



# Keeping with tradition



**Rick Starr**  
Sports Editor

WEST POINT, N.Y. — The U.S. Military Academy. The school that produced Ulysses S. Grant, Douglas MacArthur, and Dwight Eisenhower also once educated Edgar Allan Poe, Frank Zappa and Timothy Leary.

Things at traditional West Point are not as rock solid as they sometimes seem.

Last year Army decided to cut back its football schedule and in January the brass at the Point asked Penn State Athletic Director Edward Czekaj to end the series for the next ten years. The two teams have played 22 times in the past.

Czekaj then muzzled Joe Paterno's "easy schedule" critics and dropped Army, filling the open dates with Utah, Missouri and Ohio State. The Army series will continue next year and in '76, but then it ends until 1987 except for a game at Penn State in 1979.

But in reality, Army is following a tradition it established after its 1946 team graduated. This is the second time the Cadets have backed down from an opponent they couldn't beat.

Notre Dame beat Army almost regularly until World War II. But during the War the quality of Army teams inflated remarkably. The pinnacle was reached between 1944-46, the era of "Doc" Blanchard and Glenn Davis.

Army coach Earl Blaik picked the '45 team as Army's greatest, but in a telephone address to the crowd at Leone's restaurant in New York honoring him as coach of the year in 1946, he said the 1946 team "was the team that accomplished the most with what it had and is the closest to my heart."

Army was without a loss in 1946 for the third straight year, but Notre Dame and Army tied 0-0 in New York, and the

writers gave the national championship to Notre Dame that year.

Shortly following the season both schools announced that after the 1947 game at South Bend, the series would end. But Notre Dame wanted to continue. It was Army that wanted out for reasons that even the writers at the time saw through.

The Cadets said they were ending it because of the ticket situation — too many people wanted to see it. Gambling on the game was rampant. Overemphasis was also listed for the demise of the 33-year-old series.

Writers at the time listed only one honest reason, though. Army, now that the war was over, knew it could no longer dominate the series as it had during the war (in 1944 Notre Dame was beaten 59-0, and in 1945 it was 48-0).

Army backed down, and didn't meet the Irish on the field again until 1957.

The funny thing about the latest Army retreat is that the announcement was made just as the team was improving, although the decision came on the heels of a winless season.

Homer Smith, the current coach at Army, talked about the decision to de-emphasize the schedule following Saturday's 21-14 loss to Penn State.

"It hurts us painfully ... painfully," Smith drawled, referring to the loss. "Some of our men are outweighed 40 and 50 pounds a man. It's not our intention to put people out on the field at such a physical disadvantage."

To even things up, Penn State was replaced by Villanova and Ivy League opponents that have not yet been announced.

In one sense, dropping Army lifts up Penn State's schedule, but it always hurts to lose a yearly opponent, and who is more colorful and unique than West Point. Certainly not Utah or Ohio State or Missouri, even though they play football better.

From high up in the stands at Michie Stadium all the sights and sounds really draw you away from the game itself. The cannon goes off after every Army score, the Cadets pass the Lion up and down through the stands, and then there is the setting of the stadium itself.

The green-mountains part for the Hudson River. A lake sits on the mountain right behind the stadium, and across the river is perched the Castle of the Wicked Witch of the West, the house used by Dorothy and MGM in "The Wizard of Oz."

It's too bad Penn State is losing Army for ten years. But at West Point, tradition must be followed.

# the Collegian sports

Wednesday, October 9, 1974

## Bucs wallop Dodgers 7-0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pittsburgh's batting power exploded with first-inning home runs by Willie Stargell and Richie Hebner that propelled the Pirates to a 7-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers yesterday and kept them alive in the National League playoff.

The victory left the Dodgers holding a 2-1 advantage in the best-of-five series, which continues Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Pittsburgh's vaunted bats were silenced without an extra base hit in the first two games, but the Pirates made some loud noises Tuesday, bombing left-hander Doug Rau off the mound in the opening inning.

Both Stargell's three-run homer and Hebner's two-run blast wound up in the left field pavilion, about 390 feet from home plate and gave the Pirates a quick 5-0 lead.

The Pirates added two more

runs in the third. Hebner knocked in one of them, before the Dodgers collected their first hit off right-hander Bruce Kison on an infield grounder by shortstop Bill Russell in the bottom of the third.

They got only one more hit off the 6-foot-4 hurler—a line drive single to center by Russell in the seventh. When Kison began losing his sharpness in the seventh, he was relieved by southpaw Ramon Hernandez, who gave up two more hits in completing the shutout.

A crowd of 55,953, a record for the baseball playoffs and also for Dodger Stadium, watched under skies that remained dark most of the afternoon even though the threat of rain faded.

The Dodgers struggled on offense and went to pieces in the field, committing five errors, the most ever in a playoff game.

## TV QB's

Are you a tube freak?

If so and you also happen to like football, then you'll probably want to tune in tonight on TV Quarterbacks at 7 p.m. over WPSX, channel 3.

As usual, Fran Fisher hosts and the guests include Walt Addie, Joe Slowik and assistant football coach Booker Brooks.

Tradition is rock solid at West Point

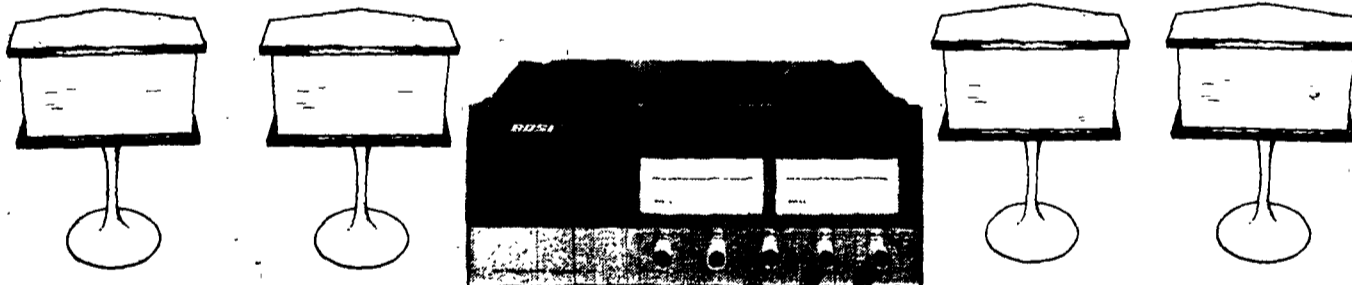
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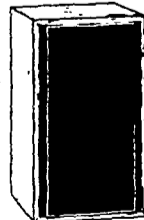
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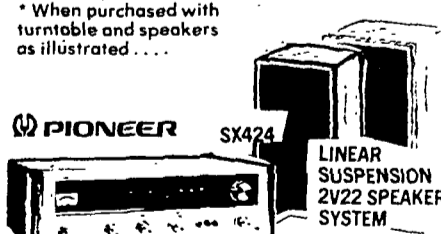


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