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# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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in the European Theater of Operations

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## U.S. Troops Free Reims, Near Belgium

### Reds Capture Ploesti Oil Refineries

### Drive South Within 17 Mi. Of Bucharest

### Unrest Grips Balkans As Bulgaria Awaits Surrender Terms

The Red Army won its greatest military victory in Rumania and dealt Hitler a crippling economic defeat yesterday in a sensational assault which captured the vital oil center of Ploesti and drove southward within 17 miles of Bucharest, capital of Rumania.

A total of 15,000 Germans have been taken prisoner in the campaign, which also has brought the Russians within 30 miles of the Bulgarian frontier.

Meanwhile, all the Balkans seethed with rumors and unrest last night. While Budapest, Hungary, got its third puppet government in less than a week, Bulgaria made further desperate efforts to climb on the Allied bandwagon before it was too late.

Russian troops of the Second Ukrainian front fought their way into the strategic Ploesti area after a lightning advance of 40 miles in less than 24 hours, Marshal Stalin announced from Moscow. Buzon and 200 towns and villages also have been occupied, thus completing the liberation of all oil regions in Rumania.

#### Armistice Group In Cairo

The Ploesti oil refineries had been turning out an estimated 2,000,000 tons of oil per year for Hitler's war machine.

This latest Russian success in the Balkans followed Soviet seizure Tuesday of the port of Constanza, which for three years had been Germany's main Black Sea naval base.

On the diplomatic front, it was announced that a Bulgarian armistice delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday, and that the Allies were expected to present their surrender terms within "a day or two." This followed a declaration from Sofia earlier this week that Bulgaria would follow a policy of strict neutrality until armistice terms had been settled.

Bulgaria had declared war on all the Allies except Russia, but following her statement of neutrality she called this "a token declaration only."

#### Bulgaria to Disarm Nazis

Although Russia has never technically been at war with Bulgaria, Radio Moscow announced that neutrality would be "insufficient." The Allied representatives at Cairo were expected to demand unconditional surrender, and possibly a complete Bulgarian swing to the Allied side by actually joining in the fighting against Germany.

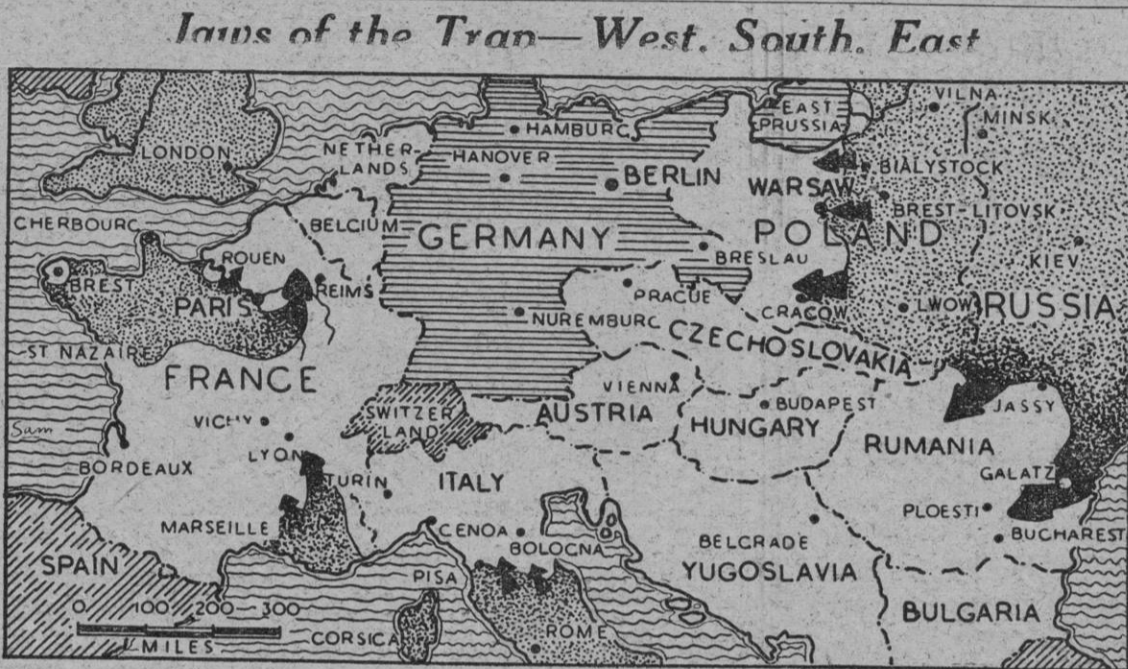
Following her declaration of neutrality—Continued on Page 4

### Czechs Rise, Fight Openly

Czech resistance forces yesterday became the latest underground movement to burst into the open with the announcement that Czech guerrillas were fighting desperately in four parts of the country.

In London, the Czechoslovakian government in exile said these guerrillas were part of the regular Czech Army.

It was also revealed in London yesterday that units of the regular Polish Army are fighting on their home soil. A declaration by the Polish government in exile said: "The Polish Home Army is openly fighting on the soil of the Polish Republic and—has all the rights of belligerents."



As Yanks in northwestern France smashed 95 miles east of Paris and drove through Reims to within 35 miles of Belgium, Americans in the south yesterday pursued German remnants toward Lyons. In the Balkans, the Red Army captured Ploesti oil refineries and advanced within 17 miles of Bucharest.

### Loss of Ploesti Oil, Spanish Ore, Blow to Reich Economy

The Russian capture of Ploesti yesterday broke one of the last pegs in Hitler's tottering economic system by depriving the German war machine of one-third of its high octane fuel.

Meanwhile, the already deminishing iron supplies of the Reich were further cut by the isolation of overland connections between Spain and Germany and the cancellation of Swedish shipping insurance to German ports.

By their loss of Ploesti, the Germans will lose about 2,000,000 tons of refined oil a year. At one time the capacity of the plants was 10,000,000 tons annually, but incessant Allied bombings during the 13 months beginning Aug. 1, 1943, reduced the figure by four-fifths.

The Ploesti refineries drew most of their crude oil supplies from the area of Buzon, also taken by the Red Army yesterday.

On the other side of Europe, Germany yesterday was having headaches over iron ore. The Ministry of Economic Warfare revealed in London that the French Forces of the Interior are now in control of the entire Franco-Spanish border, thus closing all overland routes between Spain and Germany.

The MEW added that in 1943 and the first half of 1944 Spanish iron ore was shipped to Germany at the rate of nearly 500,000 tons a year. Yielding an iron content of about 250,000 tons, this ore has been particularly valuable because of its low phosphorous and sulphur content.

Sweden's action in cancelling maritime insurance to German ports came as a result of intensive mine-laying operations by the RAF. The MEW said that Swedish exports of iron to Germany have been cut in half by this latest move.

### Yanks In South Pursuing Nazis

American Seventh Army troops yesterday were continuing the destruction of the retreating German 19th Army in southern France as they cut the width of the only Nazi escape route to 10 miles.

At the same time, U.S. units were closing in on the industrial center of Lyons, and were reported within six miles of the city. Heavy casualties have been inflicted on German troops attempting to cross the Rhone.

Observers said there was no front and no line in southern France since the 19th Army had been reduced to a division and a half. Allied headquarters announced that 45,000 prisoners, including six generals, had been taken since the landings in southern France.

U.S. troops also are serving with the First Canadian-American Special Force in the campaign.

Full instructions and the applications (USWBC Form No. 1) may be obtained from soldier voting officers of units in cases where they have not already been delivered to soldiers.

Today is the last date for mailing postcard applications for state absentee ballots to vote in the November general election.

### Nazis Prepare Gas, Swiss Say

Indications that the Germans are preparing to use poison gas as a last desperate resort were reported from Swiss sources, quoted last night by the BBC.

The broadcast said additional gas masks are being issued to the German Army.

Another report from Switzerland said Hitler's next reprisal weapon, V-3, is a gas-filled flying bomb.

The Zurich paper Volksrecht printed an article which purported to give first hand details of Germany's preparations to use gas. Specialists in gas, it said, are touring the Reich giving lectures. Chief among the specialists is Dr. Keiser of a special section of Hamburg University.

The preparations, Reuter quoted Volksrecht as saying, are connected with the forthcoming use of V-3, which is officially described as "the weapon which makes victory certain," but which is bound to lead to Allied reprisals.

Owing to a lack of materials, there is still a shortage of gas masks in Germany, according to the Swiss newspaper. Improvised protectors, consisting of old rags and a small filter, are therefore being supplied, only to children, it said.

COLLECTS CALLING CARDS  
BOSTON, Mass., Leonard Whidden, Boston express company official, collects calling cards as a hobby and in six years has amassed 1,800.

### Zurich Paper Believes Poisoned Fly-Bomb Will Be V-3

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U.S. submarines operating in the Pacific ocean have sunk 17 more Japanese ships, including two destroyers, to bring their total since Pearl Harbor to 723, the Navy Department announced in Washington last night.

Navy Ventura search planes attacked Paramushiro in the Kuriles islands and bombed a number of ships, Adm. Chester Nimitz revealed at Pearl Harbor.

American fighter-bombers sank three rivers ships on the Yangtze while on patrol flights in China.

### Eisenhower Says War Here 'In Last Stage'

### Yanks Are Near Laon; Nazis 'Leave' Rouen, Seine Port

American troops last night were reported to be 30 miles from Belgium's border after liberating the cathedral city of Reims, center of the Wehrmacht's communications system to Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

Even as other U. S. columns pressed beyond captured Vitre la Francoise and were within 95 miles of Germany itself, Gen. Eisenhower said that the "final stage of the European war has been reached" in an appeal to Belgian patriots for active help in forthcoming operations.

Swiftly advancing U. S. units also were reported in the outskirts of Laon, 19 miles northeast of captured Soissons. Other Americans crossed the River Aisne near Reims.

#### Rouen Said Abandoned

Meanwhile, the Germans claimed that they had abandoned Rouen, one of the principal ports on the Seine which has a peacetime population of 120,000. However, there was no Allied confirmation of this claim although Canadian troops had been reported within four miles of the city two days ago.

British troops captured Beauvais, 20 miles north of the Seine, yesterday, it was officially announced last night. This report came after the British units had hastily doubled their bridgehead over the lower Seine in 36 hours to bring over great quantities of armor in preparation for a drive to the north.

Some observers said the Allies held a 30 to one superiority in tanks in the sector north of the Seine.

Several hours after Gen. Eisenhower's appeal to the Belgian patriots, Gen. Dittmar, Nazi military propagandist, gave one of his most pessimistic commentaries yet over Radio Berlin. He said:

#### German Successes Behind

"The greater part of France has slipped from our hands. Military developments which took place in the course of this week have been calculated to raise Allied hopes of the forthcoming military defeat of Germany. Appearances would seem to give overwhelming evidence for this point of view.

"We in Germany understand the gravity of the situation and realize all the dangers and that the days of our brilliant successes are far behind us. Behind us, too, are the days when we thought we could get everything we wanted."

In the wake of the American drive toward Belgium, "Soldatensender," the German radio program for the Wehrmacht, said: "Soldiers should guard against pessimism... granted, the situation is not exactly comforting, but will you change it with a gloomy face?"

### U.S. Subs Sink 17 More Jap Ships in Pacific

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#### NEW RAF FIRE BOMB

LONDON, Aug. 30—The RAF is now using a new 30-pound incendiary bomb which gives out a flame 15 feet long and two feet wide, and which burns about two minutes. Main filling of the bomb is a solution of methane in petrol, under pressure. Descent of the missile is controlled by a parachute.

### Today is Deadline For Vote Applications

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### French Fighters 'Join' Yanks; Senegalese Can't Count Victims

By Earl Mazo  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH AN ARMORED RECON UNIT, NEAR THE SEINE, Aug. 30—Frenchmen who have been fighting the Germans via the underground for four years have come out all along the route of this unit's advance and "attached" themselves to "Los Americans" so they might fight on.

About 30 of them are now with patrols of this unit, ferreting out Germans wherever they may be.

Most of the Frenchmen are seasoned, though undisciplined formally, and some have proven plenty hot with the rifle. They are operating in every imaginable capacity, as scouts, dismounted troopers, and doughboys behind armored cars and tanks.

A Senegalese corporal, whose broad grins display the whitest teeth in the outfit, is as fearless as they come. He personally has accounted for more Germans these past few days than he can count. The men call him the "Black Widow."

A middle-aged Frenchman, who brought along a German rifle and ammunition, requested permission to also bring his wife. "She can fight, too," he said. The unit CO had to turn thumbs down.

The problem of status concerning the volunteers has been a headache, especially for 1/Lt. Harold Douglas, who has "looked into the motives of each man before he was accepted. He thinks he has it figured out now, however. The French, in American GI clothes, will be sworn into the

Continued on Page 4



# SPORTS - FRONTS

Roy Cullenbine, currently leading the Cleveland Indians at bat, tells this story of his minor league days. Roy was with Toledo in 1937 with Fred Haney as manager. One day the fun-loving Haney called Cullenbine to him and said, "Give it all you got out there today. There's a couple scouts in the stands who want to see you." Cullenbine went out and got three for four, made two circus catches and some fine throws. At the end of the game he came in rightfully proud of his day's work and Haney said, "Come on over to the boxes and I'll introduce you to the scouts." When they got to the boxes Haney presented Cullenbine to two fully dressed Boy Scouts and then ran for the clubhouse.

When Arch Derby bought his trotter, Yankee Maid, last year for \$1,300, he thought so little of his buy that the seller, Henry Knight, assured him that he could have his money back at any time that he wanted it. This winter he was offered \$30,000 and turned the offer down. He proved wrong on his first opinion but right in not selling when the little daughter of Volomite rolled home a straight heat winner in the Hambletonian. The Wichita, Kan., oilman thus became the first owner from west of the Mississippi River ever to take the Kentucky Derby of harness racing.

On the recent Yankee western swing that was supposed to see the Bombers move into first place, the McCarthymen won only 7 of 16 games but Oscar Grimes proved a sensation at third base. On the opener of the trip Oscar made three errors on three consecutive chances in the last of the ninth to blow a game to the White Sox. He came into the dugout figuring that he was through, but McCarthy threw an arm over his shoulders and said, "Don't let it get you down, Oscar. You should have seen some of the days that I had around second base when I was playing." From that day on Grimes has hit over 400 and made only two errors, both on plays that he probably wouldn't have even attempted previously. Mike Milosevich has also started to play spectacular ball and is hitting well. That condition has kept Frankie Crossetti on the bench though he is in good playing form.

The Japs got some fancy football tactics during the invasion of Guam. In the first bunches that went ashore were five former football stars. Lt. Danny McFadden was formerly an end at Boston College, Johnny Robinson was quarterback at Kentucky, Dick Phuhl held down right half at St. Louis U. Don Miller once starred for Wisconsin then played fullback for the Green Bay Packers, and Billy O'Brien who played with John Carroll U.

The Brancas are definitely on relief. Ralph Branca, formerly of NYU has become the leading reliever of the Brooklyn Dodgers, while his brother Johnny, recently turned in a fine relief performance for the Hendricks Field team from Sebring, Florida, in a game with the Fort Pierce, Florida, team. That Fort Pierce gang, incidentally, has Ed Redunich, a star pitcher from Seattle a couple of years ago, Charley Dykes, son of the White Sox manager, and Joe Wessing who played second base for Beaumont from whom he was caught by the Detroit Tigers. Uncle grabbed his option before the Tigers got a chance.

The first step in the war between the National Professional Football League and the new Pacific Coast League was just as rugged as expected. The Seattle club of the new league signed Dean McAdams, former Brooklyn star, who was traded to the Washington Redskins last year. Washington claimed him as theirs and suspended him for five years for signing with Seattle. McAdams came right back and said that he had signed no contract with the 'Skins, so how was he theirs? And the head of the new Coast League, Jerry Geisler, the famous criminal lawyer, just as good as told the National loop that they didn't have a leg to stand on. More battles are expected over other players, as plenty of the boys like that West Coast for a home if the pay is right.

Recalling Babe Ruth's feat of pointing to the flag pole in a World Series with the Cubs and then lacing the ball out of the park on the next pitch, Nick Picciuto, third baseman on the Utica team of the Eastern League recently pulled a dandy. He came up to the bat against league-leading Scranton in the last of the ninth with the score tied. He waited till he had two strikes against him, then stepped out of the box and called for the third base coach to bring in his glove. He then stepped back into the box and belted the next pitch out of the park for the winning run. Even Bill Klem couldn't call them any better than that.

## Baseball Fans Face Series Sans Popcorn

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 30—Duke Harper injected a somber note into the joy that envelops this community as World Series time approaches amid definite indications that the whole shebang will be played in Sportsman's Park.

Mister Harper is concessions manager at the ball park and says his supply is almost gone and that unless 10,000 pounds of popcorn are forthcoming immediately the Series will be played without benefit of popcorn.

Sherman was right. "War IS hell."

## S. W. to Resume Sports Slates

AUSTIN, Tex., Aug. 30 (UP)—The seven contenders in the Southwest Conference all plan to have basketball teams during the 1944-45 season, and six of them will have football teams, coaches meeting here announced.

Back on the gridiron this fall will scamper players wearing jerseys in the colors of the University of Texas (1943 circuit winners), Texas A. and M., Rice Institute, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University and the University of Arkansas.

Baylor University doesn't plan to re-enter the football chase until after the war because of a shortage of students, and the Army's ban on its trainees participating in organized sports events.

Full sports programs are in view for Texas A. and M. Rice will not have a golf team in the field.

Aided by Navy trainees, Texas this season won championships in tennis, football, golf, cross-country and baseball; tied for third in basketball and placed second in swimming.

Coaches and Southwest Conference faculty representatives voted to absorb the new 20 per cent federal tax on tickets to sports events. They agreed on a football ticket cost of \$2.50 for choice seats, \$1.80 for others and a special price of 60 cents for servicemen.

## Seattle Grid Bombers Start Signing Players

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 30—The Seattle Bombers of the new Pacific Coast League pro-football loop, have signed a host of new players with George "Automatic" Karamatic, former Gonzaga U. and Washington Redskin backfield star, leading the list. Others were Walt Yonker and Bing Nixon, both former Washington U. lettermen, Milt Popovich, Montana seatback; Dale Holmes and Milford Collins, Washington State backs, and Bob Creager former Oregon lineman.

## ZANTILLI SAIPAN CASUALTY

EVERETT, Mass., Aug. 30—Marine Lt. Alex Zantilli, who blocked the punt which resulted in Fordham's 2-0 victory over Mississippi in the 1942 Sugar Bowl, has been killed on Saipan Island.

# 25 Years Ago—Dempsey Won Title

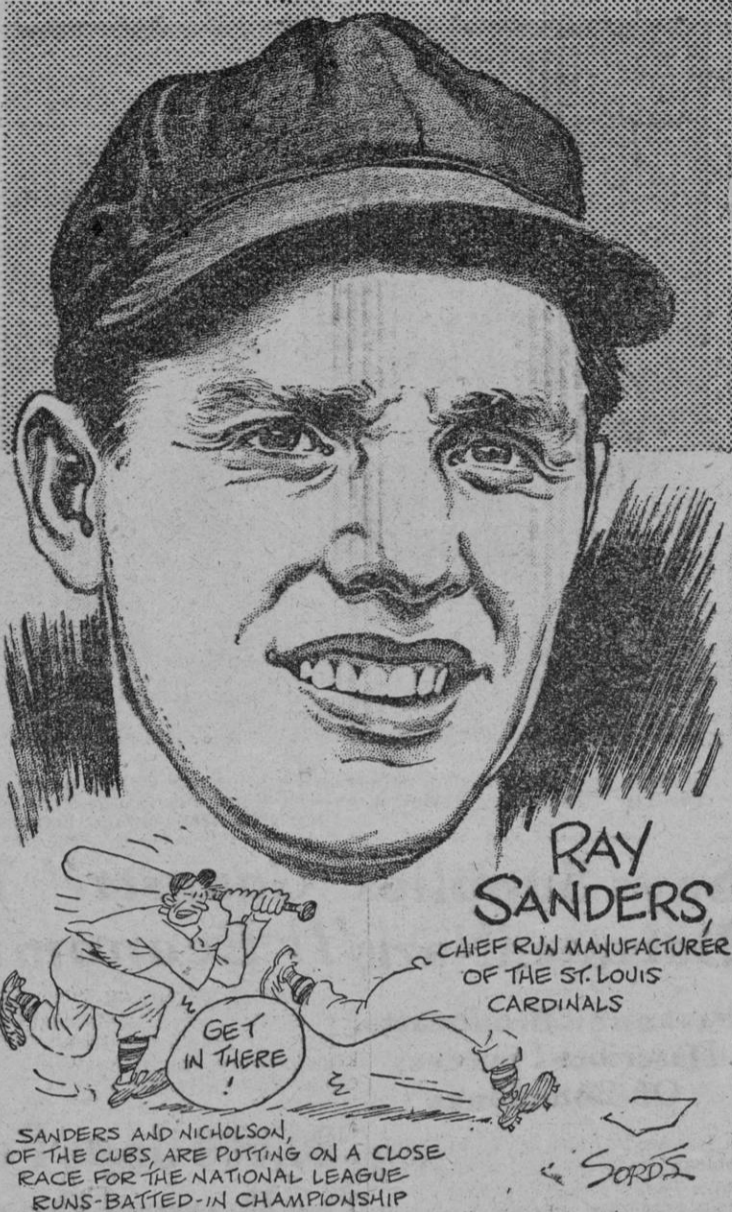
It seems as though it happened a century ago because to most of us it has become a part of the American legend, but in reality it was only 25 years ago when Jack Dempsey, burned black by the sun, battered Jess Willard, a clumsy giant, into a mass of raw meat under the glaring sun at Toledo, Ohio, to inaugurate a new and spectacular era in American athletics—the golden age of sport.

By the same calendar, it will be 21 years come September that Dempsey, then four years a champion, knocked out Luis Angel Firpo, battle-mad bull of the Argentine pampas, in what Paul Gallico has described as the purest exhibition of untrammeled savagery, truculence and sustained animosity in the history of the ring.

Today Dempsey is a commander in the United States Coast Guard and as such is playing his part in winning the biggest fight he ever saw in his life, but even now the memory of those two earlier, strictly personal grudges brings the glint of battle to his eye.

In the Toledo fight, the dish-nosed

## RUN MAKER - - - - - By Jack Sords



## Randolph Field 11 May Be Better Than in 1943

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Aug. 30—Word is out around here that although Randolph Field's football team scored 269 points last year the team representing the West Point of the Air this coming fall will do even better.

Randolph's attack last season was centered around the good right arm of Glenn Dobbs, Tulsa University All-American, but the 1944 squad will vary their attack with passing thrown in. Dobbs accounted for more than half of the Ramblers' points last fall with 21 touchdown passes and four personal journeys over the goal line but this year, it doesn't look as if he will be missed.

Pete Layden, Bill Dudley, Don Looney and Tex Aulds are figured on to take up the slack caused by Dobbs' transfer, and appear capable of doing the job. Dudley was the nation's top scorer when he was All-American with Virginia and later starred with the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Professional Football League. Layden was the best ground-gainer in the Southwest Conference a couple of years ago when he was with Texas and showed a pass completion average of .547, better than Dobbs could do last season.

Looney and Aulds are ace pass receivers. It took a guy named Don Hutson to better Looney's seasonal average mark and Aulds is a great hand at setting sail for the end zone after he gathers in a toss.

## Welch Pleased With Grid Duo

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 30—Ralph "Pest" Welch, head football coach at Washington University, is beaming with confidence these days after unexpectedly finding a fine passer-receiver combination on his squad.

Andy Welsh, a Naval trainee half-back from Edinboro State Teachers College in Pennsylvania, displayed an accurate throwing arm and every time Coach Welch turned to watch the pigskin's flight, Hank Melusky, a six-foot end from Roosevelt High in Seattle, would close in and snap the ball.

The team ran all its plays from the "T" formation and Welch expressed satisfaction when the workout was finished.

## HARVARD LISTS ONLY 3 GAMES

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 30—Acting athletic manager Carroll Gethell has announced Harvard's informal football schedule for 1944 which includes only three games.

## Passing Battle Looms as Pros, All-Stars Meet

### Luckman, Glenn Dobbs Expected to Spark Offensives

EVANSTON, Ill., Aug. 30—The College All-Stars and Chicago Bears brushed up on their offensive and defensive tactics here today in preparation for the expected aerial battle tonight in the 11th renewal of the annual football All-Star classic.

All pre-game indications pointed to a passing battle with the Bears counting on the strong right arm of quarterback Sid Luckman and the Stars banking heavily on the accurate tosses of Lt. Glenn Dobbs, Tulsa sling-shot, who last year stole the limelight from Sammy Baugh and pitched the Stars to a 27-7 triumph over the Washington Redskins.

The odds favored the Bears with Luckman, who unexpectedly joined the squad after receiving a 10-day leave, making the difference in the betting. The odds, however, were expected to be about even when referee Ronald Gibbs, of Springfield, Ill. and St. Thomas College, called the captains to the center of the field for the toss of the coin.

Other officials for the contest include E. C. Krieger, of Ohio University, umpire; John Kelly, Loyola, head linesman; and H. G. Hedges, Dartmouth, field judge.

Gibbs and Kelly were picked by agreement with Hunk Anderson and Luke Johnsons, board of strategy for the professional champions. Hedges and Krieger were named by Lynn Waldorf, head coach for the All Stars.

The Stars under Waldorf have been drilling for the last two weeks and should present one of the strongest lineups ever to take the field in the stellar contest. Usually only graduates of the previous year are eligible but this year the promoters are using whatever talent is available. The Stars' squad has been hit by injuries and by a Navy ban on 48-hour leaves but the team which takes the field should be able to hold its own in any company.

In addition to Dobbs the Stars also will have such college greats as Billy Hillenbrand, Indiana's great passer and runner; Sgt. Charlie Trippi, formerly of the Georgia Bulldogs; Creighton Miller from Notre Dame, who claims to be playing his last grid game; Lt. Pete Layden, passing fullback from Texas, and others. Steve Van Buren, from Louisiana, and Pvt. Gene Fekete, of Ohio State, were lost to the college eleven by injury and illness.

The coaching staff, headed by Waldorf, also includes Bo McMillan of Indiana, Jeff Cravath, coach of the Southern California Trojans, and Henry Frnka from Tulsa U.

The Bears have been working out at Collegeville, Ind., shedding weight under the direction of Anderson and Johnsons. Jake Sweeney, 22-year-old guard from Cincinnati took the prize in the weight-losing department when he pared off 23 pounds. Bulldog Turner discarded 21 pounds.

Although the Bears have lost a considerable number of men to the Services, they still will be able to present a lineup of experienced stars, including Ray Nolting, Ray McLean and Gary Famiglietti in the backfield.

## Yanks Boost Hill Staff With Floyd Bevans

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30—The Yankees have bolstered their pitching staff for the final pennant drive by recalling Floyd Bevans from Newark of the International League. Bevans, the second hurler brought up from the Bears in the past two weeks, started the season with the champs, but was returned to Newark and since has won 12 games, including ten straight.

## Kaporch Signs Pact With Pro Grid Lions

DETROIT, Aug. 30—The Detroit Lions have announced the signing of tackle Al Kaporch, leaving only backfield star Frankie Sinkwich unsigned among the available members of last year's squad.

Harry Hopp, Ned Matthews, Chuck Fenebock, Murray Evans and Mike Corgan from the 1943 backfield have entered the Services. Augie Lio and Bill Fisk, linemen are sticking to their war jobs. Riley Matheson and Ben Hightower have been returned to the Cleveland Rams and tackle Ted Pavelec left pro football for a movie career.

