

Round Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

Aquinas Football Burns Should Never Have Happened

By JOHN DOSER

Every school youngster learns early that strong acids or alkalis and many other chemicals can cause severe burns.

The burns usually are the result of splashing or spilling of the fluid. When this occurs, immediate removal of clothing and washing with water are essential to minimize the effect of the chemical which continues to corrode the patient's living tissue until it is wholly removed or neutralized.

Aquinas fullback Bill Magee, wrote Ray Buck in a Times-Union sports story last week, "lies at home, naked and in pain, flat on his back beneath a makeshift tent — a flowery printed sheet draped over an inverted aluminum cot.

"Absolutely nothing is allowed to touch his sensitive skin. He couldn't stand it.

"His body is tattooed from ankles to navel with massive red blotches, resembling raw hamburger, concentrated heavily in the thigh and groin region," according to Buck.

Magee, the hard-driving Little Irish fullback, who picked up a loose ball from quarterback Tim Weston and scooted through a hole and into the end zone for possibly the last touchdown of his high school career, suffers from first, second, and third degree burns, the result of contact with dehydrated lime applied by the City of Rochester to the Holleder Stadium gridiron a week ago Saturday.

The lime, which combined with the rain, formed a mixture of calcium hydroxide fluid, explains Dave Missell, Aquinas athletic director, head soccer coach, and a chemistry teacher at the Dewey Avenue School.

Magee picked up by far the worst burns of any of the more than 30 Aquinas and Madison players who complained of burns,

probably because he was in on more head-to-head plays than anyone else on the field.

Magee and some other teammates, also affected by the burns, missed Sunday's important game at McQuaid where both teams met in a battle of unbeaten with the Knights holding a three-year winning streak over the Irish.

The lime issue quickly became a political issue.

Rochester City Councilman Charles Schiano, the only republican on the City Council, who attended the Aquinas-Madison game, blasted city and Democratic city council members the following Tuesday for "gross incompetence" while City Manager Elisha Freedman accused Schiano of being deceitful for keeping news of the incident to himself until the council meeting.

Fourteen parents of Quinas gridders injured by the burns met during the week and decided to retain an attorney to initiate either a claim or a lawsuit against the city.

A lot is at stake, William Magee, Billy's dad explains.

He figures his son's athletic successes at Aquinas this fall would have resulted in at least a \$20,000 athletic scholarship because college football scouts had indicated they would watch the Little Irish fullback closely this season.

"That's \$5,000 a year for four years," the senior Magee adds, "not counting the pain."

The young Aquinas fullback had scouts from Syracuse and Colgate watching him and he had received letters of inquiry from Fordham, West Point, Pennsylvania and other schools.

John Marshall, father of Little Irish guard Wayne Marshall, says

the compound calcium hydroxide is what orice was used to take the meat off the bones of dead animals. . . or what they used to pour into outhouses to kill things.

Dr. Simon Kovalik of Strong Memorial Hospital's Poison Control Center says if the lime had gotten into the players' eyes without the proper washing with several quarts of water, the irritant could eat through the sclera, the outer white covering of the eye, possibly causing blindness.

The same lime was used that weekend and previously on eight other city-owned athletic fields including Edgerton Park where Jefferson played Edison Tech the same day. (Jeff and Edison players reported only a few minor burns).

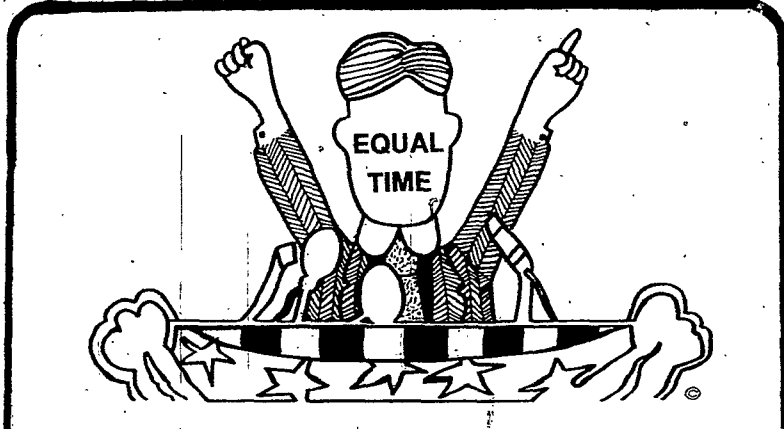
At midweek City Recreation Commissioner Jeffrey Swain ordered the fields closed until all traces of the lime were removed.

Missell says the lime tested at the Aquinas chemistry lab indicated a pH strength of 12 on a scale of 1 to 14 — where seven is neutral, and higher numbers reflect alkalinity which can irritate the skin (pH of 9) or cause burns (pH of 11 or higher).

Schiano presented City Council with an empty lime bag, presumably taken from Holleder Stadium, which clearly warned that its contents, hydrated lime, could cause irritation or burns to wet skin with prolonged contact.

It was later learned that the lime was purchased by the city for use as a fertilizer to be applied to park grounds or grasses by the City Parks Bureau.

Some City Council members were upset because it took four days for them to realize the significance of the burns, but the incident had been reported the next day in the Sunday Democrat & Chronicle.



What is your favorite TV show?

CARDINAL MOONEY

Kirk Wagner, senior . . . "I like Beretta because I think the star, Richard Blake, has style and I like police episodes. I think television programming is good. I definitely think there is enough variety in TV shows to interest everyone except perhaps for sport coverage — they overdo it."



Tammy O'Neil, senior, field hockey team . . . "Monty Python's Flying Circus. It's different from other programs with a variety of weird comedy. Some of the TV programming is all right, but some of it is pretty bad. There is too much violence on TV. All this type (violent) shows get shown together."



Tom Alaimo, senior . . . "My favorite television program is Hollywood Squares. It has all kinds of actors on it from stars to average people — a good variety of characters. I definitely think there is not enough variety on TV for people to watch. I'd like to see more adventure shows about what is going on in our time."



Louis Ricciuto, senior, track . . . "Beretta." It has a lot of action in it, and no two episodes are the same. I think there is quite a bit of variety in TV programming — comedy, variety shows, game shows. If there is anything on TV I don't agree with, it is the private detective stories. There are too many of them and they are all similar."



Chris Rakar, freshman, baseball . . . "My favorite is Happy Days. I like the old days and the music. I think there are too many police stories on TV. I would like to see more comedy on television. I think TV sports coverage is just right, especially football games."



Dolores Pressley, freshman, basketball . . . "I think I like Emergency the best because I like to watch police and firemen stories. I like to see people saved, and like to see it as part of real life, too. There could be a lot more 9 o'clock movies on, but otherwise the variety is really good."



Tim Keenan, sophomore, soccer . . . "My Python's Flying Circus because it is good English humor. Kojack is my next favorite. I think TV should have more sports coverage. There are too many detective stores which all tend to be the same."



Jill Hutson, sophomore, 1975 carnival queen . . . "I enjoy Mash because it is funny. I like the comedies. I don't think a lot of the shows need all the violence to get across. There should be good entertainment and I feel comedy is the best part of it."



Photo by Susan McKinney

Mercy Downs Charlotte

Coleen Cleary (Mercy high school's 22) is all tangled up with Charlotte high school's Bonnie McKay (13). Cleary went on to boot in two goals earning a 2-1 victory for Mercy. The game was played Thursday Sept. 25.

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