

NewsBank

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IN THE PRESS BOX TODAY

**DICK OTTE**

Dispatch Sports Writer

## Agler Spins Rags-Riches Yarn with Otterbein

At this point in the 1955 football season, Otterbein had lost three straight games, climaxed by a 53-0 shellacking from Akron. It was a rough start for Robert (Mo) Agler who had stepped up from assistant to the head coaching job at the Westerville college.

Post-game write-ups in the Akron papers didn't ease the pain. Agler recalls that the comments about his Cardinals were "lousy—the worst I have ever seen . . . they said things like there were several high school teams in the area that could beat us."

Otterbein recovered from that nightmarish start to win two and tie one of the remaining five games. But the overall record of 2-5-1 didn't promise much for 1956.

**AND WHERE IS OTTERBEIN NOW?** Unbeaten in three straight games, rated the ninth best college team in the state in the weekly INS poll and labeled a "Cinderella" team by its rivals in the Ohio Conference.

How does Agler account for the turnabout? "Playing together for a year, even though we lost a lot, was a big help," says the one-time Card star who played pro football in both the NFL and the Canadian leagues.

"The attitude has changed . . . these boys really want to play football . . . beating Akron (13-7 last week) helped a lot . . . everyone on the team remembered those write-ups from last year . . . our quarterbacking (Met Staats and Lee Newell) is much improved . . . Larry Lintner (veteran halfback from Linden McKinley) has been outstanding . . . Eric Dowell (freshman halfback from Warren) has been a pleasant surprise . . . I didn't even know he was enrolled . . . line play has been so good I hate to single out anyone for special praise. . . ."

**ACTUALLY, AGLER FIGURES** his team still has a "long way to go. We're a little bit deeper than last year . . . two deep I'd say . . . but that means we can substitute, rest the regulars now and then, and still not be hurt too much. We hope to improve that depth a little over the next couple years.

"When practice started this fall, I thought injuries would wreck what chances we had. But, knocking on wood, we have had very few injuries since the season started."

Agler also credited his staff—assistants Wes Belcher, Bud Yoest and Curt Tong—with enabling the Cardinals to "cover a lot more ground; learn more football this season." Belcher was his only assistant last year.

**DOES ALL THIS ADD UP** to a banner season for the Cards? "It's too early to say," is Agler's reply. "The big test is this Saturday against Mt. Union at Alliance.

Mo figures his "defense will have to stop Mt. Union. They're a split-T team, throw the ball around like a basketball. We figure them every bit as tough as Akron (Mount beat the Cards, 45-7, last year). We want to win so bad we can taste it. If we do, maybe we can look forward to a pretty good season."

But even if midnight tolls for the 1956 Cinderellas at Alliance Saturday, it's not likely anyone will compare the Cards to neighborhood high school teams. There's always next year and by then Agler may come up with the "little more depth" to go with the champion's spirit his team has already developed.

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## Cruising Around the Camps

**OHIO CONFERENCE**—Mt. Union has tied two, lost eight straight since that romp over Otterbein last year . . . A knee injury will keep Kenyon quarterback Dick Fleser out of the Capital game . . . Akron has 23 lettermen, 10 in the starting lineup, to send against Ohio Wesleyan which probably will open with only one monogram winner, end Tom Zesiger . . . Wittenberg holds a 6-4 series edge over Muskingum but their game at New Concord Saturday night is the first meeting since 1946 . . . Denison's Big Red is a little green this season . . . of 51 squad members, 29 are on the team for the first time . . . Capital leads the conference in both offense and defense, averaging 430.5 yards gained for two games and yielding an average of 140.5.

**OTHERS**—Vic DeOrto of Bowling Green leads the nation's small college backs in rushing with 371 yards gained in the four Falcon games, all victories, so far . . . A crowd of more than 28,000, one of the largest ever to sit in Nippert Stadium, is expected for the Xavier-Cincinnati backyard hassle . . . Kent State Coach Trev Rees turns author after each game, writing an analytical report on the contest for distribution to the school's regular publicity outlets.

## Driver Killed

**MADISON, IND.**—Robert (Jack) Burbink, 33, Cincinnati, a part-time race driver, was killed Thursday near here when his beer truck overturned on Rt. 56.

## FIGHT RESULTS

LOS ANGELES—KID Cantello, 135, Nicaragua, stopped Jimmy Barthele, 134, Los Angeles, 131.  
PHILADELPHIA—Tommy Fox, 132, Philadelphia, stopped Billy Jones, 135, Allentown, Pa., 131.

# HEY BOWLERS!

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CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Columbus Dispatch, HOME Four Star ed., 12 Oct. 1956, p. 31. Newsbank: Access World News - Historical and Current, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&t=pubname%3A1467499E363272B3%2... Accessed 25 July 2022.

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