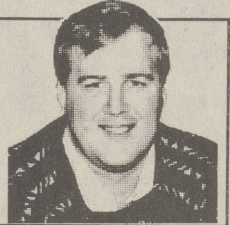


# The Dallas Post Sports Week

## From the Pressbox

Dave Konopki



## Dave's fearless forecast

The hot humid days have given way to milder daytime temperatures and comfortable nights and the "Back-to-School" sales have begun.

That could mean just two things: 1) the O.J. Simpson trial is right around the corner and, 2) the college football season is upon us.

It was nearly one year ago this week when you read in this space a prediction the Florida State Seminoles would finally win a national championship for long-time head coach Bobby Bowden.

And despite a late-season loss to Notre Dame, they did.

Okay, so I didn't exactly go out on a limb by choosing the 'Noles. And maybe my selections of Syracuse to finish second (they finished with a disappointing 6-4-1 record) and Michigan to finish fourth (they finished 19th) left a little to be desired.

But on the other hand, my selections of Penn State, Arizona and West Virginia, schools snubbed in the Top 10 pre-season polls by most major publications, to finish in the Top 10 were right on the money.

This year, I thought I'd change things around a little bit. Oh sure, I'll still unveil my Top 10 selections before you turn the page (if you haven't already) but before that happens, I'll deal with the Top 5: the Top 5 questions, most frequently asked by college football fans heading into the 1994 season.

Here goes:

**After all the controversy surrounding the selection of Florida State as national champion at the end of last season, when will college football institute a national championship playoff system?**

Good question. But unfortunately, no one knows the answer. The only thing certain is that it won't happen this season. An NCAA committee failed to institute a playoff system in a series of meetings during the off-season and even though a NCAA task force has been formed to develop such a system, it won't make any recommendation until at least January of 1995.

College football is the only major Division I college sport, either men's or women's, which doesn't decide its champion on the field. Opponents of a playoff system feel a national playoff could hurt the history and tradition of the existing bowl games. History and tradition, my foot! The bottom line here is money, where corporations are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into the existing bowl games, such as the Blockbuster Bowl, USF&G Sugar Bowl and the Mobil Cotton Bowl. Hey, doesn't the Dallas Post Rose Bowl have nice ring to it.

Powlus is just one player and the key to Notre Dame's success could rest in the performance of its secondary. Offensively, Heisman Trophy candidate tailback Lee Becton and his massive offensive line will take some of the pressure off Powlus and they will score plenty of points. But, as we all know, it's defense (and special teams) which win championships.

**Speaking of the Heisman Trophy, who will win the coveted award this season? Any sleepers?**

Unlike last year, when Florida State's Charlie Ward essentially won the award before the season began, this year's race is a little more open. Don't get me wrong, Ward was an outstanding player and probably deserved the honor, but again, as in the case of Powlus, let's see the candidate play in a few games before we give him the award as the nation's outstanding collegiate football player. The onslaught of hype from athletic departments of colleges and universities is helping make this a popularity contest where public relations ability weighs nearly as heavily as the yards-per-carry average.

There are a handful of leading candidates this year led by Michigan's explosive tailback Tyrone Wheatley, who should walk away with the hardware. Others to watch are, in no particular order: Lee Becton (TB, Notre Dame), J.J. Stokes (WR, UCLA), Steve Stenstrom (QB, Stanford) and Tommie Frazier (QB, Nebraska). Throw out outstanding Florida St. linebacker Derrick Brooks, one of the most dominant players in the nation, who was suspended for the first three games of the season after receiving money and gifts from professional agents.

**Will 1994 be the season Penn State's Joe Paterno finally fulfills his dream of coaching in the Rose Bowl?**

On January 1, 1995, Penn State will have a better record than Michigan and will be ranked higher than the Wolverines in the national polls. But unfortunately for fans in Happy Valley, it will be Michigan who will make the trip to Pasadena.

Paterno and his Nittany Lions shocked a lot of people last season with an impressive 10-3 record, including a 31-13 pounding of Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl. They could equal, or perhaps even better, that mark this season. A creampuff non-conference schedule will guarantee the Lions of being a Top 15 team this year but a road loss in Ann Arbor ends their Rose Bowl bid. But Michigan could tag along some extra baggage to the Rose Bowl in the form of two or three losses. In addition to playing tough conference foes like Penn State, Ohio State and Wisconsin, the Wolves also play non-conference powerhouses in Notre Dame, Colorado and Boston College.

The Nittany Lions have two things going for them which may help them earn a trip to California, however: First, Joe Paterno learned a lot last year when he had an off-week before the Ohio State and Michigan games. He has them again this year and he'll put that knowledge to good use. Second, Michigan must play a tough Wisconsin team this season while the Nittany Lions won't have to face the Badgers. But a trip to Illinois late in the year could spell doom for JoePa and the Lions.

**Can Berwick High School's Ron Powlus lead Notre Dame to the national championship?**

The answer is a definite...probably not. It's been interesting to hear the accolades being bestowed upon Powlus by everyone from South Bend to South Wilkes-Barre and there's no doubt he could become one of the best quarterbacks to ever wear a Fighting Irish uniform. But before he's inducted into the Notre Dame Hall of Fame, he should probably play in at least one game first. Sarcastic? Probably. But even as a diehard Notre Dame fan, I want to see Powlus take a few snaps, and a few hits, before I order my national championship sweatshirt. But if Powlus' collarbone is completely healed, look out! He has all the tools to become one of the best in the country.

Sleepers? How about Southern California quarterback Rob Johnson, Notre Dame safety Bobby Taylor and North Carolina running back Curtis Johnson.

**Okay, who will win the national championship?**

Once again, it's going to be difficult because no major Division I team will finish the season unbeaten. Florida plays in the tough SEC, Florida State has to overcome suspensions of a few players for the first couple of weeks of the season and then must face Florida, Notre Dame and Miami (in the Orange Bowl). Ouch! And Notre Dame has a new quarterback, secondary and defensive coordinator to deal with. Michigan? Chokers. Miami? A quarterback controversy could split the team in two. Penn State? Sorry. And how about Colorado? Schedule's too tough.

That leaves just one team: Nebraska. Just like in 1993, the Cornhuskers play a creampuff schedule, including games with Pacific and Wyoming (Area?). We'll see just how good Nebraska is when they face West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic at the Meadowlands in New Jersey this Sunday. But if they can beat WVU, the only thing standing between them and a chance for a national championship game are home contests with UCLA and Colorado.

On New Year's Day, Nebraska will play FSU in the Orange Bowl, Notre Dame will play Miami in the Fiesta Bowl, Michigan will play Arizona in the Rose Bowl, Penn State will play Southern Cal (Rose Bowl II) in the Gator Bowl and Florida will play Colorado in the Sugar Bowl.

### Dave's Major College Top 10:

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Nebraska    | 6. Miami         |
| 2. Florida     | 7. Michigan      |
| 3. Notre Dame  | 8. Penn St.      |
| 4. Florida St. | 9. Colorado      |
| 5. Arizona     | 10. Southern Cal |

## Post will carry Power Points football contest

The Dallas Post will carry the Pennsylvania POWER POINTS football contest this fall. The contest, featuring primarily National Football League games, pays \$750 weekly to the statewide winner.

A total of \$12,750 in grand prize cash will be paid to first-place winners during the 17 weeks of the contest.

In addition, The Post will award the local entrant with the highest point total a weekly prize of \$25. Tele-Media of Luzerne County is a co-sponsor, and will provide a free month of HBO to each weekly winner who is a Tele-Media customer.

As in most football contests, the object is to correctly predict

the winners of each week's listed games. However, the POWER POINTS format introduces a new and challenging twist: Contestants must assign weighted point values to their selections — 15 points being the most valuable position and 1 point being the least valuable.

Contestants simply project a winner in each of the week's listed games. But they place their "surest" winner on the 15-point line and their "least sure" winner on the 1-point line in an effort to amass as many of the 120 possible points as they can.

A tiebreaker — total points scored in either the Philadelphia Eagles game or the Pittsburgh Steelers game (the two alternate week to week) — will be used to

break ties. If this step doesn't produce a winner, a drawing will be held among those still tied.

The game entry form will appear in each week's newspaper. You may enter the contest only once per week, and you must be at least 8 years old. Yes, even children can play.

Contestants enter by clipping the entry form from the paper, completing it and depositing it prior to the weekly deadline in the POWER POINTS container at the Post and other sponsors.

Full rules will be published with each week's entry form. Winners will be announced each week in the newspaper. The first weekend of contest action is Sept. 4-6. Entry forms will appear in the August 31 edition of the newspaper.

## Will Woronko will head to Wilkes in fall

Lake-Lehman soccer and baseball star Will Woronko has announced that he will continue his academic and athletic career at Wilkes University this fall.

Woronko was a four year starter in soccer and a three year starter in baseball for the Black Knights, a two year starter in basketball and the placekicker and punter in football.

In four years he earned a total of 10 varsity letters.

Woronko was a two-time 1st team All-Conference soccer player and was named an all-state player as a senior. He also played in the NAS-CUP senior all-star game.

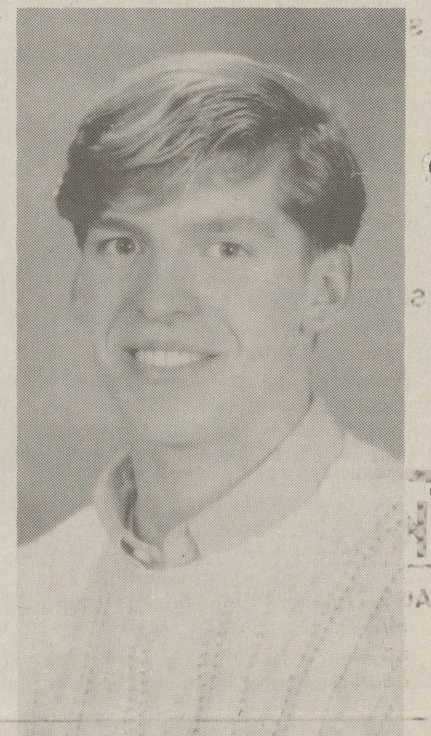
He netted 71 career goals and 56 career assists. This past year he helped the Black Knights to an 11-6 record while scoring 25 goals.

As a member of the Lake-Lehman baseball team, Woronko hit .385 this past year with 21 RBI, six doubles and a league high three triples. He was named a 1st team All-Conference player and played in the senior all-star game.

In American Legion baseball he is a three time All-Star performer and was named an Honorable Mention All-Star in football this past year.

Off the field Woronko was named a PIAA Scholar-Athlete, was a member of the Who's Who Among American High School students and the National Council on Youth Leadership.

Woronko, who will major in pharmacy, is the son of William and Janice Woronko of Harveys Lake.



WILL WORONKO

## Sis Ertley wins Irem championship

The Irem Women's Golf Association recently completed its women's club championship, consisting of three rounds of medal play in four flights.

The winner of the tournament and the 1994 Irem Women's Club Champion was Sis Ertley, who shot a total of 254 for the three rounds to claim her 14th championship.

The runner-up was Mae Smith who scored 262 for the tournament.

Winner of First Low Net in the First Flight was Leah Flock. Second LowNet winner was Carol Smith.

Results of the other flights were: Second Flight, First Low Gross, Kay Goodman; Second Low Gross, Sun Hee Koo; First Low Net, Joyce

Shaw and Second Low Net, Corrine Sgarlat.

Third Flight: First Low Gross, Lois Degenero; Second Low Gross, Shirley Evans; First Low Net, Jane Kopp and Second Low Net, Connie Lizdas.

Fourth Flight: First Low Gross, Theresa Ballet; Second Low Gross, Evelyn Eck and First Low Net, Julie Allen.

## Local women in USTA sectionals

Eight Back Mountain women will be among the 600 tennis players participating in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) League Tennis Middle States Sectional Championships at Veterans' Park and Mercer County Park, Trenton, NJ, August 26-August 29.

The USTA/Middle States section

is one of 17 geographical sections of the USTA, the national governing body of tennis in the U.S. The USTA/MS comprises Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and northwest West Virginia.

Back Mountain players are, Level: Women, 3.5: Mary Ann Knapp, Dallas; Kim Morris, Dal-

las; Wanda Thomas, Dallas. Team Name: "Kirby Park".

Level: Women, 4.0: Maryann Kelly, Shavertown; Glenda Crabtree, Dallas; Linda Hurwitz, Shavertown; Aileen Miller, Shavertown; Mary Wasser, Shavertown. Team Name: "Kirby One."

The team plays out of Kirby Park, Wilkes-Barre.

## Golf tourney aids Arthritis Foundation

Grotto Pizza will sponsor their fourth annual Grotto Pizza Golf Tournament on Monday, Aug. 29 to benefit the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.

The tournament will take place at Mill Race Golf Club in Benton, with a captain and crew format. A

shotgun start is scheduled for noon.

Prizes include a 1994 Ford Mustang GT for the first hole-in-one on a specified hole, longest drive, closest to the pin and closest to the line.

Trophies will be awarded to flight winners, and door prizes

will be chanced off.

A donation of \$65 per golfer includes greens fees, cart, lunch on the course and dinner immediately following the tournament at Grotto Pizza.

Proceeds will provide local residents who have arthritis with continued programs and services.

### 'Meet the Team' August 25

The Lake-Lehman Football Club will sponsor its "Meet the Team" night August 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the football field.

### Jr. Knights parade, carnival

The Lake-Lehman Junior Knights football and cheerleading club will hold a parade and carnival Sat., Aug. 27 from 10-4 p.m. at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. There will be games, food and prizes.

### Harveys Lake Little League meets

Harveys Lake Little League will hold its regular monthly meeting Thurs., Aug. 25 at 8:30 p.m. at the Little League stand. Anyone who has not returned uniforms or equipment may do so between 7:30 and 8:30. Refunds of the participation fee will also be made at this time.



### Fifth grade champions

The Gate of Heaven Fifth Grade Girls Basketball Team was the champions of their grade level at the recent Back Mountain Girls Basketball tournament. Team members are Coach Joe Leary, Shannon Lupien, Chelsey Ostrowsky, Beth Charnick, Katie Guntli, Jocelyn Kozick, Samantha Leandri, Jamie Pikul, Nicole Sabatura, and Lisa Gongleski. Back row, Jaclyn Reisser, Laura Charnick, Shannon Leary, Alison Hutch, Kristen Nelson, Jessica Holton and Coach Ed Ostrowsky. The team also received the Good Sportsmanship Award for the regular season at the Holy Trinity/Regis Fifth and Sixth Grade League.