

# Capitolizing on Sports

## Feeling A Draft

By Darrell Reider

It's hard to think about professional football at this time of year, but the NFL draft was conducted Tuesday and Wednesday. It's annually a time when the collegiate athletes let their four-year careers speak for themselves, as they hope to earn a spot on a roster of one of the NFL's 28 teams. There are many disheartened guys right now who had hoped to hear their name called out by Commissioner Pete Rozelle but were not chosen. The only alternative they have left is to work hard at the spring camp for non-roster players, to give themselves at least a slim chance to be pro football players. The sad thing is that these athletes don't see dollar signs loading a multi-million dollar contract—they just want to play football at any price.

Those fortunate 332 college stars who were selected at the 1981 draft will go on to display their talents in the upcoming NFL season. As usual, there were many surprises in the early rounds, with the real shocker courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings. Presumably, the Vikes did not need any great first-round talent, so they traded their valuable 18th selection overall to the Baltimore Colts for two second round choices. True, the Purple Machine won the Central Division of the NFC last season, but their record wasn't too encouraging, barely over .500. So the Colts and the defending Super Bowl champion Oakland Raiders were the only teams to have two selections each among the first 28 picks on Tuesday.

The first three picks in the first round took less than one-tenth of the allotted time. The New Orleans Aints, as expected, grabbed Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers from South Carolina, the New York Giants picked linebacker Lawrence Taylor from North Carolina, and their cross-town rivals, the New York Jets, (remember, they were Jimmy the Greek's predicted Super Bowl champs!) sucked up UCLA running back Freeman McNeil.

Speaking of the Jets, they followed their annual path of choosing players at positions where they are not needed. Their first two picks were running backs, and, to say the least, the partisan Jet crowd was upset. Chants of "Goodbye Walter" (referring to Coach Walt Michaels) echoed through the converted pool facility at the Sheraton Hotel in the Big Apple. It took the Jets three rounds until they decided to strengthen their atrocious defense, after most of the highly scouted talent had already been chosen. I hope "The Greek" predicts someone else to capture the 1981 crown.

Our Nittany Lions did not do that badly in the draft this year. Fullback Booker Moore shuffled of to the Buffalo Bills as the last choice of the first round. He should complement last year's rookie phenom Joe Cribbs. Guard Bill Dugan was the 58th pick overall in the draft, and the second pick in the third round, when the Seattle Seahawks landed him. The other two Lions chosen in the preliminary draft were Pete Kugler, now a Sad Francisco 49er, and Larry Kubin, acquired by the Washington Redskins. Earlier last week, Kubin elected to spend next year at University Park as a Nittany Lion after being declared a fifth-year senior. Kubin was injured in the third game last season and was considered a red-shirt by the NCAA, thus making him eligible for another season at Happy Valley. That sure is good news for Joe Paterno's defensive squad!

The school with the best draft turnout in the first six rounds was the University of Pittsburgh, which had 12 seniors selected. The North Carolina Tar Heels and the Ohio State Buckeyes each had five players join the 'professional ranks through the draft this year.

The team which probably had the best draft was the New Orleans Aints, under the guidance of new coach O.A. "bum" Phillips. New Orleans had 18 players chosen in the first 12 rounds, many of whom were early-round selections. A few players lasted longer than expected—even past the 60th pick overall—including record-setting quarterback Mark Herrmann of Purdue, who was taken by the Denver Broncos, and running back "Famous" Amos Lawrence of North Carolina, selected by the San Diego Chargers.

Since the attention has been on professional football for the past few weeks, next week we'll look in-depth at the upcoming Nittany Lion football season, as Coach Joe Paterno looks forward to another winner. This season, however, that is easier said than done.

## Semi-Sweet

By Yvonne Harhigh

The Hershey Bears and Adirondack Red Wings split the first two games of their American Hockey League Calder Cup semi-final series last week in Hershey.

The Bears won the first game 9-5, but only after watching the Red Wings erase a 4-0 Hershey lead.

Hershey jumped ahead early, scoring four goals in less than five minutes of the first period. Tallies came from Don Howse, Darren Veitch, Mark Lofthouse, and Tony Cassolato, the leading scorer in the playoffs.

In the second period, the Red Wings surprised the confident Bears, tying the score at four. Jody Gage scored just seconds into the period, with Carmine Cirella, Tom Bladon, and Greg Joly adding later goals.

Awakened by the Red Wing attack, the Bears burst into the final period on a goal by Harvey Pocza. Later, Peter Marrin and Lou Franceschetti each fired one in, and Lofthouse added his second of the night. Marrin unleashed one more goal to end Hershey's scoring.

The Red Wings' last breath came when Dan Bolduc blew one past Bears' goalie Rollie Boutin.

Saturday night, the Wings got revenge, winning 5-4 and ending Hershey's 15-game unbeaten streak.

The Bears' rookie defenseman Darren Veitch started the string of back and forth scoring with a goal in the first period. Adirondack's Dennis Polonich matched it, and Tony Cassolato put the Bears back on top before the period ended.

Jody Gage tied the game at two with a power play goal early in the second stanza. The period ended in a 3-3 tie, as Veitch and Polonich again exchanged goals.

Harvey Pocza put the Bears ahead for the last time in the third period, deflecting a drive from Veitch. Two minutes later, Ted Nolan evened it at four, and then Adirondack's Rejean Cloutier got his first goal of the playoffs—the one to which the Bears had no answer.

After two games at Adirondack, the series returns to the Hersheypark Arena Saturday night.

Fast Start For Martin & Co.

## AM-A's-ING

By Kevin Spiegel

The word around campus is "Billy Ball, Billy Ball!" Can you believe those Oakland A's and Billy Martin? They are playing such good baseball that they are re-writing the record book. Names such as Norris, Kingman, Langford, McCatty, and Keough make up the A's starting pitching rotation (they are not President Reagan's White House staff). Names like Henderson, Revering, Armas, and Murphy are just a few of the guys who supply the hitting, speed, and power for Martin. Oakland is doing so well that they even have a second baseman named Shooty Babbitt. (He even starts for them! Now you know you're in trouble.) Just a bit of a reminder: last year the A's finished in second place because of a poor start. Maybe I will change my pre-season prediction. I picked the Kansas City Royals, who are presently in last place, to finish first.

In the NHL, it's the Islanders, Rangers, North Stars, and Flames. Those four have advanced to the semi-finals. The Rangers surprised the St. Louis Blues in six games. OO-LA-LA Ron Duguay led New York, along with the Swede, Anders Hedberg. Once again, the Rangers advanced behind outstanding goaltending. Rookie Steve Baker continued to amaze this writer, along with other members of the media. As for the Isles, what more can you say about this explosion that hasn't been said already? But, the Gretzky Oilers did take the Long Islanders to six games, two more than I expected. I hope the Islanders are tired and have forgotten how to skate. (Guess who I am rooting for.) For the Rangers to win, their power play must be effective.

As for the other series, it will not have the Flyers in it. Yes, the Flames went into the Spectrum on Sunday night and surprised the Flyers 4-1. So now the Flames will face the Minnesota North Stars. The Stars have a playoff record of 7-1, and their only loss came in overtime. They manhandled the Buffalo Sabres, just ask Fleet Becker and Marty Lindenberg. The Stars were led by their rookie goalie Don Beaupre and Olympic hero Steve Christoff. The Flames match their goalie, Paul Riggin, with the Stars' netminder shot for shot. As for scoring, Kent Nilsson heads a fine Calgary attack. You can say what you want about the Flames' goalie, but he did handle the Flyers single-handedly. He has a quick left hand, and is tough in the clutch. Ask any Flyer fan. The only chance that I had to see Beaupre was during this year's All-Star game. He is only 19 years old, and lightning fast. He doesn't give up any rebounds, which is important in goaltending. My prediction for the NHL finals is, even though my heart is with the Rangers, the Isles vs. the North Stars.

A comment about the NBA playoff setup. The Sixers and Celtics are the two best teams in the NBA, no one will argue

with that. If all the hockey teams are thrown into one group for total points, why can't basketball have its system based on percentages? If the final four (Celtics, Sixers, Kings, and Rockets) were to meet according to my system, then it would match the Celtics vs. the Rockets and the Sixers vs. the Kings. The two winners would then meet for the league championship.

During this past weekend, basketball fans found out that Ralph Sampson of the Virginia Cavaliers is going to stay in college at least one more year. Speculation was that the 7'4" center would skip his last two years of college and make himself eligible for the June NBA draft. The only thing that I have to say is Hooray! As for Mark Aguirre of DePaul and Isiah Thomas of Indiana, they will go hardship and join the biggies in the NBA. Thomas has a good excuse for going into the NBA. His family is suffering economically, and Isiah will be able to support them on his million-dollar contract. As for Aguirre, when the DePaul dream team was eliminated, he felt nothing else was left for him in college. I'm going to school for four years, why can't he? I guess money does talk.

My intramural bowling team fell once again. This time we were beaten by the Prowlers. My team, the Strat-O-Matics, has been beaten badly in the last two weeks. Two weeks ago, we were beaten by the 11th Framers, but that's not the half of it. You know things are going bad when the editor of the C.C. Reader beats you. I'm talking about the honorable Harold Moyer. If he would have just bowled his average, we might have split the series. But nooooo! Sir Harold bowls out of his \$\$\$<sup>1/2</sup> 1/2\*\*. Thanks, Harry! He just wanted some free promotion. Then last week, we faced the Prowlers, and were destroyed by Colleen Pflieger. First Harry, then Colleen. Only Earl Anthony awaits the Strat-O-Matics. We are definitely due for a turnaround. With Ed McDonald, Fleet (201) Becker, our prettiest teammate Tish Whalen (who is the only one to bowl over her average every week), and Darrell (Thunder) Reider, we hope to surprise a few teams. Just ask the captain and president of the WSDC team. He also wanted some free promotion. Poor Joe, he doesn't even let his girlfriend bowl on the team. I would talk to him, Joan!

Until next issue, let's go Mets and Rangers.

### Sports Quiz

In 1978, the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees finished in a tie for first place. They had a playoff game, and it became the first of its kind. If you're up on your baseball, can you tell me who made the last out in that game? Hint: He still plays today.

Answer next week.

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