

WILKES-BARRE FATS

Fats DID say Pitt would win

By Lee L. Richards

Pitt's triumph over Penn State was significant in many ways for Coach Jackie Sherrill. He's finally shaken the shadow of having his coaching decisions always compared to John Majors.

The Pitt fans can stop all comparisons. This team is Jackie's. In the last three years his recruiting efforts had to play second-fiddle to Penn State's in some quarters, but he just sluffed it off. His people have developed in to some talented honchos.

Another point we noticed is how much Jackie has matured as a head coach this season. He's demonstrated a lot more patience. He took some heat in Pittsburgh from the media for not playing QB Dan Marino earlier, but he didn't compromise. He said Danny wasn't ready.

Last spring when we talked at the Pitt press day, Jackie said, "I feel we've attained one goal in my first two seasons. We've remained competitive and this year we'll move back among the elite in college football."

He took over Pitt in a tough situation, with the Panthers coming off the National Championship. There were some stormy times and several shakeups on his staff. Coaches who didn't conform to his total dedication and exhausting work habits were sent packing.

I've got to feel the Pitt program became a little more stable in the pre-season.

Jackie always had the ability to recognize his teams' shortcomings and has been able to fill the holes. Last year they lacked the powerback in short yardage situations. He recruited Randy McMillan. You didn't hear much about him because he wasn't recruited by Penn State. He was a junior college player with a heap of rushing records.

During the spring McMillan worked his way into the starting lineup with some tough, tough running.

The Pitt staff started to make the necessary changes in the offense for McMillan and incoming QB Dan Marino. You saw what these two dudes did to the "Beasts of the East."

Several grid fans asked me how could I select McMillan to Athlon's All-East team when he hadn't run a play for Pitt? Simple, Coach Sherrill told me how good he was and what he could add to the Pitt attack. We weren't asked to compile an All-East team until a couple of days after our meeting with Sherrill. We convinced Editor Jerry McCain to go with McMillan. I've always respected Jackie's eye for talent.

Meanwhile, I thought all of the players on my pre-

season All-East team that played in the game performed exceptionally well. Matt Suhey showed me some speed. Larry Kubin is still a fine defensive end. Lance Mehl was injured but has superb range at linebacker.

Dave Baker, Penn State's SID, informed me Sunday morning Jim Brown, an offensive tackle, will be ready to play next year. He suffered a broken leg. Pete Harris will also be back.

For the Panthers, Benjie Pryor showed his ability to catch the ball in traffic. Mark May impressed me last year when he battled Bruce Clark to draw. He's the best offensive linemen in the east. At 6-5, 285 this man can shuffle his feet.

Off his performance you can see why we mentioned Hugh Green may be the most talented player in the east. He can play so many positions. Pitt has a lot of these folks coming back and it's no wonder Sherrill can't wait to go to Knoxville next season.

CLIPBOARD NOTES: Many thanks to former Pitt player Chris Kirias for his help during the season. He said all along Pitt would prevail. I hope after Saturday John Zimich will finally recognize the Panthers have a football program. Lehigh has got a very talented wrestling team. They punched a few Wilkes tickets. Locals got a pin, a decision and a draw out of 10 bouts.

Congratulations to Coach Bob Bubb's Clarion team on winning the Penn State Invitational Saturday. Eastern Wrestling League will have a dandy bunch of dual meets this season. Penn State was third and Rich Lorenzo will have the young Lions back on the winning track. Downriver, Roger Sanders has some very good wrestlers at Bloomsburg.

Dayle Tate of Penn State isn't the best QB I've ever seen, but the kid didn't deserve to be booted by the bush PSU fans on National TV. Did St. Joe's pre-game comment on TV come back to haunt him when the announcers asked him for prediction of how many points it would take to win? When told Sherrill said 17, Joe replied, "Jackie is smarter than me." Final score was 29-14 and 17 would have won.

N.C. State's Bob Rein was one of the leading contenders for the LSU grid post. He's a pretty solid football coach, but not the world-beater LSU was looking for. He's a very likeable guy. He's going to inherit some tough dudes.

Dallas mat boss Larry Schuler claims he's have a pretty strong team this season. Larry does a solid job and his team are usually pretty sound fundamentally.

We're curious to see if there's any improvement in

the Dallas roundball program. After all, they've had the benefit of the booster program for the past several years and it is about time to see some marked improvement.

Over at Lake-Lehman we expect the Knights to challenge GAR for the title. Not too many people around will be able to out maneuver Coach Roger Bearde. Seemed to always get more out of his team than they were capable of giving.

Can't understand why with so many "stiffs" receiving bowl bids someone didn't grab Notre Dame. Heck, they'd make any bowl an instant sellout. Pitt's Jackie Sherrill spoke with Dan Devine about possible meeting in a bowl, but loss the Clemson dashed all hopes for the Panthers.

Last wrestling season we all noticed the steady influence Shorty Hitchcock provided the Lake-Lehman mat program. While the Knights may not have as strong a dual meet team, we do anticipate them being more of a factor in the season-ending tournaments.

One interesting item in Pitt-Penn State encounter. PSU out-scored the four common opponents, Army, Syracuse, W. Virginia and Temple by 112 to 23, while Pitt put only 102 up and gave up 47. Taking this into consideration and using a formula PSU had a plus factor of 8.5 over the Panthers.

YMCA schedules coed lifesaving courses

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Family Y.M.C.A. will begin a co-ed junior and senior lifesaving course on Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.

The minimum age requirement for persons wishing to enroll in the Junior Lifesaving Class is 11 years, and for Senior Lifesaving, 15 years. It is also required for all participants to pass a preliminary swimming test which will be given on

Dec. 5. Both the junior and senior lifesaving courses will be conducted on Wednesday's from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and instructed by John Zimmicky.

Upon successful completion of the course three certifications will be awarded: Y.M.C.A. Senior Lifesaving, C.P.R., and American Red Cross Advanced Lifesaving.

Bowling

In Our Gang League the Pin Splitters shut out the Challengers led by B. Eipper's 506. L. Coolbaugh posted 502 for the Glen's Hookers but it wasn't enough as they dropped four points to the High Rollers. R. Hom-yack's 507 paced the Tigers to three points from the Brunswick Go Fors. T. Heffernan aided with 210. D. Katyl hit the pins for 212 (590) to lead Tough Luck to a three point win over Mission Impossible whose J. Ide tumbled pins for 520. E. Dingle's 533 sparked the Busch League to three points from Vic's Girls.

A. Hospodar scattered pins for 179 (506) for the Castlettes in the Ladies Country League to lead the way to three points from Daring's Market. L. Cyphers spilled pins for 171-178 (502) to help Fashion Vending take three from Grotto Pizza.

The Grotto girls had R. Radzinski's 185 (480) and F. Allabaugh's 178. David Ertley copped three from G.H. Harris aided by T. Langdon's 176 (490) and P. Gordon's 176 (472).

In the Idetown Compact League the Tempests blanked the Corvettes

while the Skylarks were taking all from the Ramblers. G. Jeffes topped pins for 517 for the Skylarks while H. Evans scattered pins for 523. Marilyn Morris' 486 led the Corvairs to four points from the Valiants. H. Heidel's 209 (521) paced the Comets to a three point win over the Darts. J. Roan hit pins for 200-211 (599) for the Darts. The Falcons picked up three from the Larks.

K. Kalafsky rolled 170 for Mr. Donut to aid the team in shutting out Tom Reese Girls in the Bowlerette League. T. Langdon hit the woods for 170 (492) for Reese. L. Cyphers rolled 181 for the Hoagie Bar but it was in vain as they dropped three points to Checker-board.

Mahaffey Oil continued in the lead in the Imperialette League blanking Roth Jewelry. Highest game for both teams was P. Williams 166. Lombardo Bakery earned three points from the Jean Shop whole L. Thomas rolled a 471 series. Dallas Dairy and Gino's Shoe Store divided evenly with S. Johnson hitting 188 for Gino's.

GOH girls begin Dec. 10

The Gate of Heaven Girl's Basketball teams open their 1979-80 season on Monday, Dec. 10 when they travel to Avoca to meet St. Marys.

The JV game time is set for 6 p.m. with the varsity game set for 6:30 p.m. The Gate of Heaven girls will host Wyoming Area Catholic on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at the Gate of Heaven gym to round out their first week of the new season.

Members of the varsity

team are as follows: Patti Judge, Susan Ruthowski, Lori Movicki, Janel Jorda, Jill Solinski, Margaret Purcell, Debbie Gardner, Kathy Dixon, Julie Napieralcki, Ellen Joyce, Pam Solinski, Leah Slattery, and Kathleen Kelley.

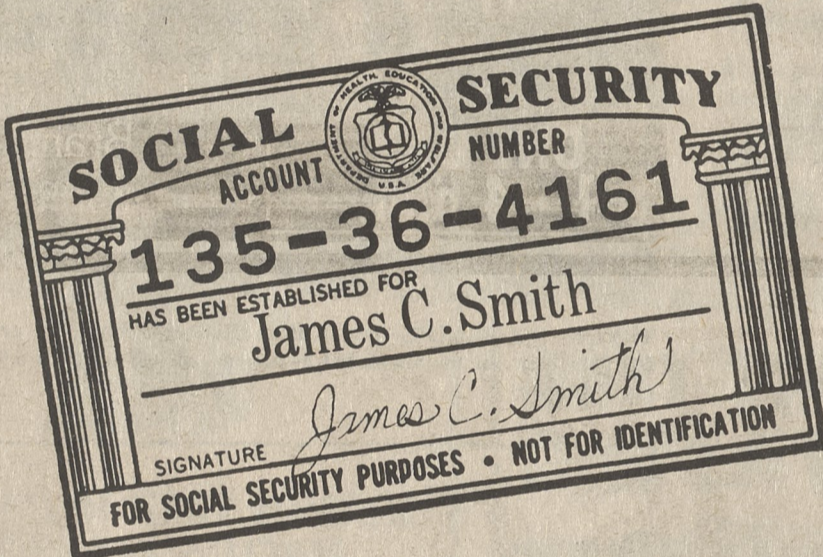
JV squad members include Pam Solinski, Leah Slattery, Catherine Leonard, Kim Yanchick, Becky Hughes, Maria Stakovec, Danette Yanchick, and Ann Ryan.

Dec. 10--Gate of Heaven at St. Mary, Avoca
Dec. 12--Wyoming Area Catholic at Gate of Heaven
Dec. 17--Gate of Heaven at St. Mary Assumption
Jan. 2--North End Catholic at Gate of Heaven
Jan. 7--Gate of Heaven at St. Jude
Jan. 9--Gate of Heaven at Wyoming Seminary

Second Half

Jan. 16--St. Mary, Avoca at Gate of Heaven
Jan. 21--Gate of Heaven at Wyoming Area Catholic
Jan. 23--St. Mary Assumption at Gate of Heaven
Jan. 30--Gate of Heaven at North End Catholic
Feb. 11--Gate of Heaven at St. Jude
Feb. 13--Wyoming Seminary at Gate of Heaven
Game times: J.V. 6 p.m., Varsity 6:30 p.m.

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