

HELP! HELP MERCY BOWL

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By RALPH ALEXANDER

The victims of the tragic Cal Poly football team airplane crash Oct. 29 last year at Toledo, Ohio, are being let down by gridders all over the United States.

This was revealed Wednesday by Roy Easley, student body president of Los Angeles State College and captain of the Diablo grid team.

Only 10 teams have responded to Easley's request

to have every college, professional and high school team but tickets to the Mercy Bowl game between Bowling Green and Fresno State Thanksgiving morning at the Coliseum.

Three California teams have purchased tickets in the first 10 days of the campaign. These are Los Angeles State, Notre Dame High School of Sherman Oaks (which bought 100 tickets)

and Bakersfield Junior College.

Easley sent letters to the captains of every team for which he could find an address, requesting that each buy, at least, 11 tickets.

Proceeds from the Mercy Bowl will be used to pay medical, hospital and funeral bills of the 16 players killed and 27 others seriously injured.

Out-of-state schools are exceeding California, 7-3.

The basketball team from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, which doesn't have a football squad, joined the campaign with the purchase of five tickets.

Other teams that have purchased tickets include U. of Miami (Florida), Idaho State College, College of Idaho, Oregon Tech, Iowa State U. and Sacred Heart High School of Waterbury, Conn. Big California professional,

college, junior college and high school teams are conspicuous by their absence from Easley's list.

Easley said, "perhaps, I could have missed sending a letter to a few schools and teams. If I did, they can send checks for tickets, which are priced at \$3 each, by writing to me in care of the Mercy Bowl, Los Angeles State College, Box 800, Los Angeles, Calif. We'll welcome them to our ranks."

Bowling Green vs. Fresno St.

Football Teams on 'Errand of Mercy'

It was a little more than a year ago that dejected members of the Cal Poly football team boarded a plane in Toledo, Ohio.

When the plane would be taking them home. They felt bad as the weather which blanketed the airport in fog and rain. The team lost its game that afternoon to Bowling Green, 50-6. Moments later the plane was in the takeoff. But something went wrong. In a flash the plane twisted crazily and crashed in flames.

Seventeen of the Cal Poly players were killed and 20 were seriously injured.

It was the worst disaster in the history of American sports.

UNDYING TRAGEDY

This tragedy can never die in the broken hearts of the players' families. Each day they are still reminded of the shocking disaster, for many are still paying for funeral and major medical care.

And for this reason, an "errand of mercy" was devised in the form of a football game—called the Mercy Bowl.

The game is being played on Thanksgiving Day in the Coliseum with the proceeds going to the saddened families through the Cal Poly Memorial Fund Committee.

Next meeting in the Mercy Bowl will be Fresno State, 19 California Collegiate Athletic Conference champion, and Bowling Green, again a team in the Mid-American Conference.

Since the game is for such a worthy cause, everyone is pitching in to help make it a huge success. There has so much attention been focused on an athletic event by civic leaders, businessmen, organizations and the general public.

AGENCIES BACK GAME

Billboard advertising companies have donated signboards, newspapers, radio and TV are making their outlets available and the National Football League has contributed \$7500 to the Mercy Bowl Fund.

Various agencies, including the Automobile Club of Southern California, have taken on the assignment of selling

EASLEY ON MERCY BOWL

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Friday, November 10, 1961

President Roy Easley Tackles Ticket Sales Lag for Mercy Bowl Classic

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the second of the College Times' special series of articles on the worthy Mercy Bowl game, L.A. State Student Body President Roy Easley, who is one of many men working around the clock to insure the success of the event, hits the lack of ticket sales on campus and urges Diablo support for the great classic.)

By ROY EASLEY

I have just returned from a committee meeting of the Mercy Bowl Football Classic. This is, in my opinion, the most important athletic contest that will be held in the United States this year.

Yet, I regret to say that reports show the people of Los Angeles (which some people claim to be the sports center of the world) are not supporting this event with the enthusiasm of our neighboring cities and communities. The people of Los Angeles have bought only about one-half of all the tickets sold thus far.

Here at Los Angeles State College, I am sorry to say, response has been so negligible that it would seem we do not exist. The actual records show that we are 16,302 strong, the largest State college in our state. It seems to me that out of 16,000 students we should have absolutely no trouble in selling 5,000 tickets here on our campus, especially since this great benefit is being played in our own city.

I am personally going to be embarrassed of our student body if we do not sell at least 1,500 tickets on our campus between now and Thanksgiving Day.

I am not appealing to you as an athlete, but as a fellow student, and a person who still believes in assisting his fellow man in the hour of need. We must remember that this could have happened right here at LASC or any other campus in the world, and also, it could have been a band, a forensics team, or any student activity.

At press time I know of only two students on this entire campus, in addition to our Varsity football team, who have bought tickets for this

benefit. One of these persons is Jean Willis who purchased six tickets to the Mercy Bowl and donated them to underprivileged persons. The second individual did not leave his name with me, but he also bought a ticket to be donated to some deserving individual. I hope there are others on this campus who have supported the Mercy Bowl, but I am afraid this is not so.

At our last football game played in our stadium approximately 4,500 people attended the affair. Now, I ask, why aren't some of these people joining with us in supporting the Mercy Bowl game. LASC has an entire section reserved especially for our student body and friends at the Coliseum, so let us not shirk our duty by not filling our section. We have only two weeks in which we can gather our friends together and do something worthwhile, and at the same time enjoy an exciting football game between two very strong college teams—Fresno and Bowling Green.

I realize that many of our students are married and have families, and that even single students find \$3 hard to come by. But if you would just stop for a second and put yourself in the place of the persons involved in this tragedy, I think that you would agree with me that \$3 to you is really nothing compared to what a few of these \$3 can mean to the persons involved.

I am sorry for forcing this subject on you in this way because I feel in my heart that you, the people who have given me the responsibility of representing you, feel as I do. I also feel that you will respond to my plea and support this cause with all the enthusiasm that you are capable of.

bowl tickets. And therein lies the rub.

Thus far, tickets have not been selling well enough in order that proceeds may equal the \$200,000 in expenses encountered by the families of the players involved in the crash.

If you care to make this Thanksgiving Day mean something special, support the Mercy Bowl. Buy a ticket today.

Mercy Bowl Support Catching On

"Each pure and gentle deed of mercy brings . . . A joy beyond all dignities of earth."
—HERMAN MILLER.

By TOM CARGO

The mass appeal of the Mercy Bowl game is catching on.

Sportswriters throughout the country are pounding their typewriters, while civic leaders, businessmen, radio, TV and entertainment personalities are pledging their support.

With such solid backing, it's highly possible that the grid classic on Thanksgiving Day may draw a capacity crowd in the Coliseum.

And a huge crowd is sorely needed. For never has a game been held for such a worthy cause.

Proceeds will go to help the families of members of the Cal Poly football team involved in the Toledo, O., air crash last year. Seventeen gridders were killed and more than 20 were seriously injured. It was the worst disaster in American sports history.

Chosen to meet in the Turkey Day match are Bowling Green of Ohio, the last team Cal Poly met before the ill-fated crash, and Fresno State. Bowling Green is a top Mid-American Conference team, while Fresno won the 1961 championship of California Collegiate Athletic Conference.

The Cal Poly Plane Crash Fund is increasing daily with the donations for game tickets. The National Football League contributed \$7500—a purchase of 2500 tickets to be turned over to boys and girls clubs, orphanages and other youth units.

A lady in Chatsworth, who prefers to remain anonymous, donated \$1000, and the UCLA Bruins turned over \$600. A Los Angeles sportsman, Ed Crowley, gave his entire \$750 prize in a golf tournament to the Mercy Bowl committee.

Mercy Bowl tickets may be purchased at the Automobile Club of Southern California, Los Angeles State College, the Coliseum, Helms Hall, Fresno State, Bowling Green, San Fernando State.