

# Sports

## Wilkes-Barre Fats

### Football season is in the air

By LEE L. RICHARDS  
Staff Correspondent

Finally made connection with one of my favorite coaches, John Majors of Tennessee, recently and I had the opportunity to chit-chat about college football in general and some of the teams which are expected to be in the chase for the No. 1 spot.

"We've got to play both Auburn and Alabama again this year," Majors said. "Both are capable of going all the way. They're very big and have a lot of strength in the defensive and offensive lines which will be our chief concern when we play."

Coach Majors says he was anticipating having another standout team this season, but with the loss of QB Alan Cockrell to a baseball contract and fullback Sam Henderson to a severe knee injury which has him on the sidelines indefinitely, things will be a mite sticky.

Majors says, "I can't remember losing a player of Sam's caliber since I was at Iowa State and lost Matt Blair. Sam was an integral part of our offense. He could catch the football, run with power and could even play tailback for us. I anticipated having a pretty strong team until he lost those two."

Cockrell is an all-around athlete and is noted for his power in driving the baseball over the fences. The S.F. Giants grabbed him. He batted over .400 and had a heap of homers for the Vols in three seasons.

"We think QB Tony Robinson could become an excellent performer. He has a lot of ability, but lacks game experience. The SEC is no place for an inexperienced QB to learn his trade. However, we've got a real good attitude on this team," he pointed out.

"In the last two seasons I think I've only had to deal with one discipline problem which is remarkable considering today's society. We've been going two-a-days in preparation for our opener (Washington State). I hope our kicking game comes through. Then we could be competitive."

Majors believes the SEC will be as competitive as previous years with a real knock-down, drag-out fight for the title and Sugar Bowl bid.

He said, "Auburn is the front runner at the present time, but there's a lot of talent spread throughout the SEC. Alabama, Florida, Georgia and LSU are no slouches. We'll be in there somewhere. We've got some quality people returning on defense, but we may be lacking that muscle."

When I asked about his teams' overall speed, which has always been a Majors trademark, he chuckled a little and stated, "We won't be the quickest team I've ever put

on the field, but we won't be that slow either."

Never one to brag on his personnel, John is very low key when he has a good football team. He never told me Pitt was No. 1 in 1976 until after they whipped the Georgia Bulldogs in the Sugar Bowl for the national crown.

The Vols should win their first three games, all at home and in front of over 95,000 fans. Then it's down to Auburn. Vols then return home to tackle Florida and Alabama back to back. Coach invited me down for a game and I'd like to catch one of the above. Majors' charges have 'dammed the Tide' the previous two years. When UT plays Alabama at home it's a happening.

ESPN is supposed to air some of the Vols games this season and I'm looking forward to it.

Meanwhile, John said he had an uneventful summer. He did some clinics in Scotland which was outstanding this time of the year.

I don't know about the rest of you folks, but we're into my time of the year.

Football season is especially interesting because I usually talk on the phone with some of my coaching chums from various parts of the country and I enjoy hearing various tales about different players, coaches and teams.

Congratulations to Irem Club champ Sandy Valenti. She said, "I had a six-shot lead going out the final round and the next thing I knew it was down to one. I just pulled myself together and started to get my swing back."

It's the second-straight title for Sandy. She's a dedicated golfer.

I understand Coach George Curry has another splendid football team at Berwick again this season. George lost all of his scoring personnel from last year's championship squad, but he's got some capable players returning. Bulldogs have some size.

### Record fish may be light

When one thinks of record fish, their thoughts usually shift to monstrous finny creatures that come from the darkness of the waters to shatter one's tranquility and make pulses race. Still there are state record fish that weigh less than three pounds, and while they might not tire your arm, they can put you in the record books.

— It was not surprising to find Lake-Lehman's athletic facilities in tip-top condition on a recent visit. My hat goes off to the Board for recognizing the significant role athletics plays on the scholastic level.

— One of my hobbies is compiling a consensus on many of the pre-season college grid polls from various publications. I usually gather around nine or 10 and tally them all up giving 20 for the first down to a single point for 20th. I like to go back to the end of the season and compare the final polls with ones from the preseason.

One thing is obvious, some of the pollsters don't do much exploring or research in coming up with their top 20.

— I don't see 20 teams better than Penn State, Auburn or UCLA which was completely omitted from some rankings. These programs are sound and will be among the best at the conclusion of the season.

The results after eight polls is as follows: 1-Auburn, 2-Clemson, 3-Nebraska, 4-Pitt, 5-Texas, 6-Notre Dame, 7-Iowa, 8-Miami, 9-Alabama, 10-UCLA.

One team missing from all eight polls was Maryland which was puzzling. The Terps are going to have a very solid team and could win as many as eight games.

What's my Super Seven look like for the pre-season? How about in this order: 1-Auburn, 2-Clemson, 3-Nebraska, 4-Alabama, 5-Oklahoma, 6-Ohio State, 7-Miami.

Why no Pitt and Penn State? Both teams have to show me they belong. Panthers are a bit overrated being in the top five in many polls. Penn State has some quality people to replace, but along with Pitt aren't too far from denting the Super Seven.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission maintains an angler recognition program for 29 different species of fish. Certainly the glamour fish are there - the striped bass and chinook salmon - the northern pike and the mighty musky, but the unlikely records are there as well. In the scheme of things, a three pound bluegill is regarded as highly as a 54 pound musky.

### Locals piece at Keystone

Three members of the Back Mountain Wrestling Club placed in the recent Keystone Games held at University Park.

Ray Rosenerans was crowned champion in the 90 pound class while Jason Prokopchak placed second in the 80 pound class and Jason Naugle was third in the 80 pound class.

	Bill SAVAGE	Dotty MARTIN	Lee RICHARDS	Ed CAMPBELL	Charlot DENMON	Goalpost PETIE
Lehman/Hoban	Lehman 12-8	Lehman 21-7	Lehman 13-6	Lehman 13-10	Lehman 20-13	Lehman 19-6
Hanover/Dallas	Dallas 13-12	Hanover 14-6	Hanover 7-0	Dallas 21-14	Dallas 14-13	Hanover 13-0
WVW/Tunk.	WVW 35-7	WVW 21-0	WVW 35-14	WVW 21-7	WVW 28-7	WVW 20-6
Tech/Montrose	Montrose 28-6	Montrose 21-14	Montrose 20-14	Montrose 21-7	Montrose 20-6	Tech 13-12
O'Reilly/W. Wayne	W. Wayne 20-6	W. Wayne 14-6	W. Wayne 7-6	O'Reilly 17-6	W. Wayne 14-0	W. Wayne 19-6
Pitt/B. Young	Pitt 28-21	Pitt 21-7	Pitt 28-27	B. Young 21-7	Pitt 28-24	Pitt 17-7

### Lehman favored to win opener

The Lake-Lehman Knights have been chosen to win their season opener against Bishop Hoban this weekend by all six Dallas Post prognosticators with editor Doty Martin giving the Back Mountain boys the largest edge, predicting a 21-7 victory.

The Mountaineers of Dallas, on the other hand, are expected to have a little more trouble winning their opener as they go against 1983 champs, Hanover Hawkeyes. The

Post prognosticators are split on this game with managing editor Bill Savage, photographer Ed Campbell and sportswriter Charlot Demmon putting their faith in Dallas while Martin, sports columnist Lee Richards and the unknown "GoalPOST Petie" siding with Hanover.

The Post is unanimous on the Wyoming Valley West/Tunkhannock contest with all six voting in favor of Valley West. "GoalPOST Petie" was the only one favoring West Side

Tech in their contest with Montrose while Campbell was the lone figure voting for Bishop O'Reilly to defeat Western Wayne and Brigham Young to garner a win against Pitt in the college opener.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There seems to be some speculation of just who "GoalPOST Petie" is. In case you're trying to guess, here's a clue - it is not a member of The Dallas Post staff.)

### Fish For Free Day planned

Pennsylvania's Fish For Free Day (no fishing license needed) is scheduled for September 22. If you attend the free instructional program which will be presented by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission at Francis Slocum State Park on this date, at approx. 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., all that will be required is that you bring yourself, your family and or anyone else who might be interested in the following subjects: Tackle assembly - fishing instructions - fish identification - boating safety instructions - filleting of fish - cooking fish - plus various other related subjects.

If you plan to participate in all of the seminars listed, you should plan on packing a picnic lunch to bring along with you.

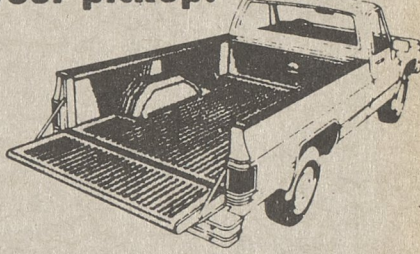
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