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— Glen Hyde

Pitt undergoes a Major change

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Glen Hyde has survived the fast pace and wholesale hitting of spring football drills at the University of Pittsburgh, and says he welcomes the demands of new Coach Johnny Majors.

"He's pushing us past our potential, weeding out the guys who really want to play," the 6-foot-4, 235-pound defensive tackle said as sweat streamed from his red hair and handlebar moustache.

"The linemen have been hitting an hour and a half every day," Hyde said.

"And we just run, run, run, and it's paid off because everyone has commented about how quick we look," said the Boston native.

More than 100 players opened spring drills under Majors, the Tennessean who was hired to rescue Pitt from a decade of football frustration.

Yet injuries and attrition cut the Pitt squad in half for the annual Blue-Gold intrasquad game which concluded spring drills Saturday.

About 30 players are on the shelf with assorted sprains, pains and migraines from the incessant hitting, and another 20 or so chose to quit the team.

"Ten of the guys who quit were on scholarship," Hyde said, "but Coach Majors would rather have them quit now than in the fourth quarter next season."

At a recent practice, Majors and his 11 assistants, attired in white shoes and flashy yellow windbreakers, led the players through a crisp, snappy workout.

The coaches continuously barked commands, encouragement and criticism and the players' whoops and yells echoed through Pitt's ancient stadium.

"They either prod you or praise you, but they never let up," said Hyde, "and you can't help but to be enthusiastic yourself."

On one occasion, the first team defense ran off the field after a light scrimmage, and an assistant coach ran excitedly after them.

"That's progress. That's real progress," he shouted as he slapped the players exuberantly on their helmets.

It was the kind of jubilation you'd expect to see on the sideline at a bowl game, and it stood in sharp contrast to the low-key approach of Major's predecessor, Carl DePasqua.

DePasqua, who was fired last year after a 1-10 season, took the subdued approach of the professionals, reserved and businesslike.

"I like it better this way," said Hyde, a senior from

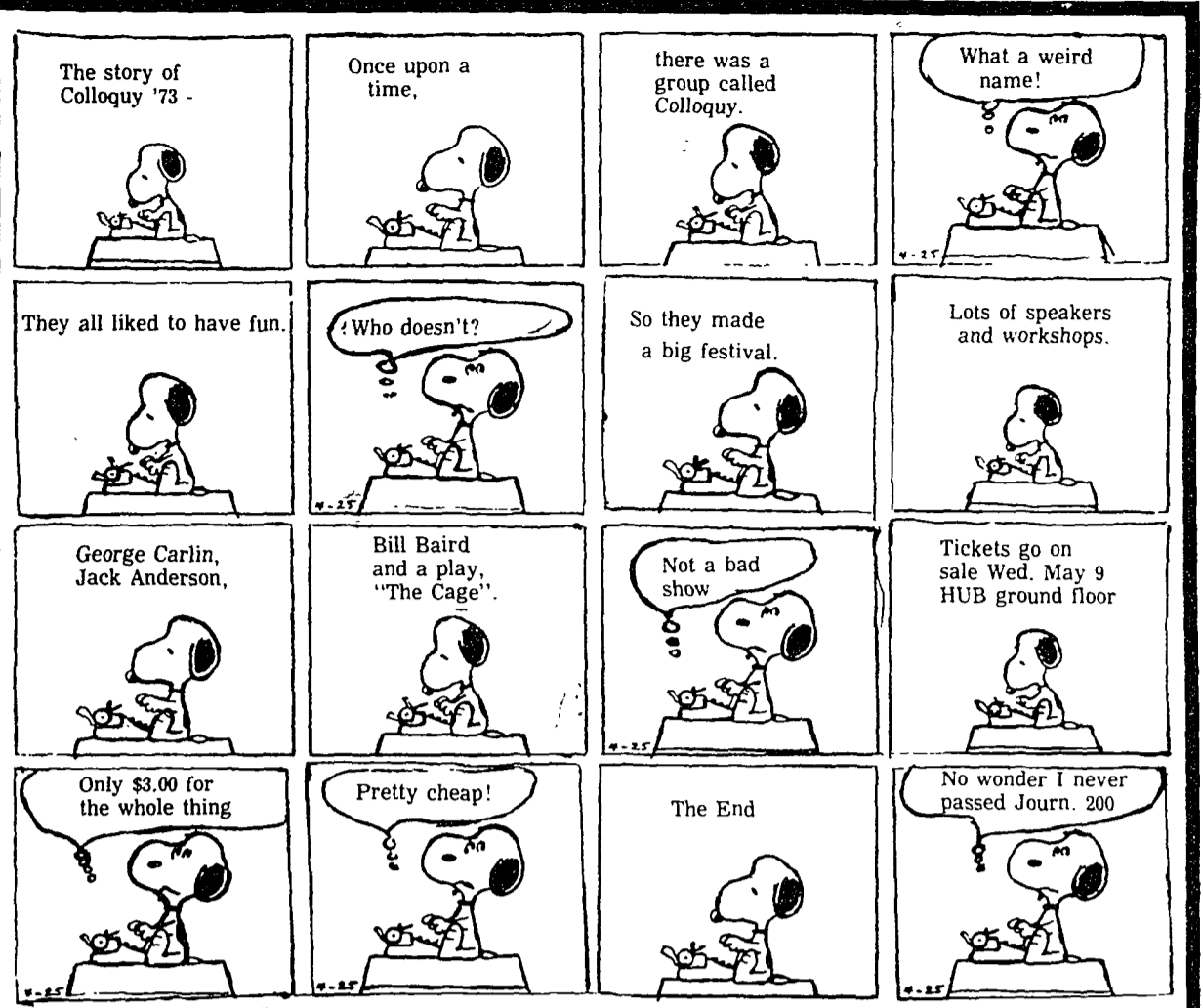
Massachusetts. "The coaches say that if you act enthusiastic, you play enthusiastic, and I believe that."

Beyond enthusiasm, however, Pitt must come up with players who have the ability to compete with the likes of Notre Dame and Penn State.

Majors had been concerned that his team may lack explosive players at the skill positions, wide receiver and running back.

However, he has more than 50 new recruits coming in next season, and they'll join the present squad at summer camp.

"He's already told us that the two-day workouts at summer camp are going to be the hardest we've ever been through in our lives," said Hyde. "All I can say is that anybody who shows up out of shape is in trouble."



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