

Hanratty jobless but still joking

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Quarterback Terry Hanratty may have lost his job with the Pittsburgh Steelers, but he hasn't lost his sense of humor.

"Maybe they'll wear black arm bands now that I'm gone," quipped the shaggy-haired mustachioed veteran from Notre Dame.

Hanratty was waived by the Steelers, who had to pare their roster down to the league limit of 43 players. Nine others were either waived, traded or placed on the injured list.

If Hanratty is not picked up by another team, he becomes a free agent.

The Butler, Pa., native has played in just four league games in the past two years, but he became a fixture on the sidelines, easily identified by his baseball cap and clipboard. He was also the team's comedian.

"I don't know if there is a capable replacement for me," Hanratty joked. "I've been grooming Jack Lambert over the years, but sometimes he has a tendency to take things too seriously."

The club returns to Three Rivers Stadium to begin workouts for Sunday's season opener in Oakland and Hanratty's not so sure he'll even be missed.

"I could see it coming," he said after Steeler President Dan Rooney called him with the news. "It wasn't only that I wasn't playing, but I wasn't even practicing with the offense."

Hanratty has not really played since 1973 when he steered the team in nine games. After starting quarterback Terry Bradshaw had a poor playoff game against Oakland that year, Noll told Hanratty he would have an equal chance to win the job in 1974.

But the players went on strike and Hanratty stayed out. He played three games that year, one the next and only briefly in two games this pre-season.

The backup job now falls to rookie Mike Kruczek, the Steelers' second-round pick from Boston College who has completed 18 of 33 preseason passes for 117 yards, including three touchdowns and only one interception.

"It was one of the biggest surprises I've ever had," Kruczek said after hearing of Hanratty's dismissal. "I'm glad they offered me the confidence in me, but the thing Terry Hanratty offered was seven years experience."

Coach Chuck Noll had little to say about his quest for the team's third straight Super Bowl with only two quarterbacks. "I don't think it is a problem," he said. "We're just going with the people we feel are best. It's as simple as that."

Cignetti suspends top WVU tight end

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. (AP) — West Virginia University Football Coach Frank Cignetti said yesterday that he has indefinitely suspended senior tight end Randy Swinson for disciplinary reasons.

WVU Sports Information Director Ron Steiner told The Associated Press that he was told by the WVU coaching staff that Swinson's suspension will be for the remainder of the season.

"We don't think Randy will be back on the team this year," Steiner said.

WVU, which compiled a 9-3 record last season and defeated North Carolina State in the Peach Bowl, opens its 1978 season here Saturday against Villanova.

A native of Washington, D.C., Swinson started all but one of the Mountaineers' games last season. He was suspended by then-WVU Coach Bobby Bowden for the Mountaineers' final regular season game against Syracuse for a discipline-related incident at a practice session, but was reinstated prior to the Peach Bowl.

"Our program is based on discipline," Cignetti said following the Mountaineers' practice yesterday. "No one individual is exempt from these rules. We have excellent morale and team unity, and I am not going to let one individual disrupt this unity."

Cignetti said it is a team rule that "our players must respect all on-the-field coaching decisions. Our coaches will not compromise on this."

Cignetti would not elaborate on the incident.

A former All-Metropolitan Washington selection at Springarn High School, Swinson caught 19 passes for 282 yards last season. His most important reception was a 26-yard catch with just 10 seconds remaining that set up place kicker Bill McKenzie's game-winning field goal in WVU's 17-14 upset of Pitt.

Cignetti said that junior Ben McDay of Johnstown, Pa., and sophomore Pete McConnell of Smoke Rise, N.J., now will divide playing time at split end.


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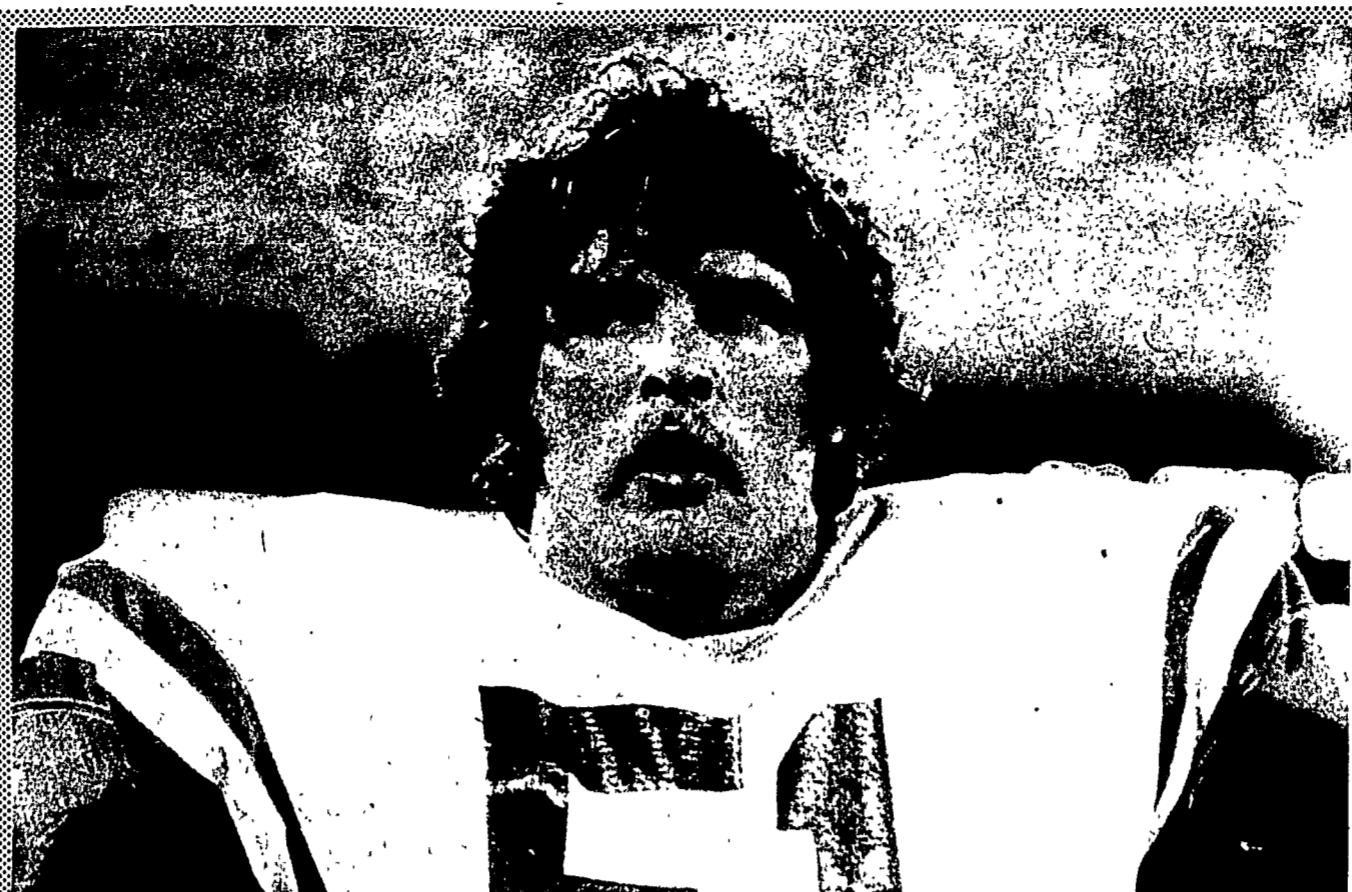
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Battlin' Buttle

Ex-Penn State star Greg Buttle takes time out from his New York Jet line-backing spot in Saturday's loss to Pittsburgh.

Buttle high on sputtering Jets

By BOB BUDAY
Collegian Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — During those moments Saturday night when Joe Namath's derriere wasn't pinned to the Tartan Turf by the Steelers, a New York Jet rookie from Penn State was getting worked over by the Pittsburgh offense.

But Greg Buttle, a 1975 starting middle linebacker for Joe Paterno, refused to plunge into the pool of pessimism, even if his new football playmates from New York City had lost their fifth of six exhibition games.

"The Steelers were no better than anyone else," said the Jet's third round draft pick. "We haven't played well. We have too many mental mistakes."

And making mistakes against the Steelers is comparable to sticking your arm in a lion's cage. You get mauled both ways. Like New York did — 41-6.

"All right, this score," Buttle began to counter, "anytime you make a lot of mental mistakes you're gonna get killed."

"And that's what we're doing. Because, we're a young team. We gotta

figure a lot of things out."

Buttle is no exception. Back in his Nittany Lion days, Buttle was one of two middle linebackers. The Jets use only one. The difference, says Buttle, is that "when I play middle, I'm reading the whole thing (defense) instead of just part of it."

To add more confusion into the rookie's brain, the Jets are also trying Buttle out at the left linebacker position. "When I'm playing outside, it's some place I've never played before. Give me another week or so of playing it and I'll be all right."

The game with Pittsburgh was a sort of Penn State reunion for the 22-year-old Long Island resident. John Ebersole, Class of '69, was at linebacker for the Jets, and Steelers' Jack Ham, '70, Franco Harris, '71, Jim Rosecrans, '76, and Ron Coder, '76 were there to refresh old times.

"Jim Rosecrans and I are best friends, and I see him," said Buttle. "I talk to Jam (Ham) out on the field, and Franco, you know. Everybody that I played with. You always talk after or during the game."

Unlike Rosecrans who was cut by the Steelers this week, and Coder, traded to Seattle, Buttle figures to be a giant part in his team's future. The Jet's new coach, Lou Holtz, has started him in most of the exhibitions.

Being drafted by a non-contender didn't bother him at all. "It didn't matter to me where I went, it just so happens I went to New York."

"And I like New York — I like the competition here. There's a lot of competition wherever you go."

"The city? Well, that's kind of crowded," he said, trying to separate his feelings for the team from its surrounding environment. "I don't get in there too much right now."

"But once the season starts I might get in a couple times."

That is another big adjustment Greg Buttle must make: moving from State College to the Big Apple. "It's funny," he sighed, "because I feel that I have to go back (to Penn State). But I'm not going back."

"You know, every September you go to school. But I'm not going to school. I'll miss Penn State."

Broken bat injures Yeager

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Steve Yeager was struck in the throat by a broken bat during Monday night's baseball game and underwent surgery to remove the splinters from his esophagus.

Yeager's condition was termed stable and "not too serious" by hospital

spokesmen.

The bat belonged to Bill Russell. Yeager was on deck when Russell swung at a pitch from San Diego Padres hurler Randy Jones.

The bat cracked, split in two and half of it went sailing in Yeager's direction.

Yeager was 50 feet away, but the barrel end of the bat

was going fast enough to tear a jagged hole half an inch deep in his neck.

"It was sickening," said first baseman Steve Garvey.

Manager Walt Alton said he heard Yeager cry out when hit. "My shoulder's been broken!" He said it looked as if his catcher had been felled by a bullet.

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Phillies frolic at batting practice

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies, under a fourth-quarter blitz by the Pittsburgh Pirates, threw a football around in the outfield during off-day batting practice yesterday.

Third baseman Mike Schmidt played a loose man-to-man defense on first baseman Dick Allen as both, clad in shorts and t-shirts, caught passes with a handful of teammates.

Of course, the entire Phillie team also took some serious batting practice in an effort to end the batting woes that have been a key factor in their slide.

"There are 15 guys here who weren't asked to show up, but they're here anyway," said second baseman Dave Cash.

Two weeks ago, the Phillies had a 15½ game lead over the Pittsburgh Pirates in baseball's National League East.

The Pirates' doubleheader sweep here Labor Day trimmed that to just 5½ games in advance of another matchup between the two teams here tonight.

The Pirates have won 12 of their last 13; the Phillies have dropped 10 of 11.

"It's been a combination of two things," said Cash. "We haven't had our hitting together and we've seen some real good pitching."

On Monday, the Phils had six hits in their 6-2 loss in the opening game against Pirate pitchers Bruce Kison and Kent Tekulve. They had four hits in their 5-1 second-game loss to Larry Demery.

Phillie shortstop Larry Bowa, who batted 0-8 Monday, found solace in the standings.

"Look at it this way," he said. "If somebody came up to you in April and said, 'We'll give you a six-game lead over the Pirates in September, would you take it?'"

Of course, the question remains about the Phils' present mental attitude. Are they in a psychological rut? Might the Pirates have that elusive edge in momentum?

Cash, who once played with the Pirates, sidestepped that question.

"These are 25 completely different individuals," he said. "You know it doesn't matter what your attitude is, our main objective here is to win. The attitude is a secondary thing."

Allen, who played on the '64 Philadelphia club that made an epic collapse, declined to give interviews yesterday afternoon.

Pirate outfielder Al Oliver, seeing pinchhitting duty only in recent games because of an inner ear infection, was among a half dozen Pirates who worked out yesterday.

"The way we're going right now, I'd think you could take nine guys off the street, put a Pirate uniform on them, and they'd win," Oliver said.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Baseball

Any new or transfer students interested in trying out for the Penn State baseball team should attend a meeting held tomorrow in Room 112 of Rec Hall.

water polo team should go to the Natatorium any day between 3:50-5:30 p.m.

Volleyball

All men and women interested in playing varsity power volleyball meet in Room 51 White Building at 7 p.m. today. Club volleyball will also be discussed. Questions — contact Tom Tait, White Building.

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"DESTINY" is, of all Lang's films, the most literal explication of the director's deterministic philosophies. The theme is the inaccessibility, unalterability, irrationality and irrevocability of fate, through means of multiple parables depicted in a manner approaching surrealism. A young girl and her lover arrive at a town near a mysterious wall which reaches into the distance as far as the eye can see across its top. The wall conceals the realm of Fate who kidnaps the boy friend, demanding a strange ransom for his return. Determined to regain her man, the girl sets out to fulfill the terms of the one-sided bargain, eventually learning of the immutability of destiny through three exotic adventures.

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