



Who knows...

It's not officially official, but it's 98 per cent unofficially official that Penn State and Pitt will meet at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium Thursday night, Nov. 28, before the national ABC TV cameras. Because if it isn't played on that date, the Lions will be battling the Panthers at Pitt Stadium Saturday, Nov. 23, without head coach Joe Paterno.

Paterno revealed a little more than a week ago that he has already signed a contract with ABC to do some color commentary for the Ohio State-Michigan game Nov. 23, the same day the Pitt-Penn State contest was originally scheduled.

According to Joe, ABC called one day offering the color job. First Paterno had to refuse because he was already busy with Pitt.

The network called back later to say "no you're not," thus clearing the way for Joe to sign his broadcasting pact.

"I signed the contract, so as far as I know, that's the situation," Paterno said. (Actually, if the Thanksgiving game falls through, Paterno will be at Pitt November 23, contract or no, Rec Hall informs.)

You should keep a few things in mind when you read all the negative observations Paterno has been making about the Lions this year.

At different times he has labeled the team slow, out of shape and lacking last year's leadership.

The first thing to keep in mind is that Paterno knows his



Rick Starr
Sports Editor

players read the newspapers and he uses every possible outlet to influence their attitude toward the season.

The second thing is that this year's team is totally different from last year's vintage 12-0 squad. This year's team may turn out to be a dud, or it may be the most exciting collection of scrappers Penn State has ever assembled. But it will not show the same style that last season's precise, steady, physical group exhibited.

And in all likelihood this year's team will not get by Pitt, Stanford, Maryland, Iowa and N.C. State without losing somewhere. Those teams are just improving too much; they're good teams. And almost every team on the schedule wants Penn State's scalp worst of all, particularly on national television (Stanford and Pitt).

There's nothing intrinsically superior about football at Penn State. No team wins or loses forever.

Finally, there is perhaps a brighter note for Lion supporters. This year's team is no different from its immediate predecessors in available talent. Perennial Bowl teams always recruit well, which is why they are perennial Bowl teams.

As for all of Paterno's moaning, something Paterno said himself might be the best advice: "Publicity is like poison, it won't hurt you if you don't swallow it."

Fran Fisher, co-host of "TV Quarterbacks," Penn State's weekly football show, and play-by-play announcer for Penn State's football radio network, had two interesting observations at last week's football press day.

The first was a hunch about why nobody believes Paterno when he says this year's team will be less than spectacular. Fisher said it's probably due in part to the credibility loss he suffered by beating Texas so badly in the '72 Cotton Bowl, after giving such a believable "we're in trouble" song and dance for weeks prior to the game.

Fisher also pointed out another thing many are overlooking when assessing this year's squad. That is that many players have played in games, but too few have seen actual, first string, still-in-the-game game time like they'll see this fall. There's a big difference.

Two final quotes by coaches who will face Penn State this year provide a study in confidence and panic:

"Overall, we're much stronger this season. If we stay healthy, I feel we'll definitely have a chance to win the league championship (Pacific Eight, which includes USC and UCLA)."

—Stanford Coach Jack Christiansen
"A reporter asked me the other day if Rich Bevly (starting senior quarterback injured this summer) will be going to North Carolina for our opener and I told him 'If he isn't going, neither am I!'"

—Ohio Coach Bill Hess

St. LOUIS readies; Brock chases mark

ST LOUIS (AP)—Lou Brock's relentless pursuit of two prestigious baseball records was to resume last night amid mounting fervor at Busch Stadium over his dazzling footwork.

A post-Labor Day holiday crowd was prepared to shout the familiar words "Go, Go, Go," as soon as Brock reached base in a St. Louis Cardinals' doubleheader against the Montreal Expos.

A sidelong was offered by a vocal group in the leftfield bleachers wearing "Brock's Burglars 105 Club" T-shirts.

And around the city automobiles bearing the message "GO SAINT LOUIS" emblazoned on the back-ground of Cardinal red bumper stickers were in

increasing evidence.

"We're distributing as many as we have, which is 25,000," said Cardinal promotions director Ken Daust.

"We could get rid of a million if we wanted to fill mail requests," he added. "But we're limiting them to people who ask for them at the ticket office."

The 105 figure was third of three base stealing targets the 35-year-old Brock approached in spectacular fashion through the Cardinals' first 134 games.

By stealing 29 bases in August and four Sept. 1, the lean outfielder brought his total to 98 for the season and 733 during his career.

Phillies drift further behind in loss

By THE AP

Richie Zisk's three-run triple and two hits by pitcher Jim Rooker highlighted a seven-run explosion in the fifth inning that lifted the surging Pittsburgh Pirates to a 8-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies last night in Pittsburgh.

It was the 11th victory in 13 games for the Pirates, leaders in the National League East. They rapped 16 hits and pushed the Phillies seven games off the pace.

Rooker, 11-10, scattered six hits for the victory. He also opened the fifth-inning assault with a double off loser Wayne Twitchell, 6-8, and closed the inning with two-run single off reliever Gene Garber.

Rooker pitches, bats runs for Bucs;

The Phils led 1-0 going into the fifth. After Rooker doubled, he took third on a single by Rennie Stennett and scored the tying run on a single by Al Oliver.

Willie Stargell was then walked intentionally to load the bases. Zisk followed with a line drive on which Greg Luzinski attempted a shoestring catch, but the ball rolled past him to the wall for a bases-clearing triple.

Manny Sanguillen then singled Zisk home before taking third when Frank Taveras singled and rightfielder Mike Anderson

second on an infield out and scored on a double by Schmidt.

PHILADELPHIA		PITTSBURGH	
ab	r b h	ab	r b h
DCash 2b	3 1 3 0	Stennett 2b	3 1 2 0
Bowa ss	4 0 0 0	Hebner 3b	3 0 0 0
Schmidt 1b	3 1 2 1	Al Oliver cf	3 1 1
Luzinski lf	3 0 1 0	Stargell lf	4 2 2 0
Montanez 1b	4 0 0 0	Zisk rf	3 1 1
Mandros rf	3 0 0 0	DParker cf	1 0 0 0
Unser cf	2 0 0 0	Sanguillen c	4 1 2 2
Bannister cf	2 0 0 0	Krpastrick 1b	3 0 1 0
Boone c	4 0 0 0	Taveras ss	3 1 1 0
Twitchell p	2 0 0 0	Rooker p	4 1 3 2
Garber p	0 0 0 0		
OBrown ph	1 0 0 0	Total	36 8 16 8
Christiansen p	0 0 0 0		
Total	31 2 6 1		

bobbled the ball for an error that chased Twitchell. Rooker followed with his two-run single off Garber.

After taking a 7-1 lead in the fifth, the Pirates added their final run in the seventh off reliever Larry Christenson. Stargell opened with a single, took third on a single by Dave Parker and scored when Sanguillen forced Parker at second.

The Phils' final run came in the eighth. Dave Cash, who had previously rapped three straight hits off Rooker, drew a walk, took

New Lions rising

By JEFF YOUNG
Assistant Sports Editor

Preseason football picks have placed Penn State's 1974 edition anywhere from fourth in the nation (Sporting News) to twelfth (Playboy). It does appear to be that kind of a year.

Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions, 12-0 and Orange Bowl victors last season, will have plenty of new faces after graduating 13 starters, including three All-America and 10 National Football League draftees. Starting positions are up for grabs and Paterno has expressed his feelings that this year's Lions are not the dominating, overpowering force they were last season.

The biggest loss from that force is John Cappelletti, Heisman Trophy winner and two-year starter at tailback. But Paterno must also replace three quality offensive linemen in tackles Charlie Getty and Phil Laporta and guard Mark Markovich.

Walt Addie, a senior, may be the starting tailback. Addie has averaged nearly six yards a pop through two years of spelling Cappelletti. The new linemen include senior Jeff Bleamer at Getty's spot and junior Tom Rafferty at guard. Seniors Rich Caravella and Bill Johnson and sophomore Brad Benson are contending for the left tackle slot.

Returns on the front wall are guard John Nessel and center Jack Baiurunos.

Baiurunos has been named this season's offensive captain.

Addie will likely line up with fullback Tom Donchéz, who saw considerable action sharing the position with graduated Bob Nagle in 1973.

Senior Tom Shuman, the Orange Bowl's Outstanding Offensive Player, returns to call signals and head the Lion passing game. But all his wide receivers—Chuck Herd, Gary Hayman, Jimmy Scott—are gone. The big target may be Dan Natale, another senior and preseason All-America at tight end.

The wide receivers should come from seniors Jim Easie and Jerry Jeram and junior Dick Barvinchak, a converted quarterback. Easie may also take over most of Hayman's kick return duties.

When Penn State opponents have the football, Paterno can look to a fierce, veteran defensive line. But the rest of the defense was hit hard by graduation.

Up front there are three lettermen in ends—Greg Murphy, Dave Graf and tackle Mike Hartenstine. Senior Graf has started since his sophomore year. The spot vacated by All-America Randy Crowder will be filled by junior John Quinn, who also got some playing time last season.

Three of the four regular linebackers—Ed O'Neil, Doug Allen and Tom Hull—have graduated and were drafted by the NFL. The lone returnee is senior Chris

Devlin, who should head up this year's crew. But the other three have little or no game experience. The probable starters are juniors Greg Buttle and Jim Rosecrans and senior Joe Jackson. Jackson looked impressive in a spot role in the Orange Bowl.

Batting down enemy aerials will be the prime concern of senior Jim Bradley, also mentioned as a preseason All-America in the defensive backfield. Scott Mitchell and Buddy Ellis, Bradley's mates last season, have graduated also. Their positions are a contest between Tom Giotto, Mike Johnson, Jeff Hite, John Bush, Gary Tyler and Rod Zur.

Seniors Chris Bahr and Brian Masella will handle the placekicking and punting duties, respectively.

Penn State's schedule, often the subject of discussion in football circles, has four preseason top twenty opponents this year in Stanford, Maryland, North Carolina State and Pittsburgh. If the Lions are progressing as slowly as has been noted by Paterno, the Sept. 14 opener with visiting Stanford could be a tough afternoon.

The Cardinals, coached by Jack Christiansen, have 32 returning lettermen and a pair of potential All-Americans in defensive ends Roger Stilwell and Pat Donovan. One year ago, Penn State opened the Stanford series with a 29-6 win.

A Steeler-Bengal showdown

By THE AP

Lynn Swann, rookie wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers, was discussing why he signed with the National Football League without seriously considering an offer from the World Football League.

"I don't want to wait around for the other league to build up," Swann said. "I want top competition now."

In the Central Division of the American Conference, he'll get it. And then some.

Last season, the Steelers and Cincinnati each finished with 10-4 records in the Central Division. But the Bengals gained the title on the

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basis of better marks within the division, while Pittsburgh drew a wild card for its ticket into the playoffs.

This year, the same two clubs should be around for the photo finish.

A little further down the track in talent are the Cleveland Browns, who were 7-5-2 last season. They recently placed their former All-Pro running back Leroy Kelly on waivers which more than symbolizes that the Browns' once-powerful ground game has been disabled.

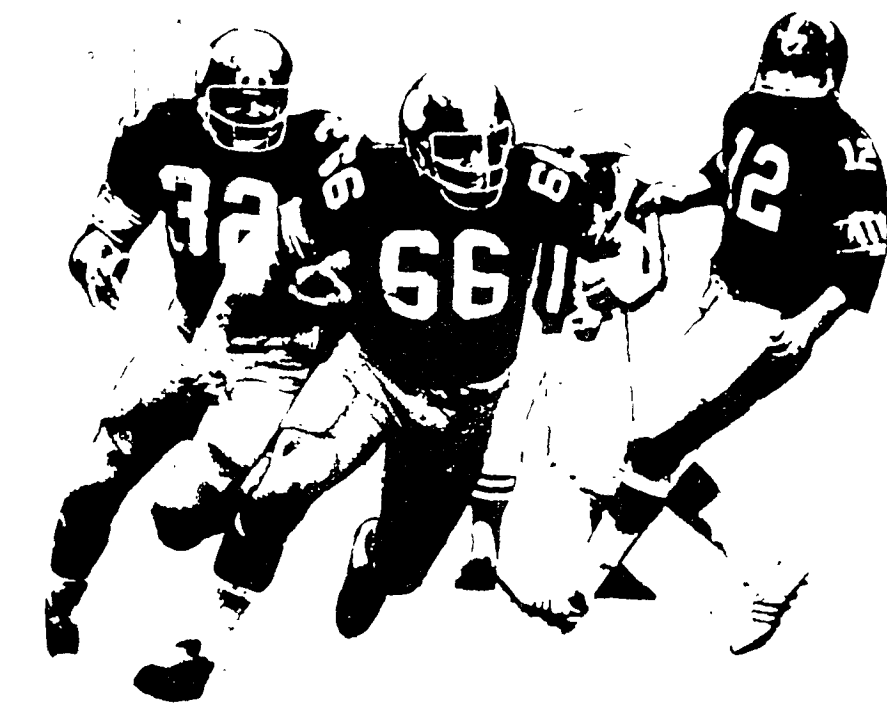
And then there's the Houston Oilers, who had a 1-11 record in 1973, which was no improvement from the

year, but he wasn't fazed, finishing the season with a 54.4 completion average, third best in the AFC. His 18 touchdown passes were second best in the conference.

Boobie Clark, thrust into a full-time role by the injury to fullback Doug Dressler in 1973, is 23. He missed membership in the 1,000-yard club by 12 yards. The rookie Clark, a power runner, teamed effectively with the speedier Essex Johnson, whose dash for 1,000 yards fell five yards short last season.

This year, a healthy Dressler, along with fleet rookie Charlie Davis from Colorado, should provide Clark and Johnson with an occasional rest.

Speedster Isaac Curtis emerged as the solution to the Bengals' pass receiving problems. Curtis, 23, who can run the 100 in 9.3 seconds, grabbed 45 passes to help the Bengals reel off six regular season-ending victories after



which was third-rated overall in the AFC last season. No team in the division gave up fewer points last year than the Steelers, who boast one of the most aggressive front fours in Joe Greene, L. C. Greenwood, Ernie Holmes and Dwight White.

Backing up this foursome are perennial All-Pro linebackers Jack Ham and Andy Russell, with Mike Wagner further back in the defensive secondary, heading a ballhawking crew that has led the NFL in interceptions the past two seasons.

Franco Harris, a 1,000-yard ground gainer in 1972, was hampered by injuries last season while rushing for 698 yards, tops on the club.

Even with injuries to key players last year like Harris, his running mate John Fuqua, and quarterbacks Bradshaw and Hanratty, the Steelers still managed to score the second-most points in the NFL in 1973.

If they can repeat that performance and play typical Steeler defense, Pittsburgh seems assured of its third straight winning season.

position before," said Terry Bradshaw, in his fifth season with the Steelers. "I've always been No. 1."

At this point in the preseason calendar, Bradshaw concedes the starting job to Joe Gilliam.

"Right now, Joe Gilliam has performed in a manner you'd expect a No. 1 quarterback to perform, and I haven't," Bradshaw said.

Terry Hanratty, who like Bradshaw, was sidelined for parts of the 1973 season, gives more depth to the quarterback position.

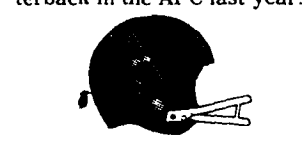
Whoever is behind the center, he will have some interesting targets downfield. Added to last year's arsenal of Frank Lewis and Ron Shanklin, the Steelers came up with Swann, the Pacific Eight's all-time leading pass receiver, and John Stallworth, Alabama A&M, in the 1974 draft.

But the Steelers have lived and died with their defense,

the former All-Pro running back, who was picked up by the Oakland Raiders via the waiver route early in preseason.

During Kelly's premier seasons, he was the Browns' breakout threat. Now the Browns hope second-year pro Greg Pruitt can pick up the slack. Pruitt averaged six yards per carry in 61 attempts last year.

Quarterback Mike Phipps, starting his fifth NFL season, again will be in control of the Cleveland offense. Phipps was the 10th-ranked quarterback in the AFC last year.



HOUSTON OILERS
"I do not wish to demean the Houston Oilers or the National Football League. I am just looking for a better means of employment."

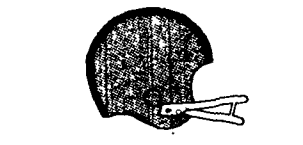
Those words were spoken by the Oilers' No. 1 draft pick in 1973, John Matuszak, who waved goodbye to the Oilers and his contract last week when he signed with the Houston Texans of the World Football League.

Matuszak was knocked out of the Texans' game last Wednesday night by a restraining order.

To make matters worse, Oilers' Coach and General Manager Sid Gillman was going to construct a 5-3 defense around the mammoth Matuszak. Add to that the fact that only five teams in NFL history ever have given up more points than the 47 Houston surrendered in 1973.

On offense, Houston had the worst rushing game in the NFL last year. Fred Willis led the ground game with 579 yards.

Willis also topped the entire conference in pass receiving, grabbing 57 passes coming out of the backfield. Ken Burroughs is the Oilers' long threat at wide receiver.



CLEVELAND BROWNS
The Browns missed the playoffs for the first time in three seasons in 1973.

Most of the problems were on offense, where Cleveland ranked 23rd in the entire NFL.

Gone are the days when the main Brown was Jimmy Brown. Last year's main Brown was Ken Brown, who rushed for a team-leading 537 yards.

"We know we have holes to fill," owner Art Modell said, "and we intend to find out as soon as possible which of our men have a future here and which don't."

One who doesn't is Kelly,