

Carry On



By WARREN WALDEN

CONLEY STADIUM — Recently an obituary told of the passing of William L. Conley, an outstanding athlete and notable citizen in the South Providence section. Known as "Wild Bill," Mr. Conley and his athletically-inclined family typify the tradition of one of the beloved neighborhoods in memory and recall the bygone eras of amateur wrestling, club fighting and sandlot football and baseball. "Wild Bill" played football for several clubs including the "Argonauts" and "St. Joseph's." Once he scrimmaged with the famed Brown "Iron Men." In addition, he won his first eleven boxing bouts before abandoning the sport at the request of his mother.

"Wild Bill's" father, "Packy" Conley had been widely acclaimed for his fistic prowess as an amateur boxer and his uncle Jack was an able amateur wrestler. "Packy's" cousin, George "Tiger Jack" Conley, became very popular as an adonis-type professional wrestler of unusual capabilities. Back to "Wild Bill." His two sons, Patrick and Bill Jr. carried on the athletic tradition notably. In basketball, Bill Jr. set a record for Junior High

competition when he scored a season's high of 60 points. Patrick Conley, now Dr. Patrick Conley, who is, among other designations, a History Professor at Providence College, has an enviable athletic and scholastic record that is lengthy. He played baseball and track at P.C., was a medalist in the N.E. Intercollegiate Track Championships in the Javelin and was acclaimed "Outstanding All-Around Athlete" in the Providence Junior Olympics, those accomplishments being included in a long list of athletic achievements. The "Conley Story" is impressive, the name adorning the stadium in Mt. Pleasant being worthy of the honor, being recognized for distinction through the popularity of "Wild Bill's" cousin, "Bucky" Conley, who probably was not as proficient in sports as some of the other members of the family but who loved the games and loved people. He was officially U.S. Marshall — unofficially "The Mayor of South Providence." Good reasons for naming it, "Conley Stadium." — CARRY ON!