

Kickers Also Strong

Three Anchor Linebackers

By RON KOLB  
Collegian Sports Editor

(Third in a series of articles analyzing the 1968 Penn State football team during spring drills. Today's topic — linebackers and kickers.)

It was like opening day for Michael Reid. Direct from his appearance on stage as Big Jule in "Guys and Dolls," and from an appearance at the Geisinger Medical Center surgical room, and from an appearance in concert at the 88 keys, and from the NCAA wrestling championships.

Last Saturday's scrimmage session was only "fair" as coach Joe Paterno saw it. The hitting could have been crisper and the execution of plays more exact. But the first-team defensive unit, with one noticeable change from 1967, had a mid-season look.

That one change became obvious each time the defense broke from its huddle and lined up for a play. A 6-3, 235-pound linebacker in a number 60 uniform clapped his hands and bellowed in a deep baritone voice, "C'mon Big Blue. Let's go get 'em." Mike Reid was back.

Super-Soph Then

It was two seasons ago that Reid was given the term "sensational sophomore," because he had 63 unassisted tackles, 44 assists, three blocked kicks, 10 effective pass rushes, and All-East, All-State and honorable mention All-American honors. He might as well have said, "Start enlarging the trophy case, mama, I have two years to go."

The honors kept coming even after football season was over. As a heavyweight wrestler he advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, when Oklahoma State football All-American Granville Liggins met him. In that titanic duel, Reid suffered an injury to the ligaments in his right knee, and suddenly the former middle guard envisioned a shrinking trophy case.

The knee was patched up, and though he missed last year's spring drills, a hobbling Reid was read for the 1967 season opener at Navy. At least he thought he was. Reid hounded Paterno from the outset to let him play. Finally, when the head coach agreed, Reid anxiously ran on the field. In just a few plays the knee gave again and his season ended.

This spring practice is going to be a test for knee surgery, and so far, the test has proved successful. Linebacker coach Dan Radakovich sees nothing to worry about. "He's doing quite well, even though it's early to tell," he said. And Reid still has two years of eligibility remaining.

It's not too early to tell that the linebacking corps will be one of the strongest departments on the team this year, since Big Jule has an almost parallel performer operating with him on the inside. Last year's whiz kid becomes this year's veteran.

Denny Onkotz (6-2, 205) had that kind of season in 1967 — six interceptions with two returned for touchdowns, 56-yard punt return for a touchdown, leading lineman with an amazing 74 tackles and 44 assists, and like Reid, a berth as the only sophomore on the Associated Press All-East team,

Brezna (6-3, 235).

"They all look okay," Radakovich said, "but I'll tell you how they work out after the third game of the season." If past performance and potential talent are any indication, Big Jule and company will be stingy with the real estate. Real stingy.

Speaking of strengths, the kicking game next year belongs in the top category, too. Considering that the punter led the nation at one time last season, and the place-kicker was fifth in the nation in scoring, who worries?

"The punting game is coming along quite



DENNIS ONKOTZ



PETE JOHNSON



MIKE REID

... top 1967 tackler and honorable mention UPI All-American.

In addition, he made a key goal-line tackle to stop North Carolina State in the last minute, saving a 13-7 win, and he had a 47-yard interception for a TD that iced the Syracuse game. Sports Illustrated and AP named him Lineman of the Week after the N.C. State game. And now he calls the defensive signals.

Start enlarging the trophy case, mama. Two years to go.

In addition, last year's outstanding rover back, and another member of the whiz kids Pete Johnson (6-2, 211) is back. Johnson was in on 385 of the Lions' 727 defensive plays during the regular season, making 18 unassisted tackles, 11 assisted and intercepting one pass. With that experience, he should be among the team's best performers.

Radakovich lists four linebackers presently in first-unit roles. Reid and Onkotz are "inside," while Johnson and sophomore Jack Ham (6-2, 205) are "outside" linebackers. Ham, another good prospect, was a freshman starter at guard last year.

Outside position replacements fighting for jobs are sophs Gary Hull (6-4, 195) and Tom Templeton, while inside candidates include junior Dave Radakovich (5-11, 204) and sophs Jerry Bulvin (6-2, 200), a converted fullback, and Steve

well," Frank Patrick, coach in that department, said yesterday. "They have a way to go before they get the needed timing and rhythm, but right now they have good height and distance."

Bob Campbell, the exciting halfback who went out for the 1967 season with a knee injury in the third game, returns in perfect health. Before the injury, Campbell (6-0, 190) led the nation with a 45.1 punting average. He'll be pushed for the starting job by Brezna and fullback Tom Cherry (6-1, 207), who did most of the punting later last year.

Coach Bob Phillips expressed the same optimism for the placekickers. Don Abbey (6-2, 230), last year's field goal and point-after-touchdown man, is out of spring drills with an injured left leg, but he kicks with his right. When healthy, he can hit from 50 yards out. Last season he converted 23 of 26 extra points and three of 14 field goals.

Rusty Gurthwaite, a specialist from the freshman team, "doesn't have quite the range that Abbey has, but he has the accuracy," according to Phillips. "We should be pretty good," he added, and in a season ahead filled with strong opponents, one or three points may be the key to several wins. It's good to have a reliable foot or two.

FRIDAY — THE OFFENSIVE LINE.



MOLDING LINEBACKERS into form during yesterday's spring football practice session was coach Dan Radakovich, who is shown here talking with returning rover Pete Johnson (40) and other players. Radakovich has All-American hopefuls Dennis Onkotz and Mike Reid returning, along with Johnson, boasting the most experienced department on the squad.

REGULARS RETURNING: Inside linebackers, Dennis Onkotz, junior, 6-2, 205; Mike Reid, junior, 6-3, 235; Outside linebacker, Pete Johnson, junior, 6-2, 211. Punter, Bob Campbell, senior, 6-0, 190; Tom Cherry, senior, 6-1, 207. Place-kicker, Don Abbey, junior, 6-2, 230.

RESERVES, NEWCOMERS: Jack Ham, sophomore, outside linebacker, 6-2, 205; Gary Hull, sophomore, 6-4, 195, and Tom Templeton, outside linebackers; Dave Radakovich, junior, 5-11, 204; Jerry Bulvin, sophomore, 6-2, 200, and Steve Brezna, sophomore, 6-3, 235, inside linebackers. Place-kicker, Rusty Gurthwaite, sophomore.

EVALUATION: Linebackers are solid and experienced, kickers strong and accurate.

O'Malley May Reorganize Dodger Club

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley plans to reorganize his baseball club and look outside the organization for a general manager if his present general manager quits the Herald-Examiner said yesterday.

General Manager E. J. "Buzzie" Bavasi has been reported as planning to quit the Dodgers to become a part owner of a new National League franchise in San Diego next season.

Five cities "I wouldn't want to go on record yet about who would replace Buzzie," O'Malley told the Herald-Examiner. "There are five cities bidding for franchises. Only two of those cities will be picked."

O'Malley's strongest candidates to fill in for Bavasi until a permanent general manager is found are Frasco Thompson, who runs the farm clubs, and Arthur E. "Red" Patterson, public relations vice president, the newspaper said.

"The only one I would eliminate would be Peter O'Malley," O'Malley was quoted as saying. His son Peter is a vice president for stadium operations.

Intramural Volleyball

FRATERNITY: Pi Kappa Alpha over Delta Chi, 14-16, 15-7, 14-14; Alpha Chi Rho over Zeta Beta Tau, forfeit; Delta Phi over Sigma Alpha Epsilon, forfeit; Phi Kappa, Theta over Acacia, 15-7, 9-15, 15-9; Sigma Nu over Pi Lambda Phi, 15-6, 15-13; Omega Psi Phi over Zeta Psi, 15-4, 7-15, 15-3; Alpha Chi Sigma over Chi Phi, forfeit; Phi Kappa Psi over Delta Theta Sigma, 15-2, 15-10.

DORMITORY: Bedford over Monroeville, 15-3, 13-15, 15-2; Adams over Bucks, 15-2, 15-2; Fayette over Lebanon, forfeit; Mercer over Chester, 15-0, 15-4; Hurlington over Lycoming, forfeit; Tiosa over Northumberland, 15-4, 15-6; Washington over Northampton, 16-14, 9-15, 15-4; Clearfield over Lancaster, 15-8, 10-15, 15-2; Beaver over Millifin, 15-3, 13-15, 15-10.

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Cubs Get Regan

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs acquired relief pitcher Phil Regan and outfielder Jim Hickman from the Los Angeles Dodgers yesterday in exchange for outfielder Ted Savage and pitcher Jim Ellis.

Regan, 31-year-old right-hander, was a standout for the pennant-winning Dodgers in 1966 when he won 14 games, lost only one and appeared in 65 games. He pitched in 55 games last season, compiling a 6.9 record.

The veteran, nicknamed "The Vulture," was credited with both victories last Sunday when the Dodgers swept a doubleheader from the New York Mets.

He pitched for the Detroit Tigers from 1960 through 1965. His best season with the Tigers was in 1963 when he had a 15-9

mark, mostly as a starter. The Cubs immediately assigned Hickman to Tacoma of the Pacific Coast League. He had been playing several positions, including the outfield and third base, for Spokane of the same circuit.

ONCE AGAIN IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE CUE OFF THE RACKS AND MAKE TRACKS TO THE ARMENARA BOWLING LANES DURING THE WEEK FROM 9:00-6:00 ONLY \$75 per hour.

JUST ACROSS FROM SOUTH HALLS 9 BILLIARD TABLES

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PREFERRED STUDENT RATE THE BILTMORE HOTEL \$7 PER PERSON DOUBLE \$10 SINGLE CALL CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL POLAK 238-5758

State Rugby Clubs Blank Lehigh

The Penn State Blue and White Rugby Club squads evened their records to 2-2 on Saturday with shutouts over Lehigh in University Park. The Blue team won, 9-0, get-

ting its scoring punch from Dave Brown, with six points on two penalty kicks, and Tom Hellman, who contributed three on a try, or touchdown. Sandy Kime led the Whites to a 14-0 whitewash of Lehigh's second team with five points on a penalty kick and a conversion. Mario Palena and Jeff Schwartz scored on tries.

TO THE BROTHERS AND PLEDGES OF SIGMA ALPHA MU Thanks so much for the Beautiful Wedding Gift. It was a Super soul surprise Thanks, Lenny and Kathy

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