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#### **NEW NCAA RULES FOR 1983**

P ollowing is a summary of the major rule changes adopted by the NCAA rules committee at its January 1983 meeting:

The Kicking Game—The rules committee adopted three major changes in the rules governing the kicking game.

1.) Officials were given direction for determining what giving a player an "unmolested opportunity" to catch a punt or free kick entails. The committee defined "unmolested opportunity" as meaning all players of the kicking team must remain two yards in all directions from the receiver while the ball is in its downward flight.

2.) The committee deleted the exception to the roughing the kicker penalty provided to players blocked into the kicker, and substituted the following provision: A kicker or holder guilty of faking being roughed or run into will be penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.

3.) The penalty for roughing the kicker or holder remained unchanged at 15 yards and automatic first down, but the penalty for running into the kicker or holder was established at five yards.

Officials—The committee amended the rules to allow

for the use of a seventh (the previous limit was six) official, a side judge, to aid enforcement of rules regarding illegal use of hands.

**Disruption and Delay of Game**—The committee passed three rule changes designed to stop what it called "disruptions on the field that delay the game or engenders ill will after scores or any other time."

1.) The penalty for a substitute entering the field for any purpose other than to replace another player was increased from a five-yard delay of game penalty to a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct infraction.

2.) Cheerleaders, band members and mascots were added to the list of those subject to the rules and official decisions.

3.) The rule requiring the player in possession to return the ball immediately to an official after a score or any other play was amended to prohibit taking the ball off the field, kicking or throwing the ball any distance that requires an official to retrieve the ball, spiking the ball, throwing the ball high into the air and any other unsportsmanlike act that delays the game.

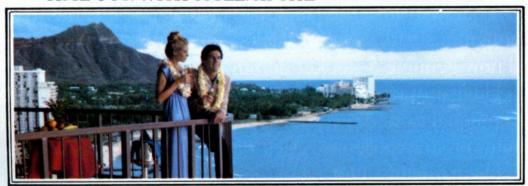
Some folks settle for the end zone.

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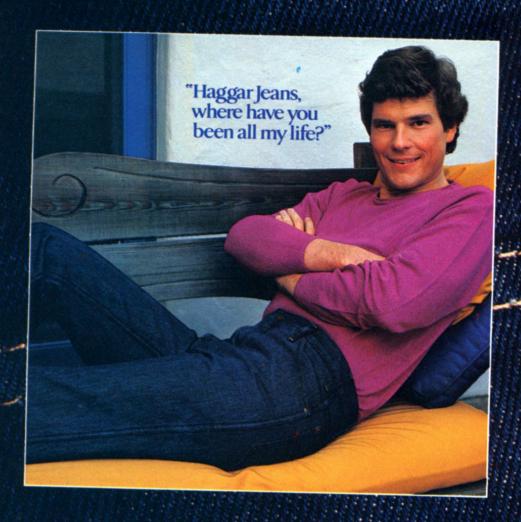
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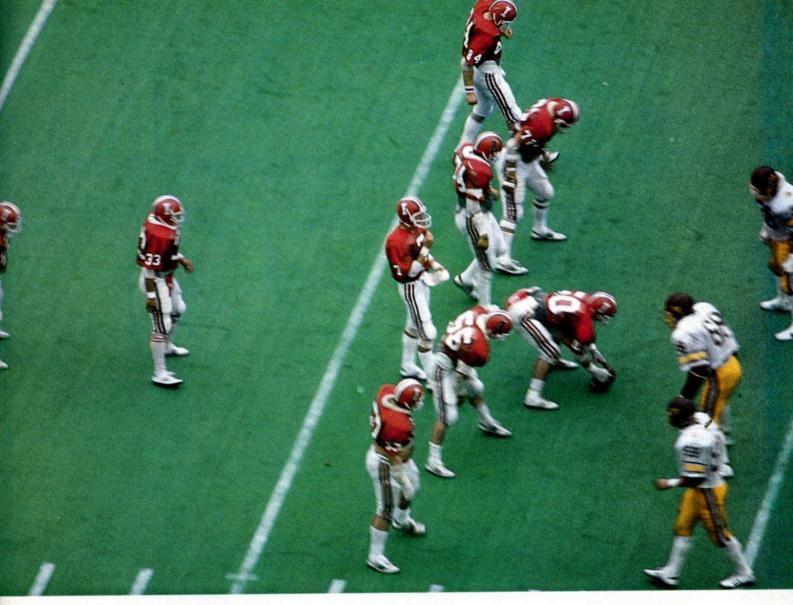
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## ANOTHER LOOK AT THE

hat do the last 10 Heisman Trophy winners have in common?

If you say they were all running backs, you're right. Go to the head of the class.

But here's the really interesting angle. Almost every one of those runners used the I-formation's tailback position as the springboard to Heisman immortality.

Nine out of 10 were what has popularly become known as the I-back. The only exception was the 1978 Heisman winner, Oklahoma's Billy Sims, who led the nation in both rushing and scoring that year as continued

## **FORMATION**

by Buck Turnbull Des Moines Register

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Menley & James, 1983.





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#### THE I-FORMATION

continued

an explosive Wishbone halfback.

Now for the next interesting angle. Even Oklahoma began the switch away from the 'bone to the I last season, meaning we not only have a trend here, but a stampede to this versatile offensive attack.

Most close followers of college football are aware that Southern California was the first to exploit the advantages of the to the defense.

As with many football formations over the years, one person climbs to fame and gets most of the credit for somebody else's idea.

At Delaware, for example, when Dave Nelson was the head coach he devised the Wing-T to combine the quick-striking power of the T-formation with single-wing blocking.

other coaches saw nothing special in what he was doing.

Critics said the I didn't allow for much versatility—amusing now, since that's one of its main features—and questioned whether ballcarriers could get outside the ends when packed so close to the line of scrimmage.

This was the crucial change made by McKay. He moved the tailback six or





Among the Heisman Trophy winners to run out of the I-formation are Longhorn Earl Campbell (left) and two-time winner Archie Griffin of Ohio

I-formation back when John McKay was head coach from 1960 to 1975.

USC has produced Heisman Trophy recipients with steady regularity, plus several others who wound up No. 2.

First there was Mike Garrett in 1965 and O.J. Simpson in 1968, both of whom were judged to be best in the land. They were followed by Anthony Davis in 1974 and Ricky Bell in 1976, both of whom finished second in the Heisman voting.

More recent Trojans who ran off with the Heisman were Charles White in 1979 and Marcus Allen in 1981. All six of those players, of course, piled up their yardage as I-backs behind a wave of blockers, giving rise to the term: "Student Body Right, Student Body Left." That's how it looked But it was Nelson's old friend and former Michigan teammate, Forest Evashevski, who brought the Wing-T to national prominence when he took Iowa to a pair of Rose Bowl victories in 1957 and '59.

So it was with McKay. He did not originate the I, he merely copied and altered the idea Tom Nugent developed at Florida State in the 1950s.

Nugent is believed to be the first coach to have his team line up with the quarter-back under center, the fullback close behind and the tailback right on their heels in a tightly-bunched trio. It was an I as opposed to a T.

Nugent enjoyed modest success, both at Florida State and later at Maryland, but seven yards behind the line, giving him the latitude to follow his blockers outside for good gains, or to cut back inside and utilize his natural instincts as the play develops.

What you had was the concept of the old single-wing tailback—which is the position McKay had played as a high school star in West Virginia. Later, he was a T-formation halfback at Purdue just after World War II, before he transferred to Oregon.

Having played both styles, he had this to say in a book called "McKay, a Coach's Story":

"A single-wing tailback has the ideal running posture. He's in the middle of the

continued



continued

formation, directly behind the center, and back far enough to get the best running angles.

"But more important, he can see what's going on—because he's almost upright. He's not scrunched over in a three-point stance; his hands are on his knees. He has to be that way in order to do all the things required of a single-wing tailback.

"The T-formation was great, but as a Tformation halfback, the view I got was mostly somebody's rear end."

Thus, in effect, McKay made his best runner into a single-wing tailback, a workhorse who would carry the ball 25 times a game and more.

Garrett's figures reflect the change—each for a 10-game season: 125 carries for 833 yards as a sophomore I-back in 1963, then 217 for 948 yards the next year, and 267 for 1,440 yards when he won the Heisman.

Simpson came along to roll up 1,709 yards in his Heisman year, an NCAA record since bettered (by Marcus Allen, 2,342 when he won the Heisman), and O.J. lugged the ball as many as 20 times in a quarter!

What USC accomplished in those years under McKay—he had a 127-40-8 record—naturally wasn't lost on the rest of the country.

As more teams began to give the I a try with their talented running backs, tail-backs like John Cappelletti of Penn State captured the Heisman in 1973, Archie Griffin of Ohio State became the only two-time winner in 1974-75, and Tony Dorsett took home the prestigious award while leading Pittsburgh to a national championship in 1976.

Veteran Ohio State Coach Woody Hayes had almost lived and died with a fullback-oriented offense for years, until Griffin demonstrated how much easier it was to reel off long-gainers by improvising as an I-back.

Woody was a reluctant witness to what he was seeing, however. He didn't believe a back could be so effective without going "by the book."

Hayes ordered his statisticians to keep charts on every play that was called and where it went. The evidence conclusively showed Griffin making more long runs doing his own thing, going for daylight and not necessarily where the original play was directed.

Woody still got plenty of mileage from his fullback, though, because he had a 240-pound tank named Pete Johnson helping to clear the way for Griffin. The year Archie won his second Heisman, Johnson led the nation in scoring with 25 touchdowns.

The split-back Veer and Wishbone offenses have been the other leading

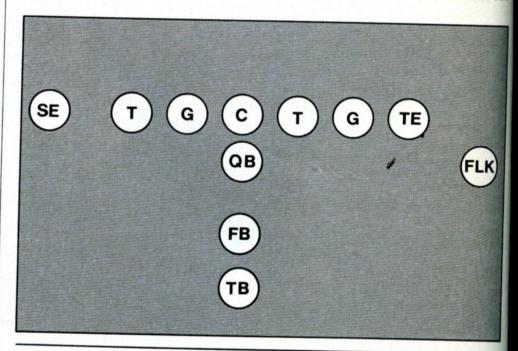
methods of moving the football on the ground over the last two decades, but defenses have made rapid inroads on undermining their effectiveness.

At Texas in 1977, when Earl Campbell was thundering toward the Heisman, the unbeaten Longhorns were going nowhere one afternoon against Baylor. They were trailing, 7-0, when Campbell dropped into the I-back slot, gathered in a pitchout and romped 68 yards to a touchdown. It was the spark that ignited a 29-7 victory.

"We thought we were going to be fired," recalled one of Fairbanks' assistants at the time. "We'd already lost a conference game to Kansas State, and if we also lost to Iowa State, we figured that would be it.

"About our only hope was the Wishbone. We decided to go with that and let the chips fall where they may. The rest is history."

There's a bit more to the story than that, however. Iowa State jumped out to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter, and you can imagine how those insecure coaches felt



Even former proponents of the Wishbone have been turning to the l in recent years.

Texas and Oklahoma were two of the foremost Wishbone exponents, but the glory days for that triple-option attack faded after Sims powered the Sooners to a 22-2 record by rushing for 3,268 yards in 1978-79.

Oddly, the Oklahoma Wishbone was both born and killed on a playing field far from Norman. The epitaph might read: Born 1970, died 1982, Ames, Iowa.

Things were not going at all well for Coach Chuck Fairbanks and his Sooners early in the '70 campaign. Steve Owens had won the Heisman (yes, as an I-back) for Oklahoma the previous year, and Fairbanks then shifted to the Veer offense, hoping to take advantage of quarterback Jack Mildren's ability.

But losses to Oregon State, Texas and Kansas State left the Sooners no better than 3-3 heading for Iowa State.

The Wishbone had been tried briefly but failed to generate much offense in the 41-9 thrashing by Texas. Things were desperate. by then.

But the Sooners rallied to win a 29-28 thriller, and the rest is pretty much history. They lost very few times with the Wishbone over the next decade.

There is one basic problem with the Wishbone, despite all the trickery and explosive potential. The defense can almost dictate which back will carry the ball by the way it deploys, whereas in the I-formation it's the offense that sets the tone by repeatedly giving the tailback room to roam.

Dropback passers also are an integral part of the I. Wishbone quarterbacks must be runners first and foremost. There is little flexibility.

It's worth noting that all the major bowl games last New Year's Day were won by teams running primarily from the I-formation: SMU in the Cotton, UCLA in the Rose, Nebraska in the Orange and national champion Penn State in the Sugar.

Obviously in college football these days, the I's have it.

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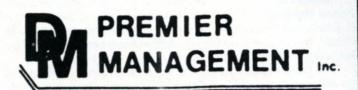
#### **Former Brave Makes Bid In NFL**

Former OU Braves football standout, Hercules Stancil. made a bid for a position on the Pittsburg Steelers roster this summer. Stancil, a 6' 2", 193 pound receiver, made it to the final cut of the NFL organization. Prior to the cut, Stancil was competing with ten-year veteran John Stallworth, former Kansas University star Wayne Capers, four-year pro Calvin Sweeney, and three other prospects for the four wide receiver



Stancil was a four-year starter at OU, where he caught 91 career passes for a total 2,165 yards. As a senior, Stancil had 42 receptions for 1,019 yards and seven touchdowns. He tied an NAIA record with a 99-yard touchdown catch against Hastings College last year. In that game he also had 89 and 47 yard touchdown catches and finished the day with four catches for 235 yards. The Bradley, Florida native, led the KCAC with a 24.9 yards per catch average and was named NAIA Division II All-American in 1982.

Prior to the Steelers final cut, Stancil was the only remaining free agent at wide receiver. After being at the Steelers' camp this summer, Stancil felt he could play in the NFL, either by being picked up by another team or by being called up by Steelers if any injuries occur.



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The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, of which Ottawa University is a member, has recommended the adoption of a statement of guidelines for the conduct of spectators at athletic events. The following guidelines have been approved by the Faculty Athletic Committee of Ottawa University.

 The players and coaches of the opposing team, as well as the officials, are guests of Ottawa University. They should be treated courteously. 2. Spectators are not allowed on the playing area.

No objects are to be thrown onto the playing area.

 The drinking of beverages containing alcohol is prohibited on the Ottawa University campus.

 Please refrain from discourteous or abusive language or actions directed to the officials or to team members.
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