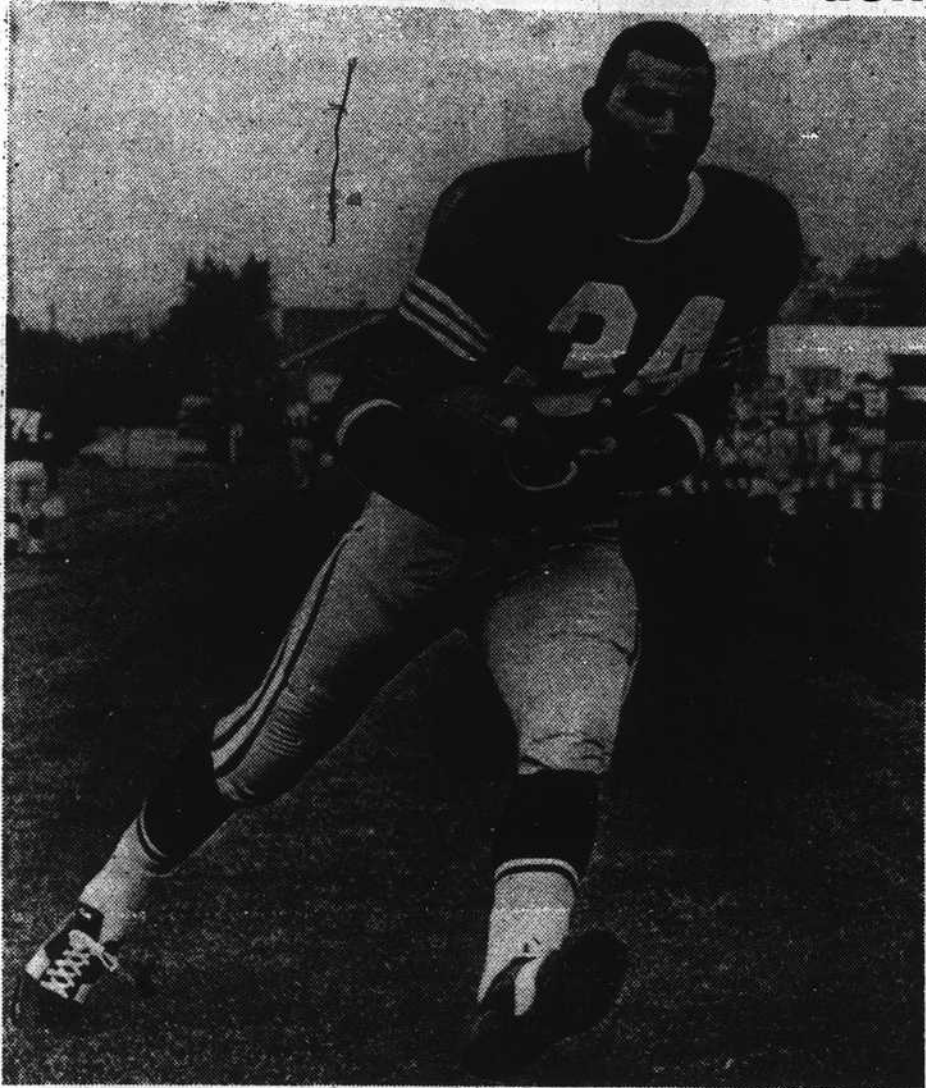


Former Las Vegas High Standout

Local Athlete Marked For Stardom



Weber State College's rugged Lee White is certain to see plenty of action Saturday when Wildcats meet Northern Arizona College in Flagstaff, Ariz.

(Reprint from Sports Columnist, Ray Herbat)

You shake his hand and suddenly you feel small, insecure; you dangle helplessly in the grasp of his huge, powerful bear's paw, an enormous extremity hanging from a tree trunk-sized forearm.

He looks at you with that menacing frown, piercing black eyes almost shrouded by heavily scar-tissued brows. Jagged scars are carved on the bridge of his nose and left cheekbone. He could beat you into physical submission with a stare.

HE'S NO pretty boy and his physique, which resembles that of a Greek god, could have been the model for which former all-pro fullback Marion Motley used this sage advice: "Never pick a fight with a man until you have seen him with his shirt off."

He is so awesome in size and strength that if you got into an alley fight with him both you and the alley would come out second best.

The menacing appearance of Lee White, fullback supreme at Weber State, is an illusion. He is one of the kindest, most humble, most gentle athletes this scribe has known.

LEE WHITE is being boomed in Ogden as a college division All-America fullback. The 6-3, 230-pound junior, who has a 32-inch waist, is not only considered by pro scouts and coaches as the finest fullback in the mountain area, but the finest in the nation.

Mindful of the fact that in the same league is a 248-pound demon named Ray McDonald, of Idaho, the experts say White is even better. He can do more things, and is a better inside runner.

His coach, Sarkis Arslanian, who outmaneuvered Bob Devaney of Nebraska for Whites services wouldn't trade him for any other back in the country.

"This boy is the finest fullback I have ever seen in this area," Sark said. "Doug Mayberry, who is a good friend of mine, was a great runner at Utah State and later for the Minnesota Vikings. But I would have to say Lee is better now."

For one day in Lee White's life he almost became an All-America tackle prospect. "When Lee first joined us," Arslanian explained, "we weren't quite sure where to play him. Since he had always been a fullback we decided to try

him there the first day of practice. I told Tom Ramage, our line coach, that if he failed to impress after the first day or so he could use him in the line.

"Well, before the first practice was over Tom came up to me and said: 'You aren't going to let me have him, are you?'"

WHEN WHITE was a high school runner at Las Vegas he had only one direction--straight ahead. But at Weber State, under coach Bud Belnap, White has improved each week and now has the moves of a versatile runner.

A great baseball player is one who can hit; hit with power, run and throw.

By what yardstick do you rate a great football player? Sark was asked. "If he has size, strength, speed, desire and ability, if he has all of these qualities, he is a great one," he said. "And he is one of the best blockers on the team."

Statistics are sometimes cold and dull reading. To sum up Lee's achievements this season in a few words just note that he is one of the top five rushers and scorers in college ball.

AND WHAT DO outsiders say about this talented brute, one of 10 children of Luther White, a 5-10, 240-pound deeply religious man? "He is the finest fullback in the nation," said Homer Beatty, L.A. Rams scout. "The best I have ever seen in college," offered San Diego State coach Don Coryell after Lee scored four TD's and tore the Aztec line to shreds a few weeks ago.

"Well, I'll tell you what I think of him," said a University of Montana scout: "I'd trade my wife for him."

White wants to play professional football and he is quite modest about his prospects.

"I had a long talk with the boy a few weeks ago," Sark began. "I told him that a lot of scouts would be coming around and I added that I hoped he wouldn't get the big head. You know what he told me?"

"Aw, shucks, coach," blushed Lee, who has never been heard to say a cuss word or offer an unkind comment about anyone. "Who would want me to play pro ball?"

Probably not more than 20 teams, Lee, not more than 20.

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