

Sports

Spring Recruiting

Wilkes-Barre Fats

BY LEE L. RICHARDS

Spring recruiting for college football brings a lot of coaches calling in Wyoming Valley. Tom Coughlin of Boston College was in town recently, while last week Maryland's Gib Romaine and Pitt's Andy Urbanic made their annual spring visits. It gave me an opportunity, over lunch and dinner, to exchange some information on the recruits that I've added to my list for Eastern Football Magazine.

According to just about all of the coaches who have contributed to our list, 1983 will be another bumper crop.

Coach Romaine, who's been recruiting this area for a dozen years, says, "From all indications the East will have its usual strong contingent of offensive linemen. But, more impressive is the number of quarterbacks around this year. We've contacted at least a dozen or so

schools that will lineup in the fall, with a youngster pulling the string to the offense at 6-3, 210 pounds, which is the ideal type QB we're looking for at Maryland."

Pitt's Urbanic said, "I've been impressed at the number of youngsters listed at quarterback on the questionnaires we've been receiving. I think we're all looking for the same type of quarterback. He has to be able to run the offense on the field, demonstrate strong leadership qualities and have the arm to throw the football deep. We'll all be looking at junior films of the prospects, but no definite decision will be made until he's been checked and double checked in the fall."

Pennsylvania has some top-notch linemen again this year. New Jersey, from early indications, will not have the huge linemen as in previous years. However, there are some quality skilled people around the Garden

State.

New York has several potentially superb prospects. Up in the New England States there are around a dozen players with the potential to perform on the level with big timers.

We asked both coaches what was the chief objective in the spring despite the no-contact rule with a prospect?

"Our objective in the spring is to check out each prospect that has returned a questionnaire which every football program will send to high schools in the winter months. You'd be surprised how many names you come across by just visiting certain high schools. In fact, Berwick Coach George Curry gave me two leads on prospects we'd never heard about. Another phase of our spring recruiting is to touch bases with various coaches that are interested in our program," Urbanic says.

Romaine's answer was along the same lines as Urbanic's. Said Romaine, "You'd be surprised how many coaches bump into one another and will exchange viewpoints on prospects. One thing is certain, if there's a good player around, everyone is going to know about him sooner or later."

The top quarterback in the state from early reviews is Dave Sullivan of Central Catholic in Pittsburgh.

Two top running backs that everyone will be courting are Wayne Denson of Norristown and Craig Heyward of Passaic, N.J. Another mentioned highly is Brandy Wells of Montclair, N.J. These three are sure to draw national attention according to early reports.

Former Lake-Lehman Coach Tom Hisiro has a sure-fire player in tackle Sean Stopperich (6-4; 265) at Canon McMillan in Western, Pa.

What's the key to being an exceptional recruiter rather than just an ordinary one?

Urbanic claims, "Key elements in recruiting are

quality of judgment, the ability to determine if a youngster is a late bloomer and can he compete on your level?"

Romaine agreed with Urbanic, but added, "I've gotta believe a lot of recruiting savvy comes with experience. How well we guess on a 17 or 18-year old is going to determine our future as a team and as coaches. With the 30 limit, you'd better show a keen sense of judgment or your program will slide backwards. Basically, we're all looking for the same things. We want players with exceptional ability. The ones that have it seem to jump right out at you. I guess the smart recruiters anticipate to what performance level each particular player can rise. This type player makes up a big majority of your team."

At the conclusion of spring recruiting the various staffs will meet and scrutinize each player they've seen on film and form a priority list for their specific needs.

There are a lot of other factors weighed before the actual scholarships are extended.

One of the biggest misconceptions in recruiting on any level is, once a prospect receives a letter from a major power, it seems they automatically believe it's a scholarship when it's merely a formality.

CLIPBOARD NOTES:

If you saw the New York Islanders win their fourth-straight Stanley Cup last week, you witnessed history. It was their 16th straight NHL playoff triumph and marked only the second time in history a team has won four-straight cups. I never doubted the incredible Islanders overall ability. When the chips are on the line, the Islanders have that extra ingredient which all super teams possess. I simply marveled at them taking out the Oilers in four straight games. Even more amazing was the fact they held the Great Gretzky without a goal. Maybe now the Islanders will get the recognition from the hockey world that they haven't received in the three previous years. The Islanders are simply an incredible team!

While there was some speculation around recently on whether Crestwood's Matt LaVigna, the prep All-American, would play in the UNICO All-Star game, he will be running the football for the West team. His Dad, Bill, told me last week the family would reschedule its vacation so Matt could perform. That should make coaches Jim Fennell and Mike Kirk happy. Wyoming Area's Mark Sieler will not play in the game as his family will be headed for Georgia and a vacation.

According to some reliable sources, Valley West's Mark Duda, was rated the second best defensive lineman in the recent NFL draft for the entire east coast. Mark was selected by St. Louis and made a very solid impression in the Cards' recent mini-camp where he ran a 4.8 forty. He was recruited by Coach Romaine for Maryland.


Girls Set Record

Dallas coach Robyn Jones was pleased with her cindergirls results in their first year in Class AAA District 2 competition.

The Dallas girls placed first in the 400 meter relay

with the four-member team of Robyn Pawling, Judy Krispin, Denae Schoner and Cathy Newhart. The local girls set a new record of 51.2 in placing first.

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DISCUSSING RECRUITING: Coach Gib Romaine, University of Maryland; Lee Richards and Coach Andy Urbanic, University of Pittsburgh discuss recruiting over lunch at the Irem Temple Country Club. (Dan Walsh photo)

My Sincere Appreciation to all of the Voters and Workers Who Supported Me in the May 17 Primary Election for School Director in the Dallas Area School District
ALBERT PISANESCHI

SloPitch League Opens

Back Mountain Slo-Pitch 1983 season last week with 13 teams entered. Teams will play their league games on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and will use four different playing fields including the front and back fields at the Lehman grounds; the playing field at the Lehman campus of Penn State, and the Noxen softball diamond.

Thursday's games (May 26) will send Pizza Bar against the Noxen Rebels and Jones against Irene's. IGA will meet Villa Roma and Noxen Texaco will play Lamoreaux's; TJ's will take on Miller's and MacLynn will play Overbrook. Mr. Donut will have a bye.

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C78x13....	25 ⁰⁰	G78x15....	30 ⁰⁰
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