

Hard times befall 'Team of the '70s'

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH—The 1980s haven't been so kind to the "Team of the '70s."

Not only have times changed for the Pittsburgh Steelers, so have their faces.

Mark Malone is at quarterback, not Terry Bradshaw, who led them to a record four Super Bowl championships in six years.

Mel Blount has long since retired; free agent, rookie Chris Sheffield starts at cornerback.

Remember Franco and Rocky? Steelers' fans have found them hard to forget with players named DeMorse and Hooper as running backs.

It has also been hard to forget a few other names like Lynn Swann, Joe Greene, L.C. Greenwood, Jack Ham and Jack Lambert.

The Steelers have won but one playoff game in the last six seasons; they record the last 2½ seasons is a nondescript 18-21.

Despite playing in the AFC Central, perhaps the weakest division in the NFL, the Steelers were 7-9 in 1985, their first losing season in 14 years.

And their problems are likely to continue this season. The team has made no major player acquisitions other than drafting first-round pick John Rienstra, an offensive guard from Temple.

The Steelers' best defensive back, Dwayne Woodruff, will miss the season because of knee surgery, further weakening a defensive secondary that has been increasingly exploited by opposing quarterbacks.

Changing times have altered the way NFL teams scout college players, an area where the Steelers were preeminent. They built their most dominating teams almost exclusively through the draft, not a single player on their 1979 team had ever played for another NFL team.

—that perhaps Chuck Noll, in his 18th season as Steelers' coach, perhaps should be getting on with his life's work.

"Somewhere along the line, we lost that right frame of mind you need to win games," Woodruff said. "It's easy to have the right attitude when you have championship years, but when you have problems, you work on attitude. Maybe we forgot how to do that."

"There are times the last few seasons when we needed to be motivated more," said wide receiver John Stallworth, one of just three remaining veterans from the four Super Bowl teams. "Maybe the motivation was not there all down the line."

Art Rooney Jr., son of the team's beloved patriarch and the Steelers' vice president, summarized the Pittsburgh problem more bluntly.

The days when the Steelers could comb infrequently scouted campuses like North Texas State, Southern and South Carolina State to stockpile talent are gone. Scouting is computerized. Every NFL team but the Los Angeles Raiders belongs to scouting combines which distribute voluminous player data to their various clients.

Noll, who has coached his team longer than all but three coaches in NFL history, disagrees with those who charge the Steelers are unwilling to keep up with the times.

"People say we're predictable," he said. "But look at the Chicago Bears. They didn't fool anybody last year, everybody knew what they were going to do but they still did it."

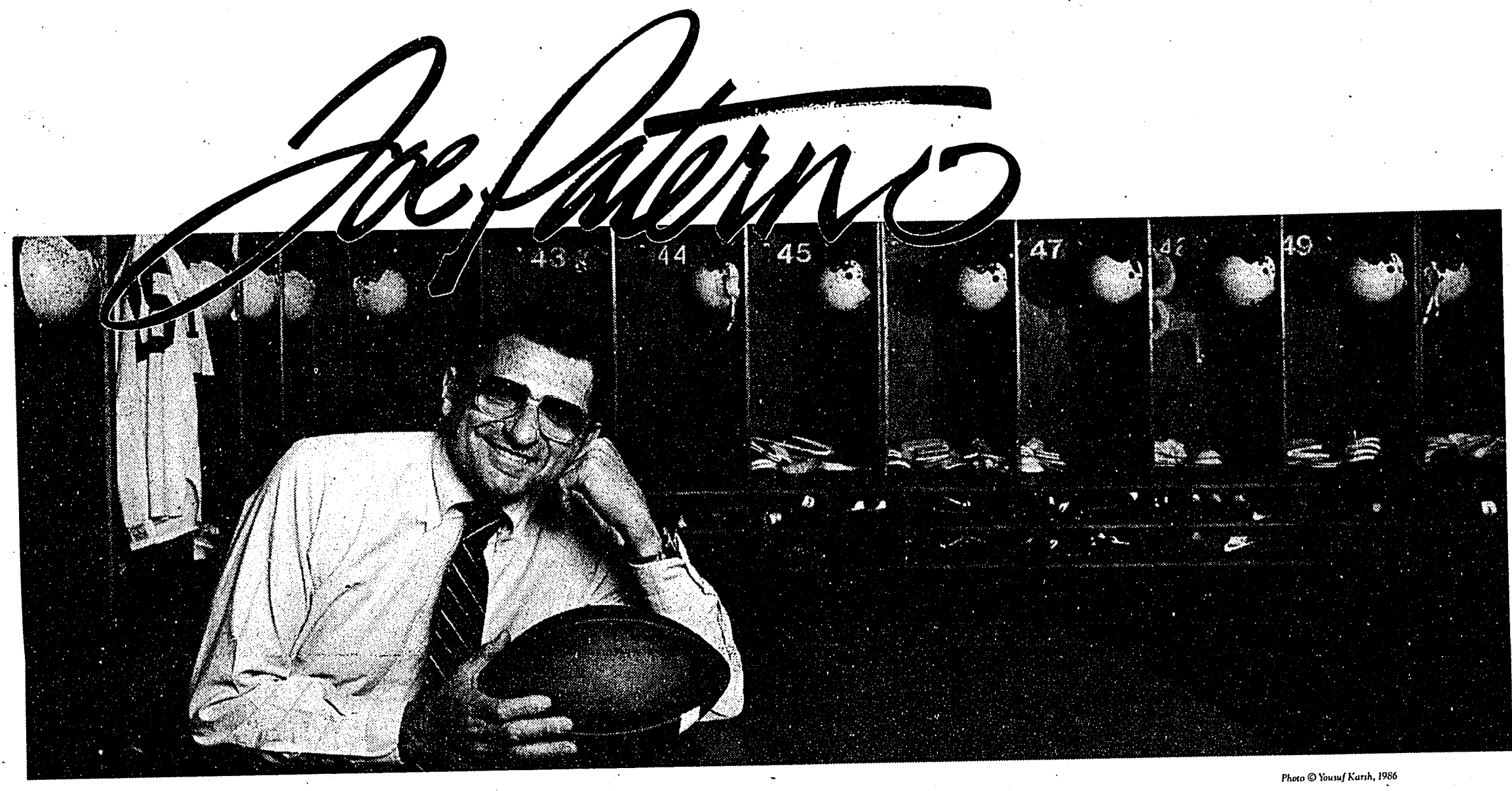
"If we have another season like last year," he said, "we'll all be looking for jobs next year."

PENN STATE STUDENT USHERS

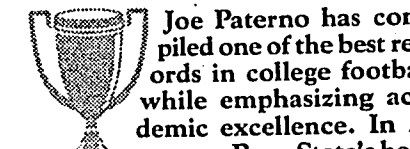
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Equally important to Paterno is the classroom performance of his student athletes. Eighteen of his players have been named first team academic all-Americans and twelve have received NCAA postgraduate scholarships, ranking Penn State in the top five teams nationally according to a recent NCAA report.

Having a bad start was probably the best thing that ever happened to me. We went 5 and 5 my first year, then lost the opener the following year. Everybody was placing bets on who would succeed me.

Had I been moderately successful, I never would have questioned the way I was coaching. Now I constantly question everything I do.

Success is a journey. I never get very elated over a win, because, as Churchill said, "Success is never final!" Likewise, I never get depressed over a loss. I look for the lesson in it.

If you're knocked down, you can't lose your guts. You need to play with supreme confidence or else you'll lose again, and then losing becomes a habit.

You must always do what you're afraid to do.

People aren't just lucky. Good things happen to them because they're willing to take chances. I don't ever want to think about ties.

If you don't win, you don't win, but at least you have the experience of going for it, of making something useful happen through your efforts.

You either get better or you get worse.

You can never stay the same. All of us are changing every day. Everything we read or see or do makes us different in some small way.

If you think you can come off a practice field the same player you were when you went on, you're kidding yourself. If you practice well, you'll be better.

Some players think that when Saturday comes, they can get by on natural ability, that practice isn't important. That's foolish. In our

league, everyone is good. If you want to be #1, you better get yourself ready. That's also why I emphasize academics so much. Preparing for a game is like preparing for life.

The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.

Success is a journey. You have to perform at a consistently higher level than others. That's the mark of a true professional. Professionalism has nothing to do with getting paid for your services.

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One of the things we look for in players is honesty. If you accept people who are only interested in a flashy car and handouts from alumni, they won't have much staying power. To be consistently good takes commitment to the good of the group.

Coaches have to be honest, too. Too many make promises they can't keep just to sign a kid. When he shows up on campus, he discovers he has to make the team just like everyone else. Then he gets disillusioned and morale is lowered.

It's easy for first-stringers to have good morale. But what about the guys who almost never get to play? If they have good morale, then everyone has it. And the only way everyone will have it is if everyone believes he has had a fair shake.

To win you must play as though you can't lose.

We've had five undefeated regular seasons and three all the way. To have a 10 and 1 or 9 and 2 season isn't exactly what our fans hope for today.

The secret to performing well under that kind of pressure is poise. To develop poise, you need to constantly subject yourself to nonstressors when you find yourself in a difficult situation, you react confidently.

Our players work so hard in practice, Saturdays seem easy by comparison. We go out to have fun and it shows on the scoreboard.

In that sense, I feel my greatest accomplishment has been to keep football in its proper perspective.

You don't know what you have to use until you have to use it.

Football is only a tiny part of a kid's total emotional, physical, and intellectual development. All I ask is that they give it their best. If we win, great. If we lose, there's always next Saturday.

If we can't get knocked on our rear end once in a while and come back and be better, I'm going to be awfully disappointed. You don't know what you have until you have to use it.

Through conversations with people widely recognized as perennial leaders in their professions, we hope to provide insight into the enduring values and attitudes that lead to success over a long period. Their consistent achievements in a constantly changing society exemplify staying power—the hallmark of Panhandle Eastern, which has been a leader in energy for more than half a century.

For a reprint of this essay or a copy of our latest Quarterly Report, please write Department J5, P.O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642.

PANHANDLE EASTERN CORPORATION

scoreboard

major league baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE														
East Division					West Division									
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	
Boston	76	54	.585	—	5-5	Won 2	37-24	39-30	Los Angeles	67	49	.575	—	3-1
Toronto	74	56	.561	3	9-1	Won 9	34-34	36-27	San Diego	68	54	.558	1	1-1
New York	70	61	.534	6½	4-6	Lost 1	34-34	36-27	Minnesota	68	54	.558	1	1-1
Detroit	68	64	.515	9	3-7	Lost 4	41-27	27-37	Chicago	65	65	.500	11	2-8
Baltimore	65	65	.500	11	2-8	Lost 1	33-30	36-25	Cleveland	65	67	.492	12	3-7
Cleveland	65	67	.492	12	3-7	Lost 1	37-32	28-35	Milwaukee	64	66	.492	12	4-6
Milwaukee	64	66	.492	12	4-6	Lost 3	33-31	31-35						

NATIONAL LEAGUE														
East Division					West Division									
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	
California	74	56	.569	—	8-2	Won 7	38-25	36-31	Los Angeles	68	43	.615	—	8-2
Texas	69	62	.527	5½	7-3	Lost 1	41-25	28-37	San Diego	67	46	.593	1	1-1
Oakland	61	71	.462	14	8-2	Won 1	37-25	24-43	St. Louis	58	74	.439	17	5-5
Kansas City	60	70	.462	14	6-4	Won 2	35-30	25-40	Seattle	56	73	.434	17½	3-7
Seattle	56	73	.434	17½	3-7	Won 1	31-34	25-39	Chicago	55	75	.427	19½	4-6
Chicago	55	75	.427	19½	4-6	Won 1	31-33	25-42						

Sunday's Games														
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	
New York	68	62	.523	19½	7-3	Won 5	37-25	31-37	Los Angeles	68	43	.615	—	8-2
PHILLIES	65	65	.500	22½	6-4	Won 2	38-32	29-33	San Diego	67	46	.593	1	1-1
St. Louis	62	65	.488	24	3-7	Lost 2	28-31	34-34	St. Louis	61	68	.473	12	4-6
Montreal	62	65	.488	24	3-7	Lost 2	28-31	34-34	Atlanta	61	68	.473	12	4-6
Chicago	55	76	.411	34	6-4	Won 2	26-42	27-34	San Diego	61	70	.466	13	4-6
PIRATES	53	76	.411	34	6-4	Won 2	26-42	27-34						

Monday's Games														
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	
Houston	74	57	.565	—	5-5	Won 1	40-28	34-31	Los Angeles	68	43	.615	—	8-2
Cincinnati	66	64	.508	7½	7-3	Lost 2	32-30	34-34	San Diego	67	46	.593	1	1-1
San Francisco	65	66	.496	9	3-7	Lost 4	37-31	28-35	St. Louis	61	68	.473	12	4-6
Los Angeles	62	65	.488	24	3-7	Lost 2	28-31	34-34	Atlanta	61	68	.473	12	4-6
Atlanta	61	68	.473	12	4-6	Won 2	31-30	30-38	San Diego	61	70	.466	13	4-6
San Diego	61	70	.466	13	4-6	Won 2	31-30	30-38						

Tuesday's Games													
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away
Boston 4, Cleveland 3	Los Angeles (Witch 5-10) at Montreal												
Toronto 7, Minnesota 5	(Youmans 11-9), 7:35 p.m.												
Chicago 3, Texas 1	San Diego (LaPoint 0-1) at PHILLIES												
Kansas City 6, Milwaukee 1	(Bittiger 0-0), 7:35 p.m.												
Oakland 7, Baltimore 0	St. Louis (Fuder 13-6) at Atlanta												
California 4, Detroit 3	(Mahler 11-14), 7:40 p.m.												
Seattle 6, New York 2													

Wednesday's Games													
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away
Late Games Not Included													
Toronto 5, Cleveland 4	Houston at Chicago, 2:20 p.m.												
Minnesota 3, Milwaukee 3	Los Angeles at Montreal, 7:05 p.m.												
Baltimore at Seattle	San Francisco at New York, 7:35 p.m.												
Texas at Boston, (n)	PIRATES at Cincinnati, 7:35 p.m.												
Chicago at Kansas City, (n)	San Diego at PHILLIES, 7:35 p.m.												
New York at Oakland, (n)	St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:40 p.m.												

Thursday's Games													
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland (Schrom 11-6) at Toronto													
Clancy 14-7, 7:35 p.m.													
Texas (Guzman 9-12) at Boston (Nipper 8-9), 7:35 p.m.													
Chicago (Cartton 2-2) at Kansas City (Jackson 8-9), 8:55 p.m.													
Milwaukee (Vuckovich 0-0) at Minnesota (Blyleven 14-10), 8:35 p.m.													
Detroit (King 0-4) at Seattle (Langston 11-10), 10:35 p.m.													
New York (Rasmussen 14-4) at Oakland (Young 10-8), 10:35 p.m.													
Baltimore (Flanagan 7-8) at California (Gutten 12-9), 10:35 p.m.													

Friday's Games													
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away
New York at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.													
Cleveland at Toronto, 7:35 p.m.													
Texas at Boston, 7:35 p.m.													
Chicago at Kansas City, 8:35 p.m.													
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8:35 p.m.													
Detroit at Seattle, 10:35 p.m.													
Baltimore at California, 10:35 p.m.													

Saturday's Games													
W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away	W	L	Pct	GB	Streak	Home	Away
Late Games Not Included													
New York 6, San Francisco 2	Houston 3, San Francisco 2												
PHILLIES 4, San Francisco 3	PIRATES 4, Cincinnati, (n)												
St. Louis 9, Cincinnati 3	Los Angeles at Montreal, (n)												
Atlanta 4, Chicago 3	San Diego at PHILLIES, (n)				</								