

Sports Aplenty

Easy Schedules

By GARY SHERER

The subject of easy schedules for college football teams pops up often when discussions of top teams arise.

The experts who pick these teams will usually use the specific team's player strength and experience to equate that team's power. It follows that they do not consider the team's schedule in these rankings.

On the other hand, a team that is picked to have a bad year by the experts usually has a tough schedule and cannot cope with the teams it is playing.

As one can see, it is a very pro-and-con situation and one that is not easily settled.

Yesterday we received a report on schedule power ratings compiled by Professor Gordon L. Wise of Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Wise has received some notoriety from these ratings, as this is the second year he has done it. The Battalion ran an article yesterday about Wise's ratings of basketball teams and their schedules.

Wise, assistant professor in the marketing management department at Wright State, teaches a course in statistics and has used this knowledge to analyze schedules of football and basketball teams.

He has compiled a list of the top teams of this past football season.

His system works like this. He gives each rated team what he calls "power points." He then arrives at a total for each team by the number of times they appear on post-season top team rankings. After compiling a list of 33 teams, Wise then uses his frequency method and arrives at a final total.

Notre Dame, which was at the

top of most of the rankings, received the most points (34). Michigan State was next with 33, Alabama 32, UCLA 30 and so on.

When a specific team played any of these top 33, it received that team's power points to add to its schedule rating total. The team that totaled the most points was naturally the top team as far as tough schedules were concerned.

Consideration was given for road games and for the school whose schedule contained games with opponents who had an overall edge in their series.

With all these facts in mind, Wise arrived at a final result. Vanderbilt was acclaimed the top team for the toughest schedule by compiling 151 points from their 10 games this year.

The top nine teams in the rankings had losing records to further bear out the tough schedule theory. USC and Purdue were ranked 10th and 11th and were the highest winning teams rated. Notre Dame was ranked 15th and Michigan State, 14th.

The Aggies were ranked in a tie for 11th with two other teams.

While complicated, Wise's findings prove that the teams that consistently have winning seasons play the so-called easier schedules. Wise emphasizes that these ratings do not take away from the strength of these top teams. It only compares their schedules with the losing teams.

The controversy of easy schedules will no doubt keep on for seasons to come. But with more people like Professor Wise coming up with these reports, the NCAA will have to finally consider the prospect of a football championship playoff similar to the one that is used in college basketball.

This, we think, will finally solve the problem.

Kelly Leads Two For Rushing Title

NEW YORK (AP) — Leroy Kelly of Cleveland leads by 81 yards in the race for the National Football League rushing title in a three-man battle going into the final games of the season.

With one game to go, Kelly has 1,122 yards and Dick Bass of Los Angeles, 1,041. However, Gale Sayers, Chicago Bears' flash, is only seven behind Bass with 1,034.

Kelly must run against the St. Louis Cardinals, Bass must take on the Green Bay Packers and Sayers faces the Minnesota Vikings in the last games this weekend.

Pat Studstill, Detroit flanker, has completed his season with 67 pass receptions and is threatened by Charley Taylor of Washington with 64 and Dave Parks of San Francisco with 61. Bob Hayes of Dallas needs 10 to catch up at 57. Taylor has become a real whiz since coach Otto Graham moved him from his running back position.

Bart Star, Green Bay quarterback who was injured in the first half of the Baltimore game last Saturday, remains the top passer with Sonny Jurgensen of Washington No. 2.

The scoring race goes down to the wire. Bruce Gossett of Los Angeles and Danny Villanueva of Dallas, a pair of field goal kickers, are tied for the lead

with 102 points. Charlie Gogolak, whose kick gave Washington a victory over Dallas last week, is next with 101 points. Then comes Dan Reeves, Dallas running back, with 96 on 16 touchdowns.

Dave Lee of Baltimore still leads the punters with an average of 46.8 yards.

St. Louis hogs the kick returns honors. Johnny Roland is the punt return leader with an average of 11.1 and Roy Shivers, also of the Cards has a 29.8 average on kickoff runbacks. Larry Wilson of St. Louis still has the most interceptions, nine.

Bobby Mitchell Is Good Guy Again

By TOM SEPPY
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington flanker Bobby Mitchell apparently is back on coach Otto Graham's Good Guy list.

After the Redskins' 34-31 victory over Dallas, in which Mitchell scored on an 11-yard touchdown pass, Graham went out of the way to end speculation that he is disenchanted with Mitchell.

Graham said emphatically the 31-year-old flanker is not available for trade and voiced doubt that he would retire at the end of the season.

Beasley, Ponies In 96-74 Victory

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Charles Beasley flipped in 24 points to lead Southern Methodist to an easy 96-74 basketball victory over the touring Mexico Olympic team Wednesday night.

After the first few minutes Mexico never led and was able to pull within three points only twice during the game.

Denny Holman, with 20 points, back up Beasley's hot shooting. Arturo Guerrero, who scored repeatedly from outside, led the Mexicans with 20 points.

A technical foul was called on the Mexico coach, Lester Lane, who kicked his sideline chair in disgust at a ruling of the officials. The crowd boomed and the announced had to ask, "Please be better sportsmen and quit throwing ice on the court."

Landry Predicts Tough Game With Giants Sunday

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Coach Tom Landry of the Dallas Cowboys, not paying any attention to the odds, says New York has no trouble scoring, has improved the past couple of weeks and that he expects a tough game when the Cowboys close the regular season against the Giants at New York Sunday.

"It's the last game for them, they have nothing to lose and they'll be relaxed," said Landry at his weekly news conference Wednesday when he discussed Dallas' chances of winning the Eastern Conference title of the National Football League.

Dallas leads by a game and won't have to win over New

York should Cleveland beat the second place St. Louis Cardinals Saturday. But a St. Louis triumph would leave Dallas with the option of either tying or winning over New York to prevent a playoff Christmas Day.

"If we start winning in terms of Cleveland winning it could be a big psychological disadvantage," he declared. "However, my team isn't thinking along this line; it's thinking only of beating New York Sunday."

Landry anticipated some big changes on defense from New York, although he said he had been working on a 4-3 and undershift, the types of defense

Houston Defeats Centenary, 97-66

HOUSTON (AP) — Ninth-ranked Houston, held to a 36-36 deadlock at the half of Centenary, broke the games open in the second period with 61 points to whip the Louisiana team 97-66 in the Bluebonnet Basketball Classic.

Elvin Hayes, 6-8 junior, scored 43 points for Houston as the Cougars found the range in the final 20 minutes and outscored Centenary 61-30.

Hayes opened the second half with three straight points. Melvin Bell followed with a pair of jump shots, and Houston moved quickly to a 10-point lead. The Cougars were never threatened again as they won their sixth game in seven starts.

Sophomore Larry Ward led Centenary with 14 points. Leary Lentz had 15 for Houston.

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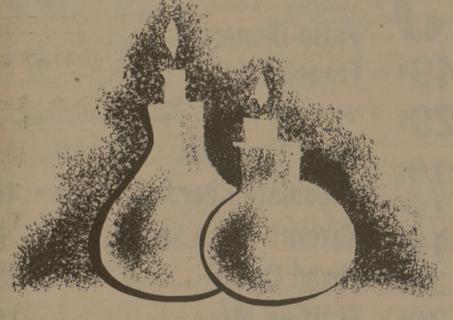
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