Just Chattin'

Let's Give Football Back To The Boys

By W. W. EDGAR

IN all the hullabaloo being raised around the country over the final rankings of the college football teams one very important fact has been lost in the vehemence of the heated debates.

It isn't a question of whether Michigan State or Notre Dame should be ranked No. 1. This debate, brought about by the voting of coaches and writers—many of whom are from remote areas who never saw the teams play—soon will pass and be forgotten.

But the real fact that stands out more clearly now than ever before is that the game has been taken away from the boys. They have become mere robots in the hands of the coaches. And in this transition the very foundation of the game is being rocked.

Some folks may scoff at the idea that football, as practiced in the colleges, was meant to be a friendly competition to prepare young men for the battle of life. Football was the crucible in which they were being put to develop courage and character.

For years this was the prime motive.

Then came a change. With the popularity of the game the crowds increased and it wasn't long until the educators, seeing vast fortunes in gate receipts, ruled that football was to carry the entire athletic load. This, so it was said at the time, would release much of the taxpayers money for the furtherance of education.

It didn't work this way, however. With the increase in attendance and the growing demand for tickets, there came a pressing need for large stadia. It then became a question of whether the stadia could be built on the college or university campus or whether the "big" games would be played in some commercial center such as a professional baseball park or a city-owned stadium.

For years the Army-Notre Dame game, for example, was played annually in one of the large New York baseball parks. In spite of the financial success of this series it was ended for a while "to save the college game" and played on the Notre Dame campus.

All the while large stadia sprung up in the land. The University of Michigan, with a seating capacity of 101,000 boasts the largest in the land.

This was fine. But who was to pay for them?

The burden was placed on the football squad—for the football receipts were ear-marked, in many cases, to pay off the stadium bonds.

Under this plan came the demand for a winning team. This was a vicious cycle . . . winning teams, big crowds, bond payments against losing teams, small gatherings and defaulting bonds.

With pressure like this no longer could a gamble be taken with the decisions of the young lads out there on the field. So, coaches became quarterbacks and started to make the decisions by sending in plays. The players became pawns. And while colleges and universities scoff at the word "professionalism," the truth of the matter is that the students now play the game with a "professional" quarterback.

This brings us to the crux of the argument.

Would the Notre Dame players have "run out the clock" in the final minutes against Michigan State to preserve a tie?

Chances are they wouldn't. They had a keen desire to win and shouldn't have been forced to become the targets of taunts of the Michigan State players who goaded them across the scrimmage line about "quitting." Yet, the choice was not theirs to make. It was made by their coach because "I couldn't gamble with the kids losing after playing such a magnificent game in spite of the loss of key players through injuries."

This is fine sentiment. But it is so much "hogwash."

Was he interested, primarily, in the "kids" as he called them, or his own coaching record?

impressions

by sue shaughnessy

When the sports editor, George Maskin, can't think of a subject for a column he writes what he calls "putting one word after another."

That's the position we're in this week.

Thanksgiving has come and gone and all of us are stuffed with turkey, dressing and all the other dishes that make up the holiday feast.

Santa Claus has arrived in town—much to the delight of the merchants and children.

It seems as though the Christmas season is upon us. One private home that we pass on the way to and from the office even has its decorations up. In the weeks to come this non-procrastinator will be the envy of his neighbors as they struggle to put up the outside decorations in the cold weather.

The subject of outdoor activity in the cold weather reminds us of a suggestion made last year about auto license plate sales in the state.

"Why can't the licenses be sold during the warmer months of the year rather than January and February?" a woman asked. It sounds like a good idea and it certainly would be easier to remove those rusted bolts without the benefit of old man winter's icy breath.

As a fairly regular reader of the comic strips we tremendously enjoyed the scene in Sunday's episode of Bettle Bailey. Sgt. Snorkel has dreams of glory as an ace pilot for The Lafayette Escardrille.

In his moment of glory he shoots down an enemy plane and when the pilot ejects it is none other that the World War I ace, Snoopy. The Sgt. awakens from his dream with the comment "Good Grief." It seems as though the originators of the comics read each other.

Speaking of the comic strips Brenda Starr is still bouncing from one adventure to another in her fantastic newspaper career, Pappy Yokum has been taken in by the big city slicker and is posing a problem for Mammy, Little Orphan Annie has landed with both feet on the ground after a tragedy, and Mary Perkins is showing the Russian Major's soft heart to the world once again.

In this fast changing, mobile world it's nice to know that some things remain constant.

$ Investing Inquiries $

What Are Preferred Stocks?

(Mr. Wysong, a stockbroker for Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis, welcomes all inquiries on investing. Send your questions to the Observer, "Investing Inquiries," 33050 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan. The answers are the opinion of Laurence A. Wysong who is considered highly qualified on the subject.)

Q. I am nearing retirement and I am interested in converting the common stocks I have purchased through the dend type of investment. I am years into a more fixed divi- interested in preferred stocks but I would like to know more about them.

A. Do not eliminate common stocks from your portfolio entirely. If you do there will be little to offset our country's constant problem of inflation. I would keep the best of the commons you now own and sell the rest. The money should then be invested in preferred stocks.

Now, what is preferred stock? There are but two classes of investment securities that a company could issue — (1) bonds, debentures and notes which represent what a company owes you for the use of your money, and (2) those securities which represent the part you own in a business. Preferred stock as well as common stock represents ownership of a company's net worth, that is, what is left after debt is subtracted.

Preferred stock is junior, or subordinate, to all debt which a company owes. But as the name implies, it has a claim ahead of the common stock upon the payment of dividends and upon the assets of the company (in the event the company is dissolved).

Since preferred stock is senior to common stock, it is commonly included in the term "senior securities."

Because the dividend declared on preferred stock is usually at a set rate, it is also referred to as a "fixed-income" security, and the investment attributes of preferreds are similar to those of bonds.

Remember that although a fixed rate may be set, preferred dividends may be omitted at the discretion of the directors. Therefore, the payment of preferred dividends is not comparable to the payment of bond interest, which is a "must" to avoid default under the indenture.

From the standpoint of investment planning, however, there are preferreds of such good quality that the mere fact that bonds are more senior may be of no immediate and practical significance. The main difference between the two to investors is this: Bonds almost always have a final maturity date; preferreds do not. The latter remains outstanding indefinitely, unless called for redemption. Many preferreds, like most bonds, can be called in at prices set when the security was issued and be redeemed in full, or in part at intervals to retire the stock gradually over a period of time.

The indefinite longevity of preferreds has meaning as compared with bonds that are to mature in just a few years — or maybe up to fifteen years or so — but not compared with bonds of very long terms. Thus, the market price behavior of good quality preferred stock follows rather closely the price trends of investment-grade long-term bonds.

Most outstanding preferred stocks are cumulative. This means that dividends, if omitted, build up in arrears and must be paid before dividends can be paid upon common stock. As additional protection, some preferred stocks get voting rights for the election of directors if enough dividends are skipped.

Some preferred stocks are convertible into common stock — just as some bonds are.

Complete Course

FT. EUSTIS, VA. (AH-TNC)—Private Earl E. Clark, Jr., 19, whose parents live at 8712 Aug st, Garden City, Mich., completed an airframe repair course at the Army Transportation School, Ft. Eustis, Va., Nov. 1.

During the eight-week course, he was trained in the maintenance and repair of sheet metal surfaces and plastic sections of Army aircraft.

To Repair Instruments

FT. GORDON, GA. (AH-TNC) — Private Robert T. Banks, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar T. Banks, 16437 Pollyanna Drive, Livonia, Mich., completed an electrical instrument repair course at the Army Southeastern Signal School, Ft. Gordon, Ga., Nov. 10.

During the 12-week course, he was trained in the maintenance and repair of electrical indicating instruments, meters and meteorological. He also learned to repair the complex firing systems of wind measuring instruments.

Teenager Fined $110

Gary R. Hanson, 17, of 9932 Lucerne, Redford Township, pleaded guilty last week in Livonia Municipal Court to using abusive and obscene language to a police officer and was fined $110.

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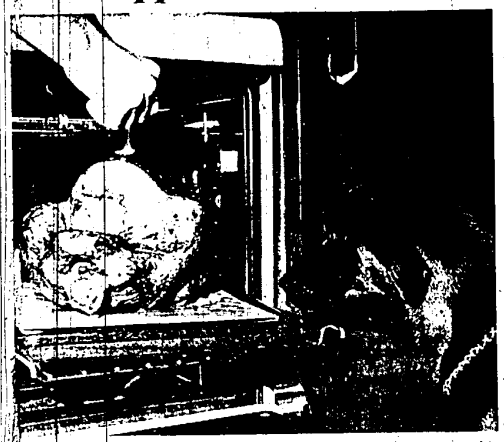
Santa Claus Sets Up Post Office at Paper

Santa Claus has given The Observer Newspaper special permission to act as post office from now until Christmas. All children's letters space will permit, addressed to Santa Claus, 33050 Five Mile Road, Livonia, will be printed in the paper, and letters will be answered personally.

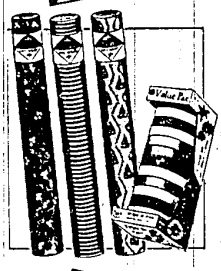
What's A Retriever Supposed To Do?



The Observer pays $5 for every picture printed on its Feature page. Send in your entry to any Observer office with your name, address and phone number. The Observer reserves the right to title picture. The above was taken by David Troshos, Livonia.

THURS. FRI. SAT! KRESGE'S THURS. FRI. SAT!
CHRISTMAS BELLRINGERS

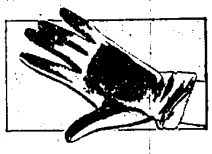
Indoor and Outdoor CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
A. 50-Light Featherproof Set. Miniature for indoor or out. Multi-color or clear. Replaceable bulbs. 3.29
B. 30-Light Featherproof Set. Tiny double-twinkle lights. Use indoors or out. Clear or multi-color. 2.44
C. 3 Days—Reg. 3.99! 20 Lights #C98. Outdoor tree light set with clips, add-on plug. Multi-color light bulbs. 3.22
Like It? Charge It!



3 Days Only - Our Reg. 97¢
JUMBO GIFT WRAP
Continuous rolls. Christmas prints, 26"x44 ft.; embossed printer stripe foil, 26"x15 ft.; embossed solids, 26"x15 ft. 68¢
3/4"x300" Cello Tape ..... 12¢

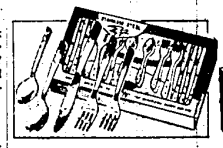
Women's Polished Cotton BLOUSES
3 Days Only - Our Reg. 3.99 2.57
Color-splashed prints on fine quality combed cotton sateen. ¾ or long sleeves, with jewel neck, pointed collar or Italian collar. For you . . . for gifts. 32-38.
Like It? Charge It!

3 Days Only - Our Reg. 4.99
PURE WOOL SWEATERS
Imported Shetland-look; for women. Full-fashion saddle shoulders. White, pastel solids, heathered pastels. 34-42. 2.97

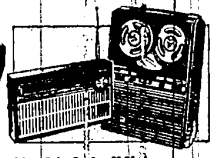


3 Days Only - Our Reg. 88¢
14-RIBBON SPOOL
Giant size reel in holiday colors. Six ribbons in ⅛" widths, eight ribbons ¼" wide. Total 200 feet in all. 68¢

3 Days- Reg. $1.00! Women's
LINED VINYL GLOVES
No kidding . . . our lined vinyl dress gloves look like the real thing. Black, brown, beige, white. 63¢
Like It? Charge It!



3 Days - Reg. 8.47, 42 Pc. Set
STAINLESS FLATWARE
Holiday-right! Service for eight in graceful "Night Sky" pattern. Satiny smooth stainless steel needs no polishing. 5.97
Like It? Charge It!



3 Days Only—Our Reg. 22.95
Realtone AM/FM 10-Transistor Radio 19.97
3 Days Only—Big Savings!
GE Transistor Tape Recorder 22.88
Like It? Charge It!

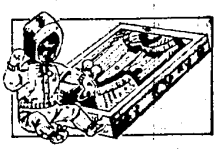
Men's, Boys' Coat or Middy
BROADCLOTH PAJAMAS
Boys' 8-16 Reg. 2.47 1.97 3 Days
Men's S-M-LG Reg. 3.33 2.77 3 Days
*Sanforized® cotton

3 Days - Reg. $1! Men's, Boys'
VINYL DRESS GLOVES
Men's: "Novahide" vinyl slip-ons, pile-lined. Boys' vinyl palm and back, pile-lined. Black, brown. 57¢
Like It? Charge It!

Reg. 69¢-lb. Foil-Wrapped
CHRISTMAS KISSES
Hershey milk chocolate kisses in holiday wrap of gleaming red, green and silver foil. 58¢ lb.*
*Including wrap

3 Days Only - Our Reg. 99¢
CHRISTMAS CANDLES
8½"x¾" Decorated red pillar, white spiral drip tree; 5½" gold tree; 7" Tear Drop or Regency Line in 68¢ ea.
Like It? Charge It!

3 Days Only - Our Reg. 37¢
CHRISTMAS TOWELS
Screen printed cotton terry. Fringed ends. 16"x27". Santa with Tree, Poinsettia, or Ornaments and Candle patterns. 27¢ ea.
Like It? Charge It!



3 Days - Reg. 4.97 Infants'
KNIT LEGGING SET
Save $1! A lovely gift. Cuddly acrylic knit bonnet, jacket, leggings and mittens. White, pink, blue. 3.97
Like It? Charge It!

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Wayne at Warren Road
★ LIVONIA MALL
7 Mile at Middlebelt
★ WONDERLAND CENTER
Plymouth at Middlebelt

PLYMOUTH Main at Ann Arbor Trail
FARMINGTON PLAZA
7-GRAND SHOPPING CENTER
8-MILE & BEECH SHOPPING CENTER
SHELDEN CENTER Plymouth and Farmington
TELE-CRAFT SHOPPING CENTER
GRANDLAND SHOPPING CENTER
WAYNE 35004 Michigan
CHERRY HILL PLAZA Cherry Hill at Inkster Rd.
7 MILE at EVERGREEN

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