

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

December 3, 1987



Sports News This Week

College Hoops At It Again

By William Ramirez

Although the college season is underway, we will print our first top twenty of the year while previewing the top 5 teams:

1. North Carolina- Ranzino Smith is Carolina's only senior and will find it tough to match last year's perfect-league record. J.R. Reid is still pondering his early season troubles with the law.

King Rice and Rick Fox are first year phenoms and will see plenty playing time.

2. Indiana-Bobby Knight is looking to turn Keith Smart loose once again. He also will be looking in Lyndon Jones' direction. Jones is a strong penetrator. Rick Calloway's performance could determine a return to the Final Four.

3. Syracuse-The Orangemen bring back center Rony Seikaly, power forward Derrick Coleman and playmaker Sherman Douglas. With top recruits, Coach Jim Boeheim has the potential of returning to the Final Four.

4. Kentucky-This year's Wildcat team could be overloaded with talent. Kentucky may also count on two names- Rex and Chapman.

5. Arizona- This just may be the best team out of the West this year. Anthony Cook and Steve Kerr will try to make that statement come true. The '87-'88 darkhorse.

and the rest:
6. Pittsburgh
7. Florida
8. Duke

9. Iowa
10. Missouri
11. Wyoming
12. Georgetown
13. Michigan
14. Purdue
15. Temple
16. Louisville
17. Oklahoma
18. Kansas
19. North Carolina St.
20. Memphis St.

College Football

California

San Jose St. v. E. Michigan

Independence

Tulane v. Washington

All-American

Virginia v. BYU

Sun

Oklahoma St. v. West Virginia

Aloha

Florida v. UCLA

Liberty

Arkansas v. Georgia

Freedom

Air Force v. Arizona St.

Holiday

Wyoming v. Iowa

Gator

S. Carolina v. LSU

Bluebonnet

Pittsburgh v. Texas

Florida Citrus

Clemson v. Penn St.

Cotton

Texas A&M v. Notre Dame

Rose

Michigan St. v. USC

Sugar

Auburn v. Syracuse

Orange

Oklahoma v. Miami, Fla

Fiesta

Florida St. v. Nebraska

Hall of Fame

Michigan v. Alabama

Peach

Tennessee v. Indiana

Top Twenty

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1. Oklahoma | 11-0 |
| 2. Miami, Fla. | 10-0 |
| 3. Syracuse | 11-0 |
| 4. Nebraska | 10-1 |
| 5. Florida St. | 10-1 |
| 6. LSU | 9-1-1 |
| 7. S. Carolina | 8-2 |
| 8. Michigan St. | 8-2-1 |
| 9. Auburn | 9-1-1 |
| 10. Oklahoma St. | 8-3 |
| 11. Clemson | 9-2 |
| 12. UCLA | 9-2 |
| 13. Texas A&M | 9-2 |
| 14. USC | 9-2 |
| 15. Georgia | 8-3 |
| 16. Tennessee | 8-3 |
| 17. Iowa | 9-2-1 |
| 18. Pittsburgh | 9-3 |
| 19. Indiana | 8-3 |
| 20. Notre Dame | 8-3 |

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Winter Blahs a Serious Ailment

Associated Press

BOSTON—Common winter-time blahs can turn into a serious clinical depression that the American Psychiatric Association now officially recognizes as an ailment and says will afflict some 45,000 people this season.

With the shortest day of the year approaching in December, it is the peak season for the depression known as seasonal affective disorder syndrome, or SADS, with symptoms such as excessive eating, increased sleeping and weight gain.

"We're looking at more than just passing of the blues," said Dr. Martin B. Keller, director of out-patient research in psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital, "In the fall I get lots of calls from people who feel this depression coming on."

Doolittle Community Center Activities

BIG WHEEL RACE

The City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street, will host a Big Wheel Race for ages 3-5 years; December 11 at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge and awards will be presented. Call 386-6374 or 386-6375.

MARTIN LUTHER KING PARADE

The City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center is sponsoring a floatmaking project for senior citizens which will be entered in the Martin Luther King Parade, Monday, January 18. Float construction will take place the week of January 11-16 from 6-9:00 p.m. Interested individuals are asked to contact the Doolittle Center on Wednesday, January 6, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 386-6374. There is no charge.

PING PONG TOURNAMENT

A Ping Pong Tournament will be hosted by the City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center on December 17 at 5:00 p.m. First place trophies will be awarded at the free event. Two age categories will be available . . . 13-15 years and 16 years and over. Call 386-6374 or 386-6375 for details.

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM

The Doolittle Community Center is offering a daily drop-in Girl Scout program. The after school program will begin November 16 running 2:30-5:30 weekdays and 12-4:00 p.m. Saturdays. The program is designed for girls 5-12 years old. The City of Las Vegas program is free and will include arts and crafts, games, cooking, singing and dancing. For more information contact Mildred Atwater, 386-6374.



Kick Returns

During my years in the National Football League I ran back kick-offs and punts as well as starting in the backfield for the Chicago Bears.

It's rare today to see a starting player running back kicks. The coaches may feel that a particular player might get injured while playing on special teams. Back then my coach just saw it as another opportunity for me to get my hands on the ball.

When the coach said, "I want you to run back kicks," you did it. The players felt differently about their jobs, and it was a job.

Today's players often tell the coach what they will and will not do. And frankly, many of them are afraid to run back kickoffs or punts.

I loved playing on the special teams. I wasn't worried about getting hit because I could see all the people in front of me. In running from scrimmage, you can get hit from the back or the side. On returns, they are coming straight at you.

The way I ran with a lot of moves, tacklers got an arm or a jersey or pushed me out of bounds; I was always doing things to keep opponents off balance. The collisions were not any more violent than a normal running play.

I'll admit there was one time in my rookie year when a Detroit player clothes-lined me, which was legal back then. I didn't fumble but I jumped up and started running to the wrong bench. My teammates had to catch me and turn me around.

Watching football today, I have trouble understanding why kick-off and punt returns aren't more successful. The rules have been changed to make it a great deal easier for the return team. Kickoffs are from the 35 yard line instead of the 40. On punt returns, only two defenders can take off immediately at the snap of the ball. It used to be that all 11 defenders charged down the field at once. An old coach of mine in grade school used to tell me that a good back should beat one man 100 percent of the time and two defenders 75 percent of the time.

Teams might not be spending enough time on returns in practice. You have to be able to do it in practice if you expect to do it in the game. If they really worked on it, I think fans would see a lot more touchdowns scored on returns. **ll**

Gale Sayers is considered one of the greatest running backs of all time. The former Chicago Bear is a member of the National Football League's Hall of Fame.

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