

Wake Forest autopsys

By RICK STARR
Sports Editor

After a momentary reflection, Penn State defensive halfback Jeff Hite offered his theory on the prima-facie case of Wake Forest's 55-0 first degree murder Saturday. "The difference was the athletes," Hite said. "It's their overall recruiting program... they were still hitting at the end, but they're overscheduled, they're playing way over their head."

Lion coach Joe Paterno concurred, but for more in-depth reasons.

"Wake Forest put on a great drive just before halftime," Paterno observed, "but we were playing almost two defenses against them. They lacked depth."

It was another bludgeoning for the Deacons, who have been outscored 149-0 in their last three contests with North Carolina, Oklahoma and Penn State.

As to Penn State running up the score, "We didn't try to hold down the score," Paterno admitted. "I wasn't about to tell them not to score, but I did tell them not to pass. We had several other opportunities to score, but we didn't."

The Lions also had several opportunities to score and they did. As Paterno said, the Lions did not hold down the score.

The score was 28-0 and Wake Forest looked pretty hopeless when Lion quarterback Tom Shuman sent off a 57 yard second half TD aerial to freshman tailback Jim Cefalo.

Of all his players, including Cefalo, it was Shuman that Paterno talked about most

during the Wake Forest autopsy.

"Tommy played well," Paterno began. "We haven't thrown enough and he has been late in finding his second receiver. He found the second receiver today and he threw well."

"We needed a game where we showed a little explosiveness," Paterno continued. "We had to feel like we could do certain things. This is a new offense and it's a step by step thing. We wanted to work on the passing today."

Shuman's statistics prior to Saturday's game were 29 completions in 60 attempts for 338 yards, two interceptions and three touchdowns. But the offense often seemed "rusty," particularly the air show.

"Tommy has thrown so little in games he was rusty," Paterno pointed out. "It hasn't been the kind of offense (double wing) Tom has been successful with."

Saturday Shuman put the wire brush to the rust, throwing 14 times and completing 12 for 183 yards, two TD's and no giveaways.

"I was satisfied Tom had faith in it after I talked to him," Paterno said.

As far as getting a handle on the character of this year's squad, Paterno had this to say: "We've just about come along the way I thought we would. We had no right to expect we would be good. Take the younger kids, they need to get in games."

"I wouldn't be able to put a name on it, but we're getting better. There are some good young athletes, although we may be shy in one or two positions. And we've got to stay healthy."



'Hi, guys. Good luck'

By RICH CUTLER
Collegian Sports Writer

Their performance would have made even Henry Youngman stand and cheer.

The Wake Forest football team had moments earlier absorbed a 55-0 thrashing at the hands of Penn State, the third consecutive whitewash for the Deacons. Before Saturday, the Deacons dropped a 31-0 game to North Carolina and also found themselves on the short end of a 63-0 score against Oklahoma.

The Penn State embarrassment made it five losses in five games. In other words it has thus far been a nightmarish season for Coach Chuck Mills and his troops.

But in the Wake Forest locker room after Saturday's debacle, Chuck Mills was funny. He didn't mean to be funny. But nevertheless that's what he was.

Mills was trying to hide feelings of tremendous frustration and even anger. He had hoped his players would put the Oklahoma setback out of harm's way and get down to the business of at least offering Penn State some competition.

But his freshman- and sophomore-laden squad could do neither and Mills found himself looking ahead with even greater anticipation to the season's end.

So the Wake Forest coach stood there amidst a quiet, almost listless contingent of players, who somberly stripped themselves of uniforms, the colors of which opposing teams have looked and will look forward to seeing this season. And as hard as he tried, Chuck Mills couldn't hide his frustration. That was the irony of it all. The football mentor felt great disappointment and yet in a brief, postgame interview [the one-liners, humorous one-liners, spouted from his mouth.

"How do you continually take losses like this?" came a reporter's first question.

"We take them bad," was the somewhat predictable reply.

"What do you tell a squad as inexperienced as yours before going out to play teams like Oklahoma and Penn State?" came question number two.

"Say your prayers," the reply came. Professional golfer Arnold Palmer, a Wake Forest alumnus spoke with the team for a while before the game. What did he say to try to pull the Deacons out of their shell? "Hi guys, good luck!" was Mills' account of the pre-game pep rally.

"Are you going to make any changes in your style of play for your next game?" was the next question.

"We've been doin' the same things for two years. And we'll keep doin' it until it works," was the definitive retort.

Only problem with that is that Wake Forest has gone 1-14 over the last two years and Mills, who incidentally took over the head coaching reins last season, may not have all the time he might like to "keep doin' it until it works."

In other words, if the fortunes of Wake Forest football don't change before too long — Mills will find himself looking for other employment. Because, as Mills readily admitted, "The fault doesn't lie with any of the players; it's a coaching problem. You can't fire all the players so it's the coach that has to go."

Mills did concede however that the Deacons are in need of maturity and size. "We're not very big, you know. We need size everywhere."

And the one liners continued. "Are your players demoralized at all at this point?"

"I don't know, but they better not be."

"Coach, are you optimistic at all for the remainder of the season?"

"Yeah, we only have six more games left to play."

The utter futility of it all. For all intents and purposes, Mills has given up on this football season. One can only sympathize with the way the man felt. It has to eat at his insides to come to the realization that his gridmen have fought and will continue to fight losing battles. And that the only thing his team can do is simply play out the season and HOPE next year will bring better tidings.

It's a tough situation to cope with.

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FEMALE ROOMMATE FOR...
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WANTED ONE BEDROOM...
FEMALE ROOMMATE TO sublet...
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FEMALE ROOMMATE FOR...

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