

A legend retires: 'Bear' Bryant says goodbye

By HOYT HARWELL Associated Press Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Paul "Bear" Bryant, who created a model of success for generations of coaches to come, is leaving college football to his legend.

"I'm a tired old man," said Bryant, now 69 with a leathery, wrinkled face, "but I'll never get tired of football."

Nevertheless, the man who compiled a 322-85-17 record in 38 years of coaching said he no longer could give the Crimson Tide the leadership it deserves.

There comes a time in every profession when you have to hang it up and that time has come for me as head football coach at the University of Alabama," Bryant told a crowd of reporters in Tuscaloosa.



Paul 'Bear' Bryant

'Bear's' proteges give praise

By DAVE GOLDBERG AP Sports Writer

Larry Lacey has known Bear Bryant for most of his 45 years. He grew up in Bryant's hometown and coached with him and against him. But Bryant still makes him a bit uncomfortable.

"I've always been a little scared of him," Lacey said yesterday after Bryant officially announced his retirement as Alabama's head football coach. "It's his presence. You always feel it every time you're around him."

"I'm 41," says Charley Pell, head football coach at Florida, "and I still feel the same kind of awe about Coach that I did when I was 18."

"He's the John Wayne of the football world," says Bum Phillips, coach of the New Orleans Saints. "There's a lot of good football coaches but only one 'Bear' Bryant."

Bear's Boys. Scattered all over the country are men who played or coached under Bryant. Like Phillips, Pell and Lacey, head coach at Arkansas State, many are successful coaches themselves. All of them still call him "Coach" and all like to talk about the Bryant nobody knows, the Bryant of whom Lacey says:

"You didn't ever feel like he was your best friend. But you knew he'd always be there to help you."

Eddie Robinson of Grambling, who may pass Bryant's all-time college record of 322 victories by 1985, isn't one of Bear's Boys. He's ineligible — southern schools like Alabama had no contact with blacks until two decades or so ago. But Robinson thinks Bryant had a lot to do with changing that when he started recruiting blacks in the late '60s.

"I think the people felt that as long as Coach Bryant was doing it, it was fine," says Robinson.

"I think what I remember most about Coach is his flexibility," says Steve Sloan, the new head coach at Duke and the middle man between Joe Namath and Ken Stabler in Bryant's great triumvirate of '68 quarterbacks.

"He would change the offense, change the defense when he needed it. He would have some good original ideas and he would take from others."

Alabama. Now head coach at Wyoming, Kinkaid remembers his second year there.

"We were playing Penn State in the Sugar Bowl," he recalled Wednesday. "I was just a graduate assistant — low man on the totem pole — and I needed a job the next year. He gave me the scouting report on Penn State to talk about. I'm convinced he gave it to me so I'd get some publicity, get some exposure, and have a better shot at a job."

Lacey is from Fordyce, Ark., Bryant's hometown and he's known Bryant since he was 5 or 6 — "about as far back as I can remember." He's convinced that Bryant scheduled his Arkansas State team this season to give him some national exposure.

When Lacey was in high school, his father died. "Coach helped put me through college," he says. "He was almost like a father to me. He paid my room and board at Alabama from 1959 to 1960. But during those two years at Alabama when I was an assistant for him, you know, he never mentioned my daddy."

That's another thing people remember about Bryant — that the rest of his life was one thing, football, and never the twin shall meet.

Charley McClendon, former head coach at Louisiana State, was both a player and an assistant under Bryant at Kentucky more than three decades ago.

"I consider him a close friend now," McClendon says. "But he has an unpredictable personality. When you try to tag him one way, he's another."

"I remember we went down to Harlan, Ky. one night and around the sheddin' lot of tears about back home — just a couple of ol' Arkansas boys. The next day, we went back to practice. Why he didn't even know me."

On the football field, that unpredictability McClendon mentions is what people remember about Bryant.

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His record in 25 years at Alabama is 231-46-9, including national title teams led by such future NFL stars

Bryant's best, said he is not afraid of the task.

"I'm following — repeat, following — the greatest coach in college football," he told reporters in East Rutherford, N.J. "It's a great honor to go there."

Bryant said his own success had diminished this year to the point he needed to get out. His 1982 Crimson Tide went 7-4, its worst since 1970.

"We played only four or five games like Bryant-coached teams should play," he said. "I've done a poor job of coaching."

"This is my school, my alma mater, and I love it, and I love the players. In my opinion they deserve better coaching than they've been getting from me this year and my stepping down is an effort to see that they get better coaching from someone else."

Friends and foes in the football fraternity said Bryant's retirement marks the end of an era that may never be equalled.

Grambling Coach Eddie Robinson, the second-winningest active coach with 308 victories, said Bryant's retirement leaves a void in the sport.

"When you have a figure like Coach Bryant leaving the game, somewhere in there is an uncomfortable feeling," he said. "I would like to see him go on. It ain't going to be the same without him."

"At the end of bowl games, with the security people and that houndsouth hat, coming off the field, it ain't going to be the same."

Miami Coach Howard Schnellenberger, who played for Bryant and coached both under and against him, said, "Paul Bryant had more effect on the game of football than any man ever to coach or play the game. The American football scene will not be the same without him on the sidelines."

The Tuscaloosa campus was stunned by the news.

"It's like losing a best friend," said sophomore Robert Bruce. "You associate Alabama with Bear Bryant."

Added Josh Thomas, the university president, "Bryant is an institution himself. There will never be a replica of him."

Bryant won five national championships at Alabama, in 1951, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959. He surpassed Amos Alonzo Stagg's career record of career victories last year.

His record in 25 years at Alabama is 231-46-9, including national title teams led by such future NFL stars



Paul 'Bear' Bryant

As Joe Namath, Lee Roy Jordan and Ken Stabler.

For Bryant, who got his nickname when he wrestled a bear as a youth out of Moro Bottom, Ark., the trail to national heights began with his first coaching job at Maryland in 1945. A year later, he went to Kentucky, where he coached for eight years.

Then it was to Texas A&M for four years. And in 1952, he returned to Alabama, his alma mater.

"Mama called," he said then. "I was expected to announce they had decided hearing for years. 'I feel the time is right for a change in our football leadership.'"

Perkins, a native of Mount Olive, Miss., said he was called by Alabama officials last Thursday and interviewed for the job last Sunday. He was offered the job Monday and made up his mind to take it that day, he added.

"I leave (the Giants) with mixed emotions," he said. "It gives me great pleasure to return to my alma mater. It's certainly something I want to do very, very much."

"It's simply something that's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. If it was any place else, any other college team could not lure me from the New York Giants. Nothing could have, I don't believe, kept me from making this decision."

The Giants named Bill Parcells, their defensive coordinator, to succeed him.

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Linebacker does talking for Fazio Pitt tries to forget controversial stories and prepare for SMU

By ALAN ROBINSON AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Pitt Coach Fazio had little to say yesterday about recent controversial stories written about the sixth-ranked Panthers. In fact, he had nothing to say.

So senior linebacker Yogi Jones did the talking for him.

"So much has happened in the last few weeks, but I don't think it will affect us at all," Jones said at the Panthers' final pre-Cotton Bowl press conference in Pittsburgh. The Panthers play fourth-ranked Southern Methodist (10-4-1) on New Year's Day in Dallas.

"With the type of players we have, we don't let negative things bother us," Jones said.

Jones was referring to stories published in Dallas and Pittsburgh papers, which quoted extensively from interviews by senior cornerback Tim Lewis.

Lewis questioned the Panthers' preparation and criticized several teammates, including wide receiver Julius Dawkins.

Neither Lewis nor offensive guard Ron "Moose" Sams, who also made critical remarks, was present at Tuesday's news conference.

Jimbo Covert, a second team All-America tackle, said the Panthers' 9-2 season was "nothing to be ashamed of." The Panthers, top-ranked in The Associated Press' pre-season poll, saw their national title chances disappear with November losses to Notre Dame and second-ranked Penn State.

"As far as the season goes, I'm happy with it," said Covert, one of the Panthers' four Cotton Bowl captains. "With a 9-2 record, I don't think we have to apologize to anyone. This team gave 100 percent in every game."

Covert said the Panthers will work hard during two weeks of pre-bowl practice, which will begin Thursday when the team flies to Fort Worth. After a week there, the Panthers will shift their training base to Dallas.

"Once we get to Dallas, it's all business," Covert said. "But it's not going to be all work, work, work when we're down there. A bowl game is supposed to be a fun time, too."

Fazio said the Panthers' bowl captains will be J.C. Pelusi, Jones, Covert and quarterback Dan Marino.

"They're a senior football team. They were 10-1 last year and they had about everybody back. They're a veteran football team, and I would say their offense is in Penn State's class," Fazio said. "And they're good on defense."

"Defensively, we can't allow them to have the big play."

He said tight end John Brown, who has missed the second half of the season with a knee injury, won't play because of cartilage problems.

Because the Panthers will be tied up with the bowl game for the next two weeks, Fazio said he has spent much of his time recruiting since a 19-10 loss to Penn State on Nov. 26.

"We're looking to give 25 grants, but I wish we had 40 to give, because there are so many players in western Pennsylvania," Fazio said. "We've had 38 players visit the last two weekends, including four or five from Florida and three or four from Louisiana and Mississippi."

"We're looking forward to it and it gave them a chance to show off their stuff," he said.

The Lady Lions are off until after Christmas break, having established a clearer picture of its freshman talent. But Isenberg remains hesitant about showering the freshmen with accolades, knowing full well their test will come when they face some top-notch teams.

"It's hard to expect how much (the freshman) will contribute until we begin the meets," Isenberg said.

Frosh give trackwomen depth

By RON LEONARDI Collegian Sports Writer

Mention quality and depth and most coaches won't hesitate to assert the importance of both for a successful team.

For the freshman on the women's indoor track team, the Princeton Development Meet was their first taste of collegiate competition.

According to Assistant Coach Lou Ann Isenberg, all the first-year runners on her team received passing grades.

"I think we have a good talented group of people who will add depth and quality to this team," Isenberg said. "We used the meet as a kind of workout to give the freshmen a feeling for the type of competition they will be facing later on this year."

Isenberg, subbing for coach Gary Schwartz who was on a scouting trip in Florida Sunday, said the meet enabled her to assess the talent on the team and see how it has progressed.

Fifteen girls made the trip to Princeton, 12 of them freshmen. A few of the young Lady Lions said they experienced some pre-meet jitters, but quickly overcame them once competition began.

"I was pretty scared before the meet, but once I saw the competition wasn't as tough as I expected I felt a lot better," Carla Criste said.

Criste turned in a strong performance, taking first place in the high-jump with a 5-6 leap.

Donna Howe, who placed second in the high-jump, experienced some nervous moments herself prior to the meet.

"I was really nervous because I had a lot of responsibility," she said. "I was pleased with my performance and I hope to improve upon it throughout the season."

Isenberg also said the team's preparation was a major factor in its performance.

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PI KAPPA PHI Would like to thank all those involved in making their first wrestling tournament a great success.

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Lady cagers down St. Joseph's

By JOHN SEVERANCE Collegian Sports Writer

Using a balanced attack, the women's basketball team warmed up for its matchup with 10th-ranked Cheyney tonight by defeating St. Joseph's 71-53 last night in Philadelphia.

As in two previous games, all the Lady Lions got a chance to play and all of them scored. Leading the way was forward Stacey Dean, who scored 11 points, grabbed nine rebounds, and made five steals in just 18 minutes. Dean went out midway through the second half.

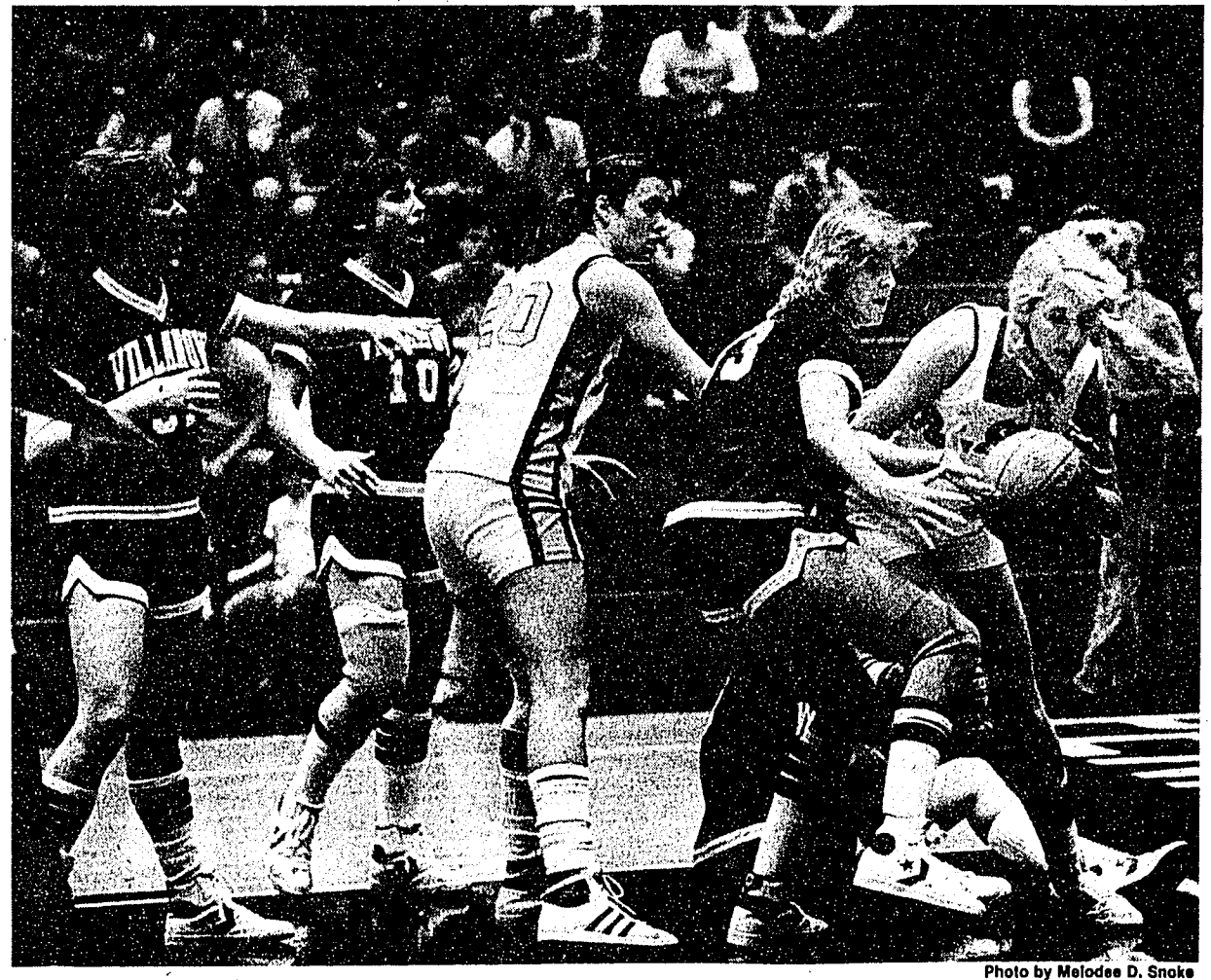
"Stacey asked to come out," Women's Basketball Coach Rene Portland said. "She didn't feel well."

None of the other Lady Lions were in double figures, but Carol Walderman, Louise Leimkuhler and Cheryl Ellison each had nine points. Penn State also received a fine rebounding effort from freshman forward Lorraine McGirt, who snagged nine rebounds, sharing game-high honors with Dean.

"We were really balanced tonight," Portland said. "Stacey had her best game of the year, although she only played 18 minutes. Defensively everybody did a good job."

The Lady Lions dominated the contest from the start as they surged to a 36-25 lead at halftime. In the second half, the lead grew to 18 and stayed that way most of the game.

Penn State held the rebounding edge as they outbounded the Lady Hawks 33-25. However, the Lady Lions continued to be plagued by poor shooting from the field as they only shot 44 percent. St. Joseph's, who dropped to 4-3 on the year, was even worse as it shot a meager 35 percent.



Penn State's Cheryl Ellison fights for the ball as Lady Lion Louise Leimkuhler and members of the Villanova team took on a game earlier this season. Penn State raised its record to 5-1 last night, downing St. Joseph's 71-53.

State's offensive scheme.

Portland shuffled people in and out all night by bringing reserves in for three or four minutes and then bringing the starters back in.

"I'm still trying to find the right combination of players," Portland said. "The chemistry still isn't quite right yet."

The Lady Lions hope they find the chemistry quickly, because they face Cheyney tonight and the Lady Wolves have not lost in their gym in the last four years. Penn State came close to destroying that streak last year, but Cheyney came back in the

second half to defeat the Lady Lions 78-70 after Penn State was ahead 45-36 at halftime.

"They lost their leading scorer from last year, because of graduation," Portland said. "But they are still tough. We're going to have to go at them and at them and at them."

Even without All-American Valerie Wright, Cheyney (7-1) is laden with talent. Debbie Walker and Yolanda Laney, who scored 26 against Penn State last year, are on the forward line along with 6-4 junior Sharon Taylor. At guard The Lady Wolves are set with Sandra Giddins

Mets to sign Seaver

By JOHN NELSON AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — The New York Mets have called a news conference for noon today at which they are expected to announce they have finalized a deal to return three-time Cy Young winner Tom Seaver to the club after a 5½-year absence.

When it is announced, the deal will be to send right-handed pitcher Charlie Puleo, minor league catcher Lloyd McClendon and another minor league to Cincinnati for Seaver, who pitched for New York for 10½ seasons before being traded to the Reds.

New York General Manager Frank Cashen and Reds President Dick Wagner announced that they had agreed in principle to a trade during baseball's winter meetings last week in Honolulu. It remained only for the Mets to OK Seaver's medical report and to make a contract with the right-handed pitcher before the deal was consummated.

Earlier this week, the Mets asked the commissioner's office for permission to speak with the pitcher on Tuesday or yesterday morning.

Contacted at his home last week in Greenwich, Conn., Seaver had said: "I hope we can reach an agreement and I can finish my career in New York."

In addition to money and duration, Seaver apparently also wanted some post-playing assurances from the Mets in any new contract. Seaver has done some television work and would like to move into the broadcast booth when his playing career is over.

Seaver's medical report became an issue in these negotiations after Seaver suffered through his worst season in 1982. He had a 4-13 record and a 5.50 ERA after finishing second in voting for a fourth Cy Young award in 1981 with a 14-2 record and a 2.55 ERA. Part of Seaver's troubles were attributed to a lingering virus.

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Rose, Morgan reunited

CINCINNATI (AP) — Veteran infielder Joe Morgan, newly acquired by the Philadelphia Phillies, will have a positive influence on the team on and off the field, says Phillies' first baseman Pete Rose.

Rose, who with Morgan was part of the Cincinnati Reds' "Big Red Machine" of the 1970s, is elated about being reunited with Morgan, and hopes the Phillies also sign left-handed relief pitcher Al Holland.

The Giants got pitcher Mike Krukow and two minor league players.

"I'll probably be as much fun being back with him (Morgan) as it was painful when we stopped playing together," said Rose, who left Cincinnati after the 1978 season as a free agent. Morgan went to Houston the same way in 1979.

They've still got a lot of ability."

Morgan, 39, won the Most Valuable Player Award in 1975 and 1976. The Cuban-born Perez was released by the Boston Red Sox Nov. 1 after three years. He is now 40.

Morgan, a 19-year major league veteran, was acquired by the Phillies from San Francisco along with left-handed relief pitcher Al Holland. The Giants got pitcher Mike Krukow and two minor league players.

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FALL SEMESTER 1983 HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE CONTRACTS STUDENTS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN UNIVERSITY PARK RESIDENCE HALLS

Students presently residing in the Residence Halls will receive their Fall Semester 1983 Housing and Food Service Contract Cards and related information in their mailboxes on Monday, January 10, 1983. Residents are also reminded to bring \$45.00 back to campus when they return to the University Park Campus in January 1983, for submission with their Agreement Form to the Bursar by Tuesday, February 1, 1983.

ALL OTHER STUDENTS

Fall Semester 1983 Housing and Food Service Contract Cards with related information will be available at the Assignment Office for Campus Residences, 101 Shields Building on Monday, January 10, 1983 for University Park students residing off campus.

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