Attitude is first key to stardom for Matt Suhey



Matt Suhey, tri-captain for the Pennsylvania 'Big 33' All-Star football team, is resting here but should be a workhorse tomorrow night when his team takes on the Ohio All-Stars in their annual battle in Hershey.

It is Saturday night, November 8th, 1975. The place is Williamsport field. There are less than five minutes remaining in the final football game of the season and State College High School has the ball, for the last time, on their opponent's 41-yard-line.

The game is well in hand, but one question remains in doubt: will Matt Suhey, senior tailback, break the all-time Pennsylvania rushing record?

Seven straight carries lead to a touchdown and the record as Matt Suhey is given the game ball and State College wins 34-7. A seemingly perfect ending to a brilliant high school career.

The record though, was not his for long. In fact, he only had it for two days when a recount of his total yardage showed an error. But this disappointment merely showed what kind of attitude Matt has towards the game. When asked if it bothered

'No, I had it for two days. That's better than not having it at

Unlike most football stars, Matt isn't on any ego trip looking for glory. "I just run," as he put it, and he runs with the best. Matt Suhey: all-state tailback, three-year starter, 4,457 yards rushing, 24 100-yard games, 6 200-yard games, 58 touch-

The list goes on and on. Success has a funny way of following. people around. Will it follow Matt Suhey? Will he realize the same accomplishments at Penn State that he did in his high school days? Only time will tell.

Is it going to be easy for him to land a starting berth? According to Matt, no! "It's going to be rough. There are a lot of great players that aren't that far apart and I'm just going to do as well as I can," he said.

Doing as well as he can is Matt's trademark as evidenced by the many awards and honors he has received. Obviously, there is one that means a lot more to him than all the others. Matt was voted by his teammates most valuable player his

He received a plaque this reporter asked to see during the interview. Unfortunately, Matt has no great desire to show off trophies or to brag about his accomplishments. He simply states, "I don't know where it is! It's either in my room or the attic; I don't know."

When Matt was photographed for a story in Sports -Illustrated earlier this year, he spoke of an autographed picture given to him in fifth grade by Joe Paterno. According to Matt he still has the picture in a scrapbook somewhere. Who

A pretty easy going manner for an easy going guy who likes to go fishing around the local area and who enjoys building things with his hands. The homemade birdhouse hanging in a tree behind his home proved this.

Memorable moments in Matt's career are many, but to him, great team efforts seem to bring back the most memories. Sitting in a large brown easy-chair, he told of some of these. One was the Central Catholic game of his sophomore year. It was the game of the year between two undefeated teams. "It was a big game, and there was snow on the ground. It was fun to play because we did win and we did play well.

Cedar Cliff was a good game my junior year because we came off a game where we didn't play very well. You know, where everybody was down. We were playing a team that was so much bigger than we were. They were super-big and also undefeated and they were supposed to be so good."



Vic Sellers

State College, behind Matt Suhey, ran up a 36-0 halftime lead, then took the game.

In the 69-41 win over Williamsport that same year, Matt credits the win (despite his five TDs) to the timely recovery of some injured teammates of his and their ability to work and to put it all together for the final game.

Matt has no long-range goals such as to gain 1000 yards or to score 30 TDs in one year. In fact, he is not looking past his freshman year. Matt sees it this way: "I want to do as well as I can and reach my potential, doing the best possible I can do. If feel I can't do any better than I'm doing, you know what I mean, if I feel I'm not better than anybody else out there, I shouldn't be out there then."

In his entire high school career, Matt had only one serious injury (a hip injury). It slowed him down for one game his senior year and probably cost him the rushing record.

Speaking of the possibility that an injury could cause him to give up football, Matt said seriously, "If that happens it happens. I'd look towards something else. Football's a big part of my life. I'm getting an education out of it and I've gotten a lot of satisfaction out of it. But football's not everything. There's more to life than that."

The hip injury will not bother Matt this year as chants of

previous years. When the Little Lions needed a big play, they gave the ball to Matt Suhey. Let's hope when the Nittany Lions of the near future need a big play, they count on the same man who credits his success to his father and brothers who helped him whenever he needed it.

Matt's only apparent weakness would have to be to Penn State's advantage. Matt was seriously considering Ohio State as his first choice. But his lack of blazing speed turned him back to Penn State when he found out he'd be given a chance at playing tailback and not fullback where Ohio State wanted him to play. Although now he is more interested in just playing and not worried about where, as he explains: "Wherever they put me l'il play, just so I get a chance to play." Matt will most surely get his chance.

When Matt apparently broke the Pennsylvania rushing record on that Saturday night in November 1975, he immediately credited his head coach Jim Williams (whom Matt says is a fantastic coach), the entire coaching staff, and all his teammates.

Without them he couldn't have done it, even if it was for only a couple of days. But he knows this, and he also knows he has a hell of a job in front of him if he wants to win a starting

position at Penn State. If Matt Suhey's ability can equal his attitude towards football, then he has the potential to follow in the footsteps of men like Charlie Pittman, Franco Harris, Lydell Mitchell. and John Cappelletti.

Major League Standings

NATIONAL LEAGUE					AMERICAN LEAGUE						
	East					East					
	W	L	Pct.	GB			W	L	Pct.	GB	
Phillies	71	31	.676	-	New York		64	41	.610	-	
Pirates	58	48	.517	1312	Baltimore		53	52	.505	11	
New York	55	55	.500	1812	Cleveland		52	52	.500	1116	
Chicago	47	61	.435	2512	Boston		50	55	.476	14	
St. Louis	44	59	.427	26	Detroit		48	56	.461	1512	
Montreal	36	64	.360	3212	Milwaukee		47	56	.456	16	
	West						West				
Cincinnati	69	39	.639		Kansas City	٠	63	40	.612		
Los Angeles	59	47	.557	9	Oakland		55	52	.514	10	
Houston	56	54	.509	14	Minnesota		54	52	.509	1015	
San Diego	51	59	.464	19	Texas		50	55	.476	1315	
Atlanta	48	60	.444	21	Chicago		46	58	.442	1715	
San Francisco	48	62	.436	22	California		47	61	.435	1814	

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Yesterday's Games Baltimore 6, Cleveland 2 Boston 5, Detroit 4 Minnesota at Kansas City, n



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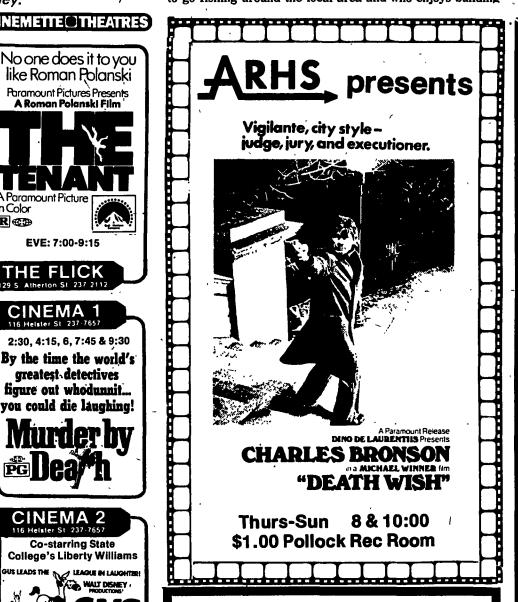
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