

**Sports Desk**



**Predictions Look Tough**

by John Platzer

Purdue Head Coach Jack Mollenkopf once said that "upset" was merely a word used by sportswriters to cover up their own incompetence.

After the sting wears off, the wisdom of these words seeps through. There is always a good reason a team can rise up to defeat a seemingly stronger opponent on any given Saturday and it is the sportswriter's job to find the reason.

Personnel has to be the key consideration in picking games but such intangibles as incentive must not be overlooked. Keeping this in mind, some of this weekend's guaranteed winners are listed below (provided there aren't any upsets).

NEBRASKA 28, A&M 10—The Cornhuskers just seem too big, too fast and too experienced for Coach Gene Stallings young team. It has been said that all the Aggies need is seasoning and Nebraska will probably heap more of it onto that provided by LSU.

ARKANSAS 48, TULSA 6—The Razorbacks held Oklahoma State to 78 yards total offense last week while rolling up 500 yards themselves. Oklahoma State is not exactly a powerhouse but then neither is Tulsa.

GEORGIA TECH 24, BAYLOR 3—Georgia Tech was surprisingly good in their opening game while Baylor was surprisingly bad in theirs. There will be no surprises this time.

TEXAS 34, TEXAS TECH 17—The Red Raiders have slipped up on Texas two years in a row but this season Coach Darrell Royal's forces will ring the West Texan's bell for them.

OHIO STATE 42, TCU 17—By playing Ohio State after opening the season with Purdue, TCU is definitely trading a headache for an upset stomach. Unfortunately for the Horned Frogs all the Bufferin in the world won't help.

SMU 34, MICHIGAN STATE 31—A departure from the form chart seems called for here. The Methodists just don't seem to be the type of team to lose three in a row and the Spartans are probably looking ahead to next week's battle with Notre Dame.

LSU 41, RICE 14—The young Owls will probably panic when they discover that the entire football world is not populated by teams of VMI's caliber.

HOUSTON 24, OKLAHOMA STATE 10—The Cougars are still licking their wounds from the battering they received from Florida. If the defensive backfield hasn't been shored up it could happen again but not against the Cowpokes.

PRINCETON 21, RUTGERS 6—This is a renewal of the first college football game ever played. Rutgers won that first battle but a lot can happen in a 100 years.

NOTRE DAME 28, PURDUE 24—The Boilermakers have posted two straight wins in this traditional series which should be incentive enough for the Irish. Of course, Mollenkopf may have other ideas.

FLORIDA STATE 34, MIAMI 14—Bill Cappleman could be the best passer in the nation this season and should be able to guide his team over the Hurricanes.

VANDERBILT 14, ARMY 10—These two teams are about even in ability but the home field should give Vanderbilt too big an edge for the Black Knights of the Hudson.

TENNESSEE 24, AUBURN 21—Everything seems to point to an Auburn victory but the Vols don't always take the hint. Especially when they play in Knoxville.

STANFORD 34, OREGON 6—Stanford is rapidly developing into one of the top teams on the West Coast. This should just be a warm-up for next week's battle with Purdue.

INDIANA 17, CALIFORNIA 14—This game has the potential of being the best game of the week. Indiana is making plans to attend the Rose Bowl this season and needs a win here to make a good impression.

KANSAS 27, SYRACUSE 17—A good team from the Midwest should always be able to get past a good team from the East. Jim Brown, Ernie Davis, Floyd Little and Larry Csonka are only memories in the Orangemen's past.

**Hot Braves Itching For Shot At Mets**

By Ed Shearer  
Associated Press Sports Writer  
ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—The Atlanta Braves, itching for a shot at the amazing New York Mets in the National League playoffs open a five-game season closing stand Friday night against San Diego. Atlanta holds a 1½-game edge over second place San Francisco.

The red-hot Braves, winners of six straight and 13 in their last 16, vaulted back on top in the torrid Western Division race by winning seven of 10 on a road trip to the West Coast and Houston.

The Braves were greeted by about 200 banner-waving fans when they returned home at 2 a.m. Thursday. A large banner

draped in front of the crowd read, "Welcome home Braves; you're a great road show."

The home stands sends the Braves against San Diego in a three-game weekend series followed by single games Tuesday and Thursday against Cincinnati.

Manager Luman Harris said knuckleballer Phil Niekro, 21-13, would be the Braves' opening

game pitcher in the event Atlanta wins the western flag and faces New York in the playoffs. Niekro, the club's only 20-game winner since moving to Atlanta in 1966, also will open the series against the Padres.

Ron Reed, 17-10, will pitch Saturday's game against San Diego and also go in the second playoff game, Harris said.

The Braves have not won a National League flag since they put together back-to-back titles in Milwaukee in 1957 and 1958.

San Diego, which has the poorest record in the major leagues, knocked San Francisco out of the division lead by winning two games in a three-game series that ended Wednesday night.

**Met Fans Celebrate Pennant By Tearing Up Shea Stadium**

By Mike Rathet  
Associated Press Sports Writer  
NEW YORK (AP)—The Shea Stadium playing field looked Thursday like the pock-marked, crater-riddled surface of the moon. But there wasn't even an American flag flying to note the historic occasion.

Someone stole that too.

In one of the most incredible souvenir snatching safaris in baseball history Shea Stadium was stripped of everything that wasn't tacked down—and a number of things that were—after the New York Mets clinched the National League East pennant Wednesday night.

The scene, some 12 hours after the mass revelry that didn't end until some three hours of hysteria had passed, was viewed Thursday by head groundskeeper John McCarthy with almost total disbelief.

"I've been in this business since 1956," McCarthy said, "but I've never seen damage to a field to this extent."

The damage was clear to see, the field cleared of the dancing, jumping, howling, screaming fans who had poured out of the stands in celebration after the Mets 6-0 victory over St. Louis and stormed the field, scaled the walls, climbed the scoreboard in exhilaration.

They celebrated by stealing the American flag in center field and climbing a light tower on which was placed one of their own banners. They celebrated by scribbling the center field walls with graffiti of the affectionate "Love The Mets" type.

They celebrated by littering the playing surface with papers, programs, ice cream containers,

beer cans. They celebrated by ripping up 1,000 to 1,500 feet of sod from the playing surface and leaving it pockmarked with craters.

They celebrated by breaking three wheels off the batting cage and stripping the netting off it. They celebrated by tearing up the all-weather matting in the coaches' boxes behind first and

third base. They celebrated by taking pieces of the scoreboard.

And they celebrated by stealing home plate.

Fortunately, the Mets are headed for Philadelphia before the field has to be used again Monday night for the Mayor's Trophy Game against those once formidable rivals from another borough, the New York Yankees.



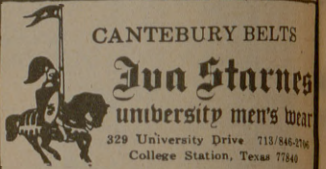
**SOPHOMORE HALFBACK**

Edwin Ebrom will man one of the defensive halfback slots Saturday against the Cornhuskers of Nebraska when the Aggies travel to Lincoln, Neb., seeking their first win of 1969.



**BIG BAD END**

Starting at right defensive end for the Aggies Saturday in Memorial Stadium against the Nebraska Cornhuskers will be sophomore Wayne Wheat (6-5, 225).



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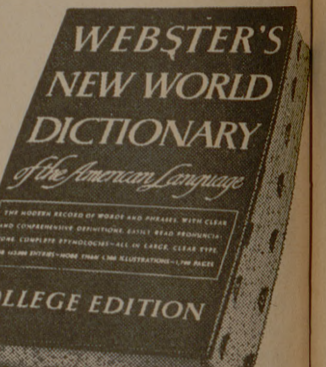
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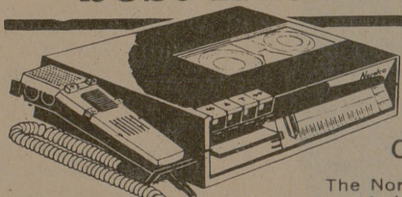
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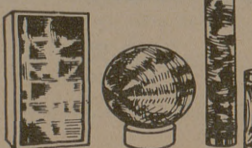
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