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Thomas Kicks His Way to Job

By JOHN DOSER

Bob Thomas, the McQuaid Jesuit and Notre Dame University graduate whose confidence level never falls below 99 and 44/100 per cent purity, finally has an NFL address he can call his own.

Thomas, who played soccer and kicked field goals and extra points at McQuaid — during the same seasons — and who earned a page in Notre Dame football history books with his game-winning field goal over Alabama in the 1974 Sugar Bowl, recently became a full-fledged member of the Chicago Bears.

He won the place kicking and fieldgoal kicking job when the Bears peddled Mirro Roder, their regular kicker of last season, by putting him on waivers.

The decision to go with Thomas instead of Roder meant success, for the moment, for the former Rochester schoolboy who never stopped shooting for the top.

Thomas had previously been cut by the defunct Jacksonville Sharks of the World Football League and later by the Los Angeles Rams of the NFL.

He says he was kicking what must have been his 1000th field goal attempt since last winter when he spotted Bears' head coach Jack Pardee heading his way.

"I knew it was squad-cutting time and I froze," Thomas explains.

"Then he said, 'You've made the team, Bob. Don't wear out your leg, it's going to be a long season.'"

Thomas says Pardee observed that he must have done a lot of kicking in the off-season because his leg was strong when he arrived at camp and it was just as strong seven weeks later.

Thomas says he sure did do a lot of kicking since last season.

He worked out during the winter with former Notre Dame gridder Brian Dougherty in Florida until the weather got warm in Rochester and he kicked a lot of time around at home until the Bears opened training camp.

Thomas was claimed by the Bears on waivers from the Rams after last season. He spent the entire preseason with L.A., but Rams' coach Chuck Knox decided to go with veteran Dave Ray who led the NFL in scoring the year before.

Thomas admits he couldn't argue with that.

He firmly believes his off-season practice plus his stick-to-it-tiveness gave him the edge over Roder.

There were also three other kickers in the Bears camp and he had to work hard to stay ahead of them.

When Roder missed the Bears' first exhibition game against San Diego, because of a bad foot, Thomas booted three field goals in three attempts — including a 42-yarder.

Thomas' boots gave the Bears a 9-0 lead and they went on to win, 22-0.

The game marked coach Pardee's debut with the Bears and he didn't forget who helped get the win for him.

In a later game against Green Bay in Milwaukee, Thomas missed two field goal attempts in the rain, but scored on a third chance from 45 yards out.

Thomas says he made the Bears because a new coaching staff didn't particularly favor veteran players. He adds that he had almost the same distances as did Roder, but that he was a lot more accurate.

Press Luncheon

Photo by Susan McKinney

Director of RapAround news coverage, Joan M. Smith, listens to suggestions from Bishop Kearney coordinators Vince Tersegno and Kathy Buonaccorso. School coordinators were guests of the Courier-Journal at a "kick-off" luncheon on Sept. 4 which launched the new season of high school coverage in RapAround.

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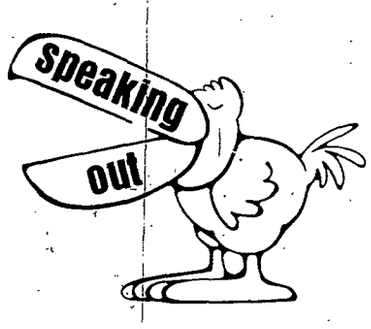
By PAT KOWALIK
Bishop Kearney



As of March 1974, 17-and-18-year-olds have been given the privilege to share the gift of life through donating blood. The value of this special gift to the receiver is more than can be expressed in words. The satisfaction, gained by the donor, of knowing you helped save someone's life is also inexpressible.

The complete process of donating blood normally takes no more than one hour. It is a simple process and it is quite painless. Most people fear donating blood because of the needle involved, but let me assure you it is nothing to be feared.

Donors are carefully screened to insure safety to both themselves and the patient who will receive the blood. Next the donor has a few small tests taken including temperature and blood pressure. After the screening and tests the donor is taken to the donor table and the actual process takes place. After giving a pint of blood the donor is escorted to a snack table and given something to eat.

On the other end of the life line is the patient, who can be suffering with any number of ailments requiring the transfusion of blood. The donor's blood can be divided into any number of its parts depending on the patient's need. The call for blood is one that never ceases, especially during a holiday weekend.

The personal gratification of knowing you may have saved someone's life is more than any other experience can offer. It is a gift to be shared and only you can give it. I strongly urge everyone especially teenagers, to give blood. If you give once, the self-satisfaction alone will urge you to give again.

As of the present, only three percent of the population of the United States donates blood. If you are interested in giving blood the American Red Cross has its donating center at 50 Prince St.

HUNGER BANQUET

A World Hunger Banquet, intended to dramatize the inequities of food distribution around the world, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, at McQuaid Jesuit High School. It is a joint project of all the Human Development committees of the Southwest Region.

Tickets, at $4 each, may be obtained from Bernie Kiel, 47 Main St., Scottsville, N.Y. 14546; telephone 889-1388. Reservations are limited.

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