

MAULE'S ALLTIME PICKS

Sir:

As an avid fan of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, I hate to see Tex Maule retire from your staff (*Oh, That 200-Yard Run!* Sept. 1). Reading his articles during the football season has been a great pastime. I will miss his insight into the game.

MARK LAVENGOD

Grand Rapids

Sir:

The only pleasant aspect of Tex Maule's retirement is that we no longer will have to suffer through his annual prediction that the Dallas Cowboys will win the NFC title and pulverize some helpless AFC opponent in the Super Bowl. Enjoy retirement, Tex, but pick a new team.

RICK D. SMITH

Eureka, Kans.

Sir:

Text put it the only way it can be said, "The best running back who ever lived was Jim Brown."

ED DEMAIN

Maumee, Ohio

Sir:

If Jim Brown ran, Gale Sayers flowed. If Brown powered through a string of potential tacklers, Sayers leaped over them. If statistics are what Tex Maule based his selections on, then perhaps Jim Brown could be classified as the best runner ever. However, if one is to consider performance, Sayers is No. 1. He was an artist who painted pictures on the field.

JONATHAN QUINN

Acton, Mass.

Sir:

As usual, Sonny Jurgensen's outstanding career has gone unnoticed. Tex Maule is certainly qualified to speculate on who were the best football players, but how he could have left Sonny off the list of quarterbacks, I'll never know. Jurgensen's passing and play calling were remarkable throughout his career.

MARK R. GRAVES

Aconkneck, Md.

Sir:

I can find no fault with the sentiments expressed by Tex Maule. As a linebacker on the 1951 New York Yanks of the NFL I do, however, think an important point was overlooked. The average 1950 graduate could

anticipate greater earnings in non-athletic pursuits than in sports. This is no longer the case. With the high potential earnings in athletics, a much higher percentage of graduates is now anxious to go into the pros.

Maybe today's 1,536 NFL players are in it for the money, but I feel the quality of their performance is equal to, or higher than, that of the 416 players of 1950 who, for the most part, were playing because they loved the game, selectively notwithstanding.

JIM CULLOM

Piedmont, Calif.

RED RAIDERS OUTLOOK

Sir:

How could you leave Texas Tech out of your Southwest Conference scouting report (Sept. 8)? The Red Raiders upset Texas last year and went on to the Peach Bowl.

HARVEY NATHAN

Lubbock, Texas

● Not only that, new Head Coach Steve Sloan has junior Quarterback Tommy Duniven healthy again after a midseason back injury in '74. Tech could be jough. Sorry.—ED.

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

Sir:

I was extremely pleased to read Robert H. Boyle's article (*Poisoned Fish, Troubled Waters*, Sept. 1). Though the PCB problem has been the subject of nationwide hearings by the Environmental Protection Agency, it has yet to receive the public attention needed to eventually force a solution. Boyle's article will, I hope, begin the process.

Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources held hearings on Aug. 28 and 29 to discuss proposals to set effluent standards for PCBs. At the hearings I warned that considering effluent standards was only the first step in stopping PCB leakage into the environment. To effectively limit further PCB discharges, the multitude of PCB uses must be carefully examined, and where they exist, less toxic substitutes must be employed. In addition, essential uses of PCBs in transformers and capacitors should be critically reviewed to determine whether or not the PCBs are irreplaceable.

The PCB problem is symptomatic of all environmental problems. We are again trying to deal with ecological contamination and potential health hazards with hindsight, not foresight. Hundreds of new chemicals go on the market each year with little pretesting for possible adverse effects on the environment or human health. Only when ad-

verse effects are documented, as with PCBs, are corrective steps considered. Toxic substances control legislation currently before Congress would require testing and screening of chemicals before they reach the marketplace. We must provide government with the tools of a Toxic Substances Control Act so that in the future we can act with foresight.

MARTIN J. SCHREIBER
Lieutenant Governor
State of Wisconsin

Madison, Wis.

Sir:

Thank you for the sparkling Sept. 1 issue featuring shotputter Brian Oldfield on the cover and hammer thrower Robert H. Boyle as the lead author. Boyle's sledges, always dead on target against marauders of our environment, have become classic rallying points nationwide for defenders of ecological sanity.

As an ecological scientist, I share with my colleagues across the nation the frustrations that Boyle so well reports. No one is really listening, yet the data have the roar of a million Niagaras. Several of Boyle's pieces have resulted in remedial action being taken on issues ecologists had flailed away at to no avail. I deeply hope that *Poisoned Fish, Troubled Waters* flows into this category. The U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation recently reported that fishing is the nation's No. 1 sport. One hopes it has a future.

In 1969 a nearby manufacturer of environmental monitoring equipment ran a prophetic full-page advertisement in the technical journals. It showed a very dead floating fish and was boldly captioned TODAY THE FISH. TOMORROW. . . . It really said it all in four words. Only tomorrow was a lot of yesterday's ago. We still thoroughly lack any real commitment toward maintaining environmental quality in this country, from the very top on down. And for this lack we shall pay most dearly.

DOMINICK J. PIKONE, PH.D.
Director
Environmental Studies Program
Manhattan College
Riverdale, N.Y.

THE OLDFIELD INAGE

Sir:

I am not much on writing letters, but this is one time I can't resist. While my sisters were thumbing through your magazine their attention was brought to the title page of the article about Brian Oldfield (*Coming on Strong*, Sept. 1). Upon reading Oldfield's

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