

Jim Thomas Gets Two New Records

SPORTIN' AROUND

with
Buddy Northart

Scandal at The Point

The recent scandal involving violations of the West Point honor code has inspired nationwide comment ranging from attacks from the pulpit to satirical poems from the floor of Congress.

A prominent Washington Presbyterian clergyman, justly inspired by the scandal, was prompted to tell his congregation that the blame for the scandal should be placed on the congressmen who appointed the alleged violators. The congressmen, he told his flock, haven't set a very good moral example for our young students to follow.

Place the Blame On Football, Boys

Of course, the over-emphasis of football has reared its ugly head in the picture, and certain of our national lawmakers have gone on record as advocating the abolishment of football at the "Point." Still offer not so hasty, congressmen, have merely suggested de-emphasis. One brave soul reminded his colleagues that it wasn't the accepted practice in government circles to abolish a particular job just because one of the people doing that job was caught with his finger in the pie. So, he reasoned, let's not speak of abolishing football.

Even the West Point faculty had the nasty finger of shame pointed in its direction, because, according to some, they failed to give the 90 wayward students the necessary guidance when they needed it most.

But it was a poem writing senator who stole the show with a dialogue poem reviewing the numerous scandals that have occurred during the present administration . . . a Republican, no doubt. The dialogue, between a congressman and a West Point cadet, compared the Academy mixup with the notorious incidents involving the Vaughans, the mink coats, the five per centers, the deep freezes, the RFC's, etc., and then the cadet asks the congressman just what he expected from students guided by such examples. One wonders just what those men of government expect.

The Old Army Game

I mentioned that the over-emphasis of football was mentioned as the guilty party. Well, it was and has been for several years now, in fact, since the war. College football has been blamed for everything from poor grades, through cheating, on to the collapse of institutions of learning. But isn't that what we expect in a controversial matter? Hasn't there always been a lot of that "old army game" of passing the buck?

It's too early to take sides in the Academy struggle, but it's not too early to make a pretty obvious observation. Let's face it, football can't be responsible for all the ills in the nation today. No one would try to deny that there is a general moral breakdown in the world of sports, or that college football isn't being over-emphasized, but the blame for this breakdown should no more be placed on the shoulders of the players and coaches than abolishment of football should be offered as a solution to over-emphasis.

As Coach Earl Blaik of Army said, football has a definite and important part in the life of the college student. Of course he was speaking in particular of the West Point cadet, but the same goes for all students.

A Problem to Face

The problem is with us, however, and it must be faced, but instead of passing the buck, or yelling over-emphasis of this or that, let's face the problem squarely and place the blame where it is due. Ticket scalpers, professional gamblers and bribers, and the small percentage of athletes who would sell their sport down the river for a buck, they're your sports corruptors. These are the people who keep raising the cost of a college football player. These are the guys who force the emphasis on sports, and worst of all, corrupt the morals of the players themselves. Wipe out sports, abolish football, and you will have these same guys betting on which train gets into the station first, or what color the next gum ball will be that comes out of the gum machine.

The idea is to get rid of the corruptors, not the sport. You don't abolish divorce to put an end to marital problems. A national resentment against these people, a national crusade to wipe out this outside interest will allow college sports to seek their proper emphasis in the life of the student, and will return sports where they belong, to the participator and the spectator.

Tar Heels Face Toughies

Carolina's 1951 all-opponents football team will probably read like an All-America squad come December. For example, take a look at a few of the outstanding linemen the Tar Heels will face this season: Elma Costa, N. C. State All American; Bob Ward, Maryland's All American; Bob Toneff and Paul Burns of Notre Dame; Texas' All-America Don

Menasco; Tennessee's great Pug Pearman, Ted Daffer and company; Virginia's Joe Palumbo; and Duke's Blaine Earon.

Not to be out-done, the backs will be well represented, also, by such outstanding players as South Carolina's Steve Wadiak, N. C. State's Alex Webster, Zippy Morocco of Georgia, Notre Dame's Billy Barrette and Tennessee's Andy Kozar.

Swimming Ace Loses Weight

James P. (Jimmy) Thomas, a guy who likes a record for breakfast, has had a full diet this summer. But for a fellow who digests them regularly, he's lost a lot of weight.

The Carolina swimming ace breezed into town the other day following another of his periodical record-breaking sprees—this time in the Southern AAU meet at Wilson—and has picked up the handle "Slim Jim." The well-proportioned Thomas has dropped at least 15 pounds and is down to 175.

"Jimmy worked himself out of shape getting ready for the Nationals in July while at Yale University. He lost a lot of weight and has yet to pick it up," explains Tar Heel Coach Ralph Casey.

But the lack of meat failed to slow the Baltimore speedster. In Detroit last month he captured his third national championship in winning the 100-meters backstroke, took second place in the 300-meters individual medley and scored a sixth place finish in the 200-meter freestyle.

Following the nationals, Thomas journeyed to Wilson for the Southern meet. There he added American records number 11 and 12. He set new marks in the 300-meters individual medley, 150-meters individual medley and won the 100-meters backstroke and 200-meters freestyle to boot!

But Slim Jim isn't too happy about his Wilson showing.

"I didn't swim well at all," is his frank appraisal of the performance.

Jimmy got most of his previous American records last summer. He earned his record-for-breakfast reputation by swimming very early in the morning in preparation and then coming back in the afternoon to crack the marks in AAU sanctioned trials.

A June graduate of the University, Thomas will give up competitive swimming temporarily for the next year to continue his studies. He will enter Johns Hopkins Medical School October 1.

He hopes to return here next summer and get in shape for the 1952 Olympic trials and nationals.

Gala Program Offered By Graham Memorial

Tournaments in checkers, chess, and table tennis, which are a part of the Graham Memorial summer entertainment program, are scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Each player in the checkers tournament must win two of three games to receive one point in the standings.

Sixteen players have entered the table tennis tournament, which will be run on a single elimination basis. A player must take three of five games from his opponent to advance to the succeeding round.

The chess tournament will be run according to the Swiss system, in which each contestant plays the same number of games.

Two days will be allowed for each match.

Each player in the checkers tournament must win two of three games to receive one point in the standings.

Gotta Go

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