

The Sports Post

Wilkes-Barre Fats

Bear Bryant remembered

BY LEE L. RICHARDS

I guess I first heard about Coach Bear Bryant when I was just a kid and my Dad (Luke) was a young ensign in the Navy. It seems during WW II, they sent a bunch of college coaches to Chapel Hill, N.C., to organize a survival program for our pilots. There were so many great coaches there.

My Dad's partners were Bowden Wyatt of Tennessee, Jim Tatum, Frank Leahy and many others. There was also a guy named Bear.

Growing up, the name Coach Bryant became more prominent. I met numerous coaches through my travels and many were connected with Coach Bryant in some way or another. Each had their favorite story about the man.

Bobby Roper, an assistant at Texas A&M now and former Pitt coach, started as a grad assistant at Alabama. Roper played at Arkansas. His roomie at Alabama was Jackie Sherrill.

Rope told how when he was learning the tricks of the trade he found a note one day to report to coach Bryant.

"When you're a grad assistant the head man doesn't even know who you are," said Roper. "I was a little scared that I may have done something wrong. I walked into his office. He asked me about some general things. Wanted to know if I was married? I told him yes. He said, 'We're going to the Sugar Bowl and I want you to take your wife. So go draw \$500. and ya'll enjoy yourself down in New Orleans.'"

Rope said when he left Coach Bryant's office he'd have run through a wall for the man.

"Coach Bryant never knew me, so it seemed. But he had that certain knack for doing things in style," says Roper.

The Bryant mystique is hard to imagine. Gib Romaine, Maryland assistant, told me of the time Maryland was playing in the Hall of Fame Bowl in Birmingham, Ala.

Jerry Claiborne, Maryland's head coach then, played for Bryant and coached under him.

Bryant made a special visit to a Terp practice one day. Romaine says, "Legion Field is so big. All of a sudden I see Coach Bryant ambuling out of the tunnel. He walked down the sidelines so not to disrupt our practice, but everything just stopped and you could hear a pin drop. He had that kinda magnetism about him that he could get folks' attention just by his presence."

In 1978 Tennessee was playing the Tide in Knoxville. I went down to visit with pal John Majors and see the game.

There was an incident that happened that night before the game which I'll never forget.

A couple of us were sitting around Coach Majors' room

when the late news came on. They showed UT students at a pep rally and all sorts of pre-game hoopla. All of a sudden some students had a casket like a mock funeral for Coach Bryant. It wasn't in good taste.

Coach Majors was irate. He grabbed the phone and called Gus Manning, who is in charge of the games for UT.

"Gus did you just see what I saw on TV," Majors asked. "That's not our style here at Tennessee, Gus. I don't want a single incident tomorrow where Coach Bryant will be the least bit embarrassed. You make sure the word is passed around. I'll not stand for any of that bull-crap about Coach Bryant."

Majors was upset. He said Coach Bryant was not a well man and that the mock burial was in sorry taste.

Bryant commanded that much respect from even his opponents.

When Coach Bryant passed away last week, I was simply sick. He ranks with Vince Lombardi and Frank Leahy as my "All-Time Coaches." I only had the opportunity to meet the man twice.

I guarantee that everything you've read or heard about the man is 99 percent true.

When Sherrill was at Pitt, Jackie related some of his experiences with Bryant when he was a player. He was a tough, tough man, but he loved his players and made them better people. Sherrill told me if there was one thing which he learned from Coach Bryant it was how to work and that success happened by design through dedication and being prepared.

Here's what some of my friends felt on Coach Bryant's passing:

Phil Balas: "Coach Bryant was Mr. Football to me. I've admired him since I was a kid. They should rename one of the bowls in his honor. He made most of them a success."

Coach Romaine: "I got to meet the man several times through Coach Claiborne. You can't believe the impact he's had on so many people through football. He was bigger than a legend."

Andy Urbanic, Pitt Asst.: "Coach Bryant's legend will become bigger in years to come than Knute Rockne's. The man simply was the greatest coach of all time."

John Vozniak: "I never met the man, but I feel I lost a member of my family. I don't know of another coach that's had the impact on college football like he has."

Athlon Magazine's Jerry McCoin told me when Bryant retired: "Hey, Babe, you and I will never see another person like 'em."

In his book Coach Bryant stated: "I ain't nothin' but a winner." No single little statement could better describe the man that did it all!

Bowling

Orange B team tops Maple Grove

In the Imperiaette League American Building Maintenance moved into the lead by shutting out Mahaffey Oil Co. Kay Scavone paced the winning five with 170-193 (515) and D. Zurinski added 171-179 (480). S. Johnson led the oil company with 175 (483). Lamoreaux Auto took three from Humphrey's Apparel sparked by M. Neifert's 177 (483). J. Mekeel rolled 181 for the apparel girls. Jean Shop and Lombardo Bakery split 2-2 with Jean Shop's M. Ritts 190-185 (486) high for both teams.

Big Bens took all from the Bermudas in the Friday Night Major League paced by J. Curtis' 523. C.M.P.'s blanked the Hambos with Glen Mazer walloping the pins for 235-224-200 (659) and R. Bonomo hitting them for 228 (611). G. Mazer rolled 545. C. Kazokas scattered wood for 547. T. Zekas hit 550. Charlie's All Stars copped three from the Beach Combers led by K. Spencer's 594. K. Orkwas gave 578 and F. Stevens added 552. G.H. Harris picked up three from Back Mountain Sporting

Goods aided by H. Bennett's 541, M. Whiting's 551 and A. Wendel's 217 (535).

In the Bowlerette League Franklin's shut out the Hoagie Bar despite N. Moser's 181. Mr. Donut and Tom Reese divided evenly with N. Crane leading both teams with 174.

A.F. Roan Inc. dropped 4 points to Fashion Vending in the Ladies Country League. The vending girls were aided by P. Gordon's 178-187 (524), D. Vrhel's 187 (499) and K. Scavone's 470. Roan's had L. Cyphers' 180. R. Carroll's 243 (543), N. Crane's 194 (490) and R. Radzinski's 483 paced Daring's Market to three points from Groto Pizza, whose M. Hirner rolled 223 (507). R. Gula gave 188 (477) and A. Hospodar hit 197 (472). J. Haeefe added 181. J. Lamoreaux' 177-173-173 (523) and F. Allabaugh's 187 showed the way for G.H. Harris Association's three points from the Castlettes. They had M. Culver's 177-181 (482). P. Williams 178 and E. Shuleski's 174.

LaBarons despite C. Doty's 185 (497). Cimmarons took three from the Capris, who had J. Curtis' 540 and C. Williams 519. The Lynx earned three from the Firebirds and the Omegas grabbed three from the Camaros. Mustangs dropped three points to the Aries.

In the George Shupp League Endless Mountains blanked Roberts Oil with R. Barr rolling 567 and M. Rudick hitting 556. T. Wilson scattered pins for the oil men to a total of 561. Stanton TV picked up three from Dallas Nursery with L. Lavelle clobbering pins for a big 288-241 (712), R. Shoemaker toppling them for 246 (581) and D. Katyl spilling them for 555. N. Stredny posted 226 (596) for the nursery men, C. Glasser rolled 524 and R. Stair 522. Fino's Pharmacy took three from Harris Associates sparked by J. Strazdus' 256 (618) and B. Downs 615. R. Bonomo rolled 562 and K. Youngblood 547. Disque Funeral Home made it three over Gino's Shoe Store led by B. Varner's 556 and C.

Williams 548. Gino hit 526, C. Kazokas 523 and S. Fielding 522.

Orange B took all from Maple Grove in the Back Mountain Church League. Shavertown B copped three from Orange A, Dallas A three from Trucksville B. Splitting evenly were East Dallas and Trucksville C, Carverton B and the Lutherans and Carverton A and Shavertown A. High scorers were R. Daubert 572, T. Sponseller 560, F. Cornell 547, C. Aicher 563, J. Mitchell 541, C. Kazokas 553, K. Spencer 222 (556), B. Moku 530, R. Witkowski 557, W. Moore 552, J. Zarno 529, Ted Wilson 574, B. Monk 217 (546) and T. Metz 521.

In Our Gang League K. Spencer's 555 led the Blitz to three points from Alabama Slammers. Melon Balls took three from Cheap Shots and Spanky's picked up three from Numero Uno paced by E. Dingle's 575, Lynn Busch's 173 and Kathy Mintzer's 208 (497). R. Shoemaker posted 570 for the losing team. Jokers and Harvey's Wall-bangers split 2-2 with V. Hudak hitting 529.

Lake-Noxen Basketball results

In the opening game, Tuesday night, Jan. 25, the Warriors beat the Sonics 18-12. The high scorers for the Warriors were Mike Simson and Howard Getz with eight points while Mike Barber made 12 points for the Sonics. Officials were Ken Carey and Armonde Casagrande.

In the second game the Bucks beat the 76'ers 17-9. High scorer for the Bucks

was Dave Gordon with 11 points. Mike Leahy made six points for the 76'ers. Officials were Ken Carey and Armonde Casagrande.

Thursday, Jan. 27, the Hawks creamed the 76'ers 25-5. High scorers for the Hawks were Dory Zacharias and Brian Murphy with eight points each while Missy Barcheski made four points for the 76'ers. Officiating the game were Ken Carey and Rod Zerfoss.

Next the Bucks trounced the Sonics 28-12. High scorer for the Bucks was Dave Gordon with 12 points while Mike Barber

made 10 points for the Sonics. Officials were Armonde Casagrande and Ken Carey.

Finally, a hard fought game between the Warriors and the Knicks found the Knicks taking it 14-13. High scorer for the Knicks was Chris Engle with seven points. Howard Getz made six points for the Warriors. Officials were Ken Carey and Armonde Casagrande.

Dallas Cagers

Stopping Meyers proves too tough

Dallas Mountaineers turned back Lake-Lehman 60-54 Thursday night but went down 86-62 to Meyers last Tuesday night to end the first half in Division AA with a 5-3 record.

Dave Thomas and Tim Grove totalled 16 points each for Coach Clarence Ozgo's Mountaineers and Steve Thomas put in 10 in defeating their Back Mountain rival, the Black Knights of Lake-Lehman.

The Knights took an early 15-12 first period lead sparked by Bob Garinger and Billy

Bearde. The game was back and forth most of the time but the Mountaineers came on strong in the fourth period outscoring the Knights 25-19, to move in front by six points. Dallas trailed by one point going into the final period but Grove, Steve Wilson and Dave Thomas rallied in the final minutes to give Dallas the win. Wilson scored all of his points in the final period, Thomas tossed in eight of his 16 and Grove put in 10 of 16 points.

The Mountaineers were

unable to stop a hot-scoring Meyers team in the opening period Tuesday night as the Mohawks tossed in 29 points while the Mountaineers scored only 18 points. The Mohawks continued their scoring in the second period hitting for 23 points while Dallas scored only 12.

The Dallas cagers rallied in the third period to out-score Meyers by nine but the Mohawks changed their defense and held down the Moun-

tainers in the fourth quarter, outscoring them 21-10.

Dave Thomas and Steve Thomas hit 12 points each and Tim Grove added 10. Both Thomas boys put five through the nets from the field but Dave went two-for-three from the charity stripe and Steve went two-for-two from the free line.

The Mountaineers will open the second half Tuesday night at GAR, first half Division AA title winners.

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NOTE: A large quantity of tools have been consigned to me to dispose of, everything must go. There will be thousands of dollars worth of industrial tool hand tools and misc. items. There will be many job lots sold. So all dealers, wholesalers and salvage buyers be sure to attend.

<p>Air Compressors Air Tools 3-Air Compressors 23-1/2" Air Impact Wrenches 1-1" Air Impact 2-1/4" Air Impact 8-3/8" Air Ratchets 7-3/8" Butterflies 2-Straight Line Sanders 11-5" Orbital Air Sanders 23-Air Chisels 18-3/8" Air Drills 31-Air Hose 26-1/4" Socket Sets</p>	<p>8-1/4" Impact Sockets 2-85 pc. Socket Sets 26-1/4" Socket Sets 18-3/8" Socket Sets 16-Flex Sockets 35-1/4" Socket Sets</p>	<p>2-Bandsaws 4-75 pc. Tap & Die 10-Bolt Cutters 29-1/2 h.p. Grinders 3-Tool Boxes 6-Metal Cut-off Saws 4-Gear Pullers 7-Welding Hose 1-Acetylene Kit</p>	<p>Radios Jewelry Luggage</p>
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<p>Sockets 31-1/4" Deepwells 43-3/8" Deepwells 16-1/2" Impact Sockets 19-3/8" Impact Sockets</p>	<p>Mechanists Tools 41-4,5,6" Vises 15-Drill Press Vises</p>	<p>Miscellaneous Cookware Cutlery Wrenches Dictionaries Brass Items Toys Silver Items Appliances</p>	<p>Electrical Tools 8-1/4" Electric Impacts 5-Jig Saws 15-12-3 Heavy Cord 6-Cut-off Saws 2-Bandsaws 19-Drill Presses 6-Disc Grinders 23-Electric Drills 6-Routers</p>

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