

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Coach has become Mooney institution

Nietopski arrived at Mooney by chance

By Tom Dixon
Cardinal Mooney High School

"Ed-die" is a familiar chant in the corridors of Cardinal Mooney High School. That's because Ed Nietopski has been roaming the halls of Mooney for the past 24 years. Coach Nietopski started his baseball career at 17, fresh out of high school. In the years afterward, he spent about 10 years playing baseball at various places.

"Baseball has touched my life," Nietopski explains. "It has given me an education and let me travel to places I never thought I would get to as I grew up in Buffalo."

Just recently, the National High School Athletic Coaches Association announced its selection of the Cardinals' coach as the 1987 baseball Coach of the Year in region 1. The coach of the year is chosen each year by all the coaches of the state. Nietopski will receive his award during the association's annual convention and awards banquet, scheduled for the Louisiana Superdome on June 26.

Many Mooney students don't know it, but chance brought Coach Nietopski to Mooney. In 1950, he was 20 minutes away from boarding a bus that would have taken him to spring training with the St. Louis Cardinals. But just before he got on the bus, the owners and coaches of the Cardinals held a meeting to decide between Nietopski and Solly Hemus. They chose Hemus, and Nietopski was sent to Rochester, where he met his wife Betty and went on to win the championship with the Red Wings.

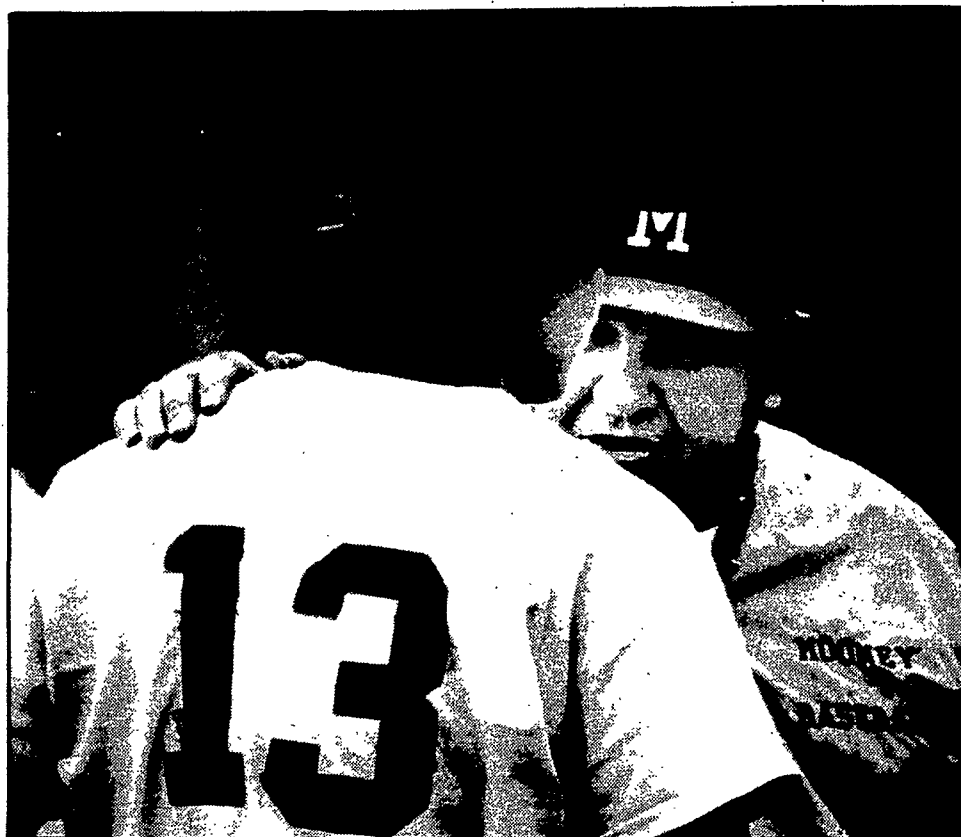
"I guess I'm glad that I didn't make it to the big leagues," he remarks. "If I had made it, I probably wouldn't be here at Mooney right now."

"I really love this place; I enjoy each day. Each team I've coached has held a special place for me," he adds.

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- The following is a quick run-down of the coach's career:
- 1945: Played for Scranton and Durham (Boston farm system).
 - 1946: St. Louis signed him to a minor-league contract.
 - 1947: Played for Hamilton, Ontario.
 - 1948: Played for St. Joe, Missouri, and won pennant.
 - 1949: Played for Omaha.
 - 1950: Rochester, which was St. Louis' farm club, wins pennant.
 - 1951-52: Joined the army.
 - 1953: Played in Rochester and Columbus.
 - 1954: Went to college (majoring in physical education) and played summer baseball.
 - 1955: Set up baseball program in Newfoundland and won championship.
 - 1964: Became athletic director and coach at Mooney.
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During his 23-year coaching career at the Greece Catholic high school, Nietopski has compiled a 410-95 record in baseball and a 391-153 slate in basketball. Continuing in that tradition, Nietopski has been preparing for a 1987 season highlighted by innovation.

The new addition to this year's team isn't a freshman or senior, but new dugouts and a new infield. Installed this year, the dugouts measure 40'x8'x7'. And on the home side, a new



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal
Nietopski has passed on his wealth of knowledge and experience to past and present Cardinals for 23 years.

equipment room provides an area of 20'x8'x7'. The room will be used to store bases, lines and rakes.

The infield is crushed red brick, which is one of the best surfaces for baseball. The brick will be smoother than the old infield surface, and it will easily drain on those wet Rochester days.

Improvements were completed by opening day. All the money for the renovations was donated by an anonymous person who wanted to do something for the athletic department. The field may be a new touch here at Mooney, but the players still rely for help on their old friend, Ed Nietopski.

Speaking Out

By Cynthia Yantz
Nazareth Academy

Each year, a dreaded syndrome attacks high school seniors. Generally manifesting itself just after the first of the year, this disease is characterized by an increasing lack of interest in school activities, lack of motivation, continual neglect of homework and overwhelming procrastination. Of course, the severity of outbreaks varies from school to school and victim to victim. The name of this syndrome is senioritis.

This horrible condition strikes even the most unlikely students. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race or religion. No senior is safe. Every day, teachers diagnose new cases of the disease; yet there is no cure. Good intentions and resolutions to get work done notwithstanding, work seems to stagnate and nothing is accomplished.

The serious psychological complications of senioritis arise from the growing uncertainty seniors face as graduation day draws nearer. By the end of senior year, students have experienced 12 to 13 years of safe and predictable school days. Although they are waiting anxiously for the day they can leave high school forever, they are also nervous and afraid of what is to come. After the structure provided in most students' school and home lives, seniors can easily be frightened by the relative freedom and responsibilities soon to be put upon them.

They are also faced with questions like, "What college am I going to next year?" and "How am I going to pay for it?" Those who are not going to college have to worry about what jobs are available to recent high school graduates.

The six months prior to graduation are a period of building tension as high school students prepare to make the transition to adulthood.

Equal Time

Nazareth Academy
What do you think are the biggest freedoms and responsibilities facing seniors after graduation?

KATHY GOMES, senior
You cannot have freedom without responsibility, and this applies to all aspects of life, especially the major change that is involved in graduating from high school. I think the biggest freedom is being able to spend your time as you choose. At the same time, you now face the decision of getting a full-time job or going on in your education. While you now choose where you are going, you have the responsibility to spend that time productively, as you set up patterns that start you out in your role as an adult.

MICHELLE POMBERT, senior
I believe that the biggest freedom facing seniors after graduation is getting out into the world on your own. At 18, you are technically an adult, and it is both exciting and frightening at the same time. The biggest responsibility many graduates face is the decision between going to college and joining the work force. This decision is very important and it is very well a turning point in many people's lives. I personally have decided to further my education so that I can get a degree and still get away from home.

SUE XAISANASY, senior
The biggest freedom that graduates are faced with is leaving home. For many students, a big step is going to college, where they live, eat and socialize away from any parental influence. This freedom is very exciting and very scary for most people who have depended on their parents for most things, up to the point of graduation. With this freedom of being on your own comes the responsibility of taking care of yourself. This includes a whole range of aspects, including learning how to do your own wash and eating properly so as not to become ill.

CHRIS MORGAN, senior
After graduation, a senior is faced with many new opportunities. I believe these opportunities are both freedoms and responsibilities. If students choose to go away to college, they have the freedom of being on their own, but yet they have to manage their own time and improve their own study habits. This freedom forces them to depend on themselves and create a sense of responsibility for themselves.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 7 correct entries identifying the year of Bob Seger's Chevy in his song, "Night Moves" as a 1960.

The winner was **Cathy Makitra** of Bath, N.Y.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
From what Bob Dylan song are the following lyrics from? "Once upon a time you dressed so fine"

A: _____

Rules:
Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.
If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.
All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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