

WILKES-BARRE FATS

Football season at last

by Lee L. Richards

I guess everyone has a hobby. Our chief one is football, if you haven't guessed by our columns. We're a bit tired of playing golf so we decided we'd take off for Tennessee and Maryland. Thursday we motored, with the OK of my understanding wife, Kate, to Knoxville and arrived in time for the afternoon practice.

Coach Bobby Roper was surprised when I told him of my plans late Wednesday evening. He wanted to get a quick look at the much heralded frosh. We weren't disappointed.

After practice we checked into our room in the football dorm. Coach Bill Higdon gave us the key and said he'd welcome the time at home. All the Vol coaches were bunking at the Gibbs complex during two-a-day drills. After supper the films were back from the afternoon practice. Most of it was on drills and the passing game. The staff broke into offense and defense and proceeded to grade and evaluate each player the next couple of hours.

Coach John Majors wasn't pleased. It was going to be a rather long session so we headed for the sack. It never ceases to amaze me how every little detail is covered and how thoroughly every technique is covered.

FRIDAY—Everyone is up at 6:30. The coaches are tired. The week has been a tough one mentally and physically...We're on the field at 8:30. It's not too hot. Coach Majors says he's having a party Saturday night and he wants us to attend. He's got some great steaks and it's fun to watch a football game on the tube with him and the staff.

The flu-bug puts several key players out of action. Practice isn't going too well. Coach Majors spices things up a bit with his pitch on "enthusiasm." At 10:30 a.m. practice ends. Players meet with their respective coaches until lunch. The talk at lunch is about the PSU-Temple game. We mentioned how Coach Wayne Hardin always manages to come up with a new wrinkle. Roper said he believes State could make serious run for National title.

After lunch we make quick visit to see Don DeVoe, the roundball coach. He and his staff have looked at over 500 prospects and now must eliminate the list.

Wrestling coach Gray Simons is just up the hall. He just received word he's been elected into Wrestling Hall of Fame, but never mentioned it. We had to read in the paper on Sunday.

Afternoon drills appeared a little better. Coaches split for all points to scout schoolboy games. We visited with trainers Tim Kerin and Kevin O'Neil. They show the players a movie every night and they have a snack for them at 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY—The staff met at 7:30 a.m. to map out what plays they'd work on in the morning kicking scrimmage. For an hour and a half they worked strictly on all phases of the kicking game. Allan Duncan has strong leg and boomed several over 50 yards. Tempo was more brisk and we'd rate the practice as more positive.

We sat with coach Majors during lunch. Several vets were in process of going home, but after thinking things over returned. A sure sign of immaturity. Tennessee press played it up. Maybe the players didn't want to pay

the price. Everyone surprised at PSU's 10-7 win. Coach Bob Jackson said it best. "Penn State has class. They sure manage to win close ones."

The afternoon saw Vols go through a full scrimmage with SEC refs and the hall. Coach Majors closed it to just parents. Many fans wanted in to see the frosh. Things went exceptionally well in some areas. Vols will be better.

After practice we showered and drove the short hop to Coach Majors slick home. Several of the staff and wives were already there. He called us into the kitchen and he wanted my opinion of the team. We said we saw a vast improvement over last year. They appeared more confident of what they were doing. They're bigger and more physical.

Majors said, "We're still a long way from being a good football team. I'll agree we're ahead of last year at this time, but we've still got so much work and not enough time to get it all done."

Alabama was impressive. Coach Majors commented several times about the Tide's defense. After the game we headed back to the dorm. We thanked the Boss for the fine time.

SUNDAY—We got on the road and headed for Maryland and Coach Gib Romine's house. Arrived in Laurel around 5:30. Gib and I watched the Raiders and Bronco. He tossed a couple of steaks on the grill and we relaxed. Was hoping to see the Terps workout, but they weren't going to practice until late Monday afternoon. They open with Tulane Saturday. Gib said Charlie "D" Wysocki has impressed everyone. He sparkled in Friday's scrimmage again.

LABOR DAY—Gib and I had breakfast with Doug Willyard. He's an agent and travels around the country attempting to line up top college players prior to the draft. His firm has Steeler Jack Lambert under contract. A very interesting guy.

Coach Jerry Claiborne and his staff were in conference at 8 sharp. They were putting final touches on game plan for Green Wave. Coach Tom Groom walked into office with an old friend Bob Mischak. He's super scout for the Oakland Raiders. He coached at West Point with Tom Cahill.

He told us of the schools he's visited. He viewed Penn State-Temple and went into detail about Temple's kicking game on third down and how they confused the Lions. He said State had seven legit pro prospects. He told us the Raider offense hasn't been up to par in last two games, but they'd get it worked out. Sixteen games make it a long season.

Meanwhile, we visited with several of the Terp coaches and sat in on a special film made up of strictly the kicking game Tulane vs. LSU. Tulane sure played well against the Tigers. We watched the first half of Rutgers-Tulane, a game we saw in person. Coach Claiborne is another stickler on a solid kicking game.

It was time to make tracks back home. We're heading back to see the Terps play this weekend. Sorry we didn't see them practice, but from what several of the coaches said, they'll be ready to lineup.

Football season at last!



1978 ALL STARS—The 1978 champion All Stars of the Girls Division B softball were coached by Herb Mill. First row, left to right, are Amy Aston, Jill Solinsky, Cathy Bogdon, Denise Sitkowski, Chris McKenna, Julie Adams, Sue Johnson, Cathy Newhart; second row, Carol Martin, mgr.; Herb Mill, coach; Sandy Mayer, Sue Stravinski, Anne Segrave-Daly, Sandy Shone, Sue Niskey, Heidi Yakowski, Vance Johnson, coach; and Nancy Rogers, scorekeeper. All Star shirts were donated by Bowman Petroleum and Offset Paper Back. (Photo by Fay Broody)



SAILING, SAILING—not over the bounding main but across the waters of Harveys Lake on a Sunday afternoon by members of the Harveys Lake Yacht Club. (Photo by Duncan Whitehead)



Some people once thought they could ensure an abundant crop by putting a leafy branch in the furrows of the corn field.

Sem announces soccer schedule

Soccer has yet to come into its own in Wyoming Valley, but Phil Post, soccer coach at Wyoming Seminary is not discouraged and is hopeful that more interest can be generated in other schools in the area in the future.

Wyoming Seminary, this year, has had its largest turnout for soccer than in any of the 10 years that Post has been soccer coach at the school. He expects to have more than 50 boys on the team as nearly that many showed up for practice sessions the first week.

"I'm very encouraged by the large turnout and it may be a sign that there will be more interest in the sport throughout the Valley," Post remarked. Assisting Post with the coaching duties is Dr. Andrew Costello, one of

Seminary's mathematics instructors. Post is chairman of the school's history department.

Post reported that most of the boys will undoubtedly stay with the team since he does not plan to cut anyone from the squad.

The coaches are aspiring for the league championship this year. Last season the Seminary squad sported a 3-3-1 record with their biggest victory coming over Wyoming Valley West whom they defeated 4-2 for the Susquehanna Soccer League Referee's trophy. This was the first night soccer game to be played in the Valley.

With only two starters missing from last year's squad, Post figures he will have plenty of experience

when he fields his team against Moravian on Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. in a home game on the Penn State campus in Lehman.

Other local schools that Seminary will be facing will be Dallas on Sept. 26; Bishop Hafey, Oct. 3; Wyoming Valley West,

Oct. 10; Dallas, Oct. 13; Mt. View, Oct. 17; Bishop Hafey, Oct. 20; Montrose, Oct. 24 and Wyoming Valley West, Oct. 27.

Co-captains for Seminary's soccer team are Michael Hudacek, Plymouth and Charles Parkhurst, Trucksville.

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(Continued from P. 11)
Sept. 17 Mt. Top Cardinals at Kingston Twp.
Lake-Lehman at Newport.
Dallas at Northwest.
Mt. Top Jets bye.
Sept. 24 Northwest at Mt. Top Jets.

Twin Mts.
Kingston Twp. at Lake-Lehman.
Mt. Top Cardinals at Dallas.
Newport bye.
Oct. 1 Northwest at Kingston Twp.
Mt. Top Jets at Lake-Lehman.
Newport at Mt. Top Cardinals.
Dallas bye.

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