Now College Recruiters
Can't Afford a Mistake

All right, football coaches. Step right up and turn those 30 animals this year into men as fast as rabbits and as big as cows. Make sure they out-tackle, out-pass, and out-play the boys from the big schools. Profit's sake, be positive they don't drink, smoke or run around at night or anything like that.

You better, because if you don't might be cancelling a few football games in four years.

As you know, NCAA university division schools everybody could use at least 30 new men this year. That's down from something like 100. In the current two-platoon system, it takes at least 32 to play the game. Add a field goal kicker and a punter and you've got six left to play around with.

Consider:
It is now August 30 in Blacksburg, Virginia. Tech has signed 30 freshmen and it is now time for them to report on campus and prospects wonder into head coach Charlie Coffey's office.

"Coach," the recruit says, "there is no use kidding us. I'm going to be a football player for Virginia Tech, and I want to be a starter. I want to play high school football, but I played my boyhood want-ed me to. I know I was a good running back, but it was because I was scared to get tackled. To tell the truth, coach, I don't want to go through four years of agony. So, adieu.

Surprises Sometime Pop Up

Suddenly, 30 turns to 29.
And, 30 freshmen walks out of Coffey's office.

"By, Coach," he murmured, "my girl friend is standing outside in the hall. She wants me married."

"Well, son," said coach Coffey, "I'd better get going home. I think I'm going to be alone in the world."

Suddenly, 29 turns to 28.

You think that's funny? Well, it happens. And after this year, 28 even the top New Recruiters, the big freshman from E.C. Glass who was an outstanding prospect in the country, must find a way to make himself. The football instead practice began this fall he didn't want to play football anymore.

Then there was the player whom freshman coach Terry Don Phillips recruited. Shorty before practices were to begin, he was "cutted" into the ministry. He is now paying his own way to a bible college.

"I'm not putting any knok on the Lord," says Carl Ellis, the defensive tackle coach at Tech who has had quite a few problems with freshmen, "but with the 30 rule, you had better make sure your prospects have a strong faith in football instead of preaching. We just can't make any mistakes."

Result of New Rule Unknown

There is kind of speculation, but nobody really knows what effect the 30 rule will have on college football.

"Once we get a dose of this, then we'll know our problems. Right now we can only project. Ev-erybody is in for a surprise," says Bill E. Godfrey of Tennessee, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, everybody.

"I call it recruiters' syndrome. You start look-ing at a high school player. He's not going to have to play center."

"We're looking at a good player, but he hasn't got to have him. The more you look at, the more you say, "can he play?" It's sort of like the science-mad professor. When you do this every day, when you watch miles and miles of film, all of the sudden you just don't know how to rate them."

In other words, there won't be many of those marginal players taken this year. There won't be many of those you hope will end up as2 and G's."

"If there are," says Ellis, "it will be an out-landed mistake.

Average Isn't Good Enough Now

"You take the average football fan off the street and ask him who's your big playguy. He can tell you the player who is 54 and 104 pounds, and the 140-pound guy."

"But the recruiter is really going to make it to find the 140-pound player who is the "gray" player. Anybody can tell a ski. But who can tell if a player can really get it done."

"See, last year you could recruit the guy who was only 140 pounds, and if he was a 57 he could get him. We told ourselves we could work. the work. But we could teach him to run, but we couldn't teach somebody else to be 64 and 152."

"And these are good days. Now, you don't recruit just size. You better make sure you're choosing right."

"I started at Tennessee for two years and a captain my senior year. I thought I was a pretty good football player. If it was my living, I was recruiting and we had the 30 rule, I wouldn't recruit."

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