

# Sporting View

## Steelers and Browns face similar problems on offense

by John Musser  
Sports Editor

Get your pencil and paper ready kids because this week's column starts with a quiz. Doug Drabek is on the verge of a 20-win season in Pittsburgh and a front runner for the National League's Cy Young award. The question: Who was the last Pirate to win 20 games and the Cy Young? The answer after these commercial messages.

- Speaking of Drabek and the Buccos, one of the reasons they might lose the NL East race could be their pathetic play against Montreal. With the Expos' sweep of Pittsburgh last weekend, they finished the season series with an unimpressive 13-5 record.

- Another reason the Pirates may falter is their pitching staff. Manager Jim Leyland has worked miracles with the starting rotation and the bullpen, and as a result has 19 pitchers with at least one win. This isn't necessarily something to be proud of, it's just a fact.

Can Leyland keep working his magic? Probably, but it would help if the offense, which has been dormant lately, would wake up.

- Understanding their new offensive system is not the biggest problem the Steelers face. The running game has been nearly non-existent, and quarterback Bubby Brister has rarely dropped back to pass without a defensive lineman in his face. Once they get their offensive line clicking, the "O" will improve.

- The Steeler's defense can probably sympathize with their offensive unit. Last year the defense had to learn a new system, and early on they were burned often. However, by the end of the regular season, the defense looked like it was on the verge of being dominating. So far this year, it looks like they have picked up where they left off.

- If the Steeler's defense is good, they will have to prove it against the best quarterbacks in the NFL. After this Sunday, they face Dan Marino, John Elway, and Joe Montana in three of the next four weeks.

- The Cleveland Browns have the same problems as the Steelers: a new offensive system that hasn't caught on yet. They also have two rookies starting on the offensive line, and the result has been painful for QB Bernie Kosar.

Fortunately for Coach Bud Carson, his defense and special teams are good enough to give his team a chance to win the game. Once Bernie and the boys learn the new system, Cleveland should be tough to beat.

- It looks as though the Buffalo Bills haven't changed much from last season. After knocking out the Indianapolis Colts in week one, the Bills came back last Sunday with an inferior effort against the Miami Dolphins. If the Bills continue this roller coaster ride and have another poor showing in the playoffs (if they make it), then Coach Marv Levy will surely be perusing the want ads come January.

- Speaking of job searches, Pirates General Manager Larry Doughty should probably get his resume updated. I'm not going to list all of Doughty's mistakes, but losing two of his top minor league prospects because he didn't know the waiver rules is ridiculous. Doughty has made *some* good moves (acquiring Zane Smith for the pennant drive was pretty slick), but he has seriously mortgaged the Pirates' future.

- The future looks bright for Notre Dame signal caller Rick Mirer. Mirer lead the Fighting Irish to a comeback victory over Michigan last Saturday night that brought back memories of Joe Montana's glory days at ND. Not only does Mirer do a fair imitation of Montana snatching a victory from the jaws of defeat, he also has Joe's jersey number (3).

- Penn State is hoping to bring back some memories this weekend with their game against Rutgers. You know, good things, like winning. The Nittany Lions have to learn consistency and play a full 60 minutes before bringing back any fond remembrances like that.

- I challenge you to find a better announcing team than CBS' Pat Summerall and John Madden. Summerall is so quiet sometimes that you forget he's there, yet he says enough to keep the viewer informed of what is happening. Madden is, well, Madden. Not only is he brilliant in describing and diagraming plays and has his own assortment of audio special effects, he also gives you that "regular guy" feeling.

Plus, I fully expect I could go to a game that he would be broadcasting and see Madden barbecuing steaks with a cold one in his hand before the game.

- Quiz answer: In 1960 Vernon Law won the NL Cy Young award with a 20-9 record while leading Pittsburgh to a World Series victory over the New York Yankees.

## Tennis team looks to improve in coming weeks

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"We're not letting the losses get us down."

"The losses aren't a reflection of our playing ability," said Karen Major. "All of us are giving 100 percent. The future looks bright."

Another reason for enthusiasm is the newest member of the team.

Freshman Nicole Anderson has taken over the number one seed. Anderson, a McDowell High School graduate, has only been on Behrend's team since September 11th. Anderson's first match was a loss against Gannon.

Anderson plans to stay at Behrend for four years and is expected to have a good impact on the team.

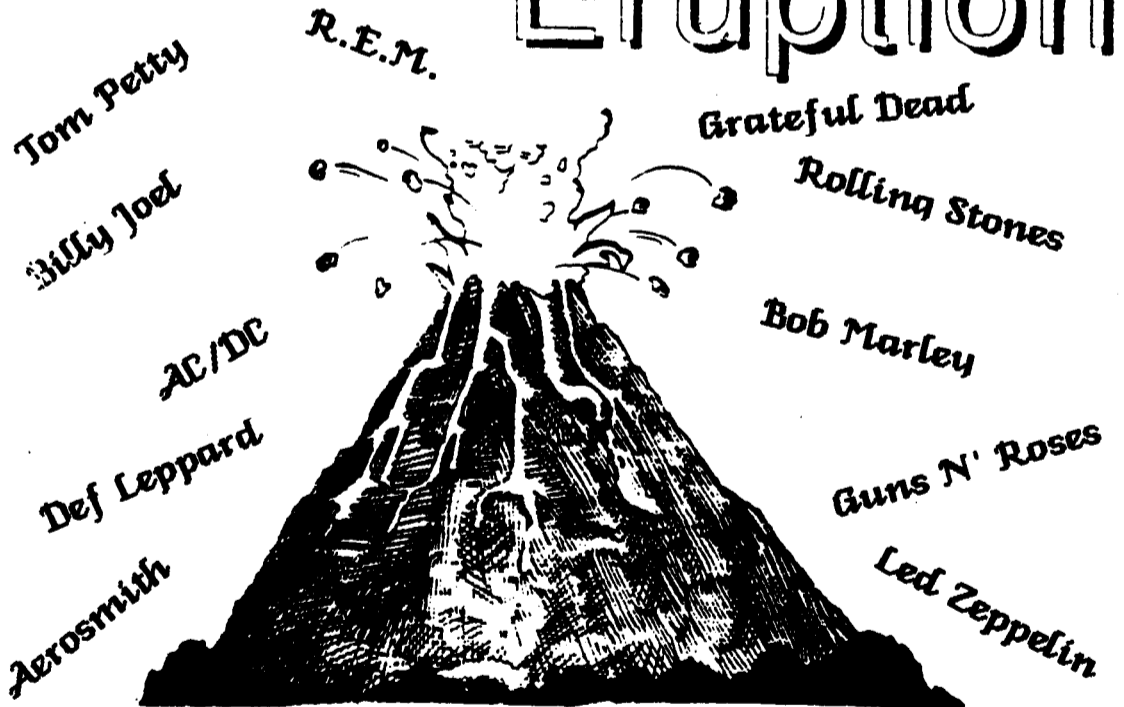
NOTES: The next match for the Lady Lions is tomorrow at Buffalo State....Five of the remaining six matches are on the road. The lone home game is against Allegheny College on Sept. 29....Three of the team's last five wins (going back to last season) for the lady netters have come against SUNY-Fredonia.

## IN THE BLEACHERS by Steve Moore



"Well, let this be a lesson to the rest of you about the importance of being mentally prepared for this game."

# Weekend Eruption



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