

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
SOUTHERN SECTION
(CIFSS)

Seventh historical "tidbit."



85,931

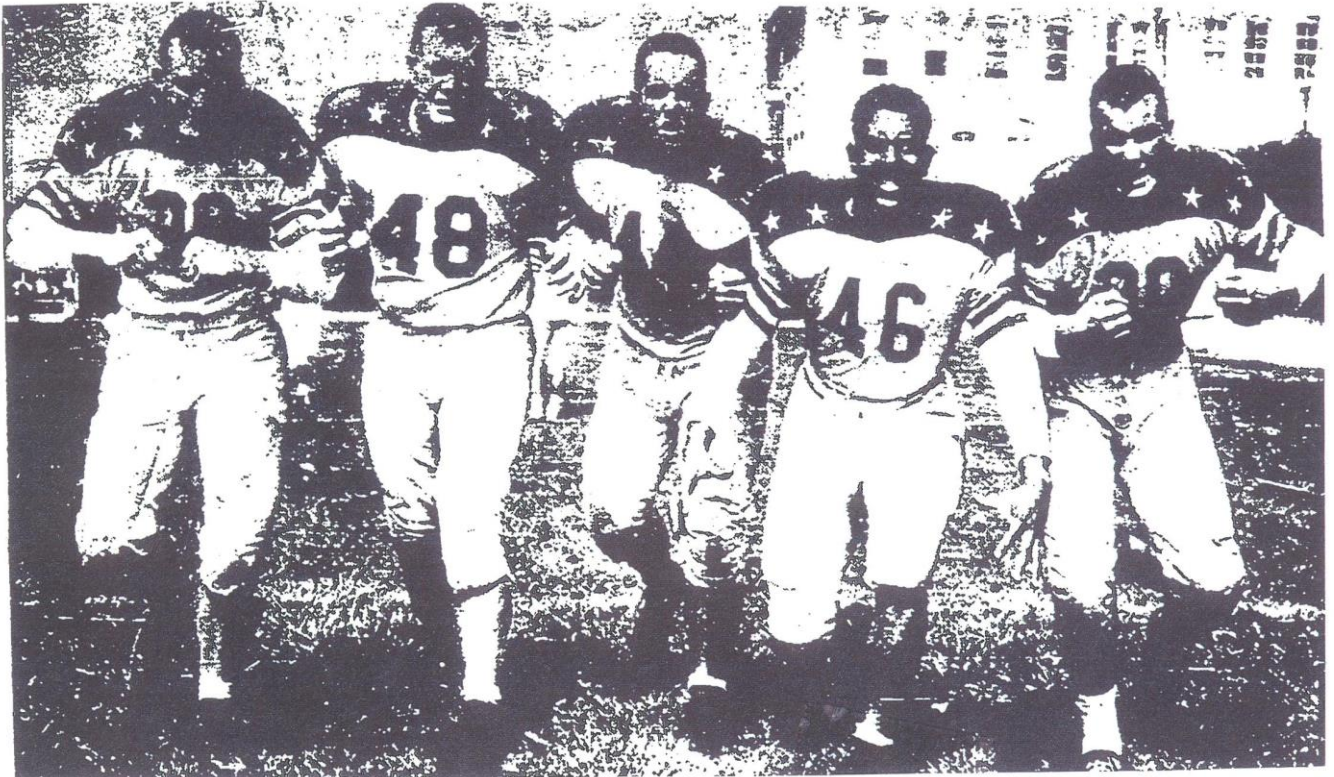
IN ATTENDANCE...5,000 TURNED AWAY



SECOND LARGEST CROWD TO EVER VIEW A
PREP FOOTBALL GAME IN THE UNITED STATES
LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM
JULY 31, 1957

SHRINE NORTH vs. SOUTH ALL-STAR GAME

Featuring the TOUCHDOWN TWINS Mickey Flynn and Randy Meadows
from the South vs. the BEHEMOTHS from the North



NORTHERN BEHEMOTHS—The North will throw plenty of beef against the South tonight at the Coliseum from the looks of these

linemen. From left: Ronald Freese (201), Wayne Clem (230), Gary Leahy (215), L. C. Shields (215) and Charles Moorehouse (200).
Times photo

BREAK FOR KIDS

JOHN DE LA VEGA

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Jul 20, 1957; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1 pg. A2



PREP ALL-STARS—Four who'll see plenty of action in annual Shrine-sponsored North-South All-Star football game July 31 in Coliseum are John Schwartz,

left, of Bellarmine Prep in San Jose; Jerry Mollett, Van Nuys; Walt Arnold, Sacred Heart High of San Francisco, and Mickey Flynn, halfback, Anaheim.

Times photo

BREAK FOR KIDS

Rival North, South Prep Gridders Arrive for Shrine Benefit Game

BY JOHN DE LA VEGA

Right on schedule, the 50 footballers who will form the rival North and South squads in the sixth annual Shrine benefit game July 31 at the Coliseum arrived yesterday, checking in at the Biltmore.

And just a few hours later each gridder had acquired an added admirer and rooter for the game.

After a welcoming luncheon, the lads were bussed to the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital, where each one was assigned to a child.

Memorable Acquaintances

There were many memorable acquaintances made. The impact of seeing so many excited tiny faces, all smiling with nary a hint of the withered, crippled bodies that went with them was terrific. There were plenty of shameless tears on the young gridders' faces.

"It is one thing to know you are playing in a benefit game for a worthy cause. But it is entirely different to see the unfortunate children, completely uninhibited, in

person," was the consensus of the players' comments.

Although all of the patients are under 14, many seemed to know something about football. The most oft asked question was, "Are you going to make a touchdown for me?"

One Thing Sure

One thing is sure. The players and coaching staffs will remember the game itself a long time. But they won't soon forget their visit to the hospital, either.

Altogether, the lads had a busy day. After reporting at 11 a.m., the two squads

formed lines at the hotel, where photographers took their program pictures. They also filled out questionnaires.

Next was a welcoming luncheon, with Dr. Vierling Kersey, assistant game director, doing the honors in place of Headman Elmer Bromley, who was due back from the Midwest later in the day.

After the hospital visit came meetings with the coaches, followed by dinner and free time until the curfew.

Today the work starts. After physical exams and equipment issues, the gridgers will loosen up and take their first signal drills.

South Rules Pick Tonight Over North

BY JOHN DE LA VEGA

Despite statements that the North will field its best team yet, the South rules a solid 13-point choice in the Sixth Annual Midsummer Night's Shrine football game at the Coliseum tonight.

The spectacular pageant, as usual, will dazzle the early arrivals, starting at 7:30 p.m. The kickoff is set for 9 p.m., with more than 60,000 expected.

Coliseum ticket offices will be open today from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with general admission tickets (\$1.00

Sixth Annual



SHRINE

FOOTBALL
GAME
and
PAGEANT



SOUVENIR PROGRAM
\$.4808 Selling Price
.0192 Sales Tax
Total Price **50¢**

*Strong legs run
that weak legs may walk*



MICKEY FLYNN
Anaheim



RON PUCKETT
Antelope Valley



ROY BOTTINI
Helix, San Diego



DARRYL EISNER
Santa Maria



DENNY MARTIN
Van Nuys



RANDY MEADOWS
Downey



GARY FREDERICK
Anaheim



BILL MONK
Oxnard



ART GILMORE
Riverside Polytechnic

OUTH



TIM ALEXANDER
Eagle Rock



JACK TRUMBO
Downey

OUTH



JOE AVITIA
Anaheim



ANDY PUTNAM
Santa Barbara



GEORGE VAN VLIET
Whittier



DAVE OKURA
Downey



JERRY MOLLETT
Van Nuys



DOUG FURUTA
Los Angeles



DEAN MOORE
Redondo Beach



PHIL TOORVALD
Hamilton



JIM BLAIR
Beverly Hills

NORTH PREPS STUN SOUTH BEFORE 85,931
JOHN DE LA VEGA

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Aug 1, 1957; ProQuest Histori
 pg. C1

NORTH PREPS STUN SOUTH BEFORE 85,931

Shrine Tilt Invaders Win, 32-0

BY JOHN DE LA VEGA

Before a bewildered throng of 85,931 that shattered the attendance record for the Shrine game, the North unleashed an awesome display of power and deception to completely baffle a favored South team, 32-0, at the Coliseum last night.

The vaunted South backs, Mickey Flynn, Randy Meadows, Jerry Mollett, et al, never had a chance. For one thing, the Southerners seldom got the ball. And when they did the line was completely outcharged.

It was a record rout, and new highs for the series were

How They Scored

North	South	Time
6	0	TRUMBOW 4-rod run... 06:11
SECOND QUARTER		
13	0	URENDA 1-rod ahead... 07:27
13	0	URENDA conversion... 11:27
26	0	SCHWARTZ 1-rod sneak... 13:28
26	0	URENDA conversion
FOURTH QUARTER		
26	0	URENDA 14-rod run with interrupted pass

recorded in practically every phase of gaining by ground. The most important record was the size of the crowd, since the benefits go toward maintaining the Shrine's Crippled Children's Hospital. The previous high, last year, was 56,859.

Records by the North included total points, 32, the old mark being set last year when the North scored its first victory, 21-6. It was the first time the South had been blanked.

The visiting backs, a beautiful combination of speedsters and power plungers, marched up 18 first downs, another topper, and also gained 294 total yards for another new entry in the books. Herman Urenda, 160-pound

flashback from Liberty High in Brentwood, was the North's spark. He scored two touchdowns and two extra

points, the 14 digits being a record. He set an individual standard of 104 yards gained on 15 carries, a 6.9 average.

For his heroic efforts, Urenda was named the game's star of stars. John Schwartz, the North's smooth and steady quarterback from Bellarmine in San Jose was next in the balloting, 24-13.

The rout started early as the visitors put over three TD's in the first half for a 19-0 lead and never let the South get going.

Lose Fumble

The South had good position right at the start, a second and two on the South 49. But then Jack Trumbo, the starting quarterback, lost 9 attempting to pass and Fullback Jerry Mollett fumbled and Andy Segale, a bearcat in the North line, recovered on the South 42.

Few figured that was to set the pattern for the night but that's exactly what it was.

With Urenda, Fullback Walt Arnold and Gerald Traynham packing the hoghide behind beautiful blocking, the North marched 42 yards in 8 plays for its inaugural score. Traynham cut off tackle the final 4 yards and Urenda missed the extra point.

Blow Chance

Shortly after the South had its one and only sniff of the goal line and blew it real easy. Tackle Phil Toorvald recovered a fumble on the North 23 but on the first play John MacAdam, the new QB, bobbled it right back.

The North gobbled up most of the second quarter with a 78-yard advance in 14 plays, Urenda waltzing over from the 4. The South was completely fooled, expecting a fullback plunge.

The third tally came with just 23 seconds left in the half. It was a 48-yard move in 6 plays, with Halfback Larry Iwasaki contributing the big gainer, 23 yards on the short end run that had the South baffled all night. Urenda scored from the 14.

Parting Gift

The North mixed in a couple of passes to record its fourth TD, late in the third. Schwartz pitched for 8-yarders to Iwasaki and Urenda. It took 10 plays to advance 64 yards, to the 1. From there Schwartz escorted it over on a sneak.

The last six-pointer was a parting gift, in the final three minutes. Backed up to their own 13 on a neat punt out of bounds by Schwartz, the long-panicked South tried a pass.

MacAdam tossed it, intended for Flynn, but it was right at Segale in the clear on the 24. He raced back over the goal, untouched.

The South wound up with only three first downs, a net of only 57 yards and only 35 scrimmage plays to the North's 65. Flynn gained 4 yards in 3 tries, Meadows 5 in 2, Mollett 26 in 10.

SCORE BY QUARTERS		North	South	
North	.....	6	13
South	.....	0	0
STATISTICS				
		North	South	
Total yards gained running	.....	263	78
Yards lost running	.....	16	21
Net yards gained running	.....	247	57
Passes attempted	.....	7	5
Passes completed	.....	4	1
Passes had intercepted	.....	1	0
Passes incomplete	.....	2	0
Total yards gained passing	.....	47	0
Yards intercepted passing rec.	.....	24	0
Total net yds. gained—	.....	294	57
Running & passing	.....	17	3
First downs running	.....	17	3
First downs passing	.....	1	0
First downs from penalties	.....	0	0
Total first downs	.....	18	3
Scrimmage plays	.....	65	35
Punts	.....	1	1
Total yardage of punts	.....	133	120
Avg. length of punts	.....	33.25	43.33
Penalties	.....	3	0
Yards lost on penalties	.....	35	0
Fumbles	.....	2	2
Own fumbles recovered	.....	1	1
Ball lost on fumbles	.....	1	1
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				
RUSHING				
North—	TC	TY	Yd	Avg.
Urenda	15	104	6.9	6.56
Iwasaki	9	30	3.3	3.58
Arnold	17	78	4.6	4.58
Traynham	6	18	3.0	3.00
Schwartz	3	7	2.3	2.33
Osaka	1	0	0	-11.00
Thomas	1	0	0	3.00
McMillan	1	0	0	-2.00
Knight	1	0	0	-1.00
Totals	54	263	4.86	4.46
South—	TC	TY	Yd	Avg.
Mollett	10	31	3.1	3.10
Meadows	2	5	2.5	2.50
Flynn	6	2	0.3	0.33
Trumbo	3	17	5.7	5.70
McAdam	1	0	0	-1.00
Gilmore	3	0	0	3.00
Monk	2	10	5.0	5.00
Elmer	1	0	0	0.00
Totals	27	78	2.9	2.91
PASSING				
North	PA	FC	Int.	TY
Schwartz	5	3	1	24
Urenda	2	1	0	23
Totals	7	4	1	47
South	PA	FC	Int.	TY
Trumbo	2	0	0	0
Totals	2	0	0	0
PASS RECEIVERS				
North	No.	TY		
Iwasaki	2	31		
Nikolai	1	8		
Urenda	1	8		
Totals	4	47		

- NORTH ALL-STARS**
 LE—Nikolai, Finch, Thomas.
 LT—Leahy, Nika, Fretze, Clem.
 LG—Victor, Guida.
 C—Segale, Overstreet, Pritchard.
 RG—Morehouse, Butcher.
 RT—Shields.
 RE—Honore, Walters.
 Q—Schwartz, Osaka.
 LB—Urenda, McMillan, Iwasaki.
 RB—Traynham, Knight.
 F—Arnold.

- SOUTH ALL-STARS**
 LE—Blair, Alexander.
 LT—Phor, Toorvald, Cornell.
 LG—Furuta, Bottini, Martin.
 C—Ledbetter, Edwards.
 RG—Osaka, Avilla.
 RT—Puckett.
 RE—Van Vleet, Putnam, Frederick.
 Q—Trumbo, McAdam, Elmer.
 LB—Flynn, Gilmore, Moore.
 RB—Meadows, Monk.
 F—Mollett.

OFFICIALS—Referee, Barkham Garner, umpire, Dave Schwartz; head linesman, P. Ambrose Schindler; head linesman, Ken Fagan; assistant head linesman, Norma Duncan.



NORTH MARCHES ON—Herman Urenda, voted star of game for performance on North team in Shrine contest, carries ball to

South's 12, Adrian Ledbetter of Brea-Olinda and George Van Vliet (43) of Whittier make tackle. North won Coliseum contest, 32-0

PROOF

'Star Backs Don't Win Ball Games!'

BY MAL FLORENCE

"This game proved one thing, backs don't win ball games."

And everyone who heard South Co-coach Clare Van Hoorebeke make this emphatic statement in the dressing room following the North's smothering 32-0 victory over the Southland All-Stars last night at the Coliseum was in complete agreement.

The South, with its heralded backs (Mickey Flynn, Randy Meadows and Jerry Mollett) couldn't get untracked as the massive north line easily held them in check.

Paltry Yardage

Flynn and Meadows, co-CIF players of the year in 1956, made a net of nine paltry yards between them while Mollett, the city's top griddy last season, was the South's leading ground gainer with 26 yards.

Both Van Hoorebeke (Anaheim High School) and Winston Tucker (Van Nuys) the other South mentor, weren't surprised at the sieve-like play of their line.

"We told you fellows earlier (referring to the press) that we didn't have a mobile, aggressive line and it was borne out tonight," Tucker said sadly.

Made Job Easy

Johnny Schwartz, the clever North QB and son of Marchy Schwartz, famed Notre Dame star of the early '30s, didn't hold the South line in very high esteem.

"They made my job easy," said the soft-spoken Bellarmine "San Jose" signal caller. "We only used three basic plays—trap, up the middle and off tackle," continued Johnny.

North Co-coach Richard Pierucci, 28-year-old tutor at San Juan High in Fair Oaks, couldn't say enough things about his line. "Andy Sfgale, Joe Butcher, Mike Watters, all of 'em, were great."

Preps Head Home After 32-0 Debacle of South

JOHN DE LA VEGA

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File): Aug 2, 1957; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1985)
pg. C7

Preps Head Home After 32-0 Debacle of South

BY JOHN DE LA VEGA
It was with decidedly mixed emotions that the North and South squads broke camp and dispersed to their homes yesterday following the visitors' ridiculously easy 32-0 victory in the sixth annual Shrine benefit football game at the Coliseum Wednesday night.

The 50 recently graduated high schoolers did have one thing in common. All were grateful for the whopping throng of 85,931 that turned out. Proceeds go toward maintaining the Shriners' Crippled Childrens' Hospital.

Inept Showing
But it was also mighty embarrassing for the South to have so many witnesses to their totally inept showing. The game, as most tussles are, was won in the front trenches. There the Southlanders were whipped, whaled and walloped, both offensively and defensively.

The North scored in every quarter, picking up two touchdowns in the second quarter for a 19-0 halftime lead. Herman Urenda, 160-pound scooter from Liberty High in Brentwood, was the North's offensive star but Quarterback John Schwartz also deserves plenty of praise.

Urenda scored two touchdowns, converted twice, gained 104 yards in 15 tries for a 6.9 average. He was voted the game's Star of Stars. The North hung up all sorts of series records, including their total yardage of 294 and first downs, 18. The South netted only 57 yards made three first downs.

The North scored in the first on a 42-yard drive in 8 plays; twice in the second on advances of 78 and 48; once in the third on a move of 66 yards and the finale on an in-

tercepted pass and return of 24 yards by Guard Andy Sfgale.

How to explain the South's pitiful showing?

Okay, let's face it. Coaches Winston Tucker and Clare Van Hoorebeke didn't have the linemen. Specifically, they lacked speed. Judging by the number of injuries right off the bat, the boys didn't report in very good shape.

Thus, the staff was unable to stage a single scrimmage. Their two best linebackers, Bob Edwards and Joe Avitia, were so badly injured that they were doubtful players right until kickoff time.

Offensively, the South probably could have done much better with a straight T instead of the split. They had the ideal material with the fleet Mickey Flynn, Randy Meadows and Jerry Mollett, plus Quarterback Jack Trumbo.

The system was new to Trumbo, Flynn and Meadows. Thus the elements of speed and deception, which could possibly have compensated for an inept line, were nullified.

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
North	6	13	7	6-32
South	0	0	0	0-0
FIRST QUARTER				
N	6	0	Traynham, 4-yd. run	8:49
SECOND QUARTER				
12	0	Urenda, 1-yd. and run	7:27	
13	0	Urenda, conversion		
19	0	Urenda, 14-yd. run	11:27	
THIRD QUARTER				
25	0	Schwartz, 1-yd. QB sneak	9:21	
26	0	Urenda, conversion		
FOURTH QUARTER				
32	0	Sfgale, 24-yd. interception of MacAdam's pass	8:59	



JAYNE KAMIN / Los Angeles Times

Mickey Flynn, the ex-Anaheim High School star (inset) who was "never really comfortable with all the notoriety" but who helped "put Orange County on the map," poses in the trophy room/bathroom of his home at Seal Beach.



Oh, They Were Big, Very Big

The Touchdown Twins Put 85,931 in Coliseum

By CHRIS BAKER, Times Staff Writer LAT 7/12/82

What ever happened to the Touchdown Twins—halfbacks Mickey Flynn of Anaheim High and Randy Meadows of Downey High, the 1956 CIF co-Players of the Year?

Nicknamed by the late Times sportswriter John De La Vega because they had similar builds and were both high scorers (a combined 88 touchdowns from 1954-56), Flynn (5-10, 165) and Meadows (5-11, 170) were big names in the Southland in the mid-1950s.

High school football was front-page news in the days before TV saturated pro sports and major-league teams like the Dodgers, Angels, Lakers and Kings began playing in the area.

Another factor was that there were fewer high schools then, making it easier for casual fans to identify with star players and top teams. Meadows and Flynn, who played at schools fewer than 10 miles apart, were among the most-publicized Southland athletes ever.

Meadows, 43, recalled those days in a telephone interview from his home on a ranch outside Las Vegas. "The news media just ate us up," he said.

"Initially, I didn't know how to accept it (the publicity). I was a shy, withdrawn kid who had just moved from a small town (Valdosta) in Georgia, and it was difficult for me to accept that much adulation. Mothers would send me pictures of sons that they had named after me. It didn't allow me to make too many mistakes."

Flynn, 44, said in a telephone interview from his home in Seal Beach: "The publicity took a lot out of me. I was never really comfortable with all the notoriety. But I guess I did help put Orange County on the map."

It was 25 years ago this month—July 31, 1957—that a record crowd of 85,931 fans, second largest ever to see a prep football game in this country, came to the Coliseum on a steamy night (80 degrees at the 9 o'clock kickoff) to watch Flynn and Meadows play for the South team in the Shrine All-Star high-school football game. A reported 5,000 fans

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Continued from First Page

were turned away because game officials feared over-selling the place. Some fans sat in the aisles.

Longtime football fans still talk about the event, the high-water mark of Southern California prep football. The crowd may never be matched. Certainly the price was right. General admission tickets were \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students. Reserved seats were \$1.50 and \$3. The all-time national prep football attendance mark is 120,000 in 1937 at Chicago's Soldier Field for a game matching St. Leo High and Austin High.

Shrine officials, who had expected about 60,000, were surprised by the turnout.

"It was a magnificent evening but it will never happen again because the sports dollar is so divided," Shriner Walker S. Kisselburgh said of the 1957 event. "All the ingredients were there. And we may have been helped by the weather, too. It was a hot, humid evening and air conditioning hadn't caught on yet. We were staggered by the amount of people that came."

Media interest was intense. There were advance stories in The Times every day for two weeks. The sponsoring Al Malaikah Temple flew in Northern California sportswriters and put them up in a hotel.

"It was a big event, like an SC-UCLA game or a Rose Bowl," Shrine publicist Jerry Weiner recalls. "It had all the right ingredients. Meadows and Flynn had consecutive numbers and we introduced them last. They burst out of a giant fez (Shriner hat) in the middle of the field."

The buildup actually began at the 1956 CIF championship game Dec. 14 at the Coliseum, which matched Flynn and unbeaten Anaheim against Meadows and unbeaten Downey. The pregame story in The Times—headlined "Anaheim, Downey in Titanic"—was the lead story in the sports section that morning and there were large posed action shots of Flynn and Meadows with the caption: "Prep Phenoms Collide."

The CIF, which had no publicity staff then, expected 30,000 fans. But 41,383, largest crowd ever for a CIF championship game, saw the dream game end in a 13-13 tie.

The North Was Waiting

Like their teams, Flynn and Meadows played to a standoff. Each had one long touchdown run. Flynn scored on a 62-yarder with 2:45 left in the first quarter. Old-timers recall that Meadows had a shot at tackling Flynn, getting a hand on his pants. Meadows scored on a 69-yard run with 56 seconds left in the first quarter.

Their final statistics were close. Flynn gained 134 yards on 17 carries, a 13.4-yard average. Meadows had 112 yards on 10 carries, an 11.2 average.

"When people left the Coliseum they were already talking about Meadows and Flynn teaming in the Shrine game," Weiner recalled.

The South Shrine team had a stable of star backs. In addition to Meadows and Flynn at halfback, there was fullback Jerry Mollett of Van Nuys, the 1955-56 City scoring champ, and halfback Art Gilmore of Riverside High. The South had so many quality backs that co-coach Clare van Hoorbeke didn't decide on a starting lineup until just before the game.

In retrospect, it appears that the North coaches set up the South for a fall, setting a trap for Meadows and Flynn with a defensive wall of massive linemen. And they did a psych job on the media, too.

Weiner recalled this incident: "When the reporters and photographers showed up at press day at the North camp at Whittier College, the North Coach, John Hanna (of Dellarmime High in San Jose), came up to them and said, 'What are you doing here? You boys should be over at the South camp taking pictures of Meadows and Flynn.'"

Sportswriter De La Vega's advance story of July 31, 1957, said the North was a 13-point underdog. The last paragraph of the story said: "Frankly, we don't know

and photographers showed up at press day at the North camp at Whittier College, the North Coach, John Hanna (of Dellarmime High in San Jose), came up to them and said, 'What are you doing here? You boys should be over at the South camp taking pictures of Meadows and Flynn.'"

Sportswriter De La Vega's advance story of July 31, 1957, said the North was a 13-point underdog. The last paragraph of the story said: "Frankly, we don't know how good the North really is. But this South gang is a real good group. If anybody can put the collar on 'em, we'd have to see it."

What happened was a shock.

Flynn and Meadows were held to a combined net total of just nine yards (Meadows gained 5 yards in 2 carries, Flynn 4 yards in 3 carries) as the North stunned the South, 32-0. The crowd was silent most of the night.

Times sportswriter Mal Florence wrote: "This game proved one thing, backs don't win ballgames. And all who heard South co-coach Clare Van Hoorbeke make this emphatic statement in the dressing room following

the North's smothering 32-0 victory over the Southland All-Stars last night at the Coliseum in complete agreement."

Asked what went wrong, Meadows said the other day: "It was a fiasco. I went into practice a little out of shape. Now that I look back at it, I have to feel it was a mistake for us to play the type of offense we did. Both Mickey and I were tight T-formation backs, and we used a split T. The holes just weren't there."

Flynn said: "I'd just as soon not talk about it. We were favored by about 30 points and we lost by 32."

The game was the last hurrah for Meadows and Flynn. The Touchdown Twins drifted afterward into routine lives and jobs. But longtime prep fans still remember their accomplishments.

Meadows ranks seventh on the all-time CIF single-season rushing list with 2,128 yards and 30 touchdowns in 1956. He scored 21 touchdowns from more than 50 yards out. He gained 393 yards on just 12 carries in a CIF semifinal playoff game against Antelope Valley, including touchdown runs of 75, 65, 65 and 50 yards.

Flynn scored 44 touchdowns in 22 games in 1955-56. Despite being a marked man, he averaged a touchdown every fourth time he carried the ball. He rushed for 1,377 yards in 94 carries in 1956. He ranks 18th on the all-time CIF career rushing list, with 3,651 yards and 55 touchdowns.

Although they ran out of the same offensive set, the tight T formation, they had different styles. Flynn was a quick, agile speedster, Meadows an explosive runner who burst through holes.

Meadows was theatrical. Old-timers say he had to be carried off the field in every game during his senior season, but would eventually return, to a roar from the crowd, to win the game.

Flynn said playing football under the legendary Coach Van Hoorbeke at Anaheim High helped straighten him out.

"I was a white *pachuco* (gang member)," Flynn said. "It's the old story; I got straightened out by football."

But football didn't open any doors for Meadows and Flynn after school. Both had forgettable college careers.

Meadows played as a freshman at USC in 1957 but after a year transferred to Long Beach City College. He left school to enlist in the Army and played on service football teams in West Germany.

"When I came out of the Army I thought about going back to SC, but I had lost interest in college and the old spark wasn't there," Meadows said. "I think you could describe me as a mediocre college football player. I'm sure I've disappointed a lot of people by now."

"I was very fortunate to have good coaches in high school. I came out to Southern California . . . with my mother and sister after my parents were divorced. I

wasn't going to play football, but I went out for the JV team and I was real fortunate to get a coach (Dick Hill) who brought out a lot in me. I really would have liked to have been a high-school coach, but I didn't finish college."

After leaving the Army, he sold lawn mowers in South Gate, managed a lawn-mower store in Hollywood, Fla., worked for a boat-manufacturing company in Miami, and now is a boilermaker at a Southern California Edison powerplant in Moapa, Nev., 56 miles outside Las Vegas. He lives there with his wife and three daughters on a 10-acre ranch a mile away from one owned by entertainer Wayne Newton. He said he has been married four times.

Asked if he has any regrets over what might have been, Meadows said: "You ask me that question and I'm here sitting looking at my beautiful wife and daughters. As a football player I have no regrets. I had my heyday. I had more publicity than most high-school athletes. I don't have any qualms about what happened to me in football. I get self-satisfaction from coaching Little League baseball and football."

Meadows said he is fit at 6-0, 164 pounds, six pounds under his high school weight. "I don't have the old tell-tale potbelly that goes with being a 40-year old man," he said, "I play a lot of tennis and do a lot of hunting."

A weight problem, injuries and marriage contributed to the end of Flynn's collegiate football career. He had hoped to attend USC with Meadows, but enrolled at Long Beach City College to get his grades up. He still didn't

have the grades to get into the USC after a year, so he transferred to Arizona State, where he lasted one season.

Flynn, who said he ballooned from 165 to 190 pounds, enrolled at Santa Ana College in 1959 and quit in the middle of the season after a shoulder injury. By then he had a family to support. His wife Kathy, whom he met at LBCC, was pregnant with twins Shelly and Julie Ann. He went to work as a backhoe operator for a construction company, digging trenches.

"After I quit Santa Ana College, the Green Bay Packers called and said they wanted to draft me," Flynn said. "But they would have had to wait two years to draft me (Flynn entered college with the class of 1961), and I had to think about my family. Besides, they had some pretty good backs like Jim Taylor."

He added: "I have no regrets, I'm happy with the way everything went. I don't look back."

He recently gave up operating backhoes to do sales and public relations work for a company which rents construction equipment. He said his name helps open doors.

"I've never lived off being Mickey Flynn . . . but I enjoy seeing my name in the paper and it's nice that people still recognize me. I'll go to an oil field (on his job) and guys will hear my name and remember me."

Flynn, who has battled a weight problem since he left high school, said he now weighs 215 pounds. And, he quipped, "I'm still sexier than hell and good looking." The only exercise he gets is on bicycle rides down the Pacific Coast Highway.

Flynn has five children—twins Shelly and Julie Ann, 22; Katie, 21; John, 20; Aaron, 18, and Kelly, 16. He recently became a grandfather when Shelly had twins.

He is a charter inductee into the Orange County Sports Hall of Fame at Anaheim Stadium, and serves on the hall's board of directors.

Flynn and Meadows said they haven't seen or talked to each other in several years. And the Shriners plan no activity to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 1957 game.

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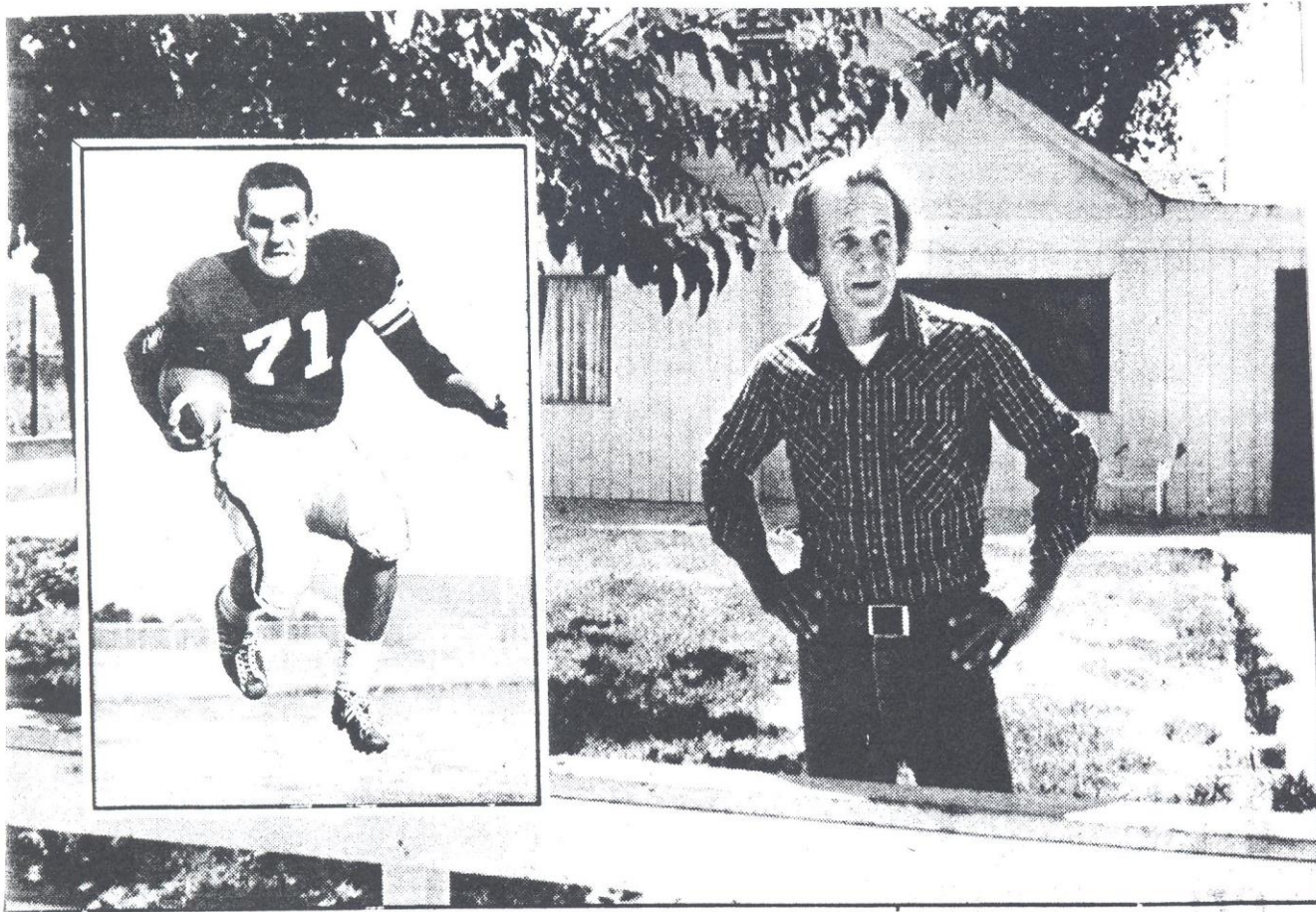
Like the college careers of Meadows and Flynn, the Shrine game has faded from the limelight in recent years.

Even with players such as Vince Ferragamo, John Elway, Jim Plunkett, Mike Garrett and Kerwin Bell, the game has failed to regain the massive crowds of the late-1950s.

It switched to an all-Southern California format after the 1973 game drew just 29,496. In 1974 the event was moved from the Coliseum to the Rose Bowl, where attendance has been around 35,000. The largest Rose Bowl turnout was 40,214 in 1978 for quarterback Ron Cuccia of L.A. Wilson High and tailback Willie Gittens of Fountain Valley High.

A crowd of about 30,000 is expected for the 31st game Saturday night at 8 at the Rose Bowl. The game will be televised live by Channel 11.

The Shrine Game has to fight harder for the sports dollar now. For example, it will be against a Dodgers-Mets game and the Super Bowl of Motocross. The 1981 Shrine game had no competition because of last year's baseball strike, and drew 36,281.



Associated Press

Randy Meadows, the other half of the Touchdown Twins (as Downey High star, inset), relaxes at his ranch outside Las Vegas.



Football memories come alive for the Meadows family who peruse a scrapbook of clippings of the high school feats of Randy Meadows (left). Looking on (from left) are Denise, 14, wife Donna, EvaLyn, 1, and mother-in-law Ann Nunchuck.

Associated Press