

## Sports by O'Brien

By Terrence O'Brien

# 'A front

# runner

# we ain't

Somebody wrote to me this week to comment that they had observed, for the first time since O'Brien began desecrating this page, that he had written about something other than football during the season of that sport. That would of course have been last week's article on Parochial Athletic League coaches. After revealing his superior powers of observation he went on to imply that we quit writing about Jesuit and Christian Brothers football merely because they were losing. Actually he did more than imply it . . . he called you truly a frontrunner . . . and if I understood that word correctly it means you're great when things are going well but if it gets tough, then look out.

Now I'll admit that it's a bit harder to write about something, such as an athletic team, when it has fallen on hard times, because there aren't too many good things to say and you don't like to pry on the bad, especially with school sports because it wouldn't be right to single out those who are not producing or who are making mistakes. They are just kids, playing for fun primarily, and they don't deserve censure in public. But a frontrunner we ain't.

Our plan was to so infuriate the coaches at CBS and Jesuit by ignoring their teams in our column that they would tell their teams to go out and show that so and so O'Brien that they could play well enough to win and make him eat his words.

Well, it half worked.

Christian Brothers topped off their homecoming week with a fine game, resulting in a 17-15 upset of John F. Kennedy High School. They played their best game of the year to do it and relied on a 37 yard field goal by soccer star sophomore Jess Medina for the margin of victory. Medina added two extra points for a total of five and his presence on a fake field goal attempt in the second quarter was so convincing to Kennedy that it enabled holder Marshall Sperbeck to roll out and hit a wide open Jeff Mujjat for the Falcon's second touchdown.

There are plenty of nice things to say.

Junior defensive lineman Robert Ruble who has played well all year picked up a Cougar fumble and scooted like a halfback 52 yards for a score to set the tempo for the evening.

Linebackers Ted Kagianas and Frank Nasca both were in on numerous tackles. Mujjat caught passes and ran draw plays well from his fullback position and even saw duty as a defensive lineman. Kevin Fontes made some nice plays in the secondary. Kirk Murphy, a senior wide receiver made some key catches. Little Vince Wolfe was a big thorn from his defensive end position. And the latest candidate for the injured Richie Simms tailback spot, junior Ron Gill, showed some good signs.

Sperbeck, the regular quarterback, has shown much improvement since the beginning of the year. He entered the game with 42 completions in 99 attempts, a 42 per cent pace, for 521 yards, but hit seven out of nine with 70 interceptions and one touchdown for his contribution to the victory.

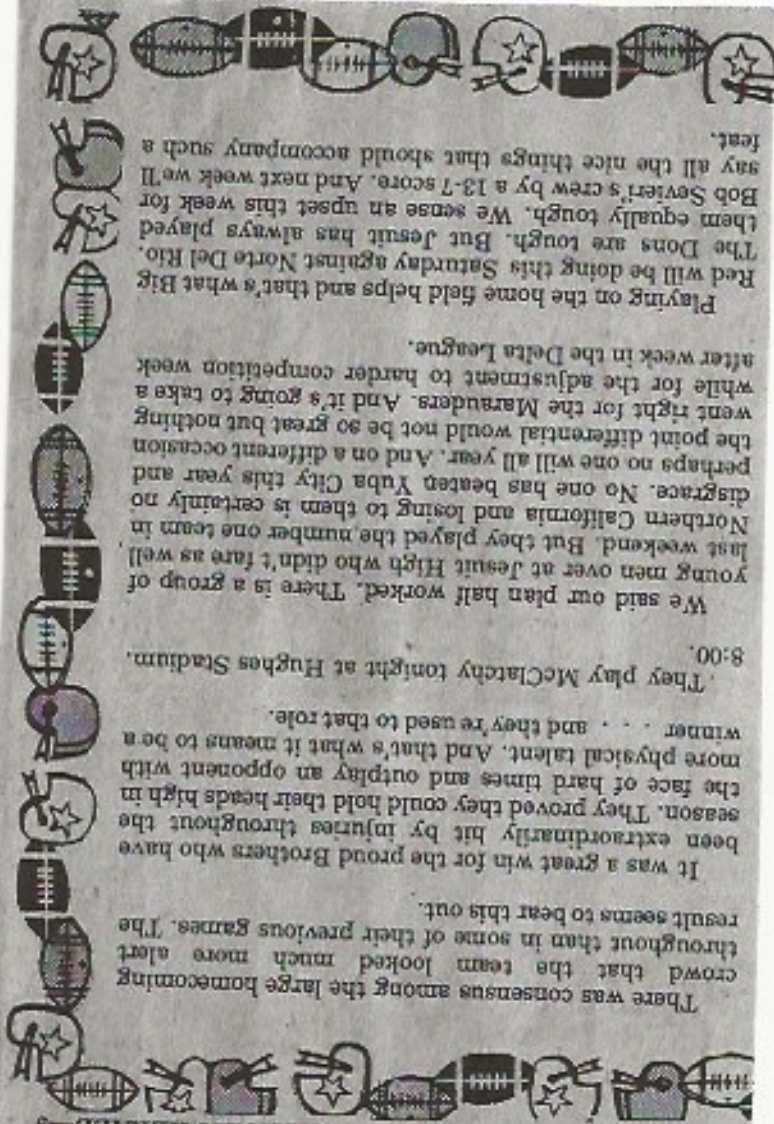
There was consensus among the large homecoming crowd that the team looked much more alert throughout than in some of their previous games. The result seems to bear this out.

It was a great win for the proud Brothers who have been extraordinarily hit by injuries throughout the season. They proved they could hold their heads high in the face of hard times and outplay an opponent with more physical talent. And that's what it means to be a winner . . . and they're used to that role.

They play McClatchy tonight at Hughes Stadium, 8:00.

We said our plan half worked. There is a group of young men over at Jesuit High who didn't fare as well last weekend. But they played the number one team in Northern California and losing to them is certainly no disgrace. No one has beaten Yuba City this year and perhaps no one will all year. And on a different occasion the point differential would not be so great but nothing went right for the Marauders. And it's going to take a while for the adjustment to harder competition week after week in the Delta League.

Playing on the home field helps and that's what Big Red will be doing this Saturday against Norte Del Rio. The Dons are tough. But Jesuit has always played them equally tough. We sense an upset this week for Bob Severi's crew by a 13-7 score. And next week we'll say all the nice things that should accompany such a feat.



# Eighth annual



## Holy Bowl

By Terrence O'Brien

There's only one story this week for followers of this space.

It's Holy Bowl week on the Jesuit and Christian Brothers campuses as their football teams prepare for the eighth renewal of the rivalry which began in 1969. And Holy Bowl VIII is a pivotal one for the series as all squared with three wins and a tie for each school.

The game is coming back to American River Stadium where it began. On two occasions it was played at Sacramento State University field and last year at Cordova Stadium.

The 1969 inaugural was taken by CB by a 20-13 score as running backs dominated; Dennis Berrachi and Danny Galvez getting over a 100 yards apiece for Brothers and Joe Magracina doing likewise for Jesuit.

1970 saw perhaps the best played game of the classic as two defensive giants collided. The Marauders ran a two point conversion in the last minute to turn an undefeated season for the Metro League champions 8-7. The battle between tackles Sarti of Brothers and Czarnocki of Jesuit was one of the highlights. They later became All Coast team mates at Santa Clara.

In 1971, for the second straight year, the game matched two league champions. But the Brothers' rooting section sporting "We remember" Holy Bowl buttons as a reminder of 1970's heart rending defeat, the Falcons erupted all over for a 41-7 win behind Mark Gabrielli's still record 201 yards. Frank Atello also chipped in with 105 on 5 carries to aid in the win.

Again it was turnabout in 1972. This time the Marauders, behind the pin point passing of future Stanford star Larry McGovern, whopped the Falcons 20-0, just a week after the Falcons had lost to Sac High in a bid for their third straight Metro crown. Marty Kloser was an outstanding receiver that night.

The '73 tilt was probably the biggest upset of the

series. Brothers was ranked #1 after winning the Metro title and had the playoffs ahead of them with the advantage of already having whipped their first opponent and the team they would meet in the finals. They were playing a Big Red team that had a mediocre season. But with the incentive of an upset and the help of a driving rainstorm that completely negated CB's awesome air game Jesuit played Brothers to a 0-0 tie. The magnetism of this classic was evidenced by the 4,000 who came out on a night when the teams should not have played.

Brothers made up for it the next year with a 53-28 thrashing of their rival. All American Dan Farnell caught 10 passes and his team mate Steve Sutes hauled in two long scoring tosses.

Last year the game went just about according to form. Jesuit eked out a 7-6 win as both teams entered the fray champions for the fourth time. Joe Riehl, a stellar member of this year's squad starred for Jesuit.

It doesn't matter that both teams will enter Saturday night's contest with their worst records ever. Jesuit is 1-8 and Brothers is 3-6 but this week they have little recollection of the season just completed. This week is a new season for both of them. A one game season to be sure but one that will leave one team with a euphoria and the other with a "wait till next year" attitude. It will be the first time that at least one of the teams has not been a league champion.

Jesuit's fortunes will rest much on the running of Riehl and Matt Androlewicz and the ability of Bill Bagley to pull Phil Cantelme's passes down. They have the bigger line by far. With such stalwarts as 6-1 215 pound Brian Fahy; Tim Wilson at 6-1 and 215; Randy Rourke at 6-3 and 210 and Guy Coe at 6-4, 215 the line advantage goes to the Marauders. Brett Felix at tight end is also a talented receiver.

The offense has offered a nice balance of running and passing but something has usually occurred to

prevent the victory. They met some tough teams in Yuba City, Norte, Rio Americano and Foothill and with the exception of Yuba played them all close. The defense has been respectable with most of the above participating along with Dennis Aguilar and Pete Geremia.

Brothers looked good on paper at the beginning of the year but they are a mere shadow of their former self now due to injuries. Tackles Mike Barbee and Mark Bonner both at 6-4 and 215 have been gone for the season since mid-year. Star runner Rich Simms was hurt in the second game and seen little action since and outstanding linebacker Ted Kagianas never has fully recovered from a knee injury.

But the team has shown remarkable spirit under the circumstances as evidenced by their show of pride before, during and after the Cordova game last week. They are a fighting bunch.

Jeff Muljat, a do everything type, is their spark-plug. He catches passes, runs the ball, returns kicks, plays linebacker and defensive line and leads yells. He will be the main key to the Falcon's chances for success. Along with his senior teammates the Jablonsky brothers, Vince Wolfe, Kirk Murphy, Rick Jasso, Frank Neri, Frank Nasca and Simms, he will be trying to go out a winner.

Marshall Sperbeck, who has thrown for over 700 yards, directs the offense. He has an able corps of receivers in juniors Kevin Fontes who has 16 catches, Lawrence Taylor, 19, and Murphy and Muljat with 17 and 15 respectively. Lineman Robert Ruble has been outstanding on defense as has back Rick Vasile and end Burt Cedros.

It shapes up as a barn burner . . . as it always is. Game time is 8:00 PM.