

Remembering the Sugar Bowl ... and Alabama

Pete Speros was what you would call a detached observer. The junior offensive tackle remembers watching the 1979 Sugar Bowl, New Year's Day on television. He remembers watching Alabama stop Penn State's Matt Suhey on third-and-two feet in the fourth quarter. He also remembers watching the next play, where "Bama's" Marty Lyons, Byron Bragg and Barry Krauss stopped Mike Guman six inches from the goal line.



Mike Poorman

And he remembers the final score: Alabama 14, Penn State 7. But at the time, sitting at home in Potomac, Md., as a highly-sought after senior at St. John's High, he didn't really care who won.

"It was kind of funny," Speros said. "I had just visited Alabama (on a recruiting trip), so I was kind of neutral at that time. I was more or less just sitting back and enjoying the game, not really rooting for anybody."

"And now, I laugh about it a lot, and say that I was just sitting there. A lot of guys now wouldn't believe it."

At the Jackson household in South River, N.J., that day, the viewing audience was definitely biased.

"My father is from Alabama, so he was rooting against Penn State," said sophomore wide-out Kenny Jackson. "And ever since I really understood football, I enjoyed watching Penn State play. I wanted Penn State to win really bad because I was thinking of coming to school here then."

"I couldn't believe that way they lost. The only time that Joe (Paterno) had a chance to be national champion, they didn't come through. It was kind of upsetting in that way."

For Jackson and Speros, and most of the Nittany Lion underclassmen, playing the Crimson Tide does not take on the special meaning because of that loss. They were never a part of that 19-game Penn State winning streak going into the Sugar Bowl, or had held the No. 1 spot for all those weeks back in 1978.

"Saturday's game is not like a revenge, because when I look back, I really don't understand," Jackson said. "Alabama is just a really good football team."

Yet for all the players on this year's team who were on the 1978 squad as freshmen, you would think there's been some talk in the lion locker room about the last time the two teams met.

"No, not really, and that's surprised me," said starting quarterback Dan Marino. "Because for the seniors on the team now, that was our first taste of defeat. It really hasn't been brought up. We're just trying to keep things in perspective."

"But I'm sure it will come up in the pre-game speeches."

What has come up is the inevitable and constant talk about Paul "Bear" Bryant. The Alabama coaching legend is tied with Glen "Pop" Warner as the second-winningest coach in college football history. A win Saturday would tie him with Amos Alonzo Stagg for the top position, at 214 victories.

Paterno even made a point of reminding his squad of something he knew they were going to have to listen to all week. "He told us that all we'd be hearing," Opar said. "At our meeting Monday, he said they're going to be talking about Bryant, Bryant, Bryant."

And they have. The students and the sports writers and the crossing guard in Bellefonte. But not the Nittany Lions.

"All of us are aware of the fact that he's a great coach and had a lot of success and going for the record and all those kinds of things," Speros said. "But to be honest with you, no one has even talked much about it. It's more or less their problem, not ours."

After Alabama beat Mississippi State two weeks ago, you could indeed see what a problem the chase has become for Bryant.

"I have no comment," Bryant said following the game when queried about the record. "I've commented too much already."

So from looks of it, on the surface anyway, Saturday's game will simply be the best in the country that day, between college football's fifth- and sixth-ranked teams. No thoughts about Bear finally reaching the holy. No thoughts about Penn State avenging the 1978 national championship lost on the goal line in the Louisiana Superdome.

"Who's got time to think about what happened in 1978?" Paterno asked rhetorically yesterday. "If some of our guys are talking that way, they're stupid."

And they're not.

Valenzuela wins NL Cy Young

By JACK STEVENSON
AP Sports Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fernando Valenzuela thanked his lead and his manager yesterday for helping him win the 1981 National League Cy Young Award.

He left out Cy Young because he didn't know who he was.

Voting for the award, which the 21-year-old Valenzuela won in a tight race with Tom Seaver and Steve Carlton, was so close that only the lack of a second-place vote for Seaver of the Cincinnati Reds decided it.

Valenzuela was the first rookie to win the Cy Young Award. With Blue Jays ace Steve Carlton, Cy Young Award with Oakland in 1971, his first full

year, but he had lost his rookie status, based on number of appearances, with the A's the previous year.

"I feel very great being in the major leagues and winning the Cy Young Award in my first season," Valenzuela, who speaks only Spanish, said through an interpreter. "I feel a little bit surprised because of the competition, but I'm very happy."

"I thank my teammates and I'm thankful to (Manager) Tom Lasorda, who gave me a chance."

The Dodgers, to honor their left-handed pitching star from Mexico, chose an Italian restaurant in Los Angeles' Chinatown.

Somebody asked Valenzuela if he knew who Cy Young was.

"Seeing this is my first year in the major leagues,

"Then you will have to learn Spanish," Valenzuela, in the strike-shortened season, posted a 137 record with a 2.48 earned run average. He equaled the record for rookies by winning eight straight games. He became the first rookie pitcher since Cleveland's Herb Score to lead the league in strikeouts. Valenzuela had 188.

The voting for the National League Cy Young Award was close among the panel of baseball writers from each league. Valenzuela had 70 points on eight first-place votes, eight seconds and six thirds. Seaver had 67 points — on the same number of first and third place votes, but just one less for second-place Carlton of Philadelphia had 50. Both Seaver and Carlton won the award three times.

"I think I will go on this way," he answered.

"He is an amazing person," Desjardin said. "You just can't get upset with him."

But so, Gerry Faust is not perfect. "I've got a lot of faults," he said. "I keep them secret, though."

And Gerry Faust seems to be in a perfect place. To him, Notre Dame is Shangri-La and Utopia rolled into one. He loves Notre Dame.

But no, Notre Dame has not been everything.

"I wouldn't change a thing — except some more wins."

After Air Force, wins will not come easily for Faust. Following Penn State, Notre Dame is at Miami. With two more losses, the Irish could have their first losing season since 1963.

What does a coach do when faced with big games like those?

Laughing, Faust said, "Pray."

He was only half joking.

Female sportswriter files suit against PSU

By KEITH GROLIER
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
Evelyn Clayton, a sportswriter for the Syracuse Herald and a United Press International correspondent, has filed a formal protest against Penn State because she was denied entrance to the football team's locker room after the Syracuse-Penn State game Oct. 17 at the Carrier Dome.

The Penn State team policy doesn't allow women in the dressing room.

"I've been covering sports for eight years, and I've never had any trouble with Syracuse or any other school before," Clayton said. "When you cover a game, you have to be able to talk to the coaches and the key players. And you have just a short time to do it."

Clayton said that she wanted to talk to Curt Warner, the Lions' outstanding tailback who broke school rushing records in the Syracuse win. When she tried to enter the Penn State locker room following the game, however, a Syracuse police officer stopped her.

"I thought he didn't understand," Clayton said. "I told him I was a member of the working press and had to be admitted. He still wouldn't let me in."

"I asked him what authority he was acting under and he said Penn State's. I then went to the Syracuse sports information Director (Larry Kimball), and he said, 'Follow me,' and went into the locker room."

"But again when I got to the door, I was stopped," Clayton said. "I saw the Penn State SID (Dave Baker) and he was being led out and asked him about it. He said it was a Penn State rule, and I couldn't do it."

According to Clayton, Baker said she would have to wait about 30 minutes until the players cooled off and were dressed, and then he would bring them out for her to talk to.

"I told him that's unfair," Clayton said. "I lost my competitive edge. The AP (Associated Press) and all of the other reporters were in there doing interviews and getting quotes. I had to hurry and get my story on the wire. Baker's suggestion was unsatisfactory."

Baker said the story isn't exactly the way Clayton tells it.

"Yes, I did tell her about our policy and that she wasn't allowed in the players' room," Baker said. "But I asked her what players she needed, and she said the only one was Curt Warner. I told her that after the game he had, there were at least 30 people around him, and I couldn't possibly get him at that time. I told her to wait, and she said, 'That's fine.' She said she'd get the quotes from somebody else."

Recent court decisions have opened men's locker room doors to women sportswriters. But a National Collegiate Athletic Association legal opinion states that the women must have equal access to the athletes, not necessarily to an open locker room, according to Baker.

"Some teams have open locker rooms, others have them wait and bring players out for them to talk to," Baker said. "We always bring a couple of players out after each game."

"With her, I think we made every obligation to let her talk to the players. She could've talked to any of the players she wanted. We made a point to secure people for her. We had several people available to help her."

Syracuse SID Kimball said, "She did come up to me and ask me what was wrong, and I told her there wasn't anything I could do about it."

"No, I didn't escort her into the locker room. I have no way of knowing what happened, but I do know that if that was the Penn State policy, I'm sure Dave Baker made every effort to accommodate her."

"I have no reason to doubt him if he said he would bring the players out as soon as he could," Kimball said.

Immediately after the incident, Clayton filed a complaint with the Syracuse Police Department. The officer involved was suspended, according to Clayton, and the Syracuse police are no longer guarding the doors at the Carrier Dome during the Orangemen's games.

As for the protest against Penn State, Clayton said, "I don't know where it stands. I let my office handle it."

"But I do intend to pursue it."

Faust's dream comes true

By TOM VERDUCCI
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
It is 6:30 a.m. on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, and the only stirring is from a few students rolling over in their sleeping bags.

These students have been camping out overnight in order to buy Notre Dame basketball season tickets.

Suddenly, there is a stir in the line. It is a whirlwind awakening of the sleepheaps at daybreak.

"Great to see you out here! Glad to see you support Notre Dame athletics!"

He goes down the line and shakes the hand of every student.

He is Gerry Faust, and he is the brightest and most dynamic personality on the college football scene. Faust is the first-year head coach at Notre Dame, and although these Fighting Irish have struggled through a disappointing 4-4 season so far, the coach has not lost any enthusiasm.

"I love it," Faust said in a telephone interview yesterday. "It is a great place. I love the people. I love the school, and I love the players. It is more than I thought it would be."

Faust came to Notre Dame after a remarkable 18-year head coaching career at Cincinnati's Moeller High School. His career record of 174-17-2 included victories in his last 32 games. In his last 71 and 90 in his final 93.

But perhaps his greatest day came on Nov. 24, 1980, when he accepted the head coaching job at Notre Dame, replacing Dan Devine.

"I don't miss Moeller because I love Notre Dame so much," Faust said. "If I was not at Notre Dame, though, that is the only other place I would want to be."

It was a dream come true for Faust. He said, "I wanted to go to Notre Dame ever since I was a kid" — as a collegian he wasn't good enough for N.D. and played quarterback at Dayton — and the school fits him perfectly.

Both have strong religious foundations. Both place a heavy emphasis on academics. Both have switched positions. But Gerry Faust has remained the same through this uneasy season.

He still goes to mass before dawn every day. He's still in his office 10 minutes before 7 a.m. every day. He still doesn't get home until 9 or 9:30 p.m.

"There are only so many hours in a day," Faust said. "I'm sure that on a very busy day, it's a little different," he said. "But we only have 8,000 students here. There's always been that closeness with the students."

Please see FAUST, PAGE 11



Gerry Faust

The storybook tale continues to unfold on the opening day of this season. The Irish whipped LSU that day, and No. 1 Michigan was upset by Wisconsin.

"I think we threw too much at them in the beginning," Faust said. "The only person you put pressure on me was myself."

Skip Desjardin, assistant sports editor of The Observer, the Notre Dame student newspaper, said there was no pressure to oust Faust at the time but the coach "was extremely disappointed. He was very worried that he had let people down."

The Irish have since rebounded with wins over Navy and Georgia Tech and probably will have another this week at the expense of Air Force before their encounter with Penn State next week.

Things have changed for Notre Dame. The Irish are winning instead of losing. Key players have switched positions. But Gerry Faust has remained the same through this uneasy season.

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Please see FAUST, PAGE 11

Panthers eye Penn State game

By RON GARDNER
Daily Collegian Sports Writer
After almost a year of waiting, the Pittsburgh Panthers have finally received what they thought they deserved last season — recognition as the top collegiate football team in the country.

The Panthers (9-0), solidified their hold on the No. 1 spot with a 47-0 rout of Rutgers last Saturday and are determined to stay there after finishing behind Georgia in the final rankings last year.

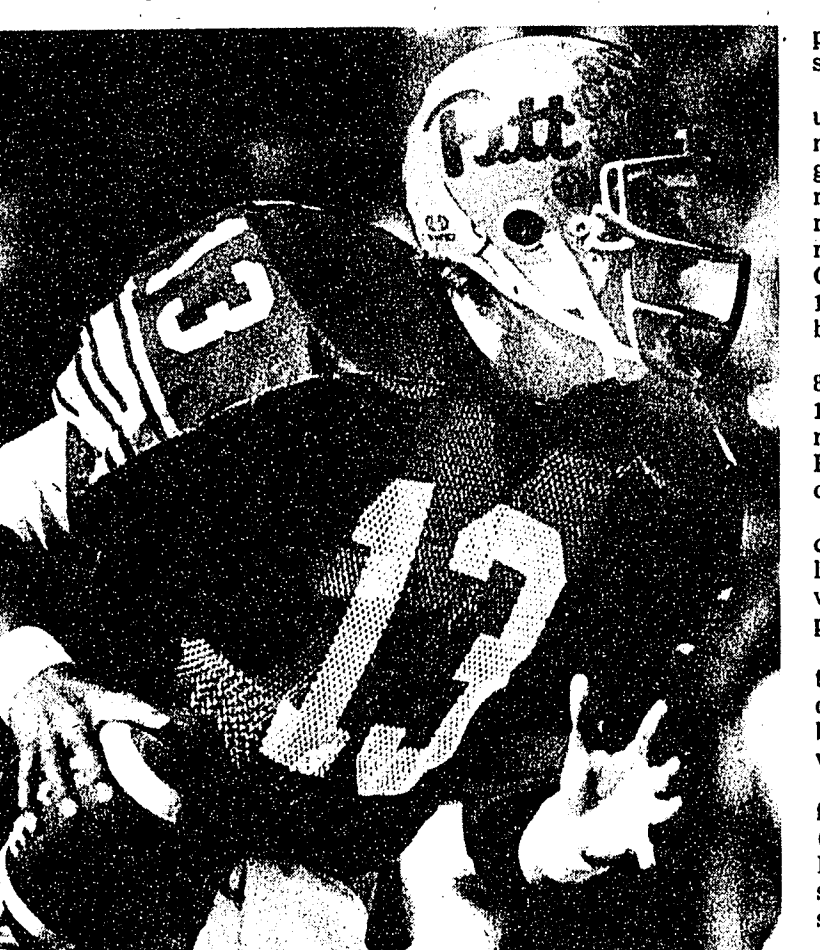
But Pitt must first hurdle Army, a 38-point underdog, Temple, Penn State, in a nationally-televised battle Nov. 28 at Pitt Stadium, and a bowl opponent to lay claim to the elusive top spot.

Even after losing 27 lettersman, Pitt head coach Jackie Sherrill said this year's team is improved in some areas over last season's 11-1 team that sent 19 players to the National Football League via the draft or free agent route.

"We're not as physically defensively as we were last year," he said. "But we've got some players who can chase the football. Offensively, we are probably better."

That offense is led by the nation's third-rated quarterback in junior Dan Marino (130 of 291 for 1,817 yards and 24 touchdowns), who has been sacked only four times this season. Part of the reason for that is the stellar offensive line he operates behind — Rob Fada, Ron Sams, blue-chip recruit Bill Fraley and All-America candidate center Emil Boures and guard Jimbo Coak.

The Panthers also return the fleet Dwight Collins as wide receiver (39) and Mike Poorman as a 10th-team journal major and sports editor of The Daily Collegian.



Pitt, led by Dan Marino, the nation's third-rated quarterback and the mainstay in the top-ranked Panthers' quest for a national championship, will first have to tangle with Penn State Nov. 28 at Pitt Stadium.

players to respond, and they've responded pretty well."

Defensively, Pitt is the stingiest unit in the country, holding its opponents to an average of 215.4 yards per game, including a paltry 49.6 yards rushing. Led by linebacker Sal Sunseri, the Panthers don't seem to be missing defensive standouts Hugh Green and Ricky Jackson, keys to a 14-9 win over Penn State last November at Beaver Stadium.

When Penn State and Pitt meet for 81st time in their series that began in 1883, a victory by the Panthers would mark the first time since 1944-46 that Pitt will have beaten the Lions three consecutive times.

"Both are outstanding," Syracuse coach Dick MacPherson said after losing to both teams on consecutive weekends. "We're tremendously impressed with them."

And unless Pitt stumbles badly and the No. 1 jinx claims its seventh victim of the season, the Panthers should still be the top-ranked team in the country when they host Penn State.

"I think any team in the top three, four or five could say they deserve it (No. 1)," Sherrill said. "I still think, as I did in the preseason, that this is the strongest Penn State team I've seen since I came here in 1973."

But Sherrill said he couldn't afford to even begin to think about the Penn State game just yet.

"They're not really on my mind," he said. "I've got a lot of things to do before then, we've just got too many things to do."

Sherrill isn't the only one with important things to do.

"They're both awfully good teams," West Virginia coach Don Nehlen said. "I'd like to have tickets to that one."

Warner still questionable

The status of Penn State tailback Curt Warner for Saturday's football game with Alabama in Beaver Stadium is still uncertain, coach Joe Paterno said yesterday.

"I'm not sure, really. He tried to run some (Tuesday) night and he's going to try to run some today (Wednesday)," Paterno said at his weekly press conference. "We want to be awfully careful that he's not hurt because we've got a couple of other ballgames after this one."

"He's very anxious to play," he thinks he's going to be able to go."

Warner originally pulled a muscle in his left hamstring the week of practice before the West Virginia game. He sat out that game but did start against Miami two weeks ago at the Orange Bowl.

In the second quarter against Miami, Warner pulled a different muscle in the same hamstring which forced him to miss the rest of that game and the entire North Carolina State contest last week.

Because the pulls were not related and occurred in different parts of the hamstring, chances are improved that Warner may play Saturday.

"One thing that would tempt me to use him is the fact that he did not injure the other (injury) when he got hurt," Paterno said. "And the doctors and trainers feel I can't be sure he'll be ready. At this point I really don't know."

In other news concerning Penn State injuries, Paterno said tight end Vito Lupo, who missed last week's game, is questionable for the Alabama game because of back spasms.

Paterno also said linebacker Chet Partridge (bruised knee) and shortstop guard Sean Farrell (hip flexor) had not practiced prior to yesterday and that he would evaluate their status after yesterday's practice.

— Mike Poorman

Faust keeping self busy

Continued from Page 10
There has always been a closeness between Faust and his family, too, but now that closeness is threatened by the amount of time he puts in at Notre Dame.

At Moeller, Faust would be with his wife, two sons (ages 13 and 12) and daughter (15) on Saturday night — if he wasn't out scouting — and on Sunday.

But at Notre Dame, Faust's weekends are full. Even on Sunday he is in meetings and in his office from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m.

The only time he is together with his family is at the training table on Sunday with the other coaches and their families.

"Then (at Moeller) I was with my family at least one night a week," Faust said. "Now I don't have any."

Gerry Faust seems too good to be true. He is a devoted Catholic, a devoted family man and a successful football coach.

Blazers burning up NBA opponents

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press Writer
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The young Portland Trail Blazers are the hottest act in the National Basketball Association, but the show has yet to prove itself on the road.

The Blazers are 7-0, the only unbeaten team in the league, but six of those victories have come at home, where sellout crowds have cheered the Portland team for 193 consecutive games.

The only road victory came at Golden State and required a rally by the Blazers.

"I know Portland is playing really loose right now and they're really good on this floor," Dallas Coach Dick Motta said after the Blazers smashed his Mavericks 117-85 Tuesday night for their seventh straight triumph.

"But that is because they get so much love and respect from their fans. Players here should be thankful they play here, where fans appreciate them and encourage them. They don't hear crowd criticism here."

There hasn't been much to criticize this season as the Blazers opened by downing their main Pacific Division rivals — Phoenix, Los Angeles and Seattle — in succession.

The team is an unlikely group with no starter who has been in the league more than three seasons. The reserves also are young, and include four rookies.

"We have good players," veteran Blazers' coach Jack Ramsay said. "They play hard. We don't have any ego problems."

Last season, the Blazers lived and died on the play of their guards. The guards — Jim Paxson, Kevin Ramsey, Billy Ray Bates — still are here, but they've been joined by a realigned frontcourt that includes Mical Thompson at center, Calvin Natt at small forward and Michael Harchal at power forward.

The emergence of the 6-4, 180-pound native of Fort Smith, Ark., gives the Spurs a double scoring threat because Gervin is leading the NBA with 22.3 points as a consensus player before suffering a deep thigh bruise against Denver last week.

"I feel like it's due," Brewer said after he hit 19 of 24 field goal attempts and the Spurs routed the Lakers, 128-102, Tuesday night.

"This is the first time," said Los Angeles' Magic Johnson, who tried to help guard Brewer, "that I've been steamrolled in my life."

Brewer was given little playing time for the Trail Blazers and averaged 7.9 points through 29 games until San Antonio traded Mike Gale for him last Dec. 19. He had averaged 13.3 points for Portland as a rookie and upped that to 15.7 in his second year, before he began spending most of his time on the bench.

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