

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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Creators: Cashell, Jack

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ENGINEERS IN SPORTS

By JACK CASHELL, '37

WITH the football season in full swing, you hear the progress of our team cussed and discussed from every nook and corner of the University, especially on the Quadrangle, where four of the team's mainstays are taking Engineering courses.

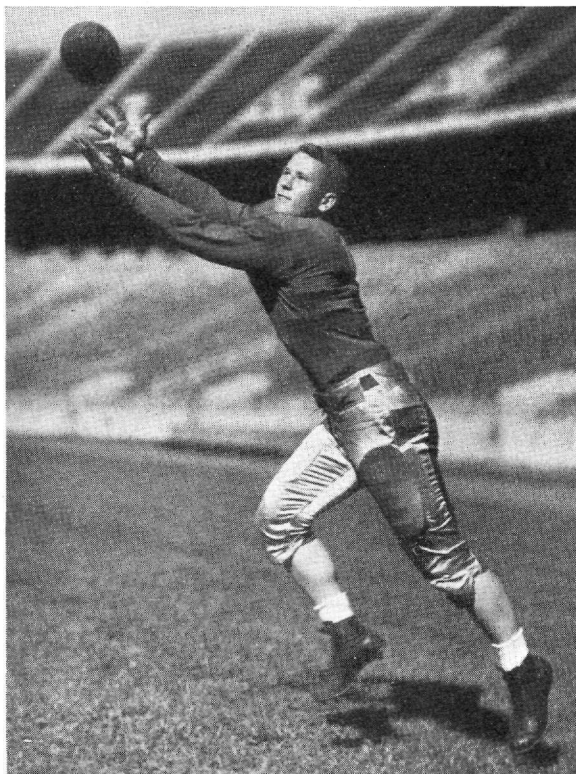
For the first time in the history of the University the two most important men on the field, during a football game, are enrolled in the Engineering College, namely Merle Wendt and Wesley Leas.

Merle and Wesley, captain of the team and drum major respectively, have thrilled countless thousands with their brilliant performances on the gridiron, never failing to make the spectators realize that they are watching two of the best of the nation in action. Even though the team hasn't always lived up to expectations, these two men always came through with colors flying, making us all proud that they are students in Engineering.

Although this is the last year of varsity competition for Merle, Wes will be back with us again next year, doing his part to keep the reputation of the Ohio State band head and shoulders above that of any other marching unit in the country.

Merle Wendt

Merle, a graduate of Middletown High, came to



Ohio State in the fall of '33. He is 21 years of age, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and is enrolled in the Chemical Engineering Department, from which he expects to graduate in February, 1938.

Talking in his bashful but serious manner, Merle explained that ever since he was a small boy he has had his heart set on an engineering career, choosing not to go into professional coaching due to the great gamble involved, feeling that politics enter into the profession too strongly to make a life's career of it.

Merle has a point average that places him in the upper half of his class, and although undecided as to the particular line of work he is going into after graduation he is keeping in close touch with a number of companies that may have an opening for him.

Probably you won't believe it, but one of the main interests of this muscular young giant is nature study, however, when talking to him one can't help noticing the grim determination stamped on his face, which makes you decide at once that nature study is a very admirable hobby and should be participated in by all aspiring young men and women. After no undue amount of deliberation Merle decided that his greatest thrill was the time he caught the winning touchdown pass against Michigan in 1934.

At the present time he is going steady with June

Stone, a Columbus girl, and from the way he looked when he mentioned her name—it won't be long now. If such is the case June, we wish to congratulate you as Merle is one of the most unassuming persons we ever had the pleasure of meeting and is a fine fellow as well as a wonderful athlete.

Wesley Leas

We found Wes over in the E.E. laboratory, tearing his hair and mumbling something to himself about volts, amperes, etc., and how he would like to find some fellow by the name of Kirchoff. However, after some difficulty we got him calmed down, explaining to him that the majority of the engineering students think that most of the old time scientists must have been related to Edgar Allen Poe. This hastily thought of explanation apparently convinced Wes that we weren't going to harm him so he very willingly gave us a brief resume of his life.

Wes is a junior in the Electrical Engineering Department, coming to Ohio State from Delaware High School, where he was drum major for four years. He played the baritone horn in the band during his freshman and sophomore years here, and as a reward for his services he was appointed drum major of our band last spring, which, he says, was the greatest thrill he ever had.

He is a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and even though he is quite active in a social way he has no steady girl friend, but don't waste your pity on him brother

engineers, as he is very easy to look at and we imagine he is very capable of taking care of himself as far as the co-eds are concerned.

His main hobbies are "twirling" and photography, having practiced "twirling" since Bill Knepper taught him a few fine points of the delicate art while they were both enrolled in Camp Lazarus, seven years ago last summer.

Incidentally, all the drum majors since Knepper,—Pettigrew, McCreary, Casey, and Leas have been enrolled at this camp one time or another, probably spending innumerable hours of practice there.

Wes is afraid he will make a mistake while on the field, knowing that if he gives the wrong command he will throw 120 men into confusion. Even though the boys in the band practice as long as the football squad, they refrain from taking any credit for doing their part, feeling that all the praise should go to Professor Weigel, who spends countless hours teaching the band the intricate formations they go through on Saturday afternoons.

With Wes keeping up the reputation established by the drum majors before him, and Merle a sure bet for an All-American berth this year, it looks as though the Engineering College has produced two of the best, and in recognition of their scholastic records, as well as their excellent prowess in an athletic way, we, the students in the Engineering College, would like to vote them both a "Bokay of Okays" and hope that their success through life will more than parallel that which they now enjoy.