Win No. 9 a sign of the times



AL GRADY

Fate is kinder to Ul this fall

Wasn't that a beautiful sunrise Sunday morning?

It was almost rosy! I guess one never knows what fate has in store.

A year ago, on a late November evening in Iowa City, in the next-to-last Big Ten game of the season, Iowa lost to Michigan State by a single point on a controversial call at the goal line and saw its Rose Bowl hopes flicker into a heap of

Saturday, on a late November evening in West Lafayette, Ind., in the next-to-last Big Ten game of the season, Iowa rallied to beat Purdue despite a

controversial finish and, with a gigantic assist from Wisconsin, saw its Rose Bowl hopes burst into flame.

It proves again, just in case you need to be reminded, that you never know what to expect in the Big Ten. Wisconsin win at Ohio State? C'mon, the Badgers had only won at that stadium twice in this century. Wisconsin, after all, is a team that, among other things, had lost at home to Northwestern.

You want to play the comparative scores game, just for fun? Okay. Ohio State beat Iowa by 9, Iowa beat Illinois by 59 and Illinois beat Wisconsin by 13. Add those up and you figure Ohio State is 81 points better than Wisconsin, right? Wrong. On Saturday, Wisconsin was five points better than Ohio State.

Every Saturday is a new game, and it starts off nothin' to nothin'. To hell with what happened the previous Saturday.

Say what you will, a championship team finds a way to win the close games. And Saturday, down there on the

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lowa running back Ronnie Harmon lunges for an extra yard despite the efforts of Purdue and Bob Ziltz (71) during the Hawkeyes' 27-24 win Saturday in defenders Rodney Carter West Lafayette. Harmon had 118 yards to go over the 1,000-yard mark for the year.

':00' puts Hawks in line for a rosy New Year's

By Steve Carlson The Press-Citizen

scoreboard, but the numbers that translated into a possible trip to Pasadena for Iowa were there.

Only when the Hawkeyes saw those digits on the scoreboard Saturday could they be sure that they had subdued Purdue and Jim Everett. Everett, at the very least the second-best quarterback in the land, should have a sore elbow every week.

Playing with a staph infection in the elbow of his throwing arm, Everett completed 23 of 32 passes for 315 yards, slightly better stats than had Iowa's Chuck Long (20 of 33 for 268 yards). But as far as the Hawkeyes were concerned, Everett's 32nd pass of the day was his best one.

With the Boilermakers at Iowa's 20-yard line and time running out, Everett threw toward the sidelines to stop the clock. But the ball failed to get out of bounds in time, thus preserving a 27-24 Hawkeye win.

"He threw it and I looked up," Iowa defensive tackle Jeff Drost said. "I watched (the clock) go zero-one, zero."

And when the clock went to zero, the Purdue coaches practically went zany. They rushed at the officials as quickly as it took

that final second to tick away, objecting that there should be at least one second remaining.

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - "The official pointed to the The words "Rose Bowl" didn't clock and said there was double flash on the Ross-Ade Stadium zeroes and he said 'That's your clock operator's fault,' " Purdue coach Leon Burtnett said. "It's bad enough to get it on the road but to let it happen in our own place is ridiculous."

It probably also would have been considered ridiculous to think lowly Wisconsin might beat Ohio State in Columbus. Iowa's best shot at a Rose Bowl berth, everyone undoubtedly would have agreed, would come when the Buckeyes had to play Michigan at Ann Arbor.

But the Badgers' 12-7 win Saturday probably rendered the Ohio State-Michigan game meaningless in terms of determining the conference crown. If Iowa, 9-1: overall and 6-1 in the Big Ten, beats Minnesota this week at Kinnick Stadium, the Hawks will be the undisputed conference champions and Rose Bowl representa-

The Wisconsin-Ohio State game ended while Iowa and Purdue were still toiling in the second quarter. The score of the game that had such a dramatic bearing on the Big Ten race, however, wasn't announced over the public address system until after the Iowa-Purdue game was finished.

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Blame Big Ten for bowl jumble

By Herschel Nissenson The Associated Press

If you tried to call the chairman of any bowl committee within the last 48 hours, you probably were told — assuming that you managed to get through in the first place - "he's on the phone and he's got another call waiting."

The wheeling and dealing was something to behold. And as Sunday became Monday, the Cotton Bowl was conducting negotiations that threatened to make Reagan-Gorbachev look like Basics of Elementary Government 101 by comparison.

"It's one of the most confusing situations I've ever seen," said

one bowl official. "The worst I've seen since last year."

"We're confused, as usual," said another bowl rep. "We've erased our board five times and we still don't know what's going

It wasn't the best of weekends for one of college football's most colorful characters, honcho notorious Jim "Hoss" Brock, executive vice president of the Cotton Bowl. After shadowing Iowa for several weeks and counting on coach Hayden Fry to bring the entertaining Hawkeyes to Dallas, Brock's plans were shattered when Wisconsin upset Ohio State, putting Iowa back in the Big Ten-Rose Bowl driver's seat.

This is the Cotton Bowl's 50th never had a Big Ten team, so Brock's next scenario — assuming that Iowa defeats Minnesota Saturday — was to put the Michigan-Ohio State winner at the top

of his list. Scratch Plan 'B,' Hoss. Michigan worked a deal to play the Big Eight runner-up in the Fiesta

Fiesta Bowl executive director Bruce Skinner refused to confirm the report Sunday, noting NCAA rules prohibit bids from being issued until Saturday evening, but Skinner did say the bowl would have one of the best matchups in its 15-year history.

"We have a real chance to pull teams," Skinner said. "All the teams left on our list are among the top 10."

Sources close to the Fiesta Bowl said if Michigan should go to Rose Bowl - which would require a Michigan victory over Ohio State and an Iowa loss to Minnesota on Saturday — then Iowa has agreed to come to the Fiesta Bowl.

The official bowl invitation date isn't until after this week's games. Still, much of the bowl picture fell into place Sunday night, just as everyone predicted it would. The main event took place in State College, Pa., where No. 1-ranked Penn State said it would

welcome an invitation to play the anniversary game and it has off a matchup of two top-10 Big Eight champion in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Night.

Not only did Penn State say this through its sports information director, it said it on the telephone to the Orange Bowl Committee.

An Orange Bowl spokesman promptly said a bid would be forthcoming regardless of what 10-0 Penn State does next Saturday night against Pitt in its regular-season finale.

Penn State's decision put sixthranked Miami, which figures to move up a couple of notches in this week's Associated Press poll, in the Sugar Bowl against the

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Coaches favor Illini, Michigan for cage crown

By Steve Carlson The Press-Citizen

CHICAGO - At least two things are usually a safe bet when Big Ten basketball coaches gather for their annual meeting with the media.

optimistic and figures his team this year is in some way going to surpass its performance of last year.

No. 2 is that Bob Knight of Indiana won't

No. 1 is that almost every coach is

show up.

Knight didn't make it this year, an illness the culprit. Last year, he just didn't show up, period.

and so were a couple of players - Steve Alford and Stew Robinson — to take the coach's place.

More than a few cynical snickers arose from the crowd when it was announced that Knight, who has shown great disdain for these sessions with the media when he

has appeared, was sick.

But a colleague came to Knight's de-

"Bobby Knight — I've never known him At least this time an excuse was offered, to lie," said Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote. "If he says he's sick, he is sick. It might be sick of the media, but he is

> Another head coach, Illinois' Lou Henson, also didn't appear. Henson, who re-

> > Turn to page 4B

Raveling: Pendleton has signed

The Press-Citizen

CHICAGO - Iowa basketball coach George Raveling said Sunday that recruit Anthony Pendleton of Flint, Mich., had indeed signed a national letter of intent to play for the Hawkeyes.

Pendleton, a 6-foot-4 point guard, was reported to have committed to Iowa last Wednesday, the first day of the early signing period, but then told a Flint newspaper Thursday that he hadn't officially made up his mind.

NFL HUDDLE/ Compiled by The Press-Citizen

Cowboys feeling whipped

Tony Dorsett was barely able to control his disgust and pretty much said America has a new favorite team.

"This game went all around the United States of America. They say we're America's team, well, we showed 'em," Dorsett said seethingly following the Cowboys' 44-0 humiliation Sunday at the hands of the unbeaten Chicago Bears.

"This is the worst whupping I've ever taken as a professional — or even as a player." The last time the Cowboys were shut out

came 15 years ago, 38-0 to St. Louis. They went on to make their first Super Bowl appearance that season, but nobody was looking for that kind of silver-and-blue lining as a dismal Sunday drew to a close. "There's no question that we took an old

fashioned whipping today," Landry said. But Landry avoided criticising his quarterbacks. "It's hard to guage individual performances when you get beat that badly."

TOM LANDRY



Bucs: How low

NUMBERS

One week after posting their first Sunday in taking a 62-28 beating from the New York Jets before 65,344 fans

In the 10-year history of the franchise, the Bucs (1-10) have never surrendered more points or more yards and never looked worse doing it. The Jets (8-3) set single-game records for points, first downs (35) and total yards

The numbers get uglier. Tampa Bay managed 22 yards on 16 running plays and only 212 yards in all. In the fourth quarter, the Bucs had possession of the ball for 23 seconds.

By halftime Sunday, the score was 41-21, an exact reversal of last year's Tampa Bay victory over the Jets. New York's point total set a team record for first-half scoring.

Tomorrow: Hawkeye Huddle

STANDINGS

EAST					
	W	L	T	Pct. PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727 227	184
N.Y. Jets	8	3	0	.727 287	184
Miami	7	4	0	.636 275	231
Indianapolis	3	8	0	.273 207	272
Buffalo	2	9	0	.182 148	233
CENTRAL					
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545 249	188
Cincinnati	5	6	0	.455 293	301
Cleveland	5	6	0	.455 177	166
Houston	4	7	0	.364 169	235
WEST					
Denver	8	3	0	.727 266	221
L.A. Raiders	7	4	0	.636 243	233
Seattle	6	5	0	.645 261	225
San Diego	5	6	0	.455 284	295
Kansas City	3	8	0	.273 202	271

SUNDAY'S RESULTS Cleveland 17. Buffalo 7 Chicago 44, Dallas 0 New York Jets 62. Tampa Bay 28 Atlanta 30. Los Angeles Rams 14 Miami 34. Indianapolis 20 Green Bay 38, New Orleans 14 Pittsburgh 30, Houston 7 Philadelphia 24, St. Louis 14

N.Y. Giants .500 165 181 Washington .364 200 256 St. Louis CENTRAL x-Chicago 545 214 241 .455 229 247 .455 221 248 .091 228 334 Tampa Bay .545 275 . 187 San Francisco

.273 190 300

.182 218 321

NFC

Denver 30, San Diego 24, O1 Detroit 41. Minnesota 21 New England 20. Seattle 13 Los Angeles Raiders 13, Cincinnati 6 San Francisco 31, Kansas City 3

x-clinched division title

TONIGHT'S GAME New York Giants at Washington at 8 p.m.

by another loss

POSTGAME

Dennis Harrah was not happy. The Los Angeles' Rams 11-year guard said he wasn't quite sure how to express his frustration after his team's 30-14 loss to Atlanta Sunday.

Rams frustrated

"God, you try everything in practice, you cover every angle, you work yourself to death and you still don't come out on top," said Harrah,

perplexed by his team's fall from 7-0 to 8-3 in four short weeks.

"We've tried everything," he said as he stripped tape from his 6-foot-5

frame and flung it across the room. "Coach (John) Robinson has tried everything. We had a team meeting. just don't have any good answers or excuses. "I was embarrassed to lose to the

Falcons," said running back Eric Dickerson, the Invisible Man on this day with only 41 yards on 11 carries.

can they go?

victory of the season, Tampa Bay plunged to unprecedented depths at Giants Stadium.

Borg beats Des Moines

DES MOINES - Bjorn Borg, who retired from professional tennis competition three years ago, proved to a crowd of 8,706 Saturday night that he is still one of the sport's top players.

Pounding away almost exclusively with power shots from the baseline, Borg downed John McEnroe, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, at Veterans Memorial Auditorium on the fifth BJORN BORG

stop of their six-city tennis exhibition tour. The victory was the second of the tour for Borg, who won a match in Minneapolis earlier in the week.

Borg stormed to a 4-0 lead in the final set, breaking McEnroe's serve twice and battling back from a 15-40 deficit to claim the third game. He sealed the match with a service ace.

Borg took the first set after McEnroe double-faulted and lost his serve in the fifth game to fall behind 3-2.

The fans included Vice President George Bush, who was in Des Moines for a birthday party fundraiser for Gov. Terry Branstad. Bush left the party early to attend the match and sat in a courtside box with his wife, Barbara.

At a news conference before Saturday's match, Borg said that although he is encouraged by his tennis play during the exhibition tour, he is not tempted to come out of retirement and resume play on the professional circuit.

"I have no regrets," Borg said of his decision to retire three years ago. The Swede now lives in Monte Carlo, where he pursues private business interests and plays tennis occasionally with friends. He agreed to join McEnroe on the current exhibition tour and surprised many with his initial victory in Minneapolis.

"I'm pretty pleased with the way I've been playing," Borg said. But he added that he is "maybe not as consistent as I used to be," and said he could no longer maintain the peak level of conditioning and concentration necessary to compete for the major professional tennis titles.

"To do it all over again - I really don't want to do that," Borg said. "What I did in tennis - that's really behind me. Now I'm looking ahead to other things."

McEnroe won the other matches, in Milwaukee, Nashville and St. Louis. The pair concluded the tour Sunday in Richmond, Va.

Rebounding after a slow start, McEnroe lost his service only once in the final two sets and posted a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 win Sunday night over Borg in the final stop of their six-city, six-day tennis exhibition tour.

BASEBALL: Clay Carroll, who led the major leagues in saves in 1972, was wounded along with his son Brett, and his wife was killed in a Saturday night shooting during a family argument, police said. Carroll, 44, was in serious but stable condition. His stepson, Frederick Nowitzke, 26, has been arrested and charged with one count of second degree murder and two counts of attempted murder and is being held in the Manatee County Jail, officials said.

GOLF: Australian Greg Norman shot a 74 Sunday for a 4under-par 212 total and a 2-shot victory in the rain-shortened 54-hole \$250,000 National Panasonic Australian Open Golf Tournament at the Royal Melbourne course. Norman, who collected \$45,000, became only the fourth player to win both the Australian PGA and Australian Open in the same year. Others accomplishing the double were Ossie Pickworth, Norman Von Nida and Kel

PRO FOOTBALL: NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle has again denied talk of a merger with the troubled USFL, saying Sunday it was "highly, highly unlikely." Rozelle added: "All those stories seem to emanate from USFL owners or cities. No NFL owner has come to me or said on the telephone that we should have a merger with the United States Football League."

Hawkeyes in line for rosy New Year

From previous page

"The decision was made not to announce (the Ohio State score) while the outcome of this game was still in doubt," said Purdue sports information director Jim Vruggink.

But some Iowa fans still found out, and before the half most of the lowa players had already heard fans in the stands yelling out the score.

Iowa coach Hayden Fry found out, too, and when he got it verified that Wisconsin was the winner, he told his players at halftime. But not without reservation.

"That could have a good affect, it could have a bad affect," Fry said. "It scares people. On the other hand, we knew all we had to do really was to get a tie in this ballgame. And I explained that to the players.

"We were playing to win, don't could just tie in this ballgame we would be tied with Michigan. They've got one game left, we got one game left. We both win, and said. we're still going to the Rose Bowl."

But at halftime, with Iowa leading Purdue 24-17, it wasn't time to make any reservations.

"(Fry) just said what he heard is Wisconsin won and if we wantup to us," Drost said. "We were hit it. happy, but we also were up by only seven points. We couldn't be

we'd start kicking butt," Iowa offensive tackle Mike Haight said. "But it didn't happen. Purdue held their ground."

The Boilermakers didn't gain any ground in the scoreless third quarter. Purdue blew its best chance to score on a third-andthree play at Iowa's 15 when Everett was run out of bounds for a 19-yard loss.

But on its first possession of the fourth period, Purdue marched 72 yards in 13 plays, taking seven minutes off the clock, before tailback James Medlock dove in from the one for a touchdown. Purdue elected to kick the point-after to tie the score at 24 rather than go for the two-point conversion.

That surprised Fry, and he said even though the Boilermakers were in kick formation, he expected them to try a fake and go for

assume they thought they get me wrong, but we knew if we could stop us with six minutes left on the clock and the way they were moving the ball they could get back in field goal range," Fry

Instead it was Iowa that moved the ball to field goal range, converting a couple of big third down plays along the way. Kicker Rob Houghtlin came on to provide the winning points, and he knew the 25-yard field goal with 1:08 reed to go to the Rose Bowl it was maining was good the moment he

But Iowa's celebration was delayed by a 48-yard kickoff return that happy yet. We can be happy by Purdue's Rod Woodson that put after next week if we get the Goph- the ball at Iowa's 47. The Boilermakers were out of time outs -"When we found out we thought they had used the last one prior to

REPLAY

IOWA 27, **PURDUE 24**

FIFST downs	28	1
Rushing	11	
Passing	17	1
Penalty	0	
Rushing (AttYds)	47-206	28-3
Passing	20-33-12	3-32
Yards Passing	268	31
Total Off. Plays	80	6
Punts-Ava	5.32 0	4-30

IOWA PUR

Fumbles-Lost 4-19 2-10 Penalties-Yards 34:30 25:30 Time of Possession 8-16 7-13 Third Down Conv. Score by Quarters

IOWA OHIO STATE Pur - Griffin 48 pass from Everett

lowa - R. Harmon 1 run (Houghtlin kick) -- Hudson 1 run (Houghtlin

(Briggs kick)

A-57.762

- Medlock 1 run (Briggs - Hudson 1 run (Houghtlin

Pur - FG Briggs 37 lowa - FG Houghtlin 33 Pur - Medlock 1 run (Briggs lowa - FG Houghtlin 25

INDIVIDUAL STATS RUSHING --- Iowa, R. Harmon 25-122.

Hudson 19-118. Purdue. Wallace 10-21, Medlock 9-19. PASSING - lowa, Long 20-33-1-268. Purdue, Everett, 23-32-1-315.

RECEIVING - lowa, R. Harmon 9-118. Happel 3-47, Flagg 3-36, Purdue, Griffin 4-110, Jackson 7-91, Carter 8-77.

NOTED, QUOTED

 Ronnie Harmon rushed 25 times for 129 yards Saturday, surpassing the 1,000-yard rushing mark. He is only second Hawkeye ever to do so. The first was Dennis Mosley, who did it in 1979. and holds the lowa record with 1,267 yards in a season. Harmon is at 1,036.

 Devon Mitchell intercepted a pass in the third quarter, his 18th of career. That ties lowa all-time record held by Nile Kinnick.

• lowa set single-season scoring record with 381 points. The old mark was 380 in 1983.

 lowa coach Hayden Fry on quarterback Chuck Long's day: "That certainly ought to keep him " in the picture for the Heisman and hopefully first-team All-American."

 Receiver Scott Helverson on the first thing he thought when after hearing the Wisconsin-Ohio State score. "The first thing that went through my mind was 'don't blow this one, we want to go to the Rose Bowl.'

 Purdue coach Leon Burtnett on Long vs. his quarterback, Jim Everett: "Long's a great quarterback. There's no doubt (Everett) is the best in the country. Give him the same surroundings (as Long)and he'll rewrite the

· Fry on the same subject: "I'm not going to get into that. We play to win here.

records.

Houghtlin's kick in an attempt to up and snap the ball, while Iowa's Everett completed a pair of passes back to the line of scrimmage. to move the ball to Iowa's 29.

Then, with 29 seconds left, who opted to cut upfield rather than head for the sidelines.

ball I saw someone" - Carter pointed to his left - "and my in- son. "Zero." stincts told me to cut back.

"It was just bad judgement on my part," he said. "I want to apologize to the team. It really hurt." Purdue frantically tried to line

disrupt his concentration - but defenders leisurely sauntered Only when Everett's last pass sailed out of bounds and they Everett passed to Rodney Carter, looked up at the clock could the Hawks feel comfortable.

"As soon as he threw it I turned "I thought when I caught the around and looked at the clock;" said Iowa nose guard Hap Peter-And no time meant it the Hawks

could take time to talk about their Rose Bowl aspirations.

"It's realistic now," Long said. "Thank God for Wisconsin."

Blame Big Ten for bowl jumble

From previous page

Southeastern Conference champion. Miami had been afraid of getting shut out of a Jan. 1 bowl but a university official said that "Air Force saved us. Losing to Brigham Young took them out."

But the Orange Bowl, which has produced the national champion twice in the last four years (Clemson in 1981, Miami in 1983), was sitting pretty.

"Even if Penn State loses, Nebraska could possibly be No. 1 (if it beats seventh-ranked Oklahoma on Saturday)," an Orange Bowl

spokesman said. "That's the beauty of trying to get as high ranked teams as you can get. We've been spilling our mouths off for months that what we want is the No. 1

The Big Eight worked a deal which not only will send its runner-up to the Fiesta Bowl but its third-place team to the Gator Bowl against Florida State. Nebraska, Oklahoma and 10th-ranked Oklahoma State all have a shot at the Big Eight crown.

Tennessee controls its own des-

tiny in the SEC-Sugar Bowl race.

The Vols can go to New Orleans by defeating 5-5 Kentucky and 3-6-1 Vanderbilt. That would put LSU in the Liberty Bowl. If Tennessee falters, it will play Washington in the Freedom Bowl.

The only "official" bowl pairing was 10-0 Bowling Green of the Mid-American Conference against 9-0-1 Fresno State of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association in the California Bowl.

The Cotton Bowl asked Auburn if it would mind waiting until Saturday. Auburn, sitting on an invitation to play Brigham Young in

the Citrus Bowl, had a short reply for the Cotton Bowl - "Nope!"

These teams also reportedly were set for postseason trips: Arkansas-Arizona State in the Holiday Bowl; Army-Illinois in the Peach Bowl; Georgia Tech-Michigan State in the All-American

Bowl; Alabama-Texas in the Aloha Bowl — but only if Texas wins at least one of its last two games and doesn't go to the Cotton Bowl; Air Force in the Bluebonnet Bowl; Georgia in the Sun Bowl; and Minnesota in the Independence Bowl.

Grady: Fate proves kinder to lowa this fall

From previous page banks of the Wabash, the Hawkeyes did it again with a spine-tingling drive against the clock when a single error might have spelled defeat. Three times this season the Hawkeyes have marched almost the length of the field against the clock to defeat Michigan State, Michigan and Purdue. Winning those games is the difference right now between being in first place and possibly headed for the Rose Bowl, and being in seventh

and probably headed nowhere. You probably realize, also, that none of those three games was decided until the final play of the game — Michigan State throwing into Iowa's end zone on the last play, Iowa beating Michigan on the last play, and Purdue at Iowa's 20-yard line as time expired amid some controversy.

I can't recall three finishes like that ever in an Iowa season. I do vividly recall, however, that Iowa held on to win at Purdue 21-20 in a wild finish in 1956, and went on to win the Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl game, and maybe that's a good omen.

Give credit to Purdue. Lots of it. I thought maybe the Boilermakers, disappointed with their Big Ten season and crushed by Michigan seven days earlier, might be a bit flat. But they came out guns ablazing,

never gave up and played like they were in the Rose Bowl running. Jim Everett is a super passer and a touchdown threat on just about any play. For those who think Iowa's defense wasn't up to par in surrendering 24 points, check and you'll find no team held Purdue to less than that on their home grounds this season.

For Iowa, there again were heroes aplenty. I'd say the play of the game was Bill Happel's squirming and lunging for a first down on a third-and-nine catch early in Iowa's final drive. But almost as good was Scott Helverson's diving catch for another big first down play

moments later. Ronnie Harmon was superb as an all-purpose back. David Hudson just gets better every week. The offensive line gave Chuck Long time to load and fire, particularly on that last, precious drive. And the defense, under the gun of Mt. Everett and his classy receivers, played well enough that the scoreboard showed fewer points for PU than for Iowa. That was all that counted.

So everything comes down now to one final game. Rarely has a team had so many reasons to be motivated. With a victory Saturday at Kinnick Stadium over Wisconsin, Iowa can:

Win the undisputed Big Ten

championship, Hayden Fry's first, and Iowa's first since 1958;

• Earn the Rose Bowl bid; Become the first Iowa team in history to win 10 games in a season;

Enhance its national

Atone for last year's

humiliating loss to the Gophers; • Return that old bronze pig, Floyd of Rosedale, to its rightful owners;

• Give a lot of great seniors a fond farewell to Kinnick Stadium;

And beat Minnesota just

Made-to-measure

because it's Minnesota.

I guess it's about this simple: Championship teams respond to championship situations. The Hawkeyes have done it all year and there's no reason to think they won't do it again. If they don't win, then I guess they don't deserve the championship and they'll have to go somewhere else other than Pasadena on New Year's Day.

Al Grady is a Press-Citizen sports columnist. His column appears Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

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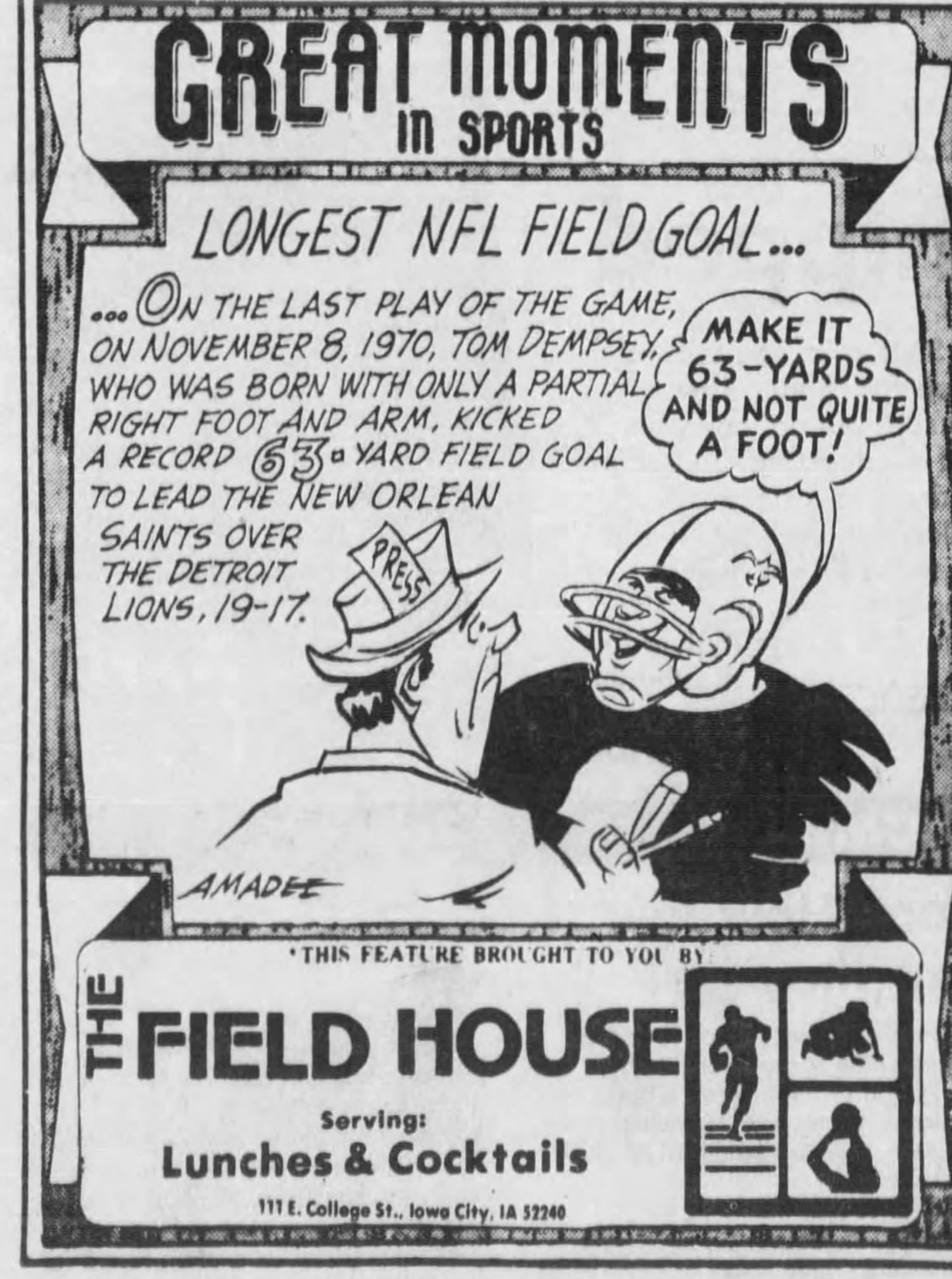
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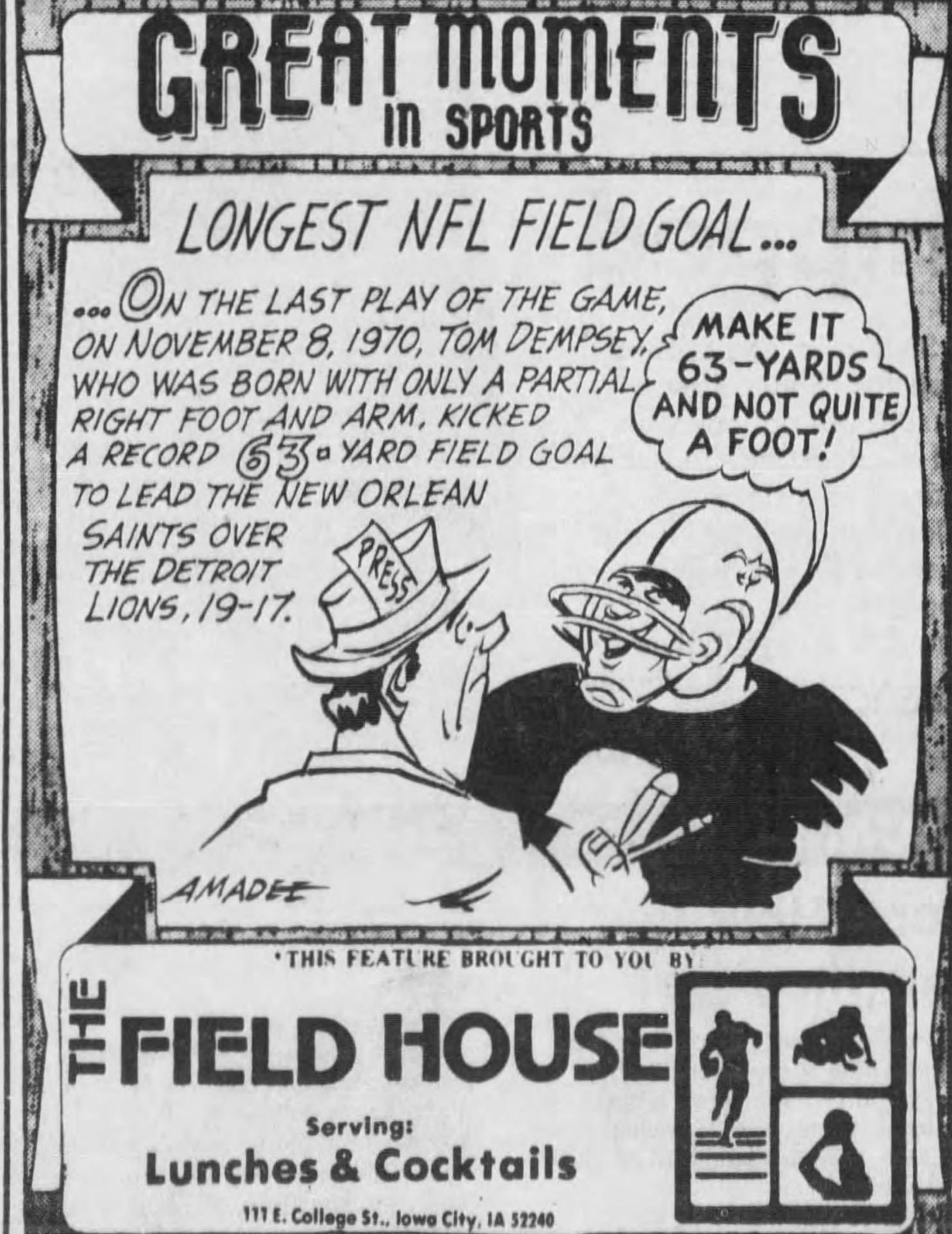
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