

Football follies invade sports

Mike Givler
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Can anyone tell me what in the hell has happened to football? Some of the stories that have surfaced over the past weeks have me wondering about the mentality and the future of football, not only in the professional ranks, but on the college and high school fields.

I'LL start my case with a rule change in high school football that now allows a kicker to attempt immensely long field goals. The new rule says that a missed field goal will be considered a punt. A school in Louisiana decided to get the most out of their field goal kicker.

The kicker, Jason LeBlanc who plays for Lake Charles Barbe High, attempted field goals of 100, 96, 69, 55 and 36 yards. AND, was unsuccessful on all five attempts. I can't speak for everybody, but I have a hard time trying to comprehend a 100-yard field goal attempt. BUT, he was successful on four extra points in their 28-6 victory.

TURNING to the college ranks, I also

question a Clemson defensive tackle about his choice of major. Brentson Buckner, the 315-pound tackle, who's nicknamed X-Rated because of his dirty play, said, "If I can get away with it, I'll try to do something to make an opposing player

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mad. I might hit 'em, say something to 'em out of the way." Buckner is an English major who hopes to become a sportswriter.

HAVE you heard about the two LSU players who pleaded guilty in court to assaulting a 145-pound man at a party with their fists and a stick? Their attorney, Nathan Fisher, said that his clients "exemplify what the student athlete is all about, and that's in spite of what happened here today." That statement makes me proud to be an athlete.

LET me "Giv" you a trivia question

that fits into this football weirdness quite well. What college football team has the nickname of the Chippewas?

ON to the pros, where every football player aspires to be one day. Sometimes I think it may be easier to go to the head offices and make major decisions than actually play the game, and here's why. The Indianapolis Colts recently fired their head coach Ron Meyer and hired Rick Venturi. Venturi was a head coach at Northwestern in the late 1970s where he posted records of 0-10-1, 1-10, 0-11 and 0-11. He should fit right in with the Colts' plans for the next couple of years.

IF I were among the big brass of a professional football team, say the Green Bay Packers, I'd never overlook a player with the name of Green. It would have paid off for the Packers if they had drafted Gaston Green, Roy Green and Eric Green. The same week the Packers rushed for 44 yards and passed for 219 yards in a loss to Miami, Gaston gained 127 yards on the ground while Eric and Roy grabbed 158 yards and 114 yards, through the air.

INCIDENTALLY, that was the same afternoon that the Packers' "savior" Don Majkowski dropped the ball in the end zone for the only Miami touchdown, losing the game for the Pack, 16-13.

THE answer to the name game is the Central Michigan Chippewas. Don't laugh folks, I am sure many Michigan State fans aren't. Central Michigan went into East Lansing and handed the Spartans a 14-7 loss.

DEION SANDERS, the defensive back for the Falcons who was given a helicopter ride to a Braves game after practice said, "I've always heard about planes crashing and people talking on the black box. I made sure I was right beside that black box, so if anything had happened you'd have been hearing me all over it." I don't think we'll ever have to worry about not hearing from Deion.

Until the next issue...May all your putts hit nothing but the bottom of the cup.

Soccer team kicks off new season

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The Penn State Harrisburg soccer team has gotten off to a good start in their 1991 season, thanks to some timely scoring and a lot of team playing. Here's a recap of the games played so far.

September 21: PSH 4, Gallaudet 2

Jim Deffenbaugh and Mike Lee each scored a goal and had an assist in their first game at the college and Dennis Butler and Tom Werner also chipped in with a goal apiece to help the Lions win their opening game.

Coach Mark Ashley said he was very pleased with the Lions' first game. He said the team showed flashes of good passing and the offense was generated through quick transition from the wings.

Ashley was also very pleased with the defense because Gallaudet was limited to only five shots. He added that the bench played an important role by giving the starters a much needed rest before Sunday's game with District 19 opponent Columbia Union.

September 22: PSH 3, Columbia Union 2

The Lions overcame a 1-0 halftime

deficit to score three second half goals and stay unbeaten. Ashley said this was the best game he had ever seen the Lions play, as they outshot Columbia Union 30-9.

Trailing 1-0, Lion Dan Rosseljong tied the score on a penalty kick early in the second half which turned the tide. However, Columbia Union did the next goal on a misclear, giving them a 2-1 lead.

But the Lions didn't falter, as right fullback Joe Marichak scored his first goal of the season on a long shot that was lofted over the keeper, tying the score at 2-2. Lee then scored his second goal in as many days from the six-yard-line as he collected a pass from Jim Deffenbaugh and one-timed it into the net for a 3-2 victory.

Ashley said his only concern was that the Lions would get frustrated and start to press after they fell behind, but he said the team showed confidence and found team chemistry. He added that it was a great team win.

September 24: Lancaster Bible 1, PSH 0

The Lions squandered some early scoring chances and had to play much of the game with only ten men, as they suffered their first defeat at the hands of Lancaster Bible.

The only goal of the game came on a penalty kick in the second half. Ashley called the foul a "very questionable" call. It was not the first penalty kick of the

game, however. In the first half, Lancaster Bible was awarded a penalty kick, a call that was disputed by sweeper Rosseljong. The sweeper was eventually red-carded and tossed out for the remainder of the game, thus making the Lions play with ten players for the rest of the game.

Ashley said later that he had mixed emotions about the Lions' performance, as they were outshot 22-15. He said the first ten minutes of the game were played sloppily by both teams, but his squad overcame the adversity of playing a man short and played with something extra.

"I was very proud and extremely pleased with the team", Ashley said.

September 28: Goldey Beacom 2, PSH 0

Goldey Beacom scored a goal on a penalty kick and another goal late in the game that sewed up the win and evened the Lions' record at 2-2. Both teams started the game strong and the contest was fast-paced, with lots of quick transitions to offense.

Ashley said the Lions played reasonably well and hung tough with one of the top District 19 teams, but the "lack of a consistent offense was the difference in the game." Ashley said one highlight of the game was the outstanding play by Vere Wheatland, who held down a depleted defense.

"Wheatland made the switch from stopper to sweeper and controlled our offense very well," Ashley said.

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Last Issue's Dugout Doodles Answers:

1. Cy Young's 313 losses are the most in a career.
2. 1971 MVP Vida Blue was the last switch-hitter to win the award.
3. Connie Mack coached the Philadelphia A's for 50 years.
4. Joe DiMaggio was the first \$100,000 player.
5. Eight ways to get on first base: single, walk, hit by pitch, catcher's interference, dropped third strike, fielder's choice, error and pinch runner.
6. Tallest player-Randy Johnson, shortest player-Eddie Gaedel.
7. The minimum number of batters a pitcher must face to be given a complete game decision is 13.
8. Stuffy McInnis, Eddie Collins, Jack Berry and Frank "Home Run" Baker were known as \$100,000 infield.
9. Charlie Root gave up Babe Ruth's called shot.

Although no WON correctly answered all of the questions, Robert McDonald of Middletown, a SECONDAry education major, turned in the most correct answers.