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SPORTS

The
Gazette

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MIKE HLAS

Gazette
sports
columnist



Hawk starter a self-starter in classroom

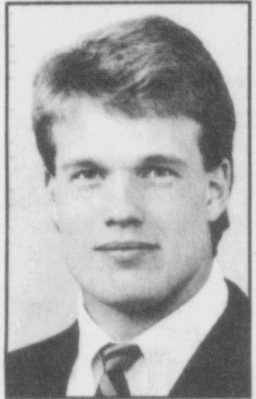
IOWA CITY — Football player Matt Whitaker goofed off in his first semester at the University of Iowa. Goofed off big-time, for him. He had a "mere" 3.09 grade-point average on a scale of 4.

"Since then I've had 3.7s and 3.8s," Whitaker said. "I've been on the dean's list six of my last seven semesters."

No, sports fans, this isn't yet another story about a college athlete struggling to attain or maintain academic eligibility. Actually, this story is about someone who makes an average student look like a goldbricker.

On top of being on top of his studies, Whitaker is the Hawkeyes' starting tight end. He is one of the few major-college ballplayers who regards his sport as what it technically is, an extra-curricular activity.

"I've always felt if I get a chance to play in the NFL, I'll take it," said Whitaker. "I'll give it a shot. But that's not why I came to Iowa. I didn't come here to play minor-league football and hope I get drafted. I came here to



Matt
Whitaker

get an education, get as much school paid for as I can, and then get on with my life.

"I enjoy the sport of football. It's what I grew up playing. It's what I love to do."

"But football does end some day, if it's 10 years after the NFL or after my senior year. Football's going to end, and I'm going to need to function in the world."

WHITAKER IS a fourth-year junior, athletically. In reality, he's a senior from Ankeny who will graduate in communication studies in December. That's 3½ years after arriving on campus. How does a person do that and play football at the same time?

"I've asked myself that," Whitaker said with a laugh. "I guess you have to learn to make time. You learn who to say no to. If it's Wednesday night and you know you have a paper due the next Wednesday, and somebody asks you to go out, maybe you say no. You don't wait until the last minute to do things."

"The most important thing, and the thing I tell the players here when they come in as freshmen, is to figure out what you want to do. If you know what you want to do and you have your goals set, you can accomplish good things."

Whitaker has goals that some people might say are lofty. Then again, how many of those people have taken 21 credit hours in a semester as Whitaker did one spring? How many major-college athletes have attended law school during their playing career, as Whitaker plans to do next fall?

"My brother (Todd) played baseball here. He told me to do anything you do as a normal student. Just act like football's not even there. Just take the classes that you need to graduate. Don't mess around. There's no reason to use football as an excuse not to excel in school."

Whitaker wants to work in the entertainment industry. More to the point, he wants to make movies.

"At 18, I knew I wanted to make films," he said. "My brother was a broadcasting and film major here at Iowa, and he enjoyed it a lot. He's out in California right now being a screenwriter."

"I've always loved the film industry. There's a lot of money out there in that industry."

There's no reason some of that can't be mine."

"Matt's learned everything he

■ Please turn to 2C: Hlas

Hurricanes humble an outclassed Houston

MIAMI (AP) — Miami sent Houston's space-age offense back to the stone age Thursday night and probably ruined the Heisman Trophy hopes of David Klingler.

The second-ranked Hurricanes shut down Houston's record-breaking quarterback and Gino Torretta threw four touchdown passes to humble the No. 10 Cougars, 40-10, in an error-plagued game.

It was Miami's 39th straight victory at the Orange Bowl, tying Notre Dame for the second-longest home winning streak in NCAA history.

Klingler, who threw nine touchdown passes in Houston's season-opening 73-3 rout of Louisiana Tech and set an NCAA

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

record with 54 TD tosses last season, didn't get one against Miami's dominating defense until the final 3 seconds.

He completed 32 of 59 passes for 216 yards, 83 fewer than his lowest total last season, and was sacked five times before a stunned crowd of 71,842 and a national television audience.

Houston (1-1) had more penalties than points in the first half against Miami (2-0), whose defensive line was too quick and strong for the Cougars.

The Hurricanes led 30-3 at halftime and continued their domination in the second half, scoring on a 51-yard pass from Torretta to Kevin Williams and a 29-yard field goal by Carlos Huerta.

Torretta, overshadowed by Klingler in the pregame publicity, outplayed his more famous counterpart. The junior quarterback completed 16 of 35 passes for 365 yards, including two TD tosses apiece to Williams and Lamar Thomas.

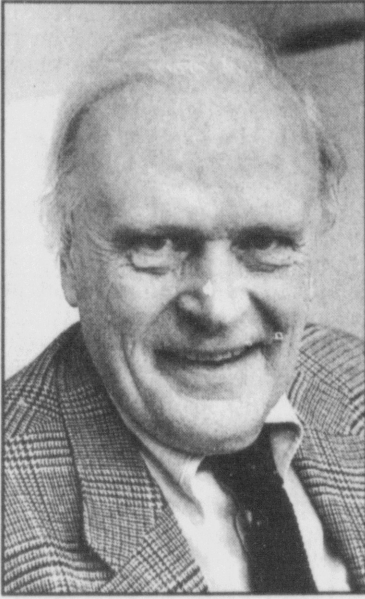
Thomas had TD catches of 2 and 71 yards, while Williams' receptions covered 33 and 51 yards. Miami's other points came on a 2-yard TD run by Martin Patton and a safety that occurred when Houston's

Chris Pezman snapped the ball over the head of punter Charles Langston and out of the Cougars' end zone.

Houston, which gained 702 yards against Louisiana Tech, had three first downs and 76 yards in the first half against Miami. The Cougars, who averaged 47 points and 587 yards per game last season, were held without a touchdown until Klingler threw a 7-yard scoring pass to Marcus Grant with 3 seconds remaining. Their other points came on a 25-yard field goal by Roman Anderson with 3:53 left in the first half.

Thomas had six catches for 138 yards. Williams caught four passes for 126 yards.

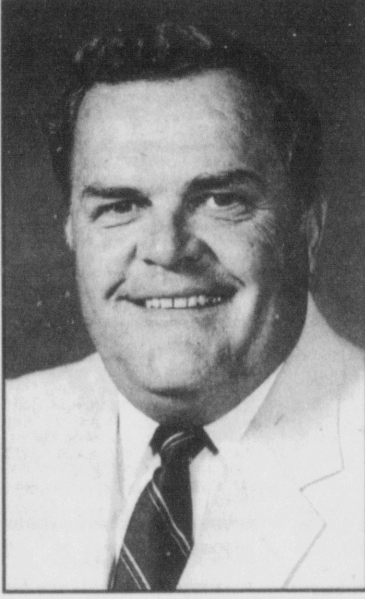
BATTLE FOR THE AIRWAVES



BOB BROOKS

- Age: 64
- Years doing Iowa football: 48
- Analyst: Larry Morgan
- Flagships: KHAK-AM 1360 and KHAK-FM 98.1 Cedar Rapids

■ **Hawkeye Network affiliates:** KLGA-AM & FM Algona, KJAN-AM Atlantic, KXOF-FM Bloomfield, KCIM-AM Carroll, KELR-AM Chantrel, KCHA-AM Charles City, KCHE-AM Cherokee, KROS-AM Clinton, KCZQ-FM Cresco, WLLR-AM Davenport, KDSN-AM & FM Denison, KGGO-AM Des Moines, WDBQ-AM Dubuque, KDST-FM Dyersville, KADR-AM Elkader, KCTN-FM Elkader, KVFD-AM Fort Dodge, KGCI-FM Grundy Center, KNOD-FM Harlan, KIDA-FM Ida Grove, KXLQ-AM Indianola, KCJJ-AM Iowa City, KOKX-AM Keokuk, KMAQ-FM Maquoketa, KFJB-AM Marshalltown, KRIB-AM Mason City, KILJ-FM Mount Pleasant, KWPC-AM Muscatine, KCZY-FM Osage, KBIZ-AM Ottumwa, KOAK-AM & FM Red Oak, KMA-FM Shenandoah, KNEI-AM & FM Waukon, KANO-AM Anoka, Minn., KBWH-FM Blair, Neb.



FROSTY MITCHELL

- Age: 58
- Years doing Iowa football: 31
- Analyst: Bob Evans
- Flagship: WMT-AM 600 Cedar Rapids

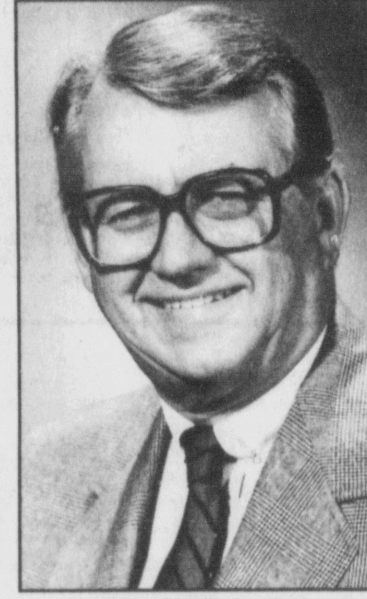
■ **Iowa Sports Network affiliates:** KCOG-AM Centerville, KRDI-FM Decorah, KEMB-FM Emmetsburg, KILR-AM & FM Estherville, KGRN-AM Grinnell, KHBT-FM Humboldt, KIFG-AM & FM Iowa Falls, KNIA-AM Knoxville, KKMA-FM LeMars/Sioux City, KTAV-FM Pella/Knoxville, KDLS-AM Perry, KCIL-AM & FM Washington, KXEL-AM Waterloo, WRAM-AM Monmouth, Ill., WMOI-FM Galesburg, Ill., WTDY-AM Madison, Wis.



PETE TAYLOR

- Age: 46
- Years doing ISU football: 22
- Analyst: Eric Heft
- Flagship: KRNT-AM 1350 Des Moines

■ **Cyclone Network affiliates:** KLBA-AM Albia, KLGA-AM Algona, KASI-AM Ames, KCCO-FM Ames, KWBG-AM Boone, KZBA-FM Boone, KCIM-AM Carroll, WMT-FM Cedar Rapids, KCHA-FM Charles City, KCHE-FM Cherokee, KSTT-AM Davenport, KIOV-FM Forest City, KWMT-AM Fort Dodge, KWGG-FM Hampton, KMAQ-AM Maquoketa, KXIA-FM Marshalltown, KNIQ-FM Mason City, KILJ-AM Mount Pleasant, KOEL-AM Oelwein, KOSG-FM Osage, KOSK-FM Oskaloosa, KTW-AM Ottumwa, KTLB-FM Rockwell City/Twin Lakes, KMA-AM Shenandoah, KWSL-AM Sioux City, KICD-FM Spencer, KQWC-FM Webster City.



JIM ZABEL

- Age: 70
- Years doing Iowa football: 42
- Analyst: Ed Podolak
- Flagship: WHO-AM 1040 Des Moines

■ **Palmer Network affiliates:** KBUR-AM Burlington, KCRG-AM Cedar Rapids, KTR-AM Creston, WOC-AM Davenport, KDTH-AM Dubuque, KXIC-AM Iowa City, KGLO-AM Mason City, KSCJ-AM Sioux City, KICD-AM Spencer, KUOO-FM Spirit Lake, KQWC-AM Webster City, KWEB-AM Rochester, Minn., KTLR-FM Dallas, Texas.

143 years of calling the plays

By Jim Ecker
Gazette sportswriter

OK, you don't have tickets to the big Iowa-Iowa State football game in Ames Saturday. It's a sellout and it's too late to get a seat now, unless you want to pay a scalper's price.

You plan to watch on TV, but you don't want to listen to Jay Randolph call the play-by-play for the statewide television network. He's a professional, but he's not an Iowan, and he'll lack an Iowan's passion for the game.

So you'll turn down the sound on the TV and listen to your favorite radio announcer. Thousands of fans will do it, but who do you pick?

Jim Zabel? Still going strong at 70, he's been calling Iowa football games for 42 years, but he'll be rooting for the Hawkeyes all day and you'd like a more even account of the game.

Bob Brooks? A real pro, he's been mikeside for Iowa football games for 48 seasons (counting four years in college), but he doesn't get all excited and yell and scream like Zabel does.

Frosty Mitchell? He's been doing Iowa football for 31 years, but maybe you're still sore about Frosty replacing Ron Gonder in the WMT booth a while back.

Pete Taylor? Ah, if you're a Cyclone fan,

Pete's your guy. He's been with the Cyclone Radio Network for 22 years, and he'll be fair to both sides.

The four have 143 years of experience. Zabel, Brooks and Mitchell are Hawkeye fixtures. Remarkably, they're friends despite the competition for listeners.

"I think they're great people and fine broadcasters, and I like being around them. We've been friends for a long time," said Brooks, 64. "If I hated them, I'd tell you."

Brooks takes a simple approach to his job. "I try in each game not to be a cheerleader per se," he said, "and I try to give the opposition its due whether they're from Hawaii or Ames."

Zabel makes no bones about it: He's cheering for Iowa, even this week when some listeners will be rooting for Iowa State.

"What the heck, I'm a Hawkeye," said Zabel. "I think I would be dishonest to myself and to the fans if I changed anything."

Mitchell, 58, roots for Iowa, too, but he'll tone it down a little. "We will tend to be less 'homers' this week, by design," he said.

Mitchell, principal owner and general manager at WMT-AM, is in an unusual spot this week. His other station, WMT-FM, carries the Cyclone Network, where Taylor has made a home for nearly half his 46

years. "I think you have to be a little more careful on this game," said Taylor, who prides himself on being objective.

That doesn't mean he doesn't get excited. "I love the games," he said. "The hairs on my arm stand up when they're ready to kick off."

All four of these guys were at Kinnick Stadium in 1977 when the Iowa-ISU series resumed after a 43-year hiatus. Zabel, Brooks and Mitchell all call it their favorite memory.

Zabel and Brooks remember the hoopla and excitement leading to the game. Mitchell liked the game itself, with Bob Commings Jr. as the winning quarterback for an Iowa team coached by Bob Commings Sr. "From an emotional standpoint, that one stands out for me," said Mitchell.

Taylor had a little trouble sifting through eight straight ISU defeats before settling on the Cyclones' 31-0 victory in 1978 under Earle Bruce. "The thing about that," said Taylor, "Iowa's teams weren't very good then."

They are now, and Iowa State could have its best club in years. Zabel, Brooks, Mitchell and Taylor are ready to tell you about it.

Goal for ISU defenders: Pressure QB

By Al Hall
Gazette sportswriter

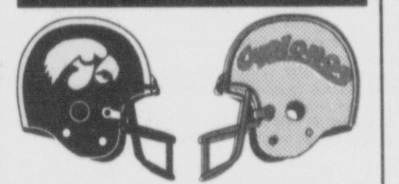
AMES — Iowa State's defense has had its problems in recent years.

It has another one Saturday — trying to figure out a way to control quarterback Matt Rodgers and the Iowa Hawkeyes Saturday at 11:35 a.m. in Ames.

Rodgers was all-Big Ten a year ago, passing for 2,228 yards and 15 touchdowns.

"Last year speaks for what he can do, leading them to the Rose Bowl," said Iowa State safety Mark Dou Brava.

"You know he's a great quarterback, a top quarterback in the nation," said ISU signal caller Chris Pedersen. "I'm not going out to try to beat his numbers or



IOWA-IOWA STATE
Sat., 11:35 a.m. at Ames
TV: KCRG, Channel 9

play better than him. I'm just trying to help our team. But obviously, he's a talent."

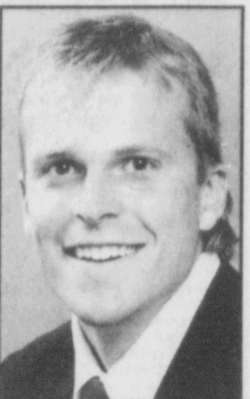
Rodgers passed for 101 yards and a touchdown and ran for 34 yards and another TD in the Hawks' 45-35 win over Iowa State last fall.

"I think the overall key to the game as far as our defense is concerned is our ability to put pressure on him, collapse the pocket and make him throw bad throws," said Iowa State defensive end/tackle Matt Rehberg. "We need to get pressure on him. The key is the time he's going to get to set up and pick apart our secondary."

Rehberg, who had been moved from end to tackle to start the season, may start at end for injured Cedar Rapidsian Shane Dunlevy against Iowa.

"You still hit the same way and step the same way," he said.

Saturday's game looks to be another huge test for a Cyclone defense which can boast of experience if not about a great deal of



Mark
Dou Brava

success. Iowa State Coach Jim Walden believes his defense will be a much-improved unit by season's end. But can enough improvement happen in time for Saturday's game?

"We can't be real confident," Dou Brava said, pointing to the defense's play in last week's 42-13 win over Eastern Illinois. "We didn't play that well. We could have played a lot better."

"We know we have a lot of improving to do if we want to beat a team like Iowa."

One of the things Rodgers displayed in his team's opening destruction of Hawaii was a willingness to run with the football. That's something ISU will be aware of but not shocked by.

"We're kind of used to it," Dou Brava said. "We started running the option so we spent a lot of time trying to stop it during two-a-days. It shouldn't really bother us. We play a lot of option teams during the year, like Colorado and Nebraska. But I prefer they pass, because I'd rather play pass defense."

Kennedy Cougars roar back in 4th period

By Jeff Dahn
Gazette sportswriter

Class 4A eighth-ranked Cedar Rapids Kennedy turned three Dubuque Hempstead turnovers into three fourth quarter touchdowns and stopped the Mustangs, 28-19, in Mississippi Valley Conference football Thursday at soggy Kingston Stadium.

The win, in a game that finally ended at 11:10 p.m., improved the Cougars to 3-0 overall and in the Valley. Hempstead fell to 1-2.

Kennedy trailed, 19-6, at the end of the third quarter, but Eric Martin scored on 1-yard plunge on the first play of the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 19-12.

Marin's TD run culminated a five play, 25-yard drive that began after a pass interception by Kennedy's Joe McQuown.

Hempstead had built its total on touchdown runs of 6, 5 and 18 yards by fullback Clyde Kay. Kay scored two of his touchdowns in the second quarter — giving the Mustangs a 12-6 halftime lead — and added a third in the third period.

PREP FOOTBALL

Kennedy's Rob Olney started the tide turning in the Cougars' direction when he recovered a fumble on the Hempstead 46 with 9:46 left in the game. With Martin and Mike Morrison churning out yards on the ground and a 14-yard pass completion from Chad Wiese to D.J. Doyle, the Cougars found themselves looking at a first and goal on the 5. Morrison took the ball up the middle for the touchdown and added the two-point conversion to give Kennedy a 20-19 lead.

Hempstead started its next possession on the Kennedy 27 and, with Kay doing most of the work, marched to the Kennedy 49 before Doyle came up with another interception. His 41-yard return gave the Cougars first and 10 on the Mustang 14.

Morrison went off tackle on the next play to score, and the two-point conversion pass from Morrison to Chad Hartke gave Kennedy its final margin of victory.

Kennedy took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter when it moved the ball 74 yards on eight plays on its first possession of the game. Martin had a 43-yard run to highlight the drive and Wiese hit Brent Paulson with a 12-yard scoring pass over the middle for the TD.

Morrison finished with 111 yards on 20 carries, and Martin totaled 85 on just eight tries. Kennedy had 187 yards rushing.

Morrison's longest run of the night was a beautiful 28-yard scamper on Kennedy's first play from scrimmage in the second quarter. He has 291 yards rushing after three games.

The Cougar passing game once again wasn't up to par, collecting 33 yards on 3-of-13 passing.

Kay came in averaging just more than 74 yards per game and totaled 92 on 16 tries. Hempstead wound up with 169 yards rushing and 66 passing.

The start of the varsity game was delayed 1 hour, 15 minutes by lightning. The storm that moved through at approximately 7:30 p.m. saturated the playing field, which was already soaked from an earlier storm.

