

# USIU Faces Mental Challenge

The problem is mental, not physical, but it's right there for everybody to see. Right there on the record, which shows U.S. International University has lost two of its first five football games.

"We should be undefeated," Westerner coach Marv Braden will tell you.

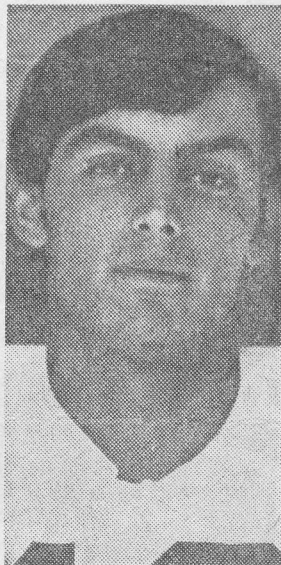
Yeah, and the sky should be blue and the sun should come out every day, too.

There was a cloud hanging over the Westerners today as they tried to forget Saturday night's stunning, 15-14, loss to Whittier and began preparing for a 1:30 date with Cal Lutheran Saturday at Balboa Stadium.

"We weren't mentally ready for Whittier," judged Braden. "We played some terrible football and gave them a lot of encouragement. They played their best game but we made 'em look great.

"We'd seen a film of Whittier and they hadn't looked good. Maybe we were too concerned with our national ranking (No. 9 among small colleges)."

Whatever, the Westerners were penalized 13 times, fumbled twice inside their 21 and



**ROCKY LUCIA**  
Surprise starter injured

failed to gain field position for so much as one field goal try by placekicker Dale Curtis.

"We need a more effective attack," Braden understated. "Whittier was taking away our outside game and we didn't attack the areas they were giving us."

Against Cal Lutheran, a team which defeated Whittier,

16-7, earlier this season, the Westerners will be missing quarterback Rocky Lucia, a surprise starter ahead of Doug Omer last week.

Lucia suffered a hyperextended knee during USIU's first scoring drive. He was replaced by Omer, who will get the starting call against the Kingsmen.

"I don't think Cal Lutheran has the offense or the defense to beat us," said Braden. "But mentally they'll be higher than a kite. We've got to defeat their spirit and desire."

The Kingsmen, Braden reasons, will be fired up because of a 49-0 loss to the Westerners last year, a defeat which ended Cal Lutheran's winning streak at 15 games.

**NOTEWORTHY** — Split end Tim Titus caught six passes and "did a great job of blocking." Braden praised . . . another gem in a string of perils was defensive back Mike Raney . . . pass interference, an infraction which officials have called with an appalling lack of consistency, according to Braden, cost USIU 53 yards against Whittier.