

Sports Happenings

Sports rap

by Eric Riedinger

Well, the pro football season is almost half over and the Giants and Jets still can't win. Although, there have been a few surprises this football season, the Lions and Bills are confusing everyone by having their best starts in pro football in years. It's too bad neither of these teams will reach the Superbowl, but they do have a good opportunity to at least reach the playoffs.

I can't believe how great Billy Simms is doing this year for the Lions. He is only a rookie, but he is leading the league in rushing with just an average offense line. He looks to have a great football career ahead of him in the pros if he stays healthy.

Monday Night Football is still the most popular sports program on television, with N.C.A.A. College Football running a close se-

cond. College football has to be the most exciting sport to watch in person. I can't think of a bigger party to go to other than a college football game. Penn State football is known for its lack of size and quickness but not spirit.

Now it's time for my first annual hockey, basketball and football predictions. First of all, in hockey, look for Montreal to win the Stanley Cup this season. The Flyers, Northstars, Rangers, and Bruins all look to give Montreal a run for it. In the N.B.A., look for the Sonics to defeat Boston for the crown. As far as college basketball goes, except U.C.L.A. to avenge its loss in the N.C.A.A. Finals. The Steelers and Eagles will be the Superbowl this football season, and the Texas Longhorns will be number one in college football this year.

Season opens as rivals clash

Area basketball fans have been eagerly awaiting this match-up between two of the state's top basketball powers. Not since the opening game of the 1976-1977 season has Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) — the perennial community college champion of Pennsylvania, ventured into the ominous halls of the Highacres Sports Complex, the Pride of Penn State. On that eventful November night in 1976, over 1000 excited fans (an intercollegiate basketball attendance record for the new complex) watched history in the making. This game represented the first-ever meeting between these two schools, but even more significant, it was also the first basketball game ever played in the new \$3 million sports complex at Highacres.

Now, four years later, the Minutemen of Luzerne County Community College return to do battle against the pride of the Commonwealth Campus Athletic Conference (CCAC), the Condors of Hazleton Penn State! The Condors, winners in 10 of their last 12 games last season, return six key players — four of whom were starters on last year's 16-8 team.

Leading the returnees for Hazleton will be the premier shot blocker in the C.C.A.C. last season, 6-7 Bryan Brassington from C.W. Robinson High School in Fairfax, Virginia. Brassington amassed 89 blocked shots last season which represented a school and C.C.A.C. record. Complimenting the big man inside will be 6-2 Ron Cann from Marian Catholic High School and 6-4 Bob Stoffa from Sayre. Cann was the team's leading rebounder from a year ago and Stoffa was the fourth leading rebounder in spite of missing several games with ankle injuries. Brassington, Cann and Stoffa accounted for 546 re-

bounds (53% of the entire team total for the season.)

Rejoining forces with the big front line will be 5-11 guard Peter O'Donnell out of Bishop Hafey High School. A super quick player who made things happen, both offensively and defensively, Peter also was one of the team's leading scorers. O'Donnell, Brassington, Cann and Stoffa accounted for 943 of the team's 1787 points during a fine 1979-80 season.

Bob Kennedy and Dan Wolfberg, Shikellamy High School and Selinsgrove High School respectively, round out the returning six players. Both Kennedy and Wolfberg are noted for their quickness and excellent defensive play. Their fine play contributed immeasurably to the success of last year's squad.

Several freshmen have looked impressive in the early stages of practice, however, the true test will begin on December 1 as the Hazleton Campus opens its 46th Intercollegiate Basketball Season, the last eight of those seasons under head coach, Tom Caccese.

Picked by many basketball experts to win the C.C.A.C. this year, the Condors will have their hands full with L.C.C.C. from Nanticoke. It should be an exciting night of basketball when Hazleton Penn State, the powerhouse of the C.C.A.C. plays host to Luzerne County Com-

munity College, the best of the Community College System.

The date of the opening game, Monday, December 1, is also registration day for the students at Highacres. Following the extended Thanksgiving break and with classes not starting until the following day, the gymnasium will be rocking for the season opener. Many food prizes will be awarded this night — for those who can still eat after Thanksgiving!

In addition, the biggest basketball sweepstakes in the state of Pennsylvania will also get underway at this game. Grand Prize is a trip for two to Freeport in the Bahamas. The four day and three night trip includes round trip air fare and hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort. To enter, just pick up your free sweepstakes ticket at each home game and fill it out! You will never enter a contest of this magnitude with a better chance of winning. Just ask Dr. Jerry Covert — last year's winner! His chance of winning the vacation for two to the Bahamas (retail value \$600.00) was one in 55!

Don't miss out on this unbeatable combination of events — top intercollegiate basketball talent, free food prizes, vacation in the Bahamas over Easter break, a chance to support your team while blasting L.C.C.C. out of the gym with your vocal support.

Condors 1980-81 basketball schedule

Mon., Dec. 1—Luzerne County Community College (H) 8:00
 Wed., Dec. 3—Lackawanna Jr. Coll. (H) 8:00
 Sat., Dec. 6—Baptist Bible Coll. (H) 2:00
 Mon., Dec. 8—Williamsport Comm. Coll. (A) 8:00
 Wed., Dec. 10—Scranton P.S.U. (A) 8:00
 Sat., Dec. 13—York P.S.U. (H) 2:00
 Mon., Dec. 15—Delaware P.S.U. (H) 8:00
 Dec. 17-18 Holiday Classic (teams to be announced)
 Wed., Jan. 7—Ogontz P.S.U. (H) 8:00
 Sat., Jan. 10—Mont Alto P.S.U. (A) 2:00
 Wed., Jan. 14—Schuylkill P.S.U. (H) 8:00
 Sat., Jan. 17—Berks P.S.U. (H) 2:00
 Mon., Jan. 19—Baptist Bible Coll. (A) 8:00
 Wed., Jan. 21—Alvernia Coll. (A) 8:00
 Sat., Jan. 24—York P.S.U. (A) 3:00
 Mon., Jan. 26—Northampton Comm. Coll. (H) 8:00
 Wed., Jan. 28—Delaware P.S.U. (A) 8:00

Fri., Jan. 30—Ogontz P.S.U. (A) 4:00
 Mon., Feb. 2—Keystone Jr. Coll. (H) 8:00
 Wed., Feb. 4—Mont Alto P.S.U. (H) 8:00
 Sat., Feb. 7—Schuylkill P.S.U. (A) 2:00
 Mon., Feb. 9—Berks P.S.U. (A) 8:00
 Wed., Feb. 11—Wilkes-Barre P.S.U. (A) 8:00
 Sat., Feb. 14—Scranton P.S.U. (H) 2:00

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