


Red Peppers



by Gus Schrader

Gazette sports columnist

It's all hash today

- Quoting Tony Dorsett, Dallas Cowboys' star running back: "I'm not the same old wild and crazy kid that was drafted in 1977. I'm more stable. I'm more stable financially. I'm more aware of finances and the economy. I'm more alert to the people around me. I've become more knowledgeable of our offense. Some people don't let themselves mature. Some people are foolish enough to make the same mistakes over and over again. I think I've learned a lot."
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- Jerry Trudo takes note of The Gazette's story about the dropping of football at Fayette High School because of insufficient participants. He recalls when Fayette kept going despite a similar shortage in the late 1950s. He says Fayette was forced to practice one side of the line against the other, yet produced Terry Stevens, who made all-state, starred at Upper Iowa and still coaches with distinction at Sioux City East.
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- Having failed to entice us into driving a stock car in his "Hot Scoop Classic" at Vinton on Labor Day, promoter Keith Knaack now invites us to take part in the second annual IS-CHDEC at the Vinton Speedway. That stands for Iowa State Championship Hot Dog Eating Contest, and it will be Sept. 13. "As a veteran sports scribe, you've seen your share of hot dogs come and go," writes Keith. "Naturally we'll have some of the biggest names — well, biggest, anyway — among the hot dog eaters around the world."
- He mentions a few: Dickie Berger, 5-10, 364, of Garrison, who recently ate 27 hot dogs in a practice session; Dale Snapp, 6-3, 265, of Evansdale, who finished third in the 1980 ISCHDEC with 15 confirmed hot dogs after eating a whole chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy for lunch, and Richard Westcott, 6-0, 200, of Vinton, who was a real crowd-pleaser until he upchucked with 30 seconds to go last year.
- Hate to keep turning you down, Keith, because that's news: Man bites dog. But we're going to be sick that day — just thinking of eating 27 hot dogs.
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- Talk about appropriate athletic names, how about Chuck Long, Iowa's 6-4 freshman quarterback from Wheaton, Ill.? You can almost hear his pass-play call in the huddle now: "Fake short and chuck long."
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- Maybe you thought Woody Hayes was all wet when he doted on a run-run-run game at Ohio State, adding: "Only three things can happen when you pass, and two of them are bad."
- A study of last year's NFL race showed there were 12 teams that ran on more than 50 percent of their plays. Of those, nine had winning records, one went .500 and two had losing records.
- The other 16 teams passed more than they ran. Of those, only four had winning records, two were at .500 and the other 10 had losing marks. Only three of the 16 passing teams made the playoffs, and both of the Super Bowl clubs, Oakland and Philadelphia, were running teams.
- There were still critics who told Woody Hayes, in effect: "Yeah, but your 'three yards and a cloud of dust' offense is strictly dullsville." To which Woody used to snort, "If you get into the end zone often enough, the alumni don't ask how you got there."
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- Before the summer slips completely away, we want to thank all of you who didn't bring us zucchini. Unless you doll it up with sauces or something, zucchini is about as tasty as last year's straw hat. No wonder zucchini-growers are the world's most generous people.

College season starts today in high style

The Associated Press

The college football season begins in high style today with Georgia starting defense of its 1980 national championship and Alabama's Bear Bryant trying to get one of the nine victories he needs to become the winningest coach in history.

Michigan, Oklahoma and Notre Dame, ranked 1-2-3 in The Associated Press pre-season poll, all will be idle until next weekend. However, fourth-ranked Alabama visits Louisiana State for a nationally televised (ABC-TV, 8 p.m., CDT) Southeastern Conference game; eighth-ranked Pitt, last year's runner-up, entertains Illinois, and Georgia, only No. 10 in the pre-season poll, is home against Tennessee in another SEC contest.

The rest of the Top Ten includes fifth-ranked Southern California, No. 6 Nebraska, seventh-rated Penn State and No. 9 Texas, all idle.

Four members of the Second Ten will be in action. No. 14 Mississippi State meets Memphis State at Jackson, Miss., No. 16 Brigham Young visits Long Beach State, No. 17 Florida seeks revenge for last year's embarrassment against Miami, Fla., in the Orange Bowl, and No. 19 Florida State is home against Louisville.

The rest of the Second Ten includes No. 11 Ohio State, No. 12 North Carolina, No. 13 UCLA, No. 15 Washington, No. 18 Stanford and No. 20 Arizona State.

Despite the return of running back Herschel Walker, a sensation as a freshman last year, Georgia Coach Vince Dooley labels the Bulldogs' opener "a venture into the unknown."

"What I see right now is problems," Dooley says. "Too many players have missed too much practice time, either because of injuries or summer school. People say we have a lot of depth, but sometimes that means you don't have any starters. The injuries are another thing. There are uncertainties everywhere."

"And I just don't know about our motivation. I can't see it. Last year, we had a bunch of fighters. I'm not sure these fellows this year have gotten there. I don't know what the personality of this team is yet."

Georgia began its march to the 1980 crown by edging Tennessee, 16-15, after trailing 15-0 before Dooley decided it was time to turn Walker loose.

"Tennessee is indeed the real darkhorse of the SEC this year," Dooley warns. "They are in an excellent position. They have great motivation and this is going to be a big year for Tennessee. Tennessee has the best, fastest corps of receivers in college football. And the thing that most concerns me is the fact that they will be putting that strength against our most critical weakness — the defensive secondary."

Bryant is another worried coach.

"I worry more about our team than LSU's," he says. "We are very young, not very big and certainly unproven in a number of critical areas."

One of those is the reaction to crowds like that in LSU's Tiger Stadium, where 76,000-plus fans love to express themselves noisily.

"I do enjoy the atmosphere in Tiger Stadium at night," Bryant says. "It is college football at its best. Not many players on this year's team have played there before, though, and we'll have to wait and see how they react."

Pitt faces a massive rebuilding job with 15 starters gone

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Regis runs past Cougars, 19-13



By Don Doxise
Gazette sportswriter

If you left Friday night's Regis-Kennedy football game at the end of the first quarter, get ready for a shock.

Regis won the game, 19-13.

Coach Tom Good's Royals, utilizing a crushing ground attack, bounced back from an erratic first half to down the Cougars in the season opener for both teams at Kingston Stadium Friday.

A crowd of more than 5,000 watched as Kennedy frolicked its way to two first-quarter touchdowns and narrowly missed a third.

That gave the Cougars a 13-0 lead and they took that to the locker room at halftime despite a clock-chewing 20-play drive by Regis in the second quarter. At that point, Coach Greg Reed's plan appeared to be working.

"We knew we were gonna have some trouble on defense so we wanted to keep the ball in our hands as much as we could," explained the Kennedy coach. "But our inexperience really showed in the second half."

The Regis ground attack, which had produced just 70 yards in the first half, took control of the game after halftime as the Royals bludgeoned their way to 244 yards and three touchdowns on the ground in the last two quarters.

"Kennedy did an excellent job of defending us in the first half," said Good. "And our punting game didn't do very well. That put them in good field position to score their two touchdowns."

"In the second half we opened up the fullback a little more. We're a belly-oriented team anyway. We like to run the ball when we can."

Senior Chris Usher led the way for the Royals, accumulating 127 yards in 18 carries. He raced 45 yards on a draw play with 5:11

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Pat Cain of Regis (32) slashes through the Kennedy defense for several of his 91 yards Friday.

Marion grinds past Linn-Mar, 24-7

By Mark Dukes
Gazette sportswriter

The coach may be different, but Marion still appears to be the same grinding, time-consuming type football team that swept to the Class 3A state championship last year.

The Indians, under new coach Dave Messerli, fought back from a 7-6 halftime deficit with a devastating running game to post a 24-7 win over Linn-Mar in the season-opener for both teams Friday night before about 6,000 fans at Linn-Mar.

Marion scored on its first three possessions of the second half on drives of 65, 58 and 86 yards. The drives consumed a total of 15 of the first 19 minutes of the second half.

"We really didn't block any differently in the second half," said Messerli, who succeeded Bob Thurness this year. "We knew it was important to score on our first possession of the second half and, since we did, I think that was the turning point for us."

The Indians ran 69 plays to Linn-Mar's 41, but the big difference was in the second half. Marion had a whopping 39-18 total plays advantage in the last two quarters, including a 23-4 margin in the third.

"Our defense also decided it wanted to play in the second half," Messerli said. "We had a lot of arm tackling in the first half."

"Linn-Mar came out and played one heckuva game, though. I think they're going to be an excellent team this year."

Marion's balanced ground attack, which rolled up 282 yards, was just too much for the Lions, though. Junior Todd Twachtman, who started in the Indians' championship game victory over Atlantic a year

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Cubs defeat Reds in title game, 7-4

By Bob Northrup
Gazette sports reporter

DAVENPORT — The Quad City Cubs exploded in the first inning and went on to defeat the Cedar Rapids Reds, 7-4, at John O'Donnell Stadium Friday night.

The win gives the Cubs the Southern Division championship in the Midwest League playoffs, two games to one. The Cubs won the opener, 7-3, then fell to the Reds Thursday night, 3-1.

The title was the third Southern Division crown for Quad City in as many years. The Cubs will now face the Wausau Timbers, 6-0 winners over Waterloo, for the Midwest League championship.

Emil Drzayich and Larry Freeburg provided the only spark for the Reds. Freeburg came in in relief and allowed no runs while striking out seven in 6 1/3 innings.

Drzayich finished the season in grand style, going three for four at the plate while scoring two runs and driving in one.

The Cubs scored all seven of their runs in the first inning Friday night as they sent Reds' starter Bob Buchanan to the showers in just two-thirds of an inning.

Buchanan allowed eight hits and seven earned runs in his brief stint for the Reds.

The Cubs' action started when lead-off batter Henry Cotto singled and Terry Austin followed suit. Rusty Piggott was then safe on a sacrifice bunt attempt when the Reds failed to cover first base.

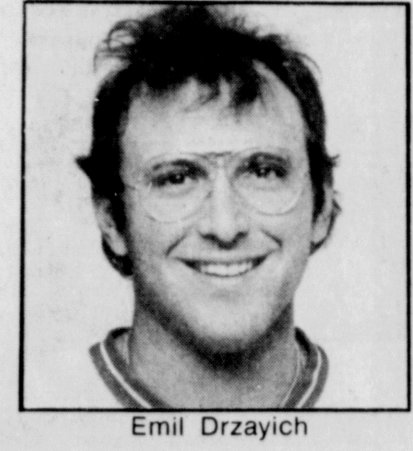
With the bases loaded, Dan Cataline singled to score Cotto and a wild pitch that eluded Reds' catcher Ray Corbett provided the second run of the inning.

Then, with two out and runners at first and second, another wild pitch and an infield single loaded the bases and Jim Payne drove home the fourth run with a bloop single.


The straw that broke the Reds' back was provided by shortstop Mike Buckley, who tripled home two more runs and scored the seventh run of the inning on Cotto's second single.

The Reds picked up their first hit of the game when Drzayich led off the fifth inning with a single, and singles by Corbett and Scott Terry loaded the bases. Drzayich then scored the Reds' first run of the

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Emil Drzayich



Metro Scores

Regis 19
Kennedy 13

Marion 24
Linn-Mar 7

Prairie 34
Mt. Pleasant 0
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Washington 42
Cedar Falls 7
Story on page 3B

Jefferson 20
E. Waterloo 7
Story on page 3B

