

Mercy Bowl Puts Meaning Into Thanksgiving

By JACK DISNEY

Remember last Thanksgiving Day? How'd you spend it?

Probably with your family. Turkey and cranberry sauce. Good cheer and gratitude.

As originally intended, Thanksgiving was a warm, festive occasion last year—for most families.

But not for the Ray Porras family of Los Angeles. And not for the families of Porras' many friends at California Polytechnic Institute in San Luis Obispo.

Ray Porras' wife and four daughters didn't have a Thanksgiving last year.

Twenty-eight days before, the head of their family had boarded a charter aircraft at Toledo, Ohio.

Ray and his Cal Poly football teammates were downhearted as they awaited takeoff. They'd been trounced by Bowling Green, 50-6, a few hours earlier. Their gloominess seemed to be intensified by inclement weather.

You'll recall what happened. The plane never left

Toledo airport. It crashed after barely getting off the ground.

Ray never made it home for Thanksgiving. Neither did 16 of his comrades aboard the flight. They were dead.

Other passengers spent the holiday in hospitals—maimed for life. But thankful to be alive.

By the grace of God, they had survived the most horrendous sports disaster in American history.

Life for those that survived, however, seemed a hopeless struggle. Medical bills couldn't be met. Funeral bills couldn't be paid.

The airline involved went bankrupt. The insurance company alleged that he airline had invalidated its contract by not maintaining safety requirements. Hence, no payoff.

Cal Poly's NCAA insurance policy benefited each family involved approximately \$5000. Another \$60,000 total was raised through solicitations of newsmen.

These funds helped only temporarily. Much more was needed—an estimated \$300,000. The plight indeed

appeared hopeless.

Now, there is hope, however, for the survivors and families of those who crashed. They're actually looking forward to Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 1961.

At 11 o'clock that morning, the Mercy Bowl football game will be played at the Memorial Coliseum. Two of finest small college grid teams in the nation will be matched.

Appropriately, Bowling Green is the eastern representative. Unbeaten Fresno State is likely to represent the West Coast.

Every penny raised from the game will help to defray mounting costs resulting from the air tragedy. Ticket sales already have brought in \$20,000. But \$280,000 more is needed.

Everyone connected with the contest will pay his own way—players, officials, ushers and sports writers. The Coliseum Commission has donated its playing facilities.

Collegiate football players throughout the country have been asked to purchase tickets. In turn, these

ducats will be turned over to underprivileged children.

Eight married men perished in the tragedy. It is the ultimate hope of host Los Angeles State College that enough money can be raised to provide trust funds for 11 child survivors.

Other kids anticipate Christmas and their birthdays. But not those of the Cal Poly dead. They're awaiting a Day of Thanks.

How do you plan to spend next Thanksgiving Day?

Why not thank yourself that evening? Thank yourself for helping some unfortunate, needy families of ex-athletes.

In a sense, a sports event cost many lives. Another sports event can bring new life to the survivors.

Mercy Bowl tickets are priced at \$3—about half the price of a turkey. They can be purchased at all Southern California Automobile Club offices, the Coliseum, Los Angeles State College and the Helms Athletic Foundation.

With our help, the Cal Poly air disaster survivors will have a "Thanks-Living" day.

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| KASK — 1510 | KFWB — 980 | KPOL — 1540 |
| KAVL — 610 | KGBS — 1020 | KPPC — 1240 |
| KBIG — 740 | KGER — 1390 | KRKD — 1150 |
| KBLA — 1490 | KGFJ — 1230 | KRLA — 1110 |
| KDAY — 1580 | KGIL — 1260 | KTYM — 1460 |
| KEZY — 1190 | KHJ — 930 | KWIZ — 1480 |
| KFAC — 1330 | KIEV — 870 | KWKW — 1300 |
| KFI — 640 | KLAC — 570 | KWOW — 1600 |

Tuesday Programs

5 P. M.

KHJ—Henry Travis News
KABC—Paul Harvey News
KFI—News

KGFJ—Big Jim Randolph
KNX—Lowell Thomas
Phil Rizzuto

KBIG—News, Bill Stern,
Pete Smith.

5:15 P. M.

KHJ—Perry Allen
KABC—Pat Michaels
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6:15 P. M.

KHJ—Perry Allen
KABC—Alex Dreier, News
KFI—Vince Scully

KNX—World Tonight
KMPC—Val Cleland News

6:30 P. M.

KBIG—Del Mar Races
KABC—Gene Sherman
KNX—Editorial

KMPC—Roger Carroll
KFI—City News Desk

6:45 P. M.

8:15 P. M.

KABC—Beardsley Stereo
KNX—This Is L.A.

9 P. M.

KABC—News
KFI—News
KFWB—Bobby Dale

KNX—News
KMPC—Jerry Dexter

9:15 P. M.

KABC—Candid Session
KNX—Opinion Please
KFI—Music

10 P. M.

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YOUR WEEK

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 1961

Here's M
On Life i

By EL

Not since our series on
been such reader response
guarding Mexico and retir

Mercy Bowl Game Ticket Sales Lag

By RALPH ALEXANDER

Southern California, and Los Angeles in particular, is on the verge of falling flat on its face in an urgently humanitarian sports cause.

Only 13,000 tickets had been sold by Monday for the Mercy Bowl football classic Thanksgiving Day at the Coliseum.

It will take a capacity attendance of 103,000 fans to raise the necessary \$250,000-plus needed to pay the medical, hospitalization and funeral bills for the victims of the Cal Poly football team plane crash Oct. 29, 1960 at Toledo.

There are only 15 days left before kickoff time for the Mercy Bowl game.

In America's worst sports airplane disaster, 16 Cal Poly football players were killed and 27 injured, many seriously. Some will require care for life.

There are 13 children—all under six years of age—of victims. These children will have to be cared for until they reach maturity.

Nathan Zeitlen, accountant for the Associated Students at Los Angeles State College, told the Game Committee:

"We've received contributions from Spain, the Canal Zone, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Oregon, Washington and Northern California.

Lee Holmes, chairman of a San Luis Obispo County committee for the game, reported "the ministerial associations of San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles have voted unanimously to turn over the collections from their annual Thanksgiving eve services to the Mercy Bowl Fund."

"The report on ticket sales in the Southern California area, particularly around Los Angeles and Long Beach, is dismal," admitted Dr. Ferron Losse, director of athletics at Los Angeles State College and general chairman of the Game Committee.

Less than 7500 tickets have been sold in the Los Angeles County area and 1053 of these

were purchased by students at the Pomona campus Cal Poly.

Here are some of the steps being taken this week:

- Foster and Kleiser and the Pacific Outdoor Advertising Company, with cooperation from Arden Farms and the Bank of America, are donating 250 billboards throughout California.

- The sporting goods industry, under the leadership of Lloyd Tudor of Voit Rubber Co., is starting a drive to raise funds through its manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

- George Leonard of the Teamsters Union announced that its members working at the Coliseum Thanksgiving Day have voted to turn over their pay checks to the Mercy Bowl Game.

- In addition to Thrifty Drug Stores, tickets are now on sale at the 49 offices of the Automobile Club of Southern California, Helms Hall, the Coliseum and all state colleges. They may be secured by mail by sending check to Mercy Bowl, Los Angeles State College, Box 800, Los Angeles 32, Calif. Tickets are priced at \$3.

Baseball Pitches In to Aid Mercy Bowl Tilt

Baseball, represented by the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants, is pitching in to assist the Mercy Bowl Game.

The Dodgers and the Giants, it was simultaneously announced by Walter F. O'Malley and Horace Stoneham, presidents of the teams, will sponsor and pay for a non-commercial broadcast of the game on a network of 25 stations throughout California and Nevada. The primary stations will be KFI in Los Angeles and KSFO in San Francisco, with Dodger broadcasters Vin Scully and Jerry Doggett and Giant announcers Russ Hodges and Lon Simmons each handling a quarter of the game.

Brown Urges Support For 'Mercy Bowl' Game

Gov. Edmund G. Brown today urged Californians to support "in every way possible" the "Mercy Bowl" football game in Los Angeles Coliseum Nov. 23.

The game, between Bowling Green University and the winner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association, is a fund-raising for victims

of the plane crash involving the California State Polytechnic College's football team last Oct. 29. The crash killed 17 and injured 19 members of the team and staff.

The Governor said that the Cal Poly Student Memorial Fund, organized after the

plane disaster, is seeking \$250,000 to aid the victims and families of those killed or injured.

Tickets for the game are \$3.00 and can be ordered by mail in care of Mercy Bowl, Box 800, Los Angeles State College, Los Angeles 32. The game starts at 11 a.m.

HERALD EXPRESS

United Press International Associated Press Dow Jones

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TUES., OCT. 31, 1961 H★

10—College Times

Friday, November 3, 1961

Mercy Bowl Ticket Sales Lag At LASC

By ED NASH
Special Sports Contributor

Fresno State showed a complete lack of mercy toward San Diego State last weekend as it routed its southern visitor 27-6, all but assuring itself of a Mercy Bowl bid against stalwart Bowling Green University Thanksgiving Day.

Bowling Green, meanwhile, suffered its first gridiron setback in almost two years in absorbing a 7-6 loss from Miami of Ohio.

Both schools were ranked among the upper echelon of small college football powers last year and have similar billing this fall—a situation which should make the Nov. 23 classic a free-swinging intersectional battle, well worth the price of admission.

Aid Needed

An even better reason for journeying to the Coliseum that particular day, however, is to help aid the injured and the families of Cal Poly football players who lost their lives in a freak plane accident last year.

Some of the proceeds from the spectacle will help pay tremendous medical and funeral bills and to obtain educations for the injured.

Some will be used to help

support the 13 surviving children of Cal Poly players.

Children Left

One player left a wife and four children, all of the latter under six years of age.

At least two of the 28 survivors will need medical care for many many years.

One hundred per cent of the net proceeds will be contributed to some needy party involved in the mishap.

FSC Probably

Cecil Coleman, the NCAA's regional small college coach of the year in 1960, will pit his unbeaten Bulldogs against the midwestern powerhouse from Ohio barring one extremely unlikely occurrence, Long Beach State knocking off Fresno and Los Angeles State in its final two encounters.

If the almost impossible should transpire, it would give the Bulldogs and 49'ers identical 4-1 CAA records in which event Long Beach would probably receive the nod for beating Fresno.

Little Chance

However, Fresno is a solid choice to eliminate Long Beach and cinch the A crown when they tangle.