

U. C. L. A. Starts Ice Water Trickle

GREAT THAW NOT HERE YET

By WILL CONNOLLY

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Although the first faint trickle of melted ice water from the great freezeout of 1935 was heard the other day when University of California at Los Angeles admitted Santa Clara to its football schedule, we feel it our duty to warn hopeful independents not to expect the thaw to come in the immediate future.

It would be a shame to lift the expectations of the Northern California untouchables too high, only to dash them to ground, more miserable than before.

U. C. L. A. was more anxious to obtain Santa Clara for the November 18 open date in the Los Angeles Coliseum than the Broncos were to oblige the Bruins, if the truth were known. Santa Clara was already fixed with the most attractive and representative schedule it has enjoyed in many a season, what with Utah, Texas A. & M., Purdue and Michigan State aligned, in addition to standard rivals, and the Bronco did the Bruin a mutual favor by agreeing to go south.

The U. C. L. A. open date was a worry to the management, so much so that University of San Francisco, a new power, and Loyola of Los Angeles, lifted by the appointment of Mike Pecarovich as coach, were solemnly considered before the Broncos were signed.

Both U. S. F. and Loyola asked for the date, but Santa Clara had its oar in front, dating from the time Coach Buck Shaw was interviewed by Bruin officials with a view toward interesting him in replacing Bill Spaulding.

Buck politely rejected the honor, but being a tender man, softened the severity of his refusal by suggesting the Broncos were willing to play the Bruins, just to show no hard feelings existed.

The union of Santa Clara and U. C. L. A. for one year only, so far as we can see, is merely a hot water bottle placed at the cold feet of the independents and not



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a complete resuscitation from the rigors of exposure.

Just yesterday, Stanford declined an invitation for a 1940 booking with U. S. F. with thanks, and the possibility of Santa Clara being returned to the California schedule is highly remote until such time as the southern malcontents, U. S. C. and U. C. L. A., exert their influence to modify the round robin.

The Trojans, in particular, now being in the ascendancy, think it beneath their dignity to play before county fair gatherings of 10,000 or 12,000 souls in the far reaches of Oregon and Washington, University of Washington excepted, when a St. Mary's or a Santa Clara or even a U. S. F. or Loyola game in the home coliseum

would produce thrice the tariff and no wearisome travel.

When the break of the ice jam does come, if it does, it will be from the Trojans and Bruins, our maligned southern neighbors, who, we are beginning to think, are not a bad sort after all.

An encouraging piece of news is that there is agitation among some of the finer minds of basketball, including Dr. Phineas "Phog" Allen of Kansas, the patriarch, to lift the basket from its present 10 feet above the floor to 12 feet.

These men are inspired to consider a change in the practice of concentrating tall players on teams whose 6 foot 4 and 6 foot 5 inches come to the level of the basket rim when they reach for tap-in shots.

A 6 foot 4 man, of which there is a plentitude roaming basketball courts, may actually drop the ball into the hoop instead of shooting it upward, as originally intended by the founders.

The presence of so many long fellows has reduced basketball to a freakish demonstration and has put an almost unbearable handicap on finer athletes of normal height, say, 5 feet 10 or 11.

We have seen tall clowns born without any gift for athletics, prosper in basketball solely on the accident of extreme height. In

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