

Lagniappe

**Athletic 'Pro' Star
Made 'Run' for Role**

By THOMAS GRIFFIN

ONE OF the actors in "Pro," name of Bruce Dern, who'll play the role of one of the football players in the film, is a member of the vast, new army of joggers all over the U.S. who run to keep fit. I'm told he holds the national record for marathon runs of 40 and 42 miles. At his current age of 32, they say he can do 32 miles.

Well, some months ago when "Pro" producer Walter Seltzer was casting the movie and looking about for actors who could portray pigskin athletes, he called up Bruce and asked him to report to the Harvard School in North Hollywood for a try-out and, if accepted, for training as a football player.



TOMMY GRIFFIN

Bruce replied, "O.K., I'll run over!" And he did—from the seven miles from his home to the school!

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IT'S NO SECRET that scenes for movies are not shot chronologically. They are filmed, so to speak,

out of context and pieced together in the editing room. Thus it was that the final scene of "Pro" was shot last Sunday afternoon in Tulane Stadium when the bowl was jammed with a record crowd of 84,728 people. Twenty minutes before game time, star Charlton Heston went through a simulated scrimmage with the Saints and Dallas Cowboys. And received a crack in a rib!

None of the real pro players was the guilty party. "Two of our own supporting actors caused the damage," Len Weissman, the "Pro" press rep said. "They were Mike Henry, a former 'Tarzan,' and Ernie Barnes. Charlton was supposed to jump over them in the scene but they jumped up at the same time and the trio collided in mid-air."

Len said Heston had his chest taped up and returned to the field to sit on the Saints bench throughout the game.

It's now history, of course, that Billy Kilmer, the Saints' star quarterback, received a hair-line fracture of his ankle early in the second quarter and joined Heston on the bench. This sidelined both "17s" because Heston is wearing Billy's jersey in the picture.

Wonder if this unlucky number will now be passed on to Karl Sweetan who took over when Kilmer was injured? If so, United Artists will be getting a "veteran actor" for the long shots. Karl played a quarterback for the Detroit Lions in "The Paper Lion."

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FRIDAY'S crack of dawn will see 25 hardy skippers and their crews taking off at 6 a.m. from the Southern Yacht Club to navigate the tortuous 60 nautical miles in a race to the Pass for the Pass Christian Yacht club's 11th annual "Frostbite Regatta."

The word "hardy" is used advisedly. Last year's entrants

still recall the 45 to 50-knot winds their crafts endured, as well as the trip through the Pass Marianne Channel which seemed as congested with water traffic as people on Canal st. at high noon on Mardi Gras.

But a good time was had by all; and regatta chairman "Buddy" Beyer predicts this year's merrymaking through Sunday will be better than ever.

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POTPOURRI — Looks like retired restaurateur Pierre LaCoste (who operated the Vieux Carre restaurant many years ago) may be contemplating a comeback in the French Quarter; a sign on a building he bought at 430 Dauphine bears a notification he's applying for a liquor license. (The location is good because two hotels are currently under construction nearby.) Author James Kirkwood's long-awaited article on Clay Shaw appears in the December issue of Esquire; tells, among other things, Shaw's immediate stunned reaction to his arrest; there's also a full-page color picture of Clay seated under a banana tree in his patio. Aubrey Burke's off to Rio after first missing his plane; if he'd have left a day earlier he'd have been kidnapped to Cuba.

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HITHER AND YON — Vivacious Cia Perkins back among us in her French Quarter home on Gov. Nicholls after several months in Highlands, N.C., where she bought a cottage by a waterfall . . . Joan and Perry Brown, Jr., hailing another man in the family; son Pepper just turned 21 (in college in Santa Fe) . . . Italy's handsome Ruggiero Pastore (a business law student at Loyola) prepping his Jefferson International soccer team (of which he's captain and defensive fullback) for a match against Mexico Nov. 27 . . . Winnie and Ed Bishop back to their respective desks (she in a bank; he in an accounting firm) after a vacation tour of Texas and Georgia. (Texas and Georgia!!!) . . . Glamorous Maudie Brennan dusting off the welcome mat to greet son Jimmy (manager of the Houston restaurant) and wife Nancy for a week-long Thanksgiving visit.

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SHOW BIZ — Rep theater's special performance of George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and The Man," Nov. 16, for the Navy Relief Society, is being talked up by Lt. Comdr. Bill Aylward, public affairs officer of the Naval Air Station; other day he was inviting both Charlton Heston and John Mecom, Jr., to attend; the evening will be a black-tie gala . . . Bonnie Lankford, recently flew to New York to visit finance Samuel Polo while he was in training for a brokerage firm; while there they were interviewed on tape by Ed McMahon for his "Snap Judgment" show; the segment will be telecast here in January . . . Former local producer Bob Steuer, now with American International Pictures in Hollywood, was photographed with Tiny Tim at a Variety Club of Southern California luncheon; Bob forwarded a print of same with the comment, "Mr. Tim is not to be believed."

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