

JUST THOUGHTS

By ELBURT MILLER



A PRETTY GOOD TURNOUT

If I had to single out one controversial issue involving the world of sports, it would have to be there are more spectators than participants. And this is true. However, as far as West Las Vegas is concerned, this may have been changed around entirely for the participants greatly outnumbered the spectators in what then appeared to be a National Track Meet.

Being naive, and not really understanding what was actually taking place, I floated over where the competition seemed to be in full force, hoping for at least an inside scoop. The puzzling thing was, no one seemed willing to wait their turn as the participants were scamp-ering all over the asphalt, and the officials, delirious on what to do, stood close by with shot-guns waiting to start the event. But later, and not much later, I found out they were waiting to stop the event for the session had gotten completely out of control, and it was too late to gather any type of organization.

Even though the meet was called off, and everyone was asked politely to depart from the premises, I can't help but think of all that talent that may not have been given a chance. There were all kinds of throwers, fast runners, high jumpers, and there was a kid who hurdled an unbelievable hurdle, so there was definitely talent there.

The only apparent thing was, we need more coaches, and good ones. Looking on from a spectator's side of it, things did appear to be out-of-hand. It had to be for the officials to sound the guns ending the depredation. Who finally won the event? I guess the Judges will have to decide!

* * *

Is there a Price on Victory? It requires intensity, dedication and skill to do a job well. George Allen is a man who has all of these qualities, as he directs the professional football team in Los Angeles. Unquestionably, Allen knows his business. His record proves that. And his feeling for his work has been illustrated before, here and elsewhere. But it was never more evident than on the National League's opening day of its 50th season. In front of a sellout Baltimore crowd, Allen's team upset the Colts and took the Coastal Division lead, marking the first time since the division was created that Los Angeles wouldn't be chasing Baltimore in the standing.

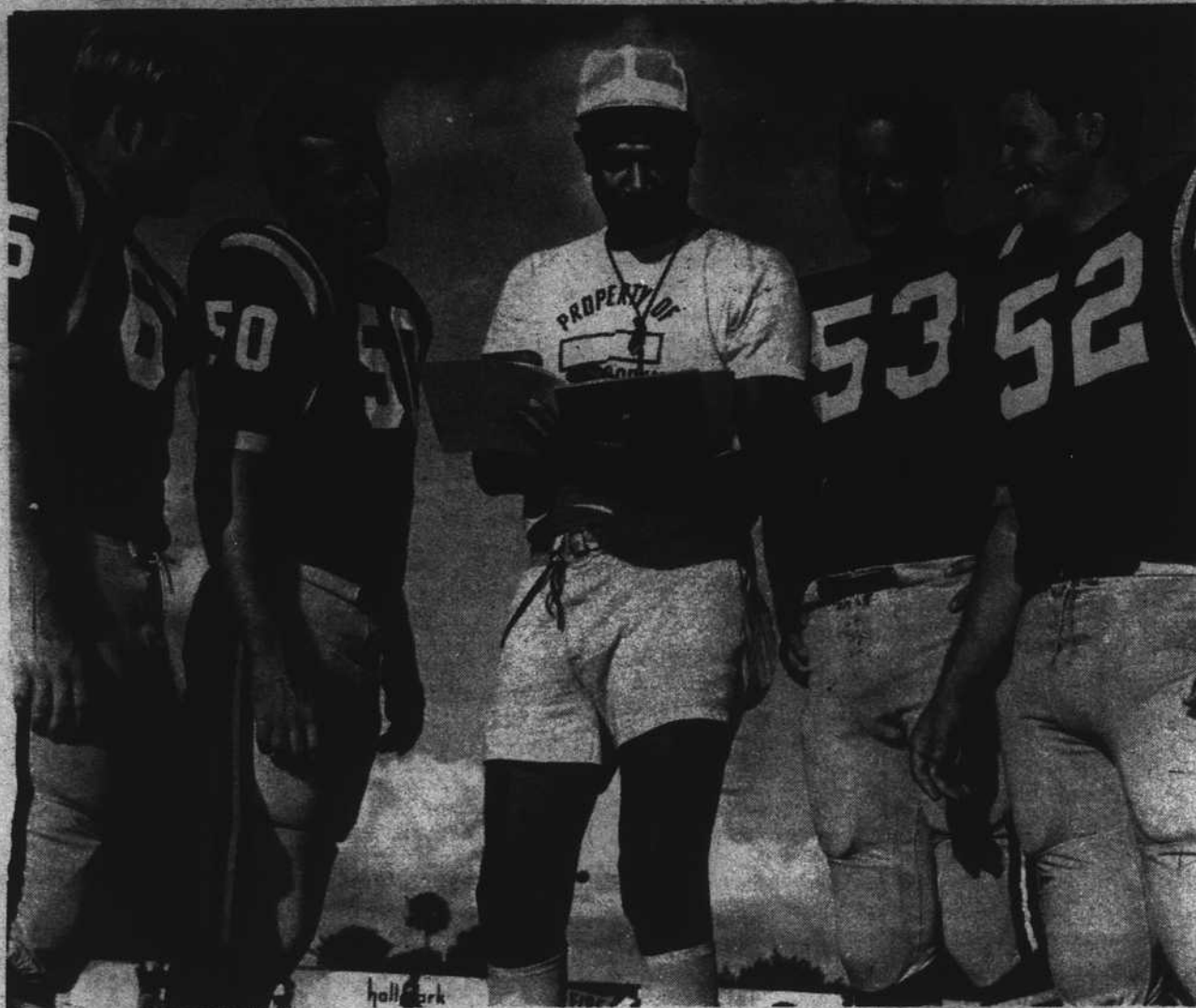
Afterward, Allen was overwhelmed. In the dressing room, he called the victory his No. 1 thrill, and praised such players as Roman Gabriel, Bob Brown and Diron Talbert, who had performed key roles. But it was later that he revealed the true depth of his satisfaction. Hours removed from Memorial Stadium, and no longer caught up in the spirit of the moment, he sipped a soft drink and spoke from the hearth. "You know, he said, "if someone had offered me \$20 million to lose this game, I wouldn't have taken it, even to settle for a tie. He paused and thought about what he had just heard.

"You know," he said, "if someone had offered me \$20 million to lose this game, I wouldn't have taken it, even to settle for a tie. He paused and thought about what he had just said. "In fact," he elaborated, "I wouldn't have lost for \$40 million.

Then he said: "To me, this is what life is all about -- to have something so valuable to you that you wouldn't trade it for any amount of money."

*We have found wealth
when we have found enjoyment
in unbought pleasures*

The Coach Meets His New Guys At B-C



In today's quest for education and participation, the above scene is no longer impossible to witness. At famed Bethune-Cookman College, four white youngsters, for the very first time, will wear the Wildcat's colors on the gridiron. From left are Kenneth Brown, linebacker, Joe Wagner, D-end, William Harliss, D-tackle, Dennis Watkins, lineback. They flank Head Coach Jack McClairen. On October 18th they meet Savannah State on their home grounds; and on the 25th they take on Alabama A&M at Normal, Ala., South Carolina State, Mississippi Valley State, and Florida A&M on their November calendar.

Russian Pugs

Use Music

The Soviet Union boxers slated to meet a team of American pugilistic aspirants, use lilting tunes of native folk and ballet music for training. It gives them precision and speed.

Music has often been utilized by top American Boxers during training. Sugar Ray Robinson was famous for rope-skipping to "Stars And Stripes Forever". Sonny Liston does the same to the strains of "Night Train". Joe Frazier keeps a record-player beating out soul music throughout his sparring sessions.

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