

GEORGE BEAHON

"In This Corner"



This is positively the last word on the pro football season. Actually, this is about the 1973-74 season, which doesn't even start for at least several months.

When Jimmy The Greek puts his "summer line," pre-season figures together in Las Vegas, you know he's a cinch to put the Miami Dolphins on top of his list of future book prices against which team will win the football championship of the universe in Super Bowl Eight next January.

But it wasn't Miami the pro coaches and super scouts were whispering about at convention time last month. It was a team The Greek certainly will post as a far outsider to go all the way perhaps as much as 20 to 1 and your money back.

The team the wiseguys are muttering about hasn't been within a thousand miles of any of the seven previous Super Bowls.

I give you the Pittsburgh Steelers, the team the front office insiders claim is on the verge of establishing dynasty status, to make the pro football buffs forget the Green Bays and Baltimores and Miamis.

Pittsburgh, to use the coaches' cliché, has finally put it all together. Because, to use another of the fraternity's favorite clichés, for Pittsburgh it is a whole new ballgame.

When pro football held its college draft earlier this winter, how many headlines included the names Jim Thomas and Ken Phares? None, that's how many.

Thomas and Phares are two of those anonymous type animals, defensive backs, from Florida State and Mississippi State, respectively. They were the first two picks by Pittsburgh, and when the last, and 442d body was claimed, the headlines all told about the running backs and the quarterbacks and other more glamorous specialists.

To give you an idea of how Pittsburgh's thinking went, and how stacked Pittsburgh's roster is, the Steelers last season enjoyed the talents of top drawer defensive backs.

But the Steelers are coming so fast, the only place they looked to for insurance was in the defensive backfield.

The reasons for the Steelers being tabbed the club to beat by the game's masterminds are many. But particularly, Pittsburgh next season is likely to send out the gang's toughest offense in a decade of pro football combat.

One reason is Terry Bradshaw, a quarterback who has been labeled a picture passer with the strongest arm in football.

Early last season Bradshaw, now 24 after only three years in the game, was so far ahead of his development chart that he had eclipsed Joe Namath's first three years of passing production. Bradshaw was putting it up in the air 45 and 49 times a game in the early 1972 schedule.

When it was almost over for the Steelers, who just

missed getting to Super Seven, this same Bradshaw was throwing the ball only 17 or 18 times per ballgame.

And the Steelers were moving it better, more consistently, and more explosively than ever before. And winning.

"It became a whole new ballgame," clichéd Bradshaw, on a banquet circuit interview. The sudden emergence of an unheralded Franco Harris, the 230-pound present from Penn State, along with other carriers Frenchy Fuqua, Steve Davis and Preston Pearson, made the Steeler offense the most terrifying combination in the league.

"It became an adjustment, because I was geared to the pass all my football life," explained Bradshaw. "But then it became a running game, and it became fantastic. I used to get sacked five times in some games. This season I think maybe they got me once a game, because they can't pass rush the way they did, before Franco and Frenchy got it going. We stopped throwing as much, and became even more effective when we did throw."

Bradshaw, when he was filling the air with footballs, did more than his share of running and scrambling. He was big enough and tough enough to seek out the contact, but this is calculated to drive coaches out of their skulls. Now, with the multiple threat action of Bradshaw's passing, and his explosive runners, Terry can cool it and look for the sidelines instead of risking life, limb and franchise.

"Watching Bradshaw develop," observed one football critic, "is like watching a rose bloom in slow motion."

Bradshaw should be in full bloom next season. And if you care about protecting the price, don't let this get into the hand of Jimmy The Greek. How often can you peg a 20 to 1 shot before they bring the horses into the paddock?

JOHN DOSER

Scholastic Notebook



Tom O'Neill, sports editor of The Crest, student newspaper at Cardinal Mooney High, is putting Section 5 superintendents on the spot.

O'Neill, who spends more time writing letters to the editors than he possibly can spend on school matters, is trying hard to open the doors to Catholic school participation in the public school Section 5 tournaments.

He has talked with Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of Rochester Catholic schools; Carl Palumbo, president of Section 5; and a number of Monroe County school superintendents.

(He plans to release contents of the latter interviews in subsequent news releases.)

As everybody knows by now, a number of sections in the state have permitted public and private schools within their borders to participate in their public school athletic tournaments.

Those sections are Syracuse (3), Southern Tier (4), Plattsburgh (7) and Potsdam-Massena (10). Section 5 voted by a 2-1 margin last year to keep the Catholic schools out.

Father Brent told O'Neill that he is now "gun-shy."

He said he would ask for another vote only if there is a clue that there has been a substantial shift in sentiment from among those who voted against the proposal. He presently sees none, therefore he isn't interested in pushing for another vote.

WE HAVE been in favor of Catholic school participation in public school tournaments for as long as we can remember.

The usual cry from the public schools is that Catholic schools have no boundaries and can recruit athletes from anywhere.

While we won't dispute the physical lack of boundaries, we can't believe that Catholic and public school officials can't work out some sort of policing whereby Catholic (or public) schools which are guilty of recruiting are penalized — by not scheduling games against the violators and by suspending them from the tournaments.

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The solution seems too simple not to have been tried before.

The only other reason, therefore, for not permitting Catholic participation in the tournaments must be what the late Father Cyril Carter, Aquinas athletic director, always said it was — bigotry.

In this day and age we find it difficult to accept the idea that educators who gain the superintendencies of our area public schools would harbor such un-American attitudes.

O'Neill quoted remarks by Marcus Martone, president of the State Public High School Athletic Association, as they appear in the NYSPHSAA handbook: "We must not stop striving for better opportunities for everyone; we must continue to experiment and evaluate programs for our youth."

WE CONTACTED three county superintendents last week and will try to reach others in the future to test for changes of attitude.

Irondequoit superintendent Earle W. Helmer said he was in favor of Catholic school participation in Section 5 tournaments. He also said Irondequoit would soon join with Eastridge and Bishop Kearney to work out Irondequoit town high school championships which he believes will generate lots of interest and enthusiasm for "town kids and parents."

"We'd also like to play Mooney as well as Kearney, in all sports," Helmer said.

Brighton superintendent Dr. John Bennion and Fairport superintendent Dr. W. McGregor Deller said they would want to check with their athletic departments before commenting.

Budd Roberts, president of the City-Catholic League, said his entire league, 12 schools, supports Catholic school participation in Section 5 tournaments.

"The vote last year really was killed by schools in outlying areas, many Class B and C schools which aren't in any way affected by the proposal," Roberts said.

Trombonist with Duke Ellington

Jazzman Ordained a Priest

Jamaica, N.Y. (RNS) — A jazz man who gave up the "joy" and "warmth" of playing trombone for the great Duke Ellington to heed a "call from the Lord that was a long time coming" recently said his first Mass as a Roman Catholic priest here.

And on the altar or in the congregation were all those who had helped this 47-year-old newly-ordained priest — his father and mother, five sisters, the Duke and two priests who were "with me every step of the way" and "opened the door for me."

Ordained for the nearby Bridgeport diocese in Connecticut, Father John Sanders is looking forward to working with people, especially young people, in a parish or some other apostolate. He said when he worked in parishes as a deacon he saw "a lot of needs."

And if his determination to become a priest is any criterion, Connecticut's first black diocesan priest will find a way of meeting those needs.

Father Sanders, who was ordained by Bishop Walter Curtis of Bridgeport and then offered his first Mass at St. Pius church, Jamaica, his hometown, acknowledged that he is "still fond of music."

"It will always be a part of me," he said and indicated that it may be useful in the pastoral ministry. But he also made it clear that music is now playing

second fiddle to his work as a priest.

A former student at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City who played with jazz great Lucky Thompson, at the Savoy, before joining Duke Ellington's band in 1954, Father Sanders was "adopted" by the Bridgeport diocese. He was sent to Holy Apostles Seminary, Cromwell, Conn., in 1965, and went from there to Pope John XXIII Seminary, Weston, Mass., in 1968.

Father Sanders, who "subbed" with the Duke in 1953 after working club spots around New York, became permanent in 1954 and stayed on until 1959. With Duke Ellington, whom he described as "a pleasure to work with" and a man whose "kindness and warmth and friendship" you felt, the future priest traveled throughout the "country, in Canada and in Europe."

"It was a dream come true, a very happy experience because I had always admired Duke, Ellington, even when I was in the Navy," he said. "It was a joy, every bit of it."

But Father Sanders had another dream, one he was not quite sure of — a vocation to the priesthood. "I left in 1959 because things were very unsettled in my mind and I went back to my family with the idea of going back to school."

He worked in New York and at-



FATHER SANDERS

tended Fordham University for a while, then Columbia.

Father Norman O'Connor, CSP, of Oak Ridge, N.Y., another former jazz musician turned cleric, and Father Thomas H. Hicks of Brooklyn helped him "explore the possibility of the priesthood," said Father Sanders. "They encouraged me, guided me, and told me it was never too late."

"I could have gone on with Duke Ellington, it would have been easy, but I had to settle this 'thing' that was inside me," he added. "And my family was tremendous, with me in every decision. I never could have done it without them."

Keeping Tabs

The Holy Name and Rosary societies of St. Patrick's parish will serve spaghetti dinner tomorrow, Feb. 22, in the church hall, North Plymouth at Brown. Hours are 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5-8:30 p.m.; price \$1.50; half that for children under 12.

A public celebration of "mardi gras" is scheduled by Most Precious Blood parishioners for Saturday, Feb. 24. Dinner at 8 will be followed by dancing until 1 a.m. at 179 Stenson. There will be costume prizes.

Rosarians of St. John's, Greece will meet at 8 tonight for church services and a meeting featuring Marian Schneider of the Poison Control Center.

St. Anne's Rosary Society will hold a communion breakfast after the 9:30 a.m. Mass March 4. Sister Marion Gundell SSI will be guest speaker. Mrs. John Driscoll and Mrs. John Maxon are chairmen.

Cardinal Mooney Women's Wednesday, February 21, 1973

Guild has scheduled a "fun night" for Monday, Feb. 26, to follow a regular meeting at 8:15 at the school.

The Women's Club of St. Philip Neri will meet at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27. Richard Morales of the Gabriel Richard Institute will speak. Diane Ventura will be hostess.

A dinner dance will be held March 17 at St. Jude's parish center, 4100 Lyell Rd. Tickets are available through Chris DiBacco, 426-2870, and Madeline Carnevale, 426-2404.

Members of the 80th Seton Branch will meet at 8:30 tonight with Mrs. John Eber of Windsorshire Drive. Plans will be completed for a party to raise funds for St. Mary's Hospital.

Corpus Christi's annual parish family tureen supper will be Monday, March 12 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Entertainment will be provided for \$1 a family and \$5.00 for a single. For reser-

vations: Mrs. Malone, 482-0281 or Mrs. Augsbury, 288-5917.

A special Mass for those interested in the Pentecostal experience, will be held tomorrow, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Dewey Avenue at Maiden Lane.

The Padre Pio group will hold a Holy Hour at 8 tonight, Feb. 21, in St. Philip Neri Church.

Preparing for a sale March 17, the Rosary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle has designated Feb. 24-March 4 "take-in week." The homes of 15 members will be neighborhood collection depots for household goods, antiques, camping equipment and miscellany. Addresses may be obtained from Mrs. Billy J. Glazier, 544-0980; Mrs. Jack Krehling, 342-1379, or Mrs. Robert Drons, 342-3667.

Court FitzSimons, CDA, will meet in Lima Town Hall at 7:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26. Mrs. Marjory Vogt is chairman.