

Behind The Bench

In the Bahrs' defense

To the Editor:
I was amazed and shocked by Mr. Silverman's editorial printed in the December 7th edition of the Collegian, which labeled Walter Bahr a disgrace to Penn State and the sport of soccer and condemned Matt Bahr for his vicious play.
Mr. Silverman, citing his "vast" experience in the sport, recapped a series of events leading up to the breaking of Textile's Matt Kelly's leg. After speaking today in great depth with Matt Bahr, and previously talking with Walter Bahr right after the incident occurred, I feel that Mr. Silverman's narration is grossly slanted and incomplete. In his letter Mr. Silverman infers that the incident happened immediately after Matt Bahr was attacked by an unnamed Textile player (who in fact was Duval Minor). Bahr admits that the skirmish

did occur but that no punches landed while Mr. Silverman stated that the player hit Bahr three times. Both players were cautioned. Further, Mr. Silverman attacked Walter Bahr for not yanking his "hot headed" son from the line-up and that Matt Bahr, shortly thereafter, deliberately, after the play was whistled dead, missed the ball and kicked Matt Kelly and broke his leg. The fact is that the incident occurred over ten minutes after the initial skirmish had happened and it was when both Kelly and Bahr were going after a loose ball. Bahr, in fact, kicked the ball thirty yards downfield to a teammate and on his follow-through, accidentally kicked Kelly, who was trying to block the kick. At no time previously during the game did Bahr or Kelly have any contact or reasons for animosity towards each other. The ball was still in play and both men were going for it.

It is ridiculous for Mr. Silverman to call Walter Bahr a disgrace to either soccer or P.S.U. Walter Bahr is one of the finest men I have had the pleasure of knowing and one of the nation's top coaches. Matt Bahr is not vicious or sadistic but a tough competitor and excellent soccer player. It is unfortunate that Mr. Silverman insulted the intelligence of the Collegian's readers by writing his ill-founded editorial and senselessly attacking the Bahrs.

Gary Gray
Graduate Assistant Football Coach

Irish freshman leads upset of UCLA

By the AP
It was an "in and out" game, according to Gene Bartow.
"Shots went in for them," said the UCLA coach, "and out for us."
Some of those shots belonged to a freshman named Rich Branning and they happened at a most unfortunate time for the Bruins — in the last 45 seconds.
That's how seventh-ranked Notre Dame upset third-ranked UCLA 66-63 at the Bruin's Pauley Pavilion Saturday.
Branning's field goal with 45 seconds remaining gave the Fighting Irish a 64-63 lead. Then the buoyant freshman converted two free throws in the last

second for the game's final points.
In other games involving the country's ranked teams, No. 2 Marquette blasted Penn State 79-49; No. 4 Kentucky routed Kansas 90-63; No. 5 Nevada-Las Vegas outscored San Diego State 118-113; No. 6 San Francisco defeated Utah 91-81 in the finals of the Utah Classic after No. 15 Tennessee defeated Seton Hall 99-90 in a consolation game; No. 8 Cincinnati trimmed St. Joseph's of Indiana 122-78; No. 9 Arizona walloped the University of the Pacific 78-60; No. 12 North Carolina beat Virginia Tech 81-77; Purdue upset No. 14 Louisville 72-70; No. 16 Clemson crushed Tennessee Tech 133-78; Hofstra rocked No. 18 Southern Illinois in the

championship game of the Pittsburgh Classic and No. 20 Syracuse whipped Canisius 75-59.

Jack Givens scored 15 points, including four quick field goals at the start, as Kentucky ran away from Kansas. The victory was fashioned at the official opening of Rupp Arena in Lexington, named after Kentucky's most successful coach, Adolph Rupp.

Sam Smith's 34 points led Nevada-Las Vegas past San Diego State. Bill Cartwright scored 21 points, John Cox added 19 and Winford Boynes 18 as San Francisco fought off Utah for the Utah Classic championship.

Record fifth shutout of season

Steelers seal up playoff berth

HOUSTON (AP) — For the first time in nine weeks, the Pittsburgh Steelers rested yesterday, clutching their fifth straight playoff berth that almost slipped away when they lost four of their first five games.
They completed one of the greatest comebacks in pro football history Saturday by shutting out Houston 21-0 to clinch the American Football Conference's Central Division title with nine straight victories.

"After we lost to Cleveland we were 1-4, we didn't say we couldn't lose another game," said Franco Harris, who rushed over 1,000 yards for the season. "We said we wouldn't lose another."
The Steelers won convincingly Saturday against a

sluggish Oiler defense and a punting game that continually kept Houston poor field position. The Steel Curtain shut out its fifth opponent in nine games.

"What I feel is a tense relief," defensive tackle Ernie Holmes said. "I feel a glow from this game, but I also feel the tension of what's coming."
Saturday's game marked the return of quarterback Terry Bradshaw, back in action after missing two games with a sprained wrist.
"Today's game was like the first pre-season game for me," Bradshaw said. "I threw the ball all right, but I had trouble reading defense. Everything was fuzzy out there. One time Rocky Bleier was wide open for a touch-

down out there and I swore he was covered.
"I needed all the work I could get."
Bradshaw got too much work for the Oilers defense, which put up a strong fight in the first half but finally melted under the charges of Harris and Bleier, who both rushed over 100 yards in the game and over 1,000 yards for the season.
Bleier needed 71 yards against the Oilers to get 1,000

yards for the season and he finished with 107.
"The guys on the offensive line had talked all week about getting me those yards," Bleier said. "I looked over at the sidelines in the fourth quarter and George Peries, the defensive line coach was signalling and yelling, 'One more yard.'
"It's a great tribute to an offensive line to have two guys gain 1,000 yards."

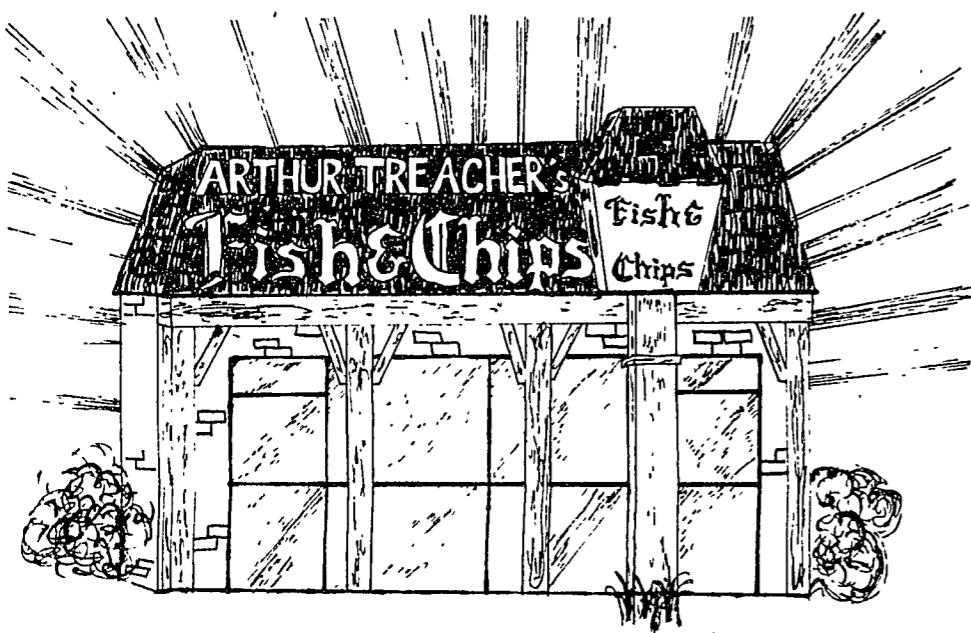
NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE											NATIONAL CONFERENCE																
Eastern Division						Western Division					Eastern Division						Western Division										
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
x-Balt	11	3	0	.786	417	246	x-Dallas	11	3	0	.786	296	x-Minn	11	2	1	.821	305	176	ChiGo	7	7	0	.500	253	216	
P-N Eng	11	3	0	.786	376	236	S-Louis	10	4	0	.714	309	267	PhiLa	4	10	0	.286	165	286	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Miami	6	8	0	.429	263	254	NY Jets	3	11	0	.214	169	383	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
NY Jets	3	11	0	.214	169	383	Buff	2	12	0	.143	245	363	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Buff	2	12	0	.143	245	363	x-Pitts	10	4	0	.714	342	138	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
x-Pitts	10	4	0	.714	342	138	Cinci	10	4	0	.714	335	210	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Cinci	10	4	0	.714	335	210	Cleve	9	5	0	.643	267	287	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Cleve	9	5	0	.643	267	287	Hstn	9	5	0	.643	222	273	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Hstn	9	5	0	.643	222	273	x-Oakld	13	1	0	.923	350	237	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
x-Oakld	13	1	0	.923	350	237	Den	9	5	0	.643	315	206	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Den	9	5	0	.643	315	206	S Diego	6	8	0	.429	248	285	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
S Diego	6	8	0	.429	248	285	K.C.	5	9	0	.357	290	376	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
K.C.	5	9	0	.357	290	376	Tpa Bay	0	14	0	.000	125	412	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196
Tpa Bay	0	14	0	.000	125	412							San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	San Fran	8	6	0	.571	270	196	

Eagles ruin Seahawks

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tom Sullivan rushed 23 times for 121 yards and two touchdowns yesterday helping the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Seattle Seahawks 27-10 in a National Football League regular-season finale.
Mike Hogan gained 104 yards, and quarterback Roman Gabriel completed 10 of 13 passes for 121 yards as the Eagles, the National Conference team with the worst offense, trounced the Seahawks, the conference team with the worst defense.
The Eagles, in their 43rd NFL season, wound up 4-10, and the Seahawks completed their first year at 2-12.

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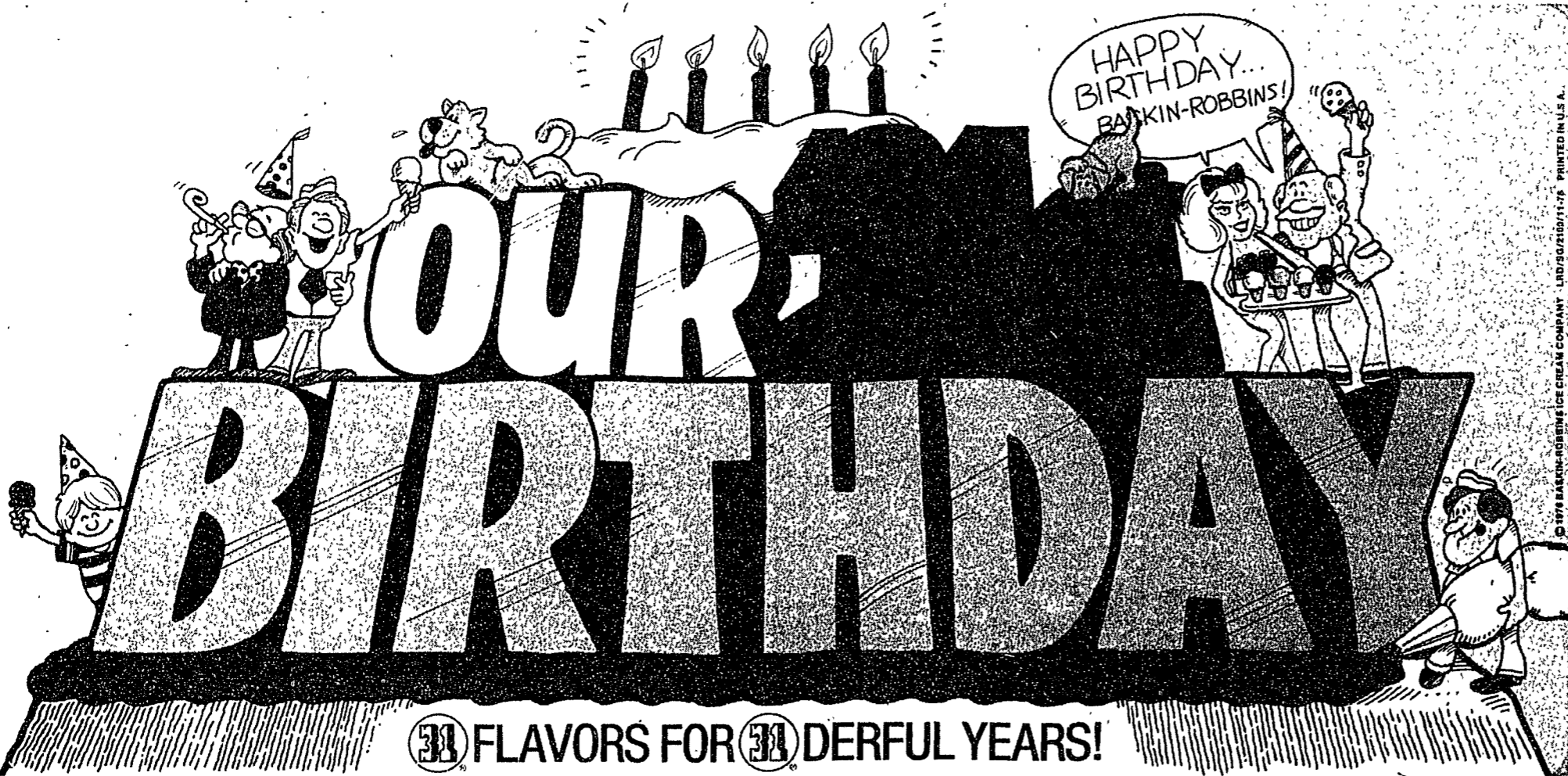
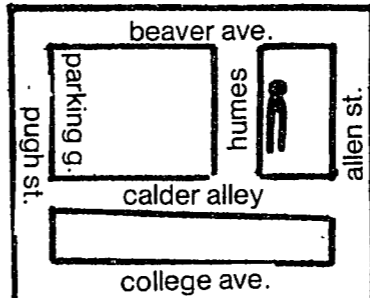
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