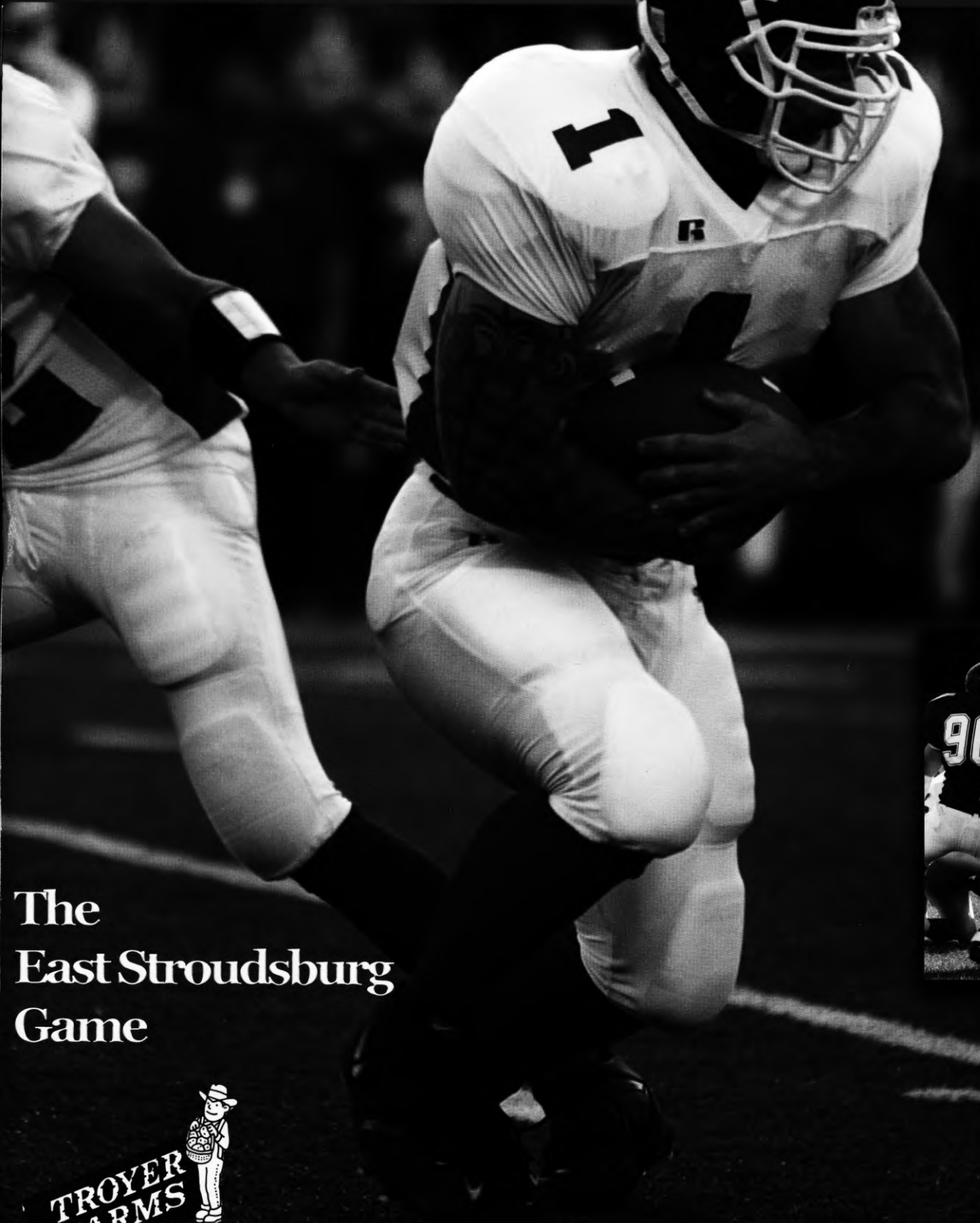


EDINBORO

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GAMMELDAY
September 4, 2004



The
East Stroudsburg
Game



2003 PSAC West Co-Champions

GO FIGHTING SCOTS!

GOOD LUCK IN THE 2004-05 SEASON

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6 a.m. - midnight
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Edinboro Football 2004

2004 Schedule

September 4	EAST STROUDSBURG	1:00 p.m.
September 11	WVU TECH	1:00 p.m.
September 18	at Tiffin	1:30 p.m.
September 25	at Shippensburg*	1:00 p.m.
October 2	at Clarion*	2:00 p.m.
October 9	CALIFORNIA(PA)* <i>Homecoming</i>	2:00 p.m.
October 16	INDIANA(PA)* <i>Family Legacy Weekend</i>	1:00 p.m.
October 23	at Slippery Rock*	2:00 p.m.
October 30	at Kutztown	1:05 p.m.
November 6	LOCK HAVEN*	1:00 p.m.

* PSAC West Contest
HEAD COACH: Lou Tepper

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On The Radio

Edinboro University football fans can catch all the Fighting Scot gridiron action on WFSE FM 88.9. The Edinboro student radio station will broadcast all ten games, providing valuable broadcasting experience for Edinboro students, along with quality broadcasts of Fighting Scot athletics.

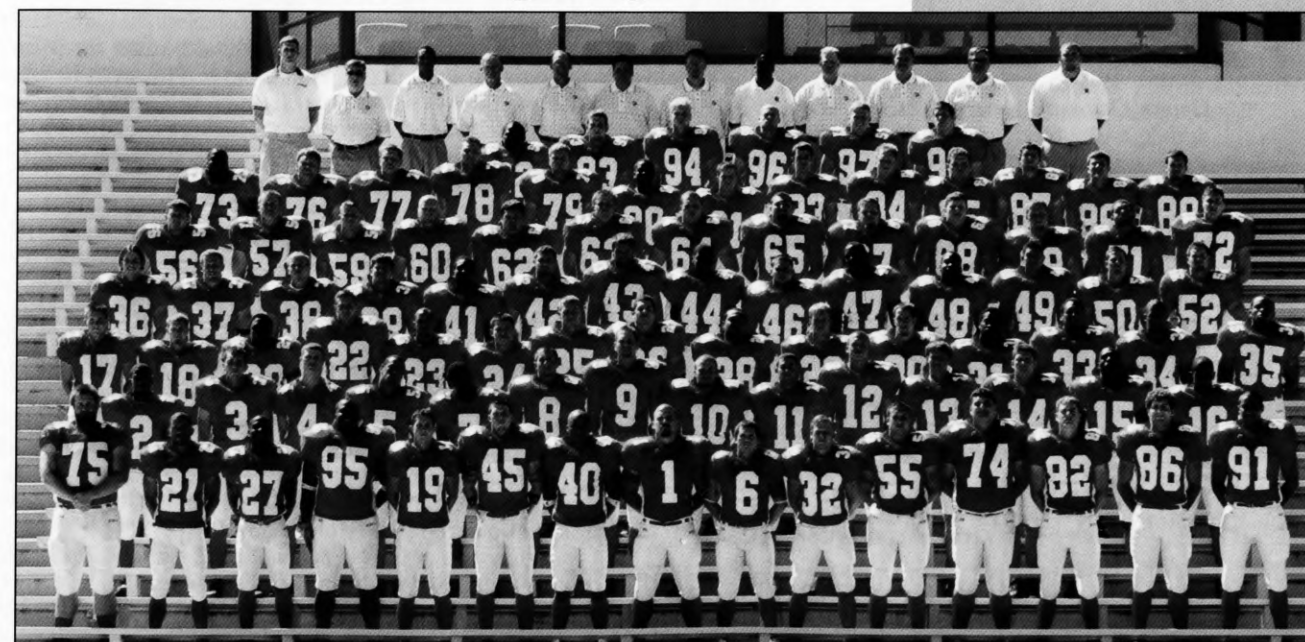
In addition, Edinboro football can now be heard live on TEAMLINE -- the brainstrom of 1978 Edinboro graduate Tom Zawistowski, CEO and founder of TRZ Communications. All a fan has to do is dial 1-800-846-4700 and then enter 1644 as the four-digit code. Listen to as little or as much of the game as you like.



For More Information

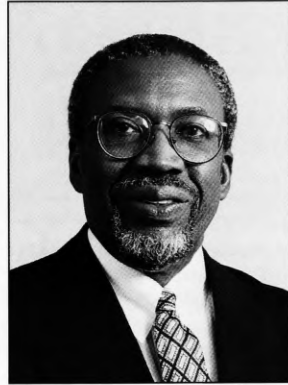
Information on Fighting Scot athletics is available on the internet by accessing Edinboro University's World Wide web homepage at <http://www.edinboro.edu>. Results also are available on the Fighting Scot Hotline by calling (814) 732-2776 ext. 313.

The 2004 Edinboro Fighting Scots



Welcome to Edinboro

Dear Family, Friends and Fans of the Fighting Scots:



Thank you for supporting Edinboro University athletics and the student-athletes who compete for our football, wrestling, basketball, volleyball, wheelchair basketball and other adaptive sports, cross country, track, soccer, swimming, and softball teams. We are proud of their accomplishments athletically and academically, and we are proud of our coaching staff who assist in making good things happen for students and the University.

The Athletic programs at Edinboro University enjoy a rich history and tradition of excellence. This amazing legacy will be among the points of pride celebrated during the University's Sesquicentennial in the 2006-07 academic year. As we prepare to celebrate the University's 150th anniversary, we are guided by the theme, "Building a prosperous future through academic excellence and civility." The learning, dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship that are central to the experience of Edinboro athletes also enable their prosperity in

other aspects of life. At the same time, athletic competitions contribute to the quality of life on our campus and throughout the communities of northwestern Pennsylvania. Clearly, the Fighting Scots are a partner in the region's prosperity.

We encourage our Fighting Scot Fans to visit the campus as often as possible. I look forward to greeting you at our athletic, cultural, and arts presentations.

Go Scots!

Frank G. Pogue
President

Governor of Pennsylvania

Edward G. Rendell

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Dr. Judy G. Hample, Chancellor

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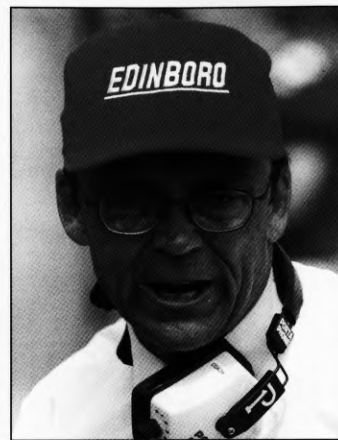
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Head Coach Lou Teppner



Veteran Division I mentor Lou Teppner was appointed the 12th head football coach at Edinboro University, officially taking charge of the Fighting Scot program on January 5, 2000. He promised a tough and classy program, and in four short years has delivered a championship team that fans and alumni enthusiastically endorse.

Teppner inherited an Edinboro program which had won just eleven games in the previous three seasons. The Scots have shown consistent improvement in "Coach Tep's" four years, culminated by an appearance in the NCAA Division

II Playoffs this past year. The 2000 season brought a 5-6 record, matching the Edinboro record for wins by a first-year head coach, and a fifth

"We had an outstanding pool of candidates to choose from, but Lou's integrity, coaching background and national notoriety stood out above the rest. We feel Edinboro provides the opportunity to be one of the top programs in the PSAC, and look at Lou Teppner as the coach to restore our program to that level."

Dr. Frank Pogue Jr.
President, Edinboro University

The Fighting Scots survived a brutal three-game stretch early in the season, defeating 16th-ranked East Stroudsburg, 30-21, dropping a 40-34 decision to 22nd-ranked Shippensburg, and finally upsetting fourth-ranked Indiana(Pa.) on the Indians' home turf, 28-20. That win propelled the Scots to a six-game winning streak to end the regular season. During that stretch Edinboro held opponents without a touchdown for 20 consecutive quarters. Teppner was recognized as the PSAC West Coach of the Year in 2004.

While winning is important, it isn't the only emphasis at Edinboro with Teppner at the controls. He has stressed improved character and talent, a family concept and racial harmony. In the classroom the Fighting Scots have shown marked improvement in recent years. It all adds up to a championship program.

BACKGROUND

Teppner, a native of Keystone, PA, returned to the Division II level after coaching at Division I institutions for almost thirty years. He is renowned as a defensive coaching genius, with a resume that includes three Butkus Award honorees and an Outland Trophy winner. Teppner's list of standouts include Bruce Smith, John Holecek, Simeon Rice, Kevin Hardy, Brad Hopkins, Booger MacFarland, and Ken Dilger, all current or former NFL standouts. In addition, he has worked with some of the top head coaches in the country, including Bill Dooley at Virginia Tech, Bill McCartney at Colorado, John Mackovic at Illinois and Gerry DiNardo at LSU.

"Being a native of western Pennsylvania, it has been neat to be a head coach again and to be a head coach in this environment," Teppner related following his first season at Edinboro. "I've recruited western Pennsylvania for half of my career. It's a joy to be back home."

Teppner completed his second full season as the defensive coordi-

inator at Louisiana State University in 1999. He began his tenure with the Tigers on December 15, 1997, helping LSU to a 27-9 Independence Bowl win over Notre Dame. All told, he has served as a defensive coordinator for 19 of his 37 years in the coaching profession.

BIG TEN HEAD COACH

The 58-year-old Teppner was appointed the head coach at the University of Illinois on December 13, 1991, just prior to the team's appearance in the John Hancock Sun Bowl. He replaced Mackovic, who left for the head coaching position at the University of Texas. During his five-year stint as the Fighting Illini head coach, Teppner compiled a record of 25-31-2, including two more bowl appearances. He guided Illinois to a pair of wins over Ohio State, including one at Columbus; the school's first victory in Ann Arbor against Michigan in 27 years; and three consecutive wins over rival Iowa by a combined score of 122-17. Just as impressive, Teppner graduated 91 percent of his seniors.

Teppner joined the Illinois program in 1988, serving as the defensive coordinator for four seasons and assistant head coach for two years. In his nine seasons at Illinois, he helped the program to six bowl invitations, one Big Ten title and top ten rankings in the AP and UPI polls.

He was honored as the Big Ten's top defensive assistant coach in 1990 by The Sporting News. His defensive units annually ranked among the best in the country, finishing 10th in 1989, 14th in 1993, ninth in 1994, and 21st in 1995.

Teppner's 1992 Illini squad finished 6-5-1, suffering a 27-17 defeat to Hawaii in the Holiday Bowl. Illinois went in to Columbus and upset Ohio State, 18-16, and posted a 22-22 tie against Michigan in Ann Arbor.

While his '93 edition finished 5-6, that included a 24-21 win in Ann Arbor against the Wolverines. The Illini made it back to postseason play in 1994, handing East Carolina a 30-0 whitewashing in the Liberty Bowl. The '94 squad finished 7-5, again upsetting one of the



Head Coach Lou Teppner

elite in the Big Ten. And once again it was on the road, as Illinois shocked Ohio State, 24-10, in Columbus behind Butkus Award winner Dana Howard.

LINEBACKERS

Through the years Penn State had gained the reputation as "Linebacker U", but Illinois could have made a good case for that designation as well during Teppner's tenure. He produced consecutive Butkus Award winners in Dana Howard (1994) and Kevin Hardy (1995). Along the way, he also produced Big Ten Defensive Players of the Year in Moe Gardner and Darrick Brownlow (1990), Howard (1993 and '94) and Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year Simeon Rice in 1994. For the only time in Big Ten history, Teppner had four first team All-Big Ten linebackers at his disposal. In all, he has coached over 20 professional linebackers, and has published a book, "Complete Linebacking", a 312-page comprehensive book on linebacker play.

Hardy and Rice became the highest defensive draft duo in the history of the NFL draft in 1996 when Hardy went second to Jacksonville and Rice third to Arizona. That stood until the 2000 NFL Draft when Penn State's Courtney Brown and Lavar Arrington went one-two.

DIVISION I ASSISTANT COACH

In over thirty years as an assistant coach, Teppner has worked at some of the top institutions in the country. That includes the likes of Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech and Colorado, in addition to his time at Illinois and LSU.

Teppner began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Pittsburgh in 1967, then moved on to the University of New Hampshire from 1968-71, coaching the running backs and linebackers before becoming the defensive coordinator. His next stop was the College of William & Mary, where he joined former New Hampshire head coach Jim Root as the defensive coordinator from 1972-77. The 1976 William & Mary squad posted the school's best record in thirty years. He was the assistant head coach his final year at William & Mary.

In 1978, Virginia Tech head coach Bill Dooley hired Teppner as his linebackers coach. Teppner helped build the Hokies into a consistent bowl con-

tender with a defense that annually ranked among the nation's top ten. He stayed at Virginia Tech from 1978-82, working with Outland Trophy winner and Buffalo Bills great Bruce Smith, among others. The 1980 Hokie edition played Miami(FL) in the Peach Bowl.

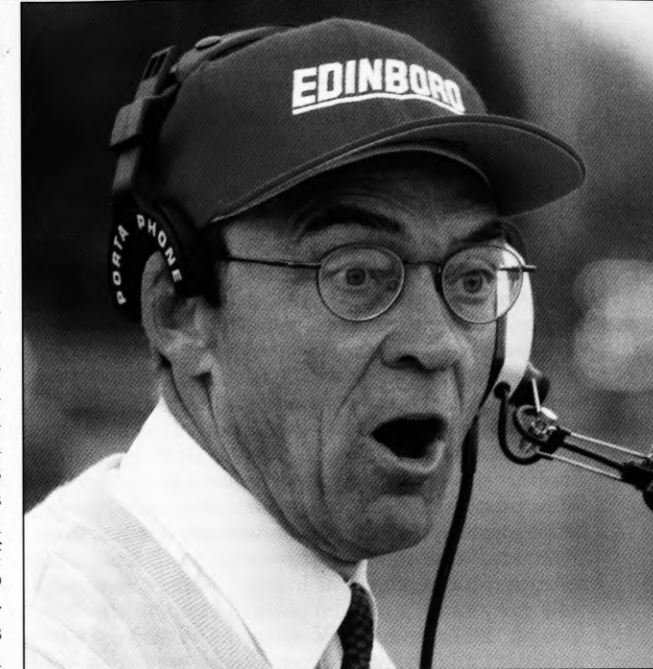
Teppner joined Bill McCartney's staff at Colorado in 1983, serving as the defensive coordinator and assistant head coach until departing for Illinois in 1988. Teppner helped turn around a Buffalo defense which ranked No. 100 nationally in yards allowed prior to his arrival, to one which was as high as 11th in Division I in total defense. He earned the title of assistant head coach to McCartney his final two seasons, and helped the Buffaloes to the 1985 Freedom Bowl and the 1986 Blue Bonnet Bowl.

Among the assistant coaches at Colorado was Gerry DiNardo, who would later bring Teppner in to direct his LSU defense.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Teppner, born September 7, 1945, graduated from Rutgers University in 1967. He enjoyed a standout career as a defensive back at Rutgers from 1965-67. As a player, Teppner led the Scarlet Knights in interceptions as a junior and tackles as a senior. He won the George Cronin Trophy as the Most Improved Player in 1965.

Teppner is an active member of the American Football Coaches Association and has served on the All-American Committee and the NCAA Ethics Committee. He is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has spoken for Promise-Keepers, founded by former Colorado coach Bill McCartney. Teppner and his wife, Karen, have two children, Matthew, who recently graduated from Edinboro with a master's degree in Counseling, and Stacy Ann, a graduate of LSU who is an administrator for Young Life Ministries in Columbus, OH.



Teppner's Personal Data

Born: September 7, 1945
Hometown: Keystone, PA
College Education: Rutgers University, B.S. in Physical Education - 1967
Playing Experience: Rutgers University, defensive back - 1965-67
Coaching Experience: University of Pittsburgh - graduate assistant, 1967; University of New Hampshire - running backs/linebackers, 1968-69; defensive coordinator, 1970-71; College of William & Mary - defensive coordinator, 1972-75; assistant head coach/defensive coordinator, 1976-77; Virginia Tech University - linebackers, 1978-82; University of Colorado - defensive coordinator/linebackers, 1983-85; assistant head coach, 1986-87; University of Illinois - defensive coordinator/inside linebackers, 1988-89; assistant head coach, 1990-91; head coach, 1991-96; LSU - defensive coordinator/linebackers, 1998-99
Wife: Karen
Children: Matthew (29), Stacy Ann (27)

Lou Teppner's Head Coaching Record

Year	School	Overall Record	Conference Record	Notable
1991	Illinois	0-1	4-3-1 (4th, Big Ten)	Sun Bowl
1992	Illinois	6-5-1	4-3-1 (4th, Big Ten)	Holiday Bowl
1993	Illinois	5-6	5-3 (T4th, Big Ten)	
1994	Illinois	7-5	4-4 (T5th, Big Ten)	Liberty Bowl
1995	Illinois	5-5-1	3-4-1 (T7th, Big Ten)	
1996	Illinois	2-9	1-7 (T9th, Big Ten)	
2000	Edinboro	5-6		
2001	Edinboro	4-6		
2002	Edinboro	5-6	2-4 (5th, PSAC West)	
2003	Edinboro	9-3	5-1 (T1st, PSAC West)	NCAA Div. II Playoffs
Totals		48-52-2		

Assistant Coaches



Scott Browning
Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line
19th Year
Ohio State '81

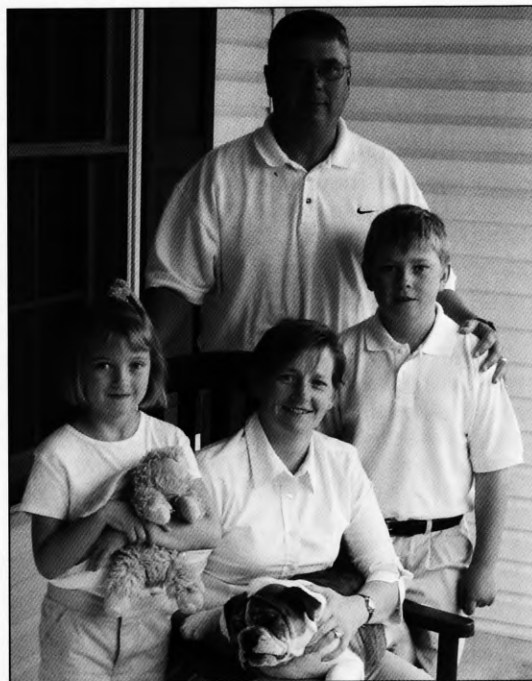
Scott Browning is in his 19th season as a Fighting Scot assistant, working with his third head coach.

After serving as the offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator in Lou Tepper's first season, Browning took over as the offensive coordinator three years ago, while continuing to work with the linemen. This marks his 11th year in charge of the offensive linemen, and ninth as offensive coordinator. He has also coached the running backs and defensive backs in the past.

Browning has served as an assistant coach at three NCAA Division I institutions. Prior to joining the Fighting Scot staff in 1986, he coached receivers and running backs at Ohio State for two years. The Buckeyes went to the Rose Bowl and the Citrus Bowl in his two seasons. Browning served as a graduate assistant coach at New Mexico State in 1982, and the following year instructed the receivers at Idaho State.

A 1981 graduate of Ohio State with a bachelor's degree in Education, Browning began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Worthington High School and Dayton-Fairview High Schools in Ohio from 1979-81. Before transferring to Ohio State, he attended Capital University where he played football for one season. Browning later earned a master's degree in Education Administration from New Mexico State in 1983.

Browning and his wife, Lynn, reside in Edinboro and have two children, Andrew, 10, and Katelyn, 6. His brother, Mitchell, is the offensive coordinator at the University of Minnesota. Browning is also camp director of the Tri-State Linemen's Camp, a highly-successful instructional camp for linemen now in its ninth year.



Wayne Bradford
Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line
6th Year
Salisbury State '90

Wayne Bradford is in his sixth year as a member of the Edinboro coaching staff. Bradford was recently given the additional responsibilities of defensive coordinator, a position which he previously held in 1999 under former head coach Tom Hollman. He will continue to oversee the defensive line.

Under Bradford's tutelage, Edinboro has had five first team All-PSAC West defensive linemen. That includes Dave Smith, a four-time All-PSAC selection who ranks first in career tackles for losses and tied for second in sacks, and Eugene Grooms, who was a three-time All-PSAC selection. His 2003 defensive line featured three all-conference performers.

Bradford had previously been at Salisbury State since 1990, and was the Sea Gulls' defensive coordinator from 1994-98.

A graduate of Salisbury State, Bradford began his coaching career at his alma mater in 1990, serving as an assistant coach in charge of the linebackers (1990-92) and defensive linemen (1992-94). In 1994, he was promoted to defensive coordinator. In 1997, Salisbury State ranked 38th in NCAA Division III in total defense, allowing just 268 yards per game. His 1995 defensive unit produced a first team AFCA All-American at linebacker, and helped the Sea Gulls finish 7-2 with a berth in the ECAC Southwest Championship Game.

Bradford graduated from Salisbury State in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He completed work on his master's degree in Business Administration from Salisbury State in 1992. In addition to working as a member of the football staff, Bradford was a faculty member in the School of Business. Beginning in 1996, he was the Director of the Business Graduate Programs for the Perdue School of Business.

As an undergraduate, Bradford was an offensive lineman. He played on the 1986 Salisbury State team which finished as the NCAA Division III national runnerup.

Bradford and his wife, Gwen, reside in Edinboro with their six-year-old son, Nicholas, and four-year-old daughter, Julia.



Born: April 3, 1968
Hometown: Glen Burnie, MD
College Education: Salisbury State University, B.S. in Business Administration - 1990; M.S. in Business Administration - 1992
Playing Experience: Salisbury State University, offensive line - 1986-89
Coaching Experience: Salisbury State University - defensive lineman & linebackers, 1990-93; defensive coordinator, 1994-99; Edinboro University - defensive coordinator, 1999; defensive line, 2000 to present
Wife: Gwen
Children: Nicholas (6), Julia (4)

Assistant Coaches



Jim Henson
Running Backs
7th Year
Hiram '68

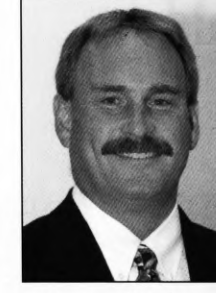
Jim Henson, a highly successful high school coach in Ohio for over twenty years, enters his seventh season on the Edinboro staff. After working on the defensive side of the ball as the strong safeties/outside linebackers coach for two years, he moved over to the offense and will instruct the running backs for the third straight season. He previously worked with the running backs in 1999 and was in charge of the defensive linemen in '98. Henson is also a professor in the Mathematics Department at Edinboro.

Henson joined the Edinboro staff after serving as a mathematics teacher, football coach and athletic director at Grand Valley High School in Ohio for 22 years. He led the Mustangs to a 150-68-4 record, with five Grand River Conference championships, three East Suburban Conference titles, and three state playoff appearances. In the 1990's, Henson's charges posted three undefeated campaigns and a 23-game regular season winning streak. He was named the Conference Coach of the Year eight times and County Coach of the Year three times, culminated by his selection as the Ohio Division V Coach of the Year in 1997 and the Division IV Coach of the Year in '92.

Prior to beginning his stellar career at Grand Valley, Henson debuted as an assistant coach at Cardinal Middlefield (OH) High School, where he served for eight years.

Henson graduated from Hiram College in 1968 with a bachelor of arts degree in Mathematics, then completed work on his master of science degree in Education with a major in Mathematics from Youngstown State in 1972. He and his wife, Evelyn, reside in Edinboro. They are the parents of a son, Jim, and a daughter, Jennifer, along with four grandchildren.

Born: September 11, 1946
Hometown: Orwell, OH
College Education: Hiram College, B.A. in Arts & Mathematics - 1968; Youngstown St. Univ., M.S. in Mathematics Education - 1972
Playing Experience: Hiram College, defensive back - 1964-66
Coaching Experience: Cardinal Middlefield (OH) High School - assistant coach, 1968-75; Grand Valley (OH) High School - head coach, 1976-97; Edinboro Univ. - defensive line, 1998; strong safeties/outside linebackers, 2000-01; running backs, 1999, 2002 to present
Wife: Evelyn
Children: Jim (35), Jennifer (27)



Mike Hodgson
Quarterbacks
1st Year
Maine '79

Mike Hodgson is the newest member of the Edinboro staff, replacing Scott Weaver as quarterbacks coach in July. Hodgson brings 23 years of experience on the collegiate level with

stops at schools such as Princeton, Maine Maritime Academy and Central Connecticut State.

Most recently Hodgson served as the offensive coordinator while working with the quarterbacks and wide receivers at Central Connecticut State from 2000-2004. Prior to joining the Central Connecticut State staff he was the head coach at Maine Maritime Academy for seven years, from 1994-2000. In his seven seasons at Maine Maritime his teams were ranked in the top 25 by Street & Smith and won New England Football Conference titles in 1994 and 1998. During Hodgson's tenure the Mariners established 70 school, NEFC, ECAC, and NCAA records. The Mariners produced three All-American running backs during that period.

Hodgson arrived at Maine Maritime following a nine-year stint as receivers coach at Princeton University. He served as the passing game coordinator for two seasons and was also the recruiting coordinator for two years. While at Princeton he coached several All-Americans, along with NFL quarterback Jason Garrett. The Tigers won two Ivy League championships during his stay while winning over 60 percent of their games and establishing 29 school records.

A 1979 graduate of the University of Maine with a bachelor's degree in Park and Recreation Management, Hodgson began his coaching career at his alma mater in 1979. He remained a member of the Maine staff from 1979-85, working with the tight ends, offensive line, running backs and receivers. He completed work on his master's degree in Education Administration in 1982.

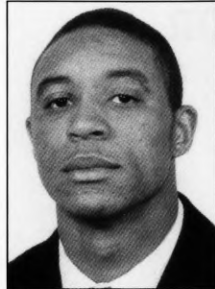
Hodgson was a three-year starter for the Black Bears at tight end and kicker. A native of Newark, DE, he earned All-State honors as a quarterback at St. Mark's High School. He led his team to a perfect 12-0 record and the Delaware State title, earning game MVP honors.

Hodgson and his wife, Raeann, have a son, Kenney (17), and daughter, Cassie (15).



Born: February 22, 1957
Hometown: Newark, DE
College Education: University of Maine, B.S. in Park and Recreation Management - 1979; M.Ed. in Education Administration - 1982
Playing Experience: University of Maine - tight end & kicker - 1975-79
Coaching Experience: University of Maine - tight ends, 1979-80; offensive line & kicking, 1981-83; receivers & recruiting coordinator, 1983-85; Princeton University - receivers, 1985-94; Maine Maritime Academy - head coach, 1994-2000; Central Connecticut State University - offensive coordinator, 2000-04
Wife: Raeann
Children: Kenney (17), Cassie (15)

Assistant Coaches



D.K. McDonald

Defensive Backs
2nd Year
Edinboro '01

Former Edinboro standout D.K. McDonald was appointed a full-time staff member this past spring and is now in his second season on the coaching staff. He takes over as the defensive backs coach.

McDonald was a four-year starter for the Fighting Scots at cornerback from 1997-2000, earning first team All-PSAC West honors as a junior when he finished with 29 tackles and a team-high 11 passes broken up. He finished his career with 108 tackles, 4 interceptions and 34 passes broken up, leading the team in the final category in all but his sophomore year. McDonald played for Tepper as a senior.

A 2001 graduate of Edinboro with a bachelor's degree in History, McDonald has also been an area representative for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is extremely active in the Erie area as a speaker.

An outstanding student, McDonald was a four-year Edinboro Scholar-Athlete. He also served as the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Edinboro. The native of Orrville, OH resides in Erie.

Born: August 28, 1974
Hometown: Orrville, OH
College Education: Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, B.A. in History - 2001
Playing Experience: Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, cornerback - 1997-2000
Coaching Experience: Edinboro University - defensive backs, 2003 to present



Ray Gilman

Tight Ends
3rd Year
Lock Haven '66

Ray Gilman is in his third season as an assistant coach for the Fighting Scots. He takes over as the tight ends coach this season after previously instructing the strong safeties. In addition, Gilman will oversee the equipment operations.

Gilman has plenty of experience on the high school level, including serving as the head coach for the Allegheny-Clarion Valley High School team in 2000 and 2001, after beginning there as an assistant coach in 1997. The team is in a co-op with Cranberry High School, and participated in the Class AAA District IV Playoffs four of the five seasons.

Gilman previously had stints as an assistant coach at Northern High School in Dillsburg, PA and Pittsburgh North Catholic High School. He also served as the head coach at Finley (Pa.) Junior High School, where one of the players on his team was Joe Montana.

In the summer of 2001, Gilman guided the Pennsylvania All-Stars to the gold medal in the Down Under Bowl in Australia.

A 1966 graduate of Lock Haven State College with a bachelor of science degree in Health & Physical Education, Gilman resides in Hilliards, PA with his wife, Kay. His son, Chris, a transfer from Lock Haven, is in his third year as a Fighting Scot defensive back.



Tom Parry

Wide Receivers
3rd Year
Slippery Rock '64

Tom Parry is in his third season as a member of the Edinboro football staff, coaching the wide receivers.

Parry has been a head football coach on the high school level for 17 years and an assistant coach at the collegiate level for 15 seasons. He coached the quarterbacks and receivers at Mercyhurst from 1995-2001.

Prior to joining the Mercyhurst staff, Parry was the passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Iona College from 1992-95. He also served on the collegiate level in 1979-80 at Cortland State, from 1977-79 as the defensive coordinator at St. Lawrence University, and got his start as a student assistant at his alma mater, Slippery Rock State, in '63-64.

Parry served as an assistant coach at Academy High School in Erie in 1965-66. He served as the head coach at Tech Memorial High School from 1967-69, and was also the head coach at Bishop Ludden(NY) High School and Mount Vernon(NY) High School.

A 1964 graduate of Slippery Rock State University with a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education, Parry later completed work on his master's degree in Educational Administration from St. Lawrence in 1979. He played one season at Edinboro then completed his career at Slippery Rock.

Parry resides in Erie and has one daughter, Jillian (19), a sophomore at the University of Maryland.



Dan Holland

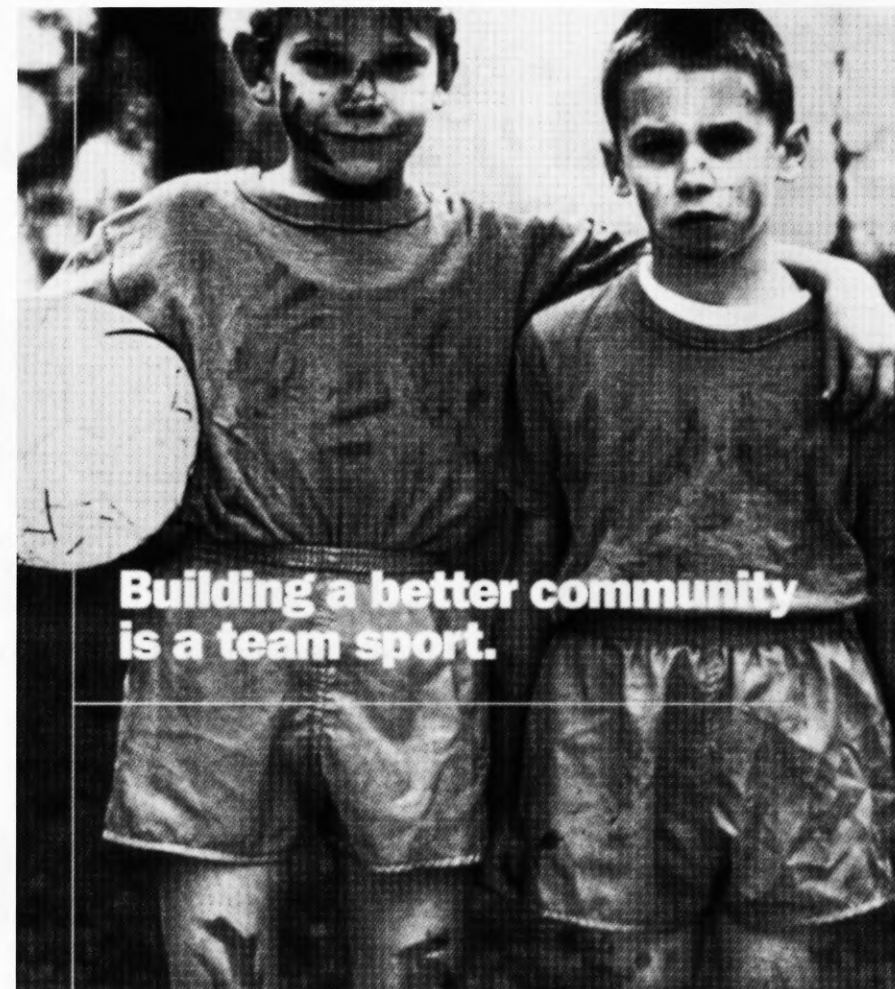
Strong Safeties/Drop Linebackers
1st Year
Edinboro '01

Dan Holland enters his first season as a member of the Edinboro coaching staff but is well-known in western Pennsylvania. All told he has 14 years experience on the high school level, serving as the head coach at Saegertown High School from 2001-03 in addition to stints as an assistant coach at McDowell High School and General McLane High School. He will coach the strong safeties and drop linebackers.

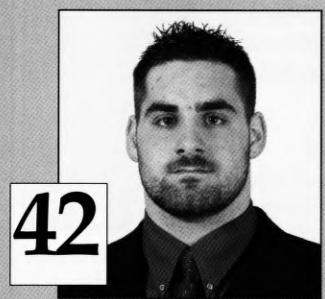
Holland led Saegertown to the 2002 French Creek Valley Athletic Conference championship, as the Panthers finished with a 9-1 record. He was recognized as the 2002 FCVAC Coach of the Year and was also named the PIAA District 10 Coach of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Football Coaches Association. He posted a 19-10 record in three seasons as head coach, resurrecting a program which had gone just 1-17 the previous two years.

Holland began his coaching career as an assistant at General McLane in 1990, leading his 1993 junior varsity squad to a 7-1 record. He moved on to the McDowell school system in 1994, working for three seasons as the head coach at J.S. Wilson Middle School before joining coach Jon Cacchione's varsity staff in 1997. The 1997 edition of the Trojans advanced to the PIAA Class AAAA western finals. While serving on the McDowell staff for four seasons, Holland worked with the offensive and defensive lines, tight ends and special teams.

A 2001 graduate of Edinboro with a bachelor's degree in Specialized Studies, Holland resides in Meadville with his wife, Brenda, a 1996 graduate of Edinboro University with a bachelor's degree in Education.



2004 Fighting Scots



42

Chris Amico DT
So. Webster, NY
6'0" 250 lbs.



23

Chris Avery CB
Jr. Berea, OH
5'9" 179 lbs.



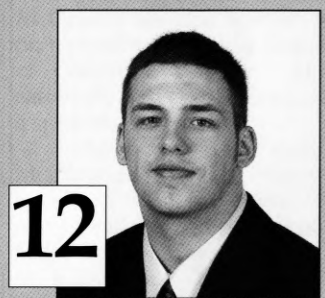
55

Brandon Banas ILB
Sr. Buffalo, NY
6'1" 219 lbs.



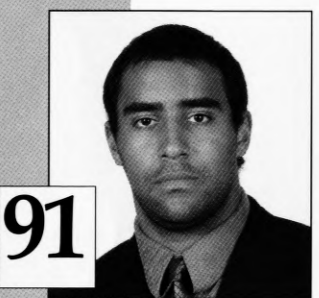
19

Matt Barley P
Sr. Springville, NY
5'11" 199 lbs.



12

Justin Bouch QB
Jr. Brackenridge, PA
6'3" 200 lbs.



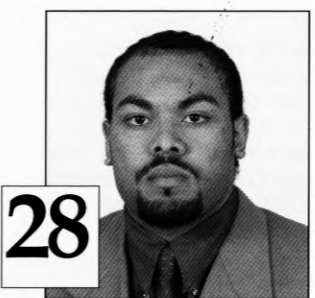
91

Ed Brown TE
Sr. North Springfield, PA
6'4" 255 lbs.



6

Lincoln Bufalino TB
Sr. Edinboro, PA
5'8" 192 lbs.



28

Andre Burke TB
Jr. Wilkinsburg, PA
5'10" 205 lbs.

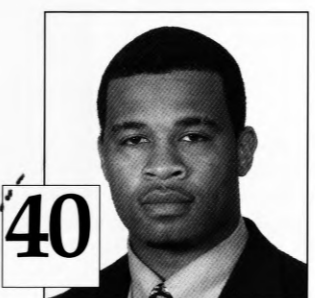


Ed Brown



37

Regis Burns SS
Jr. Jefferson, OH
6'0" 209 lbs.



40

Robert Burns OLB
Sr. Delray Beach, FL
6'0" 218 lbs.



78

Greg Bzorek OT
Jr. Saxonburg, PA
6'6" 318 lbs.



74

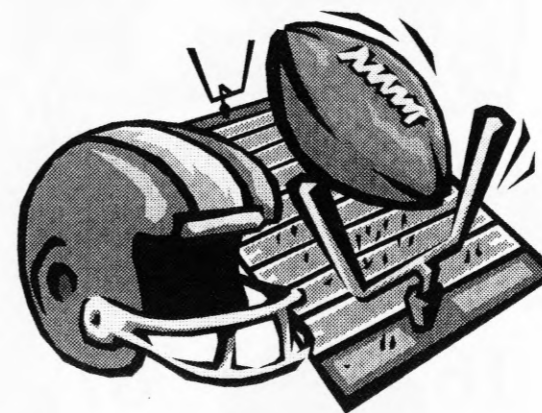
Ron Bzorek OG
Sr. Saxonburg, PA
6'4" 305 lbs.

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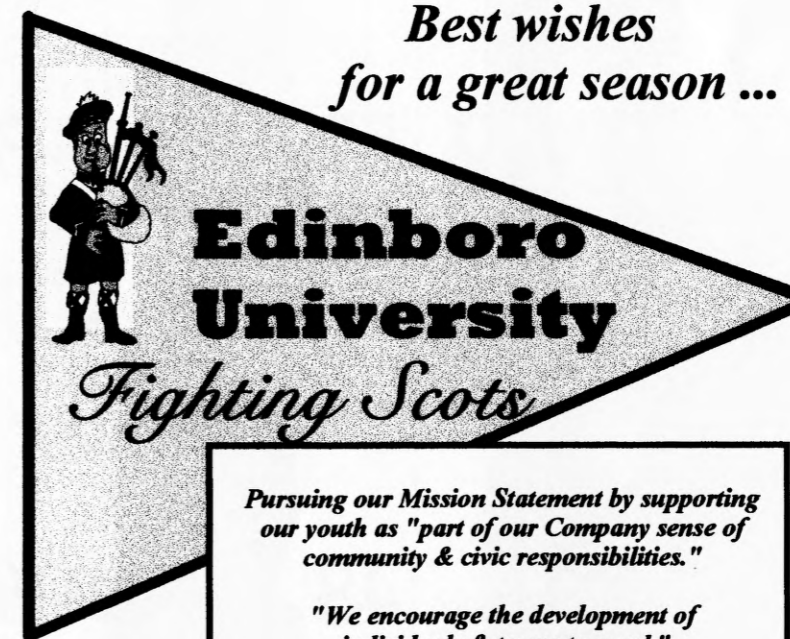
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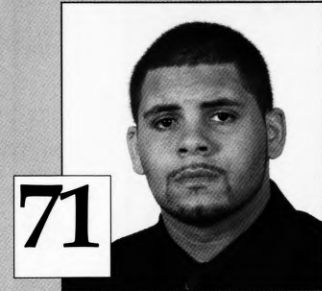
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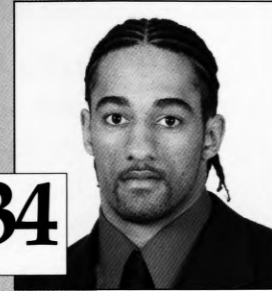
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2004 Fighting Scots



71

A.J. Cousins NG
So. Chillicothe, OH
6'1" 270 lbs.



34

Mike Craddock FS
Fr.-r Warren, PA
6'0" 191 lbs.



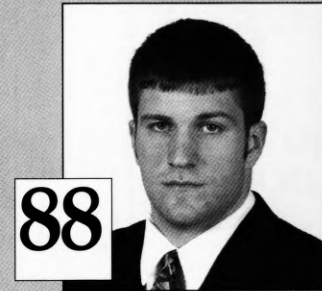
25

Tom Davidson FS
Fr.-r Geneva, OH
6'1" 184 lbs.



83

Jeff Dinger WR
Jr. Conneaut, OH
6'5" 191 lbs.



88

Nate Eimer TE
Jr. Oswego, IL
6'2" 224 lbs.



7

Raji El-Amin FS
So. Rochester, NY
5'10" 170 lbs.



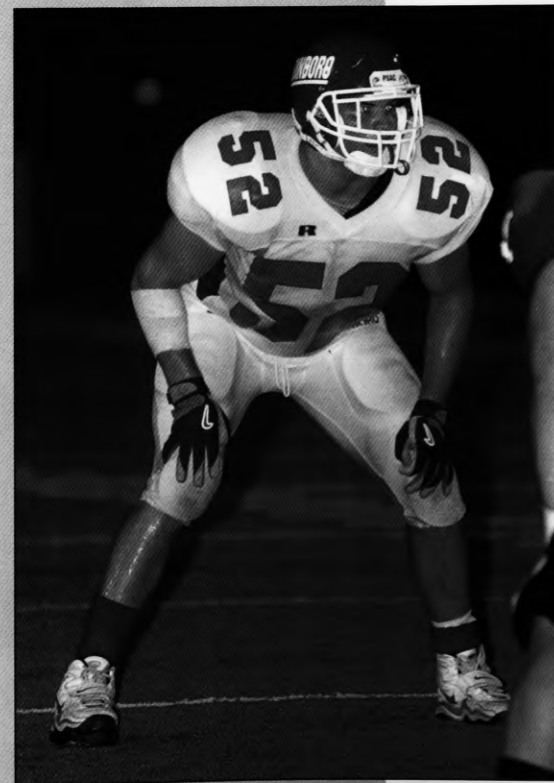
16

Marshall Ellison WR
Fr.-r Pittsburgh, PA
5'11" 182 lbs.

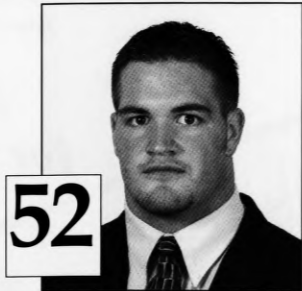


87

Aaron Fetty WR
So. Franklin, PA
6'5" 210 lbs.



Seth Fragale



52

Seth Fragale OLB
Jr. Emporium, PA
6'2" 217 lbs.



32

Chris Gilman CB
Sr. Hilliards, PA
5'9" 174 lbs.



48

Syl Hanner ILB
Fr.-r Pittsburgh, PA
5'11" 206 lbs.



60

Ben Harris LS
Fr.-r Lock Haven, PA
6'3" 242 lbs.



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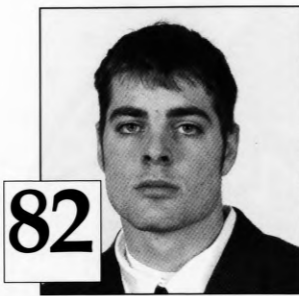
9

Brandon Hunt QB
So. Hornell, NY
6'7" 221 lbs.



10

Dave Jazenski ILB
So. Erie, PA
5'11" 224 lbs.



82

Joe Jowly LS
Sr. Wilson, NY
6'2" 200 lbs.



69

Chris Kaczor C
So. Brook Park, OH
6'2" 302 lbs.



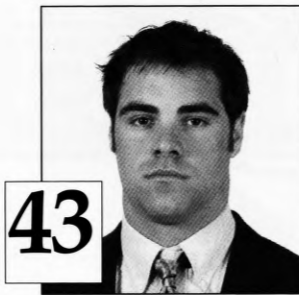
3

Tom LaVerde CB
So. Lincolnton, NC
6'1" 191 lbs.



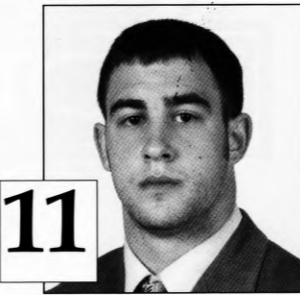
5

Justin Lipscomb WR
Jr. Roaming Shores, OH
6'0" 190 lbs.



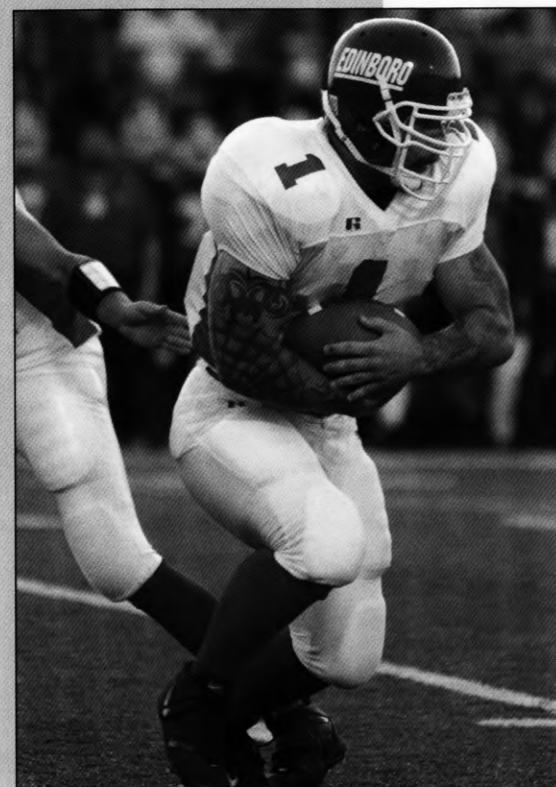
43

Greg MacAnn DE
Jr. Rochester, NY
6'4" 228 lbs.

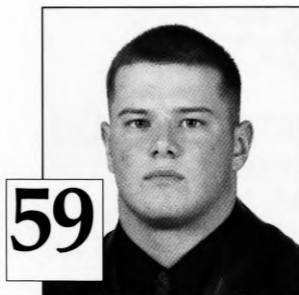


11

Mike Mader SS
Fr.-r Lyndhurst, OH
5'10" 183 lbs.

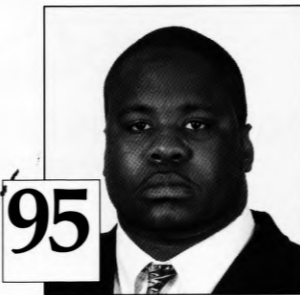


Matt Phillips



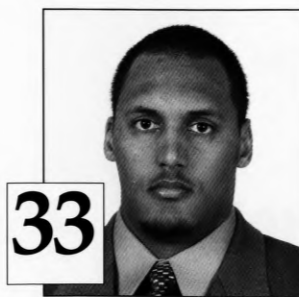
59

Joe Malizia OLB
Fr.-r Emporium, PA
6'2" 211 lbs.



95

Eric Neavins DT
Sr. Erie, PA
6'4" 305 lbs.



33

Justin Olney FB
Fr.-r Canal Winchester, OH
5'11" 228 lbs.



75

Jason Oman OT
Sr. Sharpsville, PA
6'4" 345 lbs.



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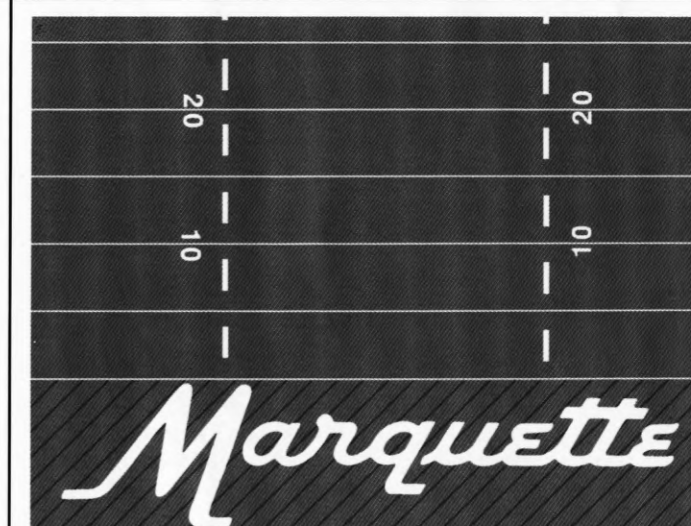
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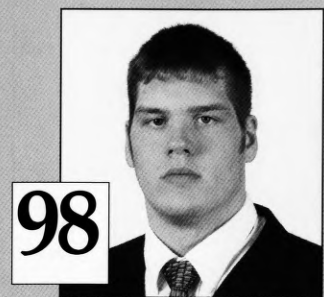
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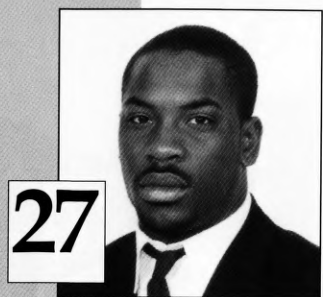
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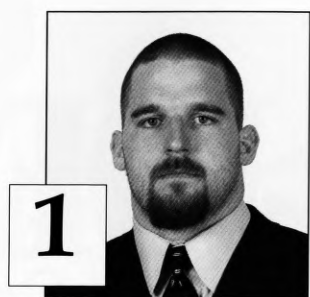
2004 Fighting Scots



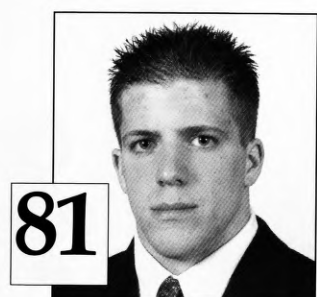
98
Josh Otto OLB
 Fr.-r Middleburg Hts., OH
 6'4" 225 lbs.



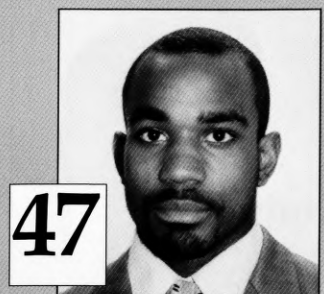
27
Elliott Page CB
 Sr. Clairton, PA
 5'9" 180 lbs.



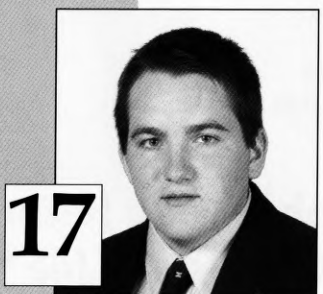
1
Matt Phillips FB
 Sr. Monaca, PA
 6'1" 251 lbs.



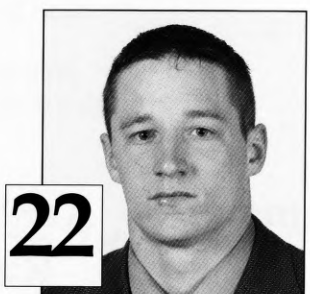
81
Bob Reiter WR
 Fr.-r Cheswick, PA
 5'11" 191 lbs.



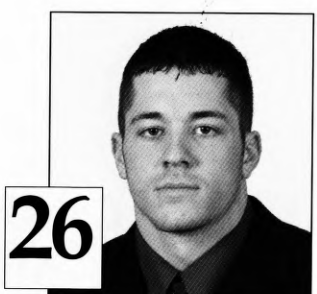
47
Steve Renfro DE
 Fr.-r Pittsburgh, PA
 6'3" 220 lbs.



17
Kody Robertson PK/P
 So. Columbus, OH
 5'10" 210 lbs.



22
Jim Soltis OLB
 So. Garrettsville, OH
 6'2" 184 lbs.



26
Ben Stroup ILB
 So. London, OH
 6'1" 205 lbs.



65
Anthony Sufra OT
 Jr. Rochester, NY
 6'2" 282 lbs.



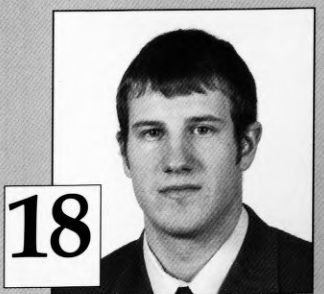
64
Anthony Tedesco OG
 So. Meadville, PA
 6'3" 272 lbs.



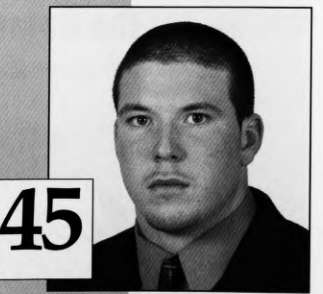
86
C.J. Trivisonno TE
 Sr. Kirtland, OH
 6'4" 246 lbs.



21
Jermaine Truax CB
 Sr. Horseheads, NY
 5'10" 180 lbs.



18
Ryan Valasek WR
 So. Natrona Heights, PA
 5'9" 165 lbs.



45
Dylan Wessell ILB
 Sr. Rome, OH
 6'2" 220 lbs.



4
Bobby Woods WR
 So. Brackenridge, PA
 6'4" 195 lbs.



76
Andy Young OG
 Fr.-r Greenville, PA
 6'4" 302 lbs.



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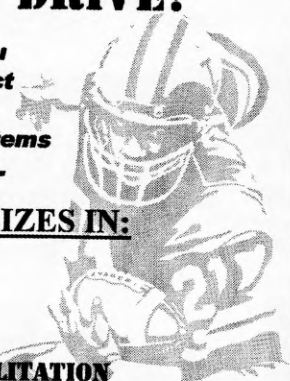
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2	Donnye Aiken	CB	5-9	155	Fr.
42	Chris Amico	DT	6-0	250	So.
29	Pat Aretz	CB	5-9	170	Jr.
23	Chris Avery	CB	5-9	175	Jr.
55	Brandon Banas	ILB	6-1	219	Sr.
19	Matt Barley	P	5-11	199	Sr.
44	Tyrone Berrie	WR	6-2	174	Fr.
12	Justin Bouch	QB	6-3	200	Jr.
91	Ed Brown	TE	6-4	255	Sr.
6	Lincoln Bufalino	TB	5-8	192	Sr.
39	Paul Burger	ILB	6-0	231	Fr.
28	Andre Burke	TB	5-10	205	Jr.
37	Regis Burns	SS	6-0	209	Jr.
40	Robert Burns	OLB	6-0	218	Sr.
78	Greg Bzorek	OT	6-6	318	Jr.
72	Josh Bzorek	OT	6-4	244	Fr.
74	Ron Bzorek	OG	6-4	305	Sr.
92	Njeya Chafah	NG	5-10	256	Jr.
57	Scott Christie	OG	6-4	292	Fr.
20	Tommy Clanton	TB	5-9	178	Fr.
68	Eric Costello	C	6-3	289	Fr.
71	A.J. Cousins	NG	6-1	270	So.
34	Mike Cradduck	FS	6-0	191	Fr.
62	Jim Curtin	OG	6-0	292	Fr.
25	Tom Davidson	FS	6-1	184	Fr.
31	Ulysee Davis	TB	5-9	187	Fr.
46	Billy Dick	FB	5-10	218	Fr.
83	Jeff Dinger	WR	6-5	191	Jr.
96	David Dix	DE	6-3	222	Fr.
88	Nate Eimer	TE	6-2	224	Jr.
7	Raji El-Amin	FS	5-10	170	So.
16	Marshall Ellison	WR	5-11	182	Fr.
49	James English	WR	6-2	187	Fr.
97	Mike Enoch	DE	6-3	240	Fr.
87	Aaron Fetty	WR	6-5	210	So.
36	Cody Fink	OLB	6-1	186	Fr.
52	Seth Fragale	OLB	6-2	217	Jr.
89	Joe Gable	TE	6-2	235	Fr.
32	Chris Gilman	CB	5-9	174	Sr.
38	Chris Grettler	SS	5-11	198	Fr.
48	Syl Hanner	ILB	5-11	206	Fr.
60	Ben Harris	LS	6-3	242	Fr.
93	Mike Heasley	NG	6-2	230	Fr.
8	Josh Hinkle	QB	6-1	181	Fr.
9	Brandon Hunt	QB	6-7	221	So.
30	Tim Hyde	SS	5-11	200	Jr.
10	Dave Jazenski	ILB	5-11	224	So.
82	Joe Jowly	LS	6-2	200	Sr.
69	Chris Kaczor	C	6-2	302	So.
3	Tom LaVerde	CB	6-1	191	So.
5	Justin Lipscomb	WR	6-0	190	Jr.
67	Vince Lutman	OG	6-2	310	Fr.
43	Greg MacAnn	DE	6-4	228	Jr.
11	Mike Mader	SS	5-10	183	Fr.
79	Matt Maisner	OG	6-4	293	Fr.
59	Joe Malizia	OLB	6-2	211	Fr.
50	Tom Malizia	ILB	6-1	193	Fr.
94	Donnie Marsteller	DT	6-4	215	Fr.
85	Ian McWilliams	TE	6-2	245	Fr.
35	Nate Moss	ILB	6-1	224	Fr.
13	Tristan Mulcahy	PK	6-1	172	Fr.
95	Eric Neavins	DT	6-4	305	Sr.
33	Justin Olney	FB	5-11	228	Fr.
75	Jason Oman	OT	6-4	345	Sr.
98	Josh Otto	OLB	6-4	225	Fr.
27	Elliott Page	CB	5-9	180	Sr.
1	Matt Phillips	FB	6-1	251	Sr.
81	Bob Reiter	WR	5-11	191	Fr.
47	Steve Renfro	DE	6-3	220	Fr.
17	Kody Robertson	PK/P	5-10	210	So.
14	Ryan Rybicki	WR	6-2	221	Fr.
24	Bobby Sargent	TB	5-7	170	Fr.
63	Justin Seagraves	OG	6-5	315	Fr.
77	Brian Shreve	OT	6-4	315	Fr.
73	LaMont Singleton	OG	6-4	345	Jr.
56	Chad Smith	OL	6-1	260	Fr.
22	Jim Soltis	OLB	6-2	184	So.
26	Ben Stroup	ILB	6-1	205	So.
65	Anthony Sufra	OT	6-2	282	Jr.
64	Anthony Tedesco	OG	6-3	272	So.
86	C.J. Trivisonno	TE	6-4	246	Fr.
21	Jermaine Truax	CB	5-10	180	Sr.
41	Jameel Tucker	FS	5-10	172	So.
18	Ryan Valasek	WR	5-9	165	So.
80	LaVaughn Wesley	WR	5-11	153	Fr.
45	Dylan Wessell	ILB	6-2	220	Sr.
84	Kyle Witucki	TE	6-3	249	Fr.
4	Bobby Woods	WR	6-4	195	So.
76	Andy Young	OG	6-4	302	Fr.



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EDINBORO OFFENSE

X	87	Aaron Fetty (6-5, 210, So.)
LT	75	Jason Oman (6-4, 345, Sr.)
LG	76	Andy Young (6-4, 302, Fr.-r)
C	69	Chris Kaczor (6-2, 302, So.)
RG	74	Ron Bzorek (6-4, 305, Sr.)
RT	78	Greg Bzorek (6-6, 318, Jr.)
TE	86	C.J. Trivisonno (6-4, 246, Sr.)
Z	18	Ryan Valasek (5-9, 165, So.)
H	5	Justin Lipscomb (6-0, 190, Jr.)
QB	12	Justin Bouch (6-3, 200, Jr.)
FB	1	Matt Phillips (6-1, 251, Sr.)
TB	28	Andre Burke (5-10, 205, Jr.)
PK	17	Kody Robertson (5-10, 210, So.)

EAST STROUDSBURG DEFENSE

LE	78	Greg Thoman (6-2, 240, So.)
LT	53	Andrew Marsteller (6-3, 225, Jr.)
RT	97	Mike Motsko (6-5, 265, Jr.)
RE	76	Zach Toomey (6-3, 230, Fr.)
LB	35	Matt Rapa (6-2, 220, Sr.)
LB	52	Henry Breckenridger (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LB	48	John Vetter (6-0, 220, So.)
LB	12	John Glenn (6-3, 121, Sr.)
CB	2	Tyree Townes (5-8, 175, Jr.)
CB	39	Michael Wiggins (6-0, 175, So.)
FS	31	Matt Crispell (6-2, 205, Jr.)
P	4	Ken Parrish (6-1, 204, So.)

The FIGHTING SCOTS numerical roster

1	Matt Phillips	...FB	21	Jermaine Truax	...CB	40	Robert Burns	...OLB	63	Justin Seagraves	...OG	83	Jeff Dinger	...WR
3	Tom LaVerde	...CB	22	Jim Soltis	...OLB	41	Jameel Tucker	...FS	64	Anthony Tedesco	...OG	84	Kyle Witucki	...TE
4	Bobby Woods	...WR	23	Chris Avery	...CB	42	Chris Amico	...DT	65	Anthony Sufra	...OT	85	Ian McWilliams	...TE
5	Justin Lipscomb	...WR	24	Bobby Sargent	...TB	43	Greg MacAnn	...DE	67	Vince Lutman	...OG	86	C.J. Trivisonno	...TE
6	Lincoln Bufalino	...TB	25	Tom Davidson	...FS	44	Tyrone Berrie	...WR	68	Eric Costello	...C	87	Aaron Fetty	...WR
7	Raji El-Amin	...FS	26	Ben Stroup	...ILB	45	Dylan Wessell	...ILB	69	Chris Kaczor	...C	88	Nate Eimer	...TE
8	Josh Hinkle	...QB	27	Elliott Page	...CB	46	Billy Dick	...FB	71	A.J. Cousins	...NG	89	Joe Gable	...TE
9	Brandon Hunt	...QB	29	Pat Aretz	...CB	47	Steve Renfro	...DE	72	Josh Bzorek	...OT	91	Ed Brown	...TE
10	Dave Jazenski	...ILB	30	Tim Hyde	...SS	48	Syl Hanner	...ILB	73	LaMont Singleton	...OG	92	Njieya Chafeh	...NG
11	Mike Mader	...SS	31	Ulysee Davis	...TB	49	James English	...WR	74	Ron Bzorek	...OG	93	Mike Heasley	...NG
12	Justin Bouch	...QB	32	Chris Gilman	...CB	50	Tom Malizia	...ILB	75	Jason Oman	...OT	94	Donnie Marsteller	...DT
13	Tristan Mulcahy	...PK	33	Justin Olney	...FB	52	Seth Fragale	...OLB	76	Andy Young	...OG	95	Eric Neavins	...DT
14	Ryan Rybicki	...WR	34	Mike Craddock	...FS	55	Brandon Banas	...ILB	77	Brian Shreve	...OT	96	David Dix	...DE
16	Marshall Ellison	...WR	35	Hardin Moss	...ILB	56	Chad Smith	...OL	78	Greg Bzorek	...OT	97	Mike Enoch	...OLB
17	Kody Robertson	...P/PK	36	Cody Fink	...OLB	57	Scott Christie	...OT	79	Matt Maisner	...OG	98	Josh Otto	...OLB
18	Ryan Valasek	...WR	37	Regis Burns	...SS	59	Joe Malizia	...OLB	80	LaVaughn Wesley	...WR			
19	Matt Barley	...P	38	Chris Grettler	...SS	60	Ben Harris	...LS	81	Bob Reiter	...WR			
20	Tommy Clanton	...TB	39	Paul Burger	...ILB	62	Jim Curtin	...OG	82	Joe Jowly	...LS			

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SET FOR BATTLE

Matt Leinart & the USC Trojans Are Ready For Another Championship Run

2004 Season Previews
 Sylvester Croom Takes Huge Step

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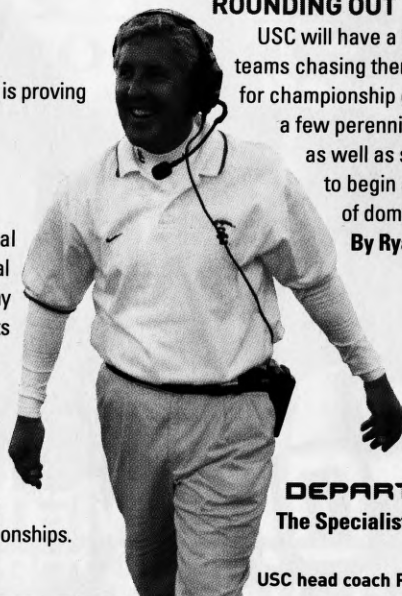
With a blazing offense that includes Utah transfer and expected leader Brett Elliott, the Linfield Wildcats are ready to roar.

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DIVISION I-A PREVIEW: ROUNDING OUT THE TOP 10

USC will have a number of teams chasing them in the hunt for championship glory, including a few perennial contenders as well as some looking to begin a new era of dominance.

By Ryan Mattos



DEPARTMENTS

The Specialists: *Iron Man*

USC head coach Pete Carroll

KEEP AN EYE ON...

Game: Florida State at Miami; September 6 at Orange Bowl Stadium
Last Meeting: Miami 22, Florida State 14 (10/11/03 at Florida State)
Breakdown: This intrastate rivalry has always captured the country's attention. However, it now takes on a whole new meaning with Miami joining the Florida State in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Both the Hurricanes and the Seminoles possess talented senior quarterbacks in Brock Berlin and Chris Rix, respectively. However, the match-up to watch is how effective Miami star cornerback Antrel Rolle is at containing Florida State wide receiver Craphonso Thorpe. This showdown between the two favorites in the ACC will give an early indication of how the conference race should shape up.

Game: Maryland at West Virginia; September 18 at Mountaineer Field
Last Meeting: Maryland 34, West Virginia 7 (9/20/03 at Maryland)
Breakdown: Two of the game's quickest playmakers will be on opposite sides of the field, as West Virginia quarterback Rasheed Marshall and Maryland wide receiver/returner Steve Suter will give the defenses fits all day long. Suter, who runs a 4.35 in the 40-yard dash, headed into the season with six career punt returns for touchdowns, one short of an NCAA record. Marshall is only 0.01 seconds off Suter's pace and uses his speed to create more opportunities for his offense, especially when getting the football downfield to wide receiver Chris Henry, who averaged an amazing 24.5 yards per catch in 2003.

Game: Wofford at Georgia Southern; September 18 at Allen E. Paulson Stadium
Last Meeting: Wofford 20, Georgia Southern 14 (9/20/03 at Wofford)
Breakdown: The Wofford Terriers have ruled the Southern Conference for the past two seasons, posting a combined 21-5 overall record (14-2 SoCon mark). Well, the Georgia Southern Eagles are ready to soar now behind the running prowess of running back Jermaine Austin, the 2003 SoCon Offensive Player of the Year, who gained 1,461 as a sophomore. Wofford is more than capable of countering, with running back Kevious Johnson, last season's Freshman of the Year in the conference, pacing the Terriers' potent option offense.

TOUCHDOWN ILLUSTRATED

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CLASSICS WITH A TWIST



TOMMY HILFIGER

BREAKING BARRIERS

Mississippi State's historic hiring of Sylvester Croom as head coach is not only turning heads, but turning the football program in the right direction **BY TODD KELLY**

Sylvester Croom and Mississippi State carved a place in college football history last December when the school hired him as the first African-American head football coach in Southeastern Conference annals.

An All-America center in 1974 under Paul "Bear" Bryant at Alabama and later a Crimson Tide assistant coach, Croom spent the past 17 seasons as an assistant in the NFL. His professional experience included a trip to Super Bowl XXIX with the San Diego Chargers in '95, a stint as Detroit Lions offensive coordinator from 1997-2000 and running backs coach for the Green Bay Packers the past three seasons.

Croom, who turns 50 on Sept. 25, was a finalist for the head coaching position at Alabama in the spring of 2003. He inherits a Bulldog program that finished last in the SEC West in each of the past three seasons under former coach Jackie Sherrill.

The native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., spoke with *Touchdown Illustrated* about his time at Alabama and in the NFL, the significance of his hiring and how he can help Mississippi State get back to its winning ways.

TOUCHDOWN ILLUSTRATED: What stands out most, 30 years later, about your playing days at Alabama?

SYLVESTER CROOM: That 1973 season is still probably the most enjoyable one I've had in football. It had probably the highest and lowest points of my playing career. That was my first year at center and

I lost my starting job after I played poorly in the first game at Kentucky. I was able to bounce back and regain the starting job when we went down to Florida [four weeks later].

The bond we had on that team, the closeness we had, the confidence in each other, the confidence we had in our coaching staff—it was just special. We lost one of the greatest games of college football to Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl. In my mind, I'm still waiting to go back on that field one more time with that ball and drive it down the field and win the ballgame.

TDI: Talk about your reflections as an assistant coach in the NFL and specifically the past three years in Green Bay?

SC: Those were my best three years in the pros, without question. I had five good years out in San Diego. That was a lot of fun, but the Packers organization, the town, the fans, Lambeau Field, the Ice Bowl, the tradition—all of that is special. It's alive. You can feel it when you're there. It's unlike anywhere else in pro football, probably all of football. The former players are still heroes in the town.

They are still a very active part of what's happening in Green Bay right now.

TDI: What about the significance of your hiring as the first black head football coach in the SEC?

SC: Minority coaches feel that one of the few remaining barriers is down now. The thing I have found that's been very positive to me is the reception from Mississippi State alumni and fans. They're happy that myself, and the staff, chose to come to Mississippi State. That means more to me than anything else.

TDI: Is there any lingering disappointment over not getting the job at Alabama?

SC: There are no hard feelings about it. The thing I try to explain to people is that I believe there are no coincidences in life. I really believe that if that job was meant for me—regardless of the circumstances or how much I wanted it at that time or thought I should have gotten it—I have total confidence that I'm where I should be right now. I'm at peace with that. I'm happy about that. I'm excited about the challenge we have at State and I'm committed to trying to achieve our goals here.

TDI: How would you summarize your coaching philosophy?

SC: It's one I learned in college from Coach Bryant and on through [the NFL] from guys like Bobby Ross. We don't beat ourselves. We out-hit the opposition. We're in the best shape

CONTINUED

Sylvester Croom was already familiar with the SEC from his days as an All-America center under Paul "Bear" Bryant at his alma mater, Alabama.

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THE CROOM FILE

Name: Sylvester Croom

Born: Sept. 25, 1954

High School: Tuscaloosa [Ala.] HS

College: Alabama '75

Master's Degree: Alabama '77

Wife: Jeri

Child: Jennifer

Coaching Career:

- Outside Linebackers, Alabama, 1977-81
- Inside Linebackers, Alabama, 1982-83
- Outside Linebackers, Alabama, 1984-86
- Running Backs, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 1987-90
- Running Backs, Indianapolis Colts, 1991
- Running Backs, San Diego Chargers, 1992-96
- Offensive Coordinator, Detroit Lions, 1997-2000
- Running Backs, Green Bay Packers, 2001-03
- Head Coach, Mississippi State, 2004-present

Career Head Coaching Record: First Season

BREAKING BARRIERS CONTINUED

WHO TO WATCH?
QB Omarr Connor

COURTESY MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Omarr Connor is one of the most celebrated high school quarterbacks to emerge from Mississippi in recent years.

Although Connor spent last season as a backup wide receiver, first-year Mississippi State head coach Sylvester Croom saw enough during spring practice to validate the buzz he'd heard during his first few months on the job. Junior Kyle York—who was limited during spring because of offseason shoulder surgery—and sophomore Aries Nelson could be in the mix this fall, but it's Connor who's slated to start fall practice atop the depth chart.

"The thing I like about Omarr, first of all, is his competitive spirit," Croom said. "I thought he showed some mental toughness because there was a point during spring when he was not doing well at all. He had a horrendous practice one day. He came back the next day and had his best practice. That, more than anything else, gave me encouragement.

"The thing I'm pleased with is that if you tell him what to do, he'll go work on his own. Omarr has the athleticism and the instincts. If we can get a little more discipline in certain things without restricting his ability to create, he can be a positive player for us." —TK



COURTESY MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Croom, who has assisted at Alabama and in the NFL, looks forward to guiding the Mississippi State program back in the right direction and is confident in his and his staff's plan in meeting that challenge.

possible. We finish everything we do. We never quit. It's just that simple.

TDI: You're taking over a program that's just 8-27 over the past three seasons. What about the challenge of this rebuilding job?

SC: The first thing we've got to do is forget about the 8-27, get our attitudes right and decide that what we do now and in the days ahead is going to determine what's going to happen to us in the future. What's happened in the past has no bearing on how many games we're going to win now. It's our choice. We have to make a conscious decision.

We've got a plan in place. Our coaches, our players and everybody who is associated with the program has got to decide that we're going to do the things it takes to make the plan work. If we do that, in time we'll win.

TDI: What's your perception of the Egg Bowl rivalry between Mississippi State and Ole Miss?

SC: It's one of the great rivalries in college football. I've been involved in one with Auburn and Alabama. I've been involved in some at the pro level with the Chargers and the Chiefs, the Chargers and the Raiders, the Packers and the Bears. Those games are highlighted on everybody's schedule. That's what makes football special.

There are games you absolutely must win in order to have any piece of mind. The Ole Miss game is one of them. I'm sure it's that way for them [too]. If you don't win it, no matter what else you do, it's going to leave a bad taste in your mouth for 365 days.

TDI: Considering your December arrival, playoff coaching obligations with the Packers, Mississippi State's recent struggles and the black cloud of an NCAA investigation of the school's football program, how did recruiting go last winter?

SC: As you mentioned, it was less than ideal circumstances. But under the circumstances, I thought we did a good job. We got character people, players who will be able to stay in the program, hopefully for the entire four or five years, and hopefully, at some point, develop into good football players.

What we were really trying to establish as much as anything else is a class that will build a solid foundation for the future. I think we did that.

TDI: Can you elaborate on the reaction you've received from Mississippi State fans as well as people in the state who aren't affiliated with the school?

SC: It's truly hard to describe because I really didn't know what to expect. Coming into a situation as a new coach is one thing. Being the first African-American head coach in the SEC is another. Being a first-time head coach is [yet] another deal. It has been an unbelievably warm reception.

I do know this: The Mississippi State people are, without question, totally behind the program. We haven't played a game yet, but they're real supportive of what we're trying to do as a coaching staff. ■

Todd Kelly covers Mississippi State football for the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Miss.

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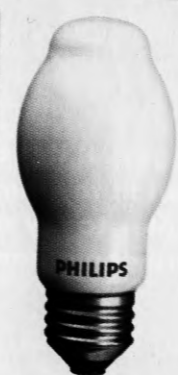
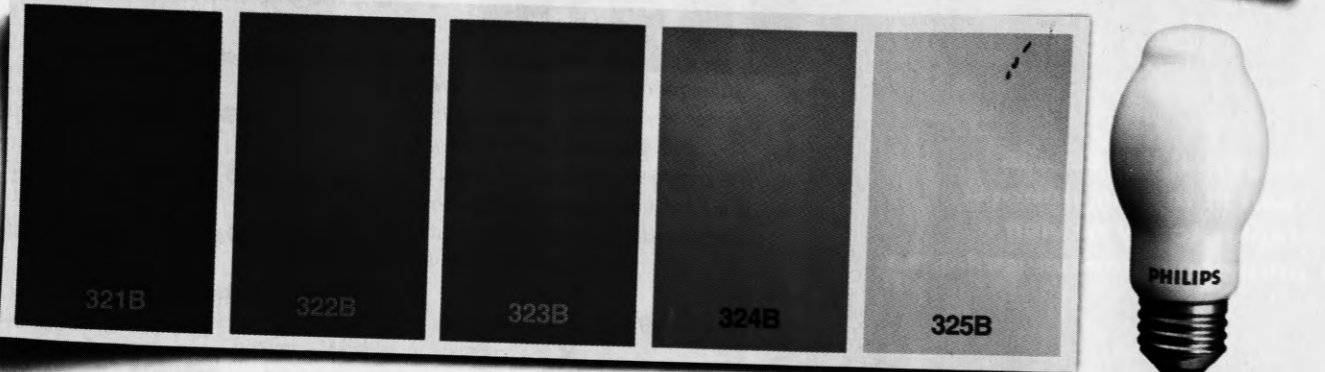
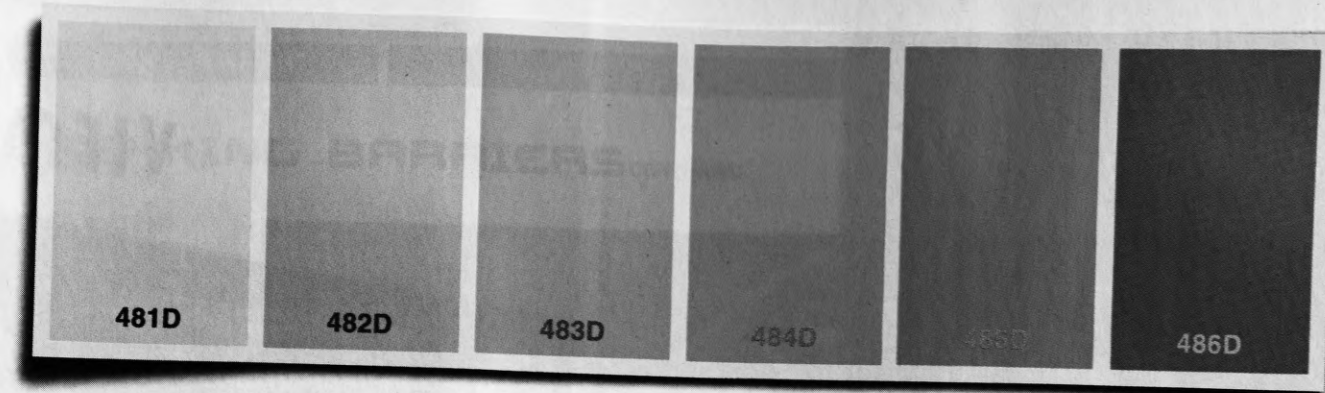


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DIVISION I-AA PREVIEW

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Northern Arizona's Jason Murrietta is proving to be the big gun in the Big Sky **BY KEVIN NEWELL**

THE TOP 10
(last season's record in parentheses)

1. Southern Illinois (10-2 last season)
All-America safety Alexis Moreland headlines 10 returning starters on the Saluki defense.

2. Wofford (12-2)
The Terriers return 17 starters, including super sophomore RB Kevious Johnson.



Wofford running back Kevious Johnson

3. Georgia Southern (7-4)
Head coach Mike Sewak's Eagles' will soar, ironically on the ground, once again this season.

4. Delaware (15-1)
You can't discount K.C. Keeler's defending champs, especially after outscoring their four playoff opponents 149-23 en route to the national title.

5. Colgate (15-1)
The Raiders return 12 starters from their national runner-up squad, including Walter Payton Award winning RB Jamaal Branch.

6. Montana (9-4)
WR/KR Levander Segars and TE Willie Warden are head coach Bobby Hauck's top weapons on a talented squad.

7. Pennsylvania (10-0)
The Quakers are the class of the Ivy League, led by RB Sam Matthews (1,266 yards, 10 TDs) and WR Dan Castles (71 rec., 1,067 yards, 13 TDs).

8. Massachusetts (10-3)
The Minutemen are a young squad but possess a menacing defense and a hungry first-year head coach in Don Brown.

9. Northern Iowa (10-3)
Fourth-year starting quarterback Tom Petrie is the pulse of the Panther offensive attack.

10. Northern Arizona (9-4)
Despite an inexperienced offense, QB Jason Murrietta will keep the Lumberjacks in contention. —KN

Jason Murrietta's life changed on Aug. 30, 2003. The true freshman quarterback entered Northern Arizona's season-opener against St. Mary's (Calif.) for ineffective senior starter Guy Tomcheck at 10:38 of the second quarter.

Murrietta proceeded to lead NAU on a 12-play, 73-yard scoring drive on the Lumberjacks' second possession. His presence resulted in 44 unanswered points, as NAU scored a 44-3 rout. Murrietta finished 16-for-21 for 287 yards and three touchdowns.

A star was born. Murrietta went on to lead NAU to a 9-4 record, highlighted by a Big Sky Conference championship and an upset of No. 1 seed McNeese State in the first round of the Division I-AA playoffs.

For the season, Murrietta completed 243-of-412 passes for 3,472 yards and 29 touchdowns, breaking I-AA and school records for touchdown passes by a freshman (NCAA: 25 by Marcus Brady, Cal State-Northridge, 1998; NAU: 24 by John Bond, 1990). The native of Glendale, Ariz., also set school records for passing yards and total offense (3,460 yards).

Due to his scintillating frosh campaign, Murrietta was named Big Sky Conference Offensive Player of the Year, and he finished seventh in the Walter Payton Award voting, given to the season's top Division I-AA player.

"All I was hoping for was to put the team in a position to win," said Murrietta, following spring practice. "I wasn't expecting to throw all those touchdowns and everything else. It was just a matter of contributing to a senior dominated team."

"I exceeded my expectations last year. But, I always strive to do better than the year before. That's just my mental outlook on how to play the game and succeed."

Murrietta said he reached his comfort level in the second game of the season—his first start—at Arizona State, which was ranked 16th in the nation at the time. He finished 21-of-35 for 292 yards and two touchdowns.

"Ever since then I've had the confidence to know that if I could compete with a Pac-10 school, and put up big numbers against them, then I could go to the Big Sky and do the same thing," Murrietta said.

Ironically, Murrietta didn't play quarterback until his sophomore year at Ironwood High School, when he started for the varsity team. During his freshman year, he played fullback, tight end and defensive end.

Before his senior season, he attended football camps at Washington, Arizona State, Arizona and Northwestern. He also learned by watching a lot of football and trying to ascertain how the position of quarterback was played and what he needed to do in order to be successful.



As a freshman in 2003, Jason Murrietta earned Big Sky Conference Offensive Player of the Year honors and finished seventh in the Walter Payton Award voting.

A cerebral quarterback with a big arm, Murrietta patterns his game after his idol, John Elway. Like the former Denver Broncos signal-caller, he is constantly striving for perfection. That's his goal for 2004.

"I need to improve my athleticism—to get a little more mobile and make some things happen outside the pocket," said Murrietta, who stands 6-2, 205 pounds. "I did that very well last year, but I want to start running the ball more. My best asset is probably anticipation. I have a good feel for where everyone is and where they are going to be. I have a good understanding of the game."

A quarterback is only as good as his supporting cast. That said, Murrietta faces a daunting task this season, as he is only one of three returning offensive starters, joining senior running back Roger Robinson and sophomore right tackle Jake Sanders. NAU returns seven starters on defense.

So Murrietta will have to adjust to life without his two primary receiving targets from a season ago: Clarence Moore, who was drafted in the sixth round by the Baltimore Ravens, and Johnny Marshall.

Nonetheless, as long as Murrietta is behind center, the Lumberjacks' offense will be in good hands. ■

Kevin Newell is the senior editor for *Scholastic Coach & Athletic Director* magazine in New York City.

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SAINT PETE

In less than four years, head coach Pete Carroll has turned USC, once again, into a perennial national power

This is the way USC athletic director Mike Garrett says things went down in late December 2000: In searching for a new football coach to replace Paul Hackett, Garrett first showed interest in Mike Riley before (under growing pessimism from fans that he could make the right call) offering the position to Dennis Erickson. And when the latter turned him down, Garrett insists, it was a happy day.

Reason: He could then go after Pete Carroll.

Fired a year earlier by the New England Patriots, Carroll accepted the job and began rebuilding USC's once-proud tradition. His roots were sunny California. His daughter attended the university.

A perfect fit?

Three years later, USC shared the national championship.

"Coach Carroll brought the glory back to this program," said junior quarterback Matt Leinart. "I would have never expected [a national championship] to happen so quickly. But we were the best team in the nation [last season] and it all starts with Coach Carroll."

Garrett speaks often about how Carroll restored the magic at USC, specifically, in recruiting. The Trojans immediately went after the nation's best players and, just as quickly, began signing them.

A popular reason why is Carroll's demeanor of a coach who will often play quarterback on the scout team and return punts during practice. Players usually refer to him as a friend and father, the type of closeness that has rubbed off on prep stars seeking a stable collegiate fit.

How do you really know how critical Carroll, 53, has been to the rebirth of USC football? The Trojans no longer rebuild.

They reload.

—EG

BY ED GRANEY

Call it *Scary Movie IV*. USC head coach Pete Carroll has this goal. His intention is to one day field a two-deep made up of strictly high school All-Americans, perhaps an outrageous objective in a time when recruits are concerned first, last and foremost about immediate playing time.

But how, mind you, can one question USC's football future?

"We feel like we're just getting started here," said Carroll. "It's still the early part of building for us. We still have a lot to get done and a lot of players to do it with."

Last January, the Trojans again stood atop the college football world, and there wasn't a Bowl Championship Series computer in sight fast enough to rival their entertaining and suffocating skill.

Sure, USC split the national championship with LSU, but only because coaches are contractually obligated to vote for the BCS winner as champion.

"I think it's safe to say," said Carroll, "that we did all we needed to do."

Carroll's team—which won the program's ninth national title and first in a quarter-century—entered the bowl season ranked No. 1 in both Top 25 polls, and its 28-14 handling of Michigan in the Rose Bowl did little to discourage such a vigorous endorsement.

CONTINUED

TOUCHDOWN ILLUSTRATED

PHOTOS COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SIMPLY THE BEST CONTINUED

But that's the thing about reaching the pinnacle of one's sport. It's often tougher to stay there. Few national champions of recent memory, however, have followed a dream season owning as much ability as USC will this fall. The Trojans enter their 2004 schedule having won 21 of their past 22 games and are 10-0 in November under Carroll. They are No. 1 until proven otherwise, and it might take a colossal effort from someone to do so.

Speed can make such a devastating difference, and it is the reason Carroll needed just three seasons to restore USC's program to this level of prominence and dominance. It also helped make a first-year starter in sopho-

more quarterback Matt Leinart the Rose Bowl MVP. Carson Palmer might have won the Heisman Trophy directing Norm Chow's offensive scheme, but it was the left-hander Leinart who used it to deliver USC its championship. He returns having thrown for 3,556 yards with 38 touchdowns and just nine interceptions last year, compiling a school record for pass efficiency rating (164.5).

Said Leinart, himself now a leading Heisman candidate, "Coach Chow is the greatest offensive coordinator in the history of college football." Added Carroll, "[Leinart] far exceeded our hopes by assuming control of the position immediately and playing like a veteran. He's a smart quarterback."

It also helps when the plays you call are being executed by superior athletes, a major reason USC has authored games of 11 straight 30-point outings and seven consecutive of 40 or more during Carroll's tenure.

A trio of running backs—junior Hershel Dennis and sophomores LenDale White and Reggie Bush—combined for 1,906 yards and 20 scores last season. Each rushed for at least 500 yards during the championship run. And get this: There was no dissension about sharing carries.

Not yet, anyway.

"Maybe as the years roll on, there will be more heard about, 'Hey, I want my carries,'" said Chow, who spent time in the offseason with the St. Louis Rams' coaching staff seeking ways to use a multitasking player like Bush more in the mold of Marshall Faulk. "We want to try and use two [tailbacks] more at the same time this season. But what is always conscious is our effort to make sure we have the best 11 guys on the field."

In that respect, questions will also be asked of the USC track team, sophomore Reggie Bush's quickness helped him set the school's freshman all-purpose yards record (1,331).



WHAT A CATCH!

The Trojans will be looking for some first-year receivers, headed by freshman Fred Davis, to step up and perform big this season

USC's football program entered the summer with this message for former wide receiver Mike Williams:

We're here to help.

It might not be that easy.

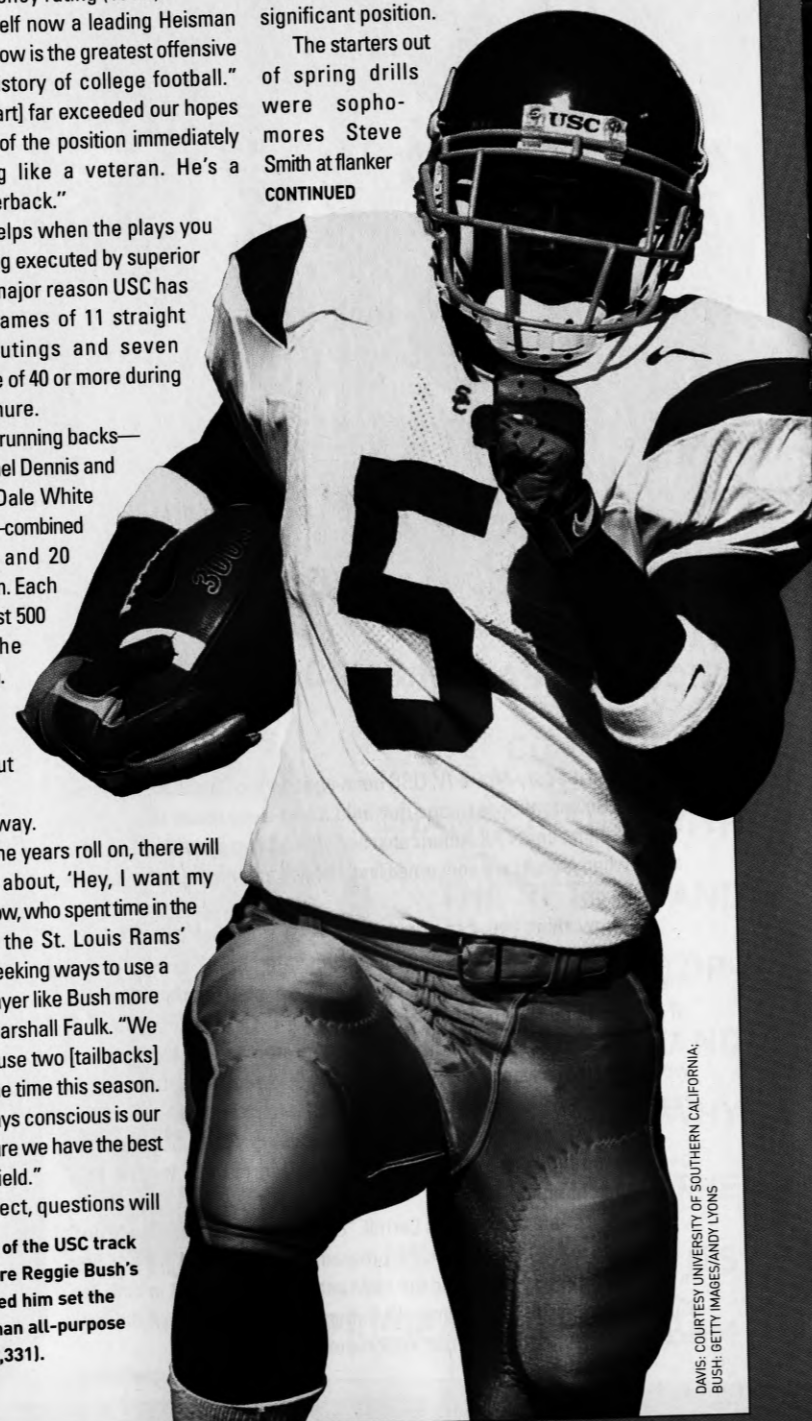
The player who was so spectacular during last year's national championship run before leaving after his sophomore season was, following a series of legal tactics, ruled ineligible by the U.S. Supreme Court for the NFL Draft.

So as Williams awaited his fate (after hiring an agent and forsaking classes) the Trojans moved forward, publicly stating they will do whatever is necessary to get Williams back in school should the NCAA rule favorably on an appeal. Think in terms of a gigantic long shot.

Several names will compete to replace many of the numbers compiled by Williams and Keary Colbert over the past few seasons, none more promising than freshman Fred Davis.

The 6-4, 215-pounder from Ohio enrolled at USC in January so he could participate in spring drills. As a senior at Rogers High in Toledo, Davis accounted for more than 500 yards receiving, 600 yards rushing, 100-plus tackles, four interceptions and 12 touchdowns while playing receiver, tailback, quarterback and safety.

"It will be fun to see who steps up at receiver and [Davis] is obviously one of those guys who can," said head coach Pete Carroll. "We lost two of the greatest receivers in school history in [Williams and Colbert]. It will be a challenge to replace them. But it will be fun to watch the young guys." —EG



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SIMPLY THE BEST CONTINUED

and Whitney Lewis at split end, but three of the nation's top wideout recruits (including a spectacular prospect in Fred Davis from Ohio) suggest the Trojans

hardly lack ability. Experience maybe, but not skill.

And now, for those who block: Chow is most concerned about the players who will be entrusted with opening holes, affording Leinart time to throw, and protecting his blindside.

With the suspension of right tackle and All-American candidate Winston Justice, USC

Shaun Cody

ended spring drills with just two linemen (sophomore Fred Matua and senior John Drake) who ever started a game. Gone are 10 years of starting experience, including three from All-American tackle Jacob Rogers.

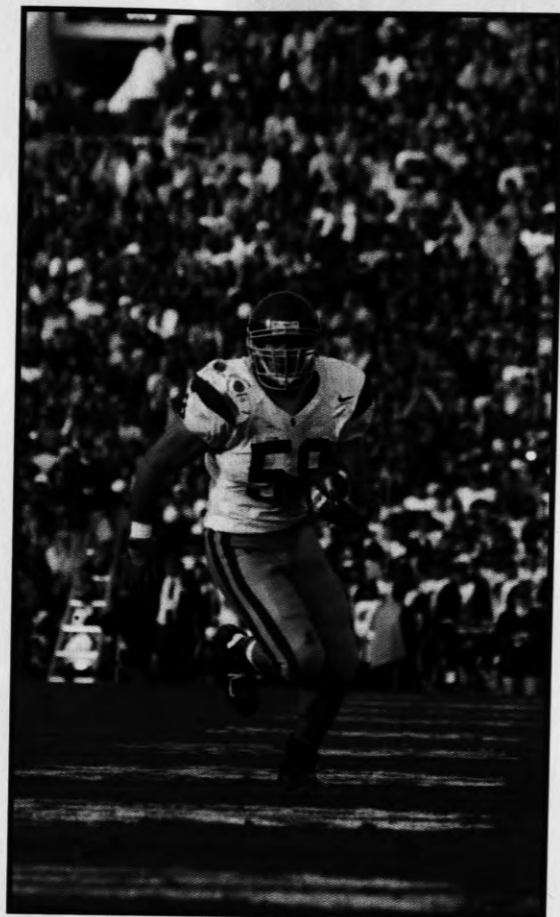
"There is huge turnover there," said Chow. "Everyone thinks the new guys can just step in and we won't miss anything. It doesn't happen that way in college football. We have to temper our excitement until we make sure that offensive line is in place and can perform."

There is little question the offense will be afforded much opportunity to mature under fire, given how USC's defense might again dominate. Six starters return on that side, including All-America candidates in linemen Shaun Cody and Mike Patterson.

A unit that led the nation in rushing defense (60.2 average against) and ranked second in turnover margin (+1.54 per game) also has experienced players in linebackers Matt Grootegoed and Lofa Tatupu as well as safeties Darnell Bing and Jason Leach.

"We'll always attempt to play defense fast and aggressively," said Carroll, who also serves as coordinator on that side. "We'll always look to take away the football."

There is talent everywhere, on and off the field. The punter (junior All-American Tom Malone) averaged 49 yards per attempt last season. The placekicker (Ryan Killeen) connected on 19-of-25 field goal attempts. Eight assistant coaches have been at USC for at least three years, including the



Junior linebacker Lofa Tatupu, shown here returning an interception 26 yards against Michigan in the Rose Bowl, led the Trojans in tackles last season.

PHOTOS: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A DYNAMIC DUO

Seniors Shaun Cody and Mike Patterson are a menacing force on possibly college football's most dominant defensive line

Wild Bunch II is now just Wild Bunch, although the defensive front for USC's football team remains quite formidable.

Kenechi Udeze and Omar Nazel are gone from each end position, but the Trojans still figure to torment opposing offensive fronts with the return of Shaun Cody and Mike Patterson.

"They are the best defensive linemen duo in college football," said head coach Pete Carroll. "They're both really hard to block and are relentless in how they play the game. And they both do anything we ask of them."

USC produced a national-best 55 sacks last year, including a season-high nine against Michigan in the Rose Bowl—this, against a Wolverines team that surrendered just 15 in its previous 12 games.

That kind of pressure should remain constant with USC this year. Cody is a 6-4, 285-pound senior and three-year starter out of Los Altos (Calif.) High who has career numbers of 85 tackles (18.5 for loss) and 11 sacks.

Cody will begin the season at end, but his ability to move inside affords USC even more of an advantage.

For now, sophomore Manuel Wright (who lost 60 pounds and is down to 283) will join Patterson inside. There is also Jeff Schweiger, the nation's top prep defensive end recruit.

How versatile is Cody? He actually arrived on campus having caught 15 touchdown passes and run for 10 more scores as a senior fullback in high school. He tore an ACL as a sophomore with the Trojans, but still managed honorable mention All-Pac 10 honors.

The senior Patterson goes 6-foot, 285 pounds, prepped at Los Alamitos (Calif.) High and has accounted for 101 tackles in three years.

—EG

Mike Patterson

offensive guru Chow and six-year defensive line coach/recruiting coordinator Ed Orgeron. *Scary Movie IV?*

Well, Carroll tells the story each year now, its legend becoming every bit a part of the tradition that defines USC football: It was shortly after he accepted the coaching position in 2000 that he gathered the team late one evening at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

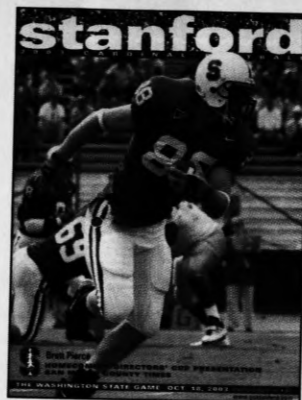
On one side stood 11 offensive players; on the other were 11 from the defense. It began as a tug-of-war between 22 bodies.

"But the defense cheated and other guys jumped in, and then the offensive guys all followed," said Carroll. "The best part was, nobody won. Afterward, we lined up at midfield with our backs to each other as tight as we could.

"We just talked about togetherness, about starting something special as one. That night was about making a commitment to this program, to understand that each individual had to make the same commitment if we were going to go someplace. They knew at that moment something special had begun.

"I would say things have worked out pretty well." Would say so. ■

Ed Graney is a writer for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and a regular contributor to *Touchdown Illustrated*.



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WHATEVER IT TAKES

Whether it's through the offense or defense, Grand Valley State has found a way to win the past two national championships **BY DAMIAN VEGA**

THE TOP 10 (last season's record in parentheses)

1. Grand Valley State (14-1)
The two-time defending champions return a host of talent on both sides of the ball, including quarterback Cullen Finnerty.

2. Central Oklahoma (9-3)
Anthony Boyd (101 tackles) and RB Jarrod Manoy (1,250 yards, 15 TDs) make the Broncos balanced on both sides of the ball.



Central Oklahoma running back Jarrod Manoy

3. North Dakota (12-2)
QB John Bowenkamp to WR William Stattelmann will take the Fighting Sioux very far.

4. Valdosta State (10-2)
QB Barrett Wilkes (3,269 yards, 26 TDs) is one of the most exciting players in the nation, but will be pushed by Florida State transfer Fabian Walker.

5. Catawba (9-2)
A traditionally strong defense surrendered a mere 199 points a season ago. Signal-caller Luke Samples (2,785 yards, 21 TDs) leads the Indians' offense.

6. Texas A&M - Kingsville (11-2)
The offense is stacked. QB Dan Taylor (23 TDs) is a stud, while RB Larry Williams (1,570 yards, 17 TDs) is one of the best around.

7. North Alabama (13-1)
This is a very balanced squad. Several players return on both sides of the ball.

8. Carson Newman (11-2)
The South Atlantic Conference champs bring back J.J. Chatmon (933 yards) and QB Shane Kelley, who had 11 touchdowns on the ground and 12 through the air.

9. Saginaw Valley State (12-1)
Experience on both sides of the ball and a tough conference schedule prepares SVSU for the postseason.

10. Pittsburg State (9-3)
A talented, deep roster should help the Gorillas advance deep into the postseason. —DV

Would it be a stretch to assume Grand Valley State cherry picks all the talent tossed back by Division I powers Michigan and Michigan State?

No. After all, if a highly touted prospect from Michigan is bypassed by the Wolverines or Spartans, what better option is there than the defending two-time Division II national champions from Allendale, Mich.?

Apparently there are other options and, oddly enough, first-year GVSU head coach Chuck Martin couldn't be happier.

"We don't beat Division I schools for kids," Martin said. "Division I is all based on size, and if you're big enough, you'll go play Division I somewhere."

"We basically have Division I players in Division VI bodies, but we're happy most of them are perceived as too small or short because we're more than happy to take them."

That's because they produce unlike any other D-II team in the country.

The Lakers, who have won two consecutive national crowns and appeared in the past three title games, enter the 2004 campaign winners of 47 of their previous 49 games. On the field, the Lakers will look different with the departure of several starters. But it's on the sidelines the most notable change can be seen.

After spending the past five seasons among the defensive staff—including defensive coordinator last year—Martin takes over the reins for Brian Kelly, who decided to make the jump to the Division I level when he accepted the head coaching position at Central Michigan after going 118-35-2 at GVSU.

"I've been saying for years that working here is one of the best jobs in the country," Martin said. "This is a special place and I'm ecstatic to be the head coach. I pinch myself everyday."

With Kelly at the helm two years ago, the Lakers used a high-powered offense to claim the title. Last year, GVSU relied heavily on Martin's swarming defense to get the job done. In the national championship game, they held a powerful North Dakota team to only three points, and held each opponent to under 10 points in the playoffs.

During the regular season, the "D" allowed a mere 64.9 yards per game on the ground, forced 43 turnovers, had a plus-21 turnover margin and scored an average of 13 defensive points per game.

"In 2002, we had 18 starters back and we planned on getting back to the national championship [after reaching it in 2001]," Martin said. "Anything short of that was unacceptable."



After coordinating Adam Hein (left), who amassed 10 sacks last season, and the Laker defense to another national championship, Chuck Martin (above) takes over the head coaching reins in search of a third consecutive title.

"Last year, we had lost 15 starters. The only reason the season worked was because we have a group unbelievably committed to each other. They have grown into the most unselfish group of 18 to 22-year-olds I've come across."

Among that group is quarterback Cullen Finnerty, who threw for 2,764 yards last season, connecting on 230-of-363 passes with 22 touchdowns and six interceptions. His top target, running back Mike Tennessee, also returns. The bruising back had 63 catches for 561 yards in 2003, while also rushing for 1,633 yards and 16 touchdowns.

When Finnerty looks down the field, Micah Staley is usually the person he's looking for. Staley caught 51 balls for 743 yards and 12 touchdowns a season ago.

So, the offense should resemble the 2002 unit once again, and the defense isn't far behind.

Junior DeJaune Boone recorded 87 tackles last season, while teammate Aaron Hein is back with his 39 tackles and 10 sacks.

"We've lost some of the linebacking corps, but we have a lot of guys ready to step in and take over," Martin said. "We have a lot of skill guys and experience coming back."

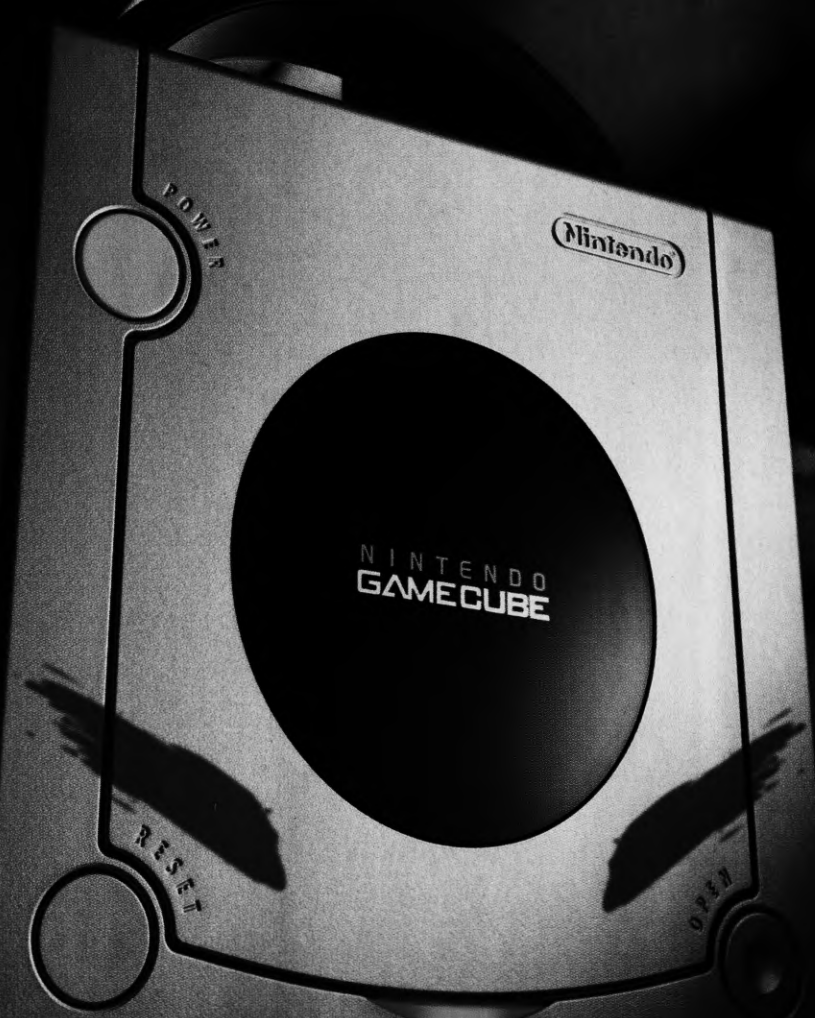
"Because of that, we are going to do what we always do, which is spread the field on offense and make the defense decide what they want to defend," he continued. "On defense, we're designed to stop the run. We're not going to stray from that."

Why should they? ■

Damian Vega is a sportswriter for *MetroWest Daily News* in Framingham, Mass.

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With a blazing offense that includes Utah transfer and expected leader Brett Elliott, the Linfield Wildcats are ready to roar **BY BRETT MAUSER**

THE TOP 10

(last season's record in parentheses)

1. Hampden-Sydney (9-1)
New defensive coordinator Jon Shields (Illinois State) inherits a defense that returns 10 starters, led by James Riley.



Hampden-Sydney defensive lineman James Riley

2. Linfield (11-1)
Utah transfer Brett Elliott has the talent and the weapons to carry the Wildcats all the way.

3. Mount Union (13-1)
QB Zac Bruney led the nation in passing efficiency, but graduation shredded the offensive line.

4. Bridgewater (9-2)
Behind senior RB Marcus Washington, the Eagles will challenge for the ODAC title.

5. Bethel (9-2)
With a running back corps led by Phil Porta, the Royals will be a royal pain to stop.

6. St. John's, Minn. (14-0)
Sophomore Jamie Steffensmeier leads a stalwart defense for the defending champs.

7. UW-La Crosse (10-2)
The Eagles take on arguably the nation's toughest schedule, preparing them for a nice postseason run.

8. Millikin (7-3)
Sophomore RB Nathan Wallick can carry the team to its first playoff win since 1989.

9. Mary Hardin-Baylor (9-1)
Four of five starters return from an offensive line that allowed only eight sacks.

10. Rowan (7-3)
QB Mike Orihel survived his freshman season. Now he and the Profs are primed to take off.

—BM

Linfield College football coach Jay Locey just couldn't do it. It couldn't be done. He couldn't adopt his 2003 team's slogan of "believe" in this instance. Not a chance.

But the rumors swirling around the miniature McMinnville, Ore., college proved true. University of Utah quarterback Brett Elliott had plans to transfer to Linfield. "I think Brett's got some maturity," Locey said, "and golly, he's been in the fire, he's been tested, and he's endured some battles."

Elliott started eight games for the Utes in two seasons, his resumé including a 440-yard, four-touchdown effort at New Mexico in 2002. But last September, his career got sidetracked when his left wrist was broken on the last play of Utah's 28-26 loss at Texas A&M. After rehabbing, Elliott returned to find Alex Smith was keeping the starting job. That left the junior to play the backup role and with a lot to think about.

Elliott, who captured 1999 Oregon Gatorade Player of the Year honors after tossing 32 touchdown passes his senior season at Lake Oswego High, liked the idea of playing closer to home. But more than anything, he needed the game.

"You only get one chance to really play football," Elliott said, "and I didn't really want to miss that opportunity."

At Linfield, he'll have an opportunity to shine. And although the Wildcats graduated quarterback Tyler Matthews, who threw for 3,714 yards and 33 touchdowns in leading Linfield to an 11-1 mark and the Division III national semifinals last season, the outlook is promising with Elliott joining a veteran pack in the huddle.

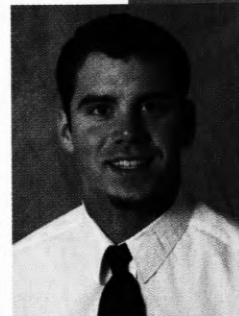
"I think we've got a good group of kids, and, on paper, we've got good things going on," said Locey, also noting the return of four starters on the offensive line and the majority of the team's defense. "Now it's just a matter of doing a good job playing football."

A big advocate for team chemistry, Locey was happy to see Elliott enroll at Linfield last spring. The 22-year-old jumped right in, joining wide receiver George Carter and several other football players on the track and field team.

On the side, Carter got an early taste of what's to come on the gridiron.

"You can tell how strong his arm is," Carter said after two throwing sessions. "He can zip it in there real fast, with perfect timing and everything."

And Elliott walked into a perfect situation. The 'Cats return their top five receivers, including the 6-4 Carter, who caught a team-high 70 passes for 1,117 yards and 11 touchdowns last fall. With speedy Thomas Ford, a 1,100-yard rusher a



The return of Linfield's top five receivers, led by George Carter (above), and depth at running back will give new quarterback Brett Elliott (above left) a plethora of targets to utilize in the Wildcats' offensive attack.

season ago, also back, the Wildcats threaten to pile up points.

"I think this is going to be a really dynamic offense," Elliott said. "I'm really excited about it."

Added Carter, "We've put up a lot of points in years past, and with Brett, we can put up just as many, if not more."

Linfield holds the longest current streak of winning seasons (48), but these Wildcats eagerly seek a national championship that has evaded them thus far.

If, following Matthews' departure, anyone in McMinnville doubted Linfield's chances, the arrival of Elliott has since made believers out of them all.

"We have high expectations here," Elliott added. "Our expectation is to win a national championship. One of the reasons I came here is because everybody expects that." ■

Brett Mauser is a member of the PSP editorial staff.

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DIVISION I-A PREVIEW

ROUNDING OUT THE TOP 10

USC will have a number of teams chasing them in the hunt for championship glory, including a few perennial contenders as well as some looking to begin a new era of dominance **BY RYAN MATTOS**

2. GEORGIA BULLDOGS

2003: 11-3, 6-2 SEC; Beat Purdue, 34-27 (OT), in Capital One Bowl

Head Coach: Mark Richt (4th year: 32-8; Career: 32-8)

Top All-America Candidates:

Jr. FS Thomas Davis; Sr. WR Fred Gibson; Sr. QB David Greene; Sr. DE David Pollack; Jr. MLB Odell Thompson

David is Goliath: Arguably the best signal-caller in the conference, David Greene enters the 2004 campaign coming off an MVP performance (27-of-37, 327 yards, 3 TDs) in last January's Capital One Bowl. What can really give the former SEC Offensive Player of the Year (2002) the time to shine again this season is an experienced front line protecting him, led by tackles



David Pollack

Max Jean-Gilles and Daniel Inman and center Russ Tanner. The unit has gained plenty of game know-how despite being young, comprised of juniors and sophomores.

Go Fetch! Despite suffering through a hamstring injury last season, senior Fred Gibson averaged a team-high 15.4 yards per catch on his 36 receptions. When healthy, Gibson can tear up the turf with his patterns and flat-out speed. Senior Reggie Brown did an excellent job filling in at times as the go-to option, which will make it virtually impossible for defenses to double-team any one of them this season.

Nowhere To Hide: For opposing offenses that is. The Bulldogs' defense can attack from all angles. Senior David Pollack rules the defensive front and may be the best pass rusher in the college game. Also, look for speedy linebacker Odell Thurman and free safety Thomas Davis to disrupt many plays in their campaigns for All-America status.

Key Dates: Oct. 2 vs. LSU; Oct. 30 vs. Florida (in Jacksonville); Nov. 13 at Auburn

3. OKLAHOMA SOONERS

2003: 12-2, 8-0 Big 12; Lost to LSU, 21-14, in Nokia Sugar Bowl

Head Coach: Bob Stoops (6th year: 54-11; Career: 54-11)

Top All-America Candidates: Sr. WR Mark Clayton; Sr. DE Dan Cody; Sr. DT Dusty Dvoracek; Sr. CB/PR Antonio Perkins; Sr. QB Jason White

Twice is Nice: Through the Sooners' 12-0 regular season in 2003, Jason White put up ridiculous numbers. The Heisman Trophy winner entered the Big 12 championship game throwing 40 touchdown passes to only six interceptions. With endless talent surrounding him, as usual, White should be shredding defenses once again and looking to become only the second two-time Heisman winner ever.

Keep Away: That's what opposing teams try to play when punting the ball to Antonio Perkins. The speedy and



Antonio Perkins

dangerous Perkins, who returned three punts into the end zone against UCLA last season, is looking to break the NCAA career punt-return touchdown record. And, when Perkins isn't on special teams, he lines up as a starting cornerback on defense, where he tallied three interceptions and 51 tackles in 2003.

Disruptive Forces: The Sooners' defensive line may have lost All-America defensive tackle Tommie Harris, but have no fear, Dan Cody and Dusty Dvoracek are still here. The dominating duo combined for 33 tackles for loss and 17 sacks last season. Dvoracek may see more double teams this season without Harris lined up next to him, but Cody and Jonathan Jackson should ease that burden.

Key Dates: Oct. 9 vs. Texas (in Dallas); Oct. 16 at Kansas State; Nov. 13 vs. Nebraska

4. LSU TIGERS

2003: 13-1, 7-1 SEC; Beat Oklahoma, 21-14, in Nokia Sugar Bowl

Head Coach: Nick Saban (5th year: 29-13; Career: 82-39-1)

Top All-America Candidates: Jr. WR/KR/PR Skyler Green; Jr. DE Marcus Spears; So. RB Justin Vincent; Sr. CB Corey Webster; Sr. C Ben Wilkerson

Spearheading: Marcus Spears had a monster performance in last January's national championship game, which included a 20-yard interception return for the game-deciding touchdown. The All-SEC performer notched 13 tackles for loss last season, and passed up a chance at the NFL to give his collegiate foes nightmares for another year.



Marcus Spears

Breaking Out: Talk about first impressions! As a freshman last season, Justin Vincent gained more than 1,000 yards on the ground and torched the vaunted Oklahoma defense for 117 yards and a touchdown on only 16 carries in the Sugar Bowl. Vincent should build on that confidence and establish himself as an All-American in 2004.

Positive Switch: Corey Webster was a wide receiver when he first put on a Tigers uniform. Then, before his sophomore year, he was moved to cornerback, and he hasn't looked back since. Webster intercepted seven passes in each of the past two seasons, and culminated LSU's championship run with a First-Team All-America selection. And the guy on the other side of the secondary, Travis Daniels, isn't too shabby either, as he tied for the national lead with 26 pass breakups.

Key Dates: Sept. 18 at Auburn; Oct. 2 at Georgia; Oct. 9 at Florida

CONTINUED

TOUCHDOWN ILLUSTRATED

POLLACK: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; PERKINS: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA; SPEARS: COURTESY LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

ROUNDING OUT THE TOP 10 CONTINUED

5. FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

2003: 10-3, 7-1 ACC; Lost to Miami, 16-14, in FedEx Orange Bowl

Head Coach: Bobby Bowden (29th year; 269-67-4; Career: 342-99-4)

Top All-America Candidates: Sr. T Alex Barron; So. CB Antonio Cromartie; Sr. DE Eric Moore; Sr. QB Chris Rix; Sr. WR Crapponso Thorpe

One-Two Punch: The Seminoles possess one of the most underrated one-two punches in the country in seniors Chris Rix and Crapponso Thorpe. Rix is the school's second-ranked all-time passer with 7,525 yards. Thorpe, who was the ACC sprint champion in track in 2003, has recovered from a broken leg and should once again be torching opposing defenses down the field.



Intact: Florida State's entire offensive line returns in 2004, and the strongest part of this unit is at tackle. Seniors Alex Barron and Ray Willis just may be the nation's top tackle duo. Barron was a consensus All-American last season, and Willis could easily join him this year. Also, center David Castillo is an all-conference performer who can stabilize the middle of any team's defense.

Next in Line: From Deion Sanders to Terrell Buckley to Samari Rolle, the Seminoles have produced a number of great cornerbacks over the years. Well, remember the name Antonio Cromartie. The sophomore was the 2002 *USA Today* high school Defensive Player of the Year and broke out last season with his 71-yard interception return for a touchdown against Duke. Teamed with fellow corner Bryant McFadden, a shutdown corner in his own right, the Seminoles will be a dangerous team to throw against.

Key Dates: Sept. 6 at Miami; Sept. 25 vs. Clemson; Oct. 30 at Maryland

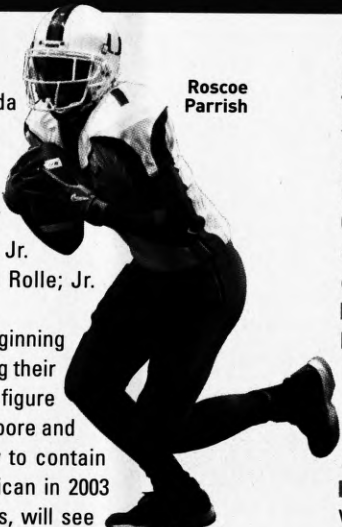
6. MIAMI HURRICANES

2003: 11-2, 6-1 Big East; Beat Florida State, 16-14, in FedEx Orange Bowl

Head Coach: Larry Coker (4th year; 35-3; Career: 35-3)

Top All-America Candidates: Jr. DT Orien Harris; So. WR Ryan Moore; Jr. WR Roscoe Parrish; Sr. CB Antrel Rolle; Jr. T Eric Winston

A New Plan: With the Hurricanes beginning play in the ACC this season, one thing their new conference cohorts will have to figure out is how to stop receivers Ryan Moore and Roscoe Parrish...well, at least how to contain them. Moore, a Freshman All-American in 2003 who led the team in receiving yards, will see



plenty of the football as Parrish's speed naturally spreads out opposing defenses down field.

The Pipeline: The one area of defense that never runs dry for Miami is on the front line. Year after year, the Hurricanes churn out All-American after All-American. And this season won't be any different with tackles Orien Harris and Santonio Thomas plugging up the middle. Each monster stands 6-4 and weighs more than 300 pounds. They effectively stop the run and contain opponents' offensive lines enough to open plenty of sack opportunities for their fellow linemates.

Mr. Versatility: Eric Winston came to Miami as a tight end. After one season, he was moved to left tackle and instantly became the starter. Not only that, he earned First-Team All-Big East honors in 2003. Winston's athleticism is such that he could probably start anywhere along the front line and achieve the same honors. But a second consecutive season at left tackle should pull in All-American status.

Key Dates: Sept. 6 vs. Florida State; Nov. 6 vs. Clemson; Dec. 4 vs. Virginia Tech

7. MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

2003: 10-3, 7-1 Big Ten; Lost to USC, 28-14, in Rose Bowl presented by Citi

Head Coach: Lloyd Carr (10th year; 86-29; Career: 86-29)

Top All-America Candidates: Sr. WR Braylon Edwards; Sr. CB Marlon Jackson; Jr. LB Pierre Woods; Jr. S Ernest Shazor; Jr. LB Lawrence Reid

Edwards Sure Hands: If a football is thrown Braylon Edwards' way, he is most sure to catch it. Edwards, looking to become the first Big Ten receiver in history to amass three 1,000-yard seasons, leads an outstanding group as pass catchers. While defenses will tend to focus on Edwards, look for junior Jason Avant and speedy sophomore Steve Breaston to take full advantage and pad the stat sheets under their names.

Plenty of Protection: Even with the defensive line being

filled with question marks, linebackers Lawrence Reid and Pierre Woods, the Wolverines' top two tacklers a season ago, are always around to pick up the slack. Reid paced the defensive attack with 82 tackles, and Woods, a converted defensive end, led the squad in tackles for loss and sacks. Speaking of converting, look for former safety Prescott Burgess to make an impact with the linebacking corps.

Where He Belongs: After a one-year stint at safety, Marlon Jackson is once again lining up at cornerback after going through a 2003 season marred by injuries. Jackson was an All-American at this position two years ago and should have no problem returning to the form that made him one of the best in the game.

Key Dates: Sept. 25 vs. Iowa; Oct. 9 vs. Minnesota; Nov. 20 at Ohio State



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Close CALLS

By Michael Bradley

Every championship season features great talent, determination and inspired coaching. It also has that one game, that one close shave, which stands out as a thrilling near-miss. Here are three such games from three title winners.

1969: Texas 15, Arkansas 14

How big was this one? Well, President Nixon traveled to rainy Fayetteville to watch top-ranked Texas take on No. 2 Arkansas. When Arkansas' quarterback Bill Montgomery hit Chuck Dicus with a 29-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter, Arkansas had a 14-0 lead and looked comfortable. But back came Texas. Quarterback James Street ripped off a 42-yard scoring run, and Texas converted the two-point play to trim the gap to 14-8. With 7:58 to play, Texas faced a fourth-and-three from its own 43. Instead of trying the run--Texas led the nation on the ground with their vaunted wishbone--Street surprised Arkansas by hitting tight end Randy Peschel with a razor-sharp 44-yard pass. Two plays later, Jim Bertelsen scored on a two-yard run. Happy Feller's extra-point conversion made it 15-14, and Tom Campbell's late interception preserved the win. Less than a month later, on New Year's Day, Texas upended Notre Dame, 21-17, to finish a perfect 11-0 and take the national title.


1975: Oklahoma 28, Missouri 27

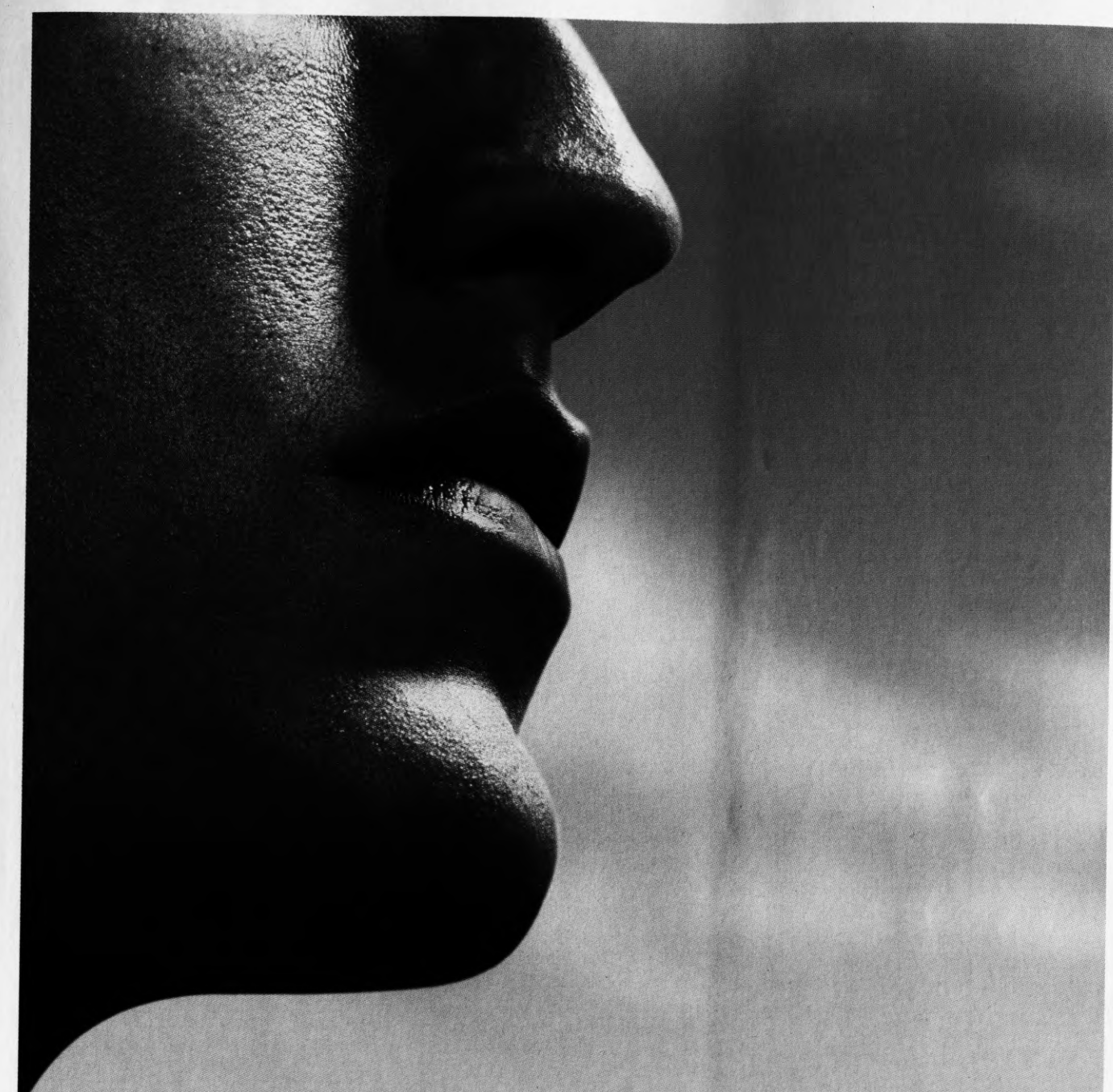
Oklahoma had won the national championship in 1974 and were top-ranked heading into November the following year, before stumbling against Kansas. But there was still time for Oklahoma to revitalize and hope for a number-one ranking, if OU could beat Missouri and Nebraska to finish the season. Everybody expected the meeting with Nebraska to be a doozy, but the game against Mizzou was as close as a blade can get to your face. Although Oklahoma bolted to a 20-0 lead, thanks to the use of an unbalanced line formation that confounded the Missouri, Missouri barreled back with four straight touchdowns. Although Mizzou kicker Tim Gibbons missed the extra point following the fourth score, things still looked good for them, leading 27-20. Then

came the lightning. OU halfback Joe Washington took a pitch from Steve Davis and cut through Missouri for a 71-yard touchdown run with 4:20 to play. Washington then ran over Missouri's Kenny Downing for the two-point conversion, giving Oklahoma a 28-27 win. A week later, Oklahoma routed Nebraska, 35-10. On Jan. 1, the OU disposed of Michigan, 14-6, in their Bowl Game to earn their second straight national crown.

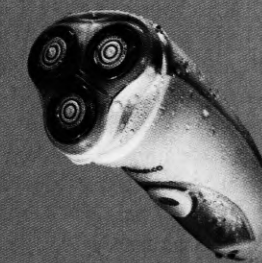
1997: Michigan 28, Iowa 24

It had been a dream until this point. Dismissed by some as mediocre and expected to struggle in the conference, much less compete for national laurels, Michigan entertained Iowa with a perfect 5-0 mark and hopes of greatness. By halftime, all of that was in jeopardy. Iowa held a 21-7 lead and looked poised to cut down Michigan. But Michigan wasn't about to quit. Michigan tied the game in the third quarter on a 10-yard scoring pass from Brian Griese to Russell Shaw and a one-yard sneak by Griese. Iowa answered back with a Zach Bromert field goal that made it 24-21 and set up a dramatic fourth-quarter comeback. With time winding down, Griese drove Michigan down the field and then calmly hit tight end Jerame Tuman with a two-yard pass in the end zone. When Sam Sword intercepted an Iowa aerial in the final minute, Michigan had a whisker-close 28-24 win and a still-perfect record. Nearly two months later, Michigan concluded their magical season by gliding into the Bowl Game and whipping Washington State to capture a national championship.

Season after season, championship teams face these rough obstacles at least once. These three games are just an example of how dramatic and satisfying a close shave can be. 



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ROUNDING OUT THE TOP 10 CONTINUED

8. UTAH UTES

2003: 10-2, 6-1 Mountain West; Beat Southern Miss, 17-0, in AutoZone Liberty Bowl

Head Coach: Urban Meyer (2nd year: 10-2; Career: 27-8)

Top All-America Candidates: Jr. DT Steve Fifta; Sr. FS Morgan Scalley; Jr. QB Alex Smith; Sr. WR Paris Warren; So. CB Eric Weddle

Another Pipp? Much like Lou Gehrig did for Wally Pipp, quarterback Alex Smith stepped in for injured starter Brett Elliott in the third week of the 2003 season and was so impressive that, consequently, Elliott didn't see any playing time the rest of the year. Smith now enters 2004 as the top signal-caller in the Mountain West and Elliott has since transferred to D-III Linfield College.

Don't Forget Paris: The Utes were blessed last



Morgan Scalley

season with the arrival of wide receiver Paris Warren. The transfer from Oregon came to Utah and immediately became the No. 1 target in the passing attack. And, after a school-record 76-catch season, Warren is now the top receiving threat in the conference. Also, the depth at the wide receiver position is not to be overlooked, as Travis LaTendresse and Steve Savoy continue to make big plays.

Shut Them Down: The Utah defense comes into 2004 having shut out their final two opponents of 2003 (BYU and Southern Miss). Coordinator Kyle Whittingham is looking to ride the momentum of his bend-but-don't-break defense into this season, and he has the horses to do so. The defensive line has tough nose guard Steve Fifta clogging up the middle, while the secondary is strong and talented with Eric Weddle and Morgan Scalley leading the way.

Key Dates: Oct. 2 at New Mexico; Oct. 30 at San Diego State; Nov. 20 vs. BYU

9. CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

2003: 8-6, 5-3 Pac-10; Beat Virginia Tech, 52-49, in Insight Bowl

Head Coach: Jeff Tedford (3rd year: 15-11; Career: 15-11)

Top All-America Candidates: Sr. DT Lorenzo Alexander; Sr. LB Wendell Hunter; Sr. WR Geoff McArthur; Jr. ROV Donnie McCleskey; Jr. QB Aaron Rodgers

Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood: It didn't take long for Aaron Rodgers to master Jeff Tedford's offense. Despite not starting until the fifth game of the 2003 season, Rodgers completed 62 percent of his passes for 2,903 yards and 19 touchdown tosses, while only throwing five interceptions. Most impressive were his Insight Bowl totals (27-of-35, 394 yards, four touchdowns) against a stout Virginia Tech defense.

General McArthur: Senior Geoff McArthur is the Golden

Bears' leader in the receiving unit. And, after posting 85 catches for 1,504 yards in 2003, there's no doubt that he is. At his pace, McArthur should own the Cal career records for receptions and receiving yards by the middle of the season. However, with defenses focusing on McArthur, look for 2002's leading pass catcher, Jonathan Makonnen, to step up and regain his old form after an injury-plagued 2003 season.

All Rover: Donnie McCleskey defines the rover position on the defensive unit. No matter where the football is on opposing teams' offenses, McCleskey won't be too far away from it. The ball-hawking defender registered an amazing 102 tackles last season and could easily surpass that total in 2004.

Key Dates: Oct. 2 at Oregon State; Oct. 9 at USC; Nov. 6 vs. Oregon



Donnie McCleskey

10. WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

2003: 8-5, 6-1 Big East; Lost to Maryland, 41-7, in Gator Bowl

Head Coach: Rich Rodriguez (4th year: 20-17; Career: 65-53-2)

Top All-America Candidates: Sr. T Tim Brown; Sr. TB Kay-Jay Harris; Jr. WR Chris Henry; Sr. LB Adam Lehnort; Sr. QB Rasheed Marshall

Marshall Law: Quarterback Rasheed Marshall makes the Mountaineer offense go. The fourth-year starter is not only one of the fastest signal-callers in the nation, clocking 4.36 seconds in the 40 during spring drills, but is also pretty adept in the passing attack. His main target is deep threat Chris Henry, who gained 1,006 yards and scored 10 touchdowns on only 41 receptions in 2003.



Kay-Jay Harris

Secret to Success: While West Virginia has a plethora of skill players, it's the experience of their offensive line that gives them the time to execute those amazing plays. After missing last season with an Achilles tendon injury, three-year starter Tim Brown is back and ready to reassume his All-America status. Also, the Mountaineers return their five starters from 2003, so opposing defenses must beware.

Filling a Gap: Linebacker Grant Wiley was the heart and soul of the Mountaineer defense last year. But his departure to the NFL gives middle linebacker Adam Lehnort the opportunity to step up and become the new leader of the defensive unit. Lehnort suffered with a bum shoulder in the spring, but should regain the dominance he showed last season—139 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and five sacks—in time for the season opener.

Key Dates: Sept. 18 vs. Maryland; Nov. 13 vs. Boston College; Nov. 25 at Pittsburgh ■

SCALLEY: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF UTAH; MCCLESKEY: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA; HAUACK, HARRIS: COURTESY WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Ryan Mattos is a member of the PSP editorial staff.

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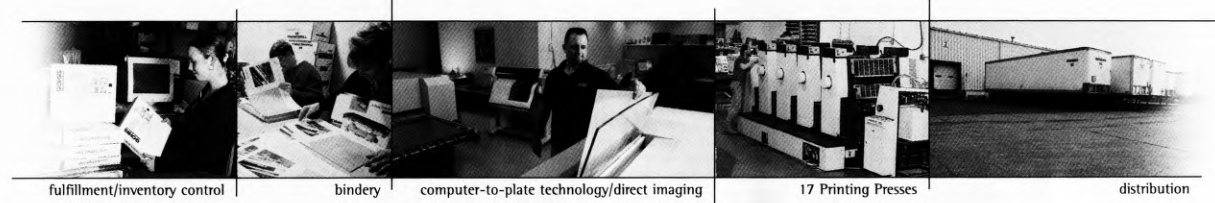
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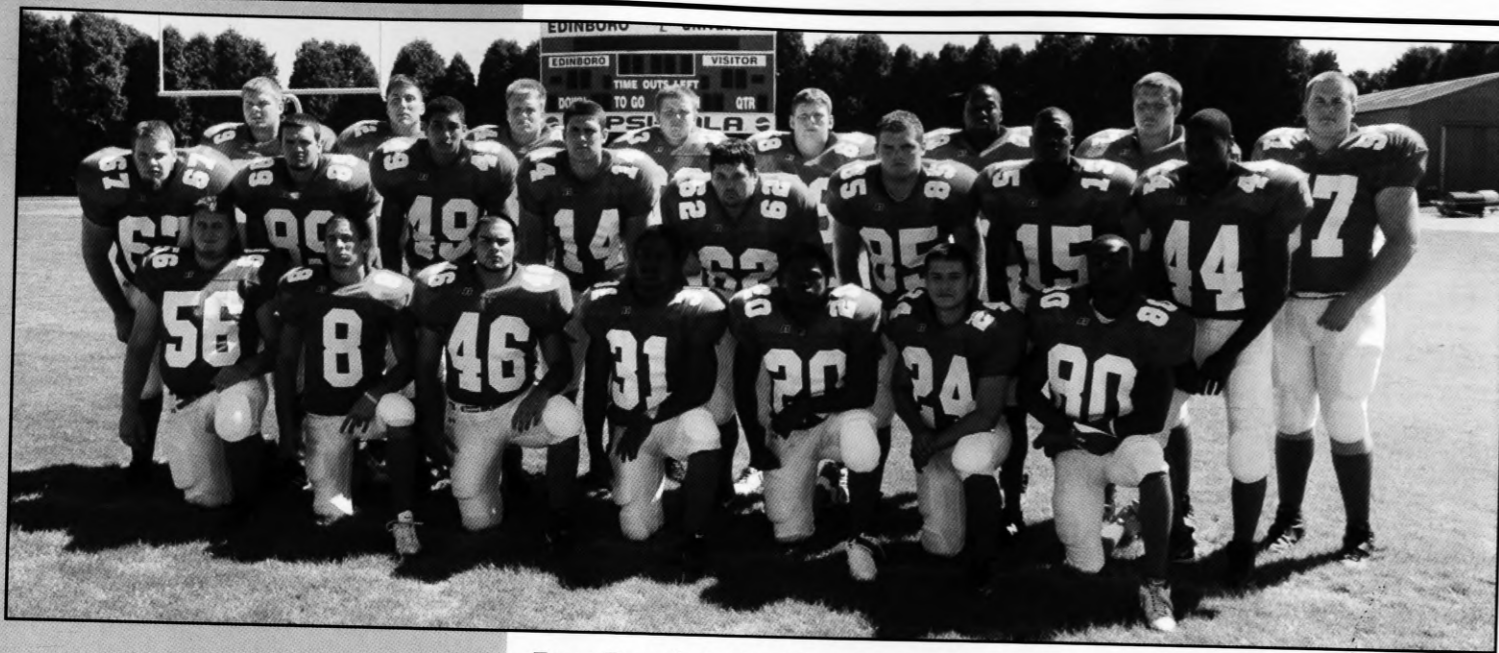
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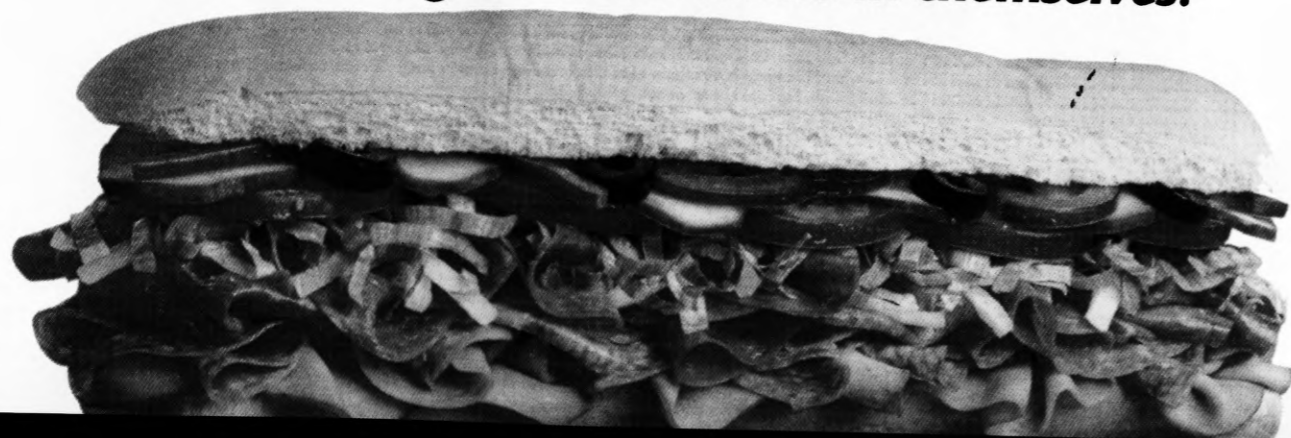
Offensive Newcomers



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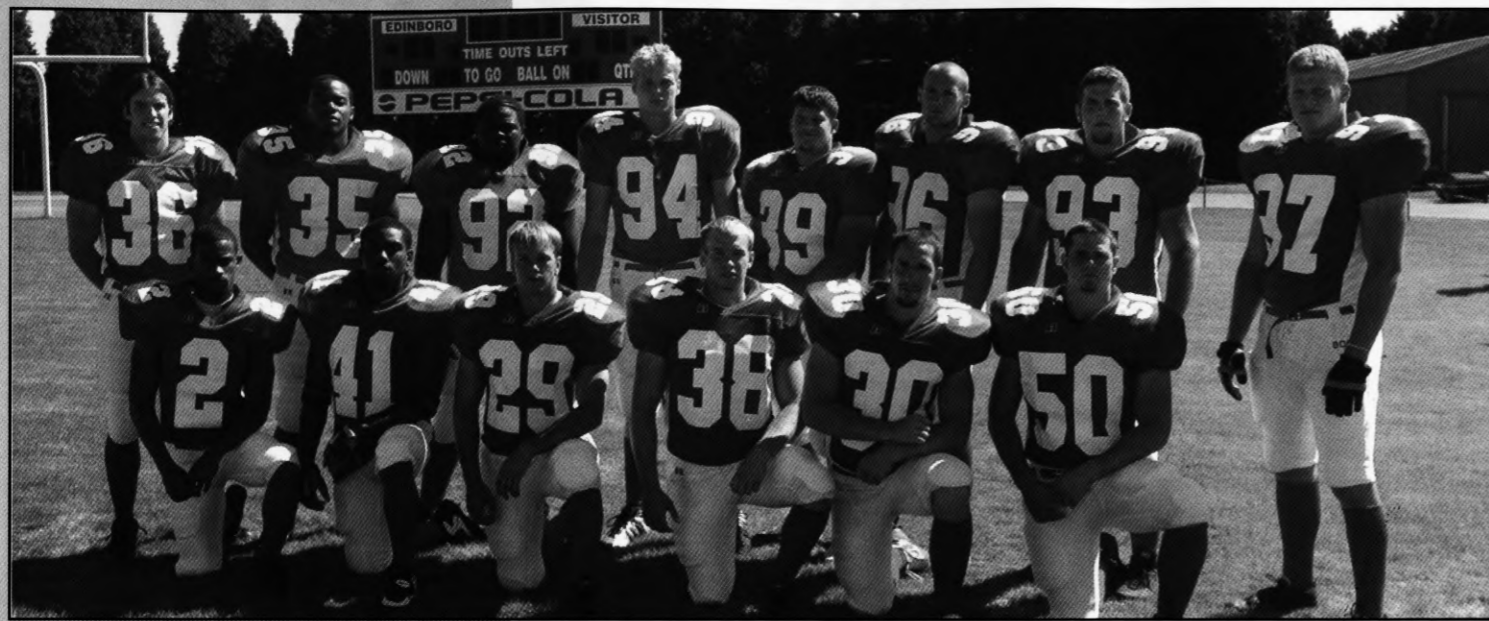
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Edinboro Marching Band



Under the direction of Mr. Chuck Lute, this year's Spirit of the Scots Marching band has 112 members and will perform at all home football games and the Clarion away game. Also, the 2004 EUP Marching Band will be performing as guest exhibition band at four area band festivals. These include the General McLane Band Show (Sept. 11), the Peter's Township Band Festival (Sept. 18), the Meadville Band Festival (Oct. 16), and the Lakeshore Marching Band Association Championships at Veteran Stadium in Erie (Oct. 30). Music for the band includes "Happy Days Are Here Again", "Don't Rain On My Parade", "Ozzy Medley", "Elks Parade", and "Scotland The Brave". The chairman of the music department is Dr. Gary S. Grant. Staff and section leaders are assistant directors Ken Berlin, Joe Salorino, Carla Hughes, drum majors Justin Turpin and Jennifer Dominick, flag captain Susan Mullin, Tam-O-Tam-O-Shanter captains Emily Praster, Stephanie Skinner, Amanda Aul, and Rachel Enright, Chris Ross (public relations), Christine Fisher (public relations), and John Fleming (Voice of the Scots).

Dear Fans:

I am truly impressed with the 12 supporters below from our community who supported our players with evening snacks through grueling double sessions in August. Our "August Snacks Program" has just taken off. In the past, our players had nothing to eat in the evening after two practices, conditioning and lifting. I can't tell you how truly appreciative our players are of the generous donations from the community. This is the fourth year the community has reached out and assisted us. Our players continually asked me to thank each of the restaurants/eateries below. In 30 years of coaching at the Division I level, I never had players respond with such gratitude.

Please support our hometown restaurants! **THANK YOU.**

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(rigatoni/garlic bread)

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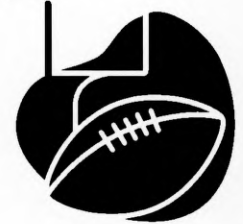


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