

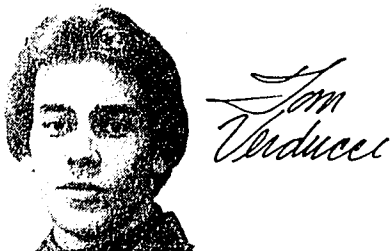
Blue-blood fans should learn to see Red

Penn State football fans are so loyal they probably bleed blue. But something must have choked off their blue blood supply to the Larry's region.

Penn State football fans are too quiet. They sit stoically as if they were at an opera.

No, it's worse than that. Even Pavlov's dog gets an occasional standing ovation and a few "bravos."

Surely there must be another place where so many people can gather in the face of so much excitement, yet remain so unenthusiastic. There must be, but none come to mind.



Penn State football fans are a breed apart. Call them Homo quietus if you like. The species comes in two varieties: the wild, savage type characterized by a fetish to throw objects and to leave the stadium early, and the domesticated, older type characterized by a sleepy disposition.

They're certainly not on the endangered list — 64,000 show up on Saturdays at Beaver Stadium — but they are only seen, not heard.

With so many fans, Beaver Stadium should quake. But it doesn't even quiver. "I don't want to put the rap on our fans," says sports promotion director Fran Fisher, "but our stadium has been a quiet place."

Barry Jones, assistant in athletics, describes the Penn State fans as "subdued. It takes a bomb under the stadium to get them out of their seats."

Football coach and Athletic Director Joe Paterno steers clear of controversy when he says, "Our fans are fine. They might not be as enthusiastic as Nebraska's, but that might be a unique place."

But Joe, wouldn't you at least like them to be a little louder?

"Well, you know, we all like some things to be different."

Beaver Stadium is the fourth-largest stadium on a college campus in this country. Yet many stadiums are much louder.

Carter-Finley Stadium at North Carolina State seats just 45,600. I was there in 1979 for the Penn State-N.C. State game, and those people were twice as loud as the Beaver Stadium fans.

The 66,000 fans at Texas A&M's Kyle Field stand and cheer the entire game. The 76,000 at Missouri's Faurot Field can be deafening. And the 73,000 at Nebraska's Memorial Stadium shake the ground underneath your feet.

Penn State fans can learn a lot from the Cornhusker fans.

Lesson No. 1 is dress for the game. If you don't wear the red and white colors of Nebraska, you may find yourself wearing the black and blue of pain.

"Some people at Nebraska would not even think of coming out to the stadium without their red overalls," Fisher says. "Here, the color has not caught on. I've looked. We don't have that."

Maybe blue is not as vibrant a color as red, but in bunches, it is impressive. The gathering of Penn State fans at Nebraska proved that.

Lion fans should also learn something from Nebraska's "Go Big Red" cheer. To hear 73,000 people yell that in unison was thrilling. Why can't the 64,000 at Beaver Stadium all cheer at the same time?

That's what the cheerleaders want to find out.

"We're trying to do it," says the Nittany Lion mascot, Roy Scott. "We want everyone to do the 'We are... Penn State' cheer. We tried it the past game for the first time. It can catch on."

"We tried it before in past years. It never caught on, though."

The most important lesson Penn Staters can learn from Nebraskaans, however, is general vociferousness. I mean loudness. Madness. Mayhem.

The Penn State students often create some hysteria, but the alumni and general public just don't want to cheer for some reason.

Expos hold off Phillies for playoff victory

Astros go 2 up on Dodgers, A's on Royals; Yanks win opener

By RALPH BENKSTEN

AP Sports Writer
MONTREAL (AP) — Montreal manager Jim Fanning said patience at the plate was the key to his team's opening game victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League East Division championship series yesterday.

Fanning, who took over as manager Sept. 4 when Dick Williams was fired, said his hitters "laid off" Phillies pitcher Steve Carlton's low breaking pitches.

A pair of low 200 hitters — Tim Wallach and Chris Speier — combined for the go-ahead run in the second inning off a struggling Carlton as the Expos posted their 2-1 triumph and gained a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series. The second game will be played tonight at Montreal.

"Our players have hit against Carlton many times, and they all remember his stuff," Fanning said. "If they did anything to help themselves it was laying off those pitches on which he gets so many strikeouts."

Fanning refused to describe the opening game victory as pivotal. "It's only one of what could be," he said.

Fanning was a little upset that Montreal didn't score more runs. "We had so many opportunities and couldn't take advantage of them," he said.

Fanning said he took out winner Steve Rogers in the ninth with two Phillies on base and two out and brought in reliever Jeff Reardon because he thought Rogers had lost his stuff and was having trouble with a blister on the index finger of his pitching hand.

Rogers agreed with his manager. "I'm always disappointed when I don't finish," Rogers said, "but the quality of my pitches had justly diminished. I had run out of gas. And I had the blister."

Phillies manager Dallas Green said Carlton just wasn't up to his top performance yesterday.

"He (Carlton) doesn't often get beat," Green said. "He wasn't the same Steve Carlton, but he pitched a good baseball game."

Phillies first baseman Pete Rose, who had two hits, said the Phillies just didn't deliver in the clutch. He also said two base running mistakes were costly — Keith Moreland getting caught off third in the fourth and



The Phillies Keith Moreland stares at the third base bag after being picked off on a throw from Expos catcher Gary Carter to third baseman Larry Parrish in the fourth inning of yesterday's NL East playoff game in Montreal. Moreland also homered in the second inning.

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Montreal, in its first postseason game in the club's 13-year history, took a 1-0 lead in the first. Warren Cromartie, who hit .415 after being inserted into the leadoff spot Sept. 18, opened the inning with a single to left. Jerry White and Dawson struck out, but Gary Carter drove a double off the left field wall, scoring White, who had stolen second.

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Change a must for Beaver Stadium fans

Continued from Page 12
"You need a lot of people to cheer. Generally, people do want to cheer, but sometimes they're intimidated."

Whatever the reasons, Penn State fans are not good college football fans. They're horrible. They have the fourth-largest stadium and the second-best team in the nation. Based on the amount of vocal support they give, they don't deserve the flower garden fields and the coed intramural football champion.

Some people, Paterno included, don't even think fan support is an important issue.

"I think it's making a mountain out of a molehill," Paterno says.

But the Penn State fans' lackluster attitude needs to be changed. It is an

insult to both the school and the players. And it certainly has deprived them of a home field advantage enjoyed by many schools.

"I'd like to see our fans go crazy," offensive captain Sean Farrell says. "That many people could cause some havoc. They could create real problems for the opponents."

"I'd have to say I play much better in front of louder crowds. It's much more exciting."

Says Jones, "Our home field advantage is nil compared to a place like Nebraska or Tennessee."

Jones and other people in the athletic department have tried to wake up the slumbering masses. They organized another group of cheerleaders (Lion's Le-

gion), they've passed out shakers, installed a scoreboard with a message center, and this Saturday they'll unveil the new flip card section and distribute 20,000 "Luv Ya Lions" placards.

"We keep beating them over the head and hope something happens," Jones says.

They can keep hammering away, too, and not put a dent in the Penn State fans. For all their efforts, the people in Rec Hall can't change them. Each fan has to take the initiative himself.

Appropriately, Saturday is Homecoming, and the theme is tradition. Penn State fans can carry on an old tradition of dullness, or they can shake the doldrums and start a new tradition of excitement.

They can sit for the opening kickoff, or they can cheer when the cheerleaders start. "We are... Penn State," or they can join in. They can tell the one loud person in their section to sit down and shut up, or they can stand up and yell themselves.

I hope they choose the more active role. A change has to be made.

When Nebraska plays at home, Memorial Stadium is the third-largest city in the state. When Penn State plays at home, Beaver Stadium is the largest morgia in the world.

Tom Verducci is a 10th-term journalist, major and a sports writer for The Daily Collegian.

Bahr set to give Steelers the boot

Happy to be back in AFC Central

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — The Cleveland Browns' new place-kicker, Matt Bahr, said yesterday he'll "try to make the best" of the opportunity that the Browns coach said kicker Dave Jacobs couldn't handle.

Bahr arrived from the San Francisco area yesterday afternoon and wasted no time in getting a medical check, picking up his new uniform and holding a news conference.

The Browns announced the trade of an undisclosed draft choice to the San Francisco 49ers for Bahr's services Tuesday.

"I'm excited to be coming back to a conference and a division that I know," Bahr, who played two years for the Pittsburgh Steelers, said in a news conference at the Browns training camp.

Of Sunday's Browns-Steelers game in Pittsburgh, he said, "The 49ers were going to play the Steelers in November, and I wanted it quicker. You always want to impress your old team and teammates."

Browns' coach Sam Rutigliano said Monday that Jacobs, who converted only four of 12 field goal attempts in the first five games, could not cope with the opportunity given him when the Browns released veteran Werschling was healthy.

Coming into a new situation, Bahr said, he would have preferred to arrive "just after a player has retired."

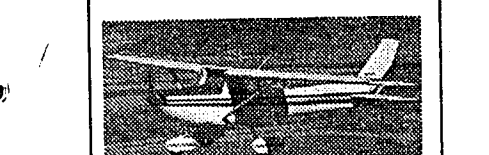
Nevertheless, he said, "I want to make the best of it and try not to make the same mistakes as my predecessor."

"The best way to make a long career is to look at it one game at a time, because if you look too far down the road, you're gonna stumble," Bahr said.

"Pressure will come from myself," Bahr said. "You just have to keep things in perspective."

With the 49ers, Bahr made 2 of 5 field goal attempts. But of the three he missed, one was blocked and the other two were attempts from more than 40 yards.

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Los Angeles catcher Mike Scioscia (left) blocks the plate on a scoring attempt by the Astros' Cesar Cedeno in the fifth inning of yesterday's NL West playoff game in Houston. The Astros won the game 4-0 when pinch hitter Benny Walling delivered a two-out, run-scoring single in the bottom of the 11th inning.

Astros 1, Dodgers 0

HOUSTON (AP) — Pinch hitter Denny Walling's two-out, line-drive single into right-center field with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 11th inning carried the Astros over Los Angeles yesterday and gave them a 1-0 edge in the NL West Division playoffs.

Walling's clutch hit on a 1-1 pitch from reliever Tom Niederkorn scored Phil Garner from third base with the winning run.

The loser for the second day in a row was reliever Dave Stewart, who came in to lead off the 11th and yielded back-to-back singles by Garner and Tony Scott.

The Dodgers walked Cesar Cedeno, who led off the bases to set the stage for Walling, who was pinch-hitting for shortstop Dickie Thon.

The winner was Joe Sambito, who came on in the top of the 11th and got out of a jam after yielding a double to pinch-hitter Steve Yeager.

Niederkorn was locked in a tense duel until Niederkorn left after eight innings. Reuss was replaced after nine innings of work in which he allowed only five hits.

The Dodgers wasted excellent scoring chances in the second, third, sixth and seventh innings as Niederkorn continually bore down in the clutch.

Los Angeles failed to score in the second and third to lead 2-0. But the Yankees quieted the County Stadium crowd of 35,064 with their

four-run fourth, starting with a lead-off walk to Reggie Jackson.

Oscar Gamble, who had broken an 0-for-27 slump with a second-inning single, belted a 1-1 pitch into the right-center field bullpen for a two-run homer as the Yankees tied it 2-2.

Bob Watson followed with a single, and Larry Milbourne beat out a high bouncer to shortstop Robin Yount for a single, as Yount, who appeared to have a ball at second, was slow getting the ball out of his glove and threw to first.

Cedeno Two in the best-of-five series is scheduled for this afternoon here.

The Brewers, who won the AL East "Second Season" championship to earn a playoff berth for the first time in their 12-year history, scored single runs in the second and third to lead 2-0. But the Yankees quieted the County Stadium crowd of 35,064 with their

Browns not wary of Three Rivers

By BOB DVORCHAK

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Three Rivers Stadium has been a house of horrors for the Cleveland Browns, who have never emerged a winner since it opened 11 years ago.

But coach Sam Rutigliano dispels any notions that the home of the Pittsburgh Steelers carries a hex or is inhabited by evil spirits or hobgoblins bent on spooking his team.

"The only problem we've had in Pittsburgh is that we just didn't score more points than they did," Rutigliano said yesterday via telephone hookup. "It had nothing to do with where we were playing."

"We don't go there with Halloween costumes. There's no haunted past about playing in Pittsburgh. We just have to get more points and the record will be broken. It's that simple."

"I think it's a great city for you guys. Pittsburgh being a haunted house for the Cleveland Browns makes good copy, so enjoy it," he laughed.

Meanwhile, Rutigliano insists that the Steelers should never have been mistaken for a corpse even after they lost their first two games.

"They would have assured you the Pittsburgh Steelers are not dead," Rutigliano said.

"There's one thing I'm absolutely sure of — that's a fine football team and a great organization. They couldn't have accomplished all the things they did and let that go down the drain that fast."

"It's very obvious right now they're right back on track, which should lend itself to a typical Browns-Steelers game."

Under Rutigliano, the Browns have lost twice in overtime to the Steelers, and Pittsburgh pulled out last year's game with a touchdown pass coming just 11 seconds before the gun.

Historically, this will be the 63rd meeting of a heated rivalry known as the turnpike series because the two cities are separated by only a two-hour drive. And the game has always been special.

"Everybody from the organizational level right down to the players enjoys this series," Rutigliano said. "Since I've been here, it always has brought out the best in the Cleveland Browns. We look forward to it."

But he refused to call Sunday's game a critical one, even though the Browns are 2-3.

"Critical situations are in war and surgery," he said. "You can't call this a critical game. It's important because we're playing the first place team in our division and it's our third division game."

"But it's a long journey."

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