the athletic program. This is where action should be taken by our administrators, but then it may be a question of facing up to local pressures.

We need positive leadership and strong direction or else there will be an undermining of the whole athletic program. Our young coaches group should begin formulating a solid basis of action or guidance with which to help in situations where the coach must subvert the ideals of the game in order to satisfy those who would win at any cost.




---

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The author of this letter, Mr. Steve Silianoff of South St. Paul, is recognized as one of the outstanding young football coaches in the State of Minnesota. He is also considered an excellent classroom instructor. Those who know him are impressed with his dedication to the game of football and his sincere desire to do that which is best for the students under his tutelage. His record as a successful coach speaks for itself. The concern which he shows for the instability of the coaching profession has been discussed by the High School Football Coaches Association and reflects the views of the group.

---



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## THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

**"THE 10th GAME...."**

By Dale W. Scholl  
President of the Minnesota  
Football Coaches Association

In Article III, Section 1, D, 3, Athletic Bylaws, page 57, 1964-65 of the Minnesota State High School League Handbook it states the rule pertaining to the tenth game which was passed March 20th, 1964.

"A championship game between the winners of two conferences or sections of an officially organized conference shall not constitute a violation of this rule, provided it is within the total game limitation of the League and is listed as one of the games on the official schedule of each member school of the conference or conferences."

We are most appreciative of the cooperation and consideration shown by the Representative Assembly of the Minnesota State High School League. By adopting the above bylaw, Minnesota High School football has been placed on the same level as the other sports.

Why haven't Conferences promoted play-off games? Could this possibly be a lack of initiative by the football coaches and administrators? It may also be that many are not aware of the possibility of playing the tenth game. Therefore, if there is any desire at all by the football coaches to promote

interest in their sport, then by all means bring this item to the attention of your administration. The administrators should be encouraged to present the tenth game at your next Conference meeting. Certainly, if there is any concern shown, then other Conferences should be contacted to indicate whether or not they would be willing to play a 10th game. NOW is the time to get going on the tenth game so that it can be included in your schedule for next year. As you know, on or before October 1 of each year, every member school shall file with the League a schedule of its football games for the season. No game which is not included thereon may be scheduled or played without written permission of the Board of Control.

Of all the comments that I've heard about the tenth game, not one has been favorable. If the championship tenth game is undesirable for football, then there must not be much educational value in determining a champion in basketball or in other sports. That is why we must be concerned about equal recognition for all sponsored activities of the League. We know football has tremendous spectator appeal, we know

-- Continued on Page 19



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# BASIC DEFENSE

## 4-4-2-1

BY STAN NELSON  
Head Football Coach  
Anoka Senior High School

I believe the most important aspect in teaching football is defense. Sometimes, as coaches, we are apt to overlook the importance of defense; thereby stressing and spending too much of our practice time on the offensive phase. A strong defense is in most instances reliable, but an injury to a key offensive player, bad weather, or breaks can make an outstanding offense mediocre.

We realize all defensive formations are good, and having players that like to hit is of prime importance. First of all, the coach must have complete confidence in his selection of a basic defense, know it well, and realize its strength and weaknesses. One good basic defense with simple variations for each game seem to me to be sufficient. Supplying a team with too many difficult types of defensive formations can give his boys a false sense of security in which they feel they can rely on other defenses if one is not working properly for them. Selling your defense to the squad becomes the primary objective to success. Each player must know the responsibilities of all positions; he must see the entire operation, thus giving his position more meaning. Know your personnel - his speed, leadership qualities, coordination, reaction and knowledge of play situations become factors to consider in the selection of his position.

To select an all purpose defense for high school is very difficult and must be considered in view of personnel and teaching time. The 4-4-2-1 is a

type of defense which is basically sound and yet is very versatile and affords quick and easy rotation to many other types of defense. It is a sound defense with which to rush and defend against the passing game. I also feel that it is a type of defense in which we can conceal the type of defense we will use while the opposing offense is getting set.

There are certain basic defensive fundamentals we want each player to learn thoroughly before moves and shifts are put into practical use. Keeping this in mind, we try to spend twenty minutes each day on fundamentals such as stance, position, and charge. Basically we want to use a control charge. Controlling the offensive man in his area becomes our prime objective.

There are six important steps that we feel are necessary if our defense is to be successful (1) The defensive man must charge quickly to a definite defensive point. This point should be several steps behind the offensive line. It is important that he now is in good fundamental position, ready to react. (2) Defensive players should now look for and read actions of the blocker. An offensive player, thus should be kept in front of the defensive man, work from underneath his shoulders. (3) Look for the ball carrier. It is important to stress that this comes after his charge and control. Do not move out of your area until after he has found the ball. (4) Get the

--Continued on Page 5

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**BASIC DEFENSE** -- Continued from Page 4

blockers away from the defensive player. Teaching of the proper technique to rid the blocker from one's body and keeping legs and arms free now become important factors, again working through the shoulders of the offensive player. (5) Go for and meet the ball-carrier. Pursuit becomes the all important phase. Pursuit patterns should be employed by all players. Run - Run - Pursuit, is a slogan we constantly remind the players of. Our players are instructed to go through or drop back; never go around a blocker. (6) Correct way to tackle. We teach the head on tackle or meet at the cross roads type of tackle. Head and shoulders should be across and in front of the ball-carrier.

In the above combinations our consideration is to first play the pass and the run second. As a summary for our basic ideas we stress that charge, control the blocker, look for ball-carrier, throw off the blocker, go for ball-carrier and tackle must be kept in mind in its correct order of attack.

We want them to hold up the offensive end as long as possible and also close the gap between the end and the tackle. Our guards must be our strongest players. They are taught to charge low, moving the offensive guards into the backfield, and preventing the quarterback from sliding down the line. Their objective is to hit, hold, and allow no one through.

The possibilities of games and stunts are unlimited. Diagram 2 shows one type of stunt that can be used.

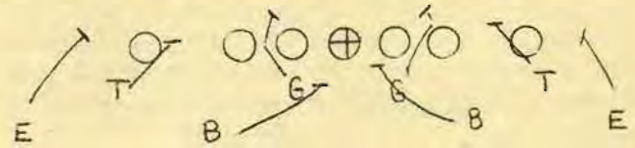
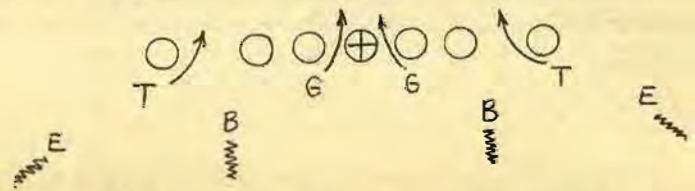


Diagram 3 shows our victory defense in relation to the passing game and for the long yardage situation. This defense is employed during the final minutes of the game when we feel the offense has to rely on its passing game to be successful. This defense affords excellent area coverage yet gives us adequate pass rush from our guards and tackles who we like to have shoot the gaps.



Our ends have flat area coverage while the linebackers are responsible for short hook zone and screen passes. Our deep men are taught to play one-third field area coverage.

Stan Nelson, Coach of the Anoka Tornados, Anoka Senior High School, Graduate of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was all-conference guard for two years.

During the past twelve years served as head football coach at Anoka Senior High School. St. Paul Suburban Conference Champions 1956, 1962, 1963, and 1964. The 1964 team extended this victory string to thirty-three consecutive victories and were selected as the No. 1 team in the state by Minneapolis Tribune's Ted Peterson.

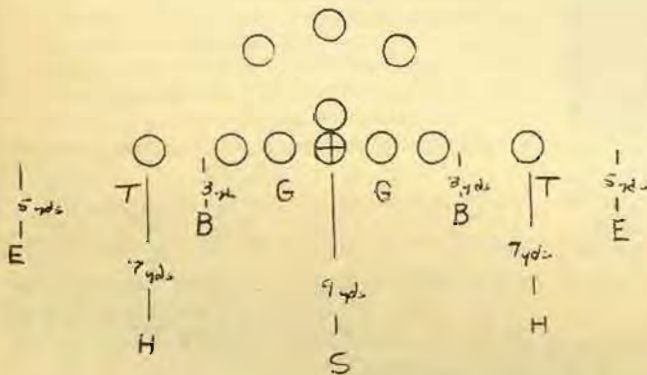


Diagram 1 shows position of players in our basic 4-4-2-1 defense. Our guards and tackles use the four-point stance. The ends use the two point stance. Our linebackers key off the outside shoulder of the tackle. They must be in a ready position at all times. We feel it is extremely important that they dangle their arms and hands in front of their knees for low blocks. From this position he is able to fight off blocks even though he does not see them.

The important part of our defense is made up by the guards and tackles. Tackles must be rugged boys with strong arms and hands with quick movements.

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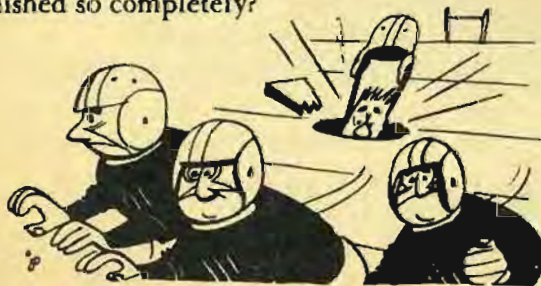
Georgia was leading Vanderbilt 3-0, with just a few minutes of play remaining in the game. The air was filled with leather as Vandy desperately heaved the ball around in an attempt to click on a touchdown pass. Suddenly, McKibbin fired a long one to Nig Waller in the clear. Waller was just about to snag the ball when he collided with a news photographer who was trying to get into position to snap a shot of the game-winning touchdown toss.



The photog got his picture, but the pass was incomplete and Georgia won the contest. As a result, the cameraman has become a kind of legend in the South — every year he's offered a sweater with a big "G" for Georgia.

## Disappearing Interference!

The disappearing ball trick is slick enough when it happens, but a player who vanishes into thin air is phenomenal. It happened in Sandpoint, Idaho, while the local high-school eleven was entertaining Kellogg high school. Charley Ford, captain of the Kellogg team, was running interference for the ball carrier and clearing a swath through the secondary when he suddenly disappeared, leaving the runner to his own devices. The crowd was puzzled; the team was stunned. How could he have vanished so completely?



In another moment, the mystery had evaporated. The young captain's head slowly and painfully emerged from a five-foot hole which had been covered by boards and sod in order to camouflage a rather embarrassing bald spot in the field. Ford returned to the game to lead Kellogg to a victory without again leaving for the nether regions.

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# What Is A Coach?

BY WALTER GILLETTE

## \*\*\*\*\* *Vikings Invite Grid Association*

### *Members to Pro Game Again*

Billy Bye has informed our organization that the members of the Minnesota State High School Football Coaches Association are again invited to attend Minnesota Viking games as their guests, Chuck Elias of Minneapolis Central High School happily reports.

Viking officials anticipate record crowds for the coming season so there will be some tightening up in procedure of procuring tickets. Elias stated, "We are sure the coaches have appreciated going to these games and will cooperate with the Vikings to insure the continuation of this privilege," he added.

Complete information will be sent to you by your secretary with your new membership cards.

A COACH IS A POLITICIAN, A JUDGE, A PUBLIC SPEAKER, A teacher, a trainer, a financier, a laborer, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, and a chaplain. It also helps if he is an astrologer or at least understands numerology.

He must be an optimist and yet at times appear a pessimist, seem humble and yet be very proud, strong but at times weak, confident and yet not over-confident enthusiastic but not too enthusiastic.

He must have the hide of an elephant, the fierceness of a lion, the pep of a young pup, the guts of an ox, the stamina of an antelope, the wisdom of an owl, the cunning of a fox, and the heart of a kitten. It will also be to his benefit to develop the acting ability of a poker player with a par hand.

He must be willing to give freely of his time, his money, his energy, his youth, his family life, his health and sometimes even life itself. In return he must expect little financial reward, little comfort on earth, little privacy, little praise but plenty of criticism.

However, a good coach is respected in his community, is a leader in his school, is loved by his team, and makes lasting friends wherever he goes.

He has the satisfaction of seeing boys develop and improve in ability. He learns the thrill of victory and how to accept defeat with grace. His associations with athletes help keep him young in mind and spirit; and he, too, must grow and improve in ability with his team.

In his heart he knows that, in spite of the inconveniences, the criticism, and the demands on his time, he loves his profession, for he is THE COACH.

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## Irish Up

In 1925, Notre Dame was trailing Northwestern at the half by a score of 10-0. The boys were sitting despondently in their dressing room, waiting for Knute to come in with the customary tongue lashing. While admitting to themselves that they had one coming, they dreaded the moment when Rockne would open up on them.

Time passed, and Knute didn't appear. The suspense was stifling. Almost the entire rest period had gone by, and they were biting their fingernails down to the elbows when the door finally opened and Knute put his head through. The boys flinched, but they looked up at their coach, bracing themselves for the remarks they knew they'd get.

Knute stared around the room with a surprised look on his face. Then backing out again, he spoke



quietly. "Excuse me," he said. "I thought this was the dressing room of the Fighting Irish."

Final score: Northwestern, 10; Notre Dame, 13.

## Everybody Up!

Harry Stuldreher, Head Coach of the University of Wisconsin and formerly the quarterback quarter of the Four Horsemen, calls his own signal on this play:

In 1930, after Knute Rockne had made his last appearance as coach of the great Notre Dame team, Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York staged a game between Notre Dame All-Stars and the New York Giants. Rock agreed to round up the Notre Dame players and coach them against the Giants. He wired Harry from the West Coast telling him to get ready for the game. Stuldreher wired back, "Don't worry about me. Just get that line in shape!"

Apparently Rock was not too impressed with either Stuldreher or the wire. He wasn't present when the team assembled in the dressing room before the game, and there was plenty of speculation about what he'd say when he arrived. The boys knew they could expect a rousing pep talk from

their old coach and looked forward to it, since Rock was noted for his soul-stirring exhortations. Finally, Rockne made his appearance and the squad quieted down, waiting for the talk to begin.

The Rock looked around the room briefly. "All right, men," he boomed. "Everybody up for calisthenics!"

## Pep Talk

Jim Crowley, the same "Sleepy Jim" who rode with the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame, fondly remembers Rockne's scathing pep talks, and particularly the speech he made just before the Army game in 1924, long before Knute began to sound like Pat O'Brien.

Knute started off by saying he didn't believe the advance publicity that Army was going to kick the Irish off the field that day and then boot them right off the schedule. Then he proceeded to go right down the line-up of the starting team, checking off their assignments and criticizing mistakes of the last Saturday's game.

"Walsh, you're starting at center, and I want to see you play sixty minutes of h-a-a-a-r-d football. Send back a nice, fluffy pass to those backs!

"Rip Miller, I'm playing you at right tackle. I want you to go in there and play sixty minutes of h-a-a-a-r-d football. You didn't do so well last week.

"Collins, I want you to go in there and play sixty minutes of h-a-a-a-r-d football." He went down the line, making similar remarks to each of the seven mules before getting to the backfield. Stuhl-dreher was ordered to play sixty minutes of h-a-a-a-r-d football. Layden was ordered to play sixty minutes of h-a-a-a-r-d football. "Miller," ranted Rockne, "you've got a lot of h-a-a-a-r-d blocking to do. We've got to shake Crowley loose!"

Crowley cringed as Rockne turned to him for his final comment. Knute quieted down to a respectable shout and announced, "Jimmy, you start at left half and trot along with the boys!"



# Scouting Prep Football

BY DENNY TETU  
Assistant Football Coach  
South St. Paul High School



SOUTH ST. PAUL'S Jim Mohrland drives in for a tackle.

**INTRODUCTION:** Every coach has his own system of scouting and his own points of interest to scout. In this article I will merely present the routine that I have found best suited to our needs at South St. Paul High School.

**PREPARATION:** Before the game go over any report that has been done on the team so far during the season. If none is available, then use one from the previous year. Most teams are basically the same offense and defense from year to year if under the same coach. The only thing new from year to year is personnel. The purpose of studying past reports is that the scout needs a mental picture of what to expect, and to prepare any charts that might be needed. I use charts only after having seen a team

play at least once and then the chart is prepared to fit the team.

**PRE-GAME:** Get to a game about ten minutes before the teams come on the field in order to memorize numbers of key men. It's very important to observe the warm-up drills closely. The game may not have a lot of punting, extra points, or kick-offs, etc., so the only place you would have had a chance to observe this would be in the warm-up.

From warm-up try to get such things as maximum distance without pressure that the kickers are able to kick or the passers are able to throw. Look for half-backs throwing, which would indicate a possible running pass threat, even though not used in the

-- Continued on Page 10

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**BURLY** Jim Carter shows his running power against Anoka, displaying the form which enabled him to gain over 1000 yards in 1964.

#### SCOUTING -- Continued from Page 9

coming game. There are a number of things that can be observed from pre-game warm-up. Don't neglect it.

**GAME:** It is very difficult to scout alone. One person can see only so much on every play. Therefore, it is best to work in pairs. One person can record and the other can serve as a spotter.

**OFFENSE:** From running plays attempt, first of all, to diagram the movements of the backs; also noting line splits, flankers, split ends, spreads, etc. Once having seen a good selection of plays start trying to pick up the blocking. Memorize linemen's numbers as well as backs, so that as a play develops, you can note the number leading the play. From this you can put together on a sweep, for example, that the opposite guard pulls, or on an off tackle, that there is a short trap by the tackle on the same side, or that on a dive play they use a short trap block by the opposite guard. Picking up blocking can be a problem, especially with a team that uses multiple formation. Example: one opponent using the same play but blocking two different ways. I have noted that on one diagramed play the guard led the play, and on the same play another time, the tackle led the play. Finally, from studying the charts I had made of

**DENNY TETU**, a 1957 graduate of Macalester College, is rated as one of the finest assistant coaches in the state and his scouting reports are invaluable to South St. Paul High School. He has served as assistant football and assistant hockey coach at South St. Paul High School since 1957. He participated in football, hockey and track for four years at Macalester, winning all-conference honors at halfback during two of the four years.



plays from different formations, it was discovered that the blocking depended on the formation used. This blocking knowledge will give confidence to your linemen.

In 1961 we were playing an offensively powerful team that was in the running for the championship. Having scouted them the week before and concluded that their power was centered on an off-tackle play, with the tackle short trapping the defensive end out and the halfback helping to close up the gap left by the pulling tackle. We worked hard with the ends to

--Continued on Page 11



**FIVE NORTH** St. Paul players try to wrestle down 210-pound South St. Paul Fullback Jim Carter at the goal line.



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A CLASSIC downfield blocking display with South St. Paul blockers opening the way for Jim Mohrland in a game against West St. Paul.

SCOUTING -- Continued from Page 10

handle the heavier tackles and our tackle to overpower the back. Two of our ends, Tom Ricker and Chuck Reynolds, caught on fast to this play and we held the team to two touchdowns and beat them by three. We were able to control the game by stopping their offense, forcing them to kick. The point is that, if at all possible, blocking should be observed. After all, it is with blocking only that the offense can move.

On pass plays attempt to note passers, protection, receivers' patterns, and favorite receiver. Every coach has a favorite philosophy on passing. Some will try to hit the receiver behind the halfback, some between the halfback and linebackers, and some like to throw to the flat area. Some prefer to use the screen more than others. Mainly, you must know the abilities of the passers and the patterns.

Other things to note from the offense is the kickers and their distance, their punt protection and coverage, their kick-off distance and kick-off returns.

Once having seen a team and having scouted them a second time, then prepare a chart of all their formations to make recording easier. Try to chart every play used by the first team, noting formation, pattern, situation and gain or loss. From such a chart you can see key plays, key performers, and play sequence.

In addition to plays and blocking, personnel should be studied. Make a note of their weight, speed, weaknesses, and strengths.

DEFENSE: Usually when we scout in pairs, we divide the responsibility. One person will be responsible for the report on the offense and one for the defense.

We do chart the gains or losses against the defense. We try to keep aware of weak spots or strong areas.

As far as defense is concerned, I feel that, for our purpose, it is better to concentrate on personnel more than defensive variation. Although we do use the defensive alignment information, especially when

-- Continued on Page 12



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**SCOUTING -- Continued from Page 11**

applying our blocking rules; we never really can expect the same defense used against us. We operate from an unbalanced line, single wing offense, the only single wing in the conference. Therefore, we never see beforehand what could be used against us.

Therefore, I feel that it is more important to study defensive personnel in anticipation of where they might be playing.

Look for mobility, strength, weight, and charge in the linemen. Look for agility, size and movements of linebackers. Look for the eagerness, tackling ability, and pass defense of the backs.

Another thing to watch for on defense is the substitution. Not the replacement of the tired player or the bringing in of plays, but the defensive substitution that comes after a long gain by the opponent. This may indicate a weak spot at that position and could be useful information. Also note injuries. A key player may not be playing up to par because of an injury.

Try to get all your information on plays and blocking in the first half. Then in the second half, check out accuracy or make additions. It's important to get as much information the first half before the substitutions begin. Once the first team leaves the game, you no longer get a true picture of the strength of that team.

Throughout the game it is important to watch for unusual maneuvers such as special plays for special situations, special defenses, extra point strategy--anything that could work against you because of surprise, and possibly decide the ball game.

**AFTER THE GAME:** The game report should be written up as soon as possible. The summary should include formations, diagrams of key plays (with blocking if possible), list of personnel with notes on each, pass patterns, defensive alignments, and then generalizations of the game. In the last, try to note power plays, favorite pass pattern and receiver, punt formation, key individuals offensively and defensively.

This report is given to the the Head Coach, who has the hardest job of determining strategy against the team.

**DURING THE WEEK:** On Monday, the Head Coach will have large diagrams on the bulletin board of personnel and plays, and general information. The scout should go over a more detailed report and



**SHOWING SOME** of the drive which enabled him to gain over a 1000 yards during the season, Terry Abram of South St. Paul lowers his head to gain against West St. Paul.

answer questions that the players will have in relation to their position.

During the week the scout should direct the third team against the varsity, using the opponent's plays and defense. The object is, of course, to familiarize the varsity with all things the opponent may attempt to use.

**SUMMARY:** Actually, I find that I use very few charts unless I have seen the team before and can make up a chart to fill in the information more quickly. Most of the notes are diagramed plays and defenses. I think that you must depend on concentrated observation of everything the team does from warm-up to the time the game ends.

+++++

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## SPORTS PROFILE

# Vern Morrison's Genius of Organization Has Built Minnesota Coaches Association Into One of Nation's Finest and Largest

BY TED PETERSON

Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Vern Morrison's hobby is YOU!

Otherwise why would a man devote his energies to the exacting and time-consuming position of executive secretary and treasurer of the Minnesota High School Coaches Association?

"Well," says Morrison, "because I like it. I just got interested in coaching problems and decided to do what I could to help them. Besides you can't find a better group of persons in any walk of life."

There is sincerity in those words. A genius at organization that has built the state coaches group into the nation's largest, Morrison has other qualifications, including a genuine liking for people, a warm, friendly disposition and a thorough knowledge of coaching problems.

For a "triple threat" halfback who never played a football game in either college or high school, Morrison did pretty well as a coach before he retired to devote his attention to the athletic directorship at St. Cloud Technical High School.

Morrison's string of 32 consecutive victories at St. Cloud, stretching from Oct. 13, 1939 until Oct. 22, 1943, still is an all-time state record.

A graduate of Grundy Center, Iowa, high school where he played basketball and baseball only, Morrison then went on to Iowa State College at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He was out for football as a halfback but in both his junior and senior years had the misfortune of fractured bones in his ankle and foot before the season opened, so never played a game.

Morrison started his coaching career at Ortonville in 1926, moved to Hutchinson in 1931 and to St. Cloud Tech in 1935. He quit coaching football at Tech in 1954.

Like all successful men Morrison has had a "behind-the-scenes" partner, his wife Grace, whom he married in 1926.

They have two children, Claire, now coaching and teaching at Alexandria High School, and Marilyn, resident of Mantiowoc, Wis. They have four grand children, the oldest 11-years-old.

"Life has been good to me," Morrison says "I've had a wonderful married life, two fine children and four grandchildren-- and they're the greatest. If you don't believe me, just ask grandma."

Morrison has found time to take an active part in civic affairs in St. Cloud, as a city councilman, as member of the draft board, as a member of the governor's committee on physical fitness and a wide variety of other endeavors.

Two of Morrison's biggest thrills were a trip to the Rose Bowl, presented to him by state coaches and a youth service award, made by the Minnesota Sportsmen's Show.

Speaking of his many positions, past and present in the educational system, Morrison says, "I like to see progress made and particularly the promotion of the interscholastic program. I'm thoroughly satisfied on it, because it's a great motivator for youngsters from the time they can walk until they get through with high school.

"Further it carries on after that with a lot of potential in college and adult life."

Morrison also hails the advance of the coaching profession to a place prominent in the educational system.

"The standing of coaches has been improved tremendously," he says. "We have gained enough confidence and respect so that we now are permitted to introduce resolutions and amendments to the state high school constitution. I would suspect we are the only state in the nation with such provision. That really is something and coaches deserve it."

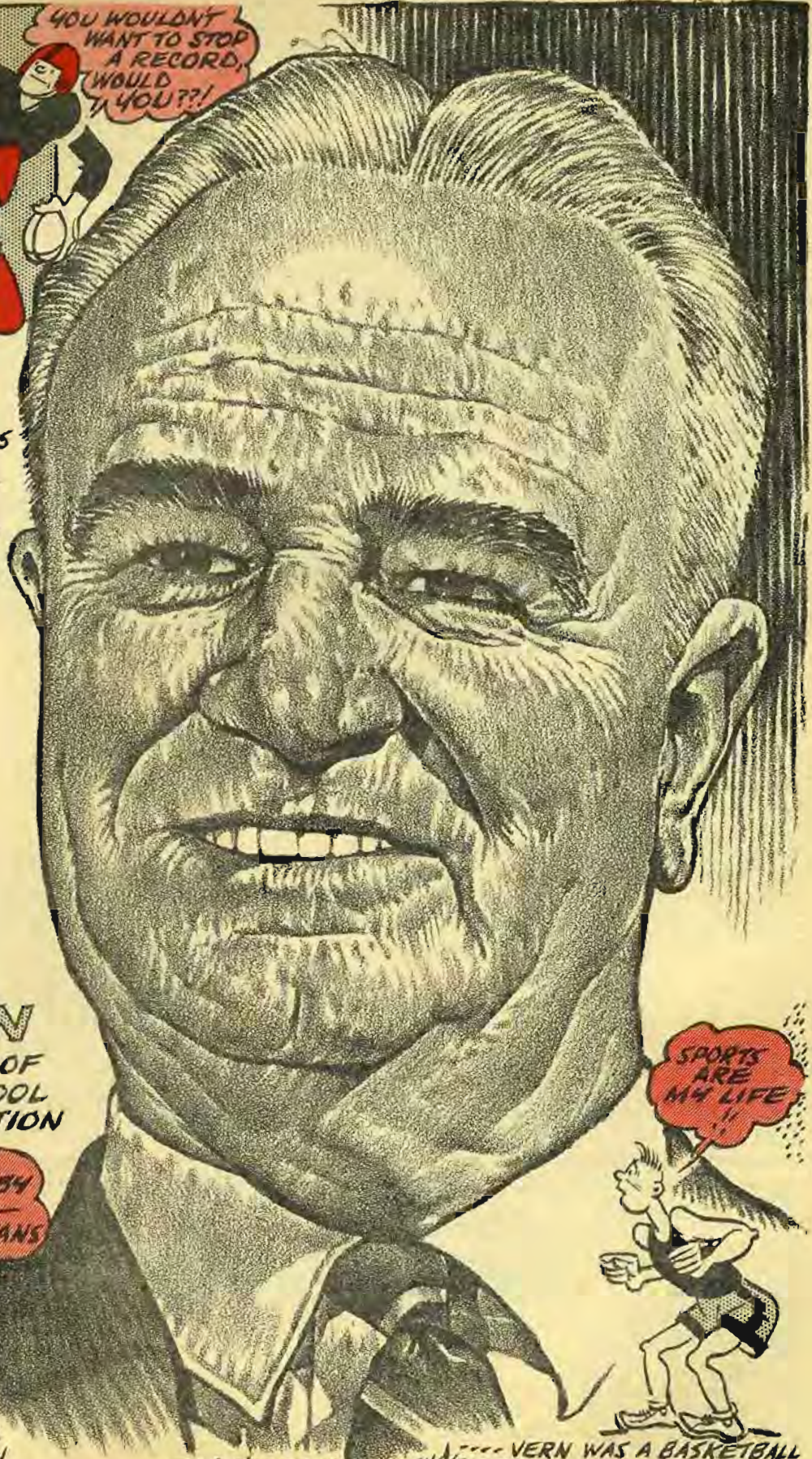


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-JIM NELSON

...VERN WAS A BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL STAR AT GRUNDY CENTER, IOWA AND I.S.T.C.

# THE ACTION PASS

By J. PAUL RICHARDS, North Branch High School Football Coach



THE NORTH BRANCH High School Undefeated 1964 Eleven, Conference Champions with 8-0 Record.

Any coach, such as myself, who has ever finished a season undefeated will no doubt agree that in looking back no "one" thing other than good old lady luck made it possible. With this in mind one tries to determine what might have been the marginal factor. We at North Branch feel it has been, our passing game. We feel even if we weren't intending to pass, at least the defense had to play us honest. The offense we used to accomplish this was the Slot T shown below.

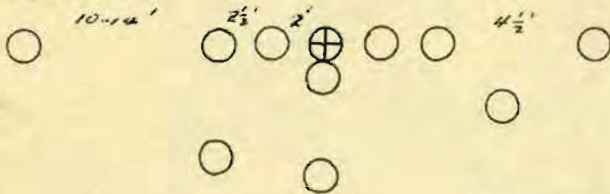


DIAGRAM #1

It is a matter of personal preference as to player positioning. Our interior line took a 2-2 1/2 foot split with the slot end about 4 1/2 feet out and our

split end out 10-14 feet. The center extended the ball as far as possible in front of him using one hand in order that our split men could easily see the ball. This we felt saved us many yards in senseless off-side penalties.

**The Backfield:** The backfield is aligned only two yards from the line of scrimmage. The halfback lines up by splitting the tackle; the fullback directly behind the quarterback and the slotback is between the end and tackle.

While the conventional backfield would ordinarily line up in a deeper position; we have the following reasons for not doing so.

1. We want quick action to the line of scrimmage.
2. We want to make it more difficult for the linebacker to read the play.
3. We want to give the opposing linemen the impression that they are being double teamed or blind sided by the back who is in position to make a short block.

Continued on Page 17



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## THE ACTION PASS -- Continued on Page 16

4. We want to give our receivers a fast opening into the defensive backfield.

The Action: We run only action passes at North Branch. Our players are usually on the small side and in the past have been quite often overpowered. We have found also that it discourages, to some degree, the "red-dogging" of the linebackers. In order for our offense to be effective, we realize that it takes fine deception on the part of all the backs, especially the quarterback. However it hasn't been too difficult to instill in the minds of these players the necessity of good performance. All of our players are told never to come to the conventional pass protection stance. They are instructed to attack the man with a shoulder and not to go to the ground.

Our pulling men generally have angle trap blocks. Those men who are blocking one on one are told to push their defensive man to the left or right and as far down the field as possible. The day we have an ineligible receiver downfield because he took his man that far out of the play, we will probably drop this blocking theory.

When designing the patterns we have to take this into consideration and which the quarterback has the most confidence, and which seem to operate best. This takes time and we are hard pressed in the first two weeks of practice to develop our attack. The key, or course, depends on the accuracy and speed with which the quarterback can deliver the ball. His moves must be made and the ball on it's way in three to four seconds. This time element does not allow for any indecision on his part. The

## About the Author.....

J. Paul Richards is a 1960 graduate of Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa, where he lettered four years in football. The past football season he brought North Branch to their first undefeated season in the history of the school. Paul spent three years as an assistant in the school and has been head football coach for the past two years.



**NORTH BRANCH** tight end Jeff Wilcox grabs a pass for 11 yards against Taylor's Falls.

receivers, of course, must be in the proper place in order for the quarterback to be effective. The quarterback is told never to fade over six yards from the line of scrimmage. We stress this because our quarterbacks have quite often been unable to throw long passes. If the passer has to run with the ball we try to have him cope up the inside. On every pattern there is one blocking back who is the safety valve.

The Patterns: All of our pass patterns are taken from running plays. We follow as close as possible all of our ordinary blocking routines; however, these vary somewhat according to the information obtained by our scouting report. The patterns are all designed to make the defensive secondary commit themselves. If the secondary defense is in a zone, we will try to flood certain areas. Generally, though, we are satisfied with a one on one situation or a delayed receiver.

All of the patterns put three men and the safety valve in action giving us four receivers.

We have had problems in the past getting what we thought was an adequate number of plays and still have the proper execution. Realizing that our players have many interests other than football, simplicity must be the order of the day. The easier it is for

--Continued on Page 18



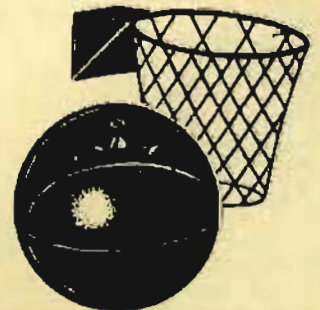
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**THE ACTION PASS -- Continued from Page 17**

them to understand the game, the better they will perform. All our running plays are called from a number system. To eliminate confusion, we give names to our pass plays. As I have said earlier, these are derived from the running game so that the line does not have to learn special assignments when the passes are called in the huddle. All they have to remember is from which series the running play was taken. This isn't difficult considering we have but "six" passing patterns. The backfield will have to make adjustments if their play is called, otherwise, they will carry on as they would on the regular running version of the play.

**The Receivers:** In order to install confidence and a certain amount of pride, each potential receiver is given a specific pattern designed for him from his position. In our practices we note what moves he makes best and then incorporate them into his plays. Those who occupy the ordinary receiving position have the plays named for the position. Our system included . 1. Tight end pass 2. Halfback pass 3. Fullback pass 4. Slot back pass 5. Split end pass 6. Motion pass.

The motion pass is run from our motion series and this is the only one we number. When our quarterback makes his call in the huddle, he will call as an example, "Split end pass"; this denotes who the "preferred" receiver will be. The others are secondary receivers and they run a straight diagramed pattern off the split end pass. The secondary routes are always the same.

It is difficult for the secondary receiver to run his pattern with speed and determination. The alternate receiver naturally knows that his chances of getting the ball are negligible if the preferred receiver has carried out his assignment effectively. Ninety per cent of the time the quarterback will throw to his preferred target, but, if the other receivers have followed patterns as instructed they may come up with the same saving pass. We think one of the hardest things to coach is hitting the alternates effectively! After the play is called, the quarterback now adds what route he wants the splitend to follow. Examples: the flare, hook, flag, straight, sideline, or slant. All of these patterns have been given to the split end, because he has shown in practice that these were his best moves. They are designed to attack any spot on the field. The other receivers do not necessarily have the same moves. Our slot backs patterns were usually designed to take advantage of

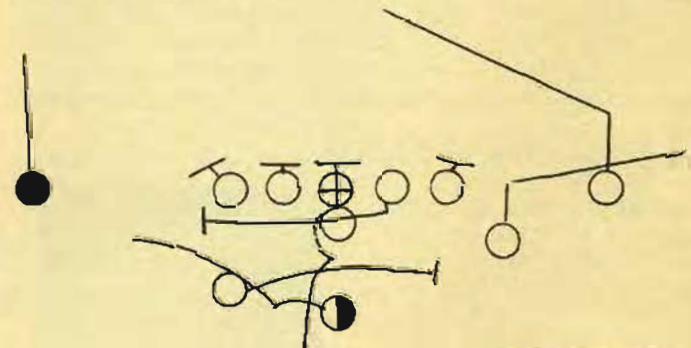
good speed and we try to isolate him on one man rather than let him run the diagonal patterns through the defensive secondary. The tight end on the other hand, should be able to catch the ball in heavy traffic and his plays are designed for short yardage.

The split end proved to be the most versatile receiving position because he was generally played one on one and had plenty of room to operate. The split end should be above average size as most of the defensive secondary men are usually positioned there because of their speed. Even on the running plays the split end races downfield to decoy the defensive halfback.

Our split ends return to the huddle on all plays. This creates a problem as he is running a great deal throughout the game. He must be in excellent condition and be given occasional rest. His replacement should also have excellent speed, as his job will be to run a very deep route in order to tire the defensive man covering him.

Whenever the defensive man covering the split end drops off by six yards or more, we consider the split end to be a potential passer. He takes two steps back and takes a quick pass from the quarterback. If he has been effective in receiving the ball during the game, the defense usually begins to converge on him leaving the other receivers in good position for the pass.

Diagram A: Shows the split end pass (straight) the tight end, slot back, halfback will follow this pattern every time the split end pass is called.



**DIAGRAM A**

Diagram B. Shows the slotback pass. Here the split end, tight end and fullback run the same pattern each time. The slotback can make any of six different moves but the other receivers have only one play to remember.

Split end - Down 5 cut to middle to draw linebacker,

Continued on Page 19

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**THE ACTION PASS -- Continued from Page 18**

then angle upfield to draw safety.  
 Tight End - Chugs tackle or first man inside then hooks between the linebacker and safety.  
 Halfback - Leads quarterback outside, blocks and goes toward sideline to act as safety valve and to clear linebacker to a wider position on the flat.  
 Slot back - Runs pattern called in huddle. 1. Hook 2. Flare 3. Straight 4. Flag 5. Sideline go 6. Throw back.

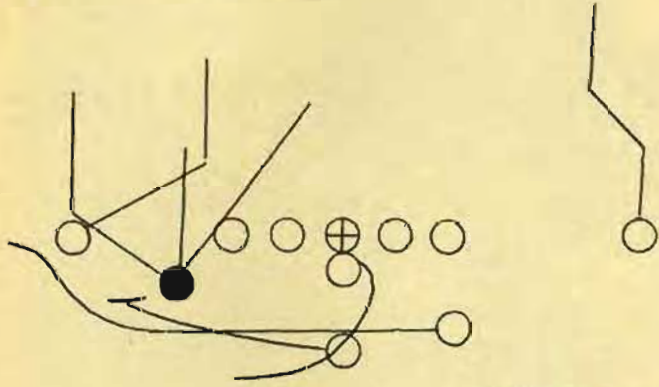


DIAGRAM B

With this system the receivers have to learn, at the most, six plays. Each receiver has six routes designed for him when his position is called. So in effect we operate with over 30 pass plays while the teams has but 6 to learn.

The Game: In order that our receivers become accustomed to receiving the ball under the lights we practice on Thursday nights before the Friday night game.

Our system depends a great deal upon the report we get from the press box during the game. An assistant coach will be in direct communication with the bench throughout the game. He is equipped with the "play board" of all our running and passing plays and he directs particular attention to how the defensive secondary is reacting to our running plays.

The action pass has proven itself to be effective primarily because we have had more than one above average receiver. Bad weather is one factor, however, that can ruin the effectiveness of this pass more than the straight drop back pass, for there is greater chance of poor timing on a wet field or on a cold night with the chance that the quarterback may lose the ball. But, we'll still go with it.



BOB SWANSON gains five yards for North Branch against Prior Lake.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- Continued from Page 3**

it creates unity in the community, and esprit de corps which is not surpassed by any other sport.

The play-off game would only affect the champion of the Conference and would extend the season for that team by one week. Championship games would not be that frequent, that they would cause disruption every year. It would not mean a second season for every school as it does in other sports.

The 10th game has possibilities of being a good source of revenue for the Conferences involved. Money received could be divided among the schools according to a pre-determined plan. Each school would then benefit financially from the play-off game.

The weather situation may be a problem in some parts of the state. In conferring with the weather bureau in Minneapolis, we have been informed that in the past fifty years there would have been very few days that would have made a football game in the first week of November a hardship. Over 50% of our school population is located in the Twin Cities area and another 25% to the south, so most of the schools would not be adversely affected by the weather.

Let's stop dragging our feet and start promoting the Conference Play-Off Game! It has great merit and should be evaluated with the same attitude as the sports that have championship games.



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# Introduction of the Pro-Style Attack in High School

by **IKE PESONEN**  
Head Football Coach  
Oreno High School  
Long Lake, Minnesota

There was a time not too many years ago when I would have flinched in horror at the thought of using the pro-style offense in high school. But after a quick survey of an empty barrel when a whole team had graduated a year ago, I was ready to try something different. We went to work with a quarterback, who had the arm, and one spindly-looking basketball player, who looked like he could catch the ball. There didn't seem to be much to lose.

The first three weeks of practice were the most hectic and difficult of my career as a football coach. Much of my thinking had to be re-evaluated. After a considerable number of years of a power-running game and a few action-type pass plays, we were suddenly trying to exploit the drop-back and the sprint-out passes to gain the complete advantage of one throwing arm.

I visualized the glaring weakness of an unbalanced attack. In fact, this probably happened to some degree. Our team sometimes began to think there was an easy, miraculous way to score touchdowns with the forward pass. Some did come easy, but when we faced the realities of injury to key personnel we had our problems.

In a final analysis, however, it seemed very unlikely that we would have had the success we enjoyed without this pro-style attack. As the season advanced our running game improved, and we actually developed into a fine all-round football

--Continued on Page 21



**A KEY TOUCHDOWN PASS** in the Orono-Shakopee game succeeded between Bob Krieb and Todd Carlson.

**PRO-STYLE ATTACK -- Cont. from Page 20**

team, although our streak of 31 straight wins came to a halt.

Basically, we incorporated the pro-attack somewhat as follows:

Figure 1



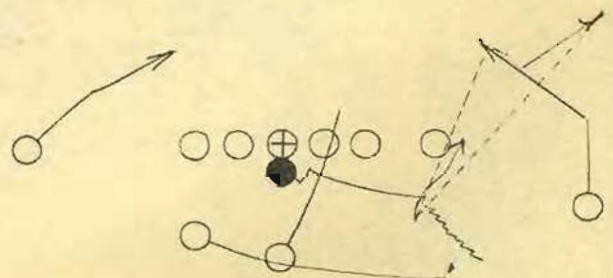
1. What had been our slot-back the previous year became our tight end. Our split-end now moved back a yard and became a split-back. Our left end split the same 8-10 yards of the split-back. This was our starting point, a minimum of variation from the slot-formation of the previous year.
2. We continued to make some use of our slot-formation also, and played a sort of lonesome end from it part of the time.
3. Our fullback played in handoff position part of the time.
4. We made selective use of player personnel when we used the slot-formation and the full-

back in handoff position.

5. Our basic running game consisted of the hand-off, the fullback drive, the second man through on an inside belly-type of play, and the quick pitch.
6. The remainder of our offense was based on the passing game, including the draw and the option.
7. Although we ran from either right or left formation, it seemed as though we were in right formation most of the time.

A. The Orono Option --- our option is a combination triple option as follows:

Figure 2

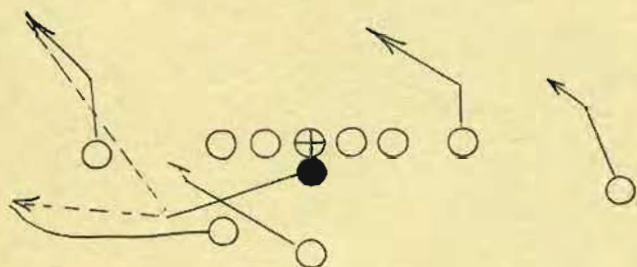


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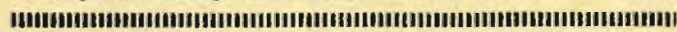
**PRO-STYLE ATTACK -- Cont. from Page 21**

1. Our fullback runs an inside belly fake.
2. After a quick fake the QB comes down the line and does one of three things combined into a series of two options on any given play.
  - a. Throw a forward pass to the split-back or keep.
  - b. Throw a lateral to the left half or keep. (With or without motion by the left half)
  - c. Throw a forward pass to the split-back or a lateral pass to the left half.
3. The split-back tells the QB which route he is running --- look-in or corner.
4. We sometimes use a throwback post-hook variation to the left end.
5. Going to the left the split-end always ran the corner route.

**B. The Sprint-out Pass - Figure 3**



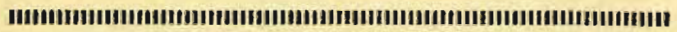
1. This is an automatic sprint-out pass when the defense is rotated too far into our split-back and tight end.
2. QB can keep at his discretion.



**About the Author....**



ATTEMPTING TO use a pro-style attack in high school is quite a challenge but like Pesonen who has tremendous success at Orono High School, winning 31 straight before being dumped was pleasantly surprised how quickly his boys adjusted.



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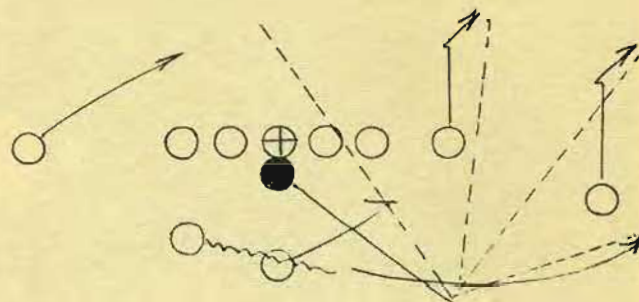
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3. We used a throwback to the tight end occasionally.
4. Our sprint-out pass into our strength is a flood pass with four possible receivers. Left half in motion.

Figure 4



**C. The Drop-Back Pass and the Draw Play -**

1. Our eligible pass receivers practiced the following routes:
  - Short and long sideline cuts
  - Short and long inside cuts
  - Short and long circles
  - Look-ins
  - Corner and opposite corner
  - Post
  - Swing
  - Hook
  - Quick slants
  - Go's from a number of these routes.
2. Our QB merely calls his primary receiver and his route. Two other men run decoy routes on their own. Any eligible receiver is a possible primary receiver. Blocking is adjusted accordingly. Four men out are special situations.
3. Naturally certain combinations became more practical and more successful than others. However, we were open to run anything anytime, with the option of making up a play combination anytime.

In this simplified manner we made good use of the pro-style offense. Even though we made every effort to keep things simple, it would still be impossible to include details here.

I felt that we were forced into something different. This was our answer to attempt to keep the pressure on the defense. We had to maintain a constant vigilance against improper attitudes in

--Continued on Page 51

**R**....Results

**E**....Effort

**D**....Determination

**D**....Desire

**A**....Ability

**L**....Leadership

# THE COACHING LADDER

The most important and often the most overlooked facet of coaching success is the handling of players and the psychological approach to the season and individual games. In writing an article, each of us is guilty of immediately diagramming a favorite play or defensive formation, but the above listed ladder including the will to win have chalked up more victories than any play yet devised and brought the results all coaches hope for. They are self-explanatory, along with these thru the years I've made a few more observations.

Organization of your time is number one on my list! Every practice minute should be carefully utilized and don't practice too long. Well-planned short practices eliminate fatigue and stimulate learning. I have heard many coaches say that a certain boy is not willing to spend the time to succeed. My theory is the coach is the one to blame as he hasn't spent the time to sell the boy on working.

In the handling of high school players, each one is different and should be treated as an individual. Both praise and criticism are necessary, but the

-- Continued on Page 24

by JERRY SULLIVAN  
Head Football Coach  
Roosevelt High School  
Minneapolis

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## COACHING LADDER --Cont. from Page 23

latter should be administered in privacy and not before six thousand fans. An athlete feels "down" in having made a mistake and it is not right for the coach to "lace" him in front of spectators. Treat each player like a man, regardless of age, and personalities will cause no problem.

Parents are a key to a successful football season! The coach should know the parents and they in turn can be an integral part in enforcing the training rules you set forth. Also knowing a boy's background and home-life will help you understand the traits in a player.

Be yourself is the only rule to follow in the pre-game or half-time talk. I never say anything unless I feel motivated and really believe what I am saying. The game plans should have been formulated during the week and useless talk can often be more of a detriment than an asset. Desire within the squad can be developed to a certain degree by the coach, but I believe a boy is born with this trait. To have a successful football season you must have one or two boys with leadership and the burning desire to win. One very clear example in my mind was a game we played against Edison some years ago. The field was frozen and covered with ice and after a see-saw battle, we drove down within their twenty yard line. Out of the huddle I saw two shoes and a pair of socks come flying to the sidelines and a barefooted halfback went in for the score on the next play. I took the boy out on the next play and reprimanded him for taking the chance on breaking a toe or foot. He

looked at me and said, "You're right coach, but did you notice my traction!"

In my many years of coaching I have been fortunate to have some great Championship teams and also some very mediocre clubs. Some of the boys have gone on to professional football and there were some who never left the bench. If there is anything to be gained from this article I believe it could be summed up in two words---sincerity and desire. You must be proud of your offense and defense and you must be "sold on it." You cannot instill the win theory unless you believe it is the best. A tip for young coaches is to use your own ideas and formations. Certainly you will receive aid and ideas from clinics etc, but if you use someone else's play book you are not coaching you are only copying. Self ideas are the privilege we receive when we earn the title of "Coach."

Many lectures have been given on the theory that you learn more by losing than winning. I cannot accept this theory for two reasons. Number one: The coach will not be around too long if he loses many games; and number two: our basic aim in every human endeavor is to win. In war, business, athletics and even life we strive to win. We must work to win, drive to win, desire to win and sacrifice to win if we are to come out on top. Life is a continual series of wins and losses, successes and setbacks. We use our defeats as a correction for our mistakes so that the next time we emerge victorious.

My theory of the coaching Ladder is that athletics at any level can be a great determining factor in the development of young men. You learn to be knocked down and still rise again, and this must be instilled by the coach. The player must learn to ride the bench and thus discover that all of us cannot be on the first team. So as coaches, if we can pass on these simple points we have succeeded in teaching the basic fundamentals of business and life. The desire to surpass or excel is the beginning of any contest or life itself. The bitter ser-backs along with the hard earned victories can only serve in the developmental process. My thoughts are that football and all sports are not only a phase of life, but life itself.



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*Football*

*Action*

*Photos*

COOPER'S Corky Sundgren (at right) picks up good yardage as he breaks loose on a quarterback keep in leading his team over Hopkins in Lake Conference play.



BLOOMINGTON'S fine quarterback Kuhr (below) goes for a good gain against Hopkins in Lake Conference play.





**TOM COLBY, Wells speedster, stretches for that extra yard against Windom.**



**ALBERT LEA'S Doyle Freemeyer (26) hurtles for yardage against Mankato.**



**ALLEN SCHMIDT** (above) scores on a three-yard plunge for Alden, undefeated powerhouse champion in the Border League, as the conference title holders roll over Kelster 47 to 13.



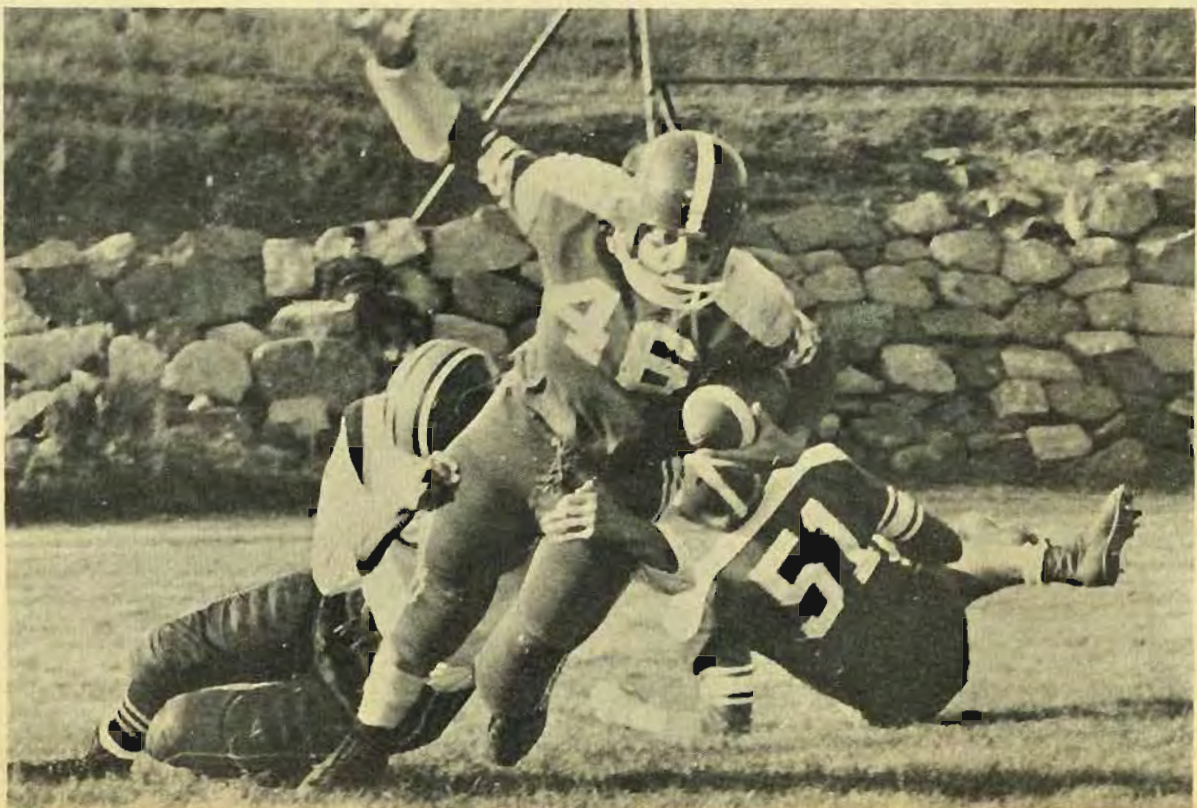
**MOUNTAIN IRON** junior quarterback Nick Sutich (at right) runs the Big Fork high school end as Mt. Iron rolled to a 20-0 victory. Big Fork sophomore end Gerald Suihkonen tries to get out in front of the block.



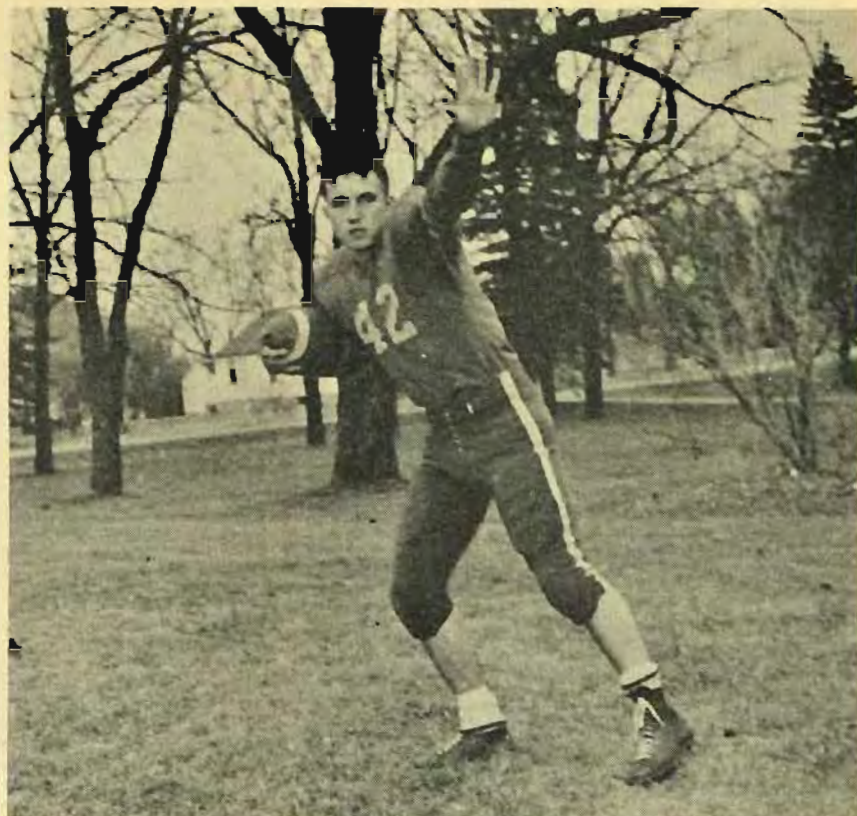
**GOING 62-yards to score is Morris' all-conference fullback Dick Raasch in game action at the right as the Tigers scored a 39-20 West Central conference victory over Sauk Centre.**



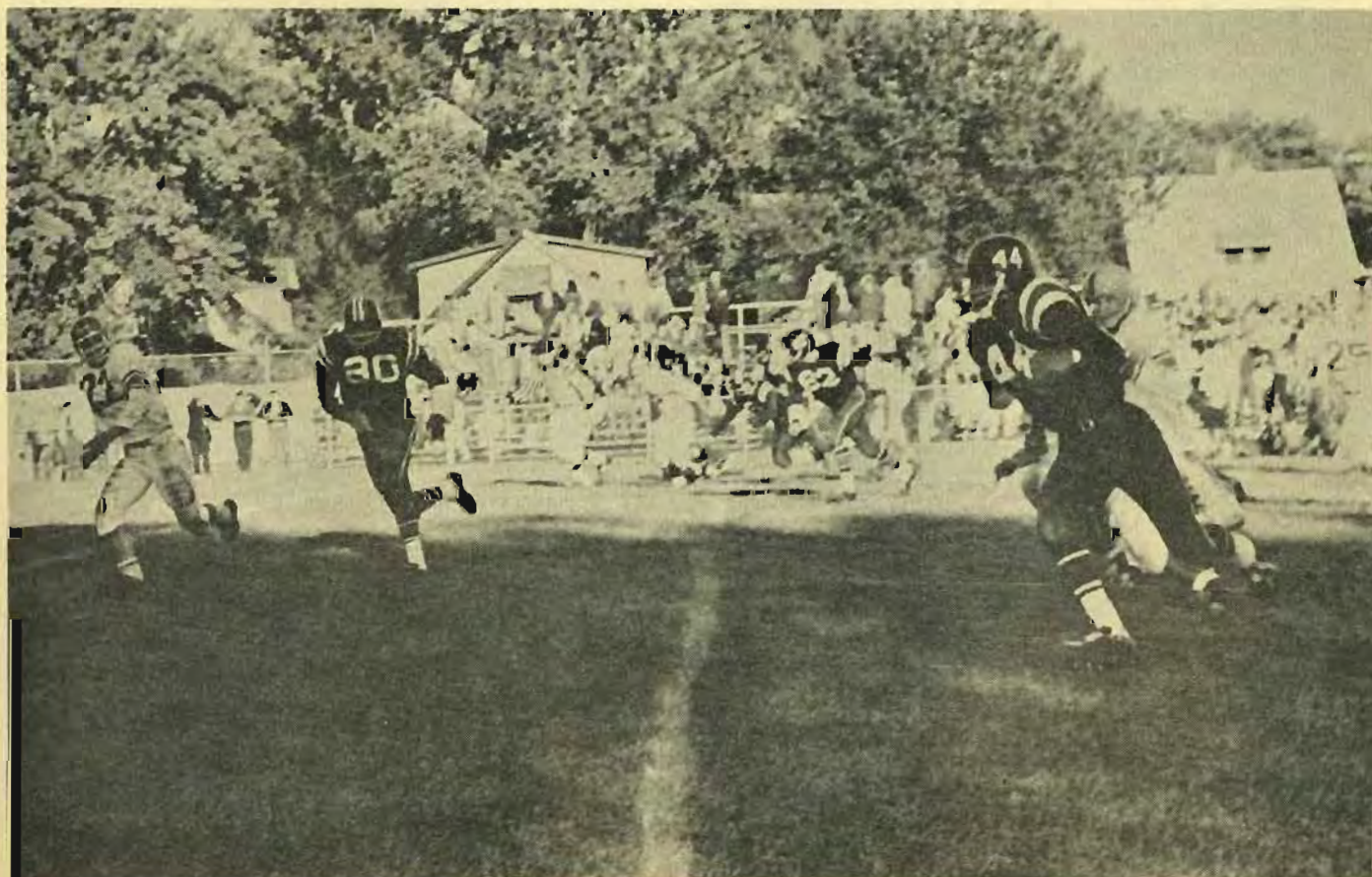
**MOUNTAIN IRON'S Jerry Glru (46) is being spilled by a Gilbert high school tackler on a punt return in range football action below. Mt. Iron won the game 41-20.**



**ALL-STATE** 8-man footballer (at right) Auggie Hinz of Wood Lake scored 247 points last season while rushing for more than 1800 yards. He scored 37 touchdowns and 25 extra points.



**IN A GAME** pitting Minneapolis South against Minneapolis Central, below, Central's Harold Boudreaux (80) comes cross field to help Glenn Nevils (44) in his end-around gain.





**ALL-CONFERENCE** Fullback Linn Newcomb (32, in white) of Mountain Iron (above) finds a big hole in the Biwabik line as Mike Flola, 135-pound all-conference half-back make a good block against the Biwabik end. Mt. Iron won the game 27-13 and went on to a 9-0 undefeated season.



**PHIL DOLSETH**, at right, is about to nail Staples halfback Ron Bjerga after a five-yard gain in a game which Morris won, 18-0. Morris ends Gary Anderson and Steve Hokanson are about to join in the gang tackle.

# Football Coaches Start "Hall of Fame" Award

For the last few years the officers of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association have been discussing the possibility of promoting a type of recognition to individuals who have achieved or contributed to High School Football in Minnesota. Each meeting the idea came up and some material was accumulated from other States; but for some reason nothing developed until our January meeting when the decision was made to go ahead and plan for our First Annual Prep Football Hall of Fame Award Banquet which is to be held April 30, 1965, at 6:00 o'clock at the Normandy Hotel.

The purpose of establishing the Prep Football Hall of Fame is to honor those who, by outstanding achievement or service, have made lasting contributions to the cause of High School Football in Minnesota, the nation, and the entire world.

We feel that this is so important that it is necessary to preserve records of teams and individuals, and the ideals and traditions of sports as a positive influence on your youth and a potent factor in our Minnesota way of life. It is designed to maintain and improve the high esteem which football occupies in our overall educational process.

The Minnesota Prep Football Hall of Fame greatly emphasizes, encourages and promotes Football participation on a high plane of sportsmanship, under competent leadership, and in a healthful and wholesome environment.

Its purpose is also to serve Football at the "grass-roots" level which in turn serves our youth and our country. It is here that the groundwork of our great American Football Association Program is laid and here is built the foundation of strong character, good citizenship and a brave, strong Minnesota.

There are two Minnesota Prep Football Hall of Fame Awards:

(a) "Prep Division" —

Based on achievement or service to Football in Minnesota at the High School level.

(b) "General Division" —

College or Professional Players, Athletic Directors, Sportswriters, or any citizen based on achievement or service to High School Football in Minnesota.

Service to Football Citation —

Based on outstanding achievement or service during the current year or for an accumulative record of achievement or service over a longer period of time.

With this added incentive in the Football group, should make for a stronger Minnesota High School Coaches Association. It has never been our objective to over-shadow or divorce ourselves from the parent organization; but to encourage and strengthen our Football Group in hope that it will promote all athletics in the State of Minnesota. We are recognized Nationally and we wouldn't want anything to destroy our image as being something other than outstanding.

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# MINNESOTA HALL OF FAME

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Ted Peterson

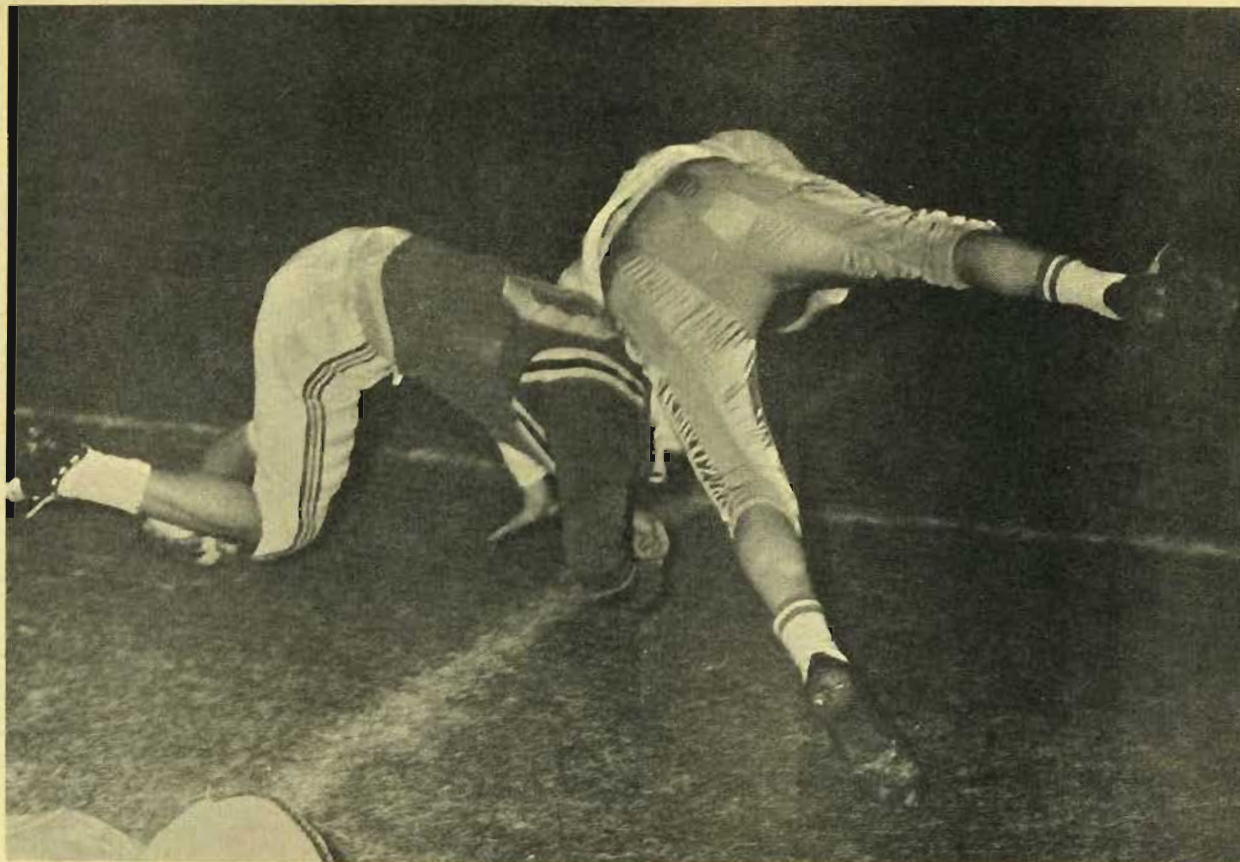
ation  
ards



A SIX-YARD gain by Morris Fullback Al Bouressa, above, is finally stopped by a host of Litchfield tacklers. This tough Litchfield defense was instrumental in giving Litchfield the 33-6 victory plus the West Central conference championship in 1964.

DULUTH DENFELD halfback Gary Eisenach intercepts a pass in a game against Virginia in football action at the right.





**FLYING** through mid-air in stopping an Albert Lea advance in the picture above is Faribault's Paul Dragsten. Albert Lea went on to win 28 to 6.



**DIVING** for the pass is Faribault's Karl Kispert (24) in the picture at the right. But the pass was a wee bit too long and Albert Lea's Steve Smith was on hand in defense.



**VIRGINIA** back Sertich (33) makes a good gain against International Falls as he is aided in his advance by big 250-pounder Dave Chiarello (73). Virginia won 39 to 7.



**SCORING** on a one-yard plunge and a 6-0 lead for New Richmond (below is Bruce Babcock. New Richmond won the contest 12 to 7.



**KARL POPPENHAGEN (13), above, and Jerry Forsberg (15) put the stops on Tim Sheehy at International Falls. International Falls defeated Thief River Falls in the game 12-0.**



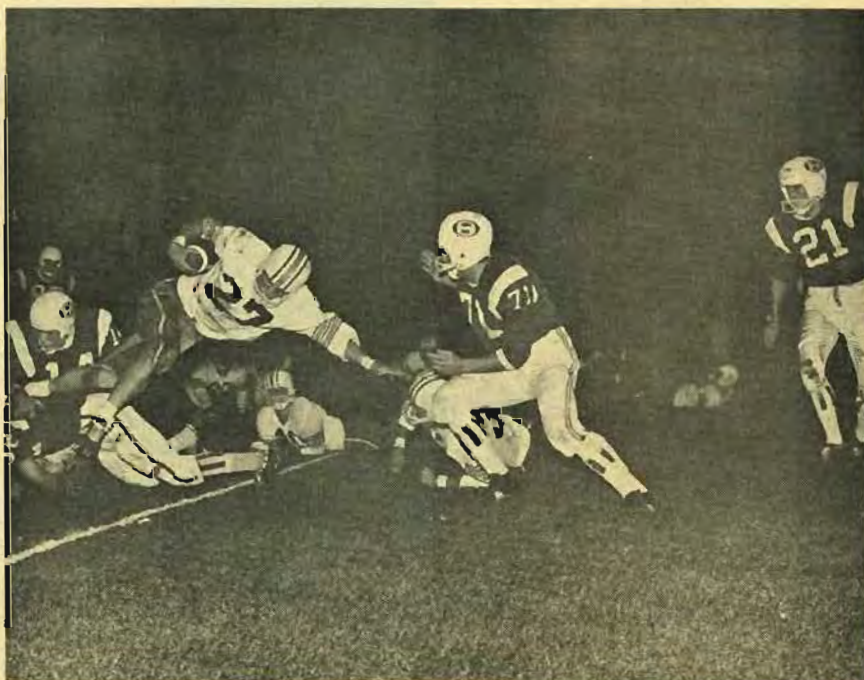
**PAUL FRIEDMAN (31), at right, goes for a substantial gain for Duluth Denfeld against Virginia.**





**BOB STEIN (82) of St. Louis Park, WC-CO all-state end, goes for the ball in a scramble with Edina's quarterback in Park's lone loss of the year.**

**ST. LOUIS PARK all-stater Bob Olson battles for yardage against Bloomington as Jepson, No. 71 for the Bears, comes up fast. St. Louis Park won 21 to 7.**





**FARIBAULT'S BURT ABRAHAM (23)** breaks away from a Mankato tackler to go on for a good gain. But the gain was for naught as Mankato rolled to an easy 27-0 win.



**MORRIS CAPTAIN** and quarterback Ed Buntje goes for a 11-yard gain on a quarterback keeper against Litchfield, the West Central Conference champions. Larry Anderson and Tim Haugo make the stop for Litchfield.





**AURORA-HOYT LAKES** gains first down against Virginia as Tim Berdica makes the gain before being stopped by Mike Sertich. Virginia won by a convincing 39-13 margin.



**TWO-TIMED** by Virginia defensemen, Hibbing's Tom Kanzalos, goes down before Mike Sertich and Mike Norlander. Virginia won 25 to 0.



# O-U-C-H!

## THOSE DEFENSES

BY JOHN BESTE

Head Football Coach, Roosevelt High School at Virginia

### About the Author.....



JOHN BESTE, a native of Virginia, has served his alma mater as its head football coach for the past seven years. A 1949 graduate of Wisconsin State College where he starred as captain and "most valuable player" during his senior year, Beste coaches both football and hockey. Prior to his coaching career at Virginia, he coached at Stevens Point, Wisc., for 8 years, serving as head football mentor for the final five years at this Wisconsin football hotbed. He returned to Virginia in 1957 and after serving one year as the assistant grid tutor, he took over the head football coaching reins.

Due to the wide variety of defenses a high school team encounters from week to week and the added frustration of an assortment of defenses employed in each game, a basic offense must be installed which will include some form of rule blocking.

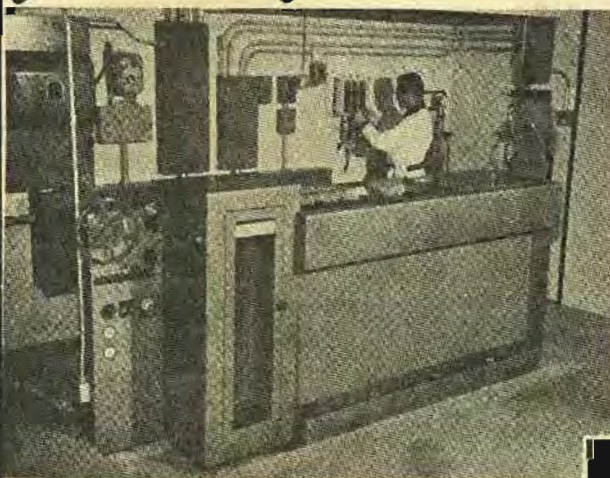
It is impossible to prepare a squad for every situation a defense may present. Therefore, if the blocking is to be consistently effective, a system of rules must be developed. These rules must be easy to learn, cover the necessary tactical situations, and easy to employ with a minimum of indecision. Many coaches use a list of rules covering every position for each play in their repertoire. We have attempted to simplify this even further by reducing the quantity of these memorized rules for clarity and general overall understanding by our squad members. This system may not be the ultimate, but it is simple enough to be used effectively in our Jr. high, Jr. varsity, and varsity systems. It also enables us to shift linemen from one position to another without worrying about the new blocking assignments.

Since each position in an offensive play is directly related to the others, complete understanding of each

-- Continued on Page 42

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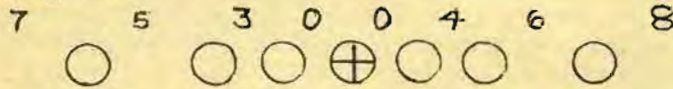
SIoux FALLS, S. DAK.

O-U-C-H! -- Continued from Page 41

play by the entire squad is essential. With this in mind, we have developed a basic offense with a minimum number of plays which can be run from a variety of formations without changing the blocking assignments.

We begin by teaching our numbering system. The odd-and-even method is used and the numbering for the holes is between the offensive linemen (Diag. 1).

Diagram 1



Notice that we do not use holes 1 and 2 as an even defense presents only one hole. We do use O left and O right in our signal system designating the spin of the quarterback. We also number our plays in series so that we may strike at several different holes with plays that look identical (Diag. 2).

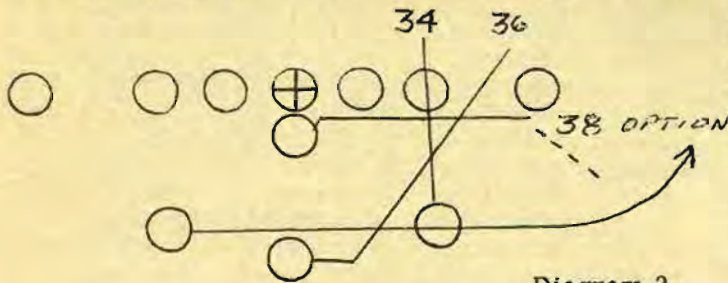


Diagram 2

When the decision is to place an additional blocker in front of the ball carrier, the word "Power" is added to the signal. All blocking assignments remain the same. The original ball carrier now becomes a blocker and the next back over changes his pattern to hit at the point of attack as the ball carrier. We seldom find a mixup in assignments on this switch as the only boy affected seldom needs to be reminded that he is the ball carrier. Our attack employs this against any defense which requires additional blockers at the point of attack.

Now to cover our blocking rules. Our line blocking is divided into two groups. The strong-side where the point of attack is located and the weakside. The center is always considered part of the strong side. We next establish a perimeter called "No-Man's-Land" consisting of a triangular area located between our two tackles and the fullback (Diag. 3). This is the area where our quarterback receives the ball, does his faking, and executes the handoff. It is

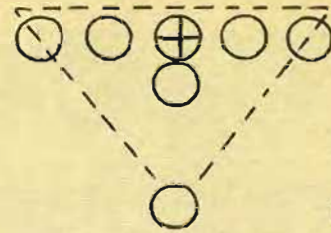


Diagram 3

the responsibility of the offensive linemen in this area to prevent any opponent from penetrating this zone unless we desire to allow someone through for the purpose of a trap-block. We have established two rules for this zone. One for our basic blocking patterns where no one is asked to leave his position, and one for the situation where a lineman is asked to leave his position to execute a trap or a cross-block.

Our rule for the basic patterns requires each lineman in "No-Man's-Land" to block any defensive man lined up head-on or to his inside seam on the strongside of the offensive line and head on or to his outside seam on the weak side and block the defensive man away from the point of attack. If there is no one in either zone, attack the nearest linebacker and take him away from the hole (Diag. 4-6).

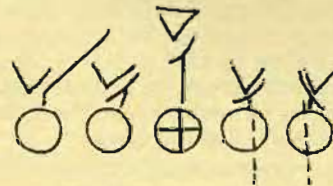


Diagram 4

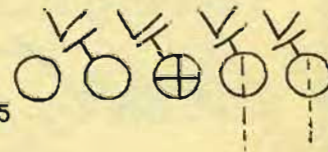


Diagram 5

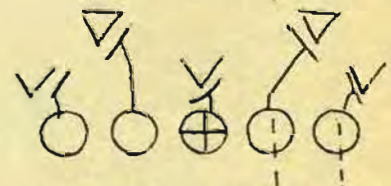


Diagram 6

When a lineman in "No-Man's-Land" is asked to leave his position, the first lineman in the direction --Continued on Page 43



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O-U-C-HI --Continued from Page 42

he's moving is responsible for the pulling man's area. He must contain the opponent in front of the "trapper" or between the pulling lineman and himself. If there's no defensive man in this area, he must block the man over him. If no one is in any of these positions, then attack the nearest linebacker and block him away from the point of attack (Diag. 7-9).

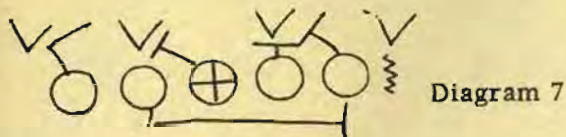


Diagram 7

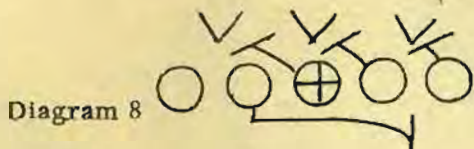


Diagram 8

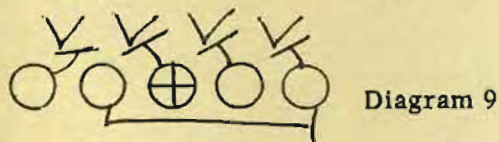


Diagram 9

The rule for the first offensive man opposite the movement of the pulling lineman requires that he must contain the first opponent in the seam between the "trapper" and himself. If there is no defensive man in this area, he must block the man over him; if no one is there, he must block the nearest linebacker (Diag. 10).

The rule for the remainder of the weakside offensive linemen is to "shock" any opponent lined up head-on or to his inside with a quick jolt and head for a position in front of the ball carrier and never allowing an opponent heading for the ball to get past him.

The rules as listed above for the area of "No-Man's-Land" also apply to our exterior linemen on the strong-side and coincide with our blocking patterns used at the point of attack.

**PATTERNS OF PRIMARY BLOCKERS.** When a hole is called for an offensive maneuver, the ball carrier will hit at the designated hole which is referred to as our point of attack. The two offensive linemen flanking this point are known as our primary blockers. The blocking pattern the primary blockers will execute is



**JOHN PEARSALL** breaks away for a 60-yard dash into paydirt as Virginia's All-State Tackle **Eric Norri (75)** protects against pursuit.

determined by our rule blocking and reinforced by an audible executed by our strong-side tackle. His audible is meaningless if the play is run to the opposite side, trap blocking is called in the huddle, or if pass protection blocking is to be used. Therefore, we feel that we aren't giving anything to the opponents.

We employ any one of four blocking patterns at the point of attack--split, cross, trap, or slot depending on the backfield maneuver to be executed and the defensive alignment. All of our trap plays are called by the quarterback either in the huddle or at the line-of-scrimmage and we do not change the blocking patterns on these.

**APPLICATION OF BLOCKING PATTERNS.** When the defense is deployed in a head-on alignment, the tackle would designate a split (Diag. 10) or cross-

-- Continued on Page 44

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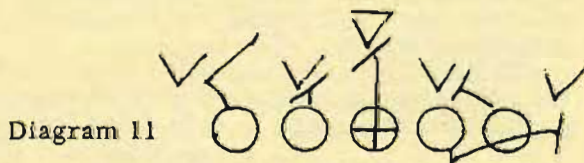
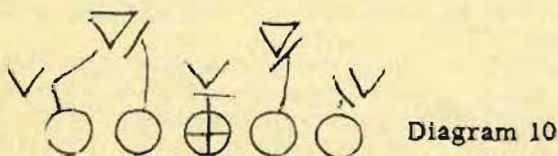
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**VIRGINIA'S MIKE NORLANDER** reverses to pick hole made partly by Larry Barrett's block, aiding in an 8-yard gain and a 39-13 victory.

O-U-C-H! --Continued from Page 43  
 block (Diag. 11) for the primary blockers depending on the backfield maneuver to be executed.



If the split-block is designated, the two primary blockers must move the defensive men in front of them away from the hole. The remainder of the strong-side line must execute the rule block for a head-on defense. If the cross-block is designated, then the exterior, primary blocker strikes first and followed by the interior, primary blocker. The rule blocking for all the other offensive linemen on the

-- Continued on Page 45

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 strong-side would handle the remainder of the blocking (Diag. 12-13).

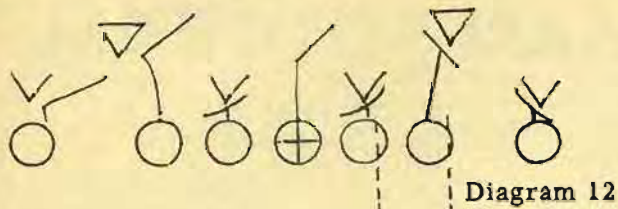


Diagram 12

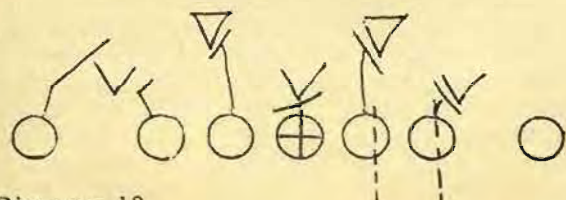


Diagram 13

When the defense is deployed in such a manner as to place a man at the point of attack, the tackle would designate either a cross-block (Diag. 14) or slot blocking (Diag. 15). If the cross-block is designated, the exterior,

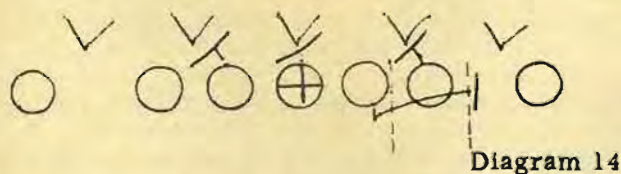


Diagram 14

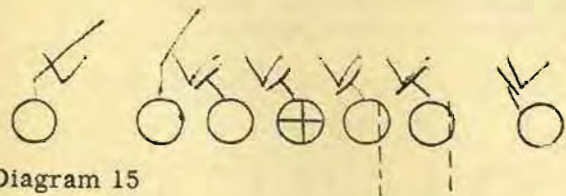


Diagram 15

primary blocker moves first and blocks the defensive man in at the point of attack. The interior, primary blocker then blocks the first defensive man outside the primary blockers away from the point of attack. If the slot blocking pattern is designated, then all strong-side offensive linemen between the weak-side guard at the exterior, primary blocker would block down the line (Diag. 16) which coincides with our rule blocking. The strong-side exterior linemen would also follow their rule blocking and seal the seam to their inside. (See Diag. 16))

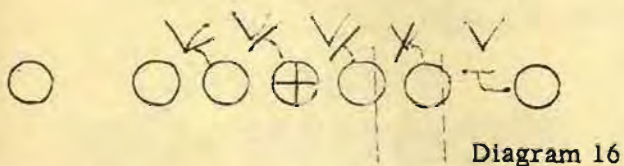


Diagram 16

When an offensive maneuver which requires a trap-block is designated, again the basic rules are followed by the primary blockers. The interior, primary blocker will block the defensive man who is in front

of him; if no one is there, he will block the man on his inside seam; if no one is there, he will assist the exterior, primary blocker with the defensive man in the seam between the two primary blockers. (See Diag. 17-19). The pulling lineman will block the defensive man over or immediately outside the primary blockers (Diag. 19). The line-

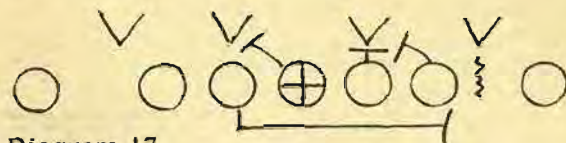


Diagram 17

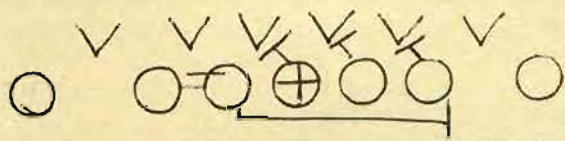


Diagram 18

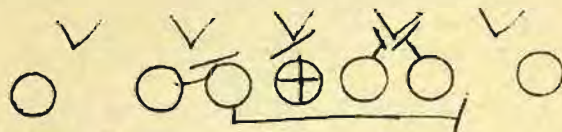


Diagram 19

man outside of the primary blockers will follow their rules and will block the man head on him; if no one is in front of him, he will block the man in the seam farthest from the point of attack; and if no one is there, he must block the nearest linebacker.

**SUMMARY.** We attempt to neutralize the wide variety of defenses that we meet each season by presenting a basic offense which has a tendency to mould the defense into a challenge we can accept. We further attempt to neutralize the variations of each defense we meet by a simple set of rules for our blocking patterns at the point of our attack without changing the rules for the remainder of the squad.

This system has worked out pretty well for our situation and recognizing that it is not the ultimate, we have found that our squad members seldom indicate a great deal of hesitancy in determining who they should block on any given play against the many defenses used against us.



....from spring fever?  
 ... TAKE OFF for the  
 annual spring meeting at  
 the Normandy Hotel on  
 Friday, April 30th!

# THE RISE OF 9-MAN FOOTBALL

BY NEIL JOHNSON  
Head Coach, Halstad High School

Here is a new football game that could completely change eight-man football. There are presently two conferences in Minnesota that are playing nine-man football. Ours, the Lake Agassiz, has been playing nine-man football for the past two seasons and it has worked out very well. Nine-man football is played with the same rules as eleven man football with the exception of the playing field which is 80 yards long and 40 yards wide.

I have listed some of the many advantages of nine man football over eight-man football.

1. It gives one more boy a change to play, or two boys if you have offensive and defensive platoons.

2. You have a full backfield, thereby preparing the boys for the kind of football they will be playing in college.

3. As a coach, a full backfield gives you the opportunity to have many more offensive variations.

4. Better defense results by adding one boy (usually a linebacker). You are now able to control some of those high scoring games so common in eight-man football.

5. It is a highly imaginative game which both the players and fans enjoy.

## WHY NOT PLAY ELEVEN-MAN FOOTBALL?

Nine-man football is ideal for the school that cannot play eleven man. Quite a few towns in Minnesota now playing eight-man football plan to play eleven-man. They may be successful initially, but then may come those few lean years when they can't field eleven-man teams, or the competition becomes too stiff to continue in the eleven-man league. Here is where the school would benefit by playing nine-man football.

As most coaches who coach eight-man football know, it just isn't practical for small schools to

play eleven-man football, because of the difficulty in getting 22 boys out for football. Even if you get enough boys out, chances are many of these boys will be too young or too small to give your first string the competition that they really need. Here at Halstad a few years ago we had 17 boys out for football, certainly not enough to play eleven-man football. This year after having two winning seasons we had 33 boys out for football, enough to play eleven-man, but what will happen in a few years when we again have only 17 boys?

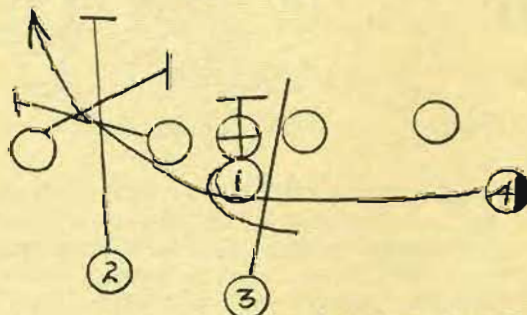
## DEFENSES USED IN NINE-MAN FOOTBALL

Defense in nine-man football is generally better than eight-man because of the addition of one boy, usually a linebacker, and the retention of the 80 by 40 yard eight-man field. Below are shown some of the various defenses in nine man football.

The most common type of defense is the 4-3-2. This defense is used most often against a team that has both a strong running and passing game.

These defenses are used in goal line stands and on short yardage downs.

An example of a typical play:



--Continued on Page 47

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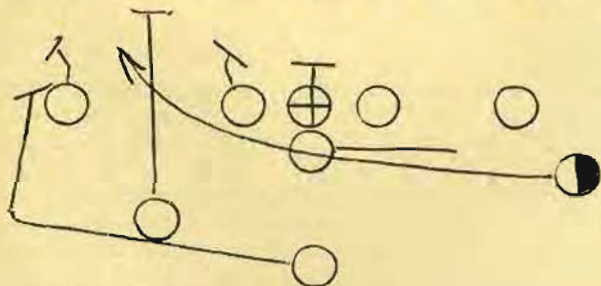
9-MAN FOOTBALL --Cont. from Page 46

The formation of this play is 1, the ball carrier the right half back is number 4, and the point of attack is 3, so the play then is called 143.

The Wing T is good defense to use in nine-man football because of the different variations available. From one formation in the Wing T we have dives, slants or crossbucks, reverses, keeper, option play, quick pitch, rollouts, powerplays, man in motion and many different passplays.

This year at Halstad we ran mainly out of the "Wing T" largely because our right half back was left handed and a gifted passer as well as a fine runner. He was in fact All-State in eight-man football this past year. It is easy for a boy who is a good lefthanded passer to run to his left and then throw back to his right. Here is a diagram that shows our basic Wing T formation

One of our favorite plays is the 143 reverse. In



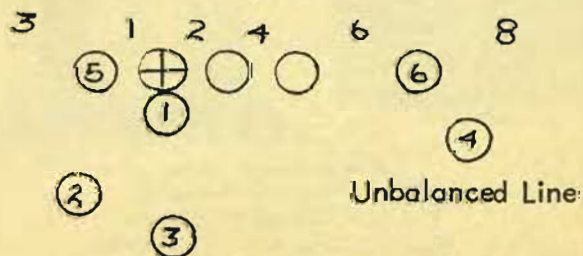
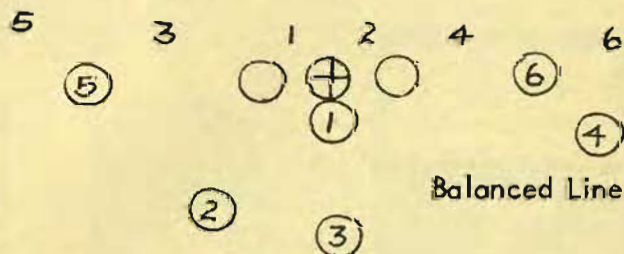
this play our right half is the ball carrier. Variations of this series would be the QB keeping the ball and faking to the RH; or the RH may hand off to the left half for a double reverse. The RH may be used to pass, or sometimes we will send the fullback through first and then give to the RH.

This diagram shows the 4-3-2 defense that most teams use. Occasionally the defensive ends stand although we don't let them do this unless they are a yard or more outside the offensive end. Normally in this defense the end has the outside responsibility, although this is called in the defensive huddle. We do let the outside linebacker and the end mix it up, with the end crashing some of the time and the linebacker covering the outside. With the addition of an extra linebacker you are now able to use a variety of defensive stunts and the extra defensive man makes it easier to cover flankers and spread ends.

Because we believe in the importance of having a good defense we spend a great deal of time during each practice session on defensive work. There are many good drills coaches may use to stress defensive football but the one drill that we particularly like is one we call the "meat grinder". In this drill we have one ball carrier and one tackler, each pitted against the other. Sometimes we add blockers for the ball carrier or may add another defensive man. Most of our drills involve live contact, giving us as closely as possible game conditions. Defense is reaction football. On defense one mistake can cost a team the game. For this reason we try to instill defensive pride in our boys.

WING T IN NINE MAN FOOTBALL

Our basic offense at Halstad is called the Delaware Wing T. We like the Wing T because of the many variations it offers, of which we have selected seven basic formations. The signal system used in this Winged T offense consists of a play number of three digits. The first number indicates the formation, the second the back who will carry the ball, and the third number indicates the point of attack.



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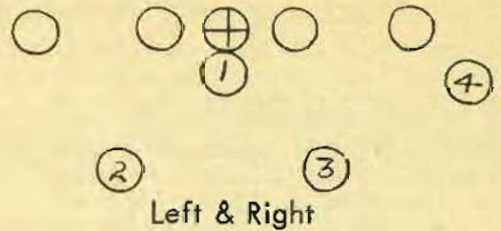
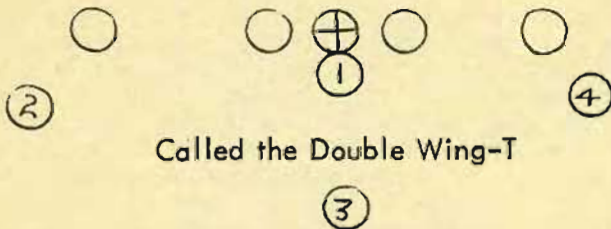
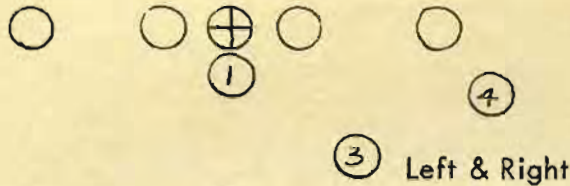
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9-MAN FOOTBALL -- Continued from Page 47

The holes are numbered as follows, the left side of the line odd and the right side even. The quarterback is 1, left half is 2, fullback is 3, and the right halfback is number 4. For the purpose of pass plays and reverses we number the left end 5, and the right end 6. We run out of the balanced line, although sometimes we have shifted to an unbalanced line.

The different formations are shown below.

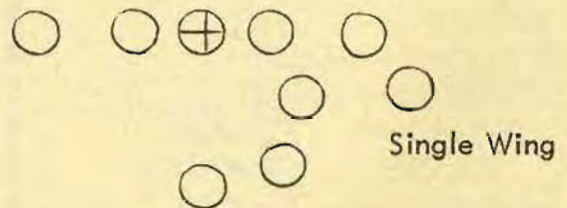
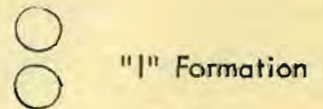


THE THROW BACK PASS

One of our best plays from the Wing T is the throw back pass. The QB hands to the RH as in the reverse play, then runs the flat or deep pattern. The LH runs a flat pattern or if the line backer plays him to the outside, he will fake to the outside and go deep and across the middle. The right end goes down and across the middle. Normally we keep the left end in to block, but if the pass rush is poor, we will also send him deep. The fullback blocks to the weak side. This pass play also works very well using a right handed passer and running it in the opposite direction.

OTHER OFFENSIVE FORMATION

Other formations common in nine man football are shown below.



NINE MAN FOOTBALL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL:

The Lake Agassiz Conference voted two years ago to go from eight to nine man football. The nine man football conference has been very successful and all of the coaches agree that after playing nine man football they wouldn't consider going back to the eight man game.



NEIL JOHNSON, a Moorhead State College graduate, has enjoyed a super-success in his first two years of coaching at Hastad High School . . . 16 victories, no defeats. A graduate of Henning High School, Johnson played football for the Dragons of Moorhead State while earning his bachelor of science degree. He is 24 years old and is married.



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# A Counselor Looks at Football....

By FRANK L. ASHENHURST • Guidance Director • Football and Track Coach Springfield High School

The best combination in the teaching field! This is the way I describe my position to those I meet. The position is that of High School Counselor and head football coach at Springfield, Minnesota High School. This combination, while not entirely unique, is somewhat rare. There is divided opinion from administrators as to the advisability of a coach being a counselor. I will say that those counselor education people I've talked with feel in general that the combination should be a successful one. In 1962 I was asked to come to Springfield and set up a counseling program from scratch. I definitely feel that the fact I was a football coach helped me gain the confidence of the students for counseling purposes, thereby putting the program years ahead of what it might have been.

During my three years as a football coach, things have happened which have caused me to stop and think about the value of football. While not particularly trying to separate my two jobs, I've had cause to think about one in relation to the other. What does coaching mean to counseling? What does football do for the general welfare of the student? What are the counseling opportunities for a football coach? The answers to these questions are the basis for this article. From the background you can see I might be somewhat biased as to football's

value, but I think several points are worthy of consideration.

What do sports, football in particular, do for the counseling program? The objective in any counseling situation is to help the student find himself, to adjust, to achieve, to find satisfaction, to set goals for himself. Every school has boys who would or could not adjust, achieve, or set goals if the total program in the school were academic. They would be bored stiff without some activities in which energy and emotions could be released. Many times when I talk with parents I advise them to allow or encourage Johnny to participate in some activity at school. There are still many farm fathers who do not feel the value of sports overcomes the usefulness of the chore boy. My argument to these parents is that a boy without an activity at school is not becoming truly involved in school life. School is an 8:30 to 3:30 tedious job for him. He does not look forward to school days or to activities at night for he is strictly a spectator.

We have recruited several boys for our football team after convincing the parents that to be in an activity would improve the quality of relationship between boy and school. Not in every case was this successful. I remember one boy in particular whom I had recruited from the farm as a result of a parent conference. He reported for the first day of practice and faithfully each day thereafter until Thursday night after supper when we had a particularly long and bruising practice in a driving rainstorm. The boy decided chores were drier and we saw no more of him. He still thinks we are some kind of equatic nuts!

On the other hand, several of the cases involving boys who have stayed out are living proof that an activity has aided in the overall adjustment of the student. Two boys who will be regulars next Fall could have been full-fledged delinquents. Neither had any interest in school, both had "D" minus grade averages in Grade School, both smoked as grade schoolers, and both had chips on their shoulders. Both boys today are "C" plus students,

-- Continued on next page

FRANK L. ASHENHURST is an Illinois boy who came to Minnesota on vacation back in 1951 and liked it so well he stayed. A 1958 graduate of Moorhead State College, Ashenhurst has been coaching at Springfield High School for three years and has compiled a 15-9 record while winning the 7-Star Conference championship twice, once in 1962 and again in 1964 with an undefeated team. He attained his Master's Degree in guidance at Western Illinois University in 1959 and has had additional graduate work at Texas Tech and Idaho State. He coached as an assistant in 1959-60 at Bloomfield, Ia., and served as head basketball coach and as an assistant in football at Pelican Rapids before assuming his position at Springfield. He is looking forward to the 1965 grid-iron campaign with 13 returning lettermen.

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## COUNSELOR

--Continued from Page 49

well-liked by the faculty, active in other phases of student life, (one has been in two plays already this year), and both are conscientious trainers. In fact both lift weights and take great pride in developing strong, healthy bodies. Neither of these boys would have succeeded in any other sport. If they had not become involved in football, I honestly feel they would not be in our student body today. We almost lost one of these boys. As a freshman, he decided we were too rough on him and quit. We were able to talk him into trying again and he lettered as a Sophomore. I feel football has done more for him than all the counselors in America.

Some of you coaches may be wondering about our training rules, since I've stated that we have recruited delinquents. So far, and it always has to be so far, we have had great success using a plan under which the team members police themselves as to smoking. In 1963 team members reported one senior letterman had smoked all summer. They felt he should not play. A delegation of seniors told him not to draw equipment and this settled it. During 1964 no shadow of suspicion was cast toward any team members. We have 73 boys signed up for football next Fall in the top four grades. Each Spring after basketball season we have a training rules meeting and all rules explained. So far, so good! By the way, at Springfield anyone smoking is out for the rest of the school year. We feel the state rule is not tough enough.

In my opinion, football fills a need for the Counselor. It gives him a place to recommend certain types of boys, who need participation in some school activity. Once the boy is involved, the chances are much improved that he will adjust more completely to other phases of school life. Coaches and Counselors have a common ground here. I would like to see close cooperation between these two men in helping borderline individuals adjust to school. The cooperation between Football Coach and Counselor in our school has been splendid! Some coaches may feel they have too much to worry about without taking on the added responsibility of wet nursing a few smoking delinquents. I say as a Coach-Counselor, you must wet nurse them. The football program cannot justify its existence if it is only for "good" kids. Football can be a salvation for "bad" kids if only the coach will become a counselor and work at helping the kid square himself away.

What does football do for the general welfare of the student body? Probably millions of words have been written on the subject of why interscholastic competition is good for the school, so I'll not spend too much time on this theme. I'll express the opinion, as a counselor, that I believe school would be a dreary place indeed, without athletic contests. There are some who must, of necessity, be spectators. These people get much value from the color and excitement of sports. One of the primary functions of athletics is to entertain and I believe students need to have this release of energy through witnessing their schoolmates compete on the athletic field. As an adult, I would hate to teach in a school system where there was no competition. I will forever oppose those in the education field who oppose athletics. I believe

## COUNSELOR -- Continued from Page 50

those people, exemplified by Robert Hutchins, ex-president of Chicago University who said he always laid down for a nap when he felt an urge for exercise coming on, lack a complete picture of what really educates. A boy can learn a lesson valuable to him on the football field in an instant. He might not learn this in a week of classroom instruction. A good coach will see these lessons and equate them with life situations, insuring the whole team of learning from each instance. The student body learns with the team. Our students saw one of Springfield's greatest athletes injured in the semi-final district basketball tournament game in 1963. They saw a handicapped team battle to an overtime loss in the final game. They experienced disappointment. In 1964 they saw a Cinderella basketball team sweep to a District title. The student body experienced joy. The 1964 edition of the Springfield Tiger football team injected strong feelings into their followers. A small team physically, they hustled to an (8-0) season record, the first undefeated season here since 1943. The sense of pride in this team brought our whole school into closer harmony. Take away sports and you lose this fine emotional edge which makes a student a better performer in the classroom.

Last, I would like to say a few words about the football coach as a counselor. The personalities of coach and counselor do not have to differ. It's true that a counselor should not be a strict disciplinarian, but is every successful coach a strict disciplinarian? Counselors should not be jellyfish either. When the situation calls for discipline, use it. The coach can be a successful counselor. He has those all important qualities going for him in his student relationships, those of respect and trust. The majority of kids probably respect their coach above most adults. Why then, waste a good counseling opportunity by turning away from chances to help a boy with his problems. Don't send him to others when he volunteers information to you. Listen to him. What makes a counselor successful. The ability to listen. Youngsters get fed up with being talked to all day. They search for the adult who will listen to them. Counselor educators realized this years ago and put the emphasis on the importance of listening in counselor training. You don't need special training to listen. A boy can sense when you are really listening, really trying to understand him. This is called rapport or empathy

between you and the boy. When this stage is reached, the coach can do the student a lot of good. If specific information rather than understanding is called for, then a coach might refer the boy to a counselor, principal, or some other resource person. In any case, the coach is a counselor and perhaps the step from coaching to graduate work in counseling would be fairly logical for many Coaches. I do not feel that I wear two separate hats. I feel I'm the same guy with the same objectives on the practice field or in the counseling office.

## PRO-STYLE ATTACK --Cont. from Page 22

the importance of a balance in passing and running. We continued to use our basic blocking assignments as in previous years. No great change was made in our general football program, except that we had to find extra time to work on drop-back pass blocking and routes and techniques for our receivers.

We were pleasantly surprised how quickly our boys adjusted. Needless to say, you need a QB who can hit and we were fortunate to have one.



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# Use of the 'Flip Flop' Offense in a Small High School....

BY MARLAND C. NOHRE  
Football Coach, Henning High School

The flip-flop offense consists of switching your backs and linemen from one side of the center to another, depending on the play that is called. By doing this you enable your backs and linemen to specialize at certain phases of the game. An example would be that of running an off-tackle play; by the use of the flip-flop you can have the same tackle and end work together on the key block, the same wing man would have the same assignment, and the same man would be carrying the ball whether the play was called right or left.

The use of the flip-flop is by no means new. Colleges have been using it for a number of years, and one of the more popular enthusiasts of it is Darrel Royal, the very highly successful coach at the University of Texas. The reasons colleges and more and more high schools are beginning to use the flip-flop is that the game of football is becoming so complex. To have a successful season you usually need a team that can get outside on sweeps, go off-tackle, and be able to go up the middle which will generally require a trap. Linemen who can pull are necessary for the sweep and trap to be successful. To go off-tackle effectively you generally need tackles and ends that work together smoothly on the double-team or the cross-block. Through the use of the flip-flop, coaches can take a lineman and let him specialize in the key block on only one or two plays or let a back specialize in carrying the ball on a minimum of different plays.

After one year of using the flip-flop, I feel that it definitely has its place in the small school. One of the big reasons is that in a small school a coach does not have as many boys to choose from and he certainly does not acquire as many natural athletes year in and year out. The players that come out for football have a wide range of varied and limited abilities and by using the flip-flop a coach has the

choice of eleven different positions when deciding on a place for a boy.

Another reason why the flip-flop can be put to good use in a small school is the limited amount of practice time. Most of the small schools are located in rural areas and with football beginning about the middle of August, farm employment often creates a hardship on practice time. Very few of the smaller schools are able to conduct the two-a-day practices for the first two weeks which are necessary to have a good showing for the first game. By use of the flip-flop, as compared to the ordinary alignment, your players have about half as much to learn using the same number of plays. This will compensate some for the practice time lost.

One of the most difficult tasks you will encounter when installing the flip-flop is the explaining to your boys that from now on they will be known as strong guards, or weak guards, strong tackles or weak tackles. The boys labeled weakside men may give you a disheartened look and resent being named weak guards, tackles, or ends. A helpful explanation is that the name they are given is according to the side of the line they are lined up on in relation to how the backs are set. An extra incentive is to tell them that they will have special techniques to master just as well as the strong side men.

In our system, and with the formation we run, the strong side men always line up to the side of the wing. The weak side men line up on the opposite side of the center. With this interchanging of linemen from one side to another, there can become an organized mixup when breaking the huddle! By use of the open huddle, with the quarterback having his back to the defense, you can eliminate a lot of this disorder. Your strong side men will always be lined up to the

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## About the Author.....

A 1961 graduate of Concordia College, Marland Nohre has compiled an enviable record during his four years of coaching at Henning High School. During his time at Henning, Nohre's teams have won 26 games while losing only five and tying one. He is a 1957 graduate of Elbow Lake High School and he acquired majors in physical education and business education while at Concordia.



right of the center and your weak side men to the left of the center in the huddle. If the play is called with a wing to the right there is no problem. If a wing is called to the left, the center breaks the huddle first. We have a standing rule that the strong guard will cross over first, the left guard will cross over right behind him, the tackles, ends, and backs will follow the same procedure.

In the selection of players for our Wing T we will start with the strong end.

**Strong End** - For our strong end we select our biggest and strongest end. He will not need the finesse that our weak side end should have, but he must be agile, have fairly good speed, be able to catch the ball, and most important, must be able to work smoothly with the tackle and the wing on the double-team block and the cross-block. His blocking is very vital to one of the wing T's most important plays, the wide sweep. The strong end will also have one of the key blocks for the off-tackle play.

**Strong Tackle** - Here is where you should place your best tackle. This position in our system requires a very good athlete. We want a big boy who is fast enough to pull and lead on our pitch plays. He should also be agile enough to carry out the cross-block and double-team block with our strong end to enable us to go off-tackle.

**Strong Guard** - This boy must have good speed. Generally a boy who is not quite fast enough for the backfield will fill in very good at this position. We have him pull and lead the sweeps against both odd and even defenses. Besides being quite fast, he should be a good open-field blocker, someone who can knock men down in the open field.

**Center** - We place our weakest lineman of the

seven up front at center. In our system the two most important jobs for this position are the centering of the ball and learning the double team block with our strong side guard on the traps up the middle.

**Weak Guard** - The trap block is the block in which the weak side guard will specialize. In our system, nearly all of our traps are sprung by the weak guard. Besides the trap, the weak side guard should be a good fire-out blocker so we will be able to run the dive. He will occasionally pull on the sweeps. This boy will not have to be as fast or quite as good an athlete as the one needed at the strong guard spot.

**Weak Tackle** - This position can be filled by one of the linemen who might not have a lot of ability but plenty of determination and fair speed. Your weak tackle's most important blocks will be for the off-tackle play, the dive, and the option to the weak side. On the majority of plays that are run to the strong side, he will block downfield.

**Weak End** - This boy should have good speed and good hands. His primary job will be to catch the ball.

**Wing Back** - This position will require a talented athlete and a very complete football player. He will be one of your top receivers so he must have good hands. The wing also has the key block on many of the wide plays and we need a good block from him to enable the backs to get outside. Another requirement is that he has enough speed to run some counters from his wing position to keep the defense honest. You will find that this will probably be the most difficult position to fill because it requires a player who can do all the above and do them well.

**Running Back** - The primary requirements for this boy are speed and balance. His job will be to carry the ball on the majority of the running plays.

**Quarterback and Fullback** - These two positions are not affected by the use of the flip-flop. These boys should have the same talents that you would look for in any T quarterback or fullback.

This was our first year to use the flip-flop in our offense, and we finished with a 7-0-1 record and outscored our opponents 313 to 27. I decided about three weeks before opening day of practice to experiment with the flip-flop for the coming season since we had quite a number of good boys coming back who could make most offenses go. Its value was proven to me in that we executed our plays much better. By simplifying assignments, players ran their plays faster, with more authority, fewer busted signals, and with more confidence.

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# AROUND THE STATE....

TWO NEW SCHOOLS have joined the Suburban Conference in District 14. The teams -- Coon Rapids and Kellogg -- played most of the first season with sophomores and juniors and both clubs showed a great deal of potential. Many conference coaches are picking them for a first division finish next season, their first as a three-year high school.

JOHN RYEHLI, outstanding fullback from Columbia Heights, is now attending Wyoming University and is figured for first string duty next fall.

HEAD FOOTBALL coach at Coon Rapids is Bill Arndt, a graduate of St. Cloud State. Assisting Bill is Chuck Wennerlund, former all-stater from Anoka.

KELLOGG HIGH is being coached by Brad Hustad, former Luther College great. Brad coached Decorah, Ia., to a league crown before moving to Minnesota. Hans Peterson, one of his assistants, was with him at Decorah.

FORMER SUBURBAN Conference stars Rick Seite of Columbia Heights and Chip Christian and Joe Holmberg of Mounds View



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are expected to be well in the running for backfield spots with the Golden Gophers.

WEST ST. PAUL SIBLEY has a new coach this year. Long-time assistant Russ Nelson has taken over the head football job from popular Jim Dimick, who dropped the gridiron tutorship but remains as baseball coach.

IN DISTRICT 23, Don Kerlin, the former Concordia College great, is resigning his position as head football coach at Barnesville to return to college to work on his Master's Degree. Kerlin, who suffered serious injuries a few years back in a car-railroad accident, has made a tremendous recovery. He will be doing his graduate work at Moorhead State College.

ADA, IN DISTRICT 30, won the Pine to Prairie Conference championship with a 9-0 season's record. It was Ada's fourth grid crown in six years, giving the Vikings 44 wins, five losses and four ties in that period. Fertile was second in league play last season with a 6-2 mark. Joe Johnson of Ada led the conference scoring with 75 points, nosing out teammate Rick Houston, who had 70 points. Ada's Johnson led the Viking ground attack with 1194 yards for an average carry of 9.4 yards.

HALSTAD WON the Lake Agassiz Conference title with an 8-0 record, amassing 19 consecutive victories over the last three seasons. Hendrum and Waubun shared the runners-up spot. Duane Ramstad of Halstad led the conference scoring race with 108 points and was selected on the All-State Eight-Man team by the Minneapolis Tribune.

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IN THE NORTH Tri-County Conference, McIntosh annexed the gridiron crown for the second straight year with a 7-1 season's record. Curtis Mosser spearheaded the McIntosh team with 122 counters to win the league's scoring title.

\* \* \*

WOOD LAKE captured the eight-man football title in District Nine, defeating Lake Benton in the playoff game between the Eastern and Western conferences in the district. Wood Lake won nine straight in regular season's competition and then topped Lake Benton in the playoff. Lake Benton advanced to the playoff on a toss of the coin, outflipping Ivanhoe. Lake Benton and Ivanhoe had tied with 7-1 marks in Western Conference competition.

Jim Alexander of Lake Benton was the outstanding Western Conference player while Auggie Hinz, an all-state offensive eight-man selection, was considered the best in the East.

There is some talk that some of the larger eight-man schools will go into 11-man football, joining the three biggest schools in the district, Canby of the Little Soo Conference, Marshall of the Southwest Conference and Tracy, which does not participate in a football conference.

\* \* \*

STARBUCK CAPTURED top honors in the Pheasant Conference last fall with Julian Gulsvig masterminding the title.

\* \* \*

ALTHOUGH LITCHFIELD won the West Central Conference championship last fall, Benson continued its fine football record, finishing second to Mel Lewis' great undefeated conference footballers. Benson had a 5-1 conference mark.

\* \* \*

MORRIS WILL open its 1965 gridiron campaign with an intersectional contest at Luverne.

\* \* \*

WHEATON SHARED the title in the tough Resort Region Conference last fall under the tutorship of Jim Hens.

\* \* \*

CHARLIE BASCH, the former Alexandria football coach, is now completing his first year as assistant coach at Concordia College. Charlie, who is married to Jake Christensen's daughter, was in on the Cobbers' share of the national NAIA football championship. Charlie is doing a bit of recruiting around the state. He was replaced at Alex by his able Cardinal assistant, John Gustafson.

\* \* \*

GLENWOOD IS playing its night games under new lights on a new gridiron. Cliff Hansen, former Minnesota State High School Coaches Association president, is athletic director at Glenwood and Bob Waxler is head coach.



COACH DICK SCHMITZ at Sauk Center is mighty happy with the new school facilities that the Main Streeters now have, giving them decent locker room and other facilities for the first time in years.

\* \* \*

RAY KUKLENSKI turned out another powerhouse at Dilworth last season. He has really turned this small town high school into one of the football powers of Minnesota.

\* \* \*

AL SIEGLE, who played his ball for Concordia College, piloted Pelican Rapids last year, taking over for Don Steuve who accepted the top grid job at Montevideo.


\* \* \*

JIM WEBB took over the head football spot at Staples last fall after serving there as an assistant.

\* \* \*


THIEF RIVER FALLS will open the 1965 campaign against perennial rough and tough Moorhead on Sept. 3, taking on Jim Gotta's Spuds on the Prowler gridiron. Facing a tough nine-man schedule, the veteran Prowler coaching staff traveled 1380 miles last season with the TRF eleven. Gary Olson, a real good small lineman, has been elected captain for this fall.





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**PRACTICE PAYS OFF** in developing a good defense. Coach Davies talks over things with linemen (left to right) Rod Pakamen, Roger Halverson, Bill Weaver and Jim Maatala after dummy drill.

## THE 5-4 DEFENSE

BY JOHN DAVIES

Head Football Coach, Crosby-Ironton High School

### Background

One of the reasons we use the 4-5 defense at Crosby-Ironton is that we have a large number of small boys (120 to 160 lbs.) who like to play football. To ask a 150 pound boy to fight it out on the line of scrimmage with a boy weighing 200 pounds or more is asking quite a bit, so assistant coaches Lloyd Hallada and John Pappas and I decided to try to give the smaller boys as much advantage as we possibly could to compensate for such a weight handicap. The 4-5 defense does that.

In using the 4-5 defense, we look for four linemen who are larger than our average boys; the smaller boys are placed as linebackers. Fitting a

defense to the individuals on the squad is as important as fitting an offense to the type of athlete available. Using the smaller, but usually quicker boy as a linebacker, we feel, gives him a better advantage than if he were in the line.

Our defense is divided into two units: the forcing unit and the containing unit. The four linemen and the two inside linebackers make up the basic forcing unit; while the middle linebacker, the two corner men, and the two halfbacks constitute the basic containing unit. As adjustments are made, we can shift our two corner men to the forcing unit, or also move the middle linebacker to it,

-- Continued on Page 57

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**THE 5-4 DEFENSE** --Continued from Page 56  
 while the two inside linebackers can be used to the containing unit. These changes are made when we make out our game plan for the coming week.

**4-5 Defense**

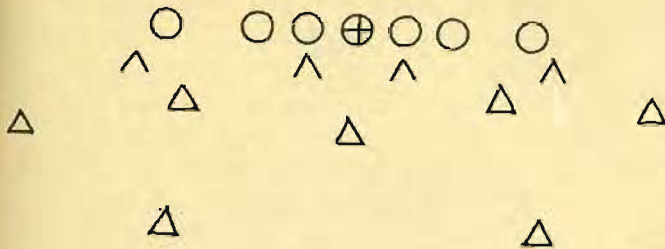


Diagram number one illustrates the basic alignment of the 4-5 defense against a straight "T" offensive formation. First, the two middle guards play head up on the offensive guards about one foot off the line of scrimmage. Next, the two ends play just on the outside of each offensive end's outside shoulder. Then the middle linebacker, who is the quarterback of this defense, plays over the center and about two yards off the line. While the two inside linebackers play over the offensive tackles and about one to one and a half yards off the line of scrimmage, the two outside linebackers, or corner men, play about two yards outside the offensive end and about one to one and a half yards off the line. Finally, the two defensive halfbacks play over the offensive ends and about five to seven yards back.

The assignments of each member of the defensive team facing a straight "T" formation are as follows: In the forcing unit, the two middle guards are responsible for the middle, from outside shoulder to outside shoulder of each. We instruct them to charge hard one time and to hold the next, but not to let a runner come up the middle. Primarily, these two players are to look for the quarterback or for the fullback.

Second, the defensive ends are expected first to hit each offensive end with a flipper, and then crash down hard to a spot about one and a half yards back of the offensive tackle. If the play is coming toward them, they are to take as much interference as possible and slow the play down. If the play goes away from them, they are to pursue it behind the line of scrimmage. The ends must watch for reverses and get the offensive quarterback from



**COACH DAVIES** talks over game plans with Crosby-Ironton Captain Steve Jenkins while assistant coach Lloyd Hallada listens in.

the blind side on a pass play. These two are our most aggressive players (other than the middle linebacker).

The middle linebacker on this defense is the only player who is allowed to shift for himself. He really amounts to a trouble-shooter, plugging holes wherever he is needed.

The two inside linebackers are instructed to stop the off tackle play. They are to look first, then hit. Their main point to protect from attack extends from the middle guard to the outside linebacker. It is a large area, but we have told the ends to crash down hard to take the inside away from the offense. The two inside linebackers have to like to hit and be hit, because their position is the point of attack for most high school football teams. The two outside linebackers are really the defensive ends of a six man line, except that they play off the line of scrimmage. They also have outside responsibility. When a play is toward their side, they are to go up and meet it. When a play is run away from them,

--Continued on Page 58

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## Still Alive!

Zup apparently has a warm spot in his repertoire for his substitutes. He goes back to the twenties for this one. The Illini made a trip to Iowa City for a tussle with the Hawkeyes, then coached by Howard Jones. Before the opening kickoff, he tried desperately to impress the squad with the importance of the game, and attempted to instill the do-or-die spirit in the lads with a little speech which he climaxed melodramatically by saying, "Only a dead man will come off this field!"

The game got under way and developed into what the scribes frequently talk about as a clean but hard-fought contest. Suddenly one of the Illini starters was hurt, and Zuppke sent a replacement onto the field. The sub dashed out and then very quickly dashed back to the bench. Reporting back to his coach, the sub whispered in an awed voice, "Coach, he's still breathing."



**Galloping Ghost**

How can you talk about football or Zuppke without mentioning the name of his most famous pupil, the fabulous Galloping Ghost? Red Grange is now doing well as a sports announcer and commentator on television and radio, but for a decade or more he was one of the most respected pigskin toters in the business. Red's biggest afternoon for the Illini came on October 18, 1924, when he romped for five touchdowns against the "Unconquering Heroes" of Michigan. The turning point in his career, however, came just after the close of the 1923 season, during which he had been named on the All-American team.

Red had brought no press clippings with him when he reported for his first scrimmage with the Orange and Blue. Coming from the small town of Wheaton, he was almost surprised to learn that he was to be permitted to play with the big boys. He was still further amazed when he made the team, and his astonishment was completed when he was selected on Walter Camp's "dream team." He was quick to accept advice from Zuppke and

quick to learn his football lessons. Even so, it must have been quite a blow to him when Zup told him after his sophomore year that he wasn't the great ballplayer others thought he was. "You're a one-shot All-American," Zuppke told him. "You can't pass and you haven't learned how to cut back from the side lines. Unless you learn how to do both, your All-American days are over."



Grange gave those words a lot of consideration during the rest of the year, and when summer finally worked its way around the calendar and he went back to Wheaton, he took a couple of footballs with him. During every spare moment Red practiced his passing and his cutbacks, and when his junior year started and he reported for football practice, Zup was impressed with the apparent improvement. After a couple of games, there was no doubt about Red's increased stature as a halfback, and he was Zup's big hope for the Michigan game.

Both teams were undefeated and untied for the season. Michigan's unblemished record went back to 1921. It would seem that the winner of the crucial tilt would be Western Conference Champ. Both squads were at fever pitch when the Wolverines pulled in for the game. Could be that their fever was induced by the weather, since the temperature was a stifling ninety-eight at kickoff time.

In the dressing room before the game, Zup faced an uncomfortable group, and his paternal attitude moved him to order the team to take off their stockings. The protest was overwhelming. "What! Play without protection and let 'em bite our legs?" Maybe they thought the Wolves liked the taste of bare flesh better than woolen stockings. At any rate, after careful study of the rule book to see whether this unprecedented move was legal, Zup insisted on having them remove their stockings and take advantage of just that much more comfort.

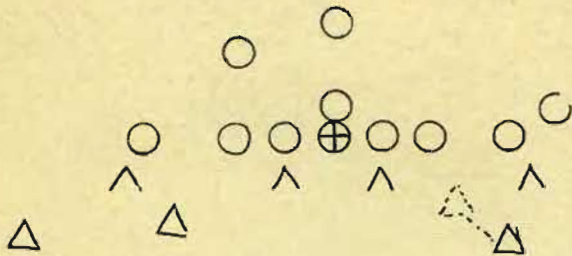
As the Illini trotted onto the field a couple of coeds fainted. Whether from embarrassment at the sight of the bare legs, from the heat, or merely from the spectacle of the overdeveloped, ape-like

THE 5-4 DEFENSE --Continued from Page 57

they are to loosen up a step or two. They also have to protect against the reverse or bootleg play.

Last, the two defensive halfbacks are instructed to stay back and never make a tackle unless the ball is over the line of scrimmage. These are our basic defensive assignments. They change in relation to types of offensive formations, to player personnel, and in consideration of the strong points and weak points of the team that we will be playing.

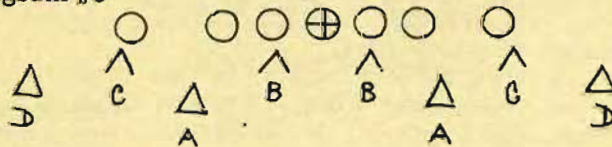
Against different offensive formations such as the "Wing T", the assignments are changed.



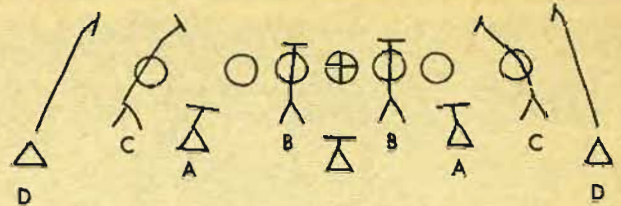
With the wing man either right or left, as illustrated above in diagram #2, the inside linebacker will loosen up on the side that the wing man is on unless there is a diving halfback in position. If there is a diving halfback on the wingback side, the inside linebacker stays in tight.

For a stunting or a red-dogging defense, we number or letter our linemen and linebackers so they can call the different stunts or red-dog tactics desired.

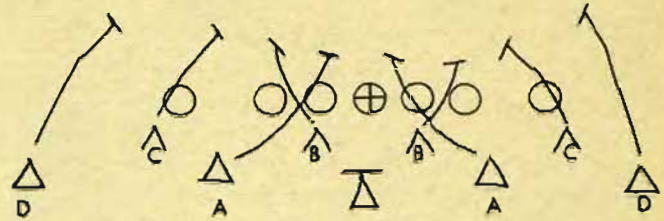
diagram #3



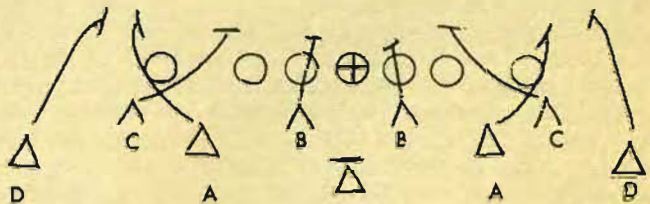
In illustration #3 above, the defensive men are lettered, A, B, C, or D on both sides of center. In this arrangement, the inside linebacker on either side, (A), becomes the man to call the stunts or red-dog tactics. If the linebacker calls an "A" defense, the four men involved play it straight away. Each man must then cover his own area. However, if a "B" defense is called, at the snap of the ball "A" will charge in at "B" position and red-dog through it, while "B" will charge out at the tackle and hold. On a "C" call, "A" and "C" change assignments with "A" charging out



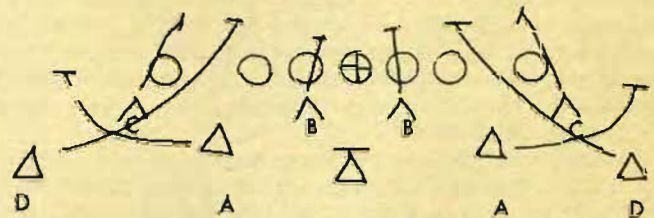
"A" CALL



"B" CALL



"C" CALL



"D" CALL

at the inside shoulder of the offensive end and "C" charging in at the tackle and holding. On a "D" call, "A" and "D" change assignments: "A" must cover the outside while "D" must

--Continued on Page 59



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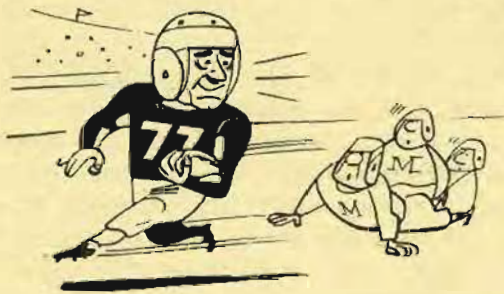
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muscles, it's hard to say. Fielding Yost was himself perplexed, and suspected a trick. He immediately accused Zup of greasing the boys' legs in order to make them less vulnerable to tackles — something like trying to catch a greased pig. "This," the crowd murmured in disbelief, "will be a day of naked reverses."

The Michigan squad was still looking for lightning to strike as they lined up for the kickoff. It wasn't long before it did strike, but there wasn't the remotest connection between the naked legs of the Illinois team and what happened next. Captain Herb Steger booted for the visitors — a low, half-topped kick that scooted straight down the middle of the field. Grange came in fast, scooped the ball up like an outfielder spearing a knee-high drive, and was off for the goal line. Before the Michigan squad was able to close in on Red, he was past them headed for a score. Twelve seconds after the opening whistle Red had crossed the



goal line standing up, and Michigan was on its way to its worst drubbing in years. Red scored four more times that day, taking one over from about ten yards out, and tallying the rest on runs of forty-five to seventy-five yards. Just to keep his hand in, he heaved a pass in the final stanza which clicked for another touchdown.

After that, there was never any further question about Red's place on the All-American, and he was the unanimous choice for the honor that year and the next. And this was the boy Zup had described less than a year before as a one-shot All-American. It was one time that the Illinois coach relished the idea of eating crow.

## Razzle-Dazzle

Red was also involved in one of the revolutions of the sport. Playing Pennsylvania, Illinois had the ball on the Penn twenty-five with seven or eight yards to go on fourth down. Quickly improvising for the occasion, they lined up for a place kick, but Earl Britton threw a short pass to Chuck Kassell, and Grange, cutting diagonally

across the field, took a lateral and continued for the score with nobody near him. That was the beginning of the razzle-dazzle. That night at a banquet given for the winners, Zup addressed a group of two hundred Penn men and told them how he had devised the play to be executed at the proper moment.

## Roughly Speaking

Not long after Red left the campus at Illinois, he was wearing the colors of George Halas, taking his famous number seventy-seven into the professional ranks of the early Chicago Bears. It didn't take him long to discover that here was a different kind of football than the one he had played for the clean-cut, young college crowd. In those days, professional football was a murderous game. The boys knew they had to be on the field next week if they wanted to continue drawing paychecks, and so everyone developed the attitude that if he didn't get the other fellow, the other fellow might get him.

In one of his first games with the Bears, Red faced a team built around one Tony Latone, a fullback with the Pottsville, Pennsylvania, team. Tony was a big miner who only saw the light of day on Sundays, and he was at least as hard as the ground. Hunk Anderson, playing at guard, was taking an awful beating from the big guy as he kept charging through the line, and he finally called a time out. In the huddle, he told one of the boys to grab Latone's feet and another to grab his head. "Then," said Hunk with the gleam of vengeance in his slightly puffed eyes, "I'll let him have it right on the button."

Pro ballplayers are playful fellows, and they thought it was a fine idea. At the first opportunity they locked the miner securely and Anderson walloped him. It didn't even phase the big guy. He pulled himself up, shook his head a little, pointed his finger at Hunk and told him that if he didn't cut out the rough stuff, he'd kill him first chance he had.



Then strolling over to the referee, he insisted that Hunk be removed from the game or he might get mad.

It was a very real pleasure for Red to play with some of those early Bears, and he particularly remembers the big powerhouse of the league, Bronco Nagurski. The Bronc joined the Bears from Minnesota, which has traditionally relied on an extremely simple series of plays. In fact, Bronco had never had to memorize more than fifteen. Naturally, he was lost in the Chicago system, which included hundreds of plays and variations of each.

In Nagurski's debut, Halas pulled him out with the complaint that he was leaning too much on some of the plays, tipping the opposition to where they were going.

The Bronc shook his head sadly. "George, I may be leaning, but I'm not tipping the plays. I don't even know where they're supposed to go myself."

## Obliged!

Sometime later, when Nagurski had the respected reputation of being the toughest man in the league, the Bears met the Green Bay Packers. On punt formations Grange was instructed to hit Cal Hubbard, 260-lb. Green Bay tackle, and throw him off balance so that Bronco could charge on through and finish the job of protection for the kicker.

Late in the game Hubbard pleaded with Red for a favor. "I'd just like to meet Nagurski head-on and see how tough he really is. You be a good guy and forget your block this time, Red, and I promise not to block the punt."

The arrangement was okay with the Ghost, and on the next punt formation he swept past Hubbard and went down field. Suddenly there was a loud smack behind Red as two bodies collided with the force of a couple of locomotives. Looking back, he saw Bronco not far behind him, while Cal Hubbard was picking himself off the ground behind the line of scrimmage.



After the play was completed, Hubbard hobbled up to the line and said with a painful expression, "Well, Red, that's all I wanted to know. Now go back to your regular blocking assignment."



## Even Stephen

But Bodie does get a chuckle out of the time he refereed an early New York Giants-Philadelphia Yellowjacket skirmish. During this game, Kirk Osborn, who played guard for the Giants, was outfitted with a baseball cap and chewing tobacco. He kept irking a rival guard. Finally, the latter complained to Cahn about being showered with tobacco juice. When Bodie questioned Kirk, he said: "That guy's hitting me in the stomach, 'n' I'm not swallowing the stuff - I'm letting it go!"

## Remember Me, Coach?

After a Syracuse halfback had run seventy yards through his Colgate team to score the winning touchdown, Coach Dick Harlow had a whole week-end to think about the play, and by the time Monday-afternoon skull practice had rolled around, he was really incensed. He bitterly lashed each man on the first team, diagnosing their mistakes on the play, and asking them where they'd been. Addressing his quarterback, he said, "You can tackle! Where were you?"

"Right beside you, Coach," he answered. "You look me out on the play before."



## Film Fact

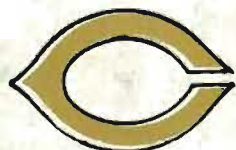
Coach Lynn Waldorf was showing films of the game in which his Northwestern squad had been soundly trounced by Michigan. During the showing, Waldorf said of one scene, "There's our most popular formation."

It was a scene of the Wildcats waiting for the kickoff after Michigan had scored.

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