

WILLIAM (WIDDY) NEALE, younger brother of Greasy and Dutch, is spending several days in town visiting his relatives during the spring vacation period of Yale university. Widdy is the intra-college athletic program director at Yale, a position he has held since 1933. Neale traveled to Pinehurst, N. C., with the Yale golf team prior to arriving in Parkersburg. The Yale team holds



annual spring drills over the Pinehurst course prior to opening their intercollegiate schedule.

OLD TIMERS will remember Widdy from his high school days as one of the most outstanding athletes ever to don the red and white. Widdy played four years of varsity football for PHS in 1915-16-17 and 18. He was honored by being selected on the all-state football team of 1916 as quarterback and repeated for the honors on the 1917 and '18 elevens at a halfback position. The '16 and '18 teams captured the state championship and Neale was named captain in his senior year, '18. In addition to being an outstanding grid player Neale won letters in basketball, track and baseball.

AFTER GRADUATING from PHS Widdy enrolled at

Yale university. He made the football team at a halfback position and played regular on the 1922 and '23 elevens. The 1923 Bulldogs went undefeated and are rated as one of Yale's greatest elevens. The '23 team defeated Army 31 to 10, Princeton 27 to 0, Harvard 13 to 0 and is the last undefeated and untied team Yale has had. Widdy was named to the All-Eastern grid team in 1923 after many sparkling performances at his halfback position. Neale also played baseball at Yale performing on the 1923, '24 and '25 nines. He also won honors as All-Eastern in baseball. While playing baseball in his senior year he posted a .438 batting average for the season. During the summer months and following his graduation from Yale in 1925 he played baseball with the Parkersburg professional team. Widdy teamed with Bobby Cook, John Hastings, John Kirkland, "Ches" King, Buck Starr, Dave King and many, many others to form a team they are still talking about locally.

FROM 1934 THROUGH 1941 Widdy served as freshman football coach at Yale. During World War II he coached varsity baseball and golf in addition to helping out with several other athletic teams. Widdy's 1943 golf team was National Collegiate Champs. Under Neale the Yale intra-college athletic program has been expanded to include competition in all sports and is recognized as one of the most outstanding in the nation. Neale's duties are now confined, during the school year, to this heavy program which sometimes sees competition in as many as 14 events during one day.

DURING THE SUMMER months Widdy is kept busy staging golf tournaments and programs in Connecticut. He serves as secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut State Golf Association, a position which requires plenty of work. The Association is composed of 64 golf clubs throughout the state and approximately 4,000 golfers hold cards in the organization. Weekly tournaments are staged at various clubs and all action is under the supervision of Widdy. Neale also represents the Connecticut section in the U. S. Golf Association. Next summer he will have charge of staging the U. S. Junior-Amateur Golf championship at Yale. This tourney will bring the leading junior golfers to New Haven and Neale must see they are housed, fed and under chaperons during their stay at Yale.

WIDDY IS ALSO a bridge player but claims he is not the rabid fan brother Greasy is. Monday afternoon he played a round of golf with A. P. (Cap) Turley, Glenn Smith, and Bud Cox and displayed mid-season form after his spring training at Pinehurst. Yesterday afternoon he was lined up with Jack Hoblitzell and several other links artists but the cold weather kept the golfers indoors. Afternoon sessions over the country club course are lined up for today and tomorrow, weather permitting. Widdy plans to leave Friday and will drive to Philadelphia to spend a few days with brother Greasy before returning to New Haven. The younger Neale is anxious to play Greasy a few rounds of golf and the plans are already made for the sessions. Widdy says Greasy hasn't any plans for the present and will probably sit tight this grid season. Widdy will com-

William H. Neale Assumes Post As Yale A. A. Business Manager

William H. (Widdy) Neale, director of intramural athletics at Yale University since 1933, assumed new duties as business manager of the Yale Athletic Association it was announced today. Neale succeeds the late William E. Perkins who died last month.

Neale said this morning, "It is difficult for me to say that I am very pleased to accept this position. Being so close to Bill Perkins, I am naturally unhappy to be assuming the duties he formerly performed."

"I know this job will require considerably more responsibility and more work."

Neale has been supervising the A. A. business matters for the last month. He will continue to head up the intramural program, but expects to receive some assistance with that project soon.

In addition to Neale's appointment, Bob Hall, chairman of the Board of Athletic Control, has revealed that two new posts have been created.

James E. McDermott has been placed in charge of ticket management for the Athletic Association and William H. Humes will be superintendent of all Yale athletic properties.

Neale is a native of Parkersburg, W. Va., and was graduated from Yale in 1925. Before coming back to Yale, Neale was coach of football, basketball and track served as athletic director at Oak Hill, West Va., High School.

In undergraduate days, Neale was a halfback for two years, an outfielder for three seasons and played on the championship basketball team of 1923. He was a regular on the 1923 football team, captained by the late Bill Mallory, which was the last undefeated, untied grid team in Eli gridiron history. He coached freshman football from 1934 through 1940.

An outstanding amateur golfer, Neale has won several championships in state play. He is secretary

of Connecticut State Golf Association, a post he has held since 1946; a member of the Yale Club of New Haven and the Yale Golf Course.

He is the brother of Earle (Greasy) Neale, one-time Yale varsity assistant and later coach of the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Professional Football League.

McDermott, a native New Havener, has been affiliated with the Yale

Athletic Association for an 18-year period. He joined the control staff of the Payne Whitney Gymnasium in 1934 and was employed there for two years. From 1936 to 1938 he was caddy master at the Yale Golf Course, and from 1938 until 1942 he was club secretary of the course and was a member of the physical education office at the Gymnasium.

From 1942 until 1945 he was in the Army and served in the European theater with the 30th Infantry Division. Since his discharge in 1945 he has been an administrative assistant in the business office of the Athletic Association.

Humes was a member of the class of 1931 at Yale and has been associated with Yale since 1931.

Fills Vacancy



WILLIAM H. (WIDDY) NEALE JR. who has been named to act as business manager of the Yale Athletic Association.

Sports

FEB. 14, 1952

FLASHES

By
Fleming



WILLIAM H. (WIDDY) NEALE, a native Parkersburger and brother of Earle (Greasy) and Raymond (Dutch) Neale, was rewarded recently for his fine work at Yale university by being named as acting business manager of the Yale Athletic Association. Neale has served as director of intramural athletics at Yale since 1933. The former Parkersburg High school star athlete graduated from Yale in 1925. Following graduation he was in business for a six year period, first as a manager for the Firestone Rubber Co., and later with an investment firm. He joined the faculty of the Oak Hill High school in 1941 and for a two year period was athletic director and coach of football, basketball and track. As an undergraduate, Neale was an outstanding halfback with the Yale varsity football team for two years, was an outfielder in baseball for three years and a member of the championship basketball team of 1923. He was a regular with the 1923 Yale grid team which was the last undefeated, untied team in Eli football history. From 1934 through 1940 he was a freshman football coach at Yale. Under Neale's direction, Yale's inter-college athletic program has become one of the finest in the nation. Last year close to 2,000 students took part in the 750 contests. Under the present arrangements, Neale will continue as director of this program. Neale is the secretary of the Connecticut State Golf Association, a post he has occupied since 1946; a member of the Yale club of New Haven and the Yale Golf Course. He is an outstanding amateur golfer and has won several championships in the state of Connecticut.



THREE FORMER YALE FOOTBALL GREATS watch a practice session. Left to right, University official **CHARLES M. O'HEARN**, Gen. **JOHN REID KILPATRICK**, new president of the Football Y Association, and **WILLIAM H. (WIDDY) NEALE**, Yale A. A. business manager.



Robert A. (Red) Rolfe, Detroit Tigers' manager, takes a day of rest from his arduous baseball duties by enjoying a round of golf with some of his old golfing mates at the Yale course yesterday. Watching Rolfe tee off (left to right) are: John Carelli, William H. (Widdy) Neale, director of intramural athletics at Yale, and Bill Perkins, business manager of the Yale Athletic Association. The former Eli baseball and basketball coach visited here en route from Boston to New York where his Detroit team opens a two-day engagement with the Yankees today.

Neale's Defeat Mara's 1 Up On Yale Links



Left to right—Jack Mara, W. H. (Widdy) Neale, director of intramural sports at Yale; Earle (Greasy) Neale, coach of the Philadelphia Eagles football club, and Wellington (Tim) Mara. The Maras are associated with the New York Football Giants.



12/20/76

Widdy Reflects

It was post-World War I, the Golden Age of Sports, the explosion of big stadia, and the tidal wave of bigtime college football had begun. Yale, in 1923, laid a claim to the national championship, and Widdy Neale was one of the Elis' top backs.

Neale was one of four transfers who played prominent roles in Yale's perfect (8-0) season. The opponents included North Carolina, Georgia, Army and Maryland, which would be a killer schedule today. The relatively new Yale Bowl swelled with 50,000 for the Brown game, 80,000 for Army and 78,000 for Princeton. Harvard Stadium, which like the Bowl had more seats then, drew 55,000 in a downpour and mudbath for the Yale game. That was the day "Ducky" Pond earned his nickname.

I'd assumed that Yale operated under a more lenient athletic policy in Widdy's day, and somehow clamped down with de-emphasis late in the 1930s.

Widdy Neale disagrees. He's being honored with a Gold Key from the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance Feb. 6 at the Sheraton-Park Plaza, and he doesn't feel Yale's changed at all. Football's changed, and intercollegiate sports have changed, but not Yale.

Widdy Neale goes back to an era when there was no more glamorous place to play football than Yale. It was a time of raccoon coats and Cole Porter songs, and pro football was in its infancy. College football was just realizing its money-making potential, and ironically Yale was showing the way for the rest of the country.

"No, Yale's philosophy wasn't different," Neale said. "You still had to pass the college boards and they didn't give you money. Yale never gave me a penny. Century Milstead (Yale's All-America tackle) fired the boiler at the Taft Hotel. Mal Stevens (who alternated at tailback with Widdy) worked at an undertaker's parlor. I did a lot of different things. I worked at tables for my meals.

"My senior year, I put out the football programs with another fellow. We sold 25,000 programs each game. That's a whole lot more than we do now. I went to New York to get articles from Will Rogers and Al Jolson."

So what happened to Yale football?

"I just think the other colleges started to subsidize," Neale said. "Yale never did."

Neale transferred to Yale from the University of West Virginia, Stevens from Washburn College in Kansas, Milstead from Wabash in Indi-

ana, and quarterback Lyle Richeson from Tulane. The 1923 team was loaded with other stars such as Ted Blair, Pond, Win Lovejoy, and Flash Neidlinger.

The convergence of talent was more by accident than design, according to Widdy.

"It just happened," Neale said. "I wasn't solicited. I was at West Virginia. Our 1919 team beat Rutgers and Princeton. We had quite a team. But I didn't like it too well down there. I had it in mind that I wanted to coach. Yale and Harvard were considered No. 1 and No. 2 in those days. My thought was, I was going to make coaching my livelihood. I thought the possibility of gaining a coaching job would be easier from Yale. So I transferred."

The only post-season game then was the Rose Bowl. While at Yale but not yet eligible for football, Neale went down to Washington & Jefferson to help brother Greasy prepare for the 1921 Rose Bowl, a scoreless tie with California. Widdy could throw the long pass, so he imitated Cal star Brick Muller in practice.

Neale was a "triple threat," a species no longer seen in football.

"We played the short punt formation," Neale said. "I played the No. 3 (tailback) position. I had to pass, punt and kick. We had a quantity of pretty good runners."

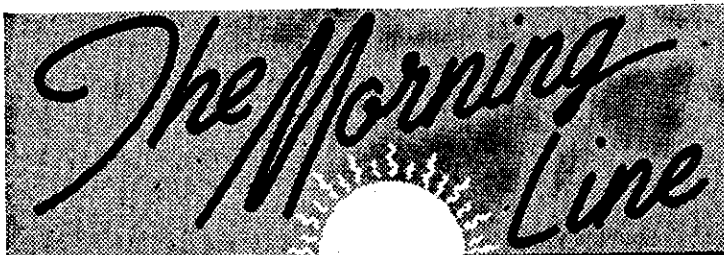
Neale, who got his nickname because as a kid he looked a "widdy" bit small next to Greasy, was a 175-pound back, which wasn't small then.

"Let's face it," Neale said. "There's a big difference in people now. These linemen now weigh 220 to 245 pounds. Then, if you weighed over 200, you were considered big. Milstead was considered a big man and he was 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds. He was a wonderful player. The other All-America was (Memphis Bill) Mallory, who played what we'd consider now a wingback, and who was very good on defense."

How good was the 1923 team?

"Well, the '23 team, I suppose, was considered the best team Yale had," Widdy said. "That's not my opinion, but it is a lot of people's opinion. Yale and Notre Dame were the two teams ranked No. 1 in the country. We beat Army, 31-10, and they beat Army, 13-7. It was a question mark who was the best in the country.

"Up at Harvard, it was a quagmire. On a dry day, we would have murdered them. That field can be awful. It was just a big mud puddle. It's a terrible place to play and they haven't changed it."



BY BILL AHERN

Put another feather in the cap of Yale . . . A bright blue feather, glossy with achievement.

The fifth annual junior championship of the U. S. Golf Association starts bright and early Wednesday morning and the preparations for the event are right for 128 youths who have been flocking into the City by car, bus and train.

Annually competition is keen. It may be expected that this year's field will be sharper if only because of the helping hand extended by the University, director Widdy Neale and publicist Charley Loftus. Not forgetting the experienced golfing enthusiasts of the sponsoring organization.

The Yale course over which the grind will be played is, as everybody locally is aware, one of the toughest in the country; a course designed to separate the hackers from the expert; a links fitting to determine the next junior champion of the United States.

Not only are the traps, the dog-legs, the fairways unusual but also the absence of a country club atmosphere. Lodged in Timothy Dwight college, the youngsters will be away from distracting influences, well rested for coming ordeals. The true condition of competing for exceptional laurels will surround them. The congratulations of spectators, the felicitations of supporters are bound to be asserted but not in crowded hotel lobbies or in tavern restaurants, surroundings not unusual in tournament play.

Fine, clean lads are these, wholesome and unspoiled, yet to taste the tantalizing broth of a golfing future. Eyes, not only of the City and State, but National figures are looking to the future of the game. These lads are the future, their abilities supreme from the wracking grind of numerous sectional tournaments.

This afternoon they will witness an exhibition given by Gene Sarazen, one of the all-time greats; an exhibition that will mean as much to him, in the twilight of his beloved career as it will to these lads, alert, young, sure.

The youngsters should listen wisely for in his words and ability much lore is disguised. In every explanation there is a past hazard overcome.

Tonight at the New Haven Lawn Club, they will sit down to a dinner. The youths from Connecticut will meet the aspiring from Florida; the mid-west junior can shake the hand of the California brilliants.

Many may never go anywhere, content only to have the conviviality of a foursome when they settle down to business occupations. Others are sure to be featured in tournaments for years to come.

In reality, the lads are playing the 19th hole today, a mythical situation in which the cup is overflowing with hope and determination where every shot is a true putt. At other clubs, away from universities, the 19th hole is a post-mortem.

Yale is to be congratulated on getting New Haven its first national tourney and offering ideal facilities. The lad that loses will do so on his own merits, or lack of them. Once again the university has stripped false glamor from athletics and substituted ideal surroundings in which the best man will win.

* * *

Wins State Amateur Title After Spi



Just before they teed off for the final 18 holes of the state amateur championship at Bridgeport's Brooklawn Country Club yesterday afternoon, Bill Markham of Wethersfield and Billy Booe of the home club paused to wish each other well. Left to right are W. W. (Widdy) Neale of New Haven, secretary of the Connecticut State Golf Association; George McLachlan of Ridgewood, president of the CSGA and match referee; Markham, Booe, Charles C. Clare of Race Brook, CSGA vice president, and Robert D. Pryde of Race Brook, honorary secretary-treasurer.

YALE'S NEALE IS ACTIVE AS EVER

By BILL AHERN

The old Irish have a saying: Never does the good Lord close one door without opening another.

William H. Neale Jr., one of the greatest of Yale's athletes, can attest to the truth of it. When he retired as business manager of athletics last June, he was immediately named director of golf activities at Yale which includes direct management of the links in Westville and the club facilities.

Coupled with his Connecticut State Golf Association duties where he reigns as executive secretary-treasurer, his retirement years promise business, or probably busy-ness, as usual.

It was ever so for the 5-11 native of Parkersburg, West Virginia who, in a lifetime of biblical expectancy, has excelled in five sports.

The greatest impetus toward his performance was provided by his brother Earle (Greasy), nine years his senior, a football, basketball and baseball player of superb skill who starred at West Virginia Wesleyan and served a turn as a major league baseball player with the old Cincinnati Reds of World Series fame.

The two were a powerful pair among the four sons and two daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. William Neale Sr., and William (nicknamed Widdy) toddled along in his early years with the image of his brother before him.

Such idolatry fostered a warm bond between the two brothers and it was with Earle's encouragement that Widdy became a star in football, basketball, baseball and track at Parkersburg High School.

It was no coincidence that Parkersburg won the state football title in 1917 for Widdy cut capers that were difficult to believe. It was the same in basketball, save that his alma mater won state championships in 1916 and 1917 and Widdy was named captain as a senior rounding out three years as a forward.

A crack centerfielder in baseball, Widdy managed also to run the 220-yard dash and throw the discus in track.

One of his early lessons in discipline came as a senior on the football team. Earle was coaching then at West Virginia Wesleyan which was scheduled to play arch-rival West Virginia on Thanksgiving Day. Greasy asked Widdy to help his club prepare for the strong state university team and Widdy agreed. Thus it was that as a high school senior he visited the Wes-

leyan campus for over a week where he emulated West Virginia's All America No. 3 back, Ira Rodgers. Greasy operated No. 2 on the scrubs and between them they whipped the Wesleyan club into top shape.

So fine was Widdy's performance that when a linebacker was taken to task for not tackling the younger Neale, the linebacker replied, "I can't get my hands on him."

It was the encouragement that Widdy needed, but his high school coach took his absence from practice grimly and sat him on the bench for the climax game.

Widdy's sole consolation was the 21-0 upset which Wesleyan scored over its state rival.

One year later Widdy was enrolled at West Virginia University against the wishes of Earle, now playing the outfield for the Reds. Freshmen were eligible and Widdy had no trouble making the team. The lone problem he encountered was stopping at the corner of the city's newspaper's office where the World Series results were flashed by wireless. Widdy wanted to follow his brother's progress, but the coach brooked no trifling with practice and marched him along to the session, family ties notwithstanding.

With the series over, Earle continued to press his kid brother to attend Yale and it was with some misgiving that Widdy applied for a transfer.

His approved credits in horticulture, agronomy, and agriculture didn't impress the Yale board of admissions, but there was something about his sincerity that did. Turned down flat at first, Widdy appeared before the board and suggested that, if he attended Marietta College where his brother was coaching and if he gave up athletics and scored all A's in his courses, perhaps Yale would look with favor upon his application in another year.

Yale did.

Widdy scored A in every subject and passed the lone examination (French) he was asked to take.

He abstained from freshman football, but his brother, now coaching at Washington and Jefferson, was making history. W and J was selected for the Rose Bowl where it was to meet California.

Again the resourceful Greasy summoned

Continued on page 38

YALE'S NEALE—Continued from page 25

his brother and during the Christmas vacation of 1921 the 175-pound speedster with the strong legs went to Earle's aid. This time he emulated California's great Brick Mueller, an exceptionally good long passer. History repeated for Widdy as the scrubs honed the W and J varsity to prime fettle.

The Rose Bowl game ended in a tie.

Now, it was 1922, one year prior to the Blue's greatest year under coach Tad Jones. Yale was building and posted a 6-3-1 record with Widdy playing brilliantly despite the stiff competition.

The 7-7 Army tie was the salvaging contribution of the season, and Neale playing his greatest game to date scored all of Yale's points against Army. The Blue lost to Harvard and Princeton.

In the offseason, Neale won a spot with the baseball team and in basketball as a sopho-

more. Football-wise, though a junior in 1923, he was to use up his eligibility that season.

There were no less than seven triple-threats on that 1923 club, Neale among them. The Big Blue team swept through most of its schedule without a struggle save for the Maryland game which was considered so easy that the varsity coaches left the team and went to scout Princeton and Harvard.

Maryland shocked the Bulldogs before succumbing 14-12. But the Blue Ridge Mountain boy never lost his cool, rallying his mates and contributing his finest performance.

Yale sat on a secret that year. It had a devastating forward passing game which it kept hidden waiting for the Harvard wrapup.

The day before that contest, it rained a deluge and continued all through game day. The Elis never did uncover their passing and it was Raymond H. (Ducky) Pond who re-

Continued on page 55

YALE'S NEALE—Continued from page 38 covered a Harvard fumble and plodded 80 yards in the mud to turn the tide of victory along with Captain Bill Mallory's two field goals.

They named Notre Dame the national champion that year. But on the basis of comparative scores against West Point, Yale's volatile 31-10 victory to Notre Dame's 13-7 margin would indicate an injustice.

In Widdy's senior year, he batted .439 in baseball and helped Yale to the eastern championship by scoring the winning run against Princeton in the old Polo Grounds.

Widdy describes it: "We were tied 7-7 and I came to bat in the 10th. I hit one past the flag pole and could have scored easily, but the coaches played it safe and held me on third. I scored the winning run on Ducky's sacrifice fly."

Boston's Braves wanted to sign Widdy as did the Redlegs years before when Greasy was with them. But the younger Neale decided to enter business although he really wanted to coach.

He took a training course at Firestone Rubber Co. and for three years was steadily progressing. Then his dad became sick and Widdy returned to Parkersburg to run the family's hay and grain business.

He got a chance to coach a small high school near his home town, and a year later he accepted athletic directorship at Oak Hill High School. The time was available to him because of his dad's recovery and because most of the day's work was finished by the time school opened.

The rest is more familiar. In the depression era Yale rebuilt its athletic plant and instituted a residential college plan for athletics. Malcomb Farmer, then director of athletics, summoned Widdy to direct the program. Thus was instituted one of the greatest programs ever.

Widdy is still awed by the abilities of the 3,000 service trainees who attended Yale during the war. "They'd stay a month or so and then move on. It was useless to use most of them in varsity sports, but we had an inter-college team at Calhoun that could whip the varsity any day."

It was in 1933 that Widdy embarked on his fifth sports career. Simultaneous with becoming director of the intramural program, Yale completed its golf course. He was at the links continually, started golf by putting and then extending his skills until he was shooting in the 70's after three years.

Widdy was to win the seniors division of the

times and took the championship of the Connecticut Senior Men's Golf Association thrice.

So skilled was his operation of the intramural program that he was appointed business manager of athletics in 1951 succeeding the late Bill Perkins.

Meanwhile, he had become the secretary-treasurer of the CSGA. It was former amateur champion Charlie Clare who in 1947 nominated Neale as an assistant to the venerable Bob Pryde, who immediately stepped down and proposed that Widdy become the secretary-treasurer "because I know he'll do the job right."

Through all his successes, he has maintained a tight family position, thrilling when Greasy was named first to the National Foundation's Football Hall of Fame and then to the Professional Football Hall of Fame for his coaching at both Yale, in the former instance, and of the Philadelphia Eagles in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

Dear to him are his high school sweetheart, the former Helen Weekley, whom he married in 1925 upon his graduation from Yale, and their son, Bill, currently in the insurance business in Hartford.

When Widdy, who has won the Distinguished American Award of the New Haven Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, retired, Athletic Director DeLaney Kiphuth said:

"Nobody at Yale can accurately estimate the value of Widdy Neale's contributions to Yale and its athletic and college programs.

"He brought to his job the highest level of personal dedication and integrity, creativity and efficiency. . . ."

He was indeed a valuable asset!

PROFILE—Continued from page 23
player, you've done your job!

Widdy Neale Steps Down, Ending An Era At Yale

Waterbury Sunday Republ

6/29/69

NEW HAVEN — An era comes to an end at Yale University Monday with the retirement of William H. (Widdy) Neale, Jr., business manager of athletics.

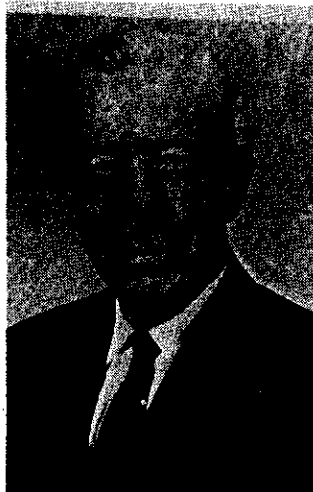
Neale, an Eli three-sport star of the mid-20s, is the last active staff link with those flesh and blood giants of a halcyon Yale past when the Bulldogs were the scourge of the collegiate gridiron and, indeed, the intercollegiate sports world.

Carrier of one of Yale's famous names (his brother Greasy, of pro football fame, once was an assistant coach), Neale is a part of the Blue pantheon of immortals . . . Ted Mallory, Century Milstead, Cupie Black, Ducky Pond, Tad Jones and Mal Stevens.

Justly famed as an athlete . . . halfback on Yale's undefeated football team of 1923, forward on the Elis' championship basketball team of 1923 and team-leading hitter on the 1925 baseball team . . . Neale today is best known as the architect of Yale's intra-mural sports program, world renowned and emulated as the best of its kind.

Despite more than 36 years of continuous service to Yale and to Yale athletics, the University has no intention of relinquishing Neale's extensive talents.

In a brief statement announcing Neale's retirement, Athletic Director DeLaney Kiphuth said Neale would immediately as-



WIDDY NEALE

sume new duties as director of Yale golf activities, a rapidly-growing facet of Yale's over-all program of student athletics and recreation.

Neale's responsibilities will include direct management of the Yale Golf Course and club facilities. The appointment patterns nicely into another of Neale's career activities, that of secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut State Golf Association. He was also president of that body last year.

He is a player of note as well as an administrator, having won the Connecticut Seniors crown six times. At age 68 he still carries a five handicap.

Neale is only the second man in the 70-year history of the CSGA to serve in the dual role of secretary-treasurer, a most demanding responsibility. He assumed that post in 1946, succeeding the late and venerable Bob Pryde, local pro and golf course architect, who helped form the association in 1899.

Over the past decade, since formation of the Ivy League, Neale has been the principle schedule-maker and court of last resort in resolving conflicts. His abilities in this field stem directly from his CSGA duties, which have always included the planning and organization of all accredited CSGA tournaments, now a monumental task.

Born in Parkersburg, W. Va., and a five-sport star as a schoolboy, Neale graduated in the middle of that Eli Golden Era, the Class of 1925S (Sheffield Scientific School).

In announcing Neale's retirement, Kiphuth said:

"Nobody at Yale can accurately estimate the value of Widdy Neale's contributions to Yale and to Yale's athletic and college program.

"He brought to his job the highest level of personal dedication and integrity, creativity and efficiency. He leaves the active Yale scene with the deep respect and appreciation of his University colleagues, and the grateful recognition that his talents are yet available to us."

Rugged Yale hosts a

golden Open

Fifty years ago this month — Aug. 24, 1931, to be precise — a field of 77 golfers went out to play a 36-hole golf tournament at Yale Golf Course.

The awesome course was every bit as demanding then as it is now. August weather was every bit as hot as it is today. And golfers were every bit as reluctant to turn in cards when they were having terrible rounds.

Recorded history does, however, tell us that there were a few brave souls at Yale that August day so long ago. One W.J. Barney of Fairfield turned a card in for his first 18 holes. Mr. Barney shot an even 100, 30 over par, then wisely retired for the day.

It was a fairly close tournament.

SUNDAY SPECIAL

By
Tom McCormack



The winner was a pro named Henry Cuici (pronounced soo-see) from Stratford's Mill River Country Club. He finished two strokes ahead of Jack Ryan, the pro at Yale. For his victory, Cuici took away \$250. At the prices of the day, he could put himself behind the wheel of a cheap new car.

Thus was born the Connecticut State Golf Association Open Tournament and thus, a half-century later, it returns once again to Yale Monday, now a two-day, 54-hole tournament. The winner in the golden year of the Open — if it's a pro — will get \$2,000. He will be lucky, at today's prices, to get himself behind the wheel of a car that runs.

"I was coaching football, basketball and track in high school in West Virginia in 1931," recalls Widdy Neale, the executive director of the

CSGA, which runs the Open. "The man I succeeded here at the CSGA was Bob Pryde. He got the Open started. We had some fine golfers in the state back then. They were as good as the ones we have now. Of course, conditions were a little different but there were men around who could play this game real well."

"Anyone with a 5 or 6 handicap could enter in 1931 just by submitting an entry fee," recalls Burt Resnik of New Haven. "I was a freshman at Yale and playing on the golf team. You might say I got a little overconfident. I entered because, well, I knew the course, and I thought that would give me an advantage." He chuckled. "It didn't. I shot 83-84."

Resnik, a member at Yale and still a good player, was one of several veteran players invited back to play in the 50th Open, but he declined. Two players who also played in the initial event, however, will tee off Monday. They are Ed Wolfer of Indian Hill CC in Newington and Pete Rossi of Wallingford CC.

"Bob Pryde brought about the Open," explains Bob Grant of Wethersfield CC, who also played in the original and finished two strokes behind Resnik. "I don't remember much about the first one except I was a little awed when I saw all those good pros around me."

"I had a pretty high opinion of myself when I came into that first Open. The year before, 1930, I had shot a 70 at Yale in the Tri-State matches. That place is one tough test of golf, though. No one's going to go out and burn the place up. If you've played Yale, you've played golf."

Ah, yes — Yale.

Just to walk it is an effort in and of itself. The course is laid out in what is usually described as early American classic. There are 2 1/2 acres of greens alone at Yale, twice what you find on most courses. They are surrounded by cavernous traps. Neale points out that \$5,000 worth of new sand alone is in those traps in time for the Open.

Some golfers handle Yale and its par of 70. Precious few have mastered it consistently through the years. Resnik is among a handful who have. He shot his age, in fact — 69 — on the course last year.

But no one really "owns" Yale. A man named Charles Blair MacDonald saw to that when he designed the course in 1926.

MacDonald was an individual of some legend, a hallowed name in the early history of amateur golf in this country. He did not go to Yale University. He went to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. There was a lot of money in his family and MacDonald was in business on Long Island. His hobby was designing golf courses. Since there weren't too many professional golf course architects in those days, a group of Yale alumni asked MacDonald to design a course for them. They gave him \$400,000 and wanted a 36-hole course.

Charles Blair MacDonald ran out of money after he built 18 holes.

"He was somewhat of an egocentric," says pro Dave Paterson, the current director of golf at the course.

A very colorful man, also a very powerful man in golf. He took every hole at Yale and modeled it on one he had seen in England or Scotland.

He was the first U.S. Amateur champion in history (in 1895) and one of the founders of the U.S. Golf Association.

There is a story Paterson tells that attests to MacDonald's power in the very clubby world of what golf used to be like.

The way I hear it, Paterson said, "he lost in the 1895 Amateur, but he was a man with so much power (he was, at the time, a vice president of the USGA) he ordered his match played over again so he could win."

MacDonald also designed a course in Southampton, LI. He gave it the somewhat pretentious name (which it still bears) of the National Golf Links of America. "There is a room in the

clubhouse named after him," Paterson says. "A lot of his memorabilia and trophies are in that room."

The best story about MacDonald's design of the National concerns one of his nephews. MacDonald proudly announced that absolutely no one would be able to drive one of the holes he built there. A nephew bet that he could. He and MacDonald went out on the new course and the nephew was given three balls to make his attempt. On the second ball he drove the green.

"MacDonald was so mad he cut the nephew out of his will," Paterson says.

For the Open, they'll play from the blue tees at Yale. That, in everyone's opinion, will separate the men from the boys. "It will," says Paterson, "add 600 yards to the course. Whoever wins an Open out here — especially with 36 of the 54 holes played Tuesday — will have accomplished something."

The
50th Anniversary
CSGA Open
Championship



... conducted by the
Connecticut State
Golf Association

at the
Yale Golf Course
New Haven, Conn.
August 3-4, 1981

**Welcome to the
50th Anniversary
CSGA Open
Championship**



It is a pleasure to congratulate and welcome all participants, professional and amateur, in this our Fiftieth Anniversary Connecticut Open, and to welcome all members of the gallery who are hardy enough to roam the Yale Golf Course because they love to see golf played the way it should be played and to savor the keen competition of a championship such as this.

It is really surprising that the first Connecticut Open was not held until 1931, considering that our Association was formed in 1899. That tells you something about the rapid growth of professional golf to its present high place on our sports scene. We amateurs are especially proud of the excellent and friendly relationship that has developed between our Association and the PGA Connecticut Section.

I also wish to thank publicly Yale University, its Department of Athletics and its Director of Golf, not only for the opportunity to hold this event on one of the outstanding golf courses in America, but also for their great help and cooperation towards its success.

Sincerely,

Arthur C. Williams
President, CSGA

**Welcome to the
Yale Golf Course ...**

On behalf of President Giametti and Yale University, I welcome all participants and spectators to the 50th Anniversary CSGA Open Championship at the Yale Golf Course.

This championship perpetuates a long tradition of competitive golf at Yale. Many great players from all areas of the game have contributed to that heritage. This year's champion will do no less. Yale is proud and honored to host the championship's 50th anniversary. I wish all competitors good luck, and best wishes to all involved for a successful event.

Sincerely,

David Paterson
Director of Golf, Yale

**A Dedication of the
50th Anniversary CSGA
Open Championship**

TO W.H. "Widdy" NEALE—YALE UNIVERSITY,
Class of 1925S; YALE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION,
Business Mgr., 1933-1969; CSGA Secretary/
Treasurer, President, Executive Director,
1930-19__.



W.H. "Widdy" Neale at the monument just off the tee of Yale's famed and feared Par 3 9th hole, which was named for him in 1976...

In a world in which so-called traditions are made and scrapped overnight, "Widdy" Neale's service to golf in Connecticut represents the real thing. In his many years as the guiding force of the CSGA, his integrity, administrative ability, loyalty, fairness, farsightedness, and, withal, unflagging good humor, have truly brought him general recognition as "Mr. Golf" in Connecticut.

It is therefore wholly appropriate that our celebration of one tradition honor another—in fact, they are virtually synonymous. The CSGA is proud to dedicate this 50th Anniversary Open Championship to Mr. William H. Neale.

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Sat. Dec. 21, 1985

Connecticut golfers will miss 'Widdy'

By Bob Casey
Staff Reporter

"He was like a second father to me."

That's the way Jerry Courville Sr. described William H. "Widdy" Neale, who died Friday at the age of 85.

Neale, who was often referred to as "Mr. Amateur Golf" in Connecticut, served as director of the Connecticut State Golf Association for 40 years. He was scheduled to retire from the position at the end of the month.

"He was the one who encouraged me to stay with the game," Courville said. "He meant so much to my career." Courville, a Norwalk native and one of Connecticut's top-rated amateur golfers, said he was "crushed by Widdy's death."

"His death is a great loss to all of us," Courville said. "He is someone we will not forget easily."

Courville, who won one state title and finished second in five others, first met Neale in 1955 "when I was playing in the junior tournament," he said. "Any time I had a problem, I went to him. He always had the right advice."

Courville observed that Neale also looked to improve the tournaments he ran and wasn't afraid to ask the players' advice. "He was a perfectionist," he said.

A Yale graduate, Neale, who was only the second executive director in the 86-year history of the CSGA, was considered the final word when it came to rules.

"He knew the rulebook from



Widdy Neale
Mr. Amateur Golf

beginning to end," Courville said. "But he also took time to tell you why he made a certain decision."

Neale was often referred to as the "Court of Last Resort" when it came to the rules of golf. His accurate mind and no-nonsense approach to the game was admired by both golfers and press alike.

Russell Palmer of West Hartford, who succeeds Neale as executive director, called him "a giant in the world of amateur golf."

"I knew of Widdy for many years," Palmer said. "But I got to know him rather well within the past seven years. He was a remarkable man. He still held his enthusiasm for the job and the game even as a man in his 80s."

Charles Kellogg, former sports

See Neale page 21

Neale: He'll be

Continued from page 19

editor of the Register, called Neale, who was an athlete for the Eli in the 1920s, "the strength of the CSGA, and the man most responsible for its fantastic growth in the 50's and 60's."

He recalled that Neale also "loved Yale, his alma mater and the university where he worked for 36 years."

"The old-time writers also knew him," Kellogg said. "People like Grantland Rice, Tim Cohane and Frank Graham would stop by and see Widdy when they covered a Yale football game. He lived in the shadows of his famous brother Earle 'Greasy' Neale. He was the kid brother in New Haven. But he was a former Yale football player — and he knew many of the country's greatest collegiate football

missed

players."

Neale became synonymous with the CSGA. He was always there and highly visible. And he never backed down from a problem — whether it be a rule interpretation or an off-course decision.

Although he received scores of golf and other awards, his most cherished honor may have been the day in 1976 when Yale named the treacherous 230-yard ninth hole on the Yale Golf course, Neale's Ninth.

On that day, he became especially emotional. "I am overwhelmed," he said as he was shown the ninth hole plaque, engraved in his honor.

Neale, who devoted most of his life to Yale, lived right off the Yale golf course. With his love for the game and university, nothing could have been more appropriate.

Sat. Dec. 21, 1985

William Neale Jr. dies; amateur golf official

William H. "Widdy" Neale Jr., 85, of 10 Kenter Place, died at Branford's Connecticut Hospice Friday after a brief illness. He was the husband of the late Helene Weekley Neale.

He was born Sept. 8, 1900, in

'Mr. Amateur Golf.' is remembered. Story on page 19.

Parkersburg, W. Va., to William H. Neale and Irene Fairfax Neale, and later moved to Killingworth.

Mr. Neale was known in golf circles as "Mr. Amateur Golf." He served as director of the Connecticut State Golf Association for 40 years.

A 1925 graduate of Yale University, Mr. Neale devoted many years to the university as an athlete, coach and official.

He played baseball and football,



William Neale Jr.
Golf official

See Neale page 3

NEALE, WILLIAM H. JR.

In Branford, Dec. 20, 1985 William H. Neale Jr. (Widdy), husband of the late Helene W. Neale, of 10 Kenter Place, New Haven, father of William H. Neale III, of Killingworth, brother of Kathryn Griffith, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, also survived by two grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Funeral service and interment will be held Monday morning in Parkersburg, West Virginia. A memorial service will be held at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 305 Saint Ronan Street, Saturday, Jan 25th at 10 o'clock. Gifts in his memory maybe made to the Widdy Neale Caddy Scholarship Fund, c/o Connecticut State Golf Association, 95 Howe Street, New Haven, 06511 or Connecticut Hospice, 61 Burban Drive, Branford, 06405. Arrangements with Hawley Lincoln Memorial, 493 Whitney Ave.

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Neale: Former Yale coach, director

Continued from page 1
founded Yale's intramural sports program in 1933 and served as director of the University Athletic Association from 1952 to 1968.

At the same time, Mr. Neale served as executive secretary and past president of the state golf association.

As a coach, Mr. Neale led the Yale golf team to the National Collegiate Athletic Association national championship in 1944 and to the eastern title in 1954.

He is survived by a son, William H. Neale III of Killingworth; a sister, Kathryn Griffith of Parkersburg; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was predeceased by a brother, Earle "Greasy" Neale.

The funeral and burial will take place Monday at 11 a.m. in Parkersburg. A memorial service will be held in New Haven in January, time and place to be announced.

The Hawley Lincoln Memorial funeral home is in charge of arrangements.