Tech Looking Forward to Good New Days

I think it's safe to say we shall never again see football at Georgia Tech as in the days of Dodd. To reinforce the memory established when the name of "Bobby Dodd" was added to Grant Field, next week the street that runs by the stadium will become Bobby Dodd Way, which is more than some pavement and curbing, but a tribute to a style.

The Bobby Dodd way will never be repeated, because nobody could win with midget backs and pony linemen in these days of the behemoth. It was a mystery even then to his victims, who wondered how he won with mirrors.

Rummaging through some old files the other day, I came across this picture in The Journal, which covered Dixie like the dew then, above this caption: "Earthquake Davis Makes Final Charge."

Bob Davis, captain of the 1946 team, "probably the greatest tackle ever to wear the livery of the Gold and White," it read, was six feet four and weighed 235 pounds. Some of these linemen today would make almost two of him. One fullback weighs as much. The lightest lineman at Georgia Tech this year, offense and defense, is the center, Billy Chubbs, who's no paperweight at 256.

Once upon a time, Georgia Tech was known as the Golden Tornado, then the Yellow Jackets, and now has settled on Rambling Wreck, at least in the open air. Sadly, The Wreck has been more the Wreckee than the Wrecker in latter seasons, and as they pounded around, agitating the grass at Rose Bowl Field this week, Bobby Ross pondered his third season, still looking for his first victory over an Atlantic Coast Conference team.



It hasn't been the most heartwarming of years. Athens seemed to be getting all the attention. Vince Dooley retired and people were wondering if Ray Goff could coach. When it was Georgia Tech's turn, it was on the police beat, not the sports beat. Ross is still laboring under the shadow of the now infamous pizza parlor brawl, and his paternal dealing with his three players, but it has not put a dent in his outlook.

There's hardly an oracle who doesn't see Georgia Tech back in the ACC caboose again. Darryl Maxie, our man at The Flats, sees a season of 2-9. "Well, maybe 3-8," he hedged. His work has been providing fodder for the locker room billboard.

None of this can take the smile off Ross's face. "I think we can surprise a few people this year," he said. He smiled.

Another time he said, "After the spring, there's no question we're better at every position."

Then, looking over at Jerry Mays, he said, "Pound for pound, he is probably the most productive player in college football."

Mays is a throwback to the days of the featherweight running back. He's short (5-8),

he's butterfly weight (166) as compared to Carl Lawson, the 235-pound fullback. He so inspired Mike Finn, the director of sports intelligence, that Mike dug deep into the alumni rolls and recruited his own "Four Horsemen," Leon Hardeman, Billy Teas, Johnny Gresham and Brent Cunningham, to back up Mays as the cover boy for the press catalogue. All were nimble backs of similar size or shape in the day they carried the ball when Tech was more Rambling than Wrecked.

"I think this is the team Coach Ross has been waiting for," Mike said. "We lost six games by a total of 32 points last year. We have depth, we have some speed, we surely have size. This is the largest team Georgia Tech has ever had.

"And Mays isn't alone in the backfield. We have T.J. Edwards, who's looking his best, and William Bell, a fine-looking freshman, and Shawn Jones gives us a running threat at quarterback we haven't had before."

I know, press agents are paid to see the silver lining. Pessimists get fired. But don't say you haven't been warned.

There is a further consideration to be made. This ACC isn't the pussycat it used to be. There are fewer soft Saturdays around this league, and Georgia Tech has that reconfirmed this Saturday. Ross and crew walk into the equivalent of a punch in the mush at North Carolina State, and there his new offense gets checked out against what may be the best defense in the ACC.

Nobody's looking for a return to the good old days, only a leap forward to the good new days.



Thulin Likely the Next TV Voice for Hawks

Ron Thulin, who was hired by TBS in the spring for its U.S. Olympic Gold show on Saturdays, is expected to be named play-by-play announcer for the 25 Atlanta Hawks games on the superstation next season.

While stopping short of confirming that Thulin is the Hawks' latest television voice, TBS vice president Don McGulre said, "We think Ron is one of our best announcers, and we're looking for more ways to use his talents."

TBS hired Thulin from the Dallas market, where he worked Southwest Conference and Western Athletic Conference games for Raycom.

TBS now must determine the rotation of analysts Rick Barry, Steve Jones and former Bulls coach Doug Collins. Barry also will work Seattle SuperSonics games around his TBS schedule. Jones is likely to join Thulin on most of the Hawks' games, while Barry and Collins handle the bulk of the 50-game NBA schedule on Turner Network Televi-

THE DEION COVERAGE: WAGA-TV (Channel 5) clearly won the local battle in Wednesday's coverage of the Falcons' signing of top draft pick Deion Sanders.

* * *

sion (TNT).

Channel 5 smoked the competition in the 11 p.m. newscast with a live interview of Sanders's agent, Steve Zucker, from the lobby of his hotel. It also reported the full terms of the rookie's contract.

While Chuck Dowdle of WSB (Channel 2) reported no details of the agreement, WAGA anchor Jeff Hullinger gave the numbers,

Event, network

Bengals-Saints, ABC

49ers-Seahawks, NBC

Eagles-Dolphins, CBS

Jones-Amundsen, boxing, NBC

Notre Dame-Virginia, Raycom

Mets-Giants, NBC

and Bill Hartman delivered the hustle by tracking down Zucker.

Joe Washington at WXIA (Channel 11) did slightly better than Dowdle. He contacted Sanders by phone in Seattle before the game but got little information during a brief, awkward conversation in which Sanders basically told Washington he didn't have time to talk because he had to take the field.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: WSB Radio took exception to the notion that it was the station's decision to replace Brad Nessler as voice of the Falcons two years ago.

"He had a contract that was not due to expire until March 1989," said WSB Radio general manager Bob Nell. "He came to us and asked to be released from the contract to take the Vikings job with WCCO in Minneapolis. He was not advised by us we were going to remove him as the Falcons play-by-play announcer."

When told of Neil's remarks, Nessler said his comments were misconstrued.

"The change I was upset with was **Ken Burrow** being replaced as the color commentator," Nessler said. "Ken is one of my best friends. I could have still done play-by-play, but it was better to leave."

OUT OF LUCK: Alabama and Auburn fans in the metro area apparently will not be able to follow their teams on the radio. The schools' best shot was WFOM (1230 AM), but the station decided to stick with Penn State.

Rate

12.5

4.3

Share

FRIDAY BRIEFING

Walters, Bloom Ask Judge for New Trial

Attorneys for two sports agents convicted of fraud asked for a new trial Thursday in Chicago after learning that a reputed mobster who testified in their clients' case had been released from prison years early and may have lied on the witness stand. U.S. District Judge George Marovich ordered federal prosecutors to submit in writing by Sept. 28 the reasons why Michael Franzese, a reputed member of a New York organized crime family, was freed from prison. Marovich said he would then decide whether Franzese's testimony had been compromised and whether a new trial was warranted for sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Bloom, 30, and Walters, 58, former partners in New York-based World Sports and Entertainment, were convicted in April of defrauding universities by signing athletes before their NCAA eligibility expired and threatening clients with bodily harm if they ducked out on those contracts. Walters — sentenced to five years in prison — and Bloom — given three years were released on bail pending appeal.

AUTOS/Wallace to Lose in Court

A judge in Charlotte, N.C., is expected to rule today in favor of Blue Max Pontiac team owner Raymond Beadle in a suit driver Rusty Wallace filed in July in an effort to break his contract and join a new team in Winston Cup competition next season. The ruling would force Wallace to wait until his contract with Beadle ends on Nov. 30, 1990. A source close to the case said Wallace tried to buy out his contract, first for a reported \$500,000. But Beadle put a \$1 million tag on the buyout. Wallace accused Beadle of breaching the contract with repeated late payments. But Beadle said, "I have a valid contract with Rusty. . . . It was signed September 7, 1988, and it doesn't end until Nov. 30, 1990."

—Bill Robinson

FOOTBALL/Warrant Issued for Robinson

A warrant was issued for the arrest of former University of Tennessee quarterback Tony Robinson when he failed to appear at a probation revocation hearing in Knoxville. The warrant was issued by Ray Jenkins, Criminal Court Judge in Knoxville, who was to hear testimony concerning Robinson's alleged violation of his probation conditions. Robinson first was arrested in 1986 on cocaine charges and sentenced to six years. He was released in February 1988 but jailed again in May of this year after being charged with violating the terms of his probation, including using cocaine and marijuana. If his probation is revoked, Robinson could serve the remainder of his original six-year sentence.

GOLF/Clearwater Leads B.C. Open at 65

Kelth Clearwater made five birdies in a seven-hole span on the way to a 6-under-par 65 Thursday and a one-stroke lead after the first round of the \$500,000 B.C. Open in Endicott, N.Y. Bob Estes bogeyed his final hole to finish at 66. Fulton Allem, Gil Morgan and Dave Elchelberger were two strokes behind.

BOXING/Holyfield Fight Set for Nov. 4

Evander Holyfield's fight with Alex "The Destroyer" Stewart has been set for Nov. 4, officials at the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City said Thursday. Holyfield is 22-0 with 18 knockouts and Stewart is 24-0 and has knocked out every opponent he's faced.

BRIEFLY/Blackaller Dies of Heart Attack

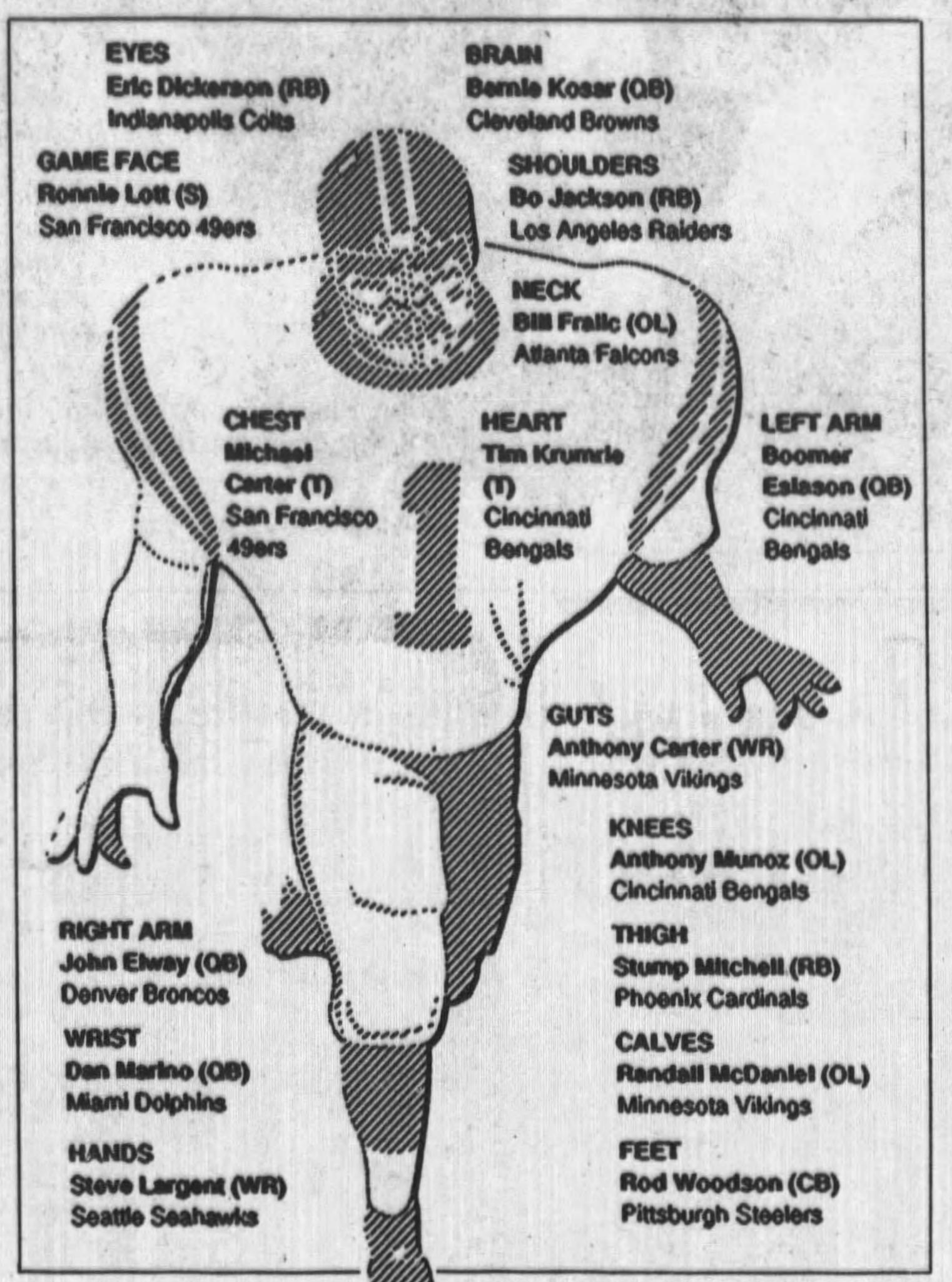
Three-time America's Cup competitor Tom Blackaller died of an apparent heart attack Thursday while practicing for an auto race at Sears Point International Raceway in Sonoma, Calif. Blackaller, 52, was not involved in an accident on the race track. . . . Grete Waitz of Norway, who has won nine of the 10 New York City Marathons she has run, has scratched from this year's race, the New York Daily News reported. . . . Emory defeated Mercer of Macon 5-0 in men's soccer. Matt Arnett of Emory scored two goals.

THE FINAL WORD

Mets outfielder Darryl Stawberry on his .229 batting average:

'It boils down to, I'm having a stink year. Some people might say stinky.'

BETWEEN THE LINES



The Associated Press

An artist's composite shows the ideal pro football player.

Ideal Player? He Has Eric's Eyes

The search for the complete football player would be so much easier if scouts could just build their own from individual parts of today's pro stars.

Here's how one might look:

land Browns quarterback, graduated with honors from the University of Miami in just over three years with a 3.36 grade-point average and a double major.

Eyes: Eric Dickerson, the goggled Indianapolis Colts running back and all-time NFL single-season rushing champion. "Eric has the ability to see the entire football field, and not just from tackle to tackle," Colts coach Ron Meyer said.

Game Face: Ronnie Lott, San Francisco 49ers safety. Said Eric Wright, his longtime partner in the secondary, Lott has "a possessed look. It's just like a wild pit bull."

Neck: Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson's is 1934, Los Angeles Rams guard Tom Newberry's is 20½. Then there's the Falcons' Bill Fralic . . .
Shoulders: Bo Jackson,

Los Angeles Raiders running back. There are broader shoulders, but none developed any better than Bo's, which take extra large shoulder pads.

Chest: Michael Carter, San Francisco 49ers nose tackle who wears a size 54 coat.

Heart: Tim Krumrie,
Cincinnati Bengals nose tackle.
Early in last January's Super
Bowl, he broke both the tibia and
fibula in his right leg but
stayed in the locker room for
almost three hours, watching
the game on television.

Arlington Million, ABC U.S. Open, CBS 9/3 3.1 10 Greater Milwaukee Open, ABC 9/3 Greater Milwaukee Open, ABC 9/2 3.0 8 Source: Arbitron Ratings. CBS (Channel 5) takes over the U.S. Open tennis coverage for the next two days, starting today with the women's semifinals matching Steffi Graf against Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova against Zina Garrison. The men's doubles final also is scheduled, where seventh seeded John McEnroe and Mark Woodforde meet ton seeded Ken Electron.

Last Week's Top-Rated Network Sports Shows

FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 28-SEPT. 3

ing today with the women's semifinals matching Steffi Graf against Gabriela Sabatini and Martina Navratilova against Zina Garrison. The men's doubles final also is scheduled, where seventh-seeded John McEnroe and Mark Woodforde meet top-seeded Ken Flach and Robert Seguso. High school football offers fresh alternatives on radio. Douglass plays Mays in a city of Atlanta game, while Osborne takes on Campbell-Smyrna, and Wheeler meets Walton in a pair of Cobb County games. In baseball, an excellent pitching matchup begins the Cubs-Cardinals showdown in the NL East as St. Louis sends Joe Magrane (18-7) against Chicago's Rick Sutcliffe (14-11). The Reds and Braves also play. Cincinnati has the extra incentive of trying to finish .500 or better. The horse racing is an event called the West Virginia Breeders Classic, and the PGA seniors play in the GTE Classic.

Time	Event		TV-Radio
11 a.m.	Tennis: U.S. Open		Ch. 5
2:20 p.m.	Baseball: Cardinals-Cubs		WGN
4 p.m.	Golf: Senior GTE Classic	U 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	ESPN
4:45 p.m.	Football: Douglass-Mays		1340 AM
7:30 p.m.	Football: Osborne-Campbell-Smyrna	2 1 1 1	1550 AM
7:35 p.m.	Baseball: Reds-Braves	Vi Vi	Ch. 17, 750 AM
7:45 p.m.	Football: Wheeler-Walton	e energy to	1230 AM
8 p.m.	Fayette County-Griffin	THE SE	97.7 FM
10:30 p.m.	Horse Racing: W. Virginia Breeders	Mills From	ESPN
OTHER RE	OADCAST EVENTS		

■ TV: Vince Dooley's college football show premiers at 7 p.m. on Channel 5. It will be co-hosted by weekend anchor Bill Hartman. The opener is an hour-long special, but the show will air regularly during the season at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. For viewers who couldn't catch the "Tenth Anniversary Special" at midnight last night, ESPN is running it back at 8 p.m. The "Best of SportsLook" features highlights of Roy Firestone's interview show at 6:30 p.m.

Radio: WCNN (680 AM) airs "The Bobby Ross Show" at 8:24 a.m. and 5:24 p.m. for the latest on Georgia Tech football.

SOUNDOFF

Braves on Right Track Behind Cox

The Atlanta Braves are on the right track. Bobby Cox has done a very good job as general manager (although he could be more aggressive in making some trades) and Russ Nixon has done an excellent job as field manager and should be retained.

For the first time in as many years, the Braves possess many exceptional young pitchers. That gives them a firm foundation on which to build.

Mike Pesho, Atlanta

More NASCAR Coverage Wanted

Hats off to Mike Harris, whose recent Soundoff letter, "More on NASCAR," voiced the collective opinion of many Atlantans. There is a large family of auto racing fans in Atlanta and we would love to see more NASCAR coverage.

Send letters to Sports Soundoff, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, Ga., 30302. Letters must be signed and include the writer's telephone number and address.

Now You Know

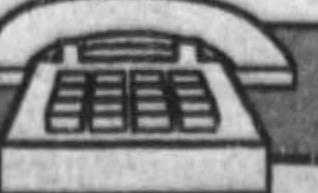
Football Fatalities (1980-1988)

Deaths related directly to injuries suffered by people playing football in the 1980s, and the various levels at which the injuries occured according to statistics compiled by the NCAA:

- High school 53 fatalities
 Sandlot 7 fatalities
- 2. Sandiot / fatalities

 3. College 5 fatalities
- 4. Semipro no fatalities
- 5. Pro no fatalities

NDOFF: Phone in Your Opinions 222-2031



SCOREPHONE: For The Latest Results 222-2030