

Rybak welcome sight to Dallas gridders

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Dallas varsity football coach Ron Rybak came to Dallas School District from Freeland 20 years ago, where he taught for one year. A native of Nanticoke, Rybak received his baccalaureate degree from King's College and his master's degree in science from Scranton University.

Since coming to Dallas he has taught in the junior high school and also served as assistant football coach until 1979 when he took over as head coach.

Rybak is married to the former Sandra Dempki, also of Nanticoke and a post-graduate of Wyoming Seminary Dean School of Business. She is now pursuing a degree in business administration at Wilkes College. They have two sons, Ron, Jr., a student at Wilkes College, and Randy, a student at Kutztown. Both are majoring in Business Administration.

Rybak is assisted by Chuck Suppon, an assistant coach at Wyoming Valley West until he came to Dallas last season. Suppon attended Rutgers University, New Jersey, where he played football with the late Ray Goeringer, a Dallas graduate and star athlete. He graduated from Wilkes College.

Bill Silvi is also in his second year as assistant coach at Dallas Senior High School. Prior to coming to Dallas, Silvi was an assistant at Coughlin High School. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

"These two young men play key roles in our program," says Rybak. "All I need is one more man like those two. I thought I had a third assistant but he withdrew."

Looking back at last season, Rybak recalled some of the highlights such as defeating Meyers on the turf for the first time since 1972 or 1973, winning their last three games without allowing their opponents to score against them. The Mountaineers defeated Tunkhannock, Meyers and Lake-Lehman while holding those teams scoreless.

He said he will never forget his kids defeating GAR, the first time since 1972. "It was a great psychological win for our kids. They know now that they can beat the Grenadiers."

Rybak said last season's quarterback, Bernie Walsh, was outstanding the entire season but his best game was probably against Wyoming Valley West when his passing was terrific and for the first three quarters the score was only 14-7. In the final quarter, the Spartans were too many and too big and wore down the Dallas boys.

To date, the highlight of Rybak's career and probably Norm Bordley's as well was when Bordley, the swift running back went over his high school career's 3,000 yard mark in the Dallas/Lake-Lehman game. The officials stopped the game and gave Bordley the ball, who immediately ran to the stands and presented it to his dad. As far back as Rybak can remember, Bordley was the only Mountaineer to go over 3,000 yards.

Neither will Rybak forget Pat Kern who played with a leg most people wouldn't even walk on. It was determination and pride that kept him going, said Rybak. No one in the stands realized what the young player suffered when he was on the field but he begged to play and his team mates wanted him to. Kern's foot and ankle were crushed in a car accident and had to be reconstructed. Each time as he played, rock and dirt worked its way out through his foot and Rybak said it was a terrible thing to see each time he taped it. Kern was supposed

to go to Mansfield State College, but when officials learned about his foot, that stopped him.

"Last year Mike Borton was, without a doubt, the best fullback in the conference, but his size stopped him from getting a football scholarship," said

Rybak. "He weighed only 140 pounds, but his size meant nothing. Pound for pound, he was the toughest kid in the Wyoming Valley Conference. He played with determination and desire, a perfect example of a player hungry for victory. For three

years, he played his heart out. Everything I asked him to do, he did and did it well."

When asked about former players going to college on scholarships, Rybak said prior to last season 15 team members had received scholarships or grants. However, without his records in front of him he could not remember all of them. He mentioned as many as he could think of at that time.

Mike Getz, who graduated in 1979, was one of the finest team leaders Rybak had.

He went to Lafayette on a scholarship and graduated from there last June.

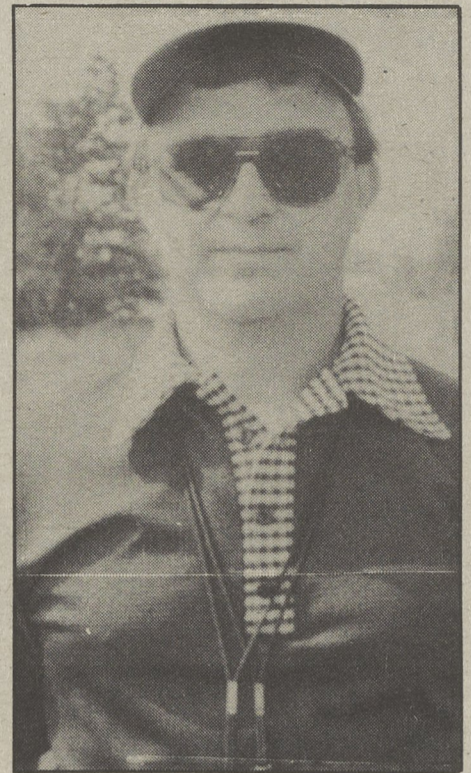
Mark Goeringer, outstanding athlete was accepted at Swarthmore, one of the top five colleges in the country and Tom Levitsky went to Wilkes College.

Greg Dukinas was accepted at Moravian College as was Jerry Rollman. Rollman transferred this year to Penn State's/Wilkes-Barre Campus, changing his major to engineering. He is now an assistant football coach at Dallas Junior High School.

Mike Kern was accepted at Lycoming college and Norm Bordley at West Chester. David Oster received a scholarship to Farleigh-Dickinson and Steve Thomas, who graduated two years ago, is at Bloomsburg State College.

Players from last season's team attending colleges on scholarships or grants are Greg Manusky at Colgate University, Sam Noone at Delaware Valley and Joe Ostrowski at Farleigh-Dickinson.

Joe Walsh turned down an offer for college to enlist in the service and according to last reports he was enjoying it.



RON RYBAK

Local gridders go on to college

Steve Thomas, a 1983 graduate of Dallas High School, will attend Bloomsburg University this fall where he will participate in the Huskies football program.

As a senior in high school, Steve played split-end and caught 25 passes for over 500 yards and seven touchdowns. On defense, he played the cornerback position and intercepted three passes, returning one for a 60-yard touchdown run.

Steve is expected to play offensive end for the Huskies this fall.

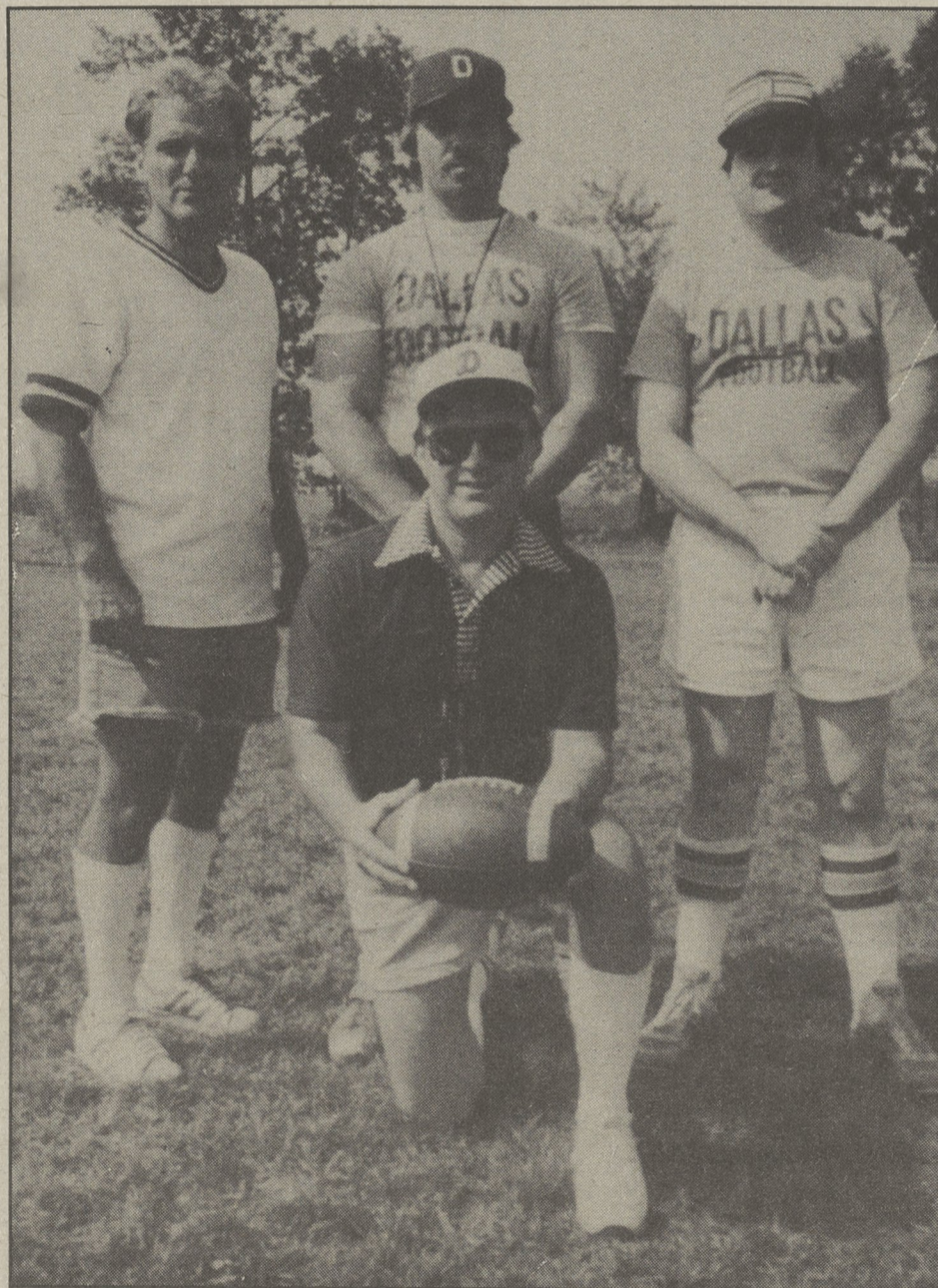
He is the son of James S. Thomas of Shavertown.

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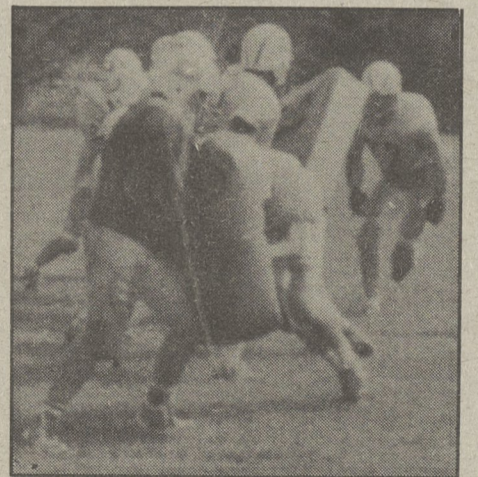
Joseph Ostrowski, son of Ronald and Mary Ostrowski of Carverton Heights, Kingston Township, will play football for the Devils of Fairleigh-Dickinson in New Jersey this year.

A 1984 graduate of Dallas High School, Ostrowski played football for the Mountaineers for three years, in the center and linebacker positions.

At Fairleigh-Dickinson, he is studying Math.



Members of the coaching staff at Dallas are shown here with head coach Ron Rybak, kneeling. From left, Bill Silvi, Chuck Suppon and Mike O'Malia, head coach, junior high school team. (Photo by Ed Campbell)



Good luck, Mountaineers!