Cal Coach Gives Graybehl Scoop on Flanker Series

'Greatest Year' Could Be '54 for Tartar Grid Team

Torrance High School football Coach Cliff Graybehl sat down for a day of talk recently with Jim "Suds" Sutherland, ex-Santa Monica coach now at the University of California, and the result of the discussion could make the Tartars the scourge of the league this season.

Sutherland explained to the Tartar coach a flanker pass play that is simple in concept but devastating in effect. The same play helped the Samohi teams win the Bay League crown every year since 1947.

Graybehl had inaugurated the flanker series during spring practice and, on a recent trip to Berkeley, decided to penetrate the basic concepts of it by talking to Sutherland, the old master of passing and scoring.

Alternate Pass Play

"It's an alternate pass play," says Graybehl, "with the right end sent as a flanker to the right from the single wing." The same play was used to great effect by the South squad in the Shrine Hi football game, with Joe Contestable on the throwing end.

The tailback has his choice of pitching to the right end, who cuts in toward the center, the right half, who speeds into the flank, or the left end, who goes long.

With Sonny Steele and Bill Meacham to throw them and ends Bob Boss and Dennis Hester, plus halfbacks Jerry Burns, Bob Wilson and Ted Firster to receive, the Tartars will have a potent threat in addition to their regular power plays, spinners and buck laterals, which carried them to one of their most successful years last season.

The high-powered flanker series was first used by Coach Clarence Shutte at potent Santa Barbara High School. "It will give more variety to our attack," Graybehl states. "We just might fill the air with footballs."

Practice Opens Sept. 8

Letters have been sent to all prospective Tartar gridders informing them that physical exams will be given on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 8 p.m. in the boys gym and that suits will be issued at the same time.

Varsity lettermen will receive their suits first if they are in the gym at 8 o'clock. A short workout will be held before lunch that day and a tougher one at 2 p.m.

Practice will be held each day in double sessions—including two Saturdays. Gridders will work from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and come back at 2 p.m. for another session.

Practice will begin two weeks before school starts this year to enable the Tartars to catch up with other schools in workout time. Last year, the team started a week later than most schools.

Miss Crown By Six Points

The '53 Tartars missed the Bay League title by six points when they were edged by Santa Monica 19-14 and by Inglewood 7-6. This year, under a new CIF ruling, second-place teams in the stronger leagues will be allowed to enter the CIF playoffs with the first-place teams and general opinion has it that '54 will be "Torrance's year."

The '54 varsity has been put on the spot by the '53 team, however, Graybehl warns. All the Bay League teams learned new respect for the locals during last season and will be extremely wary this year. The element of surprise, so valuable to last year's team, is gone and the '54 Tartars will have a battle on their hands every week.

A position-by-position rundown on the squad shows that, while the team is inexperienced at some spots and lacks depth at others, the first-line team has great power and infinite potential.

Following is Graybehl's spot-by-spot analysis of the Torrance Tartars of 1954:

ENDS

Returning lettermen include Big Bob Boss, who played a lot of defense last year and whom Graybehl hopes will be the answer to the offensive right end problem this season and Dennis "The Menace" Hester, who "is in a class by himself at left end," Graybehl says. "If we can keep him healthy, he might become a real great end." He will also be used at defensive half.

After Boss and Hester, things look dim. Gus Sanchez, who will be used for kickoffs and conversions, could give Boss a tussle for an end spot and boys up from the Bees are Richard Harlicker and Tony Ward.

TACKLES

Tom Vanderpool, 205 lbs., 6 ft. 2 in. of brawn, Tom lettered behind All-CIF star Ed Powell last year and showed in spring drills that he has gained the aggressiveness and confidence he lacked before. Manuel Olloque, a two year letterman, was a rugged linebacker last season and faces the job of filling in for Ralph Clifford this year. "If he wants to, he has the potential to be an All-CIF tackle," Graybehl says. Carlos Espinosa gives the Tartars depth at tackle. He was a third stringer last year. Other boys, who are big but lack experience, are Ken Wheat, 15 years old, 215 lbs., and Bill Warren, also 15, who weighs 220 lbs.

GUARDS

This spot will be no problem. Graybehl has one of the finest linemen in the league in Second String All-Bay Leaguer Carlos Skaggs, 1954 Captain. Great on defense, Carlos has never played offense but showed great speed and agility in spring practice. At 160 lbs. he is, pound for pound, the finest lineman anywhere, according to his coach. Tom Sminia, a letterman, and Gerald Wilkins fill the other guard spot. Wilkins has shown that he could either spell Sminia or run Olloque out of a tackle spot. Another returning letterman is Ron Heffler, who played offense ahead of Skaggs last year. Small but powerful boys up from the Bees are Dave Conry and Jim Clouse.

CENTER

No returning lettermen at center but Fred Hilton is up from the Bees and Jeff Carr, on the varsity squad last year, could come through. On the strength of Spring workouts, however, the nod goes to Butch Hazel, a fast charger, vs. Larry Lippincott, a tiger who has everything but experience.

BACKS

Tailback—Sonny Steele, a letterman and a sharp passer, who also can run that ball. Billy Meacham, an ex-Bee, is a great passer but not too fast and Alan Rainwater, who missed Spring Practice, figures in here on the basis of his 1953 work.

Fullback—This spot, the cannon of the single wing, will be loaded by Skip Smith, a boy who is big, fast, rough and loves the game. Skip, a junior, will step into the shoes of Don Knotten. He played blocking back last year and starred as a linebacker on defense. 6 ft. 1 in. and 195 lbs., Skip has the stuff to be one of the greatest backs every produced here. Behind him is rugged little Don Frattarole, who showed good running power last year.

Right Half—letterman Jerry Burns, who pushed Joe Lafferty last year, and Bob Wilson, a guard letterman last year who is moving up a step, fill this spot. Wilson showed great potential in spring practice, may vacate the guard spot permanently. Ted Firster, a7 ex-Bee, has shown that he is the best pass receiver of all the backs.

Blocking Back—Frattarole, a two-year letter winner, should make the buck laterals really go, Graybehl believes. He's a good blocker, a good runner and a good passer.

ROD & GUN Chatter

By Donna Barkdull

The briny deep, between the east end of Catalina and San Clemente islands, has had every size and shape of sea-going vessel churning wakes the last week, after reports came in that the sought-after albacore were finally moving into a more reasonable distance. Righ now it's possible to pick up a school anywhere in the vicinity—you just have to be lucky.

Limits of barracuda have been taken daily off Oceanside, and near-limits at the horseshoe and Catalina, besides good-size bull bass.

There are no blue-fin at the island, thanks to the three commercial boats that wrapped-up almost 17,000 lbs. a couple of weeks ago. Sportsmen are steaming, but are of the opinion that they are fighting a losing battle since the canneries hold the purse strings. There are laws governing fishing for the commercial fishermen, but without any bite. What happened to Catalina affects everyone of the thousands of sport anglers paying $3 for a fishing license.

Still sharp in memory are the sardines, that are no longer in local waters. They came by the millions a few years ago, followed by super-schools of game fish. In time, the commercial boys wrapped them all up. Now we have no sardines and, therefore, the game fish that fed upon them bypass local waters. Now they have taken all the bluefin tuna at Catalina Island.

Sure, an arrest was made and a trial was held the first of this week, but the $000 fine levied against the skippers will not put a stop to it! One good thing, the proceeds from the sale of the illegal tuna went to the Department of Fish and Game.

It's about time the sportsmen who hold the vast majority of the population of Southern California had their say in Sacramento through their despective representatives in each district. Enough said for the time being!

Four Visit Lake

Four days in the tall pines, away up at Sullivan Lake in the High Sierra, were passed by Floyd DeVore, Von Bergen, Lorry Voien and Bob Clayton, trying every trick of the trade to subdue trout. The quartet packed-in from Silver Lake, a four-hour trip as the horse goes. They brought back a couple of limits taken on salmon eggs, frogs, flies and the popular lure, "Super-duper," which proved most successful. They reported the lake was loaded with German browns, brooks, and rainbows, those they netted running an average of 11 to 12 inches. The largest measured 13.

Art Peterson and his dad, George Harner, Shute Braddy and Johnnie and Ralph Gullion were a congenial group aboard the Patsy Lee chasing albacore off the east end of San Clamente Saturday, but were not very fortunate in landing same. They made several stops, but due to mishaps, like Johnnie's coming unbuttoned and Art breaking his line, besides just farming a couple, none were boated. They stopped at Long Point and Catalina on they way in and farmed bull bass. Hummmmph!

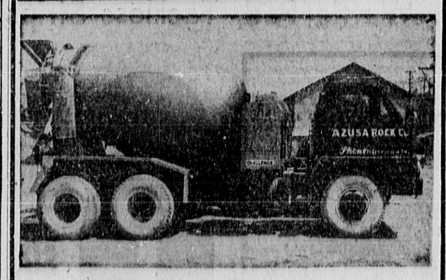
More Farmers

Also had a couple of farmers aboard the Texan Sunday on the Torrance Rod and Gun charter. Before the boat broke down, one stop was made, but the two hook-ups kept on going. With fishing at a standstill from about 8 a.m., games were begun, with Al Coast winning the green stuff. He said he had to pay his bills one way or another—couldn't win the jackpot. Anyway, not being able to proceed under our own steam the Tarleen III came to the rescue, towing us into Avalon for repairs. Being true fishermen, we fished among the swimmers and small skiffs in the bay with dead bait that wasn't even "fresh-dead" then. A few illegal bass were taken, but thrown back. Being as how I cannot mention those who reeled in whoppers, I'll call roll of those suffering from the sickness of the sea: Ray Beadle, Martha Campbell, Dean Barkdull, Helen Smith and Anabel Coast. Poor kids—ha!

Standard Oilmen Hit School

Employees of Standard Oil, including Walt Gilliard and Gene Meacher, spent Saturday and Sunday in the waters off San Clemente, hitting a school of long-fins the first day that wouldn't stop. Someone was hooked up a llthe time, with 24 boated, topping the scales at 42 lbs. total weight.

The horseshoe proved good bass grounds for Harold Parks, Joe Hathaway, Bob Chatterton and Rutch Gilbert aboard Harold's 20-foot Awable. Can't say they went about bagging the 37 bull bass in the accepted manner, but not knowing just what they were doing certainly didn't hamper the situation. All were taken on four-foot leaders on the bottom. One fellow even rigged up with two leaders about a foot long and netted the most bass, too.



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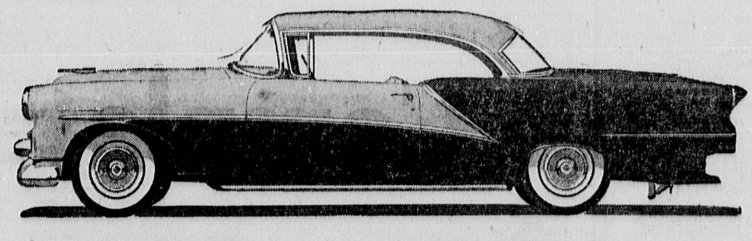

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