

GEORGE BEAHON

"In This Corner"



Even a Hollywood screen writer wouldn't have the guts to create a character like Brad Van Pelt. Frank Merriwell? Forget it, Jack Armstrong, All American Boy? Take off, Jack. Brad Van Pelt is something else. And he's for real.

Van Pelt is 6 feet, 5 inches, 226 pounds of athlete with Michigan State. He's a two-time All America on defense, a safetyman. He's won three football letters as a Spartan; two in basketball; two in baseball. He may have nine letters in major sports when his class is graduated in June. This only ties a 20-year-old record at MSU, and it won't last forever, because now just about everybody is playing freshmen on Varsity. So maybe in 1984

someone will come along and produce 12 Varisty letters in major sports.

Back to Van Pelt. You'd think a guy with all his credits in fun and games would be without any problems in sports. He has a couple of real ones, including an immediate dilemma.

This "hunk" from Michigan State currently is working out with the MSU basketball team. By next Sunday he must make a decision. Stay with the roundball squad; or take off to play in a pair of football bowls — the East-West Shrine show and the Hula Bowl.

If he passes up the bowl bids, he'll campaign with the Spartan basketball squad. That means he gives up San Francisco and Honolulu around the holidays to play in Rochester in the Kodak Basketball Classic.

"What I'm going to do," Van Pelt told the Courier-Journal by telephone, "is work basketball until the end of this week. Then I'm going to sit down with my Coaches (footballer Duffy Daugherty and basketballer Gus Ganakas) and figure it out this way: If I can HELP the basketball team, I'll pass up the bowls. If I can't do the team some real good, I'll play the football games."

Van Pelt, one of these days, will be named "Defensive Player of The Year" by the ABC-TV foot-

ball people. He's a cinch to be a first round draft choice by the pros. ("Van Pelt," says football coach Daugherty, "could play any of the 22 offensive and defensive positions in the game.")

Van Pelt also has to listen again this month to offers from baseball people. A year ago he almost became a real Angel, California Angel variety. He passed up a bonus offer of \$100,000 to continue his education and college sports. He'll be hearing more bonus offers, but he's not taking anything in any pro sport until after June.

His baseball activity, incidentally, included things like pitching 1-0 shutouts in the Big Ten. And naturally, when he isn't pitching, he is playing the outfield and hitting home runs.

Van Pelt's high school achievements defy belief. Things like scoring the winning points in basketball's and football's closing seconds of play were almost commonplace. He destroyed records.

And now America's real life replacement for Frank Merriwell and Jack Armstrong has to make this tough decision: Hawaii or Rochester for the holidays. If his unselfishness were not already convincingly established, you'd have to hold his intelligence suspect for even hesitating. Whatever he does, Honolulu or Rochester; pro baseball or pro football; the world of fun and games is a cinch to hear a lot more about an unreal character named Brad Van Pelt.

JOHN DOSER

Scholastic Notebook



Coach Tim Jordan's varsity basketball debut at McQuaid this season now includes an entry in the state basketball records he didn't figure on.

When Madison's Wilson Parkers, rebounding from a resounding loss to Cardinal Mooney a few days earlier, topped McQuaid, 133-106, the combined scoring bettered the previous state record for most points in a single game, 226, set in 1970 when Bridgehampton beat Shelter Island, 155-71, on Long Island.

The national schoolboy record for combined points is 269 points set also in 1970 when Whitewood High stopped Rocky Gap, 155-114, in Virginia.

Coach Walt Williams' Wilson Parkers also set a single team, most points in one game mark, beating the 129 East threw in against Jefferson in the 1968-69 season.

While Williams admitted that his kids felt they had something to prove after their loss to Mooney (89-62), he said his team's defense left a bit to be desired if it were going to allow 106 points to be scored against it every game.

NEW YORK STATE still lacks a state basketball tournament and it has the distinction of joining California as the only other state in the country that has no state tournament.

There is pressure of sorts by the New York State Sports Writers Association, a loosely-knit federation of sportswriters, coaches, athletic directors and fans, to begin one, but thus far the group's efforts have been fruitless.

The NYSSWA will help sponsor and publicize the next best thing again this year, a state All-Star contest in March which will be held for the first time in Niagara Falls.

It has previously been held in Schenectady.

There is a big championship tournament in Washington, D.C., each spring, which usually includes several top New York State schools.

That's the Knights of Columbus Tournament and this year invitations have already gone to St. Agnes (L.I.), Long Island Lutheran, Buffalo East and Utica Notre Dame.

Courier-Journal

East and Mooney are rated 1-2 in the local cage poll and the state writers billed the recent contest between the two (won by East, 70-57) as one of the top games in the state so far this season.

With Mooney hero Glen Hagen producing only two points after hitting 26 a few days earlier against Madison, the Cards found themselves on the way-short end at the final count.

One must never doubt Mooney coach Ed Nietopski's optimism however.

He said Mooney had the breaks against East, but didn't take advantage. He also said he knows his club can take East when the two hook up again in January at Mooney.

"I think it will be a different story then," Nietopski said.

EXTRA POINTS — The state record for individual scoring honors belongs to Chuck Kinney, Peru High, who hit 98 points back in 1954-55.

University of Rochester football coach Pat Stark is No. 2 in the all-time state race with a 78 point performance way back in 1948-49 when he scored baskets for Syracuse Vocational.

Rochester's best is 62 scored by Tyrone McDaniel, West High, in 1969-70.

The biggest rout in state basketball history was a 128-19 win by Saratoga St. Peter's over St. Johnsville in 1962-63.

The longest high school basketball win streak nationally belongs to Passaic High, N.J., which won 159 in a row from 1919 to 1925.

Business In the Diocese

The First National Bank of Rochester opened its fourth office this week at the new Georgetown Plaza, 1000 Ridge Road East. According to W. E. Loebmann, President, the new First National banking facility in Irondequoit offers full commercial banking services including free checking accounts and a convenient drive-up teller.

Terrance Falk, manager of the new branch, announces special gifts for deposits of \$50 and more and valuable grand prizes during the Grand Opening celebration.

A Parish Notes 'Indian Day'

By CHARLES RANDISI

It was a festive day at St. Charles Borromeo Church hall, on a recent Saturday, "Indian Day," as it was called, raised money for the American Indian Club of Rochester.

A carnival atmosphere pervaded, as parishioners threw pennies and pies, bought cake and cola, and played games of chance.

But there also was much evidence of Indian culture. There was a display of news clippings, maps, and objects of lore, relating to Gannagaro, a Seneca village and burial ground, near Victor. Another booth sold Indian-made bread and corn soup. Members of the American Indian Club performed tribal dances.

J. Sheldon Fisher, proprietor and historian of the Valentin Museum in Fishers, ran the Gannagaro booth. He was adopted as Hia-was-si ("he gathers news and history") by the Seneca tribe in 1964 for his instrumentality in naming Gannagaro a national historic landmark.

Wearing a suit, tie, and Indian headdress, he spoke of current efforts to declare Gannagaro a state park. Gannagaro is 1,000 acres bounded by Malone, Dryer, Boughton Hill, and Victor-Holcomb roads.

"The Senecas controlled all the territory west of Gannagaro to the Mississippi. In 1650, Louis XIV sent French Jesuits there to win over the Senecas to Catholicism. The Jesuits have a monument erected there, and we think the Senecas, who numbered about 5,000 there, deserve the land as a cultural memorial to them. The State Parks Department owns 350 acres of it, and, when it purchases the remainder, will be able to build the park," he said.

He added that most of the remaining acreage was unused farm land, and therefore there would not be a problem in securing it, once the money becomes available.

Dick Kirsch, who headed the project through the St. Charles Human Development Committee, said that the purpose of Indian Day was threefold. "First, it's educational," he said. "Second, it raises funds for a worthy cause. And third, it's fun."

He talked about the education aspect, about how people can become better informed about the situation of the American Indian. "People should find out about the Indian from Indians themselves. When groups come and ask me if I will talk to them, I say, 'No, talk to the man.'"

Jane LeClair has been involved in local Indian affairs for a long time. Like Fisher, she is also an adopted Indian. Her Cayuga name, Ya-ya-da-ga-hus, means "she helps." She offered her views on the Indian situation.

"The American Indian has been spiritually and educationally damaged," she said. "The government's attempts at education of the Indian have miserably failed. The Indian is not a ward of the government."

She said that the basic problem has been that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is a part of the Department of the Interior. "It has been that department's policy not to acknowledge the Indian's rights to private property. What has the government done to make him feel that the reservation is his home? That this is his part of the land? America has to understand that the Indian is for real."

Mrs. Marge Henry is a Cayuga Indian, born Kaw-we-nay-tah, or "she carried a burden." She was in charge of the kitchen patrol, which made the bread and corn soup.

She said that a lot of things are wrong with the way her chil-

dren were taught history. "Sometimes my daughter tells me that she had to correct her teacher on something that the history books say about the Indians."

The Cayuga tradition and culture, she said, is strictly oral. No history was recorded by the Cayugas of generations ago. "It's all in our grandfathers' heads," she said. "That is why we have such great respect for our elders."

MEETING TONIGHT

The Holy Apostles school board will meet at 8 tonight, Dec. 13, in the school hall.

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