

# Tiger Backfield Loaded With Breakaway Threats

By SANDY PADWE

(This is the last in a series of scouting reports on the Missouri football team, Today the backfield.)

Any one of Missouri's breakaway backs can change the complexion of a football game in a matter of seconds—that's why the Tigers are gaining so much respect around the country this year.

Penn State end coach J. T. White who scouted Missouri in its first two games against S.M.U. and Oklahoma State says that Mel West, Donnie Smith and company "are the fastest backs we'll see all year."

West was Missouri's leading ground gainer for the past two years and has netted 1198 rushing yards overall. He'll start at left half tomorrow in Beaver Stadium.

Last week against Oklahoma State, the 5-9 speedster picked up 104 yards as the Tigers rolled to a 28-7 win.

West is considered the best running back to perform at Ol' Mizzou since the early forties and White says he is especially dangerous on end runs.

Smith, one of Missouri's tri-captains, is the other halfback. The fiery redhead had the best rushing average of any Tiger back in 1959, averaging 5.1 yards a try.

He also is an excellent passer and completed 5 of 9 last year for 106 yards. One of his completions accounted for the lone touchdown in Missouri's 19-8 loss to Penn State on opening day 1959.

The halfback talent doesn't stop with West and Smith, according to White's scouting reports.

Junior Norm Beal is the darling of the fans back in Columbia, Mo. He's an explosive runner with good speed and plenty of maneuverability. Last weekend he broke loose for a 78-yard touchdown run.

Senior Norris Stevenson, the first Negro to receive an athletic scholarship at Missouri, was the team's third leading ground gainer in 1959. A Tiger track star, Stevenson is more than adequate as a replacement for either Smith or West.

As if that's not enough, Dan Devine has Freddie Brossart, around mainly for defensive purposes and kick returns. He holds the Missouri record for the long-



ED MEHRER . . . tiger tri-captain

est punt return, an 83-yard jaunt against Colorado two years ago.

Missouri's pre-season quarterback problem has been solved by junior Ron Taylor who played in only two games last year.

Taylor's sophomore understudy Jim Johnson also has been a pleasant surprise this year.

At fullback Devine has steady Ed Mehrer, sophomore Andy Russell, and senior Jim Miles, who is recovering from knee surgery.

Mehrer, a shy, hard-trying athlete, went 28 yards for a TD against Oklahoma State last week. He had some bad luck last year when he suffered a knee injury that kept him out of the Orange Bowl game against Georgia.

# Lion Captain Will Miss Ram Game

Penn State's chances of upsetting eastern soccer champion West Chester grew a little dimmer yesterday when Lion captain Wayne Rodgers was hospitalized with a fever and an ankle injury.

Rodgers sprained his ankle during practice this week, and when the fever hit him yesterday, team physician Alfred H. Griess decided he would recover quicker by sitting out tomorrow's game.

With Rodgers out, the fullback position could prove to be quite a problem because John Miller is ailing too.

The junior fullback is suffering from a badly bruised rib, but Miller says he is ready to play, and will make the trip to West Chester.

Lion coach Ken Hosterman will use Ken Link in Rodgers' position and if Miller can't perform up to par, the Lion coach will use junior Bill Mackereth in his place.

With the exception of Rodgers and Miller, the Lions are in good shape for the powerful Rams.

Sophomore halfback Jay Stormer has been running well in practice and apparently is recovering from a case of shin splints.

Howie Farrar, who missed the opener after reporting late, has practiced all week and will see action at a new position against West Chester. Farrar was primarily used at center-forward last year, but he will start at left wing tomorrow.

# Long Picks Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Dale Long, present Yankee and former Pirate, is convinced New York will win the World Series because of its power and its past.

For power: Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Bill Skowron, Yogi Berra, etc.

For the past: Experience in a match where the chips are down and the players can't recoup in another round.

# Knicks Lose Green

NEW YORK (AP) — Johnny Green, rebounding star of the New York Knickerbockers, will be lost to the National Basketball Association team for a month. The Knicks said yesterday the former Michigan Stater will undergo a hemorrhoid operation today.

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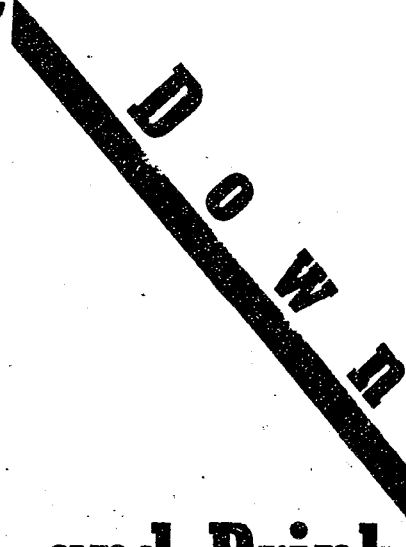
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