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# Big Ten didn't always wilt in Rose Bowl heat

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Why doesn't the Big Ten win in the Rose Bowl? Commissioner Wayne Duke: If I knew the answer, you wouldn't be asking the question.

PASADENA, Calif. - Once upon a time the Rose Bowl was so easy for the Big Ten it was embarrassing. Michigan over Stanford 49-0 when football replaced chariot races in 1902, and Michigan over USC 49-0 in 1948. In between, Illinois trampled UCLA 45-14 in 1947, the first contract year between the Big Ten and the Pacific Coast Conference.

Northwestern - yes, Northwestern - beat undefeated California in 1949, and Big Ten teams soon were 12-2 in the Rose Bowl; 13-2 if you count 1902. Coaches, being coaches, grumbled as they won.

No practice security in Brookside Park, a public park where the White Sox once went for spring training. No escape from press, alumni, families and girl friends. Too many warm weather distractions for young men who should have their minds on The Game, not Disneyland.

Early contracts called for them to arrive Dec. 18 and to bed down two weeks in the dowager Huntington Hotel, a rambling, turn-of-the-century brickpile raised by the Southern Pacific railroad for travelers seeking a winter haven and nearness to the thoroughbreds at Santa Anita.

Official camp-followers from every Big Ten and Pac-10 school filled the hotel while West Coast teams hid on the beach and set foot in Pasadena at game time. The Big Ten absorbed all

the hype and had a legitimate complaint on that.

Ohio State won the 1968 national championship and lost the 1970 title from the Huntington.

It was where Woody Hayes demanded separate rooms for himself and his wife in opposite wings so he wouldn't be distracted. Buckeye players making bed check would hear his projector whirring, peek in the open door, and see game films on the screen and Woody fast asleep in his chair.

Coaches dodged the hubbub of New Year's Eve by taking their players to a monastery for the night. Bo Schembechler suffered a heart attack there and was in the hospital as Michigan lost in 1970.

Bo's Rose Bowl luck never recovered; he's 1-7 here. The Big Ten's decline was already under way; the Pac-10 leads 22-19 and is in a 12-1 streak. Only Schembechler's victory in 1981 intrudes.

(A bit of continuity was taken away from Rose Bowl veterans when some alert geologists discovered in 1985 that the Huntington was an earthquake risk sitting on the San Andreas fault all those years and closed the venerable hotel.)

And nobody has any more answers than Wayne Duke concerning that 1-12.

It's the Rose Bowl's natural grass as Big Ten teams come off artificial turf. It's a home game for the Pac-10, especially USC and UCLA. It's the noise with the Pac-10 allotted 41,000 seats, the Big Ten 21,000.

Schembechler suggests reversing the ticket numbers. Or he would invite those surfers to play in Ann Arbor some New Year's Day. He also said after last January's 22-15 loss to Arizona State that the Aztecs were too fast for his defense along with having too much crowd noise on their side.

Recent losers have bunked (a) in Newport Beach and (b) in a resort atop a garbage landfill in the City of Industry. Illinois' Mike White tried an evening at U-I grad Hugh Hefner's mansion and lost. Iowa's Hayden Fry decreed denial of all pleasure and lost when Ronnie Harmon held onto Norby Walters' cash better than the football.

Now it's Michigan State in Newport Beach taking in the sights before tomorrow's date with USC. George Perles talks of winning with defense and a ground attack. Is he onto something?

Bob Pille has been a Rose Bowl tourist since Michigan demolished Oregon State in 1965.

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