

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 largest stadium.



No, it's worse than that. Even Favaretto 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.

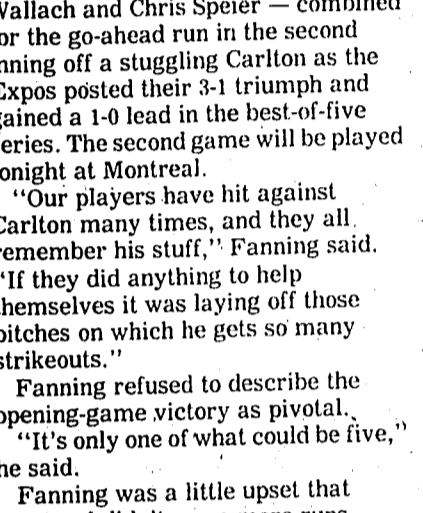
Penn State football fans are a breed apart. Call them Homo quietus if you like. The species comes in two varieties: the wild, savage type characterized by a fetish to throw objects and to leave the stadium early; and the domesticated, older type characterized by a sleepy disposition.

"They're certainly not on the endangered list — at least in 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."

Expos hold off Phillies for playoff victory

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



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"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."

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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 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 lower grade fields and the coed intramural football championship.

"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." "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 Legion), 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 up the tradition and start a new tradition of excitement.

Baher set to give Steelers the boot

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

Baher, 25, a former All-American at Penn State and the sixth-round draft choice of the Steelers in 1979, went to San Francisco earlier this year after he was cut by the Steelers, who favored an even younger place-kicker, David Trout. The 49ers signed him to help out for four games when first-string kicker Ray Werschling was injured.

Despite his departure from the Steelers, Baher said, "I had two good years." He said owner Art Rooney is a "class" individual in "a class organization."

"I'm with a different organization now," Baher said, "so there are different feelings about this game. I just going to try my best to help the Browns."

"It was thrilling," he said of the Browns offer. "I knew the job with San Francisco was only temporary until Werschling was healthy."

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

Browns not wary of Three Rivers

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.

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."

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

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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 the 2-2 edge in the NL West Division playoffs.

Yanks 5, Brewers 3

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Rick Cerone lined a two-run double to cap a four-run New York fourth inning, and the Yankees rode brilliant relief pitching by Ron Davis and Rich Gossage over Milwaukee last night in the first game of the AL East Division championship series.

A's 2, Royals 1

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Tony Armas hit two singles and two doubles to drive in both Oakland runs, and Steve McCatty outdueled rookie Mike Jones to give the A's a victory over the Royals and a 2-0 lead in the American League Western Division playoffs yesterday.

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