

# The All-America Blockers

By Bernie McCarty

Wirt Gammon ranks among the most knowledgeable and respected football authorities the South has ever known. He gained national fame among his peers as a sports editor and columnist for the Chattanooga Times.

Gammon began naming an unusual annual football honor team in 1937, the All-America blocking team. In terms of sheer longevity, no all-star choices of any kind by an individual selector lasted as long -- 39 years.

Gammon enlisted aid from top sports writers coast-to-coast in making his selections, and the teams enjoyed wide circulation. But he never bothered to keep a bonafide record of the teams. When this writer began corresponding with Gammon in the late 70s he decided to assemble the complete listings. Gammon never questioned my interest in the selections, and in fact seemed quite pleased that somebody cared. Most of the old-timers in the sportswriting business are wonderful people, quite unlike too many of today's idiotic writers and broadcasters and TV personalities.

In some cases Gammon sent me his original notes because that's all he had in his files. In some cases he had to make a special effort to research data and photocopy teams from the Times files. Never did he request even the price of a postage stamp.

One of Gammon's prime sources for information was the ratings of the Jacobs Blocking Trophy Committee of Clinton, South Carolina, a big deal in the South and Southwest area. Too bad other sections of the country never created similar awards.

The list of regular nationwide contributors to Gammon's "board" of selectors over the years reads like a who's who of the sports media: Tim Cohane of LOOK magazine; Rube Samuelson of the Pasadena Star-News and Times; Stan Woodward of the New York Herald-Tribune; Dick Cullum and Halsey Hall of the Minneapolis Tribune; Pat Harmon of the Cincinnati Post (and present curator of the College Football Hall of Fame); Hank O'Donnell of the Waterbury Republican.

And Walter Robertson, Bill Reeves and George White of the Dallas News; Bill Hoobing and Harold Claason representing the national AP sports desk; Braven Dyer, Dwight Chapin and Jim Murray of the Los Angeles Times; John Carmichael of the Chicago Daily News; and Arthur Daley of the New York Times.

Sports information directors were also key contributors of info. And Gammon contacted leading grid schools nationally "for their own rating of top blockers -- their own and their opponents."

A comment regarding the lists presented below. Gammon appears to have been a poor speller, judging from his original notes regarding the blocking selections. In three rather serious cases, Gammon's spelling errors were etched in stone for all time by Dr. L.H. Baker in his book "Football: Facts and Figures." Baker reprinted the selections of 1937-1944.

The incorrectly spelled names are: Miller, Minnesota tackle 1937 (S/B Louis Midler); Hall, TCU tackle 1938 (S/B I.B. Hale); and Davis, Notre Dame end 1942 (S/a Bob Dove).

## The Selections

1937

E-Frank Souchak, Pittsburgh  
 E-Andy Bershak, No. Carolina  
 T-Ed Beinor, Notre Dame  
 T-Louis Midler, Minnesota  
 G-Leroy Monsky, Alabama  
 G-Vard Stockton, California  
 C-Charlie Brock, Nebraska  
 B-Johnny Meek, California  
 B-George Watson, No. Carolina  
 B-Clarence Boston, Harvard  
 B-Carl Brazell, Baylor

1939

E-Howard Hickey, Arkansas  
 E-Ralph Wenzel, Tulane  
 T-Nick Drahos, Cornell  
 T-George Fritts, Clemson  
 G-Harry Smith, So. California  
 G-Ed Molinski, Tennessee  
 C-John Haman, Northwestern  
 B-Walter Matuszczak, Cornell  
 B-Jim Thomason, Texas A&M  
 B-Sam Bartholomew, Tennessee  
 B-Bob Hoffman, S. California

1941

E-Alyn Beals, Santa Clara  
 E-Mal Kutner, Texas  
 T-Mike Karmazin, Duke  
 T-Dick Wildung, Minnesota  
 G-Chub Peabody, Harvard  
 C-Walter Ruark, Georgia  
 C-Vince Banonis, Detroit  
 B-Jack Jenkins, Vanderbilt  
 B-Don Reece, Missouri  
 B-Vernon Martin, Texas  
 B-Gene Davis, Pennsylvania

1938

E-Earl Brown, Notre Dame  
 E-Carl Spang, Cornell  
 T-Ed Beinor, Notre Dame  
 T-I.B. Hale, Texas Christian  
 G-Harry Smith, So. California  
 G-Bob Suffridge, Tennessee  
 C-Tony Calvelli, Stanford  
 B-Marshall Goldberg, Pittsburgh  
 B-Earl Clark, Texas Christian  
 B-Sam Bartholomew, Tennessee  
 B-Bob Hoffman, So. California

1940

E-Paul Severin, N. Carolina  
 E-Ray Prochaska, Nebraska  
 T-Al Blozis, Georgetown  
 T-Fred Hartman, Rice  
 G-Bob Suffridge, Tennessee  
 G-Ray Frankowski, Washington  
 C-Vic Lindskog, Stanford  
 B-Walter Matuszczak, Cornell  
 B-Jim Thomason, Texas A&M  
 B-Forest Evashevski, Michigan  
 B-Bob Paffrath, Minnesota

1942

E-Bob Dove, Notre Dame  
 E-Joe Swan, Pennsylvania  
 T-Jay Fidler, Brown  
 T-Dick Wildung, Minnesota  
 G-Pete Bellani, St. Mary's  
 G-Harvey Hardy, Georgia Tech  
 C-Joe Domnanovich, Alabama  
 B-Jack Jenkins, Vanderbilt  
 B-George Ceithaml, Michigan (Capt.)  
 B-Pete Sultis, Rice  
 B-Dewey Erickson, Tulsa

1943

E-Joe Parker, Texas  
E-John Monahan, Dartmouth  
T-Jim White, Notre Dame  
T-Charles Malmberg, Rice (Capt.)  
G-John Steber, Georgia Tech  
G-Pat Filley, Notre Dame  
C-Bill Gray, So. California  
B-Bob Odell, Pennsylvania  
B-Gerry Austin, Washington  
B-Bob Wiese, Michigan  
B-Elmer Barbour, Wake Forest

1945

E-Hank Foldberg, Army  
E-Ed Ryan, St. Mary's  
T-DeWitt Coulter, Army  
T-Tom Dean, So. Methodist  
G-Al Sparlis, UCLA  
G-Warren Amling, Ohio State  
C-Vaughn Mancha, Alabama  
B-Felix Blanchard, Army  
B-Nate Watson, Oklahoma A&M  
B-Joe Ponsetto, Michigan  
B-Farquhar Jones, Pennsylvania

1947

E-Art Littleton, Pennsylvania  
E-Tom Fears, UCLA  
T-John Ferraro, So. California  
T-Phil O'Reilly, Purdue  
G-Earl Cook, So. Methodist  
G-Steve Suhey, Penn State  
C-Joe Watson, Rice  
B-Buddy Bowen, Mississippi  
B-Nick Ognovich, Wake Forest  
B-Russ Steger, Illinois  
B-Truitt Smith, Miss. State

1949

E-Dan Foldberg, Army  
E-Leon Hart, Notre Dame  
T-Jim Martin, Notre Dame  
T-Louis Allen, Duke  
G-Rod Franz, California  
G-Stan West, Oklahoma  
C-Joe Watson, Rice  
Q-Win Carter, Missouri  
H-Clarence Avinger, Alabama  
H-George Chandler, Princeton  
F-Frank Kuzma, Minnesota

1944

E-Dave Harris, Wake Forest  
E-Don Wells, Georgia  
T-Al Nemetz, Army  
T-Don Whitmire, Navy  
G-Joe Stanowicz, Auburn  
G-Bill Hackett, Ohio State  
C-Tex Warrington, Auburn  
B-Harold Fischer, Texas  
B-Joe Ponsetto, Michigan  
B-Duane Whitehead, So. California  
B-Felix Blanchard, Army (Capt.)

1946

E-Hank Foldberg, Army  
E-Cy Souders, Ohio State  
T-John Ferraro, So. California  
T-Russ Deal, Indiana  
G-Alex Agase, Illinois  
G-Joe Steffy, Army  
C-Doug Brightwell, Texas Christian  
B-Felix Blanchard, Army  
B-Hal Self, Alabama  
B-Nick Ognovich, Wake Forest  
B-Joe Magliolo, Texas

1948

E-Leon Hart, Notre Dame  
E-Dan Garza, Oregon  
T-Leo Nomellini, Minnesota  
T-Lauri Niemi, Washington State  
G-Paul Burris, Oklahoma  
G-Bill Healy, Georgia Tech  
C-Chuck Bednarik, Pennsylvania  
B-Truitt Smith, Miss. State  
B-Doak Walker, So. Methodist  
B-Chuck Drazenovich, Penn State  
B-Bill Olson, Columbia

To be continued

Illustrations used with this article are from the  
"All-American" series of cards issued by Topps.