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Tops sign two, more on the way

2-12-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Dave Roberts said if he signs 15 or 16 football recruits before the national letter-of-intent signing period is over a little more than a week from now, then he and his Western staff have done well.

But, if the Hilltoppers sign just eight or nine recruits, "we will have gotten knocked around pretty good."

It's looking as if Roberts will make it halfway to that goal of 16 before this day is over.

The Toppers had two definite signees and three oral commitments as of late this morning, and more are expected before the sun sets on this first signing day for the nation's football playing seniors.

Western has signed one of the top-rated running backs in the state, and a big offensive lineman who was offered a scholarship by Miami, Fla.

Donald Smith, a 5-10, 180-pound running back out of Harrodsburg, and Chandler Wallace, a 6-4, 275-pound offensive and defensive tackle from Fort Pierce, Fla., signed national letters this morning to attend Western.

Two of the better players in the Nashville, Tenn., area orally committed to Western Monday night, and a Louisville Eastern running back committed over a month ago.

Goodpasture wingback John Carter, a 6-1, 190-pound All-Nashville selection, and York Institute linebacker-defensive end Charles Guffey announced Monday night, according to Nashville newspaper reports. Ron Robbins of Eastern made Western his choice in January.

All three are expected to sign today with Western.

Smith — who was rated the third-best back in the state behind Trigg County's Al Baker and Meade County's Elliott Ditto — has rushed for over 5,000 yards during his career. The All-State selection scored 45 touchdowns in his junior and senior seasons.

"He's a heck of a prospect for us, and he'll stay at, running back," Roberts said.

Wallace is a big prize for the Toppers because when a football power like the Hurricanes makes a player an offer, he usually doesn't refuse.

"We'll probably start him on defense. He's a good signee for us because of his size, and he had the chance to go to Miami," Roberts said.

The two Nashville players have impressive statistics.

Carter is 6-1, 190 pounds. He had 1,430 yards and 12 touchdowns combined rushing and receiving, and he was a key ingredient in Goodpasture's Class 2A semifinal team.

Guffey is 6-5 and 207 pounds. He had 126 solo tackles, 64 assists, two blocked punts and three recovered fumbles for York last season.

Robbins is playing basketball for Eastern after finishing up a fine football career.

Size is priority as Toppers sign 16

2-13-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western made some significant advances in the state and regional recruiting scene with the 16 national letter-of-intent signees it got Wednesday, the first day high school seniors could sign with colleges to play football.

Coach Dave Roberts was looking for size on the line and in the offensive backfield, and it looks like he got both.

Chandler Wallace, a 6-4, 275-pound lineman from Fort Pierce, Fla., was the first big man to sign with Western Wednesday, but he was joined by a couple of others by day's end.

One of the biggest coups of the day was the signing of Matt Foreman out of Indianapolis. Foreman is a 6-7, 270-pound tackle who will probably start out on defense for Western. The University of Kentucky, among others, was reportedly hot on Foreman's trail. Roberts said Western's academic programs impressed the big lineman.

Jeffersontown's Larry Mucker is a 6-1, 245-pound offensive lineman who, "A lot of people didn't think we'd get," Roberts said. The University of Louisville was one of

the schools in pursuit of the lineman.

David Wilson, a 6-2, 245-pound defensive tackle from Mayfield, was the biggest Western prize in this part of the state.

Wilson and running back Donald Smith (5-10, 180) of Harrodsburg, who also signed Wednesday, were both first-team All-State performers.

The other big people on Roberts' list include defensive end-linebacker Ken Singleton (6-3, 230) out of Atlanta and linebacker Jeff Barnett (6-2, 235) out of Louisville DeSales.

Ron Robbins (6-0, 225) from Louisville Eastern is one of the big, strong fullbacks Roberts was looking for. Mike Carrier is a 5-11, 230-pound fullback from Waldorf (Iowa) Junior College. Carrier is a native of Canada.

Eddie Godfreid is a 5-10, 180-pound speedster out of Lakeland, Fla., who will be playing running back or receiver.

A couple of more linebackers who signed are Harold Taylor (6-1, 190) from Birmingham, Ala., and Jeff Atkins (6-1, 215) from Fairfield,

Ohio. Eddie Mitchell, a 6-1, 180-pound defensive back, played for Cass High in Cartersville, Ga.

Doug Jones is a 6-3, 220-pound tight end from Covington Holmes. Roberts said he may play defense.

Goodpasture (Tenn.) wingback John Carter (6-1, 190) and York Institute's Charles Guffey (6-5, 207) signed earlier Wednesday. Guffey is a linebacker for the Jamestown, Tenn., school.

"This is the first time we've had people come in who won't have to

sign 16

just step in and start right away," Roberts said. "But, a lot of these freshmen will have to help us next year."

Sun Belt standings

Here are today's Sun Belt Conference men's standings.

	Overall	Conf.
Old Dominion	17-5	9-2
Western	19-5	8-3
Alabama-Birmingham	21-7	8-4
Jacksonville	15-9	6-5
Virginia Commonwealth	10-12	5-5
South Florida	11-10	3-6
South Alabama	15-12	4-7
UNC Charlotte	5-17	0-11

Thursday's games
South Florida at Western
UNC Charlotte at South Alabama
Old Dominion at Virginia Commonwealth

Fatkin, Thomas win awards

D. N. 4-20-56

Mark Fatkin and Kami Thomas will receive their Western Athletes-of-the-Year awards today at the university's Awards Day.

Fatkin ended his Western football career this season as a two-time academic All-America offensive lineman.

The senior from Radcliff played at defensive end his first two seasons at Western.

Fatkin, a 6-2, 257-pounder who played for North Hardin High School, was one of only four athletes to be repeat picks on the university division All-America list.

Thomas was a second-team All-America player this year for the Lady Toppers, and has been a key in their two straight appearances in the Final Four.

The 5-9 senior from Warren East finished her career as the second-leading women's scorer in the school's history with 1,796 points.

Her 79.7 free throw percentage is a Western career mark.

Thomas was a first-team All-Sun Belt Conference pick after averaging 16.8 points per game for the 32-4 Lady Toppers.

Media will get lesson in coaching

D. N. 4-23-56

The roar coming out of football locker room Monday at Smith Stadium was deafening.

The "Red-White" chant was so loud, in fact, that you would've thought the Hilltoppers were getting ready to play Eastern.

Instead, they will be playing each other Friday night in the first-ever Red-White Spring Game at Bowling Green High's Donaldson Stadium.

Several junior and senior members of the football team had a draft Monday to determine who would be on the respective teams in what could be an epic matchup.

As with most spring games, the timing and polish might not quite be there, so it may not be an epic in those terms; but what should make this a contest not soon to be forgotten are the great minds that will be on the sidelines calling the plays.

The Red Team is being coached by none other than your friendly, neighborhood sports editor and Wes Strader, voice of Western football and basketball on the Hilltopper Radio Network.

Scratching their heads and trying to figure out what to do next across the field with the White Team will be WBKO-TV's sports director Gene Blrk and sports reporter Pam Younglove.

See what I mean by an epic?

Coach Dave Roberts hatched the idea of a spring game a few weeks ago. The thought of having media coaches must have come to him in a dream about what to do when you've run out of things to laugh at.

Roberts at least has had the good sense to make the Red Team a 21-point favorite.

As the players' enthusiasm on Monday showed, the spring game Friday will be a welcome break to the hum-drum practices and drills the team has been going through for the past three weeks.

"Oh, they're pumped up," Roberts said. "They get so tired of spring practice. They're looking forward to playing."

And from the way the players were talking Monday, they won't be taking it easy on each other, either.

"There's a lot of intensity for this game. They'll be trading some licks out there," Roberts said.

Playing time next fall is one reason this game will be played at a fever pitch.

"Whoever does well in this game could be a starter in the first game," Roberts said.

Western opens its season Sept. 6

Media learning to coach

D. N. 4-23-84

Continued From Page 1-B

at Smith Stadium against Gardner-Webb, then comes back the next week to host Livingston, Ala. The following two weeks will be spent on the road at Louisville and Murray, respectively. The big Eastern-Western clash is Oct. 4. The Hilltoppers then travel to Tennessee State on Oct. 18, and Austin Peay on Oct. 25.

Homecoming will be celebrated Nov. 1 against Georgia Southern. Boston University pays a visit to Smith Stadium the next weekend. Western travels to Eastern Illinois Nov. 15 before closing out the year at home against Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Roberts said the two teams picked in the NFL style draft are almost even in talent.

The Reds have a definite advantage on the offensive and defensive lines.

Ron Hopkins, a 6-2, 290-pound junior, and Rob Weinkle, a 6-5, 270-pound sophomore, will anchor the offensive line.

Junior defensive tackle Arthur Davis (6-5, 265) is a key man on the Red defensive front.

The quarterbacking advantage goes to the Reds all the way with Jeff Cesarone at the helm. Cesarone is a 6-2, 210-pound junior who has rewritten many of the Western passing records in his first

two seasons here.

Vincel Anthony, a 5-11, 190-pound sophomore, and Pat McKenzie, a 5-10, 205-pound senior, are the big men in the Red backfield.

Mike Carberry, a 6-0, 220-pound sophomore, should be an impact player at linebacker for the Reds.

Sophomore Walter Loving (6-3, 230) is a terror at defensive end. Mark Johnson (6-2, 200) is a senior leader in the defensive backfield for the Reds.

The Whites have the speed at the wide receiver spot and in the backfield. The linebacking and defensive end corps are also strong for the Whites.

Senior Keith Paskett (5-11, 180) and junior Cedric Jones (5-11, 175) are a pair of speedsters who have been running track this spring. They haven't practiced much with the football team and Roberts said they may be a little rusty.

A pair of sophomores could be trouble coming out of the backfield for the Whites.

Joe Arnold (5-11, 185) and Kelvin Nedd (5-9, 180) have been dueling for supremacy there all spring.

"They really went to war with each other," Roberts said.

Steve Walsh, a 6-4, 295-pound junior, and Barry Anderson, a 6-3, 275-pound senior, are the ones to watch on the White offensive line.

Sophomore Denny Caple (6-2, 265)

and junior Allen King (6-3, 245) are the leaders on the defensive line.

Calvin Edwards, a 6-1, 215-pound sophomore, is a dangerous linebacker. Junior Curt Page (6-3, 240) is the leading White defensive end.

Junior Harold Wright (6-1, 185) and senior Vernard Johnson (5-10, 190) are veteran defensive backs for the White Team.

If the kicking game is a factor, the Whites have the advantage with kicker Dan Maher and punter Adam Lindsey. But the Red Team has regular starting snapper, Dennis Cecil.

The game will be four 12-minute quarters, and the Western coaching staff will hold a children's football clinic at halftime.

The clinic is a good idea, because Birk and Younglove might need a little extra help.

Arnold has first day in office

D.N. 4-25-86
Continued From Page 1-B

because he's been running track with Keith Paskett, Cedric Jones and Kelvin Nedd. Jones, Nedd and Paskett are all on the White Team, though, so that has to give the Reds the advantage.

Ah, what we coaches have to go through getting ready for the big game.

* * *

Former Western football player Tim Mooney signed a free agent contract with the New York Jets earlier this week.

The Evansville, Ind., native was a defensive tackle for Western and graduated in 1985.

Davlin Mullen has played for the Jets since graduating from Western in 1982.

Stuart Bundy, a nose tackle for Western who graduated last year, was drafted earlier this year by Edmonton in the Canadian Football League.

* * *

Murray Arnold completed his first full day on campus Thursday since being named Western's men's basketball coach last week.

Arnold was finishing out his term as an assistant with the Chicago Bulls, who were eliminated earlier this week from the NBA playoffs in three games by the Boston Celtics.

The new coach met individually with some of his players Thursday, and will complete the meetings today.

"Anytime you can visit with the guys is the most enjoyable time," Arnold said. "The players are the No. 1 priority right now. We're trying to get together on the same wavelength."

The upbeat Arnold said he is getting used to his new surroundings.

"I like it enough to keep coming back," he quipped.

As for signing any new players, Arnold said it "is a possibility, but not necessarily a probability."

Arnold said he is in no rush to hire assistant coaches. "I'm going to take time with all the options," he said.

Western assistant coach David Farrar hasn't made a move, yet, and it is thought that he will stay on for at least another season.

Talk is over, now it's time to hit field

D.N. 4-25-86

I was able to sleep better after watching my Red Team go through its paces Thursday in the first, last and only workout before the big, stupendous, tremendous Red-White Spring Game tonight at Bowling Green High's Donaldson Stadium.

All Coach Wes Strader and I worked on was the offense, but that was more than enough to convince me that the Reds certainly can live up to the 21-point favorite tag that Coach Dave Roberts put on the team for the 8 p.m. showdown.

I'll despend with going through our gameplan, so opposing coaches Gene Birk and Pam Younglove of WBKO-TV won't have any chance to analyze the inner workings of two great football minds.

There's been a lot of big talk going on between the opposing coaches and players this week, which has added a degree of excitement and fun to a game that means little more than spring practice is over.

"There isn't any pressure playing against our own guys, only peer pressure," said Red starting quarterback Jeff Cesarone.

All the hype that has surrounded the game hasn't been lost on people around town, either.

"It seems like there's more excitement about this game than there would be for a regular game because of all the talk about it," Cesarone said.

Some problems have cropped up prior to game day that could hamper the Red effort.

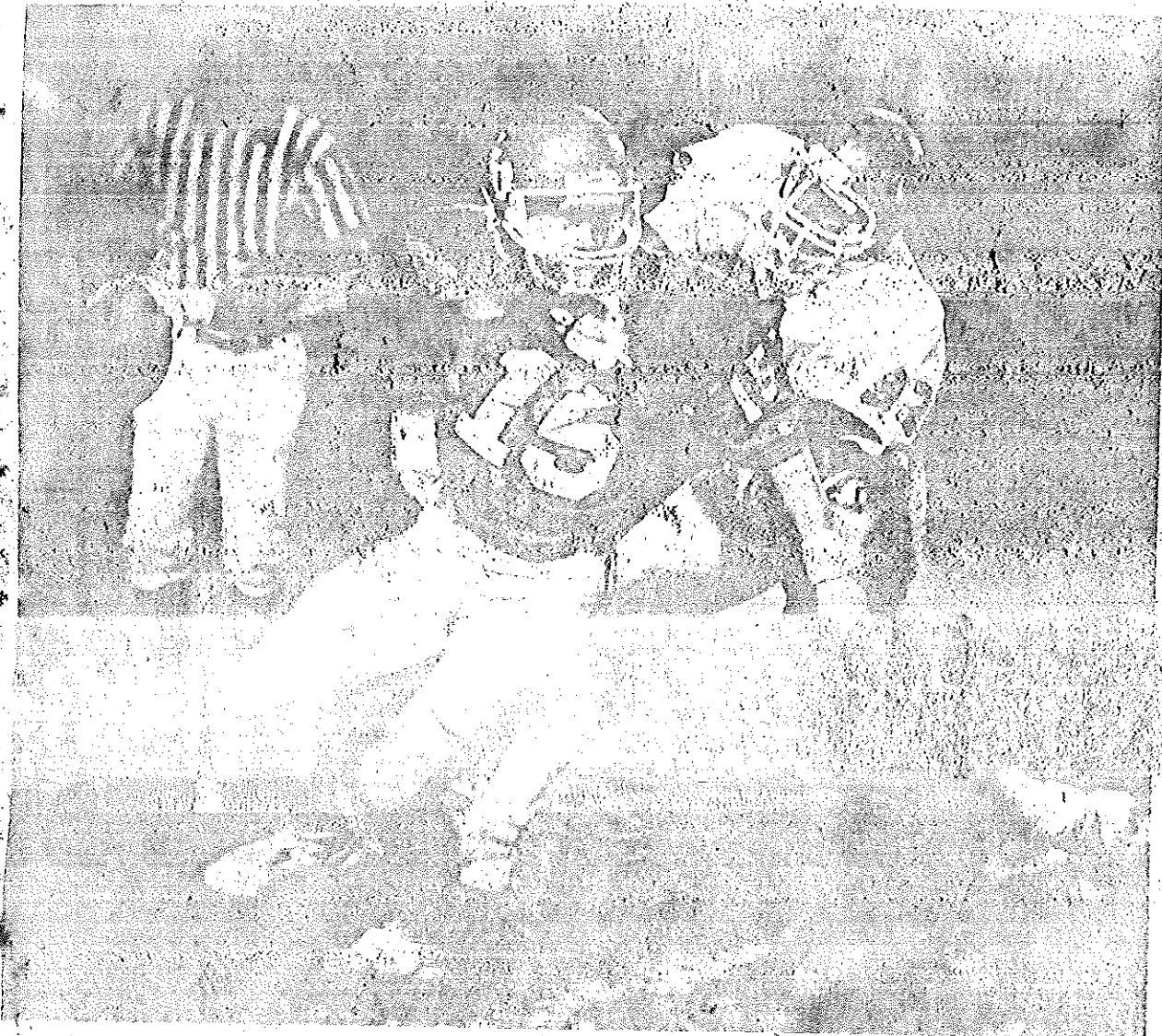
The injury bug has bitten our team, and we found out at practice that some people are playing out of position from last season.

For example, two of our offensive linemen were defensive linemen last year, but they're big, so that's OK.

Dean Tiebout, a 6-4, 290-pound sophomore offensive lineman, is out with a pulled achilles tendon. That is our biggest injury to worry about, according to one of our assistant coaches.

We also found out that wide receiver Tony Barber, a former speed demon from Bowling Green High, hasn't taken a hit all spring

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(Staff Photo by Gary Clark)

In the grasp

JIMMY GOM (15), quarterback for Western's Red Team during Friday night's Red-White Spring Game, is about to get sacked by White defender

James Pillman at Donaldson Stadium. The Red Team lost a 9-7 heartbreaker in the game that marked the end of spring practice.

D.N. 4-27-56

Football looking at OVC associate

D.N. 5-7-86

In an effort to help ease the hard times Western has fallen upon on the gridiron the last few years, the school is looking into becoming an Ohio Valley Conference associate member in football, according to athletic director John Oldham.

The OVC announced Tuesday that Tennessee State has applied for full membership to the conference and that Western is interested in associate member status.

Western left the OVC after the 1981-82 athletic year to join the Sun Belt Conference. The move was clearly designed to give more exposure and benefits to Western's men's basketball program.

The SBC doesn't sponsor a football championship and Western is the only school in the conference that plays football.

Oldham said he and OVC

Commissioner Jim Delany have "been in discussions for several months" about the football program becoming an associate member.

Western was given clearance by SBC Commissioner Vic Bubas to enter in the discussions with the OVC, according to Oldham.

Since the Sun Belt doesn't involve football, there wouldn't be a conflict between the two leagues, Oldham said.

Western has to participate in six sports to keep its membership in the SBC, and if it was accepted in the OVC in football, it wouldn't have to drop out of the SBC.

This isn't the first time there has been talk of Western football getting back in the OVC. In previous years, the presidents of the OVC schools have balked at



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News Sports Editor
Commentary

having Western back in the league, and the presidents will be left with the decision again this year at the conference's annual meeting June 3-4 in Lexington.

For Western to be given associate member status, the OVC would have to change its constitution, because the league doesn't recognize associate members.

"The concept of associate membership is a different approach," Delany said this morning in a telephone interview

from Nashville. "If the conference presidents feel like there is a significant advantage for the league, they will vote Western in."

Delany wouldn't predict how the vote would go.

It is widely believed, however, that most of the coaches around the conference would like to see Western back in and the Ohio schools — Akron and Youngstown State — out of the conference.

One reason Western football might be accepted back is pure economics.

The recent money crunch in the university systems of Kentucky and Tennessee has made it less desirable for the Division I-AA football programs in those states to make long trips for games. Akron, which has former Notre Dame coach Gerry Faust at the helm, is expected to jump to I-A after this season.

Even though there was some bad feeling toward Western when it left the OVC, neither Oldham nor Delany thinks that is an issue now.

"The reaction has been very favorable (to Western's football program coming back in)," Oldham said.

"I don't think that's a critical factor. The key thing in this is or the advantages greater for us than the disadvantages," Delany said.

Western football really began a backward slide when the school left the OVC and had to play as an independent.

As an independent, Western almost has to go undefeated in a season to gain a bid to the I-AA playoffs. The OVC has an automatic bid to the playoffs.

The OVC has emerged as perhaps the premiere football conference in I-AA since Western left the league.

Eastern's success in I-AA has been well documented. Middle Tennessee has also shoved its way into the spotlight with two strong seasons. And, of course, Murray is a consistent performer in national polls.

Coach Dave Roberts has made significant progress in getting Western football back on its feet after the last few weak years of the Jimmy Feix era.

Rejoining the conference in football would help rebuild natural rivalries and would also help Western with recruiting, as a team always wants to have something to play for — like a conference championship — rather than to be floundering on the hope of an undefeated season every year.

It looks like the time is right for a move like this.

Western basketball coach Murray Arnold got to meet the public

g at OVC associate status



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News Sports Editor
Commentary

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Western to be given associate member status, the OVC would have to change its constitution, and the league doesn't reelect associate members.

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Western basketball coach Murray Arnold got to meet the public

Tuesday during a Hilltopper Hundred Club luncheon and on Wes Strader's Sportsline show that night.

Some of the things he said had been heard before, but Arnold did offer some insights into his role as a coach, how he likes to see the game played, and where his wife, Ann Conn, fits into the program.

Ann Conn, a Russellville native, is very active with her husband's coaching.

"I'm the varsity coach, and she's my head coach," Murray said.

"I decided when I married him I wasn't going to be a basketball widow. And he started winning after he married me," Ann Conn said.

Ann Conn keeps statistics for her husband, and she'll even slip a note of advice to him now and then.

The most important statistic she'll be keeping is the offensive and defensive efficiency ratings. It is a statistic that deals with the number of points the teams score in relation to how many times they have the ball.

"It gives you a feel for the tempo of the game," Murray said. "It makes communication with the players easier."

The most often asked questions Tuesday night dealt with assistant coaches and recruiting.

Arnold said he thought the team

was in good enough shape with the players it has now, and that recruiting isn't a worry.

Shaun Vandiver and Rodney Ross will be taking their American College Tests again, and both are expected to be at Western in the fall, Arnold said. Ross and Vandiver failed to score the mandatory 12 on their ACTs when they took the tests earlier this year.

And as he's maintained since his hiring, Arnold is taking his time in hiring assistant coaches. David Farrar is expected to stay at Western for at least one more season.

Arnold said he has talked with Fred Tisdale about his basketball future, and the first consideration that hinges on his how well Tisdale does on his finals this week.

One of former coach Clem Haskins' last official acts at Western was to kick Tisdale off the team following his arrest for shoplifting at a local grocery store.

Tisdale pleaded guilty to a charge of theft by unlawful taking under \$100 in connection with the incident.

"I'm hopeful that Fred will give me the opportunity to let him work his way back on the team," Arnold said.

OVC tables football request

D.N. 6 4 56

It looked like a sure thing when it was first announced about a month ago that Western was trying to gain associate membership status for its football program in the Ohio Valley Conference — the league Western left for the Sun Belt Conference four years ago.

But, at the annual conference meeting Tuesday league officials tabled the motion that would have changed the OVC's constitution to allow associate membership status to be given to Western.

Western athletic director John Oldham said OVC commissioner Jim Delany called Tuesday

afternoon telling of the league's decision. Delany couldn't be reached for comment this morning.

"There are a couple of other schools that are interested in joining the conference as full-time members, and they wanted those schools rather than an associate member," Oldham said. East Tennessee and Tennessee State are two schools said to be under consideration for full membership in the conference.

Oldham said he was surprised with the OVC's decision.

"I thought it would really work out well for our program

and the OVC. But I can understand it if they're going to bring in a full-time member," Oldham said.

Oldham didn't think there was any animosity toward Western among the OVC members when talking of the move back into the league for football.

When talk started on the associate member status for Western, several other schools in the OVC approached the league wanting associate membership status for their programs. Oldham said that was probably the main reason the league didn't vote on the motion.

Tennessee St. in, Western still out after OVC meets

By STAN SUTTON

Staff Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Tennessee State University, which had made overtures for Ohio Valley Conference membership for 20 years, joined the ranks of the 38-year-old league yesterday. The Nashville, Tenn., school will replace Akron in the eight-team circuit.

At the same time, the OVC presidents tabled a proposal that could have led to Western Kentucky rejoining the league for football purposes only.

Akron, which expressed a desire to play Division I-A football when it hired former Notre Dame coach Gerry Faust late last year, will compete next season. Tennessee State will be eligible for championships in all sports except football next year and will be eligible in football in 1988.

OVC commissioner Jim Delany said Tennessee State, which has a traditionally strong football program, will play at least five conference games during the 1988 season and two of its other games will be designated as league games until 1990. By that time, the Tigers will be locked into the OVC's rotating schedule.

Howard Gentry, interim athletic director at the Nashville school, said his school first made overtures toward OVC membership about 1965.

Delany said Western Kentucky, a charter OVC member that left the league in 1982 in favor of the Sun Belt Conference, had expressed interest in becoming an associate member should the Ohio Valley decide to accept such a program. None of the other Sun Belt schools plays football, and Western has been playing as a Division I-AA independent.

According to Delany, Akron also expressed an interest in being an associate member for sports other than football. The OVC schools have played a I-AA schedule since that

classification was formed in 1979, and Eastern Kentucky has won two national championships at that level.

Delany also said that OVC member Morehead State had indicated a possible interest last year in dropping its football program to the Division II level.

But the league's planning and development committee, chaired by Murray State president Dr. Kala Stroup, recommended that more study be made into associate memberships before the league addresses the matter.

Delany said Western had asked about associate membership when it pulled out of the OVC, but "at that time we had committed to full-member institutions."

Guthrie said he thought "changing times" were a factor in Tennessee State being accepted after 20 years of being spurned.

Eastern Kentucky president Hanly Funderburk said major concerns before the decision were a poor playing field at Tennessee State's Hale Stadium and the condition of the stadium in general.

Dr. Roy Peterson, interim president of the school, said plans were in order to upgrade the stadium and the field before September 1987. He said appropriate requests had been made to the state, and said gifts to the program also would be applied to that area.

Both Funderburk and Delany emphasized that the academic program at Tennessee State had been scrutinized. Funderburk said the OVC presidents were "very well pleased with the processes" in academics.

Akron joined the conference in 1978 and neighboring Youngstown State followed in 1980. The future of Youngstown, the only OVC school north of central Kentucky, remains in doubt.

"I think they're going to have to assess that," Delany said.

Denying Western football only deepened OVC

All right now, Ohio Valley Conference, you've spanked Western Kentucky University for pulling out of the conference by denying the return of Western football to the OVC. But, OVC, you're in big trouble.

Your two Ohio members, Akron and Youngstown, have resigned, effective after this school year for Akron and after 1987-88 for Youngstown. I told you when you admitted those northern schools that they would do nothing for the conference, but that's water over the dam.

You've finally made a member of Tennessee State, a school at which you turned your nose up consistently over the years. It remains to be seen if the Nashville school will be a positive addition.

Meanwhile, OVC commissioner Jim Delany has announced that the conference will develop a five-year plan for the league. A full report is



Earl
Cox

Courier-Journal
sports columnist

expected to be made in December.

The first thing the OVC should do is change its bylaws and permit membership of schools by sports. That would enable Western to play basketball in the Sun Belt and football in the OVC. The return of Hilltoppers football to the OVC would be a plus for both the school and the OVC — and especially for the football programs at the other state OVC schools, Eastern, Murray and Morehead.

Also, this would be a good time for Raymond Burse, president of Kentucky State University, to take a hard look at the future of athletics at the Frankfort school. There's simply no athletic stability at KSU. If Burse wants to continue fielding a football team, why not get with it and apply for OVC membership?

If you are a Kentucky taxpayer, the return of Western would benefit you, too, because more fans would be attracted and the Hilltoppers could cut down on their debt from football. The OVC could help KSU's finances, too.

If the conference acts this year, Western's football team could rejoin the league at the same time as Tennessee State, in 1988.

U OF L UPDATE — Now that the University of Louisville athletic department has so much money, there's no reason why the school

can't afford a women's softball program. There are thousands of women of college age playing softball in the metro area, which means they could be recruited on the cheap, which is what U of L coaches of "non-revenue" (I hate that term) sports have to do ...

Congratulations to soccer player Larry Kapel of U of L, winner of the Metro Conference postgraduate scholarship. He'll study psychosis and criminal insanity at the University of Florida ...

Despite its national basketball championship, U of L finished a sad next to last in the Metro's all-sports standings for the school year just ended. The Cardinals beat out only Southern Mississippi. Had football, a non-conference sport, been included, U of L would have finished even lower.

U of L track is particularly weak,

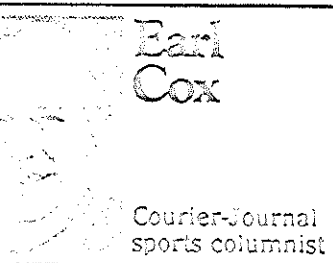
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Western football only deepened OVC troubles



Also, this would be a good time for Raymond Burse, president of Kentucky State University, to take a hard look at the future of athletics at the Frankfort school. There's simply no athletic stability at KSU. If Burse wants to continue fielding a football team, why not get with it and apply for OVC membership?

If you are a Kentucky taxpayer, the return of Western would benefit you, too, because more fans would be attracted and the Hilltoppers could cut down on their debt from football. The OVC could help KSU's finances, too.

If the conference acts this year, Western's football team could rejoin the league at the same time as Tennessee State, in 1988.

U OF L UPDATE — Now that the University of Louisville athletic department has so much money, there's no reason why the school

can't afford a women's softball program. There are thousands of women of college age playing softball in the metro area, which means they could be recruited on the cheap, which is what U of L coaches of "non-revenue" (I hate that term) sports have to do ...

Congratulations to soccer player Larry Kapel of U of L, winner of the Metro Conference postgraduate scholarship. He'll study psychosis and criminal insanity at the University of Florida ...

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Board votes, but that should be a formality. Home football games are involved. Home non-conference basketball games plus the UKIT can be done live, but SEC games must be delayed.

No decisions have been made on announcers, according to host spokesman John Craine, but I can't see Channel 3 and Channel 27 agreeing to go without their people, Bob Domine and Rob Bromley, in basketball. But there's always hope, Wildcats fans. Bromley also has done football games with ex-UK assistant coach Charlie McCullers.

Tom Stevens of the Kentucky Network, which has radio rights to UK football and basketball, said yesterday that talk show host Doug Orin will be the network's man on the field during UK football broadcasts. He'll work with Cawood LeClair and Ralph Hacker.

Before the first snap from center, before the first pass is thrown, before the first tackle is made, there is optimism.

It's that way at all the college and professional football camps this time of year.

No matter what the records were last year, everybody is tied for first in August. And there is an upbeat mood in the air.

There was no lack of enthusiasm Tuesday as Western's football team took part in that preseason ritual called Picture Day.

Everyone dressed in clean uniforms. Red and White all over the place. And there is the optimism.

The Hilltoppers' two seasons under Dave Roberts have yielded six victories. There is talk now of six wins coming in this season.

No player or coach would dare come out and say it, but the possibility of the first winning season in Roberts' reign is a reality.

There are several reasons for this talk. More talent, more size, more

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

strength and more depth come to mind first.

"For the first time, the ones who were in spring practice are the ones who are going to play," Roberts said.

There is talent on this team. Talent like Jeff Cesarone, the junior quarterback who holds almost every single season and career passing record at Western. Or Keith Paskett, who has been on the receiving end of many of Cesarone's throws the last two years.

A rushing attack was put in place last spring, and runners like Pat

McKenzie, Vincel Anthony and Joe Arnold look good enough to make it go.

Linebacker Neil Fatkin and defensive backs Vernard Johnson and James Edwards are the returning names to watch on the other side of the ball.

As Roberts said Tuesday, these are the guys who have taken the beating the last two years. But even with the pounding, they and others are still full of confidence. In fact, they seem more willing to go than ever.

"There's more determination. We're going to prove we're capable of winning," Johnson said. "We want to sneak up on some people."

That's the kind of sentiment that echoed throughout the ranks.

"We're just going to take it one day at a time," said linebacker Marcus Burnett. "It's always going to be a challenge, but we'll all be ready."

Continued On Page 4
Column 1, This Section

Toppers feel optimistic

Continued From Page 1-B

The defense has had to take the brunt of the punishment during the rebuilding process Roberts initiated in 1984. When you're passing 60 times a game, the offense isn't on the field very long, even during a successful drive.

That's one thing a strong rushing attack should change this season. With the air lanes bogged down during last year's spring game, the rushing game was quite effective.

Offensive lineman, used to backing up for two years, adapted well to going forward for once.

"We had to learn to run block during the spring. It was hard at

first, but it will be easier in the long run because last year everybody we played was just getting down in a three-point stance and coming at us," said guard Barry Anderson.

A couple of other new wrinkles in this year's team will be increased strength and depth.

During Roberts' first two years, if somebody got hurt that was tough luck. This time there are at least three people on the depth chart in most positions.

And, a lot of players stayed in town this summer and were in the weight room.

"Four years ago there were only

five or 10 people who could bench press over 300 pounds. Now 45 people can bench over 300. When you keep everybody strong it cuts down on injuries," Anderson said.

A strength test and long run were the first foes the Toppers had to face Tuesday. Practice started this early this morning, and the first controlled scrimmage is set for Monday.

Roberts said there won't be a lot of scrimmaging this preseason because he wants to keep his troops healthy.

You see, he is optimistic, but careful, too.

...to will
 ...around
 in scrimmage
 O.A. ...

Dave Roberts is a nice guy. He also wanted to have an early scrimmage to see how his football team was progressing after its first full week in pads.

Therein lies the reasoning for Western's Scrimmage for MDA Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Hilltoppers' practice field.

"They called me up and we volunteered for the game," said Western's third-year head coach.

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
 Sports Editor
 Commentary

Donations will be accepted on behalf of MDA as "admission" to the contest. It is the first of two, or possibly three preseason sessions the Hilltoppers will hold before opening the 1986 season Sept. 6 at Smith Stadium against Gardner-Webb.

The thirst of the scrimmage is for the worthy cause, but it will also give Roberts and his staff a chance to look at some new faces, and evaluate how some old ones are doing.

"A lot of people who haven't practiced will be playing," Roberts said.

Translated, that means Western has been knocking itself around pretty good in the first week of three-a-day workouts.

A couple of players have already had arthroscopic surgery and will be out for at least a month, according to Roberts.

Mike Carrier, a 5-10, 230-pound junior running back in his first year at Western, suffered a knee injury last Friday.

Roberts must have swallowed hard, though, when junior cornerback Harold Wright went into surgery Tuesday. Wright had 63 tackles and an interception last year opposite All-America candidate Vernard Johnson. Freshman defensive end Ken Singleton is out for the season with partially torn kneel ligaments.

"It's been an unusual camp," Roberts said before Thursday's second session. "We came in in good shape, but Wright and Carrier went down and are gone. And we've had some minor bumps and bruises. The tiny nicks aren't unusual, but



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

Topper tipper

A WESTERN defender rushes the punter in Thursday's practice session in an attempt to block the punt. Western will have a preseason scrimmage Saturday night at 8 o'clock at Western's practice field.

the numbers of them have been."

Some important folks like split end Chuck Kimbell, center Johnny Carter and linebackers Wayne Bush, Mike Carbery and Xavier Jordan are the ones who have been nicked up in practice but will be playing Saturday.

The Toppers have been working on just the basics the first few days of this preseason. Nothing fancy has been implemented, yet. Roberts said the team picked up on what was learned in the spring, and is going from there.

"The last two years we put a lot

of pressure on the freshman, because they were going to have to come in and play. We're trying to treat them as a young team, but the youth has been playing."

Western has 110 bodies out for practice and Roberts said "quite a few more" will be coming in Monday as walk-ons.

The controlled scrimmage will pit the first teams against the second teams, so the people you see on those first squads will likely be the ones starting on Sept. 6.

But, hey, things have just gotten going.

Scrimmage

D.A. 5-15-86

The theme for Western's Scrimmage for MDA was run, run, run until Dave Roberts takes the football away.

No official statistics were kept for Saturday night's well-attended intrasquad rumble, but the best estimates had the Hilltopper offense running the ball 70 percent of the time during the hour-and-a-half session.

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

"We know we can throw the ball," said Western's coach. "We wanted to look at certain people in certain situations."

He did a lot of looking at the offensive backfield, line and defense.

What he saw was predictable. The defense way ahead of the offense, hitting hard and much improved. The offense still trying to adjust to seeing man running with ball most of the time, instead of man passing ball all the time. The kicking game very solid, with Dan Maher hitting from around 50 yards.

Last year, Jeff Cesarone might have needed an arm transplant after hurling the football 50-60 times in some games. He shouldn't have that problem this year if what Western showed Saturday night is an indication.

Vincel Anthony, Joe Arnold, Elliot Moore and Kelvin Nedd got most of the work coming out of the tailback slot. Pat McKenzie, Pedro Bacon, Pete Mangold and Tim Pearson saw plenty of action in the B-back spot.

"There's a real battle going on back there between Nedd and Anthony," Roberts said. "And it helps having a big guy like Pete Mangold (6-2, 234) in there. Elliot is new and we're just trying to see what he can do. We're looking at Kelvin's blocking and at Vincel's and Joe's running and catching."

Moore's story is interesting in that he's 26 years old and a Navy veteran.

"We saw him in some junior college film and liked him. Nobody else was looking at him," Roberts said.

One reason the running game has been picking up from spring practice is the attitude and size of guys like guard Ron Hopkins, a 6-2, 295-pound senior. The offensive line this year has the potential to put an average starting weight of 281 pounds on the field.

"We're like a family. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses. We really communicate on the line better than we ever have," said the Goldsboro, N.C. native.

The defense has remained fairly strong while the offense has been learning Roberts' system the last two years. The only problem was, the Topper defenders would be on the field for more than half the game at times last year.

"We've sort of got a new defense in," said Neil Fatkin, last year's leading tackler (112). "We have some different assignments. We made a lot of mistakes tonight (Saturday). The effort was there, but mentally we don't have everything together yet."

And how is it playing against the offense nowadays, Neil?

"They've definitely improved. The backs are quicker and are able

to make the cuts faster. They're a lot stronger, too," Fatkin said.

The Saturday scrimmage brought an end to the three-a-day workouts Western has been enduring the last two weeks. Roberts said the team will scrimmage some more today and Tuesday, then have a final scrimmage Thursday before settling in for some serious preparations for the Sept. 6 opener against Gardner-Webb at Smith Stadium.

Tailgating, a function that has been around as long as people have gone to college football games in cars, could change drastically if police strictly enforce a law passed by the 1986 Legislature.

The new law requires everyone drinking in a public place not licensed to sell alcoholic beverages to be arrested. Drinking and tailgating have almost become synonymous with each other.

Tailgating parties have been

more frequent the last three years at Western, although they're not nearly as prevalent as at the University of Kentucky or the University of Louisville.

One thing's for sure, if everyone drinking a beer in a stadium parking lot on Saturday afternoon is arrested, the Legislature will next have to raise funds for new jails.

On a more sobering note, Western's recently retired athletic director John Oldham will be inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame tonight in Louisville.

Oldham will join Tommy Bell, Jim Bunning, Jack Coleman, Stel Gilb, Joe Guyon, Paul McBray and Woody Stephens as the 1986 inductees.

Cesarone steals Media Day show

D.N. 7-26-76

Jeff Cesarone has been out of the spotlight during Western's first couple of weeks of fall practice.

Most of the attention paid to the offense has been directed to the running game that Coach Dave Roberts is installing this season. And, the quarterback who owns 13 school records — including 10 in the passing department — has been leading the football off more than anything into the air.

The Geneva, Ill., native returned to the familiar eye of the storm Monday, though, during Western's Media Day at Smith Stadium.

Television cameras, reporters with pads, pens and questions. It has become a ritual for the junior, who has become team spokesman by virtue of simply being the most visible — and many times only — offensive weapon in the Hilltoppers' arsenal the last two seasons.

The Toppers' fortunes have rested too many times on Cesarone's arm and his ability to see things on a football field that most of us can't even imagine.

"Jeff doesn't have great arm strength or foot speed," Roberts said. "His strongest point is being able to analyze particular situations and his knowledge of the game."



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News Sports Editor
Commentary

Saturday night in Western's first scrimmage of the season, the first-team offense ran the ball much more than it passed. Cesarone, for once, didn't get all the work.

"With all the experience we have coming back, the pressure (on me) is gone. When I first had to play I was so nervous," Cesarone said. "There's a great feeling around the team knowing we don't have to play all freshman. Knowing the big guys up front have been working hard and the people behind me in the backfield can run and catch the ball gives me all the confidence in the world."

Confidence is what Roberts is trying to build early in the year with a couple of not-so-tough opponents. Gardner-Webb, an NAIA school, will visit Smith Stadium for the season opener Sept. 6. The next Saturday will bring Livingston to town.

"The first two games will be real

important. People think we'll be overlooking them, but we're mentally ready to play right now," Cesarone said. "We'll be trying to get rolling, because the next three games will be keys to the season."

Those next three games include the University of Louisville and Murray on the road and then the home meeting against hated rival Eastern.

The biggest thing a successful rushing attack will do is take the heat off Cesarone and his stable of receivers — namely All-America candidate Keith Paskett, Chuck Kimbell, Cedric Jones and Tommy Shakir.

There were probably times last year when Cesarone was counting completions in his sleep. He's been able to clear his thoughts some this fall, and it's allowed the passing game to stay in good health.

"We would go a long time in practice last year and I would get

real tired mentally," Cesarone said. "Physically, it's easy just to sit back there and throw passes. But with thinking about the things you have to do out there on the field and the work you have to do in school, it's hard."

Even though the offense hasn't been concentrating on the pass that much in this preseason, Cesarone said it's ahead of last year's pace.

"We always had to have things explained to us a lot last year. The receivers we've got back now know what to do," he said.

When he's in the spotlight, Cesarone knows what to do, too.

Western's offensive coordinator Steve Shankweiler and defensive coordinator Mike Cassity joined Roberts to meet the press Monday, and here's what they had to say about some of the particulars that fans will be seeing this fall:

—*Changes on defense:* "We've moved Marcus Burnett from inside linebacker to drop end to accent his talents on the pass rush," Cassity said, adding that the move would give the defense more of a pro look. "We don't have the thug type

Continued On Page 11
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linebackers. So we wanted to put them around to let them run to the ball."

—*Offensive line adjustments:* "In terms of knowledge, they've been taught the same thing since we came here," Shankweiler said. "The difference has been in the type of who we've brought in. It's been a real factor of getting people to match up physically with the Mustangs of Murrays. The commitment of the defense better against the offense has made us a better running team."

—*How the defense is doing against the run:* "It started off in the spring with our practice schedule," Cassity said. "I would go in and just work on certain things like defending the sweep, or defending the run up the middle."

—*The thirst of the rushing attack:* "We're going to spread it over the front. We want to swamp people," Shankweiler said. "We'll use a lot of blitzing, even in the one-back offense. We've got guys up front who are going to put people's noses to the ground. You win unless you play great defense and can run the ball."

Western could be getting close to recapturing some old magic

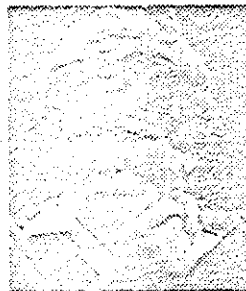
By JIM TERRUNE
Staff Writer

Two years ago Dave Roberts presented his first Western Kentucky football team for public inspection. It included a starting offensive guard who never played high school football, a minimum of experience and a maximum of injuries.

Like a 100-year-old wall, its defense crumbled to the touch, giving one team 50 points, a couple more 45. It averaged three turnovers, it threw the ball 44 times a game because it was getting under 70 yards a Saturday on the ground, and WKU won two and lost nine.

"We've come 100 miles since then," said

Dave Roberts can't see many reminders of "the way we were" at Western Kentucky three years ago. "We've come 100 miles since then," he said.



spring practice. I don't know if they're thinking about Murray now, when they're trying to get through each day's workout. But it gave us momentum and confidence, no doubt."

There are no visions of the 9-1 heavy-duty group of 1980 or the 12-1 Division II finalists of 1973, both coached by Jimmy Feix. Only nine seniors inhabit Roberts' third Western team, and three of them are junior college transfers.

But next year, with 26 juniors, 10 of whom start, seven of whom have started virtually since they were freshmen ... "Well, yes, next year could be interesting," Roberts said.

Seventeen starters, including the two kickers, return from the 4-7 club. "Help Wanted" signs are out at wide receiver, which Alan Mullins vacated with 65 catches, 849 yards and seven touchdowns; at running back, where Glendell Miller compiled 446 yards rushing, 356 pass receiving and scored 10 TDs, and at linebacker, a spot missing Tom Lucky and David Daido.

But Western's stock rises from then on, starting with junior quarterback Jeff Cesarone, who threw the ball an average of 41 times a game and completed 57 percent. His yardage was a thundering 2,737. In just 15 career starts, he's dumped 4,283 yards and 26 TDs on the enemy and already holds 13 school records.

And Cesarone is still zinging it to Keith Paskett. He's a senior split end with 1,379 yards of catches, and the pros timed him at 4.38 seconds for the 40-yard dash.

Paskett's flash dance off the snap of the ball keynotes a prime reason for Western's growth rate over three seasons: Speed.

WKU's tendency is to compare 40-dash times with that of Virgil Livers, a junior on the 12-1 team who went on to start in the Chicago Bears secondary.

back Riley Ware is out for another two weeks with appendicitis.

"This is how bizarre it's gotten," Roberts said. "We took the team to a swimming pool the other day, just to get away. Our starting tackle, Dean Tiebout, started to climb out of the pool and smashed his head on the diving platform. He needed nine stitches."

How many total are banged up? "Twenty-five or 30," Roberts said. "Of course, we have over 100 out there. Of course, when you have 100, not all are players."

But a goodly number of them are — Neil Farkin (112 tackles) at linebacker, Vernard and Mark Johnson and Edwards in the secondary, Rob Weinte (270 pounds) and Steve Walsh (295) at offensive tackle, Cedric Jones (38 catches), the new flanker and the others.

The schedule includes NCAA division I-AA champ Georgia Southern (13-2), four 6-5 teams and back-to-back games against Murray and Eastern Kentucky.

Those are problems. But a year ago, and certainly two years ago, such worthies would have sounded a fire alarm. Now they are merely opponents.

"Yes, I do think we're headed in the right direction," said Dave Roberts.

the former Vanderbilt assistant the other day. "But we're definitely not there yet."

Roberts' second team went 4-7 last year. It was five points away from 6-5. It knocked off two clubs ranked at one time in the top five of NCAA Division I-AA, Tennessee State and Murray State.

And the season-closing 27-25 upset of Murray may have given Western a fuel-injected start on 1986.

"That's the game that really helped our players," Roberts said. "You play a passing team like Tennessee State, it's like playing yourself, because that's what we do. But good running teams (ball control, in other words) are very tough, and Murray was a fine running club.

"It helped us in the weight room and in

Livers ran a 4.6. This spring running back Joe Arnold blazed a 4.48, defensive end Marcus Burnett a 4.63, free safety James Edwards a 4.66, cornerback Vernard Johnson a 4.6 and running back Pat McKenzie a 4.62. Freshman Kelvia Nedd has done a 4.48.

And a youngster who laid out of school a year and walked on last spring, freshman Wendell Rickard, was timed in 4.89. Rickard happens to be a defensive tackle who weighs 270 pounds.

"We're probably a good bit bigger and a good bit faster," said Roberts. "Our 'skill' people run pretty swiftly."

Over the last 24 months, Roberts has procured enough heavy equipment to establish a weight program.

"Basically when I got here we had a bench press and a few bars and eight guys benched over 300 pounds," he said. "There wasn't really a weight program as such. Now I'd say 70 players are over 300. We've set up a program, and a room that's filled with free weights. They cost a bunch -- I don't know how much -- but we've hooked and crooked a bunch, too. Don't ask how."

So the stage is set for ... decency, the next step up from mediocrity.

"We're excited, but this isn't the best time to talk about prospects. We've got about half the team banged up."

A few days ago, after a week of two-a-day workouts, Roberts had had enough strange things happen to know the football gods weren't grinning widely at Western yet.

Startling cornerback Harold Wright "just fell down," tore up his knee and underwent surgery Tuesday. But he only needed work with an arthroscope and should be back after four weeks.

A junior college transfer from Quebec, fullback Mike Carrier, twisted his knee, was 'scoped and will miss four weeks. But Georgia freshman Ken Singleton, a defensive end, is lost for the season after full-blown knee surgery and backup corner-

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Date	Opponent	Site	Time (ET)
Sept. 6	Gardner-Webb (N.C.)	Home	2:00
Sept. 13	Livingston (Ala.)	Home	2:00
Sept. 20	Louisville	Away	7:00
Sept. 27	Murray State	Away	8:30
Oct. 4	Eastern Kentucky	Home	2:00
Oct. 18	Tennessee State	Away	8:30
Oct. 25	Austin Peay	Away	2:00
Nov. 1	Georgia Southern	Home	2:00
Nov. 8	Boston U.	Home	2:00
Nov. 15	Eastern Illinois	Away	2:30
Nov. 22	UT-Chattanooga	Home	2:00

Head coach: Dave Roberts (6-16-0 at WKU). 1985 record: 4-7.

Key losses: RB Glendell Miller, WR Alan Mullins, LB Tom Lucky, OG Mark Fatkin, C Rick Denstorf.

Key returnees: QB Jeff Cesarone, RB Joe Arnold, SE Keith Paskett, NG Denny Capie, SS Mark Johnson, OT Steve Walsh, CB Harold Wright.

Starters returning: 7 on offense, 8 on defense.

Lettenbren returning/lost: 30/12.

Carberry lost for six weeks

8-28-40
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Some big decisions were supposed to be made Thursday following Western's final scrimmage of the preseason before it opens play next Saturday against Gardner-Webb in Smith Stadium.

Decisions like who would be starting in the backfield, who would be going first on the offensive and defensive lines and such.

But, when a teammate fell on linebacker Mike Carberry's leg, tearing the medial collateral ligament in his left knee, Coach Dave Roberts made his biggest decision of the week — no more scrimmaging this preseason.

"It's one of those things that makes you want to throw up, but we've got a game next Saturday and we're going to start getting

WKU football

ready for that," Roberts said after giving his players a couple of days to rest following Thursday's light session.

"We're about practiced out. We're going to have something to start shooting for when we come back Sunday," he said.

Carberry, who transferred from Drake after that school dropped football, was tabbed to step into a starting linebacker spot this year, but he will be in a cast for at least six weeks following Wednesday night's arthroscopic surgery, according to Western trainer Bill Edwards. Carberry now joins junior

running back Mike Carrier and junior cornerback Harold Wright on the long-term injury list. Both Carrier and Wright are nursing knee injuries.

Carberry's enthusiasm isn't lacking, though, as he hobbled out to the field Thursday to shout encouragement to his teammates.

"I'll be back by the Murray game," he said with a grin.

Roberts is also showing his usual effervescence.

He told the Toppers that they would be in full pads Sunday, Monday and Tuesday to begin getting ready for the opening kickoff.

"We've got a game next Saturday, and I don't want anybody hurting Sunday. We're going to be getting after it," he said.

Roberts will begin installing his game plan Sunday, too.

Variety of opponents greet Toppers in '86

9-3-86
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

In the crazy, zany world of Division I-AA independent football, a team can pick up any assortment of opponents on an 11-game schedule.

Why, just look up the Hill at what has been put together for Coach Dave Roberts' third year at Western.

The Hilltoppers, who are looking for their first winning season under Roberts and since 1981, seem like they're eating dessert before the meal with an NAIA and Division II foe for their first two games, respectively.

They then go into the land of the giants with two straight road dates and a home match with a blood enemy.

The Tennessee Waltz is next with two dates in the Volunteer State.

To break up the monotony,

Western will host the I-AA champions for Homecoming before bringing in some yankees, visiting some hostile midwesterners and closing with a team that owns a 4-1 overall mark against it and has outscored it 159-62 in the series.

Roberts wasn't kidding when he told reporters at the recent Press Day that it's tough to have an independent schedule in I-AA.

There are a couple of advantages, though.

For the first time in recent memory Western will play more games at home than on the road. Three out of the first five are in Smith Stadium.

The first two at home, starting this Saturday with Gardner-Webb, an NAIA school, and next weekend Livingston, a Division II team.

The Tops get another shot at Howard Schnellenberger before the miracle strikes at the University of

Louisville the following week. Murray is the next stop in an uncharacteristic mid-season clash. Eastern comes to Smith Stadium the following Saturday.

After Open Date U., Western makes a payoff trip to Tennessee State at a site that has just been determined before another great, rural road rivalry is renewed at Austin Peay.

Georgia Southern, the I-AA titlist, comes in for Homecoming, to be followed by Boston University.

The grudge match at Eastern Illinois continues the next week before the Moccasins travel to what has been Cakewalk City for them in the season finale.

Here's a quick look at the opposition for the 1986 Toppers:
Gardner-Webb

The Bulldogs from Bowling Spr.
Continued on Page 6
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Western has a variety of op

9.3.86 D.N.

Continued From Page 5-B

ings, N.C., completed only their fourth winning season since 1970 last year with a 6-5 record, and were led part time by a quarterback who was also the most famous bank robber in the Old West.

Jesse James, a junior, is one of 10 offensive returnees for Coach Woody Fisher.

James' favorite target last year was sophomore Kelvin Richardson, who caught 39 passes.

Three top players from last year's defense graduated, but All-America defensive back Eric Brewton returns. The Miami sophomore intercepted 10 passes, returning three for touchdowns last year.

Livingston

The group from Livingston, Ala., is looking to its defense to carry much of the load with eight players returning to a unit that was 18th best overall in Division II.

Senior end Kenny Littles had 13 quarterback sacks last year included in an 84 tackle total.

Sophomore cornerback Kenneth Watson intercepted eight passes last year and is another leader for

the Tigers.

Coach Sam McCorkle had offensive troubles last year until senior Pete Riley started playing quarterback. Riley completed a school record 61.4 percent of his 101 passes during the 6-5 season.

Livingston opens its season Thursday night at East Texas. Louisville

Schnellenberger keeps talking about building skyscrapers, but he's still probably on the duplex level with the Cardinals.

U of L will be better this year, though, because of an influx of junior college players and freshmen and others with experience from last year's 2-9 juggernaut. Strength and speed have both increased.

The Cards ran a wide open contest for positions at camp, but no battle got more attention than that of quarterback — where senior Ed Rubbert and sophomore Jay Gruden jostled.

Rubbert will open this weekend at Illinois.

Linebacker Matt Battaglia is pointed to as a key on Schnellenberger's defense.

Murray

The Tops really rained on Murray's parade last year with a 27-25 win that kept the 7-3 Racers out of the playoffs.

The team that has a record streak of 22 weeks in the I-AA poll going returns 18 experienced seniors for to contend with Eastern and Middle Tennessee for the Ohio Valley Conference title.

The offensive line is intact, but record-setting quarterback Kevin Sisk and equally stellar receiver Lee McCormick must be replaced.

Junior Mike Woznichak should step in at quarterback. Flanker Stanley Howard will see more passes come his way this season. Rodney Payne is a sophomore

returning at tailback after gaining a freshman-record 960 yards.

Coach Frank Beamer's wide tackle six defense will feature more speed than the brute strength of the last couple of seasons. Outside linebacker Tony Woodle returns after leading the team in tackles last year.

Eastern

Things were looking just rosy for Coach Roy Kidd with 14 starters coming back from an 8-3 squad until 1,000-yard tailback Elroy Harris didn't make the grades.

Junior James Crawford is back with his 1,282 yards and quarterback Mike Whitaker brings a 58.2 completion rate (103-177) along with 1,294 yards and six touchdowns to his senior season.

Burly fullback Vic Parks (5-9, 230) should get the ball handed to him more often with Harris out of action.

The Colonels missed the I-AA playoffs last season for the first time since 1978 — a period during which they won two national championships and were runners-up twice.

All-OVC tackle Aaron Jones and 1984 OVC Defensive Player-of-the-Year Fred Harvey at linebacker will lead the defense, which has a weak secondary.

Tennessee State

Third-year coach Bill Thomas found himself in an unfamiliar situation going into last Saturday's 27-0 victory at Morris Brown with no proven quarterback.

He seems to have found one in Stacy Grear to replace talented Gilbert Renfro, who led the Tigers to a 7-4 record last year.

Three offensive line starters had to be replaced, but Grear has proven targets to throw to in TSU's pass-happy attack in Bart Evans, Rodney Patrick and Frank Pillow.

A stronger pass rush is needed to offset the loss of four regulars from the No. 5 unit in total defense in I-

AA that yielded 277

contest. Carl McAfee is a top prospect at strong year starter Onzy El

linebacker, as is Bryar. The site for the OVC with Western has been and the game will be a 41,000 seat Vanderbilt

Austin Peay

One of the more rivalries between W OVC foe will be re two-year hiatus. All has a gigantic 24-4-1 the series, APSU meeting 13-3 in 1983.

Coach Emory H straight winning season's 5-6 slip.

The Governors will defense, and the linebacker Scott Fox

Dale Edwards started five games of the

quarterback for a lack of much last starters are gone from though tailback M running back Dea

Dale's brother — returned Georgia Southern

The Eagles took 38-14 in last Saturday Florida, but they got

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After just four years ball business, Coach

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s unit in total defense in I-

AA that yielded 277.1 yards per
contest.

Carl McAfee is a top professional
prospect at strong safety. Three-
year starter Onzy Elam is back at
linebacker, as is Bryan Williams.

The site for the Oct. 18 meeting
with Western has been finalized,
and the game will be played at the
41,000 seat Vanderbilt Stadium.

Austin Peay

One of the more long-standing
rivalries between Western and an
OVC foe will be renewed after a
two-year hiatus. Although Western
has a gigantic 24-4-1 advantage in
the series, APSU won the last
meeting 13-3 in 1983.

Coach Emory Hale had two
straight winning seasons before last
year's 5-6 slip.

The Governors will have a strong
defense, and that's because
linebacker Scott Fox returns.

Dale Edwards started the last
five games of the season at
quarterback for an offense that
lacked much last season. Seven
starters are gone from that unit, al-
though tailback Mike Lewis and
running back Dean Edwards —
Dale's brother — return.

Georgia Southern

The Eagles took it on the chin
38-14 in last Saturday's opener at
Florida, but they got a nice guaran-
tee and that performance fooled no
one.

After just four years in the foot-
ball business, Coach Erk Russell

built a 13-2 national champion last
year in Statesboro.

Quarterback Tracy Ham is being
touted as a sleeper for the Heisman
Trophy. The senior averaged 196
yards of total offense per game last
season.

Ricky Harris and Gerald Harris
add stability in the backfield that
runs something called the Hambone
I.

Russell might have problems on
defense, where he has to replace
five starters, but the kicking game
will remain solid with All-America
Tim Foley doing the booting.

Boston University

This Yankee Conference school
had been to the I-AA playoffs three
straight years before slipping to a
3-8 mark last season in Coach Steve
Stetson's first year as head coach.

The Terriers had a strong pass-
ing attack with Pat Mancini and
Jim Schuman splitting the quarter-
backing duties, but it was the first
time since 1977 that they hadn't
had a 1,000-yard rusher.

Junior tailback Randy Pettus will
be called on to help cure that situa-
tion after being plagued with inju-
ries last year.

Kevin Murphy, who can play
either tackle or end, returns as the
third-leading tackler on defense
from a year ago.

Eastern Illinois

In just three years, the Hilltop-
pers have built a nice, healthy
hatred for the team from

Charleston.

The Panthers of Coach Al Molde
return almost their entire offensive
unit from last year's 6-5 squad.

Sean Payton, a two-time
honorable mention All-America, is
a fifth-year senior who comes back
at quarterback. He has passed for
nearly 7,000 yards during his career
with a 52.4 completion percentage.

Roy Banks has caught 2,163 yards
worth of those passes in three
years at EIU.

The defense isn't quite as strong.
It gave up 272 points last year and
close to 400 yards per game.

Panther defenders continued to
suffer last weekend, giving Illinois
State a 23-20 win in the opener for
both teams.

Tennessee-Chattanooga

UTC has made good sport of
beating the daylights out of
Western in the past, the last time
in 1979 when the Moccasins won
41-28.

The Mocs were 6-5 last year and
defense will once again be the cor-
nerstone for this team.

Three of last year's starting
linebackers return, led by seniors
Greg Moore and Zach Ervin.

The offensive line is a big ques-
tion mark for UTC, but there's no
controversy as to who will be the
starting quarterback.

Senior Tim Couch threw for 1,651
yards and 12 touchdowns last
season, and the offense will be built
around him this year.



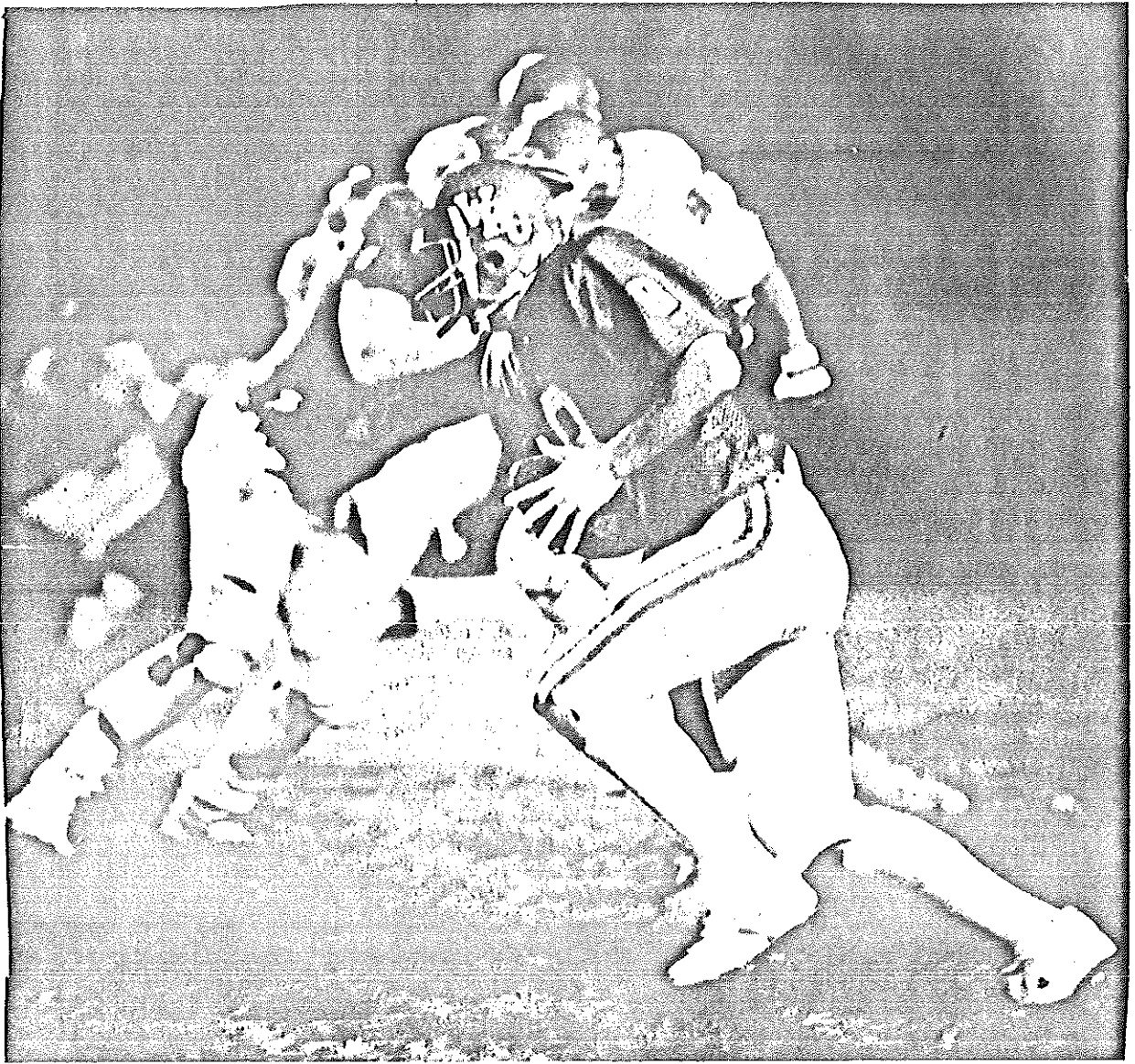
(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

Clobbered

SEAN PAYTON of Eastern Illinois is nailed by an unidentified Western defender during the Hilltop-

pers' 14-13 loss last year at Smith Stadium. EIU is one of the Toppers' opponents again this season.

D.N. 9-3-86



(Staff Photo by Gary Clark)

Running out

JEFF CESARONE goes on the run during last spring's Red-White football game. Western's junior quarterback will have a new ground game to go

with his fine passing when the team opens the season Saturday against Gardner-Webb at Smith Stadium.

D. N. 9-4-86

For first time, Roberts won't rely on freshmen

9-4-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Nobody knew exactly what to expect the first time Dave Roberts took the sidelines as Western's head football coach. The one thing he had promised was the ball would be going into the air — a lot.

Oh, how true that was the first two years under Roberts. Jeff Cesarone was zinging the pigskin all over the place, while Western slowly took steps to become a competitive Division I-AA team again.

Now, Roberts and the Hilltoppers are ready to embark on the third year of their Odyssey, and the coach says the team is ready to take the third step in his four-part plan to pull the program up by its bootstraps.

That third stage calls for Western to be competitive every time it hits the field, not just against Tennessee State or Murray.

For the first time since Roberts took the job that now Athletic Director Jimmy Felix had held for 16 years, it looks like the tools are there to be competitive on a consistent basis.

One national publication has enough confidence in the Toppers to predict an 8-2-1 season for them.

While the true outcome of the year will probably be closer to the .500 mark, that would still be a vast improvement on what they've done the last three years.

"We're more confident and ready to play than we have been before," Roberts said. "I'm excited about the prospects."

So are Western fans, who should be looking at a more balanced attack when it opens the season Saturday at 1 p.m. against Gardner-Webb in Smith Stadium.

In another first for Roberts and his staff, the Toppers won't have to be experimenting with players the way they have the last two seasons. Most of the positions are set with starters who are at least sophomores.

"When we went through spring

WKU football

practice we had a pretty good idea of who was going to play in the fall," Roberts said. "We're going to get to do what a lot of other people do with their freshmen, like let them lift weights on Fridays and just be freshmen."

The preseason talk centered around the rushing attack Western has been working on.

"When we've been on offense before, we had to look at it like we had to score every time we had the ball. It was going to be a race to the end zone," Roberts said. "Now we're getting into a game plan where the defense comes into it a lot more, because we can hold onto the ball longer on offense."

The rushing game was the focus of last spring and the preseason but the most visible person in the offense will still be Cesarone, who will, of course, start Saturday.

The 6-2, 210-pound junior from Geneva, Ill., owns 13 school records, 10 of those passing. He has career marks for attempts (685), completions (376) and net yards (4,283). And he's done all that while throwing just 15 interceptions over two years.

Last year Cesarone hit 253 of 447 passes (56.6) for 2,737 yards, 18 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. The interception figure averaged to 1.6 percent, the best ever for any Division I quarterback.

David Armstrong, a 6-0, 175-pound sophomore from Nashville, Tenn., is waiting in the wings if Cesarone goes down.

Cesarone's top two receivers from last year — Alan Mullins and Glendell Miller — graduated, but there's plenty of talent still left at split end with All-America candidate Keith Paskett returning for

Continued on Page 5
Column 1, This Section

WKU young, but experienced

A. N. 9-4-86

Continued From Page 1-B

his senior season.

Paskett (5-11, 180), also from Nashville, caught 47 passes for 829 yards and seven touchdowns last year.

Bowling Green High product Tony Barber (5-9, 170) is second on the depth chart at split end. Chuck Kimbell, a 5-10, 180-pound senior from Inglewood, Calif., will also be called upon at end.

Cedric Jones (6-0, 170) of Clermont, Fla., is another receiver to watch. The junior caught 38 passes for 439 yards last season from the flanker position. Tommy Shakir (5-8, 175) of Decatur, Ga., will also be at flanker.

Freshman Robert Coates (6-2, 210) of Birmingham, Ala., will be the tight end.

The backfield is built around five experienced runners. Joe Arnold, a 5-11, 187-pound sophomore from Decatur, Ga., will start in the A-back slot, while Owensboro Catholic product Pat McKenzie (5-10, 205) will go at B-back.

Arnold averaged 6.2 yards per carry on 45 tries last year. Injuries slowed McKenzie, a senior, but he still made 29 catches for 175 yards.

Sophomores Vincel Anthony (5-11, 195) of Louisville, Pedro Bacon (5-11, 207) of Paducah and Kelvin Nedd (5-9, 180) of Fort Pierce, Fla., will be the first to spell the starters in the backfield.

Roberts preached bigger, stronger, faster when he got here, and the offensive line has taken it to heart. The starters opening the holes on the offensive line will average 281 pounds. The lightest person on the line is center Johnny Carter, who is a 6-0 junior from Youngstown, Ohio, who tips the scales at 255.

The guards will be 6-2, 295-pound junior Ron Hopkins of Goldsboro, N.C., and 6-4, 290-pound sophomore Dean Tiebout of Maywood, Ill.

Steve Walsh, a 6-4, 295-pound junior from Voluntown, Conn., and Rob Weinle, a 6-5, 270-pound sophomore from Cincinnati will go at tackles.

Western has had at least a fair defense since Roberts came here, but the unit was always on the field so long that it would be porous as a sponge by the fourth quarter.

That's what Roberts means when he says an improved offense will bring the defense more into the game plan.

It seems like good linebackers have always been a Western trademark, and this year will be no different with the return of Nell Fatkin and others.

The 5-7, 210-pound junior from Radcliff led the team in tackles with 112. Wayne Bush, a 6-1, 210-pound sophomore from Allen County-Scottsville, will be at the other linebacker spot with Mike Carberry on the injured list.

Xavier Jordan, a 6-2, 235-pound sophomore from Atlanta, will be at linebacker and end.

Denny Caple, a 6-2, 265-pound sophomore from Ludlow, will start at nose guard. Noel Harris, a 6-4, 270-pound senior from Chicago, could provide a big backup if needed.

Juniors Arthur Davis (6-5, 265) and Allen King (6-3, 245) provide the Toppers with a Sarasota, Fla., connection at tackles in Roberts' 50 defense.

When Jordan is at end, he will be by Marcus Burnett, a 5-11, 210-pound junior from Houston, and sophomore Walter Loving (6-3, 235) of Woodbridge, Va.

Senior All-America candidate Vernard Johnson (5-10, 190) from Lexington Lafayette anchors the defensive backfield at the corner. Johnson played in only seven games because of injuries last year, but was in on 32 tackles and had a team-high three interceptions.

Glasgow junior David Bailey (5-10, 185) steps in for the injured Harold Wright at the other corner spot.

Junior James Edwards (6-1, 180)

of Jacksonville, Fla., was the second leading tackler last year with 93 stops at free safety. Strong safety Mark Johnson (6-2, 200) is back for his senior season after making 83 tackles last year. Johnson is from Houston.

Roberts worked long and hard on the kicking game in this preseason. He wasn't worried so much about the skill people like kicker Dan Maher and punter Adam Lindsey, but he was concerned about how the team was covering kickoffs and

punts and returning the same.

Lindsey, a 5-11, 180-pound senior out of Bowling Green High, averaged 37.2 yards per punt last season. Lindsey will also be the holder for Maher, who set a school record for points kicking last year with 60 and tied the field goal mark with 10.

The 6-9, 180-pound sophomore from Florence made 10 of 16 field goals and 22 of 26 extra points.

Paskett, Anthony and Nedd will be returning kickoffs. Those same people and Jones will return punts.

Feix is elated to be back in

C.W. Associated Press 9-5-56

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Jimmy Feix is back where he belongs at Western Kentucky University — in the athletic department.

Feix was an All-America quarterback with the Hilltoppers in 1952, and after three years as a pilot in the Air Force, he was a coach in the football program for 27 years, the last 16 as head coach.

But three years ago, Feix called it quits as a coach and took a job in the alumni affairs office at Western. Last year he was the alumni director, spending more time on the road visiting with alumni and friends of the university than watching his beloved Hilltoppers play football at L. T. Smith Stadium.

Now he's the athletic director.

The popular ex-coach admits that he was "very happy" in alumni affairs, but he's elated to be back in athletics.

"I do feel like a fish in my water in this area," he said with a laugh. "I was a little lost ball in high weeds working with the various activities in alumni affairs, but I was learning the job and felt very happy and was getting more comfortable in it."

From July 1 to Aug. 15, he worked with his retired predecessor, Johnny Oldham, in the athletic director's office. He's been on his own the past three weeks.

"It's been wild," Feix said. "I tried to talk Johnny into staying a little longer, but he said, 'Adios.'"

Feix, 55, wants to have more than

winning athletic teams at Western.

But Feix said working in alumni affairs changed his perspective on athletics in the campus setting.

"I think it was a tremendous preparation for me," he said. "After being so narrow in my vision about the university as long as I had been here. Of course, I had my head down with X's and O's and just sold the football program. When I got involved with our alumni, I was exposed to all five of our colleges, all the activities going on in arts and theater and the academic areas.

"It really helped me make contacts with the people outside of athletics and realize the support we had across the board for our school, and really what a part athletics was — really a small part of the total effort.

athletics at Western Kentucky

That's why I wanted to get involved here and maximize our small part in promoting the university."

Feix came to Western in 1949 from Barrett High School in Henderson, where he had played under coaches Frank Camp, Turner Elrod and Si Prewitt.

Three years later, Feix became the school's first All-America football player and led the Hilltoppers to a 34-19 victory over Arkansas State in the Refrigerator Bowl his senior season.

He was drafted by the New York Giants of the National Football League and was slated to be a backup to Charlie Connerly before an injury during the exhibition season ended that chance.

"It looked like I had it made,"

Feix said. "They were looking for a backup and a replacement. The Korean War had taken some of their people off the team. . . . but I caught an elbow across the face in an exhibition game and it ended my career. That was in the days before they had face guards on helmets."

After three years in the Air Force, he came back to Western in 1957 as a graduate assistant. He became a full-time assistant the next season under coach Nick Denes.

In 1968, Feix was named head coach, and during his 16-year reign, the Hilltoppers compiled a 106-56-6 record, including Division II national runner-up finishes in 1973 and 1975. They also won or shared the Ohio Valley Conference title six times.

Feix remembers the feeling of

watching a game from the stands in 1984.

"That was the first time, except for the three years I was in the service, that I wasn't on the field since 1949 with the Western football team," he said. "I couldn't believe they could have the dang game without me, but they did. When they came on the field, it really felt strange to see them out there and me not down there."

While it would seem that his new role would guarantee Feix a spot on the sideline this season, that won't be the case.

"They tell me I'm supposed to be with the fans, making sure there is ice in the Cokes and the water fountains are working and the officials are paid," he said.

Tops are taking G-W seriously

9-5-86
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

There's an as yet unnamed disease that strikes college football teams this time of year that can turn favorites into mush and underdogs into heroes.

That disease can involve a big Division I school going against a I-AA school, like the Florida-Georgia Southern matchup last weekend, although Florida fought off the sickness.

WKU football

Or, the disease can involve a I-AA squad, like Western, and an NAIA team, like Gardner-Webb, which comes to Smith Stadium for a 1 p.m. season opener Saturday against the Hilltoppers (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

The disease, of course, is taking a small team lightly. And the Toppers must take their booster shots both this Saturday and next when Livingston pays a visit next weekend.

"I'm not!" said Western coach Dave Roberts when asked if his squad would be overlooking the Bulldogs. "I grew up in that part of the country, and they've been playing bigger schools for a long time. Look at Middle Tennessee and Lenoir-Rhyne last year. They were tied 0-0 at the half."

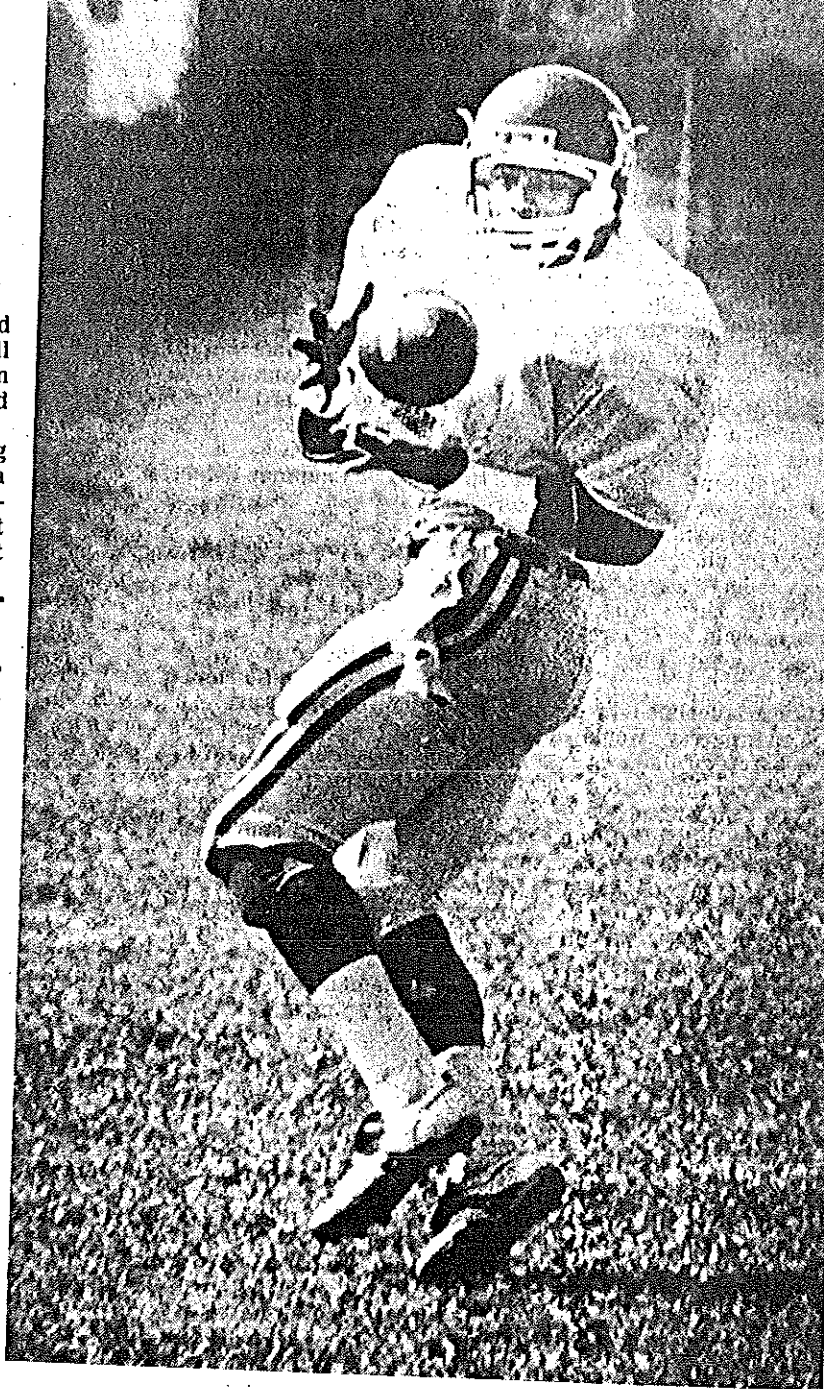
Middle won that game, and don't be surprised if Western wins this one, but be assured, Coach Woody Fish and his team aren't in awe of anybody.

"When our number one team is out there, we can play with any I-AA team, but depth will be a factor for us," Fish said. "It's a great opportunity for us. It helps us as far as recruiting, it adds prestige, our kids look forward to playing the bigger teams and we make a little money out of the deal. We've got nothing to lose."

The visitors from Boiling Springs, N.C., had a 6-5 record last season and play in the South Atlantic Conference.

Gardner-Webb has good size in its offensive line, from behind which quarterback Jesse James will operate out of the veer.

The Bulldogs have a couple of



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

Looking it in

A Western receiver catches a pass during a recent practice session. The Hilltoppers open the 1986 football season Saturday at 1 p.m. against Gardner-Webb at Smith Stadium.

people Western will need to worry about.

All-America sophomore defensive back Eric Brewton intercepted 10 passes, returning three for touchdowns, last year. The 5-9, 155-pounder is what Fish calls "an

overachiever."

Kelvin Richardson is a wide receiver whom Fish thinks has All-America potential, also.

The 6-0, 170-pound sophomore caught 39 passes for 611 yards and two touchdowns last season.

Toppers' Arnold stars in 35-13 win

Gardner-Webb turnovers boost Western

C. 9-7-86
From Special Dispatches

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Not even Jesse James can gun down the Western Kentucky defense.

James — the Gardner-Webb quarterback, not the gunfighter — threw four interceptions yesterday as the Hilltoppers rolled to a 35-13 decision in their season-opener at home.

In fact, nearly every score in the game was the direct result of a turnover or another variety of miscue. The NAIA school from North Carolina committed six turnovers while Western made two, both second-quarter fumbles.

"We've got a long way to go, but I'll tell you one thing, it's a win," said Hilltoppers coach Dave Roberts. "We were trying to let our quarterbacks do a bunch of things. We looked sloppy at times and we looked good at times."

More sloppy than anything in the second quarter. Following a scoreless first period, Western fumbled the ball away twice. The mistakes set up field goals of 26 and 23 yards by Gardner-Webb's Jeff Parker.

If not for the Western defense standing its ground, the Hilltoppers might have dug themselves an even deeper hole.

Statistics

GARDNER-WEBB.....	0	6	0	7	-	13
WESTERN KENTUCKY.....	0	14	21	0	-	35
Gardner-Webb — Jeff Parker, 26, field goal; Gardner-Webb — Parker, 23, field goal; Western — Pat McKenzie, 30, run (Dan Maher kick); Western — Joe Arnold, 1, run (Maher kick); Western — McKenzie, 2, run (Maher kick); Western — Kelvin Nedd, 2, run (Maher kick); Western — Tommy Shakir, 16, pass from David Armstrong (Pat Levis kick); Gardner-Webb — Chris Poston, 2, run (Parker kick).						
Attendance —	11,000 (Est.)					
	Gardner-Webb		Western			
First downs	20		14			
Rushes-yards	50-159		30-228			
Passing yards	172		118			
Return yards	4		47			
Passes	12-25-4		11-24-0			
Punts	4-34.3		6-36.0			
Fumbles-lost	3-2		4-2			
Penalties-yards	3-22		6-55			

"We were very fortunate in the first half," Roberts said. "Our defense played well when it settled down."

James began misfiring late in the first half when Western's Marcus Burnett intercepted an errant pass in his own end zone and returned it 20 yards. Sophomore tailback Joe Arnold, whose 112-yard effort on 10 carries marked the first time a Western back has reached the century plateau since 1984, then raced 50 yards to the Gardner-Webb 30.

Pat McKenzie — the runner who last exceeded 100 yards, in 1984 — scampered 30 yards for a tying touchdown with 4:44 left in the first half.

Four minutes later, Western's Neil Fatkin recovered a Gardner-Webb fumble on the visitors' 33-yard line. Arnold scored from one yard out three plays later for a 14-6 halftime lead.

A bad snap kept Gardner-Webb from getting a punt off early in the third quarter, and gave Western the ball just seven yards from a score. McKenzie scored from two yards out.

With 3:07 left in the third period, James fumbled into the arms of Western defensive end Walter Loving, also on the Gardner-Webb seven. This time Kelvin Nedd scored from two yards out.

Two plays later, Hilltoppers safety James Edwards intercepted another James pass and ran 26 yards to the Western 49. The interception, the second of the day for junior safety Edwards, set up a 16-yard scoring strike from David Armstrong to Tommy Shakir.

The Bulldogs' lone touchdown

came late in the fourth quarter when Chris Poston scored from two yards out.

Gardner-Webb coach Woody Fish attributed his team's second-half woes to a lack of depth and Western's diverse skills.

"They've got so many weapons," Fish said of the Hilltoppers. "They've got a running game, a passing game and a big offensive line. And any time a NAIA team plays a I-AA team, you always have to deal with the depth factor. We were playing one-on-one for a while, then you get tired."

Western quarterback Jeff Cesarone completed 9 of 18 passes for 69 yards, while Armstrong hit 2 of 6 for 49 yards. Arnold complemented his own running game by catching four passes for 37 yards.

The Hilltoppers gained 228 yards on the ground in 30 attempts to 159 yards in 50 attempts for Gardner-Webb.

Western punter Adam Lindsey punted four times, but the first set a new school record of 223 career punts.

The Hilltoppers play host to Livingston University of Alabama at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday.

Trainers tell tale of tape

9-7-86
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Don't ever accuse Western trainer Bill Edwards or associate trainer Randy Deere of being lazy.

They spend a lot of time at Smith Stadium during the school year, taking care of all the injured athletes at Western. On game day, they will be extremely busy two hours before kickoff, taping over 200 ankles, wrists and knees of players and supervising student trainers in the same chores. Or they might be giving ultrasound or other pregame treatments. Water is

a popular commodity on game day, especially a hot one like last year's season opener against Tennessee State, and they have to make sure gallons upon gallons of ice and water are on the sidelines.

No, the two "Docs" don't have much idle time before a contest starts. But, during the game and the day after they don't like to work at all, because that means somebody is injured.

Edwards participated in his 17th football opener Saturday as either a student, assistant or head trainer when Western beat Gardner-Webb

35-13 at Smith. It was Deere's fourth football opener at Western.

One of the players he was taping asked Edwards before the game if he was nervous.

"I'm too busy to be nervous today," Edwards said with a smile. "I'm not excited right now, maybe when I get out there with the people I will be, but I just think I'm getting ready for another practice right now."

Edwards, a Franklin native, is primarily responsible for the football team, and Deere usually works with the men's basketball squad. But both, along with assistant trainer Dan Brennan, are in charge of taking care of the 400 varsity sport athletes at Western.

And, even though they don't like to work, chances are that every football player at Western will visit either Doc once during his career.

Studies show that 100 percent of Division I football players will suffer an injury during their careers that will knock them out of one game, according to Dr. Bob Goodwin, who is one of the Toppers' team physicians. Out of that 100 percent, 20 percent will miss up to six weeks with an injury.

"The patient to trainer ratio kind of makes it tough," Edwards said. "You may have 15 people at one time saying, 'Hey, Doc.'"

Goodwin said that without trainers, there couldn't be any

Trainers have big job

Continued From Page 14-A
football teams anywhere.

"They keep a lot of injuries under control, and they bring potentially serious injuries to my attention," Goodwin said. "They have to make a lot of judgement calls, and they make the right ones."

Deere, a 30-year-old Maryville, Tenn., native wanted a career in athletics, but he didn't want to coach, so he decided on training.

"It's very tough with the hours and time spent away from the family, but it's also rewarding," Deere said. "You get to meet a lot of people, and you see a lot of kids grow. You've got to have an understanding family. That's one of the biggest things."

Wife Kathy and Laura, his daughter, give Deere a lot of support, he said. Edwards' wife, Jennie, is a nurse. "That helps her understand the time involved," he said.

Russ Miller, the first fulltime athletic trainer Western ever had,

was the biggest influence on the 33-year-old Edwards.

"I was an accounting major when I got here, but he got me involved," Edwards said. Helping the players is the most satisfying aspect of his job.

"There are a lot of different ways we can help relieve their problems. There is definitely some counseling involved," Edwards said. "Some won't tell you anything about what's wrong with them. Some tell you more than they need to. I always tell coaches we've got to treat signs and symptoms, not personalities."

Deere and Edwards weren't too busy Saturday; a hard knock here, a little vision problem there, but nothing major.

"There'll be some bumps and bruises after the game, but after they get settled down and come in Sunday it might be a different story," Edwards said.

And if Deere and Edwards don't have to work, it'll be just fine with them.

Continued on Page 19
Column 1, This Section



BILL EDWARDS (top photo), Western's trainer, checks a player on the sideline during the Hilltoppers' 35-13 season opening victory over Gardner-Webb at Smith Stadium. Edwards (right, bottom photo) and Randy Deere, Western's associate trainer, look at the action during the game.

(Staff Photos by James Morris)

D.N.
9-7-86



v
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Arnold's 112 yards pushes Tops past G-W

9-7-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Joe Arnold learned back in high school that it was best for him not to go with the flow.

"When I was in high school I used to run against the grain, while the other running backs would be running straight," the Western sophomore said. "I can stop in one spot and cut back on instinct."

That ability served him well Saturday in the Hilltoppers' 35-13 season opening romp over Gardner-Webb (0-1) as he gained 112 yards on 10 carries and scored a touchdown.

Arnold scored from the one with 40 seconds left in the first half to make it 14-6 and send Western on its way to the blowout in front of an estimated 11,000 fans at Smith Stadium.

It was only the second time in Coach Dave Roberts' tenure at Western that one of his running backs has rushed for over 100 yards. Senior Pat McKenzie was the first back to do it, gaining 101 yards and scoring three touchdowns against Morehead in 1984. McKenzie scored on runs of 30 and two yards against Gardner-Webb.

"After the first time I played last year against Central Florida, I old Coach (Jim) Tinius that I

WKU football

could run for 100 yards," Arnold said. "The next game against Morehead I got about 80 yards. My goal today was to gain 100."

The Decatur, Ga., native picked up 50 of that in one blast up the middle where he juked several Bulldog defenders. That run set up McKenzie's first score, which came on the next play.

"The offensive line was pounding away all day. It was easy to hit the holes," the Owensboro Catholic product said.

Western had opening day jitters as it looked none too impressive its first couple of series. Two first-half fumbles hurt the Toppers and Jeff Parker's two field goals in the second quarter staked G-W to a 6-0 lead with 11:14 to go in the half.

After McKenzie's second score made it 21-6 with 8:48 left in the third quarter, Roberts put in the mop-up troops.

"We were going to let the quarterbacks do different things at the start of the game," Roberts said. "But Gardner-Webb did some things to foul us up. We didn't pass very well. Jeff (Cesarone) was having some trouble reading the

defense. They attacked us nicely, but we calmed down some at the half. We didn't have any continuity in the first half."

G-W had the ball for nearly 23 minutes in the first half while Western was getting settled down. The Bulldogs had some strong drives in the half with quarterback Jesse James operating out of the veer. They couldn't get the ball in the end zone, though, and that took some of the starch out of their attack.

G-W drove to the Western nine late in the first half, but Marcus Burnett intercepted James in the end zone.

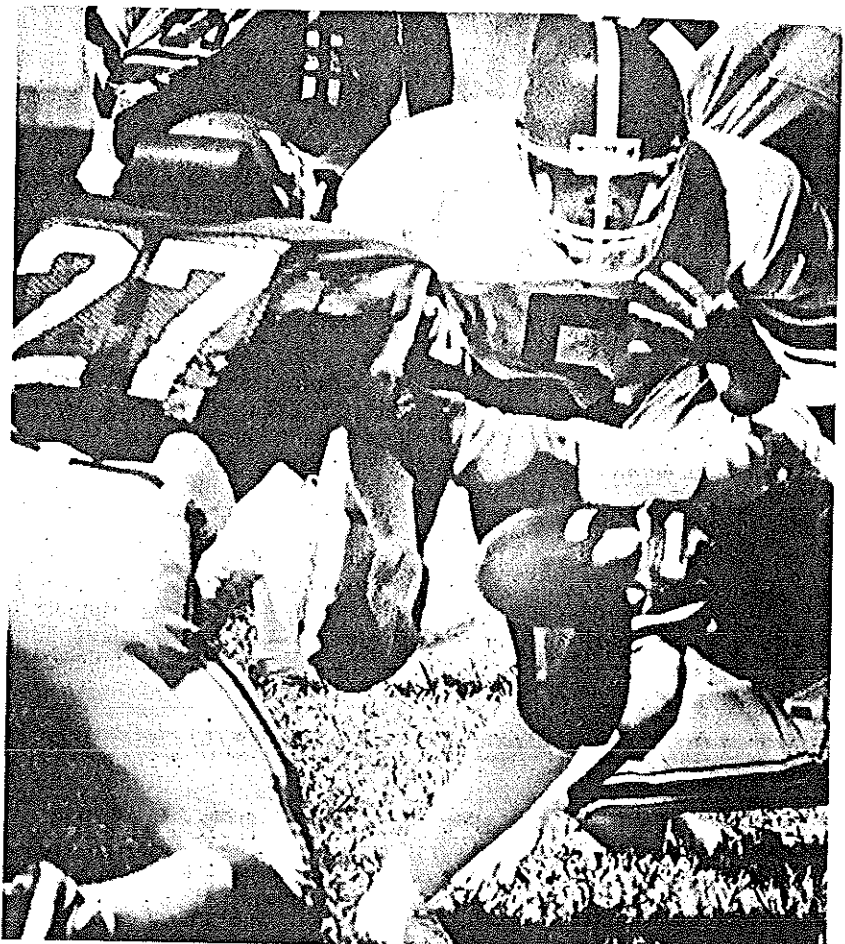
"When you're down there knocking, you've got to score," said G-W coach Woody Fish.

Western started controlling the ball more in the second half, as its size and depth wore on the visitors from Boiling Springs, N.C.

"Anytime an NAIA team comes to play a I-AA team, depth is going to be a factor. You've got to play error free," Fish said.

Arnold was also Western's leading receiver with four catches for 37 yards. David Armstrong, the Toppers' backup quarterback, ac-

Continued on Page 19
Column 3, This Section



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

WAYNE BUSH (27) of Western gets ready to fall on the football that Gardner-Webb's Jimbo Early drops during Saturday's season opener for both teams at Smith Stadium. The Toppers won the game 35-13.

Western bombs G-W ^{D.N.} 9-7-86

Continued From Page 14-A

counted for the only passing touchdown of the day on a 16-yard strike to Tommy Shakir in the third quarter. Kelvin Nedd scored Western's other touchdown on a 2-yard run in the third quarter. Chris Poston closed the scoring with 3:44 to go in the game for G-W.

Receiver Kelvin Richardson stood out for G-W with six catches for 75 yards. James was good on 11 of 24 passes for 173 yards and four interceptions.

Cesarone hit nine out of 18 for 69 yards.

Gardner-Webb 00 06 00 07-13
W. Kentucky 00 14 21 00-35
GW—FG Parker 26

GW—FG Parker 23
WKU—McKenzie 30 run (Maher kick)
WKU—Arnold 1 run (Maher kick)
WKU—McKenzie 2 run (Maher kick)
WKU—Nedd 2 run (Maher kick)
WKU—Shakir 16 pass from Armstrong (Levis kick)
GW—Poston 2 run (Parker kick)
A—11,000

	GW	WKU
First downs	20	14
Rushes-yards	50-202	36-245
Passing yards	174	118
Return yards	4	47
Passes	12-25-4	11-24-0
Punts	4-137	6-216
Fumbles-lost	3-2	4-2
Penalties-yards	3-22	6-55
Time of Possession	35:19	24:41

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING — Gardner-Webb, Poston 13-58, Middleton 5-53. W. Kentucky, Arnold 10-112, McKenzie 6-45.

PASSING — Gardner-Webb, James 11-24-4-173, Benson 1-1-0-1. W. Kentucky, Cesarone 9-18-0-69, David Armstrong 2-6-0-49.

RECEIVING — Gardner-Webb, Richardson 6-75, Cunningham 2-42. W. Kentucky, Arnold 4-37, Coates 2-14.



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

The Arnold Express

JEFF CESARONE (8) prepares to hand the ball off to **Joe Arnold (33)** in Western's season-opening game against Gardner-Webb Saturday at Smith

Stadium. Arnold rushed for 112 yards in the game and the Hilltoppers rolled to a 35-13 win.

Effort fine in opener, but Tops were rusty

D.N. 9-8-86

Dave Roberts said if his Hilltopper football team didn't play better this Saturday against Division II Livingston than it did last Saturday against NAIA sacrifice Gardner-Webb then it would lose.

That's more than a fair prediction, considering the slow start Western suffered before heating up the Bulldogs 35-13.

But, then again, Western is much better off finding out what its weaknesses are against a team that it can come back and beat than one like, say, Tennessee State, which was showed midseason form in a 7-6 victorious struggle against Middle Tennessee.

Western needs to learn how to win again, and sharpening its teeth against a couple of lesser foes before heading to the University of Louisville in two weeks is good not only for psyching up, but also for the psyche.

In other words, beating up on a nobody from Appalachia will help develop the confidence needed to go to Metropolis.

Roberts was calling the plays, but he wanted to start the game by letting Jeff Cesarone do the checking when he came to the line of scrimmage Saturday. If the junior quarterback didn't like what he was seeing, then he had a free hand to change the play.

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

Gardner-Webb showed some good coaching when it switched its defense enough to keep the Toppers off track until late in the first half. Also, had Western not fumbled twice in the half, it might have begun the rout even sooner than it did.

"We were a little rusty, and it took a little time to get the cobwebs out," Roberts said.

If the season opening win is taken in context of what he and his staff were trying to accomplish, it probably was no more than a fancy scrimmage. This Saturday's game against Livingston can probably be viewed the same way, although the Tigers probably won't be gobbled up quite as easily as G-W.

"It was really just the second time we had put everybody together," Roberts said, adding that probably less than 50 percent of his offensive package was used

in the game.

The Toppers did something that probably hasn't been done since Roberts came from Vanderbilt — rush for more yards than they passed for. Western ran for 228 yards and passed for 118. The Tops also ran 36 of 60 plays. Not bad for a team that was throwing the ball upto 50 times in a couple of games last year.

"We wanted to run all the backs, look at the sprint draw and counter plays," Roberts said. "I was really pleased with the offensive line blocking on the run, and early the defense came up and stopped them when they got inside the 20 on us."

Western's secondary was perhaps the weakest part of the defense in the early going Saturday, but it too warmed to the occasion after a few series. Free safety James Edwards had two of the team's three interceptions. Strong safety Mark Johnson had six unassisted tackles to lead the team in that category. Linebacker Wayne Bush had six total tackles and returned an interception 19 yards. The Allen County-Scottsville product drew the start when Mike Carberry went down with a knee injury two weeks ago. Defensive end Marcus Burnett

Continued on Page 9
Column 4, This Section

Talks with the government, were

Gardner-Webb

Lindsey punts way into record books

9-5-86
Continued From Page 8

stopped a G-W scoring threat with his end zone interception late in the first half.

One person who made a quick impression in the contest was backup quarterback David Armstrong, who came into the game late in the third quarter after Western had built a 28-6 lead.

The Nashville, Tenn., sophomore completed his first pass to Cedric Jones for 33 yards and came back two plays later with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Tommy Shakir for the Toppers' last score of the day.

Armstrong wasn't the only reserve who got a long look, either.

"We wanted to play a lot of defensive linemen. We got to look at everyone we wanted to," Roberts said.

Bowling Green senior Adam Lindsey's first of four punts Saturday put him in the record books as Western's career kicking leader.

Lindsey was tied with Ray Farmer with 222 punts going into the G-W game. Lindsey averaged 38.8 yards per punt Saturday.

Defensive end Curt Paige is listed as very questionable for the Livingston game because of a deep thigh bruise he suffered against G-W.

That injury was the only one of a serious nature in the opener, though, according to Roberts.

Roberts has gained a reputation as something of a crafty coach during his time at Western, but listen to what he did to be ranked as one of the top five recruiters in the country in Sports Illustrated's special football issue.

When Roberts was an assistant coach at Vandy, he was going after a player that was also being recruited by Notre Dame.

"I told him we'd build him a Golden Dome for him at Vanderbilt," Roberts said.

He lost the player to the Irish, but like SI said, what an effort.

Vanderbilt reunion set when LU meets Tops

9-12-82

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Former Vanderbilt head football coach George MacIntyre was at Smith Stadium checking up on one of his former employees Thursday.

MacIntyre was visiting with Dave Roberts, who was an assistant coach at Vandy when the school enjoyed some of its greatest success in 1982.

WKU football

If MacIntyre is sticking around through the weekend, then there could be a heck of a Commodore coaches reunion because Sam McCorkle — another of his former assistants — will be bringing his Livingston University football team here for the Hilltoppers' second game of the year Saturday (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

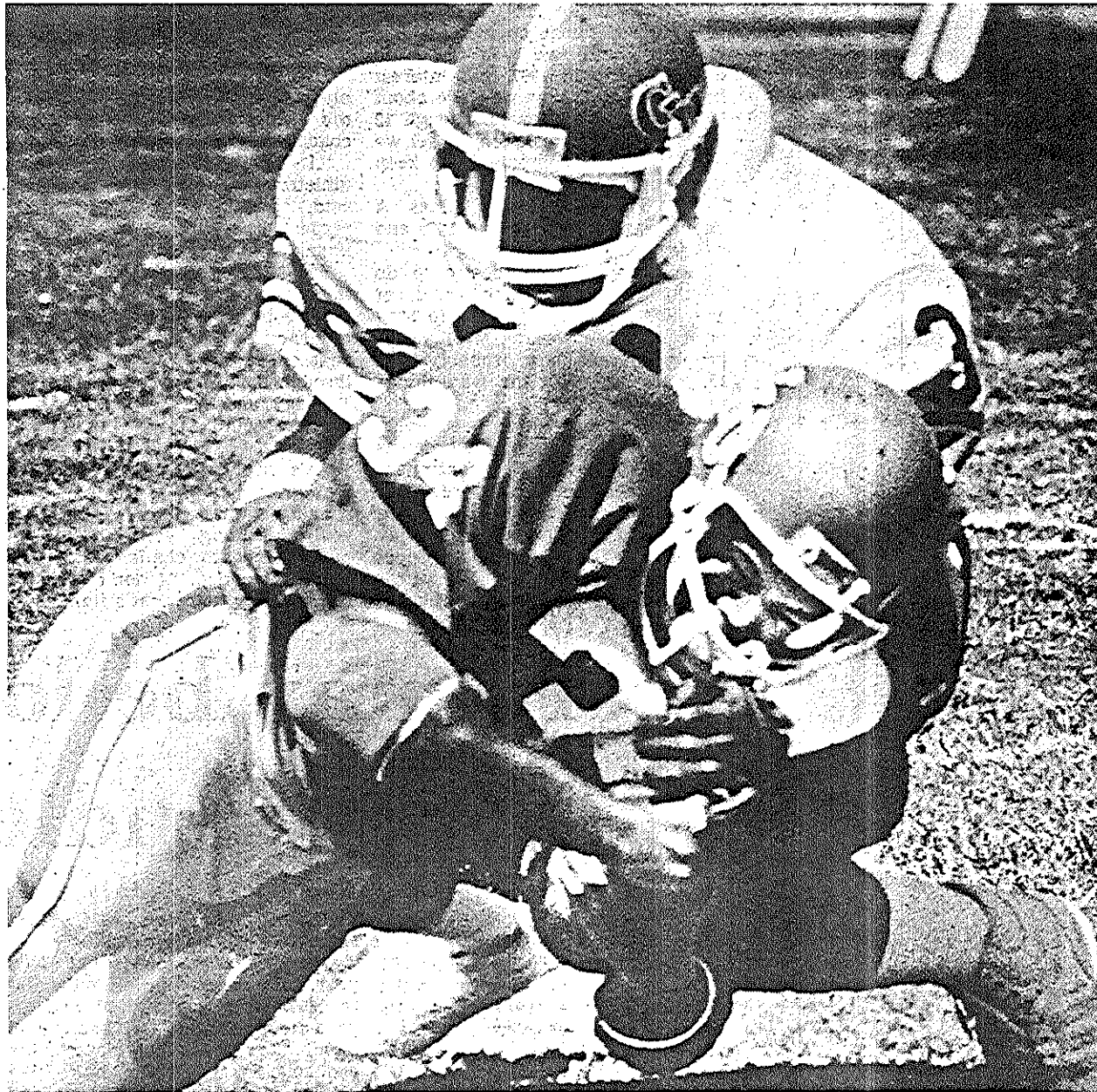
McCorkle and Roberts will be reunited anyway. And it will be mirror image time for the 1 p.m. kickoff. McCorkle has made the Vandy passing attack an offensive staple for his Tigers, who are 0-1 after dropping a 9-2 decision to East Texas State last week.

That score might be one of the most misleading in history, if for no other reason than the Division II team from Alabama held East Texas to 79 yards in total offense.

"The defense was good last week, but we were not very consistent on offense," McCorkle said.

Western didn't really have problems with consistency on offense last week in its 35-13 season opening romp over Gardner-Webb, it just had trouble holding onto the football in the early going.

Maybe that had something to do with the Hilltoppers running the



Wrapped up

(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

PAT MCKENZIE (34) of Western is stopped by a Gardner-Webb defender during last Saturday's game at Smith Stadium. The Hilltoppers rolled to a

35-15 win to start the season. Livingston comes to Smith this Saturday to meet the Toppers.

One thing is for sure, neither team will surprise the other much on offense.

"Both sides know the advantages and disadvantages, and they know

ships, is led by Ronnie Glanton on defense.

Glanton is a 5-10, 259-pound junior who had nine tackles last week. Senior end Kenny Littles was a

Arnold had 111 yards on 10 carries last week with a touchdown. McKenzie had two scores.

The Western defense really held the game together until the offense

Former Vanderbilt head football coach George MacIntyre was at Smith Stadium checking up on one of his former employees Thursday.

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WKU football

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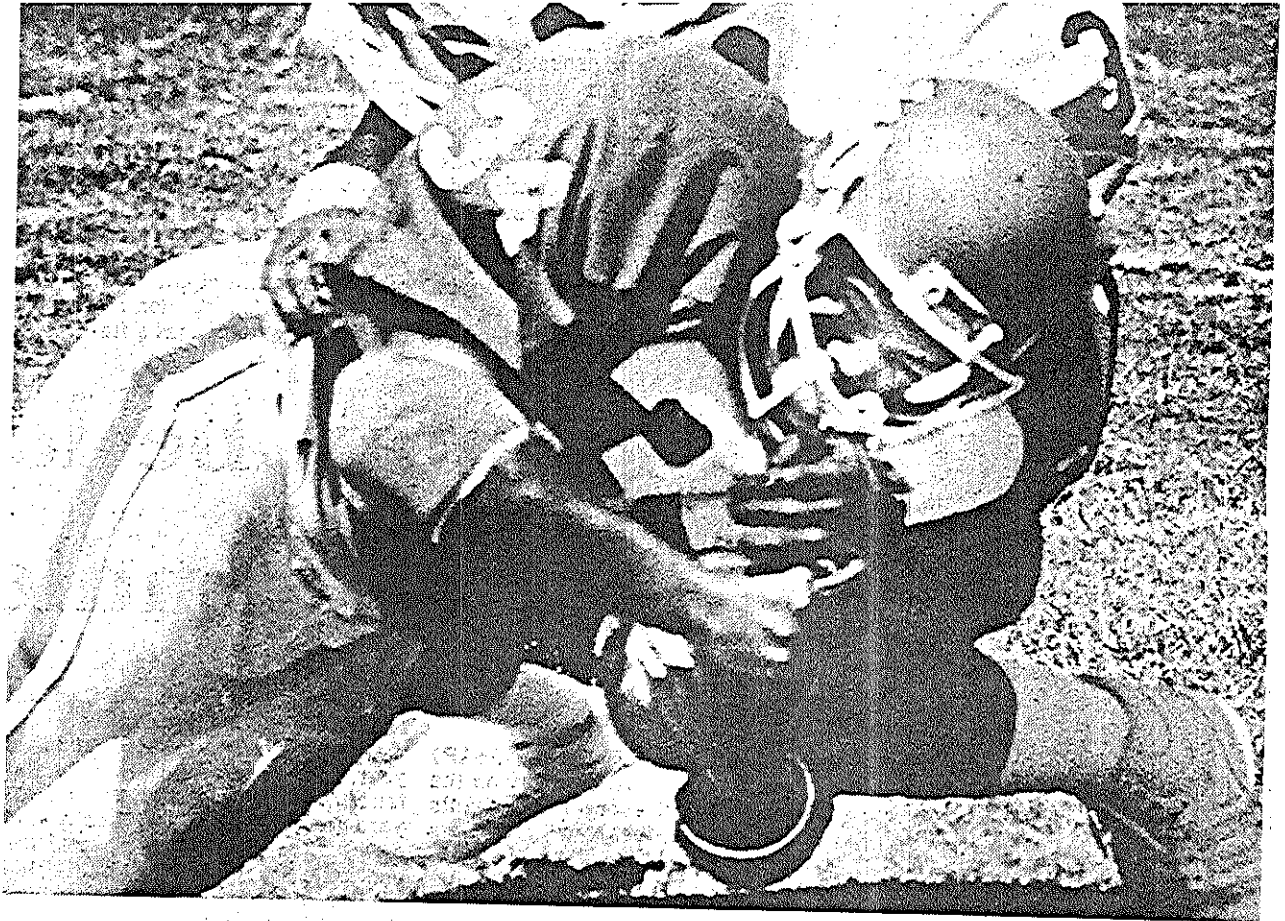
"The defense was good last week, but we were not very consistent on offense," McCorkle said.

Western didn't really have problems with consistency on offense last week in its 35-13 season opening romp over Gardner-Webb, it just had trouble holding onto the football in the early going.

Maybe that had something to do with the Hilltoppers running the ball more than throwing it for the first time since Roberts came to Western in 1984.

McCorkle said his team will mix up the run and pass, and Western will continue to run the ball, according to Roberts.

"We're going to run the football, but we also worked the quarterbacks and receivers hard this week," Roberts said.



Wrapped up

(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

PAT MCKENZIE (34) of Western is stopped by a Gardner-Webb defender during last Saturday's 35-15 win to start the season. Livingston comes to Smith this Saturday to meet the Toppers.

One thing is for sure, neither team will surprise the other much on offense.

"Both sides know the advantages and disadvantages, and they know how to attack you," Roberts said.

Just as Gardner-Webb was concerned with Western's size coming into last week, McCorkle has similar worries.

"We pressured East Texas pretty well, but we won't do that to Western," McCorkle said. "They've got those 290-pound linemen and more numbers."

Livingston, which has 38 scholar-

ships, is led by Ronnie Glanton on defense.

Glanton is a 5-10, 259-pound junior who had nine tackles last week. Senior end Kenny Littles was a preseason All-America pick.

Quarterback Pete Riley will have to do better than the 9-23-3 passing performance that got him 70 yards last week if Livingston is to move the ball against Western, McCorkle said.

Both Joe Arnold and Pat McKenzie solidified their spots in Western's backfield with a productive afternoon against G-W.

Arnold had 111 yards on 10 carries last week with a touchdown. McKenzie had two scores.

The Western defense really held the game together until the offense got going last week.

Five G-W mistakes set up all of Western's scores. G-W suffered four fumbles, two interceptions in the end zone and a bad snap on a punt.

"We had asked the team to get some turnovers for us, and they did," Roberts said.

Of G-W's 330 yards in total offense, only 80 came after halftime.

Li'l Livingston plays big, tips Western

By DIANE PUCIN

Staff Writer 9-14-86

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — When a boy comes from Alabama, it's usually with a football as well as a banjo on his knee.

So the Tigers from tiny Livingston University, which is in the shadow of the University of Alabama, didn't let it bother them when Western Kentucky's Pedro Bacon peeled off a 99-yard touchdown run from scrimmage or when Billy Haynes blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone.

Livingston, an NCAA Division II school with an enrollment of 1,537 and a member of the Gulf South Conference, just countered with plenty of big plays of its own and left the disheartened Hilltoppers 23-21 losers yesterday at L. T. Smith Stadium.

"We live and die football in Livingston," said coach Sam McCorkle. "We may not have as many fans as Alabama or Auburn but they're just as avid."

"And we may not have as many or as big a players as they have at Alabama or Auburn but ours love their football just as much."

Instead of riding into Louisville next Saturday 2-0 and aiming to knock off the struggling Cardinals, Western will spend the next week figuring out how to cover punts, find the lost magic of its suddenly erratic passing game and wonder what exactly it was that hit them from Livingston.

Hilltoppers coach Dave Roberts says his team has "worked and worked" on special-teams play and the kicking game, but yesterday Livingston totaled 129 yards on four punt returns.

And quarterback Jeff Cesarone, who threw for 2,737 yards last year, followed his 9-of-18, 69-yard performance in the 35-13 opening win over Gardner-Webb with a 22-of-36,

Statistics

At Bowling Green				
LIVINGSTON	7	13	0	3 - 23
WESTERN KENTUCKY	0	14	7	0 - 21

Livingston — P.J. Cromer, 1 run (Andy Lomax kick). Western Kentucky — Cedric Jones, 3 pass from Jeff Cesarone (Dan Maher kick). Western Kentucky — Pedro Bacon, 99, run (Maher kick). Livingston — Lorenzo Graham, 2 run (Lomax kick). Livingston — Cromer, 2 run (kick blocked). Western Kentucky — Billy Haynes, blocked punt and recovered in end zone (Maher kick). Livingston — FG, Lomax, 27.
Attendance — 7,500 (est.).

	Livingston	Western
First downs	13	13
Net yards rushing	77	105
Passes	14-26-0	22-36-2
Passing yards	136	212
Return yards	165	11
Fumbles lost by	1-1	3-1
Yards penalized	8-62	8-67
Punts	9-40.1	8-37.3

Louisville will play Western Kentucky at Cardinal Stadium Saturday at 7 p.m.

212-yard game and two interceptions yesterday.

"We had a 17-yard punt of our own and practically gave up a touchdown on every punt return," said Roberts. "And I just don't know what's wrong."

The 17-yard punt by senior Adam Lindsey from his own nine to the Western 26 led to Livingston's first touchdown, a one-yard run by P.J. Cromer, that gave the Tigers a 7-0 first-quarter lead.

Just before the half, in their bend and break coverage, the Hilltoppers swatted helplessly as sophomore Kenneth Watson returned a Lindsey punt 67 yards to the Western four. Two plays later, Cromer again scored, this time from two yards out, for a 20-14 Livingston lead. (Haynes blocked the PAT).

And in case any of the 7,500 fans thought there was hope for the special teams, sophomore running back Kelvin Nedd followed that Livingston score by returning the kickoff for a touchdown, only to have the play called back by a clip.

"They just made some untimely mistakes," said McCorkle, kindly. But the difference was that Livingston bounced back from its mistakes.

Bacon's 99-yard run, a simple slant play "where one guy brushed my leg" was the longest from scrimmage in Western history (the previous record, set in 1953 against Eastern Kentucky, was held by Gene McFadden, now an assistant superintendent for Jefferson County schools) and gave the Hilltoppers a 14-7 lead.

"That play could have broken our backs," said McCorkle, "but instead we came right back."

With the help of a 50-yard pass from quarterback Pete Riley, a 5-foot-9, 170-pounder and son of Canadian Football League coach Bud Riley, to Bobby Williams, the Tigers tied it up 3:39 later.

In the third quarter, after Haynes had blocked a Glenn Johnson punt and chased it into the end zone to give Western a 21-20 lead, Livingston pounced on a Cesarone fumble at the Western 10 and four plays later scored on a 27-yard field goal by Andy Lomax.

"We don't have the numbers or the size of Western," said McCorkle, "but we have the desire."

"The fans down home are crazy," said Riley, who is from Burlington, Ontario, and has had a four-year crash course in football Alabama-style.

Western's last threat came with 8:34 left in the game. The Hilltoppers took over on their own 21. Cesarone hit running back Joe Arnold with a 26-yard pass on the first play and moved Western to the Livingston 39 before facing a fourth and six with 5:04 left.

After a timeout, and despite the pleading of the crowd, the Hilltoppers elected to punt.

"I was glad to see that," said McCorkle. "I felt better with the ball in our hands than in theirs."

Though Western downed the punt on the Livingston four and had hopes of three plays and punt, the Hilltoppers didn't get the ball back until the clock read 0:11 and they had no timeouts.

"I felt we could hold them and get the ball back with two to three minutes left," said Roberts of his decision to punt.

Instead, the Tigers gained 33 yards on the ground simply by moving the bigger Hilltoppers backward. "I had confidence in our line," said Riley.

"I felt like we were a little fresher at that point," said McCorkle.

Haynes says the Hilltoppers were "absolutely not" looking ahead to Louisville. "We just got beat by a better team."

Roberts says he may have concentrated too much on the running game the last couple of weeks and it might be time to fine tune the passing attack.

"We haven't been very good for two weeks in a row throwing the ball and that's supposed to be our strong point," he said.

And the defense? While it only allowed Livingston 213 net yards (the Hilltoppers managed 317), "we can't give up the big plays like that 50-yard pass," Haynes said.

"All I know," concluded Roberts, "is that we've got a long way to go before we play Louisville."

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Tops can't cover, Tigers get upset

9-14-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

If Livingston was supposed to be Miss Patsy II, then it must have a brother named Rambo because the Division II team from Alabama played like it was on a mission in handing Western a 23-21 upset Saturday.

The Tigers were billed as the second "easy" opponent for Western coming into Smith Stadium. The first was Gardner-Webb, which sacrificed itself last week.

The Hilltoppers and an estimated 7,500 fans found out that nothing came easy, except the shock of the defeat, on the second straight sunny afternoon that they had played on.

"We had to have big plays to do anything," said Western coach Dave Roberts. "The momentum kept going back in their favor very quickly. I had told the team all week that the game would be between three and seven points."

Western's big plays were a 99-yard run from scrimmage by Pedro Bacon in the second quarter that put the Toppers up 14-7, and a blocked punt and recovery in the end zone by Billy Haynes that put Western in a precarious 21-20 lead with 2:56 to go in the third quarter.

What really blew Western out of the water, though, was something it had been working hard on since last spring.

The Toppers had a horrendous time covering kickoffs and punts all afternoon.

Livingston's first touchdown — a 1-yard dive by P.J. Cromer with 6:30 left in the first quarter — was set up when senior Adam Lindsey shanked a punt from his own end zone that put Livingston in business at Western's 26.

WKU football

Livingston broke a 14-14 tie after Western watched cornerback Kenneth Watson run a punt back 67 yards to the Tops' 4. Cromer scored his second touchdown of the afternoon from the 2 a play later with 1:11 left in the first half. Watson returned four punts for 129 yards on the day.

"The kicking game was pathetic," Roberts said. "I've never spent so much time on the kicking game and been so bad."

"Without even looking at the films, it seemed like the special teams killed us," said Haynes, a senior from Henderson.

Cromer's second score capped a wild 9:05 span at the end of the first half that saw Western get on the board, take the lead, be tied, then lose the lead.

Jeff Cesarone, who completed 22 of 36 passes with two interceptions and 212 yards, hit Cedric Jones from 3 yards out with 9:05 left in the half to get Western on the board.

The Tops looked like they were headed for another blowout like last week's against G-W when Bacon broke several tackles at the line of scrimmage and sprinted for the longest touchdown run in Western history with 6:46 left.

Bacon, a 5-11, 207-pounder from Paducah, broke Gene McFadden's 96-yard record run that had stood since 1953.

The loss left the sophomore less than impressed with his accomplishment.

Continued On Page 13
Column 5, This Section

Toppers get burned by Tigers' returns

Continued From page 12-A

D.N. 9-14-86

"It don't mean a hill of beans if you don't win," he said. "It gave us a big boost, but we made a couple of costly mistakes."

Livingston was unimpressed, too, as it drove 84 yards in eight plays after the ensuing kickoff and Lorenzo Graham scored from the 2 with 3:07 to go. Haynes blocked Andy Lomax's extra point try to make it 20-14.

"When they got that long run it would've been a good time to get down, but we didn't," said Livingston coach Sam McCorkle. "It was a complete team game. We had some people who didn't get in the game who were on the sidelines giving encouragement."

Dan Maher had a shot at a 23-yard field goal with 4:12 to go in the third quarter after a nice drive, then the roof seemingly caved in on the Tigers.

Quarterback Pete Riley was sacked on a third-and-11 play from the Livingston 19, and Haynes got the score on the next play.

The first play of the fourth quarter doomed Western as Cesarone fumbled the snap at his own 10. After three incomplete passes, Lomax kicked the game-winner from 27 yards out.

Western drove from its own 21 to the Livingston 39 before kicking the ball away with 5:04 to go in the contest.

Roberts took a long look at going

for it on the fourth-and-seven play.

"We felt that if we punted we'd get the ball back with about two minutes left, but when we got it back there was only a few seconds left," he said.

There were 11 seconds, to be exact, and Cesarone was intercepted by Watson to end any hopes.

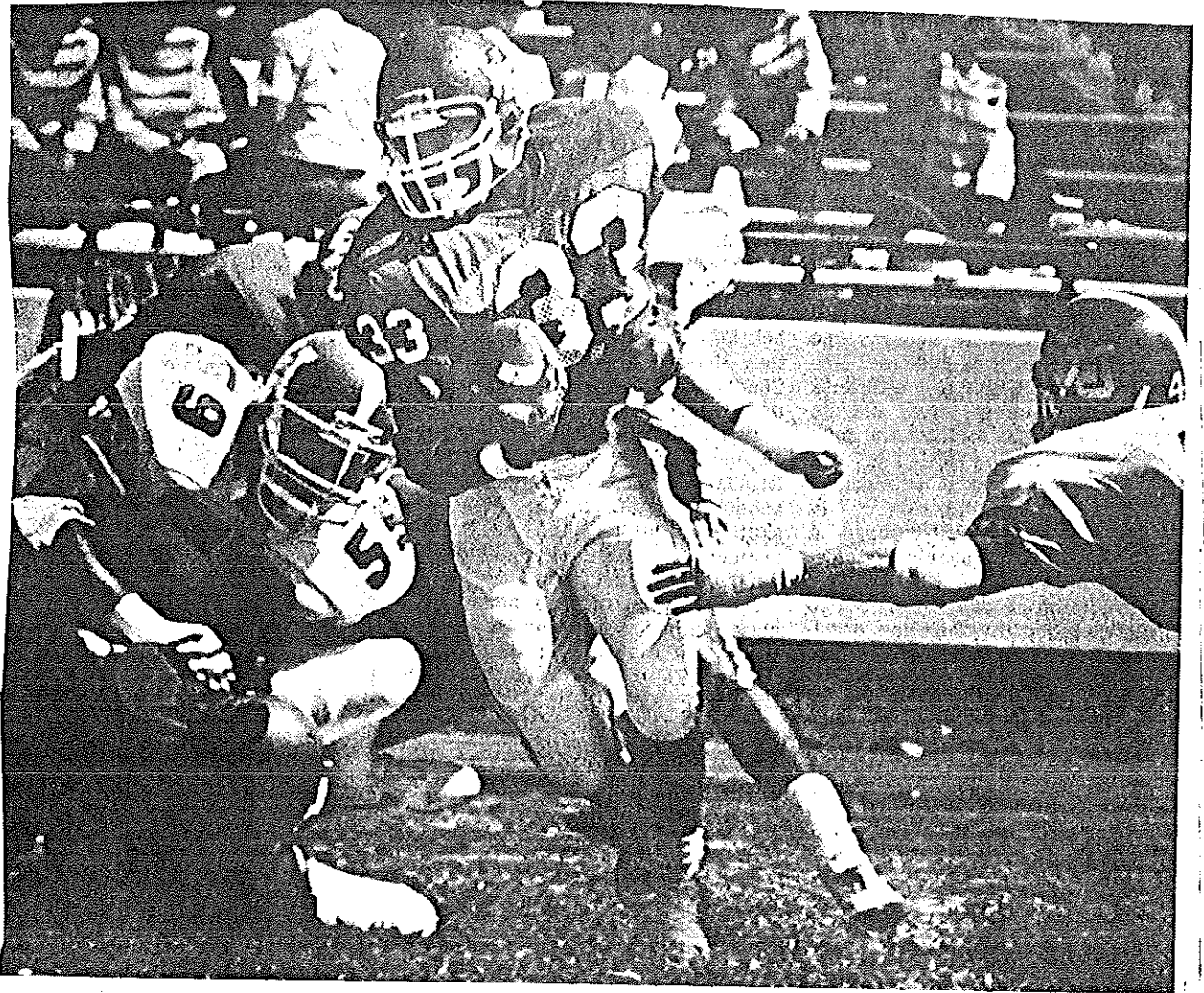
The questions were raised afterwards of whether Western was looking ahead to the showdown with the University of Louisville next week.

"We were trying to concentrate on this game," said senior cornerback Vernard Johnson. "I guess we'll have to look ahead to Louisville now, because they're the next team we play."

Livingston 07 13 00 03 - 23
W. Kentucky 00 14 07 00 - 21
LIV - Cromer 1 run (Lomax kick)
WKU - Jones 3 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)
WKU - Bacon 99 run (Maher kick)
LIV - Graham 2 run (Lomax kick)
LIV - Cromer 2 run (kick failed)
WKU - Haynes, recovered blocked punt in endzone
LIV - FG Lomax 27
A - 7,500

	LIV	WKU
First downs	13	13
Rushes-yards	47-77	24-105
Passing yards	136	212
Return yards	165	11
Passes	26-14-0	36-22-2
Punts	9-40	8-37
Fumbles-lost	1-1	3-1
Penalties-yards	8-62	8-67
Time of Possession	33:56	26:04

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING - Livingston, Graham 12-54, Cromer 16-43. W. Kentucky, Bacon 1-99, Arnold 8-26.
PASSING - Livingston, Riley 25-13-0 136. W. Kentucky, Cesarone 36-22-2 212.
RECEIVING - Livingston, Brown 3-25. W. Kentucky, Jones 11-121.



Juking Joe

(Staff Photo by James Morris)

JOE ARNOLD of Western runs for open territory during Saturday's game with Livingston at Smith Stadium. The Tigers from Alabama pulled off a 23-21 upset of the Hilltoppers.

D.N. 9-14-56

WKU needs to forget about Livingston fiasco

D. N. 9-15-86

Who put Livingston on Western's football schedule, anyway?

That must be the question Coach Dave Roberts and some of you were asking after the Division II club from the small dot on the Alabama road map left its Tiger paw prints all over the Hilltoppers in a 23-21 upset.

Perhaps the answer lies in where Livingston is located.

Alabama became synonymous with big time football when the late Paul "Bear" Bryant was leading the Crimson Tide on yearly rambages through the Southeastern Conference.

Auburn always has had strong football by Kentucky standards, but it was also always in the shadow of the Bear and the Tide.

A reporter wondered in the postgame press conference if football is taken as seriously in Livingston as it is, say, in Tuscaloosa or Auburn.

"You bet it is," replied Coach Sam McCorkle. "We don't have as many people as they do in Tuscaloosa or Auburn, but nobody has more loyal and enthusiastic fans.

"I feel like I've got the best job in America."

That's some kind of commitment from a man who plays in a town with a little over 3,000 people.

Yes, football is taken more seriously and played with more zeal in Alabama, but Livingston didn't win because of that aura. One reason it won was because it is a gritty little team with some talent in spots.

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News

Sports Editor

Commentary

Another reason, the biggest reason, it won was because of the things Western didn't do.

The glaring weakness that had to keep Roberts awake Saturday night were the missed tackles on special teams.

The Hilltoppers outgained Livingston 317-213 in total offense, but the Tigers, or more appropriately Kenneth Watson, returned four punts for 129 yards. Western had 24 yards in punt returns.

On the 67-yard return that set up Livingston's go-ahead touchdown right before the half, Watson broke at least six solid hits by Western defenders.

The second game of the season is no time to start pointing fingers, but Western had enough more than enough guns to win this contest. It should've put Livingston away in the second quarter after Pedro Bacon ran 99 yards from scrimmage and put the Toppers up 14-7. Instead, the Tigers came on to score twice in the final 6:46 of the half.

Perhaps the philosophy of scheduling two supposed patsies in the opening weeks to get ready for

the University of Louisville backfired on the Toppers.

Two easy wins would get the blood pumping and the confidence building toward the rematch with Coach Howard Schnellenberger and his Cardinals, who are in a deep rut after going scoreless in their first two games.

It took a little while to get going against Gardner-Webb in the opener, but a blowout ensued. It looked like the same thing was happening Saturday against Livingston, but the Tigers never did fold up.

So, instead of being 2-0 and frothing at the mouth for Louisville, the Toppers are 1-1 and maybe having doubts about themselves after giving a game to an inferior opponent.

Now, Louisville must be the one frothing at the mouth at the sight of Western coming to Cardinal Stadium this Saturday night.

It's only natural that Western, or any football team, wouldn't be able to get as emotionally ready to play an NAIA and Division II school on consecutive weeks. But sheer physical superiority should've been able to carry Western. Against Livingston, the depth factor never came into play because the Toppers constantly had their backs to the wall.

One can only wish that Louisville will suffer from the same malady that struck Western last Saturday. The Cardinals will look at

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Bacon only highlight

D.N. 9-15-86

Continued From Page 8

Western's first two opponents, the Livingston loss, and laugh themselves to sleep.

What Western needs to do now is forget the Livingston game ever happened.

Quarterback Jeff Cesarone got his first serious work Saturday, hitting 22 of 36 passes for 212 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions.

The Geneva, Ill., native played consistently well throughout the game, but he couldn't get the big plays when Western needed them. Making those plays has been his trademark during his career here.

Cesarone mainly worked his secondary receivers for the second straight week, but flanker Cedric Jones was one wide out who got his share, catching 11 passes for 121 yards and a touchdown.

Keith Paskett, a preseason All-America candidate, caught his first two passes of the season Saturday for a total of 24 yards.

Bacon's touchdown run was the

only time he touched the ball all day.

Linebacker Neil Fatkin got a workout Saturday with a game-high 15 tackles, five of those solo. Calvin Edwards, another linebacker, had 10 tackles, two of which were solo stops.

Cornerback Vernard Johnson recorded two sacks of quarterback Pete Riley for 25 yards in losses.

Livingston went all the way to Ontario, Canada to grab its 5-9, 170-pound quarterback. Riley's father, Bud, is a coach in the Canadian Football League.

Fans traveling to the Louisville game can get in a Hilltopper caravan that leaves from the Smith Stadium parking lot at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Warren County Sheriff Jerry "Peanuts" Gaines will lead the caravan up I-65 to the county line.

The caravan will make a stop at Cave City, then continue on to Louisville. A police escort will be provided by the Jefferson County Police when the group gets to that county line.



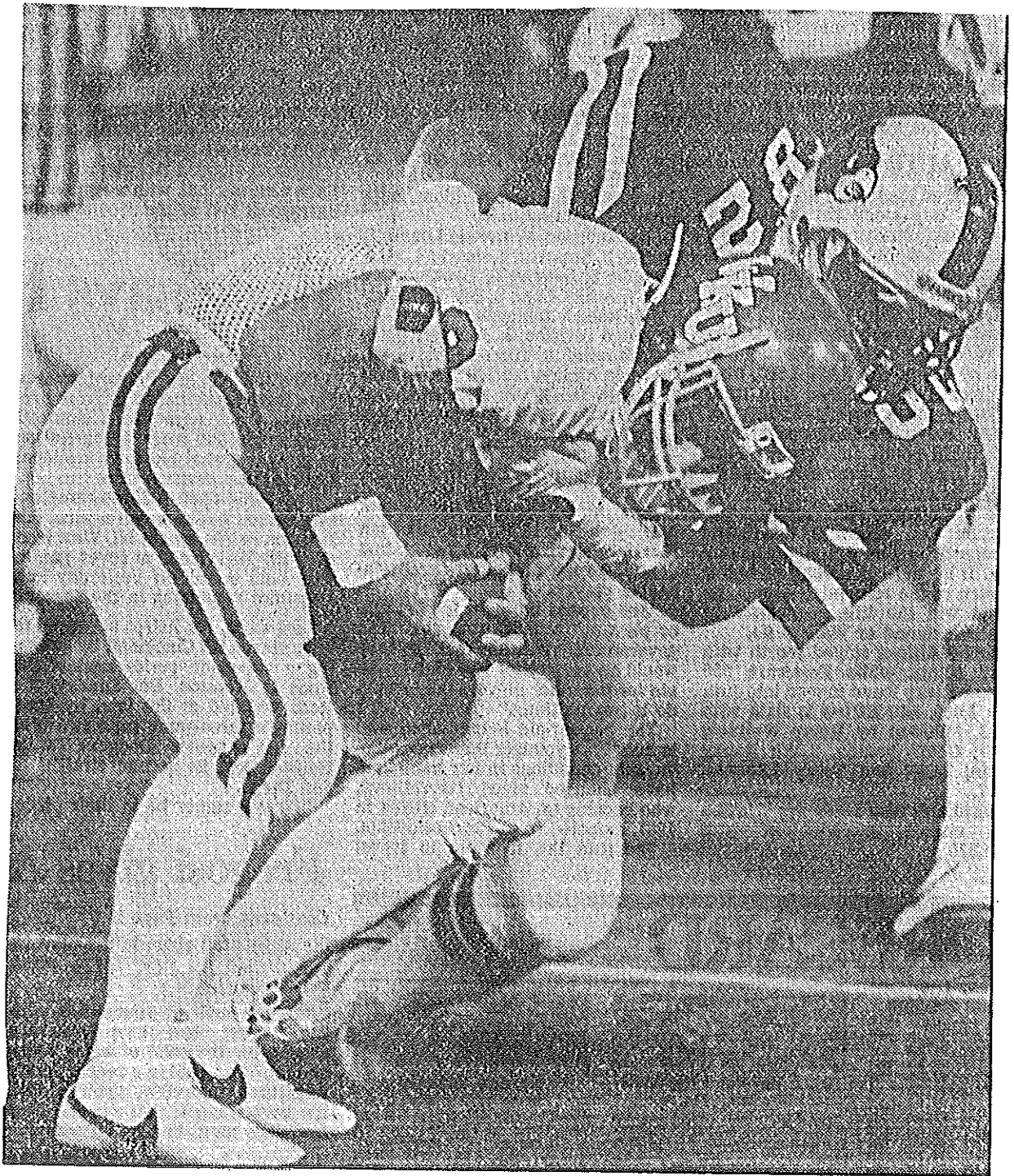
(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Livingston, I presume?

ALLEN KING (99) slams into Livingston running back Michael Bridges Saturday at Smith Stadium.

King and his Western Hilltoppers fell to Livingston 23-21. The loss dropped Western's record to 1-1.

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Western's Jeff Cesarone, being sacked by U of L's Mike Minogue last season, is off to

D.N. 9-16-82 Photo by Stan Denny
a slow start, but will be counted on heavily
by the Toppers in Saturday's rematch.

Cesarone slump phony?

Quarterback vital to Toppers' chances of beating Louisville

By DIANE PUCIN

C.J. Staff Writer 9-16-86

Jeff Cesarone's father is in risk management insurance and the Western Kentucky quarterback might be wishing about now that he had a policy.

The 6-foot-1 junior has a biography and statistics that take up an entire page of the 1986 Western Kentucky University media guide, but he's stumbled on Chapter Three of the story.

The Geneva, Ill., product earned a starting role in the fourth game of his freshman year, missed the last two games of that season with a shoulder injury, then came back last year and began to establish himself as a star in Bowling Green. He passed for 2,737 yards and completed 57 percent of his passes with only seven interceptions in 447 attempts, an interception percentage of 1.6, best in NCAA I-AA history.

To say that Cesarone is having a slow start this year is a kindness. He opened up the season with a 69-yard throwing performance but at least all the completions were to teammates.

In Western's disappointing 23-21 loss to Division II Livingston Saturday, Cesarone covered some respectable yardage — 212 — but also floundered enough to throw two interceptions.

If the Hilltoppers are to have a chance Saturday when they travel to Louisville to meet the Cardinals at 7 p.m. at Cardinal Stadium, coach Dave Roberts and Cesarone agree improvement will have to be made in the passing game.

"We've been trying to get a bet-

ter balance between the run and the pass," said Cesarone yesterday. "In the first game we threw 24 times and Saturday 36. Last year we threw anywhere from 40-60 times a game.

"It's become a little harder for me to get in the flow and I'm not as sharp as I should be. When I'm not sharp, there's static with the receivers. It's been basically my fault."

Cesarone is proud of his interception ratio of last year and determined, despite the two already, that it will be just as good this year.

"With our passing game, mostly short, controlled passes, I shouldn't have many interceptions," he said. "On one of them Saturday, the receiver fell down. The other was just my fault and shouldn't have happened."

While Cesarone says the loss to Livingston was bitter, he's glad it's Louisville up next.

"It's an easy game to bounce back for," he said. "We're always excited to go up there in front of the big crowd and it would be a great win for us so nobody is looking back too much, it's all towards Louisville."

"Louisville deserved to win last year the way they played, but if there's one game I'd have liked back, it was that one. It's a game I thought we could have won."

All signs say victory over Western

By RUSS BROWN

C. J. Staff Writer 9-17-86

The opposing coaches are in agreement on at least one point concerning Louisville's upcoming football tussle with Western Kentucky:

Louisville, with 30 more athletic grants and an untold larger number of dollars at its disposal, should prevail in the 7 p.m. engagement at Cardinal Stadium.

However, the protagonists are quick to point out, "should" is one thing; the actual deed is another.

"It's a game odds-on we certainly should win," U of L coach Howard Schnellenberger said yesterday. "If we don't, we're all going to be very

disappointed — upset and mad might be better words.

"But it's also a game like any other where there are no guarantees about anything. Certainly, at this juncture, we have to be man enough to look the situation in the face and say we should be better and we should go out and win the football game."

Fair enough, says Western Kentucky coach Dave Roberts, whose Division I-AA Hilltoppers (1-1) are a notch below U of L in the NCAA pecking order.

"On paper, with a lot more money and scholarships in their program, I would agree," Roberts said. "But

you still have to play and that's what makes it such a good time.

"Teams go from being good to bad and bad to good. Crazy things happen in this game."

While agreeing on U of L's favored status, Roberts and Schnellenberger hold separate views on just how much this game means to Western.

Schnellenberger called it "probably their biggest game of the year." Not so, said Roberts. There may be at least two bigger: old Ohio Valley Conference rivals Murray State and Eastern Kentucky, which come up back-to-back following Western's visit to Louisville.

"We've developed a rivalry with

is redshirting

C. J. 9-17-86

Continued from Page B 11

a prospect as I've had at linebacker. He's so big, so fast and so smart."

Although senior Dan Cerione has missed both of his field-goal attempts, each from 31 yards, Schnellenberger says he sees no cause for alarm.

"He doesn't have any problems," Schnellenberger said. "He's just missed his first two foul shots. Kicking field goals is like shooting foul shots — you hope you hit 70 percent of them and you hope you don't miss them at the wrong time."

"When I was in the NFL, I did a study of field-goal kickers, and they all kicked about 68 to 70 percent of them. Some stayed in the league 15 years, some two, three or four years. It was when they made them and when they missed them."

Cerione's attempt against IU was partially blocked, but it was a line-drive kick that might not have been on target anyway.

"We'll work on it a little bit more than we have," Schnellenberger said. "The idea is to get a little more elevation on the ball. For some reason, he's driving it forward."

should be in the Cards

Eastern and Murray along the line that is pretty big," Roberts said. "I see it, yes, as being a big game, but not any bigger than some of the others, probably because of the longevity of the rivalries. We just try to approach it as one of 11 and the players take care of the rest."

In comparison to the other intrastate feuds, Western's series with Louisville is still in the infant stages. The Hilltoppers have played Eastern 61 times and Murray 52. This will be the 27th meeting with U of L, the Cardinals holding a 14-12 advantage.

Despite shutout losses to Illinois (23-0) and Indiana (21-0), Schnellen-

berger says he believes U of L is on the upswing, as evidenced by Monday's high-octane practice.

"It was one of the most spirited we've had since I've been here," he said. "The improvement in our younger kids was so encouraging that as I came off the field I had a new sense of strength and accomplishment."

"Our football team has responded to the fact that they're getting so much closer to being in position to compete with good teams. They understand where this team has been and where it is now and they're motivated higher."

With freshman reserve Ed Reyn-

olds being sidelined for the rest of the season with a broken right ankle suffered against IU, Ron Madrick moves into the backup inside-linebacker spot behind Matt Battaglia.

Madrick, a 5-foot-11, 205-pound junior from DeSales High School, is the son of former U of L assistant Ron Madrick, now the coach at Ballard High School.

Schnellenberger said Reynolds, who will now be a medical redshirt and will have four seasons of eligibility, is an outstanding prospect.

"He has a great future," Schnellenberger said. "In fact, he's as good

See U OF L

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Western faces U of L with no mis-Givins about departed star

By RUSS BROWN

Staff Writer 9-18-86
Western Kentucky University football coach Dave Roberts still has a clear picture in his mind of the back-breaking play in last year's 23-14 loss to Louisville.

Well, maybe not completely clear. The mind's-eye replay tends to be a bit of a blur since Ernest Givins streaked past Roberts faster than his eyes could focus.

Western had just narrowed a 14-0 deficit to 14-7 midway through the third quarter on a 67-yard touch-down pass from quarterback Jeff Cesarone to split end Keith Paskett.

But on the ensuing kickoff, Givins zipped 94 yards down the right side of the field for what proved to be U of L's clinching touchdown.

"We had momentum on that long pass," Roberts recalled. "Then we turned around on the kickoff and Mr. Givins took the momentum right back away in about nine seconds — I think that's about how long it took him to go almost 100 yards.

"He ran by me real fast, I know that. I don't know what his 40 time is, but I can assure you he got from one end line to the other, and all we

did was turn our heads and he was gone."

Of course, Roberts won't have to worry about Givins in the Western-U of L rematch at 7 p.m. EDT Saturday at Cardinal Stadium. The fleet wide receiver/return ace now plays for the Houston Oilers.

But Roberts is still worried about the play of the Hilltoppers' special teams, which so far this season have shown a special knack for getting Western into some sticky situations.

Last Saturday, Western suffered a surprising 23-21 loss to Livingston (Ala.), and it didn't take a Sherlock Holmes to figure out that breakdowns on the special teams provided the fatal blows.

Two of Livingston's three touchdowns came on drives of just 26 and four yards following an 18-yard punt and a 67-yard punt return.

Yet another glitch occurred when a kickoff return by Kelvin Nedd for an apparent touchdown was called back because of a holding penalty. And Dan Maher missed a 23-yard field-goal attempt that could have provided the winning points.

Little wonder, then, that Roberts

See SPECIAL TEAMS
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Special teams have h

Continued from Page B 9

is fretting over the prospect of facing even a Givins-less U of L team.

"We played hard against Livingston, but we broke down on the kicking game very badly," Roberts said. "That wiped us out. We're making a lot of mental errors. We can't let that sort of thing happen to us at Louisville.

"We've played sloppy our first two games and it's showed. So we've got to make some strides in a hurry."

Mistakes by the special teams weren't Western's only problems against Livingston or in a 35-13 victory over Gardner-Webb in the opener.

In two games, the Hilltoppers have been penalized for 122 yards and have fumbled seven times, losing three. Roberts has put more emphasis on a running attack this year, but to little avail so far, and in the process Western's passing game has deteriorated.

Western's leading rusher is Joe Arnold, a 5-foot-11, 187-pound sophomore who has gained 137 yards. But 111 of those came in the opener.

While there has been no consis-

tency to the Hilltoppers' rushing attack, Pedro Bacon, a sophomore walk-on from Paducah, showed some big-play ability with a 99-yard touchdown burst against Livingston.

Even Cesarone, a strong-armed junior who has passed for 3,018 career yards and already owns 13 school records, has struggled.

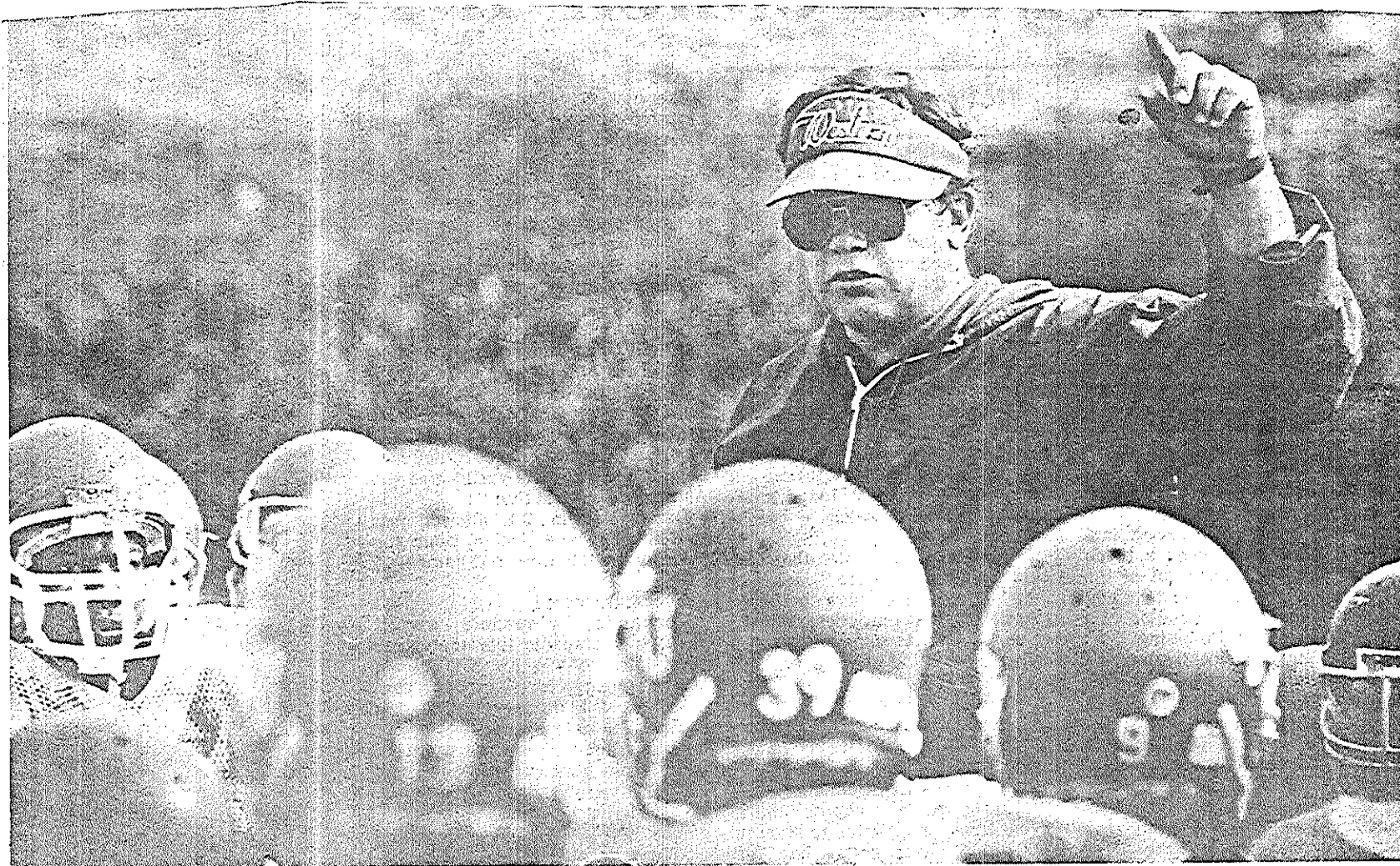
"He did not play very well the first game. He improved some last week," Roberts said. "He's got to come on and play better for us to play some of the people we're going to play."

Western's top receiver is junior flanker Cedric Jones, who has 12 catches for 154 yards and the Hilltoppers' only TD via the air.

Paskett, the fastest player ever at Western, the leading receiver last year (41 catches, 829 yards) as a junior and No. 5 in career receiving yardage (1,403), has managed only two catches for 24 yards.

Despite Western's disappointing start, Roberts still believes the Hilltoppers are potentially better than last year's 4-7 team.

"We've got better talent, both offensively and defensively, so we're excited about that," he said.



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Directing the troops

D.N. 9-15-86

DAVE ROBERTS, Western's football coach, gives his players a little pep talk before Wednesday's practice. The Hilltoppers are getting

ready for their game this Saturday at the University of Louisville.

Defense may be difference

D.N. 9-19-86

In all football games, the object of the defense is to stop the offense; and the object of the offense is to score.

Those two factors may not more pronounced than when Western travels to Cardinal Stadium to take on the University of Louisville at 6 p.m. (CDT) Saturday (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

The reason those two basics of football take on deeper meaning in this game is that U of L has yet to score.

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

In years past, the Cardinals simply had too much firepower for Western to stop. And Western didn't have enough punch to keep up with U of L.

Now, U of L's offense can be best described as mysterious. And, while Western couldn't be said to have squeezed the life out of its first two opponents on defense, it has shown the ability to deliver a few hard knocks.

So, to the surprise of almost everyone, this game may be decided by how many points Western's offense can muster.

"For us to win we have to go out and play our game," said quarterback Jeff Cesarone. "We've been pressing too much, and the passing game hasn't been fluid. We haven't been clicking and that's been my fault. We need to try not to do too much. We're going to have to keep the ball longer."

Cesarone shouldered much of the responsibility for last week's disaster against Livingston. Although he completed 22 of 36 passes for 212 yards, Cesarone also threw two interceptions.

"I wasn't very patient. I can't have any mental mistakes," he said.

Western has been working mostly on the running game in the early part of the season, and that is the reason Cesarone said he hasn't been as sharp.

"The first game we ran so much that the passing wasn't there," he said.

"Being prepared mentally is the big thing," said senior running back Pat McKenzie. "We've got to have good execution."

Execution is something with which U of L's offense hasn't had that many problems in its two losses, that is until it got within smelling distance of the goal line.

Western's defenders seem to think they can keep the Cards off the scoreboard.

"We're capable of shutting them out," said James Edwards, a junior free safety. "The pass defense had some little breakdowns earlier, but they run a pro type offense and pass deep, so it's easier to defend against that."

Linebacker Neil Fatkin, who got

Defense key for Western

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hold of his game with 15 tackles against Livingston, said the defense must be responsible for getting the edge over U of L.

"They have a lot of tendencies, and if everybody notices what's going on, we'll be all right," he said. "They run a lot of screens, so we have to watch for that."

How did the Radcliff native

bounce back after getting just three tackles against Gardner-Webb?

"I was just hustling. I was definitely in the groove more," he said.

The last two years Western has played the Cardinals, it has been intimidated by the size of both the team and the crowds at Cardinal Stadium. Several players think that won't be the case this year.

"I'm going in feeling strong because this is the last time I'm

going to be playing them," said Mark Johnson, a senior strong safety. "We've got to prove to people that we're a good team. Not just the people in Louisville, but the people all over the state."

If there's any time to do that, this is it.

Western coach Dave Roberts has taken some steps the last couple of days to ease the special teams problems.

Steve Shankweller, Western's offensive coordinator, has been giving extra attention to the special teams this week.

Roberts has also changed some of the personnel on the special teams. Roberts has moved some starters into the specialty slots to plug up the holes.

In something of a surprise move, U of L coach Howard Schnellenberger has decided to bench quarterback Ed Rubbert in favor of sophomore Jay Gruden.

Schnellenberger said on his radio call-in show Thursday night that Gruden's ability to sprint out will give the Cards more flexibility.

Linebacker Wayne Bush, who earned a starting spot when Mike Carberry went down with ligament damage in his left knee, has himself suffered a knee injury that will keep him out of the U of L game, according to trainer Bill Edwards.

Look for Calvin Edwards and Russell Foster to take up the slack.

Also, running back Joe Arnold has a sprained knee, but he will play Saturday, Edwards said.

Recruiting error? Western's Fatkin has been a terror

By RUSS BROWN

C. J. Staff Writer 9-19-86

There was no reason for coach Dave Roberts to pop the cork on a bottle of champagne or otherwise celebrate when Neil Fatkin decided to sign with Western Kentucky a few years ago.

At a mere 5 feet 7, Fatkin was hardly a recruiting coup, even for a Division I-AA program.

In fact, Roberts originally phoned Fatkin only as a courtesy to Fatkin's brother, Mark, who was an Academic All-American at offensive guard for the Hilltoppers in 1985. Roberts sought Neil Fatkin half-heartedly at best.

"We didn't recruit him very hard," Roberts said. "We made a couple of calls and all of a sudden he decided to come."

Then Roberts had a real problem: figuring out what to do with him once he arrived in Bowling Green.

As a senior at North Hardin High School in Radcliff, Ky., Fatkin earned All-State honors at running back, gaining 2,497 yards and leading the state in scoring with 212 points on 35 touchdowns and a two-point conversion. But the backfield was out of the question at Western.

"He wasn't fast enough to be a running back or big enough to be a fullback," Roberts said. "We didn't know where he'd fit in. We were going to try him at four or five positions and see if any clicked."

One did. Loudly. Thus Fatkin will be in his customary starting spot at linebacker when Western (1-1) challenges Louisville Saturday night at Cardinal Stadium.

Fatkin led the Hilltoppers in tackles last season with 112, including 59 unassisted, and he's the top tackler again this year with 18.

Not bad for a fellow who was told he probably had no future in college football — by none other than the coach who signed him.

"Coach Roberts was up front with



NEIL
FATKIN
Uses weights
to overcome
size problem

me," Fatkin said. "He told me I was too small and he didn't think I was good enough to play, but that he was going to give me a shot.

"He said he was taking me because of Mark and was counting on the bloodlines, which kind of hurt my feelings. But I respect him for being honest."

Besides, Fatkin knew better, and was eager to prove his worth.

"I have total confidence in my ability," he said. "I don't think any college that told me I was too small was considering how hard I try. I give 100 percent and I knew I could play anywhere."

How could anyone know that the spunky Fatkin's gritty determination would help overcome his lack of size?

Roberts' voice still takes on a tone of wonderment when he talks about the smallest player on Western's roster.

"He doesn't fit your traditional linebacker," Roberts said. "I've never coached anybody like him. He comes up to about my waist and you say, 'There's no way he can play.'"

"But he's one big muscle and he's got a heart that runs all the way through his body. He's a competitor who overcomes every obstacle you put in front of him and just keeps coming to the top."

Although Fatkin is a stocky 200 pounds, he appears to be no match

See FATKIN'S

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Fatkin's confidence well placed

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for the behemoths he sometimes has to knock out of the way to get to the ballcarrier.

Crunch. Splat. Get the stretcher. Again, though, Fatkin's looks are deceiving, because he virtually lives in the weight room during the off-season and just may be the strongest player on the team. He bench presses 430 pounds, second only to 6-3, 240-pound defensive tackle Rodney Astree's 475, and his squat of 700 pounds is the best.

"I know my size hurts me, so I have to make up for it in other ways," Fatkin said. "Being stronger helps."

Ironically, in some ways his height works to his advantage.

"He's so short that he gets down behind those tackles and I promise you the guards can't see the guy running around back there," Roberts said.

"A lot of taking on a guy one-on-one is who gets lower," Fatkin said. "And I can pretty much get lower than anybody I play against."

Fatkin misses carrying the football and crossing the goal line, but he's satisfied playing linebacker and didn't find the transition difficult.

"I just wanted to play, I didn't care where," he said. "I probably prefer running back, but as long as I'm on the field I'm happy."

Fatkin would be even happier if Western could somehow upset U of L Saturday. He did his part in last year's game, making 11 tackles and recovering a fumble that led to Western's last touchdown early in

the fourth quarter, but the Hilltoppers still lost 23-14.

This year could be different, he warned, even though Western is coming off a disappointing 23-21 loss to Livingston (Aia).

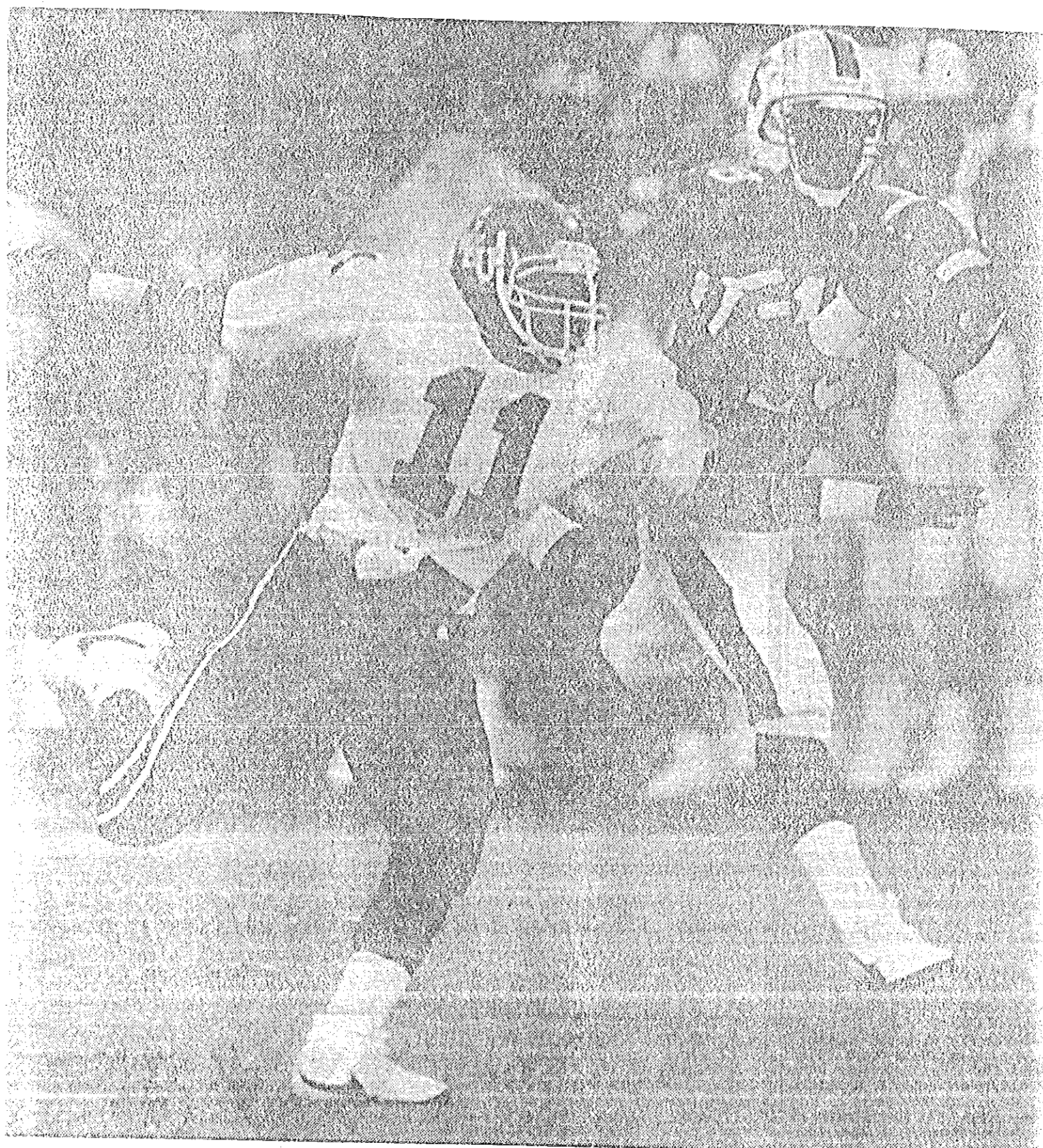
"I think if we can get it together and forget about last week's loss, we've got a good shot," Fatkin said. "But we have to play to our capabilities. I think we kind of overlooked Livingston because we thought they were a lesser team and we didn't take them seriously."

But that won't be a problem with U of L, will it?

"No, sir!" Fatkin said.

CARD FILE — On his radio call-in show last night, U of L coach Howard Schnellenberger said sophomore Jay Gruden will replace junior Ed Rubbert as the Cardinals' starting quarterback Saturday.

"The fact that Jay does a little more sprinting out and that he can escape the rush ... will allow us to do some things that we haven't been able to do," Schnellenberger said.

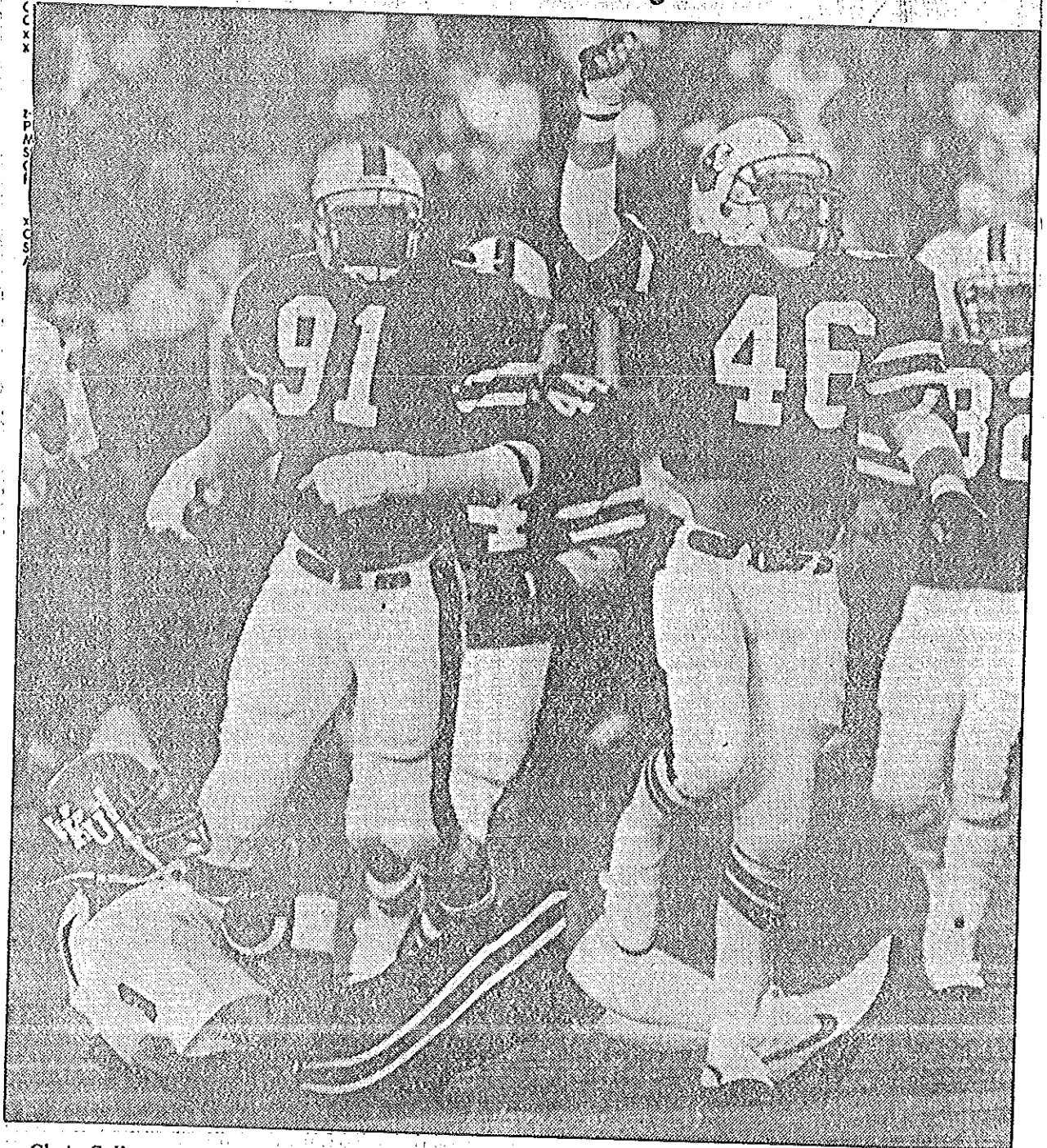


...le Vaughn of Louisville completed a 38-yard play despite the efforts of David Bailey (11) last night as Vaughn latched on to a

Jay Gruden pass that gave the Cardinals a first down at Western Kentucky's 28-yard line late in the first quarter. C. J. ... 9/21/84

Photos by Stan Don

It's Vee-Jay Day for U of



Chris Sellars came to bury Cesarone, not to praise him, but the U of L linebacker praised

himself after his first-quarter sack. Kevin Harvey (91) and Mike Minogue (82) looked on.

Photo by Stan Denny

CJ 9-21-86

L as Western falls 45-6

By RUSS BROWN

C. J. Staff Writer 7-21-84
You can call Jay Gruden's debut as the University of Louisville's starting quarterback a smashing success.

And you can call Western Kentucky just plain smashed.

Gruden ignited U of L's stagnant offense and the Cardinals rolled to a 45-6 victory over outmanned Western last night before a crowd of 34,144 at Cardinal Stadium.

The point total represented a real windfall for U of L, which had failed to score in losses to Illinois (23-0) and Indiana (21-0). It was the Cards' best point production in 20 games dating back to a 45-17 victory over Western on Oct. 6, 1984.

Gruden completed 14 of 29 passes for 257 yards and two touchdowns and directed U of L on six scoring drives. The sophomore from Tampa,

Fla., replaced senior Ed Rubbert in the starting lineup.

Sophomore halfback Deon Booker complemented Gruden's passing by picking up 116 yards rushing on 13 carries. He scored two touchdowns.

"They socked it to us," Western coach Dave Roberts said. "They did what they wanted to do. They did a heck of a job."

Louisville, which had managed only 273 yards total offense in its first two games, rolled up 341 yards in the first half alone en route to a 24-3 lead.

Gruden completed 12 of 21 passes for 239 yards and two touchdowns, while Booker gained 66 yards on eight carries and scored on a 23-yard run in the first half.

Western, meanwhile, was limited to 103 yards and didn't get a first down until its second possession of the second quarter.

U of L's defense sacked Hilltoppers quarterback Jeff Cesarone four times for losses of 30 yards and the Cards were forced to punt only once, Western seven times.

U of L wasted no time drawing first blood, scoring on its first possession when Danny Cerione kicked a 46-yard field goal just 6½ minutes into the game.

The Cardinals had moved from their own 44, but Gruden was sacked on a second-down play by Western nose guard Noel Harris for a loss of eight yards to the 29.

Then Danny Thomas dropped a pass at the 10, necessitating Cerione's first field goal of the season after two misses.

U of L boosted its lead to 10-0 by scoring its first touchdown of the season on its next series. Booker

See GRUDEN

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Gruden, Booker power Cards' victory

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broke through the middle of the line, then angled to the left on a 23-yard TD run with 3:48 remaining in the first quarter.

Booker's jaunt capped an 86-yard drive that also featured his 20-yard run, a 13-yard reception by Calvin Dixon and a 17-yard catch by James Howard.

Gruden's 41-yard pass to Eric Vaughn enabled U of L to pose yet another threat before the first period ended. But this time a 41-yard field-goal attempt by Cerione was low and to the right with 1:10 left.

Western didn't manage its first first down until 4½ minutes into the second quarter. It came during a drive from its own 27 to the Louisville 21.

But on a third-down play, Western was whistled for offensive pass interference, pushing the ball back to the Cards' 35.

Still, sophomore Dan Maher was able to get the Hilltoppers on the scoreboard with a 52-yard field goal with 6:15 remaining to narrow Western's deficit to 10-3.

However, Western's hopes of catching U of L before halftime were doused when freshman Keith Stephens returned the ensuing kickoff 61 yards to the Western 31.

Three plays later, Gruden floated a 26-yard touchdown pass to Booker for a 17-3 lead with 4:49 left in the first half.

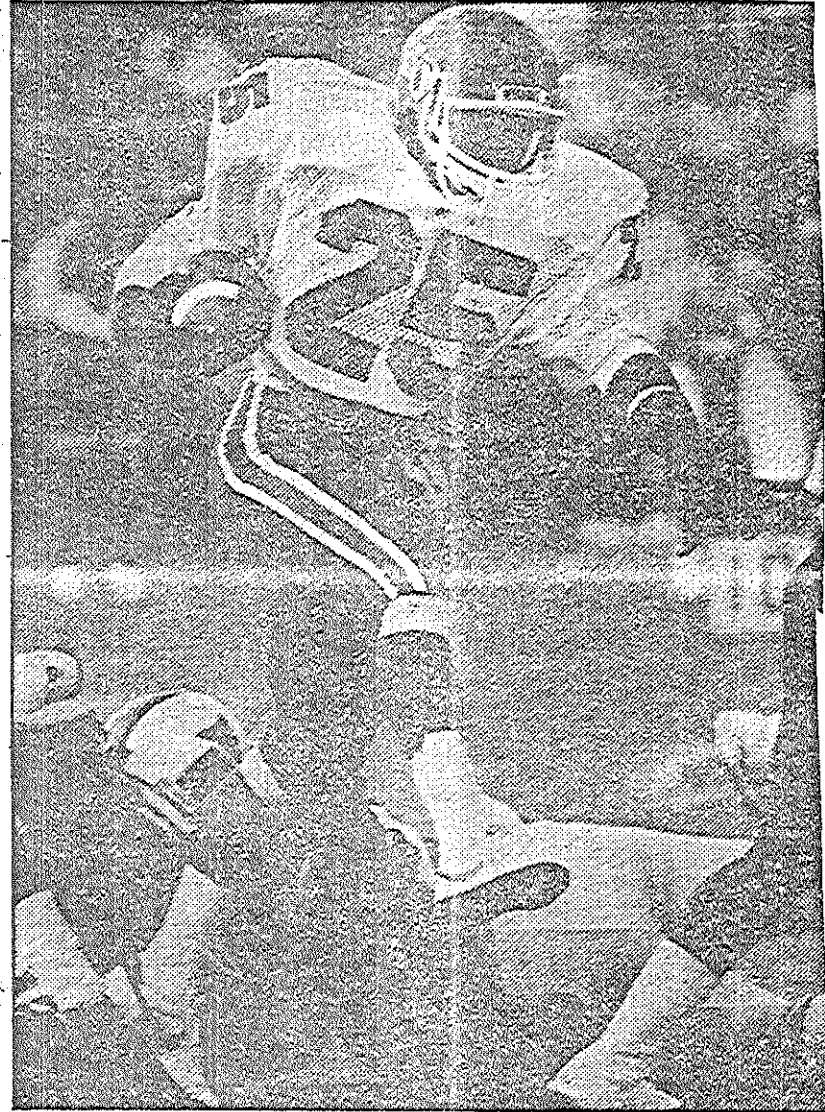
U of L increased its advantage to 24-3 at 0:51 on an 11-yard touchdown pass from Gruden to Thomas, whose strong effort avoided two tacklers on the right sideline. Thomas was hit at the five by free safety James Edwards and cornerback Vernard Johnson and appeared to be stopped at the four by Edwards, but escaped.

Maher kicked another field goal — this one 31 yards — with 5:48 left in the second quarter. It was set up by a 16-yard pass from Cesarone to Malcolm Darden and a 14-yard run by Pat McKenzie.

But U of L stormed right back to increase its lead to 31-6 on a one-yard touchdown run by fullback John Adams.

Gruden's running and passing, along with a 26-yard run by Booker, set up the TD. Gruden completed a 19-yard pass to Thomas, scrambled 23 yards, then gained 10 yards on a draw play before Adams dived over from the tailback position with 1:15 left in the third period.

Sophomore cornerback Gary Warren's diving interception set up another U of L touchdown early in the fourth quarter. The Cards took over on the Western 42 and six plays later Craig Swabek burst up the middle for a 14-yard TD run with 11:59 left.



Western Kentucky's Kelvin Nedd picked his way upfield last night for short yardage, which was the only kind the Hilltoppers managed as Louisville limited them to 103 yards.

Statistics

WESTERN KENTUCKY	0	3	3	0	6
LOUISVILLE	10	14	7	14	45
Louisville — FG, Cerione, 46. Louisville — Booker, 23, run (Cerione kick). Western Kentucky — FG, Maher, 52. Louisville — Booker, 26, pass from Gruden (Cerione kick). Louisville — Thomas, 12, pass from Gruden (Cerione kick). Western Kentucky — FG, Maher, 31. Louisville — Adams, 1, run (Cerione kick). Louisville — Swabek, 14, run (Cerione kick). Louisville — Swabek, 9, run (Cerione).					
Attendance	— 34,144.				
Western Ky. Louisville					
First downs	17	28			
Rushes-yards	33-93	46-225			
Passing yards	135	296			
Return yards	0	111			
Passes	21-43-2	15-31-0			
Punts	10-26.8	5-38.8			
Fumbles-lost	2-0	3-0			
Penalties-yards	5-45	14-120			

Individual statistics

RUSHING — Western Kentucky: Arnold 8-41, McKenzie 6-39, Anthony 5-31, Nedd 4-10, Mangold 3-9, Armstrong 1- (minus 9), Cesarone 4- (minus 28). Louisville: Booker 13-116, Stricklin 7-37, Swabek 3-26, Adams 9-19, Knighton 2-13, Gruden 7-13, Battaglia 1-0, K. Stephens 2-1, Tucker 1-0, Miller 1-

Booker 4 run. Second — Booker 1 run. Third — Booker 26 pass from Gruden for TD (Cerione kick).
LOUISVILLE 24, WESTERN 3 — 45 left in second quarter, seven plays, 85 yards. First play — Vaughn 40 pass from Gruden. Second — Knighton 0 pass from Gruden. Third — Howard 15 pass from Gruden. Fourth — Vaughn incomplete pass from Gruden. Fifth — Booker 9 run. Sixth — Knighton 9 run. Seventh — Thomas 12 pass from Gruden for TD (Cerione kick).
WESTERN KENTUCKY 4, LOUISVILLE 24 — 5:48 left in third quarter, 6 plays, 33 yards. First — Darden 16 pass from Cesarone. Second — McKenzie 14 run. Third — McKenzie, 1 run. Fourth — Paskett 2 pass from Cesarone. Fifth — Cesarone pass incomplete. Sixth — Maher, 31 FG.
LOUISVILLE 31, WESTERN KENTUCKY 6 — 1:15 left in third quarter, 10 plays, 69 yards. First — Gruden incomplete pass. Second — Thomas 20 pass from Gruden. Third — Booker 26 run. Fourth — Keith Stephens no gain. Fifth — Gruden 22 run. Sixth — Gruden 10 run. Seventh — Booker 2 run. Eighth — Adams 2 run. Ninth — Adams 2 run. Tenth — Adams 1 run for TD. (Cerione kick).
LOUISVILLE 37, WESTERN KENTUCKY 6 — 11:59 left in the fourth quarter, 5 plays, 42 yards. First — Stricklin 9 run. Second — Swabek 3 run. Third — Stricklin 1 run. Fourth — Tucker 0 run. Fifth — Swabek 14 run for TD. (Cerione kick).

was whistled for offensive pass interference, pushing the ball back to the Cards' 35.

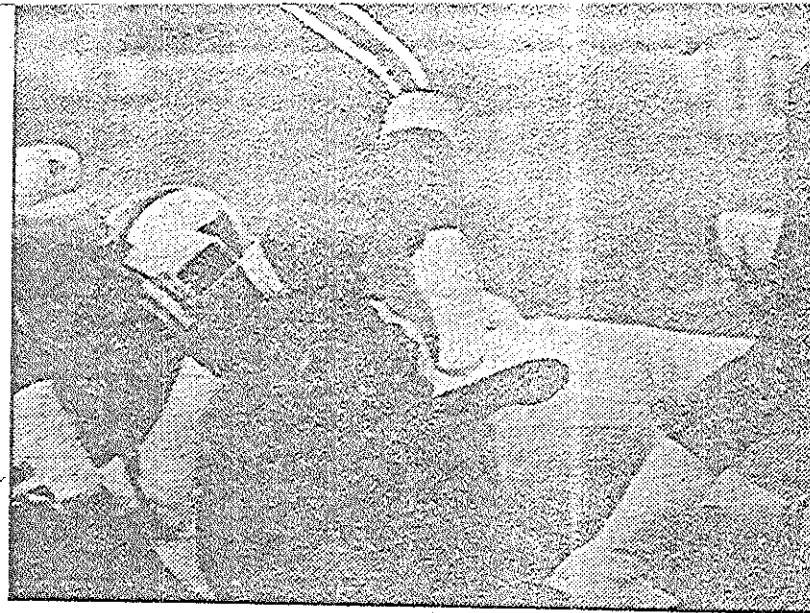
Still, sophomore Dan Maher was able to get the Hilltoppers on the scoreboard with a 52-yard field goal with 6:15 remaining to narrow Western's deficit to 10-3.

However, Western's hopes of catching U of L before halftime were doused when freshman Keith Stephens returned the ensuing kickoff 61 yards to the Western 31.

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Statistics

WESTERN KENTUCKY 0 3 3 0 - 6

LOUISVILLE 10 14 7 14 - 45

Louisville - FG, Cerlone, 46. Louisville - Booker, 23, run (Cerlone kick). Western Kentucky - FG, Maher, 52. Louisville - Booker, 26, pass from Gruden (Cerlone kick). Louisville - Thomas, 12, pass from Gruden (Cerlone kick). Western Kentucky - FG, Maher, 31. Louisville - Adams, 1, run (Cerlone kick). Louisville - Swabek, 14, run (Cerlone kick). Louisville - Swabek, 9, run (Cerlone).

Attendance - 34,144.

	Western Ky.	Louisville
First downs	17	28
Rushes-yards	33-93	46-225
Passing yards	135	294
Return yards	0	111
Passes	27-43-2	15-31-0
Punts	10-36.8	5-38.8
Fumbles-lost	2-0	3-0
Penalties-yards	5-45	14-120

Individual statistics

RUSHING - Western Kentucky: Arnold 8-41, McKenzie 6-39, Anthony 5-31, Nedd 4-10, Mangold 3-9, Armstrong 1- (minus 9), Cesarone 4- (minus 28). Louisville: Booker 13-116, Stricklin 7-37, Swabek 3-26, Adams 9-19, Knighton 2-13, Gruden 7-13, Battaglia 1-4, K. Stephens 2-1, Tucker 1-0, Miller 1- (minus 4).

PASSING - Western Kentucky: Cesarone 14-29-1-80, Armstrong 7-14-1-55. Louisville: Gruden 14-29-0-257, Howard 0-1-0-0, K. Stephens 1-1-0-39.

RECEIVING - Western Kentucky: Darden 5-39, Jones 4-21, Bacon 1-15, Barber 1-15, Paskett 3-12, Coates 1-4, McKenzie 2-9, Nedd 2-3, Kimbell 2-3, Mangold 1-2. Louisville: Vaughn 2-81, Howard 4-62, Tucker, 1-39, Knighton 2-36, Thomas 3-35, Booker 2-30, Dixon 1-13.

How they scored

LOUISVILLE 3, WESTERN KENTUCKY 0 - 9:31 left in first quarter, 13 plays, 27 yards. First - Booker, 8 yd run. Second - Adams, 3 run. Third - Booker, 1 run. Fourth - Louisville, five yard penalty for ineligible receiver. Fifth - Howard 18 pass from Gruden. Sixth - Booker, no gain. Seventh - Louisville, five yard penalty for delay of game. Eighth - Howard 12 pass from Gruden. Ninth - Adams 3 run. Tenth - Gruden incomplete pass. Eleventh - Gruden, sacked for eight yard loss. Twelfth - Gruden incomplete pass. Thirteenth - Cerlone, 46, field goal.

LOUISVILLE 10, WESTERN KENTUCKY 0 - 3:42 in left in 1st quarter, 8 plays, 86 yards. First - Booker, 20 run. Second - Adams 1 run. Third - Dixon 13 pass from Gruden. Sixth - Howard 17 pass from Gruden. Seventh - Adams 2 run. Eighth - Adams 5 run. Seventh - Gruden 5 run. Eighth - Booker 23 run TD. (Cerlone kick).

WESTERN KENTUCKY 3, LOUISVILLE 10 - 8:45 left in second quarter, nine plays, 34 yards. First play - Anthony 7 run. Second - Darden 8 pass from Cesarone. Third - Anthony 2 run. Fourth - Mangold 2 pass from Cesarone. Fifth - Anthony 9 run. Sixth - McKenzie 12 run. Seventh - Darden 3 pass from Cesarone. Eighth - McKenzie 3 run. Ninth - Maher, 52, field goal.

LOUISVILLE 17, WESTERN 3 - 4:49 left in 3rd quarter, three plays, 31 yards. First play -

Booker 4 run. Second - Booker 1 run. Third - Booker 26 pass from Gruden for TD (Cerlone kick).

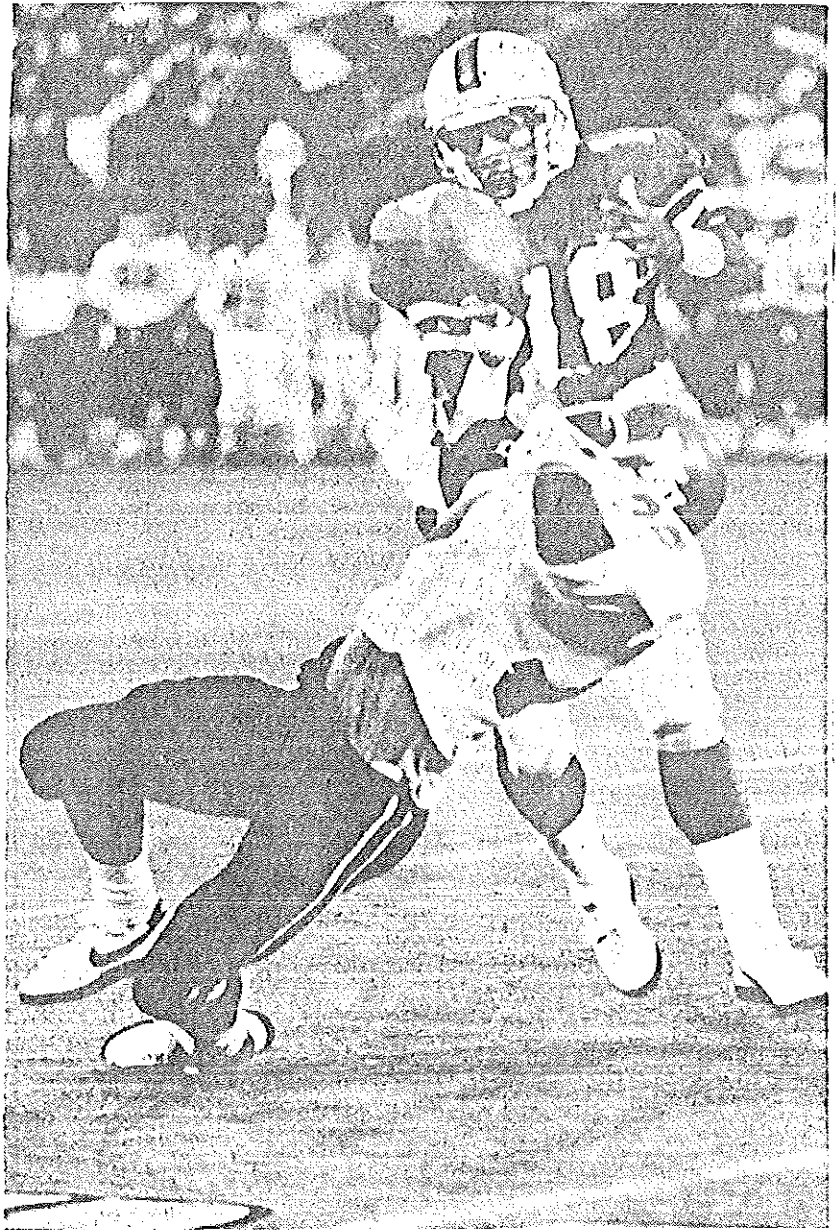
LOUISVILLE 24, WESTERN 3 - 4:55 left in second quarter, seven plays, 85 yards. First play - Vaughn 40 pass from Gruden. Second - Knighton 0 pass from Gruden. Third - Howard 15 pass from Gruden. Fourth - Vaughn incomplete pass from Gruden. Fifth - Booker 9 run. Sixth - Knighton 9 run. Seventh - Thomas 12 pass from Gruden for TD (Cerlone kick).

WESTERN KENTUCKY 6, LOUISVILLE 24 - 5:48 left in third quarter, 6 plays, 33 yards. First - Darden 16 pass from Cesarone. Second - McKenzie 14 run. Third - McKenzie, 1 run. Fourth - Paskett 2 pass from Cesarone. Fifth - Cesarone pass incomplete. Sixth - Maher, 31 FG.

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LOUISVILLE 37, WESTERN KENTUCKY 6 - 11:59 left in the fourth quarter, 5 plays, 42 yards. First - Stricklin 9 run. Second - Swabek 3 run. Third - Stricklin 1 run. Fourth - Tucker 0 run. Fifth - Swabek 15 run for TD. (Cerlone kick).

LOUISVILLE 45, WESTERN KENTUCKY 6 - 3:57 left in fourth quarter, 4 plays, 40 yards. First - Miller (minus 4) run. Second - Tucker 39 pass from Stephens. Third - Stephen 1 run. Fourth - Swabek 9 run for TD. (Cerlone kick).



(AP Laserphoto)

Tough catch

D. N.
8-21-86

VERNARD JOHNSON (bottom) of Western battles with Louisville's Eric Vaughn for a pass intended for Johnson Saturday night in Louisville. Western took it on the chin for the second straight week, falling 45-6.

U of L explodes on Hilltoppers

D.N. 9-21-56

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Here's the Sunday morning riddle: What happens when a bad Division I-A team plays a bad Division I-AA team? If it's the University of Louisville going against Western, as was the case Saturday night in a nearly full Cardinal Stadium, then it can be almost anything.

For example, U of L — a team that hasn't scored in eight quarters — explodes for 24 points in the first half on the way to a 45-6 shelling.

"I don't know how to react to this kind of situation," said Coach Howard Schnellenberger after his team rolled up 521 yards in total offense compared to Western's 228. "The team finally came together and played well. Western may not be that strong of an opponent, I don't know. But to score that many points and keep the other team from scoring a touchdown is quite an accomplishment."

The 34,144 fans who came out to see the members of U of L's basketball team get their 1986 NCAA championship rings at the

half got a first half bonus — they got to see the Cardinals score and score and score and score and score.

It started out innocently enough with a 46-yard Danny Cerione field goal with 5:29 to go in the first quarter. But after a 23-yard run by Deon Booker, a 26-yard scoring strike from first time starting quarterback Jay Gruden to Booker with 10:11 to go in the half and another scoring pass from Gruden to Danny Thomas near the close of the half, Schnellenberger had to have been lighting up one of his famous pipes for a victory puff.

U of L had a 10-0 lead before Dan Maher kicked a 52-yard field goal — the second-longest in Topper history — with 6:15 to go in the half.

Western might have had a touchdown on its best drive of the night if not for a offensive pass interference penalty on an 11-yard completion from Jeff Cesarone to Keith Paskett that gave it a first down on the Cardinal 11.

It was that kind of game early for Western, but later it wouldn't matter.

"We had nothing offensively early, and when we started getting our offense together we couldn't defend," said Western coach Dave Roberts. "We had momentum for just about 10 seconds."

Gruden was 14 of 29 for 257 yards with no interceptions in his first start that many observers felt was planned since the end of last year.

The 6-0, 185-pounder hadn't been particularly effective in his other appearances this year — throwing three interceptions against Illinois — but he looked like a Heisman Trophy candidate against mostly single coverage by Western.

"I missed a couple of reads here and there, but our receivers made some great catches," said the sophomore from Tampa, Fla.

Western didn't shy away from the challenge at the outset, running a no-huddle offense that Roberts employed throughout much of the first half.

The Toppers were also gambling on defense early, blitzing on several occasions and showing blitz many others.

That play left Cardinal receivers

like James Howard and Eric Vaughn alone against either Billy Haynes or David Bailey.

On the scoring pass to Booker, the 5-10, 185-pound sophomore was all alone against linebacker Allen Reitchcheck.

Thomas ran out of the grasp of Vernard Johnson and James Edwards at about 4-yard line on his score.

"We didn't do anything differently on defense," Roberts said.

Even though punter Adam Lindsey was much more effective Saturday night than he was against Livingston, special teams problems still hurt Western.

The Gruden to Booker score was set up by a 61-yard kickoff return by Keith Stephens that put the Cards in business at the Western 31.

The scoring subsided some in the second half.

Maher kicked his second field goal of the game from 31 yards out with 4:48 remaining in the third quarter.

The Cards came back on their next possession and scored on a John Adams dive from the 1 with 1:15 left in the period.

Craig Swabek scored on runs of 9 and 14 yards in the fourth quarter to seal the victory. Cerione had five extra points to go with his field goal.

Cesarone managed only 80 yards on 14 of 29 passing with one in-

terception. Cesarone was sacked four times.

"We've got a bigger offensive line than their defense and they beat the heck out of us," Robert said.

The offensive line wasn't alone though.

W. Kentucky 0 3 3 0-
Louisville 1014 714-4

A-34,000

	WKU	LOU
First downs	17	2
Rushes-yards	33-93	46-22
Passing yards	135	29
Return yards	0	11
Passes	43-21-2	31-15-
Punts	10-36	5-3
Fumbles-lost	2-0	3-
Penalties-yards	5-45	14-12
Time of Possession	29:51	30:0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING — W. Kentucky, Arnold 8-4; McKenzie 6-39; Anthony 5-31. Louisville, Booker 13-116; Adams 9-19; Stricklin 7-37.
PASSING — W. Kentucky, Cesarone 29-14-18; Armstrong 14-7-1-55. Louisville, Gruden 29-14-257; Stephens 1-1-0-39.
RECEIVING — W. Kentucky, Darden 5-3; Jones 4-21; Paskett 3-12. Louisville, Howard 6-2; Booker 2-30; Thomas 3-35.

Western has regressed from last

D.N. 9-22-86

Coach Dave Roberts did anything but shy away from the most obvious question Saturday night.

When asked if his team has regressed this year from where it was at the close of last season, he didn't hesitate.

"I told the players this reminded me of the Louisville game two years ago," he said.

Two years ago — Roberts' first as Western's head football coach — the Hilltoppers were trampled 45-17 by a group of Cardinals who didn't yet have Howard Schnellenberger as coach.

Now, three years into Roberts' master plan of getting Western football back on its feet, the team suffered maybe its most humiliating defeat ever.

The sad thing about the 45-6 rout that was laid on the Toppers in Cardinal Stadium is that it wasn't done by a team with a surgeon's skill, but more like an executioner

with a dull butter knife.

The Cardinals are far from being even a mediocre Division I-A football program. As Schnellenberger said, they have about a million miles to go before they will be competitive on the national scale that the coach with the pipe has promised.

So where does that leave Western, a squad that showed much promise last spring and that much was expected of before this season started.

Quarterback Jeff Cesarone said the team is still looking for itself.

"We've got to do something. The coaches said we have to look at ourselves."

Cesarone attempted and completed the same number of passes (14 of 29) as his counterpart Jay Gruden did for U of L, but the results were strikingly different.

Cesarone had only 80 yards for his efforts, Gruden notched 257 —



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News Sports Editor
Commentary

all in the first half.

Roberts pointed to the offensive line's failure to pass block, but Cesarone, as he has done in the past, took full responsibility on himself.

"I wasn't getting the ball off quick enough. I had open receivers, but I was missing them. The line played real well," Cesarone said.

Both the quarterback and the head coach said the talent is there for Western to be successful, and I tend to agree with that assessment.

Roberts thought the game would be so close that only a touchdown would decide the outcome.

Looking at it optimistically, Western was knocked out of the box after it had to settle for a 52-yard Dan Maher field goal after an offensive pass interference penalty wiped out a Cesarone to Keith Paskett completion that would've given Western the ball at the Cardinals' 10.

The field goal made it 10-3 instead of 10-7 with a possible Western touchdown.

Cesarone said, realistically, that he didn't know if anything would've been any different with a touchdown there.

"They just beat us," he said.

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"They just beat us," he said.

Some players talked before the game about how in years past the team was beaten before it even got on the field against Louisville. That shouldn't have been the case this time, but evidently it was. Western's defense didn't cover the pass or the run very well, as Gruden's performance and Deon Booker's 116 yards on 13 carries would testify. And the offense never could get going at full steam.

Roberts confessed he didn't know what the major problem with his team is.

"If I could figure it out I would," he said.

The team has been a hard one to get a handle on.

It played just well enough to bomb Gardner-Webb in the opener. Then it didn't play well at all against Division II Livingston in a two-point loss. And, finally the bottom fell out while it handed U of L its first win in three games.

The gauntlet continues for two more weeks at Murray, then back in Smith Stadium for archrival Eastern before an open date Oct. 11.

The Tops are looking very hard at a 1-4 slate by that break.

Punter Adam Lindsey punted 10 times for 368 yards in the Louisville game. He only needed 155 going in to the contest to become Western's all-time career yardage leader.

The former record of 8,920 yards was held by Ray Farmer. Lindsey now has 9,133 yards on a school record 243 punts.

That's a telling statistic.

Privately, Roberts was said to be quite upset with the way Schnellenberger poured it on the Toppers.

For the record, Roberts only said, "That's his thing if he wants to do it."

Jury still out despite Louisville's trouncing of outmanned Western

By RUSS BROWN

Staff Writer 9-22-86

OK, we know this much:

Western Kentucky is Division I-AA, and not even one of the top outfits among that gang of second-rung college football teams.

Its tackling was incredibly sloppy much of the time Saturday night, and its offense spotty and uninspired.

Western was clearly over-matched, as one would expect, in the 45-6 loss to the University of Louisville.

The Hilltoppers certainly aren't in the class of West Virginia, Florida State, Cincinnati or even winless Memphis State.

So how do you measure U of L's progress based on its showing Saturday?

Is the Cardinals' offense, under the direction of new quarterback Jay Gruden, finally becoming the productive, dangerous unit coach Howard Schnellenberger expected at the start of the season?

Does U of L's defense continue to improve?

Or ... are most of the good things that were on display — Gruden's timely passing, Deon Booker's elusive running, the offensive line's crisp blocking, the defense's tenacity — largely a result of playing a much weaker, outmanned foe?

The answers to those and other questions will come later, against the remaining eight foes on U of L's schedule, all of whom will provide a much stiffer test than Western.

For now, a resounding 'who cares?' is the prevailing mood in the Cards' camp. What U of L really needed was to score and to win and it did both in perhaps easier fashion than expected. That's sure to boost spirits and confidence heading into Saturday's home game against Memphis State.

"The big thing is we got a win, got our offense going and got our confidence level up," Gruden said. "It didn't matter who we were playing, we needed to get some points on the board."

"This makes everyone happy and excited," Booker said. "I'm not saying Western is a sorry or bad team. They came out to the best of their ability and we won."

Neither coach was willing to draw any conclusions either.

"I don't know how good they are; they're a helluva lot better than us," said Western coach Dave Roberts. "They've played Illinois and Indiana and we're obvi-

ously not them. But they did some good things."

For his part, Schnellenberger steadfastly declined to make any specific judgments, except to say that he believes U of L continues to make progress.

"I don't know anything about Western Kentucky," Schnellenberger said. "I know a lot about the University of Louisville. I've been saying our program is moving forward and is making good progress and I don't think this changes that."

"We're still a million miles away, but I think this helps give credibility to what we've been saying, that we've made some progress."

Based on last season's game between these same two teams, progress seems self-evident. U of L struggled to beat Western 23-14 last year and Roberts has contended that this is a better Western team.

With the victory, Schnellenberger expects another good week of practice similar to last week's spirited workouts.

To Kern Alexander, football more than a passing interest

7-21-56
Stanford and Penn State, among others, are extremely interested in a 6-foot-4 high school quarterback in Florida who's president of his senior class, a 3.9 student and a drop-back passer with a big-league arm.

His name is Klint Alexander of Buchholz High in Gainesville — and the good news for coach Howard Schnellenberger's University of Louisville program is that Alexander's father just happened to be in last night's crowd at Cardinal Stadium.

Ah, but wait.

The bad news, U of L fans, is that, instead of rooting for the Cardinals, the kid's dad was cheering and waving a red towel in vigorous support of the visitors from Western Kentucky University.

Meet Dr. Kern Alexander, the Western president since last January, who's also taking a course in



**Billy
Reed**

Courier-Journal
sports editor

Recruiting 101 by virtue of his role as Klint Alexander's dad.

Actually, it's a refresher course. His oldest son, Kern Jr., just graduated from Cornell, where he played linebacker, and No. 2 son Fielding King is the current captain of the varsity basketball team at St. Lawrence University in New York.

But neither of the older boys ever attracted the attention that's now

being focused on Klint. The growing list of suitors includes Michigan, Illinois, almost all of the Southeastern Conference schools (including Kentucky) and four Ivy League schools.

"I've got a big boy who can throw it," the elder Alexander said with understandable pride. "Stanford is giving him a good rush. Penn State calls on Tuesday night, Tennessee on Thursday. I told (Western coach) Dave Roberts that maybe I could help him."

But probably not.

Klint Alexander's coach, Al Werneke, predicts his quarterback will rule out his dad's university not so much because it's an NCAA Division I-AA program, but for the same reason that he'll probably eliminate the

See WESTERN

PAGE 6, col. 5, this section

Western president a football father

C.J. 9-21-56

Continued from Page One
University of Florida: too close to home.

After all, Buchholz High is only a couple of blocks from the Florida campus where Kern Alexander was running the Institute for Educational Finance when Western tapped him to replace Dr. Donald W. Zacharias.

Instead of moving the entire family to Bowling Green right away, Alexander and his wife, Ruth, a physical education professor, decided she would remain in Gainesville so Klint could finish his senior year at Buchholz.

This was an enormous relief to Werneke, who also starts Klint's brother Kane, a 6-0 junior, at safety.

"I almost had a heart attack when I heard about Dr. Alexander getting the Western Kentucky job," said Werneke. "I thought the whole family would move. I had already decided to pass more this year because of Klint's arm."

The brothers Alexander come by their athletic ability honestly. Their father was an All-State quarterback at Louisville Valley High in 1956 before going on to a distinguished career at Centre College in Danville, Ky.

A couple of years ago, Alexander stopped off at the Centre athletic department to see if he could find a film from one of his games so he could take it home and show the boys how nimble the old man was in his youth.

Unfortunately for Alexander, such a film still existed. The reviews from his sons consisted of guffaws and giggles about his high-top black shoes and his funny-looking helmet without the face guard. His slowness of foot was noted as fully as his weakness of arm.

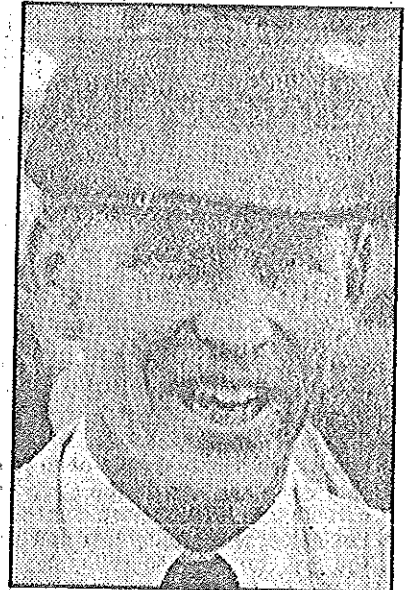
"They were rolling around the floor, they thought it was so funny," said Alexander, smiling ruefully.

A native of Cumberland County, Alexander grew up in Bowling Green. He remembers delivering the Park City News to what is now the Western president's mansion, being a "gym rat" who would sneak into the late Uncle Ed Diddle's basketball practices and hero-worshiping Little All-America quarterback Jimmy Feix.

He arrived as Western's president in time to preside over the selection of Feix as athletic director, replacing John Oldham, who retired.

"I used to ride my bike up the hill to watch Jimmy Feix practice and play," Alexander said. "He was the first quarterback I ever saw and he happened to be a good one. I think he's going to be a good athletic director, too."

If Feix was his first role model, Alexander gives credit to his former coaches, Dallas Arnold at Valley



Staff Photo by Keith Willants

Dr. Kern Alexander
"I believe in athletics"

"Instead of spring football, let them run track or play baseball. I don't like to see that immersion in one sport exclusively."

Still trim at 47, and about 12 pounds under his Centre playing weight of 192, Alexander keeps in shape by jogging with his wife, playing handball and horsing around with his sons when they're around.

Shortly after being named president, Alexander approached a security guard at Western's E. A. Diddle Arena.

"Who decides who gets a key to this place?" he asked.

"Well," said the guard, "I guess you do. You're the president."

"Hey, this is all right," said Alexander, who then requested his personal key so he and his sons could spend the summer working out together.

His son the quarterback is a late bloomer who last year played on a Buchholz High team that began the year mostly running the ball.

However, as Alexander's passing improved, Werneke went more to the air. In the last couple of games, Alexander completed 27 of 38 passes for 387 yards and five touchdowns.

Even though Buchholz is a member of Class 5-A, the highest in Florida, he wasn't listed high on this year's blue-chip recruiting lists mostly because he broke a foot on April 28, causing him to miss all of the spring practice that his dad, the scholar, opposes.

Two weeks ago, because he had gotten behind in practice, he threw only 16 passes in Buchholz's opening victory, completing eight for 87

film from one of his games so he could take it home and show the boys how nimble the old man was in his youth.

Unfortunately for Alexander, such a film still existed. The reviews from his sons consisted of guffaws and giggles about his high-top black shoes and his funny-looking helmet without the face guard. His slowness of foot was noted as fully as his weakness of arm.

"They were rolling around the floor, they thought it was so funny," said Alexander, smiling ruefully.

A native of Cumberland County, Alexander grew up in Bowling Green. He remembers delivering the Park City News to what is now the Western president's mansion, being a "gym rat" who would sneak into the late Uncle Ed Diddle's basketball practices and hero-worshipping Little All-America quarterback Jimmy Feix.

He arrived as Western's president in time to preside over the selection of Feix as athletic director, replacing John Oldham, who retired.

"I used to ride my bike up the hill to watch Jimmy Feix practice and play," Alexander said. "He was the first quarterback I ever saw and he happened to be a good one. I think he's going to be a good athletic director, too."

If Feix was his first role model, Alexander gives credit to his former coaches, Dallas Arnold at Valley and Briscoe Inman at Centre, for teaching him a lot more than how to play football.

Indeed, as he has built his academic credentials and negotiated his way through the groves (jungle, if you will) of academe, Alexander often has called upon the self-reliance and discipline that he developed on the playing fields.

"I believe in athletics, especially the concept of the scholar-athlete," he said. "If you have competed in rigorous endeavors, it gives you personal strength and confidence."

He smiled.

"Of course," he said, "debate can do that, too."

His orders to Feix have been simply to (a) be honest, (b) play by the rules and (c) do everything possible to see that the athletes get their degrees.

While his heart may yearn for the ideal of the student-athlete that he learned at Centre, Alexander's head and his well-documented background in educational finance tell him that football and basketball are big business.

But he pledges that, while he wants Western football and basketball to be conducted pretty much at their current levels, he's also interested in the development of the so-called "non-revenue" sports, including women's basketball.

Why, at a time when the state's college football coaches are lobbying for spring practice at the high school level, Alexander says he doesn't think it's such a hot idea even in the colleges.

"I'd like to see athletes play more sports across the board," he said.

weight of 192, Alexander keeps in shape by jogging with his wife, playing handball and horsing around with his sons when they're around.

Shortly after being named president, Alexander approached a security guard at Western's E. A. Diddle Arena.

"Who decides who gets a key to this place?" he asked.

"Well," said the guard, "I guess you do. You're the president."

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Two weeks ago, because he had gotten behind in practice, he threw only 16 passes in Buchholz's opening victory, completing eight for 87 yards.

While Alexander sounds like the sort of kid whom Schnellenberger could mold into the next Bernie Kosar, U of L wasn't aware of him until last week — despite Schnellenberger's vast contacts in Florida.

But Ron Steiner, Schnellenberger's administrative aide, said the Cards will get very interested in a hurry.

Werneke says they won't be sorry.

"I know Schnellenberger because he came here two years in a row to speak at our banquet when he was at Miami," said Warneke. "I think Klint could very definitely fit into their kind of system. He's a great thrower with a 'live' arm and great peripheral vision."

And his dad, of course, just happens to work 110 miles down Interstate 65 from the U of L campus.

Roberts wants U of L to

D.N. 9-23-86

It's never been any deep, dark secret that Coach Dave Roberts has wanted more guarantee money for playing the University of Louisville. It's just that discussions on the subject have been private up to this morning when a state newspaper columnist said that Roberts didn't want to play the Cardinals again.

"I don't know if that's an exact quote, but if a Division I-AA team like ours is going to put a lot of Western folks in their stands than we ought to get payed to play," Roberts said this morning.

"I think we should play up (a division), but if you're going to play up, play for pay. I've been saying it for two years."

Louisville, a Division I-A school with 25 more scholarships than Western's allotment of 70, has paid Western \$35,000 per year since the series was renewed in 1982 after a six-year lull.

This year, in a one-year deal, the Hilltoppers got a \$45,000 guarantee, but the money goes back down to \$35,000 per year for the remainder of the contract, which runs through the 1989 season, according to Roberts.

The third-year Western coach said he didn't make the guarantee statements in the heat of the 45-6 loss that U of L handed the Hilltoppers last Saturday night, it was just the first time they had been made



Mark

Dal

public.

"I told Bill Olsen (U of L's athletic director) that we needed more money two years ago," Roberts said.

Olsen said this morning that there are separate contracts for football and basketball series, but that he and former Athletic Director John Oldham had orally agreed

increase guarantee

C. Mathis

News Sports Editor
Commentary

that the football games would be played at Louisville and the basketball would rotate.

The football series has been a big draw for Louisville and both schools have benefitted from the basketball series. The contract calls for all of the football games to be played in Louisville, with basketball rotating on a home and

home basis. Four of the Cardinals' six largest home football crowds ever have been for the Western game, including the first and third largest crowds, which were in 1985 and '86, respectively.

Western athletic director Jimmy Feix said this morning there is no contractual connection between the football and basketball series.

"There's nothing in writing that says they're tied together," Feix said.

In terms of how much of a guarantee Roberts would like to get, he said around \$80,000-\$85,000 would be fair to Western.

He added that Western Carolina is guaranteed nearly \$120,000 per

year by Clemson for their annual series, and some other I-A schools pay similar guarantees to I-AA foes.

Feix said it would be "wonderful to continue the series, if the coach wants to. But, if they're going in a direction where we're not able to keep up, then we don't want to get embarrassed.

"The Louisville people agree that the contract can be changed down the road. Mr. Olsen said that any contract can be renegotiated."

The Cardinals are negotiating with Akron for a game next year in

which they are said to be offering a \$65,000 guarantee to the Zips.

If a school can afford to put out hardback press guides, then it can pay a school fairly that is going to put 15,000-20,000 fans in its stadium once a year.

Western's game with Tennessee State has been rescheduled for the afternoon of Oct. 18.

It was originally scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. start at Hale Stadium. It will now be played at 1 o'clock at Vanderbilt Stadium.

University of Kentucky basketball coach Eddie Sutton will be the guest tonight on Sportsline. The sports talk show hosted by Wes Strader starts at 6 o'clock on WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM.

Fans may have seen last of U of L-Western series

C.J. 9-23-86

You may have seen the last of the Western Kentucky-University of Louisville football games.

And that's a shame, because U of L's biggest crowd in history — 36,914 — was drawn by the Cardinals and Hilltoppers. And four of U of L's six biggest crowds saw the Hilltoppers.

Western, with its thousands of Jefferson County graduates, clearly is the most popular U of L opponent. The last four games between the two have attracted an average of 34,014 fans (U of L's average last season was 27,663).

Western coach Dave Roberts, whose outmanned team was beaten by U of L 45-6 Saturday night before 34,144, said yesterday he is not in favor of playing the Cardinals again.

"Unless they (U of L) want to pay big bucks, we have no business playing them," said Roberts. "There's no advantage to getting beat up and then try to recruit that area. We get no money and don't have much chance of winning. It's all a one-way street. If we got \$80,000 or \$85,000, it would be different. If you're going to play up (U of L is Division I-A, Western is I-AA), you ought to get some money. I'd rather play Memphis State."

The U of L-Western contract, which calls for a \$45,000 guarantee, runs through the 1989 season, according to U of L athletic direc-



Earl
Cox

Courier-Journal
sports columnist

tor Bill Olsen, and the football contract is tied in with basketball.

Western is scheduled to be U of L's final football opponent next season.

Olsen said he and Jimmy Feix (Western's athletic director) would have to talk after this season "to see if we could get a replacement for next season. It's hard to get someone now. It's hard to replace schools."

If the football contract is changed, said Olsen, "We'd have to look at the basketball contract, which runs through the 1989-90 season."

The current contracts call for all football games to be played in Louisville, with the basketball games home and home.

"The rivalry has helped our football and Western's basketball," Olsen said.

Roberts said he told Olsen to see if U of L could get someone to re-

place Western on this year's schedule.

"I plan to talk with coach Feix," said Roberts. "I want to sit down with him when it's calmer, but I've made it clear earlier that I don't want to play them."

Feix, a former football coach who replaced the retiring John Oldham this year, said Oldham told him that it is "Western's call" on whether to continue the football series and that "Western is under no obligation to continue the series."

If the Western-U of L football series still is tied to the basketball series, it is news to Feix. But, he added, "We don't want to damage basketball. They (U of L) are happy with basketball. At first, football and basketball were tied in, but no longer."

Added Feix, who was reluctant to play U of L when he coached, "My coach will have a say. If we don't improve, it would be embarrassing next year."

U of L coach Howard Schnellenberger said yesterday that his mind is on Memphis State, U of L's Saturday night opponent at Cardinal Stadium. "We have a contract (with Western) for the next few years. It was something decided before I got here. We honor our con-

tracts. But if it's not good for either team, that's different."

Western's football started going downhill after the 1981 season, when the school entered the Sun Belt, primarily a basketball conference which does not have football competition. Western has 70 football scholarships, 25 fewer than U of L.

What a

Roberts trying to stay positive

9-26-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

They aren't meditating, doing yoga or being dunked in any sensory deprivation tanks, but Dave Roberts has been trying to get his football team to relax this week.

Positive thinking has always been a Roberts' trademark, and he was going beyond the call of duty in exhibiting it after last Saturday's 45-6 thrashing at the hands of the University of Louisville.

He's been telling the players to relax all week, trying to get them ready to play at Murray's Stewart Stadium this Saturday night at 7:30 (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

"We're trying to get people back to having a good time playing football. We've got people pressing and they don't play well," Roberts said.

This all has something to do with expectations. Western expected to be, at worst, 2-1 going into this game, but a shocking loss to Division II Livingston was a kidney punch to the Hilltoppers. Now, they're 1-2 and needing to break even this week.

"This is a big game that we need to win," said Western quarterback Jeff Cesarone. "It's always nice to go down there and play in that big stadium. And, anytime we go play Murray it's not a problem getting up for the game."

That seems to have been a problem for the team in a couple of instances this season, but Roberts' speeches and confidence have rubbed off.

"We should beat them if we execute properly," said running back Pete Mangold, who drew his first start last week against Louisville.

"They didn't tell me I was going to start until game time. I was kind of comfortable, but I didn't have a good game assignment wise. If I hadn't got hurt early in the season I would've been more ready."

Murray (1-1) is sure to be out for blood following last year's 27-25 defeat in Smith Stadium that kept

WKU football

It out of the Division I-AA playoffs. Coach Frank Beamer isn't speaking so much of that so much as he is of just making improvement after a 31-0 loss to Southern Illinois.

"To me, the big factor is improvement. We've got two more non-conference games until we get into the Ohio Valley Conference and we've got to become better," Beamer said. When asked for specifics, Beamer went down a wish list similar to Western's — tackling, stunting, protecting the quarterback.

Mangold said the Toppers should be able to run inside on Murray, but the Racers do have good speed. If that falls there's always Cesarone.

He had one of his best games ever against Murray last year, throwing for 338 yards and two touchdowns. The junior has only thrown for 361 yards total this season.

"I just kept rolling out and throwing deep outs last year in the second half," Cesarone said. "They're real quick up front and they do like to blitz. I'm going to have to do a better job of picking up the blitzes this week."

Maybe if he and his teammates just relax....

Western and Murray have played 41 straight times, with the Toppers holding a 25-21-6 advantage. The Racers are 14-13 at home against Western. The average win margin in the series is 0.2 points.

Linebacker Neil Fatkin had another impressive night against Louisville with 14 tackles, 12 of those unassisted. Fatkin has 32 tackles to lead the team.

Calvin Edwards, in his first start

at linebacker, recorded 13 stops, 11 of those unassisted.

Edwards was stepping in for Wayne Bush of Allen County-Scottsville. Bush underwent knee surgery earlier this week to repair ligament damage. He will probably be out for the rest of the season.

This is the first time since 1950 and only the second time in the last 48 years that Western and Murray haven't played on the last Saturday of the regular season.

Blocked punt helps WKU to tie Murray

D. N. 9-28-86

MURRAY, Ky. — Walter Loving returning punts?

Well, no. But that's what the Western defensive end was credited with when he blocked a punt that linebacker Neil Fatkin batted and recovered in the end zone for a touchdown late in the third quarter here Saturday night.

And, why not? It was a fitting kind of play for the Hilltoppers to score their only touchdown on in a 10-10 tie with the Racers in front of 8,875 fans at Stewart Stadium.

It all happened when Loving blocked a David Dercher punt deep in Racer territory, Fatkin smacked the ball in the end zone then fell on it to give the Toppers a 7-3 lead on Dan Maher's extra point with 4:45 left in the period.

At the time, it looked like all Western would need to even its record. And, it looked like that was even more the case when Maher hit a 33-yard field goal with 8:10 to go in the game to make it 10-3.

After all, Murray's offense had mustered maybe less spark than Western's throughout much of the contest. It's lone score came with four seconds left in the first half on a 38-yard Paul Hickert field goal that hit the right upright and bounced in for a 3-0 lead. Hickert had missed a field goal try earlier in the half.

Enter Michael Proctor.

The red-shirt freshman from Sylvester, Ga., stepped in for starting quarterback Mike Woznichak in the third quarter and led the Racers to their only touchdown.

WKU football

Three plays after a 27-yard scoring run by Rodney Payne was nullified by a penalty, Proctor hit Joey Spresser on third-and-five from Western's seven and Hickert kicked the extra point to tie the game with 4:31 to play.

Payne hurt Western with 180 yards on 30 carries.

Western made a desperate attempt to get Maher in field goal range one more time, driving to the Murray 34, but a 51-yard game-winning try was blocked by Tim Broady as time ran out.

"It was a fun game to watch, I just wish we could've won it," said Western coach Dave Roberts. "It was a strange game."

Indeed. It was the seventh tie between the two schools, a record for both teams, and it was the first tie ever at Murray.

It marked 10 quarters since Western's offense has scored a touchdown. And, it was the second straight touchdown the Toppers have scored off a blocked punt. Western's offense last scored in the second quarter of the 23-21 loss to Livingston two weeks ago. Billy Haynes blocked a punt in that game for a touchdown. Western punter Adam Lindsey had his best outing ever, averaging 47.1 yards per kick and nailing a pair of 55-

yards.

Quarterback Jeff Cesarone put up some impressive numbers again this week, but he didn't have matching yardage in working the Toppers short passing game to near perfection.

The junior hit 23 of 35 with an interception in the first half that ended Western's only serious scoring threat of the night. It was in the second quarter after Dennis Cecil had recovered a Greg Sanders fumble on a punt at the Murray 10.

Sanders redeemed himself when he intercepted Cesarone on a third-and-13 play to stop Western.

"The receiver ran a busted route and Cesarone never should've thrown the ball," Roberts said.

Western receivers ran several wrong routes this night, according to Roberts.

"Last week we couldn't pass block. This week we had people busting routes. We were beating them deep, but we couldn't hit people," Roberts said.

The Toppers went to 1-2-1 with arch-rival Eastern coming to Smith Stadium this Saturday. Murray is now 1-1-1 on the year.

Kicking, punting are

D.N 9-30-86

Western's football team, which once lived by the arm — that of Jeff Cesarone's — has been surviving by the foot.

Western's offense hasn't yet found the magic that could put points by the bunches on the scoreboard last season, so it has been up to kicker Dan Maher and punter Adam Lindsey to bail the 1-2-1 Hilltoppers out of a couple of jams.

Special teams have scored Western's only points the last 10 quarters, and after slow starts, both Lindsey and Maher have performed well the last two games.

Lindsey, a senior out of Bowling Green High, became the all-time leader in punt yardage two weeks ago when he booted the ball 10 times for 368 yards against the

University of Louisville.

Lindsey surpassed Ray Farmer's total of 8,920 yards on that day, and now has 9,501 total yards.

Lindsey had a career best in average last week in the 10-10 tie with Murray with 47.1 yards per punt (377 total) on eight tries.

Maher hit the second-longest field goal in Western history — a 52-yarder — and another for the Toppers' only points against the Cardinals.

The sophomore from Florence kicked a 32-yarder that put Western up 10-3 in the fourth quarter Saturday night.

He had a 51-yard try blocked with four seconds left Saturday night that would've won the game had it been good.

"It felt good when I hit it,"



Ma

Dall

Maher said. "It was the chance I was waiting for. I was thriving on that chance to win the game."

When he was a freshman, he might not have been so eager, even though he hit 22 of 26 field goals last year and gained notoriety in his first college game with a school record three field goals against Tennessee State.

"I have a different outlook," Maher said. "I'm more confident and the guys have faith in me

WKU bright spots

Mark C. Mathis

WKU News Sports Editor
Commentary

They're depending on me more now. It's my job to go out and put points up on the board."

Lindsey said he, too, has taken on a different attitude this year.

"I'm taking every game from now on as the biggest game of my career. The team depends on me now more than ever to keep the opposition on the other end of the field," he said. "The other night was the best I had in my college career. And, it was about time.

"I would like to never have to punt. I'd like to just hold for Dan."

That's right, Lindsey holds for Maher on extra points and field goals. Lindsey has also offered to play in the defensive backfield, but Coach Dave Roberts said stick to punting.

And, while Maher has found confidence, Lindsey has concentrated on improvement.

"It's all concentration and consistency. I've improved my drop (of the ball) and keeping my leg straight," he said.

Last spring Lindsey wasn't even sure he would be kicking again.

He underwent knee surgery for ligament damage and didn't practice much during the summer.

"I was worried about getting back into shape. I was really look-

ing forward to having an excellent senior year."

For the most part, he has done that.

He has punted inside the 20-yard line nine out of the last 18 times and he had a pair of 55-yard punts against Murray.

At his current pace, the man who would like a shot at the pros will hit 10,000 yards in 14 more punts.

Ironically enough, both Lindsey and Maher had their worst showings against Livingston.

Lindsey shanked a short kick deep in Western territory that set up one score. And Maher had a chance to possibly win the game with a 23-yard field goal, but it

barely missed on his first attempt of the season.

"I had an off day against Livingston, but I knew I had better start getting the ball in the air," Lindsey said.

He and Maher have both done that.

Dennis Cecil, a 6-0, 205-pound senior who handles the specialty snaps, suffered a torn ligament in his left knee that has finished his career at Western, according to

trainer Bill Edwards.

"We've been real close and I feel more for Dennis as a person than as a player. He had the same experience last year," Maher said.

Now, for some good news about an injury.

Junior cornerback Harold Wright is practicing and could be playing against Eastern this Saturday at Smith Stadium.

Wright underwent arthroscopic knee surgery several days before the opener against Gardner-Webb.

Defense has been key for Eastern

16-1-56

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

RICHMOND, Ky. — Tough, rugged defense has always been a part of the Eastern football package.

The Colonels are ranked first in Division I-AA in rushing defense (26 yards per game) and total defense (180.3), and tied for second in scoring defense (6.3 points per game). All that looks good on paper, of course, but it doesn't mean much to linebacker Fred Harvey.

"We don't pay any attention to ratings and polls. We just want to go out and play good, solid defense," said the 1984 Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

Harvey has been doing his share of the hitting for the 2-0-1 Colonels, leading the team in tackles with 41. The 5-11, 223-pound senior from Titusville, Fla., had 13 tackles and a pass interception to be named OVC Player of the Week.

Still, in Coach Roy Kidd's world of near football perfection, Harvey wasn't pleased with the performance.

"I didn't grade out too well. I pursued the ball pretty hard," he said.

So far, Harvey hasn't had any trouble with the knee that was injured and knocked him out of action after the fifth game last year. He did suffer a slight hamstring pull in Eastern's 28-3 victory last week over Middle Tennessee. Harvey is probable for this Saturday's Western game at Smith Stadium.

The All-America candidate isn't

WKU football

the only Eastern defender making a name for himself, though.

Pat Smith, a 5-10, 180-pound senior from Carrollton, leads I-AA in interceptions with six.

Harvey and Smith are two of 16 seniors who are aiming to make it back to the I-AA playoffs this year after missing for the first time since 1979 last year.

Quarterback Mike Whitaker is another of those seniors.

The 6-2, 215-pounder from Hyden hasn't been particularly effective passing the ball this year, hitting 28 of 57 for 375 yards, five interceptions and two touchdowns, but he hasn't had to do much with running back James Crawford motoring around.

Whitaker is considered perhaps the biggest leader on this squad, although his quiet manner belies that fact.

"We've just tried to pick up on offense where we left off last year," Whitaker said. "We haven't been consistent on offense, yet. We've had some good drives, but we're still better than last year. The offensive line is doing a good job for us, and I think it's from having to go against the first defensive unit during two-a-days."

Crawford's play has been a big plus for Eastern in the wake of losing Elroy Harris to academics.

The 5-11, 194-pound junior from Palmetto, Fla., had 170 yards against MTSU. He is ranked ninth in rushing in I-AA.

Western goal: put dents in Eastern defense

10-4-86
By STAN SUTTON

Staff Writer C. J.

It doesn't take a mastermind to interpret Western Kentucky's game plan for today's football game against Eastern Kentucky in Bowling Green (2 p.m. EDT).

Eastern (2-0-1) leads the nation's Division I-AA teams in total defense and rushing defense. The Colonels' yield of 26 yards on the ground is more than 20 fewer than the country's second-best effort, by Penn.

Eastern's opponents — Tennessee-Chattanooga, Marshall and Middle Tennessee — are averaging but 0.8 yards a carry for 78 attempts.

"They've got a whale of a football team. Defensively, they're as good as any I-AA team I've ever seen," said Western coach Dave Roberts, a

former assistant to Roy Kidd at Eastern.

Since Western hasn't been overly prone to run anyway, Kidd assumes his team will face a full afternoon of Jeff Cesarone, the Hilltoppers' junior quarterback who has overcome a slow start to raise his completion percentage to .576. In a 10-10 tie with Murray State last week, Cesarone completed 23 of 35 passes.

But that was a light workload considering last year's Eastern-Western game when he threw the ball 50 times, completing 35 for 302 yards and three touchdowns. He wasn't intercepted — and has only four turnovers in 118 throws this season.

"You know he's going to be throwing a lot," Kidd said.

Western (1-2-1) has pulled off bigger upsets than a possible win today

would be. Two years ago, Roberts' first Western team went only 2-9 but blitzed the heavily favored Colonels 17-10. The prior year, Jimmy Feix's last Western team tied Eastern's defending national champions 10-10.

And despite Eastern's recent successes (two national championships and two seconds), Western leads the series. However, among things the schools argue about is the series count. Western says it's 35-23-3, claiming a forfeit victory in 1932 in a game Eastern hasn't yet conceded. In addition, the Hilltoppers have won seven of the last eight games in L. T. Smith Stadium.

The exception was in 1982, Eastern's 13-0 title season, when the Colonels won 35-21.

"It seemed like we would score, then they would score, then we'd

score, then they'd score," Kidd said, recalling that game. "We always have our hands full when we play Western."

This is the first time in many years that the former Ohio Valley Conference rivals have met so early. The earlier date resulted from Western's pulling out of the OVC in 1982.

Kidd has taken a different approach against Western in recent years, trying to avoid emotion in preparing for the Hilltoppers. He decided upon that after several big let-downs the next week against Murray State.

This year the Toppers are sandwiched between two major OVC opponents. Eastern defeated Middle

See WESTERN
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Western to depend on Cesarone's passing

Continued from Page B 9 10-4-86
While fifth-ranked and unbeaten Tennessee 28-3 last week as the OVC's preseason favorites clashed. And next week, Murray lies in wait for another potential upset.

How much Western is able to move the ball probably will depend upon its passing. Thirteen different Hilltoppers have receptions, led by Cedric Jones' 29 catches.

The Hilltoppers' offense hasn't scored a touchdown in 2½ games, the last two TDs being on blocked punts.

"We still haven't put it all together," said Roberts. "Our football team has been playing extremely hard, but we haven't always played that smart. And on offense we've got to be able to move the ball with more consistency."

Meanwhile, the Colonels haven't given up a second-half point in three games.

While fifth-ranked and unbeaten Morehead State enjoys a week off, Murray (1-1-1) plays Central Florida (3-1) in Orlando, Fla.

Murray quarterback Mike Wozniak, who suffered a neck injury and missed the Western game, is expected to be ready tonight. His replacement, Michael Proctor, was named Rookie of the Week in the OVC for his performance.

Middle, the defending champion but 1-3 this year, will try to remain in conference contention in an 8:30 p.m. game against Austin Peay (2-1). Peay, considered a strong OVC dark horse, will be opening its league season, while Middle is 0-1 in the OVC.

Defending national champion Georgia Southern (3-1) plays at Tennessee Tech in the only other league game.

EKU-WKU rivalry has lost some zest

D.N. 10-3-86

There's little doubt that a lot of the zest went out of the Eastern-Western football rivalry when the Hilltoppers left the Ohio Valley Conference in 1982.

As Eastern coach Roy Kidd said, if his team was going to win the OVC in those bygone days, it had to beat Western, and Western had to do the same to Eastern to claim the crown.

There are no signs or slogans adorning either locker room talking about killing the lousy bums from the other school, and not as much yapping between the teams as there might have once been.

The biggest college football rivalry in the state just doesn't seem as big or vital as it once was, but it will be renewed for the 60th time at 1 p.m. Saturday at Smith Stadium (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

It has been business as usual in the Eastern camp this week, just getting ready for another opponent, as linebacker Fred Harvey said.

"I've told the players it's not a conference game, so maybe they don't think it's as important as it used to be, and that disappoints me," Kidd said. "We went down there two years ago and the players were saying 'so what' and we got beat."

Eastern's players don't seem to be saying that this year, but they had plenty to say after last year's 51-21 drubbing of the Hilltoppers in Richmond.

"They were saying after last year that we were clowns and shouldn't be playing them," said Western punter Adam Lindsey. "We have some paying back to do."

"They were doing flips in the end zone and their kicker was pointing at us and laughing," said free safety Billy Haynes. "The Eastern game is a big thing on campus. People who usually don't care about football are saying to do anything to beat them."

"There's been a lot of excitement in practices this week," said linebacker Neil Fatkin.

Yes, Western's practices have been more spirited this week. A near win at Murray gave the 1-2-1 team renewed hope.

"There was more fire at Murray than we've had all year," Lindsey said. "That's the way we should be playing all the time, and we're ready to build on it."

To build a win over the 2-0-1 Colonels, who are ranked No. 20 in Division I-AA, Western will need to get its passing game going. Jeff Cesarone has thrown for 506 yards this year. He'll need more than



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

half that much Saturday if the Toppers are to have a chance.

"We've got to get the ball down the field, but we're going to have to run some, too, because if we don't they've got five studs rushing every time," said Coach Dave Roberts.

"Nobody has moved the ball on them, and on offense they just beat you to death."

Roberts hasn't been hyping the game very much, either.

"The players see the film and they know they better play. It's not that it's Eastern, they just look at who they've got to play against and know they've got to fight a war," he said.

Junior cornerback Harold Wright is expected to be sulted up for Saturday's game. It will be the former starter's first appearance this season after suffering a knee injury the week before the season opener.

In a little over a week basketball practice will begin for Western's men's and women's teams. The men's team will have its traditional Midnight Mania Oct. 14 to officially start practice.

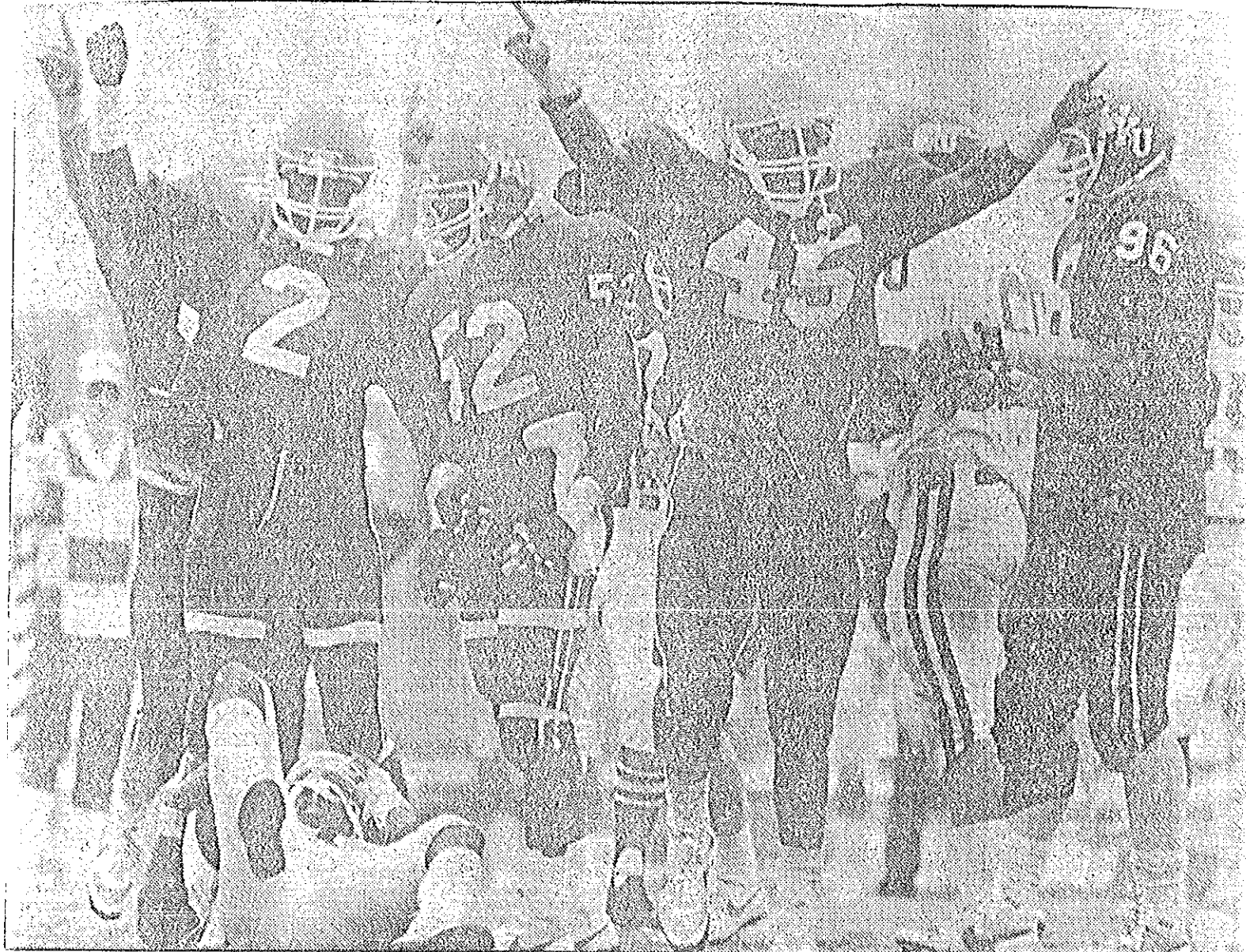
A couple of preseason Top 20 polls are already out and Western is among the elite.

Basketball Scene has the Hilltoppers ranked No. 17, just behind Alabama-Birmingham at No. 16, and get this, ahead of the University of Kentucky at No. 19.

Look for Western to possibly be in Sports Illustrated's Top 20 poll this year.

Ivan Maisel, a writer-reporter for that magazine, was in town Thursday to check out Coach Murray Arnold and some of the Hilltoppers.

Maisel didn't say where Western would be ranked, or if it would even be ranked, but look for the Hilltoppers in the lower five of that Top 20.



Mark Johnson (2), Marcus Burnett, Calvin Edwards and Allen Reitcheck were happy Hilltoppers as time ran out on Eastern.

Staff Photo by Adrienne Holtzer

C.S. 10-5-86

Cesarone top gun in 24-10 Western saga

By STAN SUTTON

Staff Writer 10-5-86

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Keith Paskett had a simple explanation for the way Western Kentucky piled up 437 yards against the nation's best defensive Division I-AA football team yesterday, stunning archrival Eastern Kentucky 24-10.

"We were just taking what they gave us," said Paskett.

Then, his grin widening, the Hilltoppers' split end added, "They gave us a lot."

Did they ever.

With junior quarterback Jeff Cesarone continuing his mastery of the Colonels, Western (2-2-1) sliced Eastern into tiny shavings, then shocked Roy Kidd's troops with a

pair of goal-line stands to keep the Colonels at arm's length.

Cesarone, who completed 26 of 38 passes for 396 yards and three touchdowns, wouldn't say it was his best game, but did say it was "our best win, no doubt about that."

In three games against Eastern (2-1-1), Cesarone has completed 74 of 120 passes for 913 yards and eight touchdowns. He had not thrown an interception until a little drop-off pass was tipped and intercepted yesterday.

Kidd said he couldn't recall ever facing a more effective quarterback.

"He's good," said the Colonels' 23rd-year coach.

It was typical Eastern-Western throughout, with markings familiar to a series launched in 1914. There were minor brawls and major penalties, including six for unsportsmanlike conduct. Four of those were against the Colonels, and Eastern receiver Alvin Blount's eye was swollen shut from a non-penalty.

"How could six guys miss that?" Kidd said.

"It was just Eastern-Western," said his wife, Sue.

Still, the extracurricular activity appeared to bother Eastern more than Western.

"I think it disturbed us. I thought we lost our concentration, we lost our cool," Kidd said.

Eastern's coolness probably dropped a degree or two on the game's second play, when Cesarone hit a wide-open Paskett for a 44-yard gain. The play was pre-dained, according to Western coach Dave Roberts.

"We told our kids that the second play of the game was either going to be a TD or an interception," Roberts said. "It wasn't a touchdown, but it got us going."

With Eastern in zone coverage most of the time, Cesarone said films showed that the Colonels' fine free safety, Pat Smith, usually reacted to the curl pattern. And that's what Smith, who has six

See WESTERN

PAGE 13, col. 2, this section

Western stuns Eastern 24-10

C.S. 10-5-86
Continued from Page One

ceptions, did on Western's first pass.

"He didn't even look at Paskett. He looked at the curl immediately," Cesarone said of Smith.

Cesarone completed all five of his passes on the game's opening series, including a six-yard toss to Robert Coates for the TD. Dan Maher added the extra point.

With fullback Vic Parks gaining a first down on a fake punt, Eastern moved to the tying score early in the second period. A sparkling one-handed, diving catch by Blount, good for 26 yards, was the big play on the march, but was less important than a pass-interference call against Western's Vernard Johnson.

That call came on a third-and-nine play from the Western 10, giving the visitors a first down at the two. Mike Whitaker sneaked for the TD from the one.

Western's next score came at the end of a 98-yard march, which wasn't the Hilltoppers' longest of the game — their final score came on a 99-yard advance in the third quarter.

Western covered the 98 yards in six plays, Cesarone starting the move with a 52-yard pass to Cedric Jones. Moments later, on fourth-and-one from Eastern's 36, Roberts ordered a punt.

"All the other coaches said, 'Hey, you're nuts!'" said Roberts, who then called a timeout, changed his mind and successfully went for the yardage.

"That was one of my dumb decisions," he said.

One play later, Cesarone hit Coates at about the 10, and the

EASTERN KENTUCKY 0 10 0 0-10
WESTERN KENTUCKY 7 7 10 0-24
Western Kentucky — Coates 6 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick); Eastern Kentucky — Whitaker 1 run (Dawson kick); Western Kentucky — Coates 34 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick); Eastern Kentucky — Dawson FG 43; Western Kentucky — Maher FG 37; Western Kentucky — Shakir 31 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick). A-9,300.

	Eastern	Western
First downs	20	22
Rushes-yards	44-120	22-41
Passing yards	178	398
Return yards	21	9
Passes	17-32-0	26-38-1
Punts	5-41	5-36
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INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

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RECEIVING — Eastern Kentucky: Blount 5-73, Williams 2-22, Crawford 2-8, Davis 2-13, Hensley 2-24, Angulo 2-17, Scott 1-6, Cadore 1-3. Western Kentucky: Arnold 7-29, Jones 4-94, Coates 4-34, Paskett 3-98, Darden 3-32, McKenzie 3-39, Shakir 1-31, Anthony 1-7.

tight end broke Danny Copeland's tackle for a score.

After Dale Dawson's 43-yard field goal for Eastern, Western led 14-10 at halftime. Cesarone was 17 for 23 at the time and went on to complete his first four of the second half, setting the stage for Maher's 37-yard field goal for a 17-10 lead.

By now tempers were beyond tempering, and Eastern's next series was tainted with a face-mask penalty, a personal-foul call and an illegal-procedure penalty after Eastern had a second-and-goal at the four.

The latter penalty was crucial, and when Whitaker tried to score on fourth down on a one-yard sneak, he was ruled short.

Whitaker thought he made it, but Kidd was uncertain.

"That was a backbreaker, there's no doubt about that," he said. "I can't tell from where I am

whether he was in or not. The official says he wasn't in. He's the boss."

The goal-line stand set the stage for Western's 99-yard drive, helped along vastly by Cesarone's 41-yard pass to Paskett from his own three. The five-play march ended with a 31-yard throw to Tommy Shakir, whose second TD catch of the season was also only the second reception of his career.

With 10 minutes left in the game, the Colonels advanced to a first down at Western's five. But a holding penalty and a sack of Whitaker by Marcus Burnett necessitated a 31-yard field-goal attempt by Dale Dawson that missed.

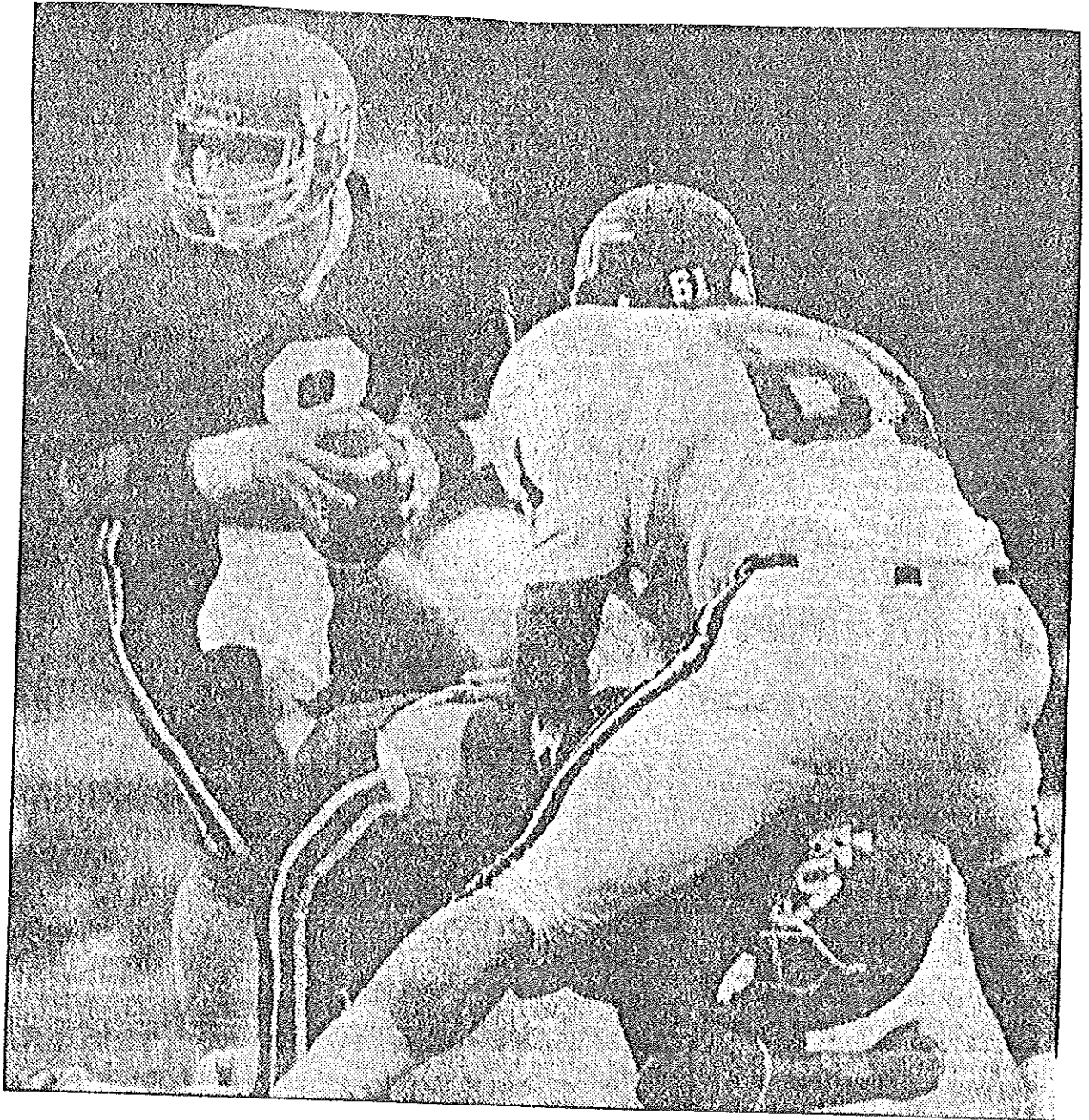
"We played like we were a step slow," Kidd said. "You try to tell them when you come here that it's a different type of a football game. It's a different game, it's a different situation and you'd better be ready to play."

"If Western was in the Ohio Valley Conference, they'd probably be fighting for the championship. Their program has been hurt by getting out of the conference because of who they've got to play."

Two weeks ago, Western was crushed 45-6 by Division I-A Louisville.

Eastern's opponents had averaged only 180 yards a game — including 28 on the ground — before yesterday. Western gained only 41 yards rushing, but nearly a quarter of a mile elsewhere.

"We played a great football team and it was our day. They've been pressing and trying so hard," Roberts said of his players, "and they get thumped and they get thumped. A win over a great team has got to help us. I don't think we could play any better."



Western quarterback Jeff Cesarone backpedaled toward the pocket, whence he put East-

ern in his pocket. The junior completed 26 of 38 passes for 396 yards and three TDs.

Staff Photo by Adrienne Helitzer

C. J. 10-5-86

WOW! Toppers burn Eastern

Cesarone gets 396, three TDs

10-5-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

There's a sage that sits on one of the knobs located between Bowling Green and Richmond who once said anything can happen in an Eastern-Western game.

Boy, did it ever Saturday at Smith Stadium.

The Hilltoppers didn't just scrape out a win over archrival Eastern, they dominated the No. 20 team in Division I-AA 24-10.

The team that was supposed to have the toughest defense this side of Perry Mason wilted under the relentless assault of Jeff Cesarone, who throwing motion could've easily been likened to a magic wand making the 2-1-1 Colonels disappear.

The No. 1 rushing defense in I-AA held Western to 41 yards on the ground, but the junior who had only thrown for 506 yards through four contests hit 26 of 38 (68.4 percent) for 396 yards and three touchdowns with an interception as the Hilltoppers evened their record at 2-2-1. Cesarone and company accounted for almost all of Western's 437 total yards.

"The receivers did a good job and the offensive line stopped their pass rush. The line deserves all the credit," Cesarone said.

"Western did a great job of protecting the quarterback, and he did a good job of throwing the ball. That was the difference in the ballgame," said a visibly disappointed Eastern coach Roy Kidd. "The ones he didn't complete, he just got rid of."

Cesarone spiced his Vinny Testaverde imitation in front of the estimated 9,300 fans with goodies like this:

— Completing 12 of his first 13 passes. He would've had 13 straight had it not been for one that Keith Paskett lost off his hands.

— Completing 17 of 23 in the first half for 263 yards and two scores.

— Setting a new career record for total offense. His 390 yards give him 4,818 in three years. Johnny France held the old record of 4,782.



Looking it over

(Staff Photo by James Moore)

JOE ARNOLD (33) of Western checks out his options Saturday afternoon as Eastern's Anthony

Harper closes in. Western upset Eastern at Smith Stadium 24-10. Western's record improved to 2-2-1.

— Becoming the first quarterback in Western history to pass for more than 5,000 career yards. He did it with his second touchdown pass of the first half to Robert Coates. Cesarone now has 5,185 net passing yards for his career.

But, wait a minute, Western's defense had a big hand in this one, too.

The Hilltoppers had two superb goal-line stands and held Eastern's vaunted rushing attack to 120 yards. Eastern totaled 298 yards on offense.

"We played about as good as we are capable of playing," said Western coach Dave Roberts. "Last year we got beat 51-21 and I was sitting in the locker room crying. Now, I think this is great."

Cesarone gave Eastern a preview of things to come with a 6-yard scoring strike to Coates on the ninth play of the game with 10:29 left in the first quarter.

The second score, a 34-yard strike to the 6-2, 210-pound freshman tight end from Birmingham, Ala., came with 7:07 left in

the first half and gave the Top a 14-7 lead following Dan Mahoney's second extra point.

That drive started on Western's offense and was highlighted by a 52-yard pass from Cesarone to Cedric Johnson that was fumbled and recovered by Keith Paskett.

Mike Whitaker's sneak from the 1 tied the score at 7-7 after Mike Dawson's extra point with 12:20

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Column 1, This Section

ers burn Eastern 24-10

Kidd is mad again after Western win

D.N. 10-5-54

Roy Kidd seems to have this problem with coming to Bowling Green.

The Eastern football coach may feel fine when he gets here, but by the time he's ready to go back to Richmond, he's, well, a little testy.

"I don't want to talk to nobody right now. Get your tails away from me," was Kidd's first statement to the media gathered outside Eastern's locker room following Western's pulsating 24-10 win over the No. 20 team in Division I-AA Saturday at Smith Stadium.

That must be what winning in Bowling Green just once in the last nine times does to the head coach in his 23rd year at Eastern.

After about five minutes, Kidd came back out and had some rather complimentary things to say about the Hilltoppers, who looked like a real, live football team for perhaps the first time since Coach Dave Roberts took the helm.

"I'd like to say the kids weren't ready to play, but it was like we were a step too slow. We tried to tell them that when you come here it's a different game. It's not last year," Kidd said.

Last year, the Colonels laughed their way to a 51-21 blowout that left Roberts crying in the locker room and a ton of insults on the Toppers, who are now 2-2-1.



Mark C. Mathis

Dally News Sports Editor Commentary

"There was a lot of verbal abuse and a lot of finger pointing," said Curt Paige, a Western defensive end who was one of the main enforcers during a rough day at the office. "We definitely gained some respect."

The Hilltoppers' defense had been lacking in tackling the first four games of the season, but that unit showed how tough it can be with a pair of goal-line stands that took the life out of the 2-1-1 Colonels.

Yes, the defense came to play on a day when it was said the Eastern rushing attack couldn't be stopped.

Eastern picked up 120 yards off the ground, with James Crawford

Continued Page 14
Column 1, This Section



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Looking it over

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That drive started on Western's 2 and was highlighted by a 52-yard pass from Cesarone to Cedric Jones that was fumbled and recovered by Paskett.

Mike Whitaker's sneak from the 1 tied the score at 7-7 after Dale Dawson's extra point with 12:22 to

Continued Page 14
Column 1, This Section

WKU does it all in 24-10 win

Continued From Page 12-A
go in the second quarter.

That score closed only one of three strong drives Eastern would mount in the game.

The other two were stuffed by an inspired Hilltopper defense.

Holding a 17-10 lead after a 43-yard field goal by Dawson in the second quarter and a 37-yarder by Maher in the third, Western stopped Whitaker just inches short of the goal line on a sneak with 6:35 left in the third.

The Hilltoppers took the ball and drove 99 yards for the final score of the day — a 31-yard pass from Cesarone to Tommy Shakir with

4:19 to go in the third. Cesarone hit Paskett from on a 41-yard play to get the Toppers out of that hole.

Early in the fourth quarter, Eastern had driven from the Topper 40 to a third-and-goal situation at the 7. Marcus Burnett sacked Whitaker for a 7-yard loss and Dawson missed on a 31-yard field goal try.

As with most Eastern-Western match ups, this one was hard hitting and physical to the point of being brutal.

The view from the trenches was outstanding, according to nose guard Denny Caple.

"It was great," said the 6-2, 265-pound sophomore from Ludlow. "It was such an emotional game, we held a lot inside us. It was dirty for awhile, but the referees put their foot down and said if there was anymore punching or mouthing off then we'd be out of the game."

Things got particularly ugly in the third quarter, during which six personal foul or unsportsmanlike conduct penalties were called. Eastern and Western were each penalized 13 times, the Colonels losing 117 yards and the Toppers 96.

After Western went up 17-10, a near riot broke out after a face

mask penalty was called on Western. During a finger-pointing session in the middle of the field, Eastern's Alvin Blount went down in a heap about 10 yards away.

"This one guy said the penalty was on me and I said it was on him, and out of nowhere somebody came up and hit me," said Blount, complete with swollen eye.

Curt Paige, a 6-3, 241-pound junior defensive end, explained what happened.

"I was coming on the field and saw one of our classiest players, Walter Loving, being verbally abused. I just retaliated. We weren't at fault."

Kidd came out on the field to argue his case, and was disappointed with the no-call during the incident, but he refused to blame the officials for the loss.

"If what went on out there today doesn't fire this rivalry back up, then nothing can," Kidd said.

This game may be the spark of that fire, but Western was the only team, and Cesarone the only quarterback, sizzling in this one.

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W. Kentucky	7	7	10	0-24
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Kidd snarls after upset

Continued From Page 12-A
getting a mere 88. He had 170 in three quarters against Middle Tennessee last week.

Quarterback Mike Whitaker was forced to pass 32 times, completing 17 for 178 yards and no touchdowns.

A noble effort, but those numbers didn't come near Jeff Cesarone's.

The junior from Geneva, Ill., hit 26 of 38 for 396 yards and three touchdowns. His only interception came off a, that's right, shovel pass.

And, if it's not obvious yet, the reason Western won this 60th meeting was, simply, because it went to the air once again.

"We knew we couldn't run the ball, so Coach (Steve) Shankweiler came up with a great plan," Roberts said, with a smile befitting a youngster who had just put a bullfrog down his sister's dress.

"We were going to try to pick on some people."

One of the main pickees was

Eastern safety Pat Smith, he of the I-AA leading six interceptions.

"Eastern played a lot of zone, and their safety jumped on the first guy who would cut across the middle," Cesarone said. "When he'd do that, we'd just throw it behind him."

That's what the Hilltoppers did on the second play of the game, when Cesarone hit Keith Paskett for 44 yards.

"They couldn't key on just one receiver in the zone, and if they blitzed it would leave a defensive back on our guys. With their 4.3 and 4.4 speed it's tough for one guy to cover them," Cesarone said.

Maybe that's why the Colonels never could get a big pass rush going on Cesarone. Most of the day Eastern just rushed three or four linemen.

And Paskett, the senior from Nashville, Tenn., who's had more than his share of professional scouts looking him over this year,

finally came out of his shell, catching three bombs for 98 yards.

"They were leaving the middle open, and we took what they gave us," Paskett said. "Ces (Cesarone) told me before the game that he was going to break out of it. He had been putting a lot of pressure on himself."

Indeed, this whole team seemed to be doing that before Saturday. But, the Toppers came out relaxed on a cloudy, rainy day and made Eastern look silly.

And, afterwards, Kidd payed Western perhaps the nicest compliment of all.

"Their problems started when they got out of the Ohio Valley Conference. I'm sure if they were in the OVC still, they would be fighting for the championship this year. They would still be the team you'd better beat," he said.

The Hilltoppers were the team his couldn't beat, and Kidd left town mad, once again.

KU does it all in 24-10 win

D. N.
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Eastern saw all red in Hilltoppers' victory

D.N. 10-6-86

Was it the red pants that did Eastern in?

Western made its first appearance ever in red pants at the University of Louisville three Saturdays ago.

The change of uniform made the Hilltoppers look sharp, although it didn't do much for their play in a 45-6 trip to the woodshed.

Western was in the red pants again at Murray and managed a 10-10 tie.

Then last Saturday the Hilltoppers came out in all red — jerseys and pants. It was the first time that most any Western football follower could remember the team being dressed in all red.

Eastern saw not only all red on the Smith Stadium field, but after it left it, too, because of the Toppers' 24-10 victory.

While nobody in their right mind would think a change in uniform made the difference for the Top-



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

pers Saturday, it's interesting to point out that the last time they had a win anywhere near as decisive over the Colonels was in 1974, in which the score was 34-24.

Yeah, maybe the red pants did help, but it was more likely that Jeff Cesarone's arm, his eight receivers' hands and the defense's tackling had more to do with it.

Coach Dave Roberts didn't come right out and say it this morning, but the tone in his voice told you that he, his coaching staff and the rest of the team are still giddy over the win, which put Western at 2-2-1, a place this pessimist never thought they'd be after Livingston and Louisville.

The Toppers have this Saturday off before traveling to Nashville for a return engagement Oct. 18 with Tennessee State.

Keith Paskett, Western's talented receiver who finally got his hands on some big passes, said he was disappointed with not having a game this week. That's what a big win will do for you.

Won't the week off hurt your team's momentum, coach?

"It doesn't matter right now. We're still up from Saturday,"

Continued on Page 10
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a weekend of rest

10-6-86

Continued From Page 8

Roberts said. "It hurts our timing some, but we're going to take today and Tuesday off and lift weights. We'll come back and go at it Wednesday, Thursday and Friday."

That's the same pattern the Toppers went through last year during open date week, but Roberts said the workouts will be much more spirited and intense this open week.

Roberts' first career win at Western came over his former boss, Eastern coach Roy Kidd, two years ago.

Roberts said, though, that this victory was bigger to him.

"This one's bigger because the players are finally starting to accomplish something," he said.

Cesarone was making some mighty throws Saturday, but he had to have the people getting open and catching those passes to come off smelling like roses.

Paskett, Robert Coates, Joe Arnold, Pat McKenzie, Cedric Jones, Vincel Anthony, Malcolm Darden and Tommy Shakir all had receptions Saturday.

Arnold had seven catches for 29 yards, but the big yardage men were Coates, Paskett and Jones. Coates had four catches for 66 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Paskett had three for 98 yards and

Jones four for 94 yards.

The scoring catches were the first in Coates' career. Shakir's only two receptions this year have been for touchdowns.

Jones, McKenzie and Paskett are all three moving up the career reception ladder, while Paskett and Jones are in the top 10 on the career yardage list.

Even though Western only gained 41 yards on the ground against the No. 1 Division I-AA rushing defense, it was more than half as much as Eastern had allowed in three previous games.

The Colonels had held opposing offenses only 78 net yards before falling to 2-1-1 Saturday.

"It didn't look like it, but we're getting a little closer on the run. We're going to keep doing what we've been doing," Roberts said, although I'm sure Cesarone will be getting the green light a lot more from here on out.

Amazingly enough, Western came out of the Eastern game with little more than the standard bumps and bruises, according to trainer Bill Edwards, who said no players reported with injuries Sunday.

Another basketball note. An advance copy of The Sporting News preseason Top 40 basketball poll has Western ranked No. 18.



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Looking for a target

JEFF CESARONE (8) of Western gets ready to pass Saturday during the Hilltoppers' 24-10 win over Eastern at Smith Stadium. The junior became the

first Western quarterback ever to throw for over 5,000 yards in a career during the game.

D. N. 10-6-86

Cesarone breaking records modestly

Junior quarterback rolling at Western

By MIKE EMBRY

Associated Press 10-7-50

You won't hear Jeff Cesarone taking credit for Western Kentucky University's successes on the football field, but in his modest way, he'll take blame for the failures.

Cesarone is Western's brilliant junior quarterback. In five games this season, he has passed for 902 yards, including a 396-yard effort in last Saturday's emotional 24-10 victory over archrival Eastern Kentucky.

In his two-plus seasons in Bowling Green, Cesarone already is the school's career leader in total offense with 4,818 yards and passing yards with 5,185 yards.

He has had some big games since breaking into the lineup midway through his freshman season at the Division I-AA school.

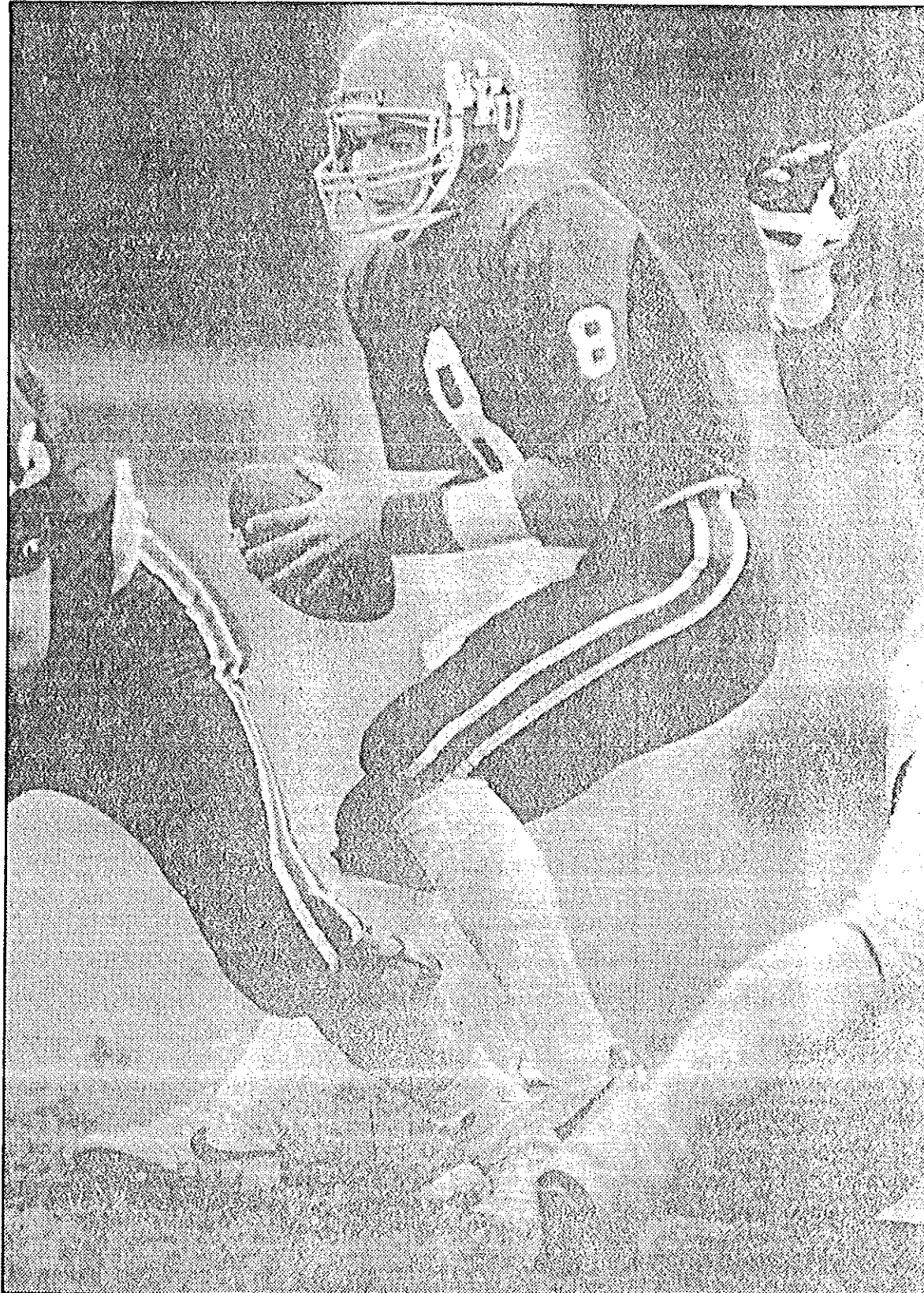
Cesarone passed for 373 yards against Morehead State and 322 against Middle Tennessee his first season, and last year he hit 36 of 59 passes for 494 yards against Akron. He also passed for 302 yards against Eastern, and 338 against Murray State.

"With the offense we have, the quarterback we have in there will compile some good stats," Cesarone said in a telephone interview. "And with the receivers we have, they're going to catch the ball and get some yardage. You may only throw the ball three yards to the flat, and the backs and receivers do all the work."

Western is 2-2-1 this season. It has beaten Gardner-Webb (N.C.) and Eastern, lost to Livingston (Ala.) and Louisville and tied Murray.

Cesarone, who has been intercept-

See **MODESTY**
PAGE 12, col. 4, this section



Jeff Cesarone, the career passing leader at Western, was overlooked coming out of high

school and almost didn't play in college. He has thrown for 902 yards this season.

Staff Photo by Adrienne Heltzer

Modesty the policy of Western's Cesarone

C. J. 10-9-82
Continued from Page B 9

ed five times, blames himself for the losses.

"Last year, I started relatively slow," he said. "I wasn't throwing the ball well or anything. The same thing happened this year. I wasn't looking at the right receivers and I wasn't throwing well. I don't know what it is. This year, it cost us a couple of games because of my performance early.

"It always seems around the fifth game that we kind of open it up. It's not the offense. It's me not doing my job. When a quarterback doesn't do his job in a passing offense, it makes the whole offense look bad."

Despite all the passing yards, the 6-foot-2, 210-pound quarterback downplays his physical abilities.

"We got three quarterbacks here that have better arms than I do," said the curly-haired native of Geneva, Ill. "I'm definitely not one of the fastest people on the field. The thing I have to do is try to analyze the defense and use my head more than the physical part.

"If you're smart enough, know where people are going to be and what's going to happen, you don't

have to have the best arm as long as you get the ball there. That's one thing I try to do. I try not to throw the ball in situations where it could hurt us. I think that's the best thing I can do."

Cesarone almost didn't become a college quarterback after graduating from Geneva Community High School as a National Honor Society student in 1984.

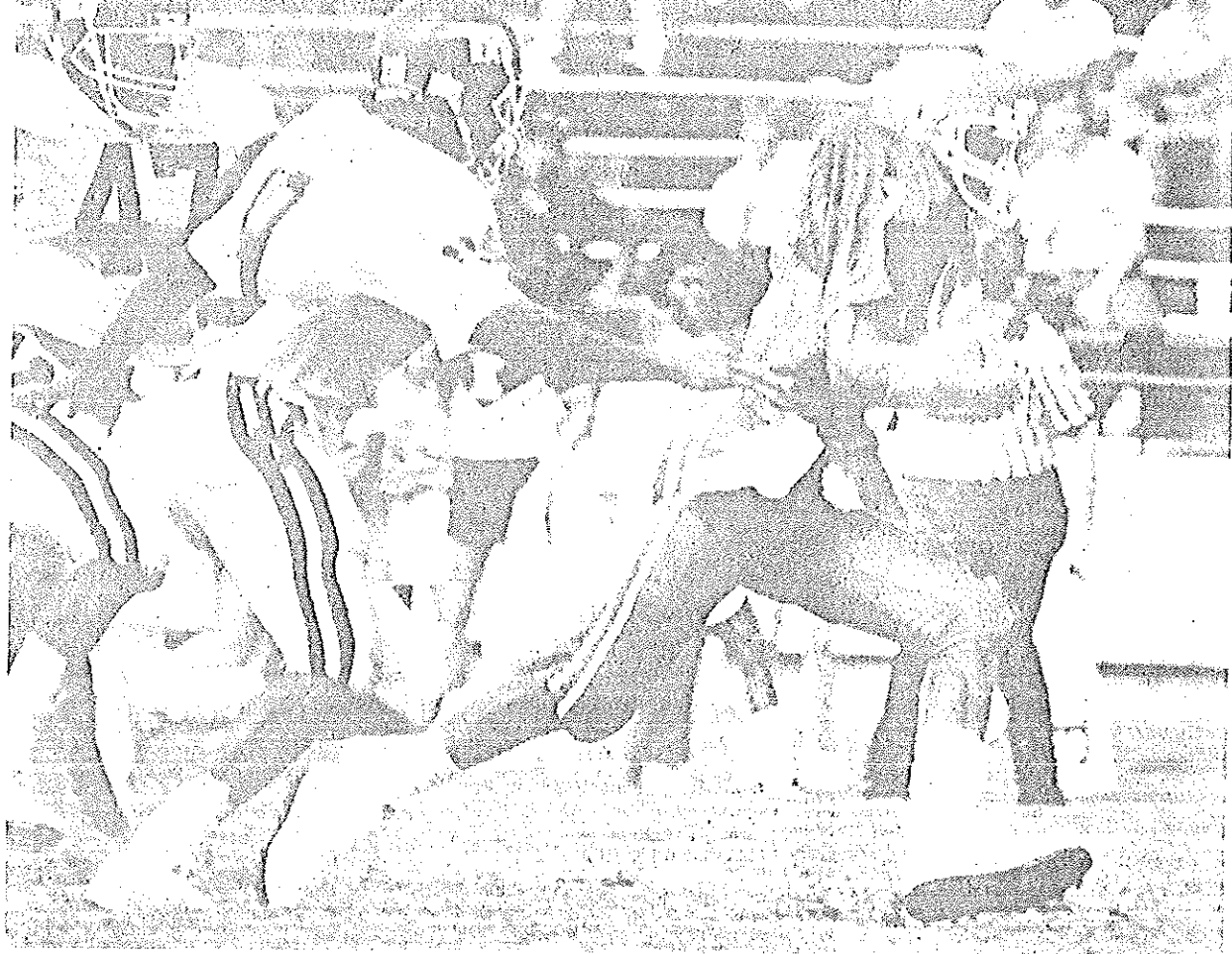
"When I graduated, there were nine quarterbacks (in Illinois) that were good," he said. "Seven went I-A and two went I-AA. I was one of the lesser recruited quarterbacks out of the nine. I wasn't planning on playing football.

"I was going to go to a school up north and study. But coach (Dave) Roberts called me in early January and said he was going to Western from Vanderbilt and that he'd like me to come down. This was the only visit I took. I came down here the first weekend in February, and the next week was signing date, but I still wasn't sure what I would do. One of the coaches came up and I finally decided to sign, but up to

that point I hadn't even planned on playing football."

Cesarone, a 20-year-old mathematics major, is taking a wait-and-see approach to the possibility of playing professional football after leaving Western.

"I think anybody playing ball would like the opportunity to play professional ball," he said. "If I get a chance, I'll take it. You can't turn it down because you only get a couple of years to play and the money is good. But I wouldn't be crushed if I didn't get a chance to play because I have a career to pursue that will take a while after college."



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

On the run

CEDRIC JONES (with ball) of Western runs past two Eastern defenders during last week's 24-10 win at Smith Stadium. Jones is Western's leading receiver this season.

WKU receivers not selfish

After going through four less than satisfying weeks, Jeff Cesarone, broke out of his shell last week, against Eastern, passing for 396 yards and three touchdowns.

For that feat, he's gotten more ink this week than he did in the previous four weeks combined.

It's not that he hasn't deserved it, either. It's just that he needed somebody catching all those passes to make him look so good.

Now, he realizes how important the fast men with sure hands are to him. He's constantly giving credit to his receivers and offensive line. When the offense has failed in the past, he's taken the blame. When it's been successful, he's given credit to others.

That's the kind of quarterback who will keep players happy. It also shows the comradery between Cesarone, his line and his receivers. It's an unselfish attitude that can also be seen in the receiving corps.

"Any of us can catch just as well as another," said Cedric Jones, a junior flanker who has also been pressed into service at tight end this year. "If we were selfish that



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

my Shakir caught his second touchdown pass of the year — it was also just his second catch of the year. Malcolm Darden and Pat McKenzie each had three catches and Vincel Anthony got one ball.

Continued on Page 12
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would be the biggest mistake. Sometimes I don't even start, but we all see just as much action."

How true. In last week's 24-10 victory over Eastern, eight different receivers caught the ball, and six of those receivers had at least three catches.

Joe Arnold had the most receptions with seven. Keith Paskett had three receptions for 98 yards, including a 44-yarder on the second play of the game and a 41-yarder over the wrong shoulder. Jones had 94 yards on four catches. Robert Coates had 66 yards and a pair of touchdowns on four catches. Tom-

Receivers being unselfish

D. N. 10-10-56

Continued From Page 10

See why Jones isn't worried about getting the ball?

That's what can be done when Western's passing game is on the mark.

Jones, a 6-0, 170-pound junior from Clermont, Fla., leads the team with 24 catches for 304 yards and a touchdown this year.

He suffered an ankle injury early last season and didn't get his game going until late in the year, finishing with 10 catches for 123 yards and a score against Murray.

"When I came back for camp this year the ankle was fine and I did well," he said, flashing a gold-toothed smile.

Jones became only the 10th Hilltopper to have 1,000 yards in receptions earlier this year. He and Paskett are both moving their way up the career reception and yardage lists.

"We've got enough talent and speed on the team to keep people off just one of us. Earlier we were expecting too much of ourselves. We just had to calm down and let everything take care of itself," he said.

It seemed to do that against Eastern.

Jones is listed at 4.46 in the 40. He, Paskett and a couple of other football players ran track last spring. Paskett has perhaps the fastest time ever in the 40 at Western (4.38).

The senior from Nashville, Tenn., has had at least 10 professional scouts looking at him on different occasions this year.

"I thought about pro ball quite a lot coming into the year," Paskett said between passing drills Thurs-

day. "It kind of affected my play because I wasn't relaxing. I didn't get to sleep the night before the Gardner-Webb game.

"I finally blocked it out about pro football. When you get up there on third-and-one you've got to relax."

He has done that of late, running his receiving totals to 10 catches for 138 yards.

Paskett said he isn't concerned, either, about how much he gets the ball.

"If they want to double cover me, fine. I can be a decoy if we win."

Coates, a red-shirt freshman from Birmingham, Ala., had his biggest day as a Topper last Saturday.

The 6-2, 210-pound tight end was injured against Murray, but more than made up for it against the Colonels.

"I owed it to the team to come back," Coates said. "In previous games we were just sort of running around out there and not getting open. Against Eastern we were pretty much free-lancing and trying to get open more."

Last year didn't include much playing time for the soft-spoken Coates, but he wasn't disappointed with the experience.

"I had to get adjusted to the system. I'm still learning," he said.

And, the lessons seem to be paying off.

* * *

A few more tidbits surfaced during the past week about the extracurricular activities that rekindled the fire under the Eastern-Western rivalry.

Eastern was short some trainers,

so its staff asked Western if it could borrow a couple of student trainers during the game.

Western obliged, but probably won't again.

Once things started going badly for the Colonels, some of their players began cussing and spitting on the student trainers, according to sources close to the football program.

And, the incident involving Eastern's Alvin Blount and Curt Paige wasn't the first time a punch was thrown in a heated third quarter.

On the first play of the second half, Eastern offensive tackle John Jackson clubbed Western defensive end Marcus Burnett, earning the Colonels a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

After Paige hit Blount, Eastern's Fred Harvey retaliated against the Toppers' Malcolm Darden by hitting him in the face after a tackle.

* * *

Surprisingly, Western's men's basketball team isn't ranked in the Street & Smith's Top 25 preseason poll.

The Hilltoppers are, however, picked to finish first in the Sun Belt Conference.

The women's team, as usual, is in the preseason Top 25.

Western's men will start practice at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday at Diddle Arena with Midnight Mania.

This is the fourth year for Midnight Mania, and the action will start at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday night with a sock hop. Activities continue until the official start of practice, which will feature dunking and three-point shooting contests, followed by a short scrimmage.

10/10/56

Western rates a C at midterm

11-13-86 D.N.
If Coach Dave Roberts was grading a midterm exam on his Western football team, he'd probably write down a flat, even C for the 2-2-1 effort it has given going into this Saturday's game at Tennessee State.

And that would probably be an accurate assessment of this year's Hilltoppers, who have looked good (Gardner-Webb), bad (Livingston), worse (University of Louisville), fair (Murray) and great (Eastern) in five contests.

"The thing you look for is getting better, and if we're playing hard we'll get better," Roberts said recently before taking his daily lunchtime run around Smith Stadium's track.

"If you're asking me where we'd like to be right now, I'd say undefeated."

No matter how hard you'd try to figure it, Western couldn't be undefeated this season because of



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

the Louisville blowout. But the Hilltoppers could've at least been 3-1-1 at this point had it not been for a disappointing failure against Livingston.

The kicking game broke down completely against the Division II school from Alabama. And a blocked field goal against Murray cost Western a possible win there.

"When you're trying to build a program back up you've got to win the kicking game," Roberts said. "We've spent hours on it and we've got to stop those mistakes from happening."

They have, though, and they've hurt the Toppers.

But we can't go around crying about what might have been. It's onto the future.

"When you start talking about predictions and expectations, players start pressing," Roberts said. "We finally got them to settle down against Eastern."

Everything came together for Western in the 24-10 win against the Colonels.

The pass protection, the receivers running the right routes, the defense stuffing Eastern on scoring chances. The whole package was there.

Now, will it be there for the rest of the year? Or was it just a one

shot deal for a big game with an archrival.

"The remainder of the season will be challenging. We'd better be able to play," Roberts said.

Western has been playing hard for most of the year. Playing smart has been another question.

That's where the kicking game, the pass protecting, the running of routes, the tackling and other intangibles come in.

Western showed two Saturdays ago what it can do when it relaxes and plays.

The Toppers' offense, led by quarterback Jeff Cesarone, is the kind that can stretch a defense to its limit. The unit was cool and confident against the Colonels, like when it went for a fourth down play that kept a touchdown drive alive.

"The last two weeks the offense

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had been getting closer. We put the emphasis back on the passing game and Cesarone got the hot hand," Roberts said.

Western had been toying with a rushing attack early on, but went back to what had worked in Roberts' previous two years here and rolled up both points and yardage.

Against Eastern, the Toppers were able to run enough to keep its defense at least a little honest.

One thing that's important to remember here is that Cesarone has tended to get in the groove in the second half of each of the two previous seasons he's played.

"It's usually been about the fifth week before I get going, I don't know why," Cesarone said after the Eastern contest.

It will be good if Cesarone can keep it going with the likes of TSU, Austin Peay, defending Division I-AA champion Georgia Southern, Boston University, Eastern Illinois and Tennessee-Chattanooga left to play.

Western's defense also just lined up and played toe-to-toe with Eastern. There were no fancy stunts and continuous blitzing like during the Louisville disaster.

When it has some points and time off the field to work with, the Toppers' defensive unit is a strong one. It also got a grasp on what sure tackling is all about against the Colonels.

So, at the halfway point, Western is at the 500 mark predicted for it by many before the season started.

It would be too much to ask for Western to go undefeated the rest of the way, although it could be done with the kind of effort it gave against Eastern.

But since we're overwhelmed with optimism this morning, we'll go out on a limb and say the Toppers will win four of their last six games, giving Roberts his first winning season and a renewal of his three-year contract.

Roberts and his staff took advantage of the open date with some Friday night ventures to high school games across the region.

Roberts was seen at the Bowling Green-Owensboro contest, and he had coaches scouting in Louisville, Lexington and Nashville, Tenn.

For the first time in his tenure here, Roberts is concentrating on landing almost all of his signees next year from Kentucky, Nashville and Cincinnati are also high on his list.

Western will still look at Atlanta and Florida for recruits, but Roberts is trying to build his stock in the Bluegrass this year.

Roberts is expected to have around 10 scholarships to offer for next year.

WKU to meet another fine defense at TSU

D.A. 10-7-86

When we last left the football Hilltoppers they were still basking in the glory of a 24-10 victory over hated archrival Eastern.

Nearly two weeks ago now, Western got its famous passing attack in gear and sent the No. 1 defense in Division I-AA back to Richmond to refigure its statistics.

An open date has given Western some time to think about things — like will it go up or down from here — and looming on the horizon is a stern test that will send it irreversibly in one direction or the other.

For the second straight game Western will bump heads Saturday with a top-ranked defense at Tennessee State in Nashville.

The Tigers, or Big Blue, whichever you prefer, are listed in the top 10 of every defensive category that the NCAA keeps statistics on.

Starting at the top, TSU is No. 2 in total defense, allowing 189.7 yards per game; No. 2 in scoring defense, keeping opponents at 7.3



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News Sports Editor Commentator

points per game; No. 5 in rushing defense, giving up 66.5 yards per game; and ninth in passing defense, allowing 123.2 yards per game.

While rolling up a 6-0 record and No. 7 ranking in I-AA, TSU hasn't just been beating opponents, it's been dominating them.

"What they did to Middle Tennessee is frightening," said Western coach Dave Roberts.

"They ran a man coverage and brought six people with the rush. They're more aggressive and do more stunting than last year."

TSU beat Middle 7-6 in the second game of the year, and that has really been the Tigers' closest challenge.

Some of that reckless abandon on defense was exhibited last week in TSU's 21-10 triumph over Grambling when linebacker Danny Taylor returned a pass interception 89 yards for a touchdown. The Tigers also held Grambling to 19 yards on the ground.

Linebackers Onzy Elam, a 6-2, 215-pound senior, and Roderick Reed, a 6-2, 230-pound sophomore, are the biggest hitters for TSU. Senior defensive back Carl McAfee (6-0, 195) is a key to the Tigers' mean pass coverage.

"We aren't allowing the big plays that can crush a defense,"

Continued on Page 4
Column 1, This Section

UK looking for inside help

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kenny Walker was conspicuously absent.

The Roberta Ga., native who became one of the greatest all-around players ever at the University of Kentucky is now working his way up the ladder again as a New York Knicker.

Walker finished his UK career as the second all-time leading scorer in the school's history to Dan Issel.

The All-America player was the latest in a long line of stars who has shown in the UK galaxy, and his void on this year's team may be as large as a black hole.

But, never fear, as always at UK, there are other stars on the horizon.

Most notable, of course, is Rex Chapman, the all-everything guard from Owensboro Apollo.

Chapman, whether he wants to be or not, is the center of attention on this defending Southeastern Conference championship squad that went 32-4 and missed the Final Four by one game last year.

Much is being expected of the clean-cut 6-5 freshman. Maybe more than any other UK player any time. And, if all goes well, he will deliver. But not quite yet.

"I don't want to rule out the fact that he could be a starter," said UK coach Eddie Sutton at Wednesday's Media Day in Memorial Coliseum. "But Sidney Moncrief was the best player I ever had as a freshman and he didn't start until his ninth game. We're going to take our time working Rex in."

Moncrief was a former Arkansas star when Sutton was coaching at that school and now takes up residence in the NBA.

Sutton said both Chapman and 6-6 Derrick Miller, another freshman guard, are potential NBA players.

That's down the road some, though, and Sutton has more pressing problems to worry about, like finding a combination of players to take up the slack for Walker.

Juniors Cedric Jenkins (6-9), Rob Lock (6-11), Richard Madison (6-7) and sophomore Erving Thomas (6-7) combine to make the biggest question mark for Sutton.

And that question is, who among them will emerge to lend a hand to working class hero Winston Bennett inside.

Bennett has toiled in the shadows of other great inside players like Walker, Sam Bowie and Melvin

Continued on Page 6
Column 1, This Section

WKU to meet more tough defense

D.N. 10-16-56
Continued From Page 1-B

said TSU defensive coordinator Craig Gilliam.

Gilliam's troops are also taking the issue to opposing offenses.

"We're an offensive defense. We relentlessly pursue ball carriers and attack offensive lines. We'll move our defensive alignment on the snap of the ball," he explained.

One reason Jeff Cesarone had a 396-yard day against Eastern is because he was hardly ever rushed.

TSU won't afford him the same luxury this week.

Gilliam has a different defensive line from the one that was knocked around in last year's 22-17 loss to Western at Smith Stadium, and he uses it to the utmost of its ability.

"We didn't have the talent in the defensive interior line last year that we have this year," Gilliam said. "This is a pass rushing group. They're not as big, but they're quicker and stronger than last year."

Eastern sat back in zone coverage most of the afternoon against Western, and TSU will do the same thing, but with strikingly different results, Gilliam promises.

"The longer a man in the secondary can cover his receiver, the more time that gives to the rushers to get a sack. A lot of the time in man coverage you have to play so tight on your receiver that you can't buy that extra time," he said.

Yes, time to pass was the main ingredient for Cesarone's success against Eastern.

Now the true test for Western's offense comes. The test of whether Cesarone's line is big and strong enough to overcome TSU's quickness, and if it can't, whether Cesarone is smart enough to survive.

Cesarone, Paskett 'wanted' by TSU

10-17-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Kelth Paskett has been ready to play Western's upcoming game with Tennessee State since the final gun of the win over Eastern two weeks ago.

"Vanderbilt Stadium is five minutes from my house. I'm ready to get back. They thought it was a fluke last year, but we've just got to go down and play well," he said last week.

TSU, 6-0 and ranked No. 7 in Division I-AA, has been waiting for both the talented receiver Paskett and Hillopper quarterback Jeff Cesarone for the last 13 months.

The Tigers have been talking their homecoming game up plenty in Nashville, where the battle will be staged at Dudley Field on Vandy's campus at 1 p.m. Saturday (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

There are 'wanted' posters up in TSU's main athletic building. One talking about sidelining Cesarone and the other mentioning immobilizing Paskett, a senior from Nashville.

The reason the Tigers are so hot on Western's trail is the 22-17 win it pulled out in the season opener last year at Smith Stadium.

TSU players have been quoted this week attributing their 7-4 year to the puzzling loss to the Toppers.

Cesarone and Paskett had career games against TSU last year. Cesarone hit 20 of 40 passes for 280 yards and had the game-winning touchdown on a 6-yard strike to Paskett with 2:24 to go.

Paskett made nine catches for 160 yards and has had professional scouts on his trail ever since.

Cesarone has been good on 60.5 percent of his passes for 902 yards and four scores. The junior's 396-yard, three-touchdown showing against Eastern has him anxious for this contest, despite the wanted posters.

"They were disappointed last year, and those posters are more to get them fired up. We can't think about those kinds of things," Cesarone said before a light workout Thursday.

"The week off has really helped us. We were able to put the Eastern game behind us and come down some. We've watched a lot of film. We're kind of biting at the bit to play."

Western also watched a lot of film before the Eastern game, but Coach Dave Roberts says TSU presents a different set of problems.

"They're better than Eastern. They do things so differently," he said of the No. 7 team in Division I-AA. "They put more pressure on you defensively. Last year they could throw the ball. This year they can run and pass."

Stacy Grear is TSU's 6-4 sophomore quarterback. He's thrown for nearly 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns this year.

Tight end Steve Holloway has been Grear's favorite target with 25 receptions for 306 yards and three touchdowns.

Steve Griffin, a 6-0, 190-pound halfback, is averaging four-and-a-half yards per carry this year.

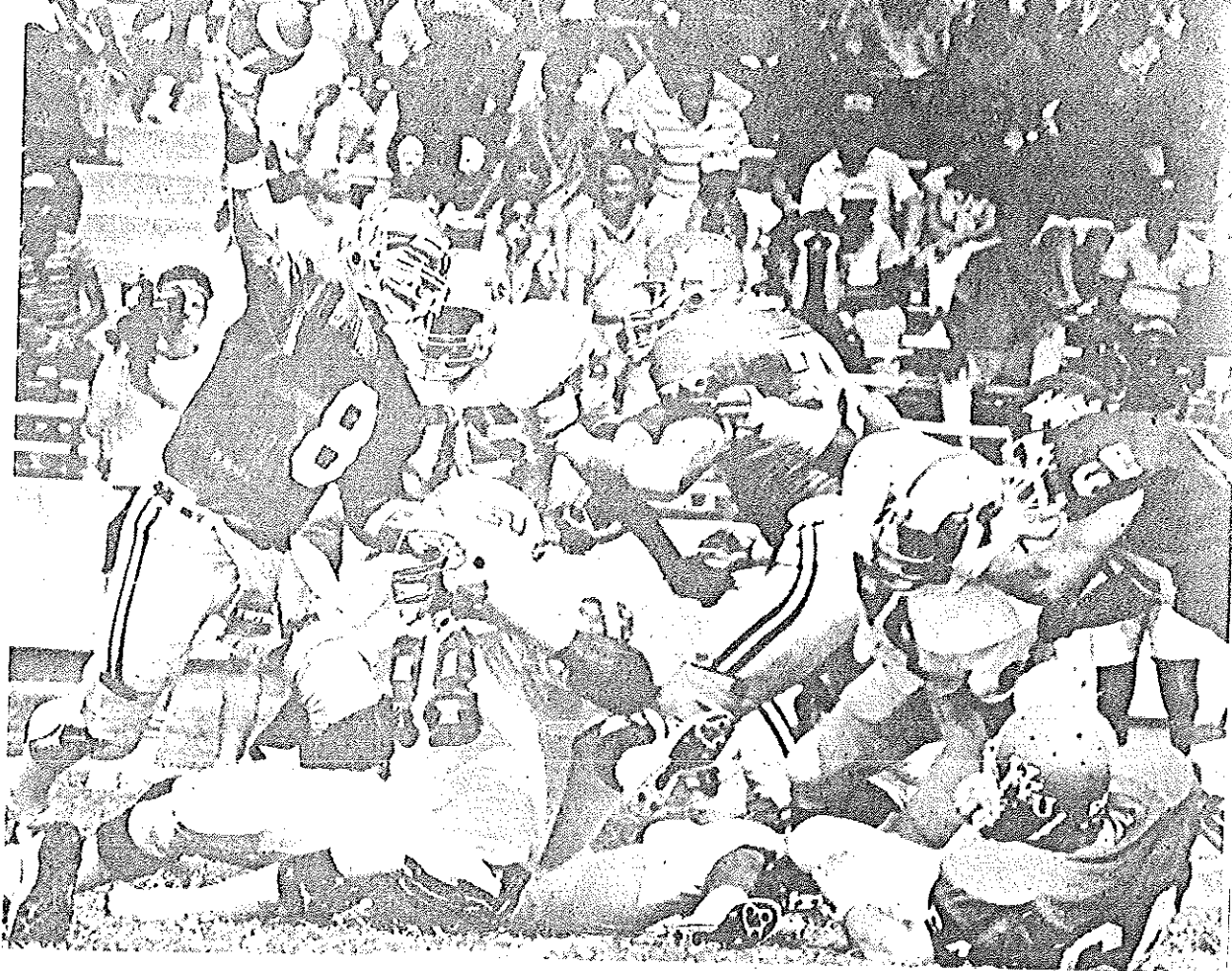
Western's biggest worry about TSU, however, is the defense, which is ranked in the top 10 of several I-AA categories.

The Tigers like to put a lot of pressure on the quarterback, but Cesarone isn't worried.

"The offensive line was the best since I've been here in the Eastern game, and I have confidence that they'll protect me again," he said.

That's where Barry Anderson, Ron Hopkins, Dean Tiebout, Steve Walsh and Rob Weinle come in. They will be the ones protecting

Continued on Page 4
Column 1, This Section



(Staff Photo)

Another launch

JEFF CESARONE (8) fires a pass in last year's game against Tennessee State at Western's Smith Stadium. The Hilltoppers won that game 22-17 with

the help of a game-winning touchdown pass by Cesarone. Saturday afternoon the Toppers will challenge TSU in Nashville, Tenn. *D.V. 12-17-86*

Western 'wanted' by TSU

Continued From Page 1-B
Cesarone.

Anderson, a 6-3, 275-pound senior center, is also looking forward to playing in his hometown and against another strong defensive unit.

"I like the challenge of playing against the same quality, or better, players. It would be great to knock them off in this game just like we did Eastern," he said. "This game is bigger to me than that one because it's home. I've got some things to prove."

It will also be the first time Anderson's grandparents have ever seen him play.

Roberts will be familiar with the Vandy turf from his coaching days with the Commodores.

Roberts was an assistant for five years at Vanderbilt before coming

to Western in 1983.

The TSU matchup will be the first of three homecoming games for the Toppers.

Western will be Austin Peay's homecoming guest next week. Then, the Toppers will host defending I-AA champion Georgia Southern in their homecoming Nov. 1.

Western's linebackers are leading the team in tackles. Calvin Edwards, a 6-1, 215-pound sophomore, has come on strong in the last two games for Western and has 52 stops.

Neil Fatkin, a 5-7, 210-pound junior, has 48 tackles.

Joe Arnold is leading the team in rushing with 224 yards on 24 carries this season for a 5.3 average.

Punter Adam Lindsey will probably be the first Western player ever to kick the football for more than 10,000 career yards Saturday.

The Bowling Green senior has 9,680 yards punting.

Receivers Chuck Kimbell and Kevin Wright will be out of action against TSU because of hamstring pulls, according to trainer Bill Edwards.

Linebacker Mike Carberry will dress for the first time this year after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery in preseason.

Cornerback Harold Wright will also be dressing for this game. Wright also had arthroscopic surgery on his knee before the season began. He dressed for the Eastern game but didn't see much action.

Tennessee State lands 25-3 de-feet on Western

10-17-56
Special to The Courier-Journal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — When your most outstanding player in a game is your punter, that says something about the outcome. And it says everything about Western Kentucky's 25-3 loss at the hands of Tennessee State yesterday.

In all fairness, Tennessee State (7-0), ranked seventh in the nation in NCAA Division I-AA and sporting the division's second-best overall defense, punted its fair share as well. In fact, the teams' punters put their legs into a whopping 1,041 yards worth of kicks.

Tennessee State also put its defensive players into the Western Kentucky backfield on several occasions. Hilltopper quarterbacks completed 12 of 44 passes, threw two interceptions and were sacked eight times for 70 yards. Western ran 25 times and netted minus-nine yards.

"We really struggled to find a way to get a first down," said Western coach Dave Roberts. "They beat us at the line of scrimmage in every way. And when we had time to throw, it seemed our quarterbacks were gun-shy."

"Their defense was superb. They ran around us, over us and through us."

The loss dropped Western's record to 2-3-1.

"Our defense went into the game knowing that our success would be based on our pass rush," said Tennessee State coach William Thomas, whose team avenged a 22-17 loss to Western last year that broke a 13-game Tiger winning streak. "We have a lot of seniors on the line, and it showed."

Tennessee State didn't set the world on fire offensively, with 210 total yards.

WESTERN KENTUCKY	0	3	0	0	-	3
TENNESSEE STATE	6	6	13	0	-	23

Tennessee State — Gary Hockett, 17, pass from Stacy Grear (kick blocked); Western Kentucky — Dan Maher, 45, field goal; Tennessee State — William Robinson, 1, run (kick failed); Tennessee State — Tony Stargell, 46, interception return (Steve Holloway kick); Tennessee State — Terry Welch, 39, interception return (run failed).
Attendance — 26,684.

	Western Ky.	Tenn. St.
First downs	10	11
Rushes-yards	25-(9)	45-117
Passing yards	145	93
Return yards	21	177
Passes	12-44-2	8-23-0
Punts	13-42.7	12-40.5
Fumbles-lost	3-2	4-2
Penalties-yards	7-74	6-51

"I thought that defensively, this was the best game we've played," said Roberts.

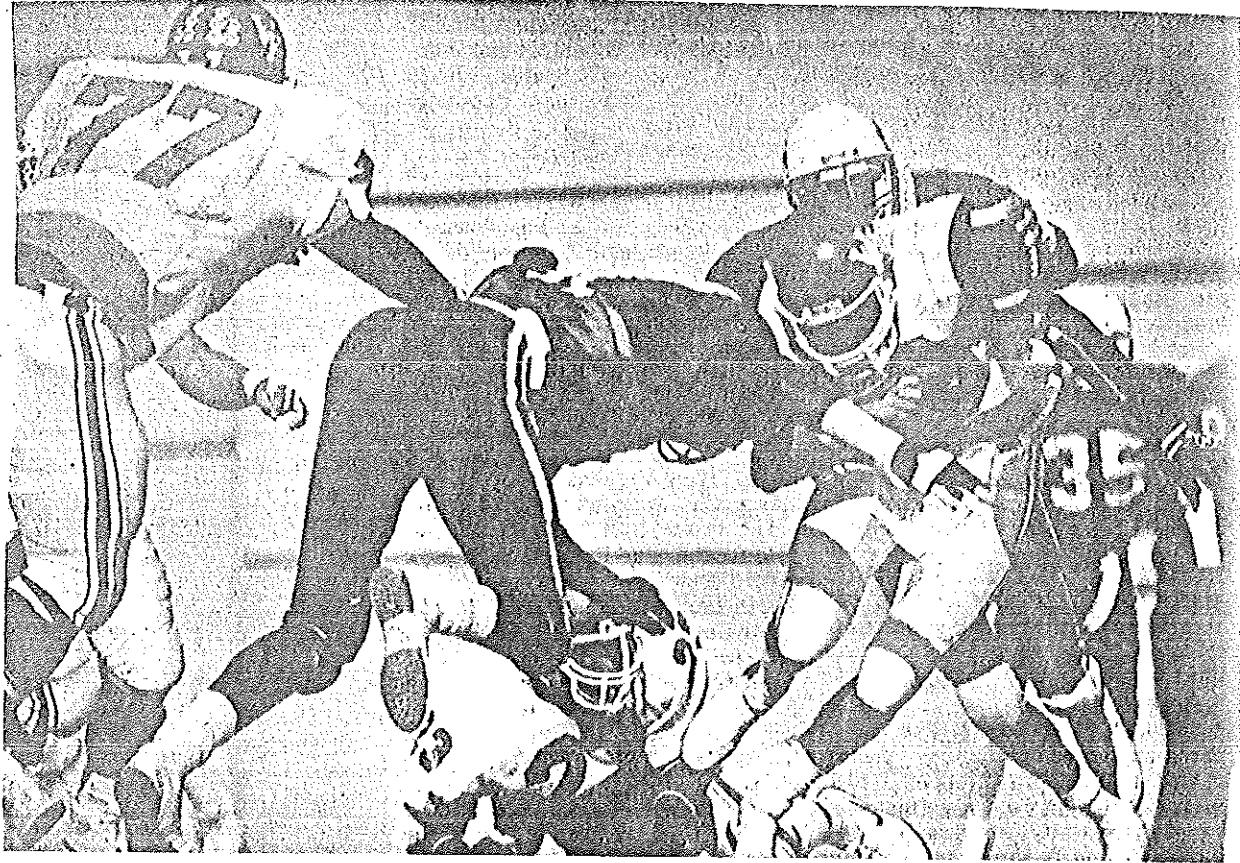
Tennessee State led 12-3 at half-time on a 17-yard touchdown pass from Stacy Grear to Gary Hockett and a one-yard run by William Robinson. Western's only score was a 45-yard field goal by Dan Maher.

The interceptions thrown by Western quarterbacks Jeff Cesarone and David Armstrong were returned for third-quarter touchdowns. Tony Stargell went 46 yards with Cesarone's while Terry Welch rambled 39 yards with Armstrong's just 16 seconds later.

Western punter Adam Lindsey punted 13 times for 555 yards, a 42.7 average, and boomed a 65-yarder. Tennessee State punter Jeffrey Troutman kicked 12 times for 486 yards.

Lindsey's ninth kick, a 57-yarder, made him the first punter in Western history to exceed 10,000 yards in a career. His career total after the game stands at 10,235.

Yesterday was Tennessee State's homecoming. The Hilltoppers are homecoming guests next week at Austin Peay.



(AP Laserphoto)

Quarterback sandwich

DAVID ARMSTRONG, a reserve quarterback for Western, is caught between a couple of Tennessee State defenders Saturday in Western's game in Nashville. The Hilltoppers fell to TSU 25-3.

10/17/80

Tops' inconsistency is biggest problem

10-20-86

Inconsistency seems to be this year's biggest problem for Western's football team.

In the first two years of Coach Dave Roberts' reign, finding enough talented players to keep from getting blown out of the water was the Hilltoppers' main objective.

They have enough talent this year. But, now, that talent has trouble performing at or near the same level week after week.

Reserve quarterback David Armstrong said the extra week off between the Eastern win and last Saturday's 25-3 loss to Tennessee State didn't have any effect on Western.

That's probably true. The Toppers didn't really look rusty against TSU, they just looked overmatched — on offense anyway.

Jeff Cesarone followed one of his greatest games ever — the 396-yard bombing of Eastern — by one of his most shaky starts against the Tigers.

Cesarone hit only 9 of 38 passes with an interception for 125 yards. His longest play of the day was a 43-yard completion to Keith Paskett, who had four catches for 105 yards.

It was a given that with Cesarone's lack of mobility the Tigers' vaunted pass rush might give him some headaches. But he got far more than he bargained for — suffering eight sacks. Seven different TSU defenders had quarterback sacks in the game. The junior also had a tough time getting the ball to fly right when he did have time to throw it.

"He sure looked like he was ner-



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

vous, didn't he?" Roberts said after the game. "He played like he was going to get hit, and he did, over and over again."

Yes, Cesarone did play like he heard footsteps coming before he took the first snap. He didn't just relax and play like he did in the Eastern game.

He got protection early against TSU, and he had open receivers at times in the first half. But the longer TSU's quick and strong defensive front banged on Western's blockers, the more wore down they became. It was the classic example of speed winning out over size.

"They've got the biggest offensive line in the world," said TSU coach William Thomas of Western's blockers.

But, "we play against bigger people all the time. We're used to trying to outquick the other team," said TSU linebacker Bryan Williams, who broke up a pass and

had a couple of sacks.

Now, let it not be lost that TSU is indeed a fine football team. Not only better than Eastern, as Roberts said, but much better.

The Tigers are 7-0 — 25-4 over the last three seasons — and should be contenders for the Division I-AA national championship.

Their defense is overpowering, as their harassment of Cesarone and Armstrong proved. Their offense got going in the second quarter, but Western's defense kept them at bay most of the afternoon. No small task considering it was only getting a few downs of rest at a time.

Since the Murray game, the Toppers' defense has shown steady improvement. TSU very likely would've just scored 12 points had it not been for two illadvised passes

that were intercepted and returned for touchdowns in the third period.

It has become more consistent as the season moves along. Bending some but not breaking very often.

Some players were looking at this game as a pivotal one in the Toppers' season. If they could beat TSU, Paskett said, then the rest of the year would fall into place.

They would've at least been over .500 on the ledger for the first time since Roberts took over for Jimmy Felix.

Western is still on target to have a good finish this year. Its defense keeps improving, but the offense still needs a tuneup from week to week.

One thing is for sure, until the big play people are able to add consistency to their playing vocabulary, Western will be an average football team.

Western's defense has stayed off clothesline

Western's defense spent most of last season on the clothesline.

Well, not really. But as Coach Dave Roberts once said, because of the Hilltoppers' inability to sustain offensive drives, the defense was constantly being "hung out to dry."

Although the offensive unit hasn't been very consistent this year, it has matured enough to take its share of the load — and eat up more than just a few seconds off the clock every series.

Even in Western's 26-3 loss at Tennessee State last Saturday, the Toppers' offense managed to keep the ball almost as long as the Tigers.

In a game with that lopsided a score last year, Western's defense would've been on the field close to 45 minutes.

And while the offense has done its part to keep its teammates off the field, Western's defense hasn't been needing to stay on the field



Mark C. Mathis

**Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary**

very long because it has been stopping opponents.

It didn't look like that was the way matters were going to turn out in the beginning of the year, what with the missed tackles and blown assignments the defense suffered through the first three games.

But those problems began to disappear at Murray, and each successive week Western's defense

has turned in a more impressive outing.

"We've just been playing together and running to the ball," said linebacker Calvin Edwards, Western's leading tackler with 56 stops. "We're still making a few mistakes, but we're starting to grow up."

The members of the unit are also starting to depend on each other more.

"Last year I might look over and say 'if that guy doesn't do his job then I'm going to have to play his position too,' but this year everybody is comfortable with the person beside them," said Neil Fatkin, who plays beside Calvin and has 51 tackles, second highest on the team.

Experience has been a big plus on both sides of the ball for Western this year, but it has really

shown up on defense — particularly the secondary, where juniors and seniors carry the load.

"Most of the experience is back in the secondary, and people look up to us to be leaders. We're kind of cocky and confident," said senior free safety James Edwards.

"The leadership is coming out," said senior strong safety Mark Johnson. "We have a big job in the secondary, and we try to pick each other up."

The thing that has probably picked up the defense the most was a change in game plans after the University of Louisville game.

The Toppers tried continuous blitzing against the Cardinals and were burned badly. At Murray they went back to the basic gap defense that has been good to them since then.

"We started just lining up in one front and we've got some experience. That's helped," Roberts said.

When looking at Western in its basic set, it looks like there are holes big enough to drive a truck through. But once the ball is snapped, the gaps fill up. Teams haven't been as able to drive the ball on Western as easily as they did last year.

Filling the gaps is just part of the success, though. The hitting has been more crisp and the tackling more sure in the 2-3-1 Toppers' last three contests.

Now, we'll see if the defense can stay off the line once again Saturday at Austin Peay.

Tops renew rivalry with Govs

10-24-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western and Austin Peay used to have a nice, little rivalry going.

For 26 straight seasons, fans from Bowling Green and Clarksville, Tenn., would alternate, making the short drive to watch the Hilltoppers almost annual beating of the Governors.

Only four times from 1958-83 did Austin Peay manage a win against Western, with one tie thrown in for good measure.

The last meeting of the series, though, the Governors pulled off a 13-3 shocker that helped precipitate the demise of former football coach Jimmy Felix.

Now, Coach Dave Roberts gets his first shot in Clarksville's Municipal Stadium at 1 p.m. Saturday (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

And, the Hilltoppers will be challenged to even their 2-3-1 record against 4-2 Austin Peay. The Governors haven't lost at home in four games this year.

Western's inconsistent offense will once again get to face one of the top-ranked defenses in Division I-AA in the physical Govs.

Austin Peay has the No. 5 scoring defense in the division, allowing only 11.3 points per game.

"Nobody's been running on them. They're big and strong," Roberts said, adding that Austin Peay sometimes sends six or seven rushers at the passer.

Uh, oh.

Last week quarterback Jeff Cesarone looked like he'd been shot out of a cannon following Western's 25-3 loss to Tennessee State. He was sacked eight times and completed only nine passes.

"He got somewhat intimidated," Roberts said. "He started shaky and sometimes you can play your way out of it. It's kind of like Larry Bird, you just keep shooting."

The problem was, Cesarone kept firing blanks, except for a couple of big gainers to Keith Paskett.

Senior linebacker Eddie Walls leads the Govs' defense with 75 tackles. The 6-1, 228-pounder had 18 tackles against Youngstown State last weekend.

The Govs' offense is led by Mike Lewis -- the No. 9 rusher in I-AA. The 5-10, 180-pound sophomore is averaging 106.7 yards per game.

This will be the second of three straight homecoming games for Western this season. Next week the Tops host defending I-AA champion Georgia Southern at Smith Stadium.

"What the heck. Homecoming is supposed to be a weak sister. But

now it just kind of falls on a home date," Roberts said sheepishly.

Senior center Barry Anderson will be out this week with a sprained knee. Trainer Bill Edwards said the 6-3, 275-pound senior may be lost for the rest of the year.

No other major injuries were sustained against Tennessee State.

Fourth-quarter spurt sweeps Western by Austin Peay 34-20

10-26-56
Special to The Courier-Journal

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — After battling all afternoon to stay even with Austin Peay, Western Kentucky exploded for 14 fourth-quarter points yesterday to pick up its first road win in more than a year, 34-20.

Malcolm Darden pulled in a four-yard Jeff Cesarone pass for a touchdown as the final quarter got underway and Vincel Anthony scored his first college TD with just under five minutes to play.

Western put the first points on the board with a 51-yard field goal by Dan Maher. But Austin Peay answered with a pair of touchdowns, one on a 44-yard run by William Nathaniel, to make the score 14-3. Maher added a 40-yard field goal at the end of the first quarter to close the gap to 14-6.

"We got off to a shaky start," said

Western Kentucky coach Dave Roberts. "But we played hard and we responded well. We thought we would have to pass more, but the running game was working for us."

"I'm glad we were able to run it, because it would have been tough if we had had to throw. Our success running it kept them off guard. I don't think they were ready for that. We had two nice drives and the defense really came alive for us in the second half."

Western Kentucky limited the Austin Peay offense to a pair of field goals for the rest of the game.

"We just got outcoached," Austin Peay coach Emory Hale said. "They changed their philosophy and did things they had not been doing. Both their tailbacks did a good job. And our defense collapsed. They dominated our defense."

Joe Arnold responded to the change in philosophy with 170 yards on 21 carries, and Anthony added 62 yards on 16 attempts. Arnold's yardage was the most for a Western running back since 1983.

Arnold set up the first Western touchdown when he scampered 71 yards to the Austin Peay three-yard line. Cesarone found Keith Plaskett in the end zone for the score on the next play with 3:54 left to play in the half.

Arnold opened up the second half with a bang by returning the kickoff straight up the middle for a 91-yard touchdown, the first Western kickoff return for a score since 1982.

Western started its winning drive from its own 35-yard line and marched the distance in 10 plays before Cesarone found Darden.

At Clarksville, Tenn.
WESTERN KENTUCKY 6 7 7 14 — 34
AUSTIN PEAY 14 3 3 0 — 20
Western Kentucky — FG, 51, Dan Maher. Austin Peay — William Nathaniel, 44, run (Tom McMillan kick). Austin Peay — Mike Lewis, 1, run (McMillan kick). Western Kentucky — FG, 40, Maher. Austin Peay — FG, 42, McMillan. Western Kentucky — Keith Plaskett, 3, pass from Jeff Cesarone (Maher kick). Western Kentucky — Joe Arnold, 91, kickoff return (Maher kick). Austin Peay — FG, 33, McMillan. Western Kentucky — Malcolm Darden, 4, pass from Cesarone (Maher kick). Western Kentucky — Vincel Anthony, 4, run (Maher kick).

Attendance — 3,117.

	Western	Austin Peay
First downs	16	18
Rushes-yards	44-223	40-153
Passing yards	140	202
Return yards	191	137
Passes	14-23-1	13-28-1
Punts	3-34.3	6-49.0
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-2
Penalties-yards	9-60	8-83

The final touchdown came after Austin Peay punter Reid Barr rocketed a kick 53 yards that rolled out at the Western Kentucky 10. Western answered with a 15-play drive in which it converted four third-down plays before Anthony burst over from three yards out with 4:59 to play.

On Saturday Western will play host to defending NCAA I-AA champion Georgia Southern, ranked eighth in the country.

Tops hit high note with Gavs

16-26-82
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

CLARKSVILLE Tenn. — Western has been on some roller coaster ride this season.

Sometimes it has dropped like a rock off the Empire State Building; other times it has climbed the highest mountain with ease.

The Hilltoppers went to one of their highest highs Saturday with a 34-20 win over Austin Peay in front of 3,117 homecoming fans at Municipal Stadium.

The victory evened Western's record at 3-3-1, while Austin Peay dropped to 4-3 and lost its first home game of the year.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, it was the first road win for Western in more than a year.

The last time the Toppers won outside of Smith Stadium was Oct. 12 of last year at Central Florida.

When Western has put as many points on the board in the past as it did Saturday, it usually meant that Jeff Cesarone has had a big, big day.

Well, he hit 14 of 23 with an interception for 140 yards and two touchdowns — an average day for the junior quarterback.

But one of the truly amazing things about this win was that the Toppers did it on the ground and through the air. Western finished with 223 yards rushing and 140 on the ground for a 363 total.

Joe Arnold had his second outstanding afternoon of the year, running for 169 yards on 21 carries, including a 91-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and a 71-yard jaunt that set up another score in the second period.

No Western player had returned a kickoff for a touchdown since Davlin Mullen ran one back 95 yards against Morehead in 1982.

The other amazing story was that the Tops came back from a 17-6 deficit to tie it 20-20 in the third quarter and run away with it in the fourth quarter with 14 points. The Tops had scored only three points in the fourth quarter in the

Continued On Page 14
Column 3, This Section

Hilltoppers stomp Govs

Continued From Page 11-A

previous six games this year.

"They were expecting the pass and we were running the sprint draw a lot," said Anthony, who had 111 yards against Gardner-Webb in the season opener. "We were taking advantage of the sweep, too. They would come flying up and we would just cut back through the middle."

"The offensive line had been used to sitting back all year, and Coach (Steve) Shankweiler said to let them come off the ball. They did a pretty doggone good job of it," said Western coach Dave Roberts.

The rushing attack was so effective that Austin Peay coach Emory Hale admitted his staff was outcoached.

"They changed up their philosophy. What they had been doing was pass, and when they went predominantly to the run they got a lot out of it," Hale said. "I thought our offense would score 33 or 34 points if we could've continued what we were doing in the first half. But they dominated our defense and we were out of field position."

The Govs offense was strong coming out of the gate after Dan Maher's 51-yard field goal opened the scoring with 12:51 to go.

The Tops got a break on the opening kickoff when Neil Fatkin recovered Fred Motes' fumble at the Govs' 47.

Motes made up for that on the next kickoff when he went from his

own 16 to the Western 45. William Nathaniel broke through a gang of Western defenders for a 44-yard touchdown run on the second play from scrimmage.

The Governors scored on their next possession, too, when Mike Lewis dove in from the 1.

That score was set up by a 50-yard pass from Dale Edwards to Motes that caught Western blitzing on third-and-one from the Austin Peay 22. It was one of four times that the Governors would convert third down plays in the first half.

Maher hit a 40-yarder with 13 seconds left in the first quarter and Tom McMillan countered for Austin Peay with 9:40 left in the second to make it 17-6.

Arnold's 71-yard run to the Austin Peay 3 and put Cesarone in position to arch a high pass to Keith Paskett in the end zone, making it 17-13 with Maher's extra point.

Arnold's touchdown run came on the third quarter opening kickoff and gave Western its first lead of the game at 20-17.

McMillan's 33-yard field goal at 3:59 in the third quarter tied the score before Western's explosion.

The Toppers put together two outstanding drives to score their last two touchdowns. The first started after Vincel Anthony's kickoff return set Western up at its own 36.

Cesarone hit Malcolm Darden on almost an identical play that Paskett scored on from the 4 with 14:21 left in the game.

A 19-play beauty preceded An-

thony's 3-yard touchdown run with 4:59 to go in the game.

Anthony, a 5-11, 195-pound sophomore out of Louisville Male, complimented Arnold's game-high effort with 62 yards on 16 carries.

"Everything their defense ran was what we expected," Anthony said.

For Cesarone it was a day of vindication after his admittedly poor performance at Tennessee State last week.

"We weren't really concerned when we got down early because we had been getting yardage. I don't think the team was ever nervous. Joe's big run sparked us," he said.

And maybe Western found the spark it needs for a strong finish.

W. Kentucky	6	7	7	14-34
Austin Peay	14	3	3	0-20
WK—FG Maher 51				
AP—Nathaniel 44 run (McMillan kick)				
AP—Lewis 1 run (McMillan kick)				
WK—FG Maher 40				
AP—FG McMillan 42				
WK—Paskett 3 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)				
WK—Arnold 91 kickoff return (Maher kick)				
AP—FG McMillan 33				
WK—Darden 4 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)				
WK—Anthony 3 run (Maher kick)				
A—3,117				

	WK	AP
First downs	16	18
Rushes-yards	44-223	40-153
Passing yards	140	202
Return yards	191	137
Passes	14-23-1	13-28-1
Punts	3-34	6-49
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-2
Penalties-yards	9-60	8-83
Time of Possession	30:06	29:54

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING — WK, Arnold 21-170, Anthony 16-62, AP, Nathaniel 7-67, Lewis 16-48.
PASSING — WK, Cesarone 23-14-1-140, AP, Edwards 28-13-1-202.
RECEIVING — WK, McKenzie 4-31, AP, Motes 3-71.

Only Roberts would have homecoming Ham

D.N. 10-31-51.

Call it creative scheduling.

But it's fitting for Coach Dave Roberts. Only a crazy kind of guy like Roberts would seem to be playing an April Fools' joke on the day after Halloween.

I mean, bringing in the defending Division I-AA national champion for homecoming?

C'mon now.

But Roberts just gives you that mischievous smile.

"It doesn't matter to me. It's just a football game. Personally it's a great game for homecoming. People will get to look at one of the best athletes in America," Roberts said.

And, that, ladles and gentlemen is Tracy Ham, quarterback for the 5-2 Eagles.

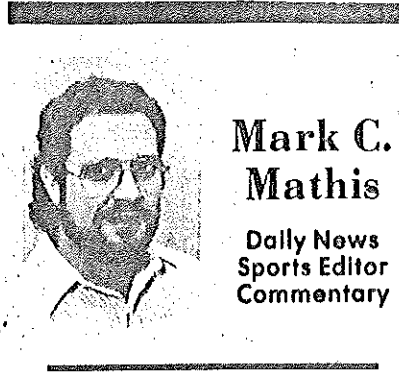
Georgia Southern boasts that Ham is the best quarterback in America, no apologies to Vinny Testaverde, Mike Shula or any other I-A quarterback.

But the numbers, as the Eagles say, speak for themselves.

The 5-11, 180-pound senior needs only 104 yards rushing and 24 yards passing to become the first quarterback in college football history to rush for 3,000 yards and pass for 5,000 yards in a career.

Only two other players have reached the 2,000-4,000 mark — John Bond of Mississippi State and Prince McJunkins of Wichita State.

"He's as good at doing his thing as anybody I've ever seen," said



**Mark C.
Mathis**

**Dally News
Sports Editor
Commentary**

Coach Erk Russell, who has turned what was a club football team into a national titlist in four years.

Doing his thing is running the option. But when a defense is good enough to shut that down — as Furman did last year in the I-AA title game — then the High Springs, Fla., native just goes to the air.

Ham, a two-time Atlanta Journal-Constitution Player-of-the-Year in college division football, threw for 419 yards in that game and had over 500 yards in total offense. He will go over 8,000 yards in career total offense this weekend.

All these statistics aren't lost on Western's defense, but it isn't bowing down to numbers, either.

"Their quarterback is unbelievable on film," said nose guard Denny Caple. "But the way our defense has been playing, we're not intimidated. He's sort of

selfish. Sometimes he just keeps the ball everytime and runs it up inside. It doesn't look like you can get a good shot on him, but he hasn't played against Western Kentucky's defense, either. I would like to see their second string quarterback, because that would mean we put him (Ham) out."

Ouch!

But that kind of confidence is good. It means that 3-3-1 Western is ready to play a most improbable homecoming opponent.

"It's a challenge," said linebacker Neil Fatkin. "You know if you can stop the defending national champion that it puts some credibility in the program. Other coaches say if we keep them under 32 points, then we've done a great job. But that's bull. The way the defense looks at it, if we let them score 32 points we haven't done very well."

Georgia Southern is averaging 37 points per game this season.

"We'll have to score a lot of points to win. That seems to be the trend," Roberts said.

Western's offense playing up and down like a yo-yo is something else that's been a trend this year.

If the stars are all aligned right, this should be the week that the offense goes down. After all, Western could both run and pass the ball

last week against Austin Peay.

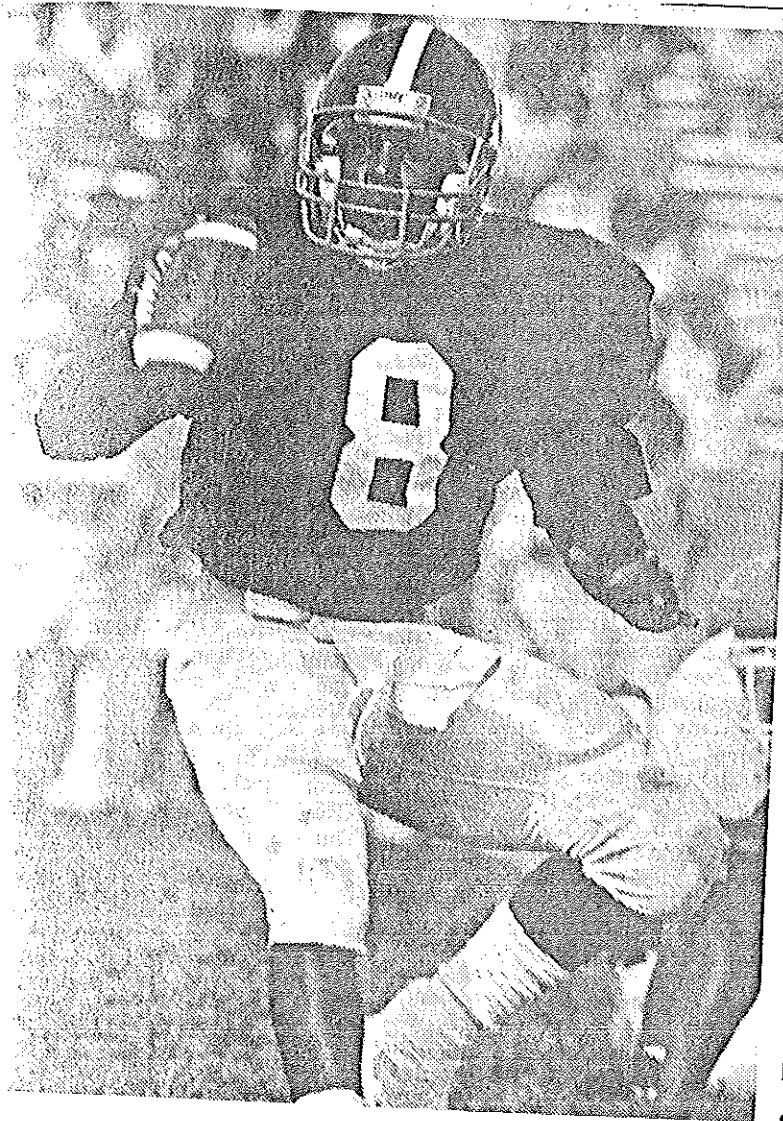
Joe Arnold, whose 169 yards was the best individual rushing total of any Hilltopper in five years, is anxious to prove the yo-yo theory wrong.

"They've got to line up just like us. This is the kind of game we want to play. The way you get yourself on the map is to knock somebody off the map," Arnold said.

And, why not? The last game at Smith Stadium a month ago pitted the Toppers against an Eastern team they weren't supposed to have a chance against.

Maybe some of that same magic was left out on the field.

What else would you expect from a crazy man like Roberts on Halloween.



The Ham

TRACY HAM will lead Georgia Southern Saturday when the Eagles head to Smith Stadium to challenge Western. Ham is the starting quarterback for the Eagles, who won the Division I-AA championship last season.

D.N. 10-31-86

Injuries may slow Eagles

10-31-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western's main concern Saturday will be catching a Ham on the lamb.

Meanwhile, Georgia Southern will simply try to keep his meter running.

Sound confusing? Well, it could be worse than that if Tracy Ham, Georgia Southern's multitiered quarterback, has one of his usual days Saturday when he leads his 5-2 squad into Smith Stadium for homecoming at 1 p.m. (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

WKU football

"He had 200 yards rushing against East Carolina and they said you can forget about stopping him," said Western coach Dave Roberts.

East Carolina and Florida, both Division I-A schools, account for the two losses on the Eagles' ledger.

Georgia Southern had a week off to recover from the 35-33 heart-breaker at East Carolina, and it has needed time to heal some uncharacteristic injuries.

"In the past we've been so lucky with not having people hurt," said Erk Russell. "Now we've begun to have injuries and we don't have enough depth. You expect to be at a peak at this time of year. We haven't done that this year."

Russell, who like to control his hair by not having any, has taken a school that didn't have football when this decade started from a club sport to the top of I-AA in four years.

"Bucky Wagner was at Vanderbilt when I was. When he left to go to Georgia Southern he said he was going to develop a I-AA program that can compete with anybody. Hiring Russell was a major accomplishment," said Western coach Dave Roberts. Wagner is the athletic director at Georgia Southern, and he was an assistant AD at Vandy.

"I precede everything I say with luck. We've been lucky. We've had

good support from the school and the community," Russell said of his program's meteoric rise.

Ham brings a truckload of pre-clippings and awards into the game, but Roberts points out that he's not the only player Georgia Southern has.

Fullback Gerald Harris has scored 12 touchdowns and rushed for 557 yards.

Ham, who has 1,713 yards in total offense and 15 touchdowns to his credit this year, usually gives the ball to Harris when he isn't keeping or hurling it himself out of the Hambone I option offense the Eagles run.

Georgia Southern has one of the most consistent kickers in the country in Tim Foley. The junior from Miami hasn't missed a field goal in 19 tries, including five from 50 yards or better. He hasn't missed an extra point in 88 tries.

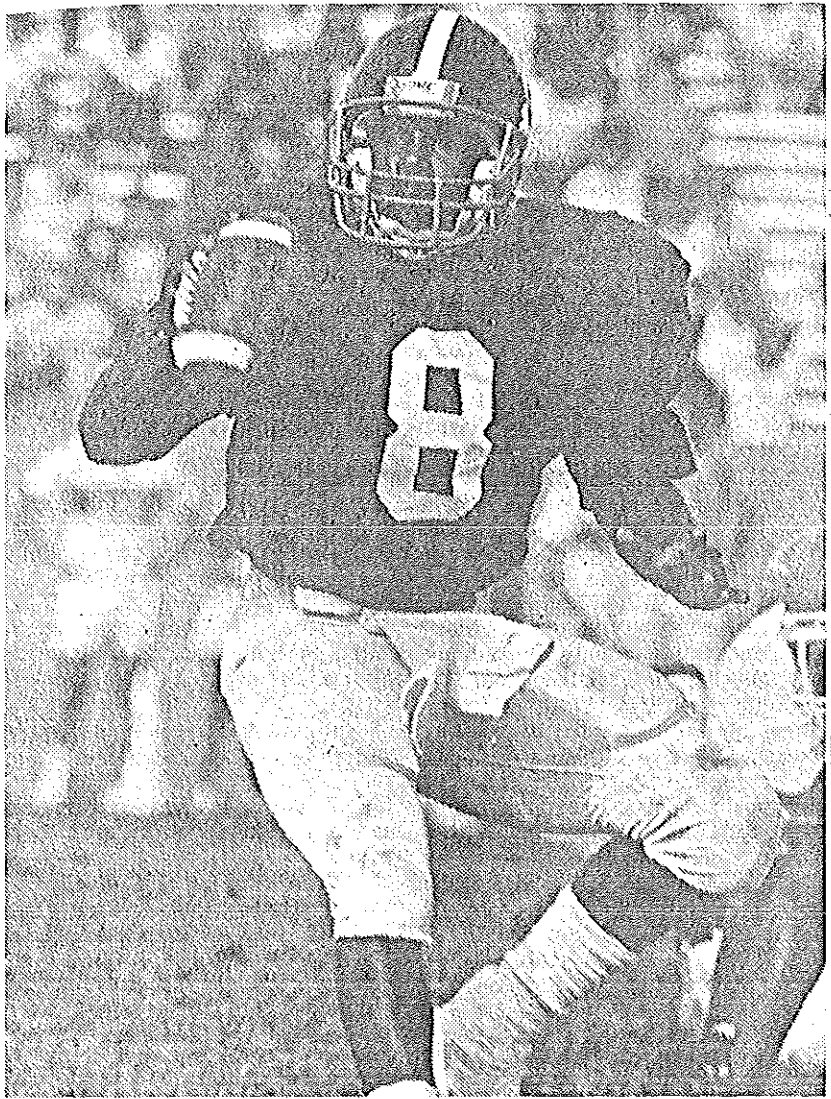
Russell admits his defense has always had problems with stopping opposing teams from scoring, but the Eagles do shut down the big play. Eleven different Georgia Southern defenders have intercepted 15 passes.

Western had its most balanced offensive day of the year last week against Austin Peay with 223 yards rushing and 140 more through the air.

Jeff Cesarone now has 1,167 yards passing and is hitting 54 percent (117-217) with six touchdowns and seven interceptions.

A big factor in this game will be if Western's running game can continue on the pace it set last week when Joe Arnold ran for 169 yards. Arnold is averaging 6.2 yards per carry this year.

"I don't expect Western to throw it 60 times a game after seeing films of our defense," Russell said, alluding to a weakness in the Eagles' rushing defense.



The Ham

TRACY HAM will lead Georgia Southern Saturday when the Eagles visit Smith Stadium to challenge Western. Ham is the starting quarterback for the Eagles, who won the Division I-AA championship last season.

D.N. 10-31-87

Not to be: Ham won't let Western pull off upset

C. J. H. S. C.

Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Georgia Southern relied on the quick feet and accurate arm of quarterback Tracy Ham to pull out to a 35-14 halftime lead and then hold off Western Kentucky 49-32 in a college football game yesterday.

Ham, who threw for 219 yards and ran for 118 more, became the first player in college football history to pass for 5,000 yards and rush for 3,000 yards when he ran for five yards on a first-and-goal opportunity from the Western eight-yard line in the final seconds of the first half.

Georgia Southern (6-2), the defending Division I-AA national champion that currently is ranked eighth, scored on its first possession on a five-play, 93-yard drive that ended with Ham racing 45 yards for the first of his four touchdowns of the game with 8:55 to play in the first quarter.

Western (3-4-1) tied the score 7-7 when Jeff Cesarone hit Malcolm Darden with an eight-yard scoring pass to cap an 69-yard, eight-play drive with 5:09 left in the quarter.

Ham turned a third-and-six situation Western nine into his second TD with 44 seconds to play in the first period to give Georgia Southern a 14-7 edge.

Vincent Anthony capped an eight-play, 69-yard drive with a one-yard TD plunge to put Western in a 14-14 tie early in the second period, but Georgia Southern outscored the Hill-toppers 21-0 the rest of the quarter.

Gerald Harris scored on a one-yard run and Ham scored on a 12-yard sprint to cap long drives. Then Georgia Southern's Nay Young intercepted a Cesarone pass and the visitors went 44 yards in nine plays just before halftime to take a 35-14 lead. Monty Sharpe scored the TD on a three-yard pass from Ham.

At Bowling Green
GEORGIA SOUTHERN..... 14 21 7 7 — 49
WESTERN KENTUCKY..... 7 7 3 15 — 32
 Georgia Southern — Ham 45 run (Foley kick); Western Kentucky — Darden 8 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick); Georgia Southern — Ham 9 run (Foley kick); Georgia Southern — Anthony 1 run (Maher kick); Georgia Southern — Harris 1 run (kick failed); Georgia Southern — Ham 12 run (Miller run); Georgia Southern — Sharpe 3 pass from Ham (Foley kick); Georgia Southern — Johnson 15 run (Foley kick); Western Kentucky — FG Maher 31; Western Kentucky — Darden 12 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick); Georgia Southern — Johnson 42 pass from Burnette (Foley kick); Western Kentucky — Jones 9 pass from Cesarone (Jones pass from Cesarone)
 Attendance — 13,000 (est.)

	Georgia Southern	Western
First downs	27	24
Rushes-yards	47-301	31-108
Passing yards	261	339
Return yards	33	-4
Passes	16-30-0	26-42-1
Punts	4-34.5	5-43.0
Fumbles-lost	2-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	8-65	6-32

The visitors' Ricky Harris returned the second-half kickoff 47 yards to the Western 46, and seven plays later Frank Johnson scored on a 15-yard run.

Western settled for a 31-yard Dan Maher field goal after a drive stalled at the Georgia Southern 13.

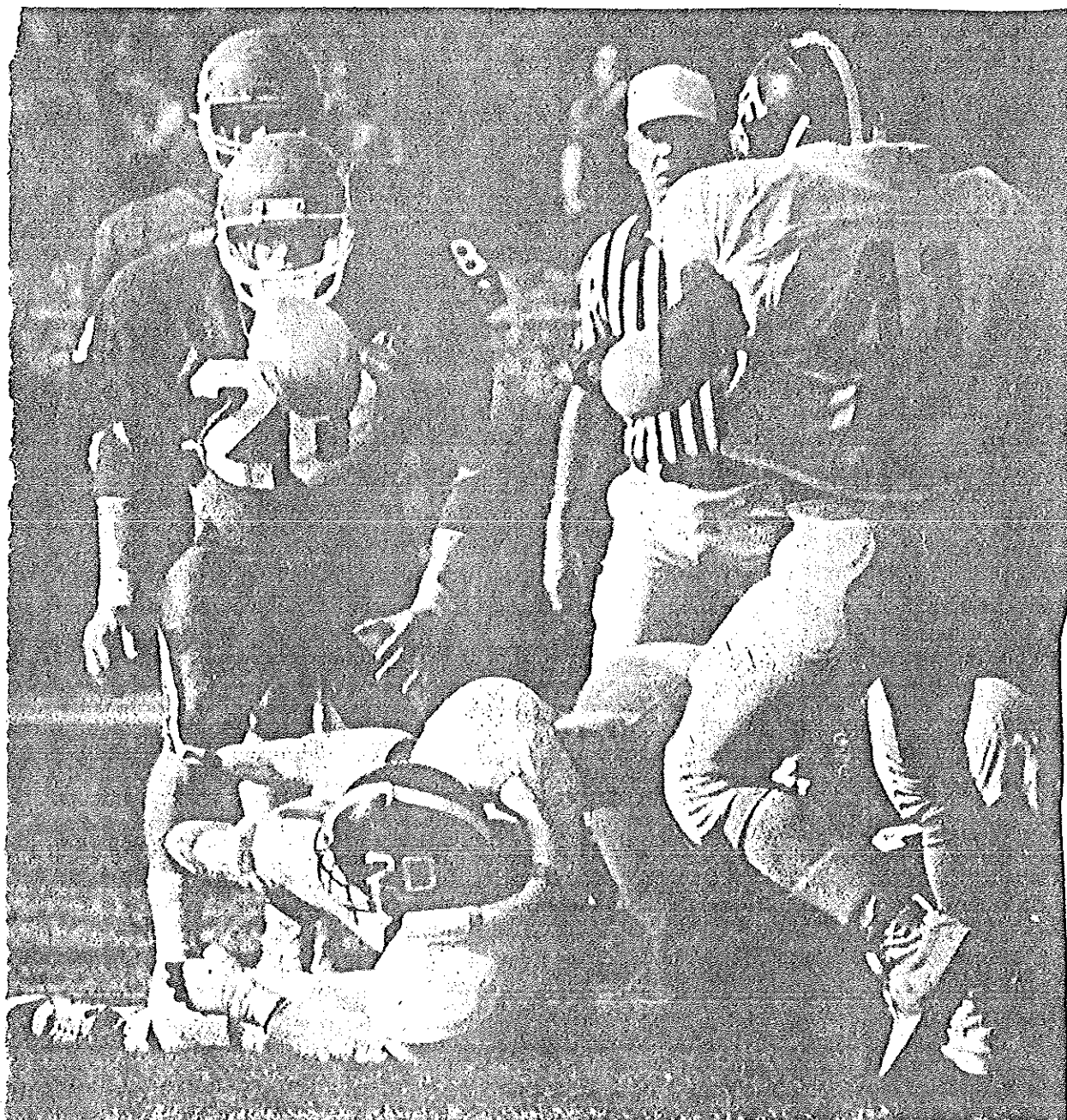
Cesarone threw a 12-yard pass to Darden for a touchdown with 13:03 left in the game.

Harris fumbled the ensuing kickoff, but the ball rolled out of bounds before Western could recover it. Soon after that, Georgia Southern backup quarterback Ken Burnette hit Johnson with a 42-yard TD bomb.

Cesarone passed to Cedric Jones for the final score with 1:15 to play.

"Western is capable of scoring twice a half against anybody and they did just that against us," said Georgia Southern coach Erk Russell. "They have as good a receiver corps as anybody. But, I thought we played with more emotion in the first half."

Cesarone completed 26 of 42 attempts for 339 yards and became the first Western quarterback to complete 500 career passes.



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Fumble!

PETE MANGOLD (standing left) of Western eyes the football after it was knocked loose by Georgia Southern's defense Saturday at Smith Stadium. For

D. N. 11-2-56
the Eagles, Wesley Lee (41) and Kenny Butler (20) move in on the play. The Hilltoppers fell to the Eagles 49-32.

WKU can't catch the guy with ball

11-2-56

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

There were always seemed to be two kinds of kids who played "smear the guy with the ball" — those who were easy to smear, and those who couldn't be caught.

The guys who never got caught could run until they dropped before having to give up the football.

When Tracy Ham played that quaint neighborhood game as a kid, he probably ran the ball all day.

The Georgia Southern quarterback more than lived up to his prior billing as the greatest thing since buttered bread Saturday by playing his own little game of smear with Western.

The All-America performer scored three touchdowns, left Western defenders grasping for air all day and made a little college football history for himself while directing the No. 9-ranked Eagles to a 49-32 win.

The estimated homecoming crowd of 13,000 at Smith Stadium saw Ham run 11 times for 118 yards and hit 15 of 26 passes for 219 more and a touchdown as he became the first college player ever in any division to rush for more than 3,000 and pass for more than 5,000 yards in a career.

Like with most great athletes,

however, Ham didn't show much concern over the individual honor.

"Records aren't something I think about. I let Mark (McClellan) take care of the numbers. We needed a win in this game. A loss would've been devastating for a shot at the playoffs. This is one of my better performances, but there's always room for improvement," Ham said.

McClellan is Georgia Southern's Sports Information Director, who probably will need a whole book just for Ham's numbers.

And, no one could convince Western coach Dave Roberts that Ham needs any improving upon.

"I told him after the game that I haven't played against a better athlete. We played Herschel Walker (when Roberts was at Vanderbilt) and he ran over us. But we tackled Herschel some. We didn't put a hand on Tracy," Roberts said after his team fell to 3-4-1.

On Ham's first touchdown run, six Western defenders converged on him after a short gain and appeared to have him wrapped up along the Georgia Southern sideline, but Ham ducked underneath and escaped, bolting the rest of the 45 yards for the first score with 8:55 left in the first quarter.

The really amazing thing about the run was that it wasn't the way the play was supposed to go.

"I went the wrong way," said the 5-10, 185-pound senior, drawing laughs from reporters. "I was at full stride when I got to the sideline. The guy who hit me left his feet and that took his power away."

"It was simply amazing," said Georgia Southern coach Erk Russell of the scoring run. "He came out of it twice. I've run out of adjectives about him."

Ham, who also scored on runs of 12 and 9 yards in the first half, was the main target for Western's defense. Western nose guard Denny Caple said before the game that maybe Ham would be making an

Continued on Page 13
Column 1, This Section

Toppers can't handle Ham

D. N. 11-2-56

Continued From Page 10-A

early exit via the knockout.

He got crunched a couple of times by Hilltopper defenders, but Ham showed no sign of wear and tear after the game. In fact, he was wearing some Western player's blood on his pants.

"I don't pay any attention to that kind of talk," said Ham, who must be used to that kind of attention by now. "Nobody ever came out and said they wanted to knock me out of a game before, but when they start putting their hats on you, you can sort of tell what's going on."

Georgia Southern, now 6-2 on the year, came into the contest with its only weakness being defense. That fact became apparent when the teams traded scores and the game was tied 14-14 after Vincel Anthony's 1-yard run with 12:25 to go in the first half.

Malcolm Darden caught one of Jeff Cesarone's patented arching

corner passes from 8 yards out to tie the score at 7 after Ham's first run.

Georgia Southern then scored on its next four possessions to ice the game at 42-14 with 12:28 to go in the third quarter.

The Eagles scored on the first six times they had the ball. They punted for the first time with 1:36 left in the third quarter.

"We had been told that we better keep it close and have the ball last to win," Roberts said.

Western did neither, but it narrowed the score with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter — another Cesarone to Darden strike and a 9-yard scoring toss from Cesarone to Cedric Jones.

"It's amazing that we continue to score the way we do," Russell said. "It's unbelievable that we scored on every possession of the first half. We can't expect that kind of offensive production to keep

up." After the dust cleared, more than 1,000 yards in total offense had been ground out on the Smith turf.

Georgia Southern had 562 yards in total offense, 301 of that on the ground. Cesarone passed for 339 of Western's 447 total.

Western's junior quarterback hit 26 of 42 passes for three touchdowns and an interception.

Most days, those kinds numbers would've been the story of the game.

But with Ham as the main event, they were just a sideshow.

Ga. Southern	14	21	7	7-49
W. Kentucky	7	7	3	15-32
GSC-Ham 45 run (Foley kick)				
WKU-Darden 8 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)				
GSC-Ham 9 run (Foley kick)				
WKU-Anthony 1 run (Maher kick)				
GSC-Harris 1 run (kick failed)				
GSC-Ham 12 run (Miller run)				
GSC-Sharpe 3 pass from Ham (Foley kick)				
GSC-Johnson 15 run (Foley kick)				
WKU-FG Maher 31				
WKU-Darden 12 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)				

GSC-Johnson 42 pass from Burnette (Foley kick)
 WKU-Jones 9 pass from Cesarone (Jones pass from Cesarone)

A--13,000

	GSC	WKU
First downs	27	24
Rushes-yards	47-301	37-108
Passing yards	261	339
Return yards	33	4
Passes	16-30-0	26-42-1
Punts	4-34	5-43
Fumbles-lost	2-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	8-65	6-32
Time of Possession	28:29	31:31

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING — Georgia Southern, Ham 11-118, Harris 15-70, W. Kentucky, Arnold 12-64, Anthony 14-44.
 PASSING — Georgia Southern, Ham 15-26-0-219, W. Kentucky, Cesarone 26-42-1-339.
 RECEIVING — Georgia Southern, Johnson 4-112, W. Kentucky, McKenzie 7-51, Coates 6-80.

Athletes' studies being emphasized

C.J. 11-4-86
By MIKE EMBRY
Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — During last football season two University of Kentucky football players were unexpectedly called into coach Jerry Claiborne's office at Commonwealth Stadium.

Claiborne looked sternly at the players and handed them each a letter. "Your parents should receive their copies tomorrow," he told them.

The letter had nothing to do with football. It had to do with slipping classwork.

The story was related by Bob Bradley, UK's assistant athletic director in charge of academics. He said the players got their acts together in the classroom after the meeting.

"They knew he meant business," said Bradley.

Athletic programs at Kentucky's universities are putting an emphasis on academics.

As Claiborne says, "That's why the kids come to college."

While mandatory study halls have long been associated with college

athletics and are still in use, universities are now using tutors, remedial programs and computers to help athletes complete their undergraduate work.

Bradley said the University of Kentucky Athletics Association will spend about \$200,000 this year on tutorial and academic counseling assistance through CATS — the Center for Academic and Tutorial Services.

The athletes punch in on a time clock when they report to the CATS facility in Memorial Coliseum and punch out when they leave.

"The number of hours depends on the kids," said Bradley. "Virtually every kid is on study hours. We want to see them each week. We find that their work goes down when you don't see them."

While in CATS, the athletes can receive tutoring assistance in any course. They are also taught study skills and given help in reading and vocabulary.

"I know we're successful," said Bradley. "I've been around this for nine years. When I look at the skills the athletes learn and how they're learning how to learn, that's a big difference. It's not a facade."

The University of Louisville has three full-time advisers, three graduate assistants and a core of tutors in its program, according to Steve Milburn, director of Athletic Academic Counseling.

"Our expressly stated goal is that every student will graduate," he said. "Although there are some that don't, that's always been our policy."

He said that while instructors send classroom reports to his office, "we feel students need to take most of the initiative in what they are doing. . . . We try to stay out as much as possible and let the student take the responsibility for how they do in courses."

Joan Hopkins monitors the academic work of nearly 380 athletes and oversees the tutorial program "Study Table" at Eastern Kentucky University.

"They can ask me questions about class subjects," she said. "I can call instructors and work with the instructor and student on any problems."

Athletes at Kentucky State "have the opportunity and are given the

at Kentucky colleges

opportunity to any and all remedial and tutorial help on campus," said William Head, the school's athletic director. "Our president is a stickler on the athletes succeeding and graduating."

Head said all athletes are required to spend a minimum of 1½ hours a day in study hall.

Athletes are kept "in the mainstream of other students as much as possible" at Morehead State, according to Jim McClellan, academic counselor.

While his office gives tutorial assistance, he said, "it takes dedication on the athlete's part that's above the average student."

At Murray State, athletes in all sports are required to attend study halls on campus where they can receive academic help, said Craig Bohnert, the school's sports information director.

A similar program is operated at Western Kentucky University, where all but the men's and women's basketball teams use the Special Services office on campus, said sports information director Paul Just.

"Coaches receive periodic reports on how the athletes are doing," he said.

Just said the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, similar to the UK Athletics Association, provides funds to hire tutors in some courses.

The NCAA has asked its member schools to supply figures on the percentage of athletes graduating each year, beginning with the freshman class of 1981, but the first statistics will not be available until December.

University officials offered some figures to argue the success of their academic programs:

■ Last season 10 UK football players were named to the All-Southeastern Conference academic team and one made the Academic All-American team. Seven were All-SEC in 1984.

■ Since 1972, 70 percent of the basketball players and 68 percent of the football players have earned degrees at the University of Louisville.

■ At Eastern Kentucky University, there is a 76-percent graduation rate among athletes who earned letters over the past five years.

■ Six Western Kentucky football players posted 3.00-or-better grade-point averages last year. The Hilltoppers were the only school in the eight-team Sun Belt Conference to have three athletes named to the league's 15-person all-academic team, and they also had 18 on the conference's honor roll.

■ Murray State had two athletes, a golfer and a basketball player, named to Academic All-American teams in 1985.

Louisville's Milburn said coaches at his school are receptive to the academic programs.

"I've never had a coach say, 'I don't care how you do it, just get him eligible,'" he said.

UK's Bradley said the head coach is the key. "If the head coach says he's (athlete) got to do it, he'll do it. He holds the hammer. That's why Claiborne is so successful," he said.

Claiborne, an honor student-athlete at Kentucky in the 1940s, believes schools have a responsibility to provide academic assistance.

"I think everybody has to," he said. "We should."

Ham deserves to win Heisman

D.N. 11-3-56

Homecoming is an event more than a football game, the bleary-eyed student told me Friday night.

That's really true, so the next day I decided to take in Western's game with Georgia Southern from the cheap seats in the student's section.

Besides, my girl friend would've shoved that big, white mum I bought her up my nose if I hadn't sat with her at this game.

We were some of the earliest arrivals at Smith Stadium on the gorgeous Saturday afternoon, but it didn't take long for the estimated 13,000 fans to fill most of the seats around us.

Boy, I had forgotten how hot it can get on those metal seats in the stadium with the sun beating down on you. Next time, Western should build its football stadium with the



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

stands facing the opposite direction — away from the sun.

The first round of drinks was still being served — with me not participating, of course — when Georgia Southern's Tracy Ham started the avalanche that would

become this 49-32 Western loss with a 45-yard touchdown run in which he went through a defensive phalanx like a red hot knife through so much hot butter.

Western bounced back nicely with a quick scoring drive of its own to tie the score at 7-7. But, hey, there goes Ham again with another scoring run.

That's OK, though. Western just scored again, too.

But here comes Ham and Georgia Southern again. This time Gerald Harris scores on a short run. It's 20-14, Eagles.

This might be fun. One of those big scoring derbys with about 100 points. Matching touchdown for touchdown with one of the best offenses, and the best quarterback, ever to set foot on Smith's field.

But Western has to punt on its next possession. Oops. Ham scores another for Georgia Southern. Jeff Cesarone is intercepted on the next series and the Eagles stick another score in just before the half.

It's 35-14 before the homecoming queen makes it out on the field.

The party's over. Or, should that be it's just beginning for the several thousand fans making their exit to beat the traffic.

If some of those fans went to watch the rest of the Florida State-Miami game that was on the tube, they might have thought they were seeing the best quarterback in America in Vinny Testaverde, who was leading Miami to a comeback win.

Actually, they had been watching the best quarterback in America running all over Western on the way to becoming the first college

football player in any division to rush for more than 3,000 yards and pass for more than 5,000.

When Testaverde gets his Heisman Trophy after the season, as he will almost surely win the award, he should politely decline and send it to Statesboro, where Ham will be finishing up his classes and waiting for the National Football League to call.

Now don't give me any of that bull about Ham not being worthy of the award because he plays in Division I-AA.

The only reason he didn't go to a major college is that none of them were smart enough to recruit him as a quarterback.

Florida, Florida State and the others wanted to make him a defensive back.

Western coach Dave Roberts said Ham could be a quarterback for any team in the country. When asked about a specific team, like Oklahoma, Roberts said Ham would have no problem at a place like that.

After watching the guy throw a 40-yard rope to the left side of the field while running right, and other tricks, I would have to agree.

Most of the professional teams looking at Ham again want to turn him into a wide receiver or a defensive back.

Ham is modest when talking about his NFL chances at quarterback.

He would like to think he could play quarterback in the NFL, he says.

Continued on Page 3
Column 1, This Section

Men to scrimmage again Wednesday

D. N.
11-3-86

Continued From Page 1-B

Then his coach, Erk Russell, asked me if I thought he could play in the NFL.

Certainly, I replied.

Some team will have to take a chance on Ham. The ones that don't will almost certainly see him running or passing the ball down their throats in the not too distant future.

Even though Ham stole the show Saturday, Russell was very impressed with Western's passing game.

"They have as good a receiver corps as anybody. I've never seen anybody approach the passing game the way they do," Russell said. "They throw it as high and as far as they can and their receivers get in that jump ball situation. Gifted athletes usually win those jump balls. That number 84 is a great receiver."

Of course, we all know that's Keith Paskett, who had three receptions for 101 yards, including a 51-yarder on Western's first scoring drive.

Georgia Southern played its sixth game on the road this season in running its record to 6-2.

"We've been on the bus so much we should be America's team," Russell said.

Western (3-4-1) has now played at least two teams that should make the I-AA playoffs — Georgia Southern and Tennessee State. Both of those squads have a shot at the

national championship if they can find a couple of different components.

Defending national champion Georgia Southern needs some defense; and Tennessee State needs some offense.

If the two should meet in the playoffs, go to the game, no matter where it is. It will be a real shootout.

"They're a contender for the national championship," Roberts said of Georgia Southern.

"We have a long way to go before we'll be contending for a national championship," he concluded.

Fans got a small taste of the physical, fast-paced play that will be Western's men's basketball team's trademark this year in Saturday's scrimmage at Diddle Arena.

Big men Tellis Frank, Kannard Johnson and Clarence Martin — dubbed the Beasts of Baseline by Coach Murray Arnold — ran the floor with ease and grace not seen here in some time. Bryan Asberry also seemed to be playing better in this preseason than he did at any time last year, except maybe at the University of Louisville.

And guards Kurk Lee and James McNary were in each others shirts all night as a battle for the point guard spot seems to be brewing.

Western's next Red-White scrimmage will be at 7:30 Wednesday night at Greenville High.

Western will host the Fort Hood Tankers for an exhibition Saturday night at 7:30 in Diddle.



Dee Tabor, Produce Director for Houchens Food Stores, presents Red and Gold Delicious Washington State Apples to Coach Dave Roberts and the Western Kentucky University Football Team.

Dee Tabor presented the apples on behalf of the Washington State Apple Commission to the football team to kick off October as the National Apple Month as well as wishing Coach Roberts and the team a successful and healthy football season.

D.N. 11-4-86

(Adv.)

Cesarone, Mancini will show off passing fancies

11-7-86
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

The Yankees are coming. The Yankees are coming.

There's no need for Rhett and Scarlett to go into hiding this time, but that very well could be what Western's football team is saying today as it gets ready for Boston University to come into Smith Stadium for Saturday's 1 p.m. matchup (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

BU is a member of the Yankee Conference and doesn't get play south of the Mason-Dixon line very often. In fact, this is the furthest south the Terriers will play this season.

And the visitors will add to Western football trivia by being only the second New England-based school ever to play the Hilltoppers.

Western beat New Hampshire 14-3 in the 1975 Division II playoffs to earn a trip to the championship game, where it lost 16-14 to Northern Michigan.

WKU football

The stakes of this contest aren't nearly so high, but a victory by either team will go a long way in determining the success — or failure — of each squad's season.

Western is 3-4-1 and looking to get back to even after running into the high powered offense of Georgia Southern.

BU is 2-6 and looking for a happy ending to a long and frustrating season for Coach Steve Stetson.

This could be called a mirror image game because of the two quarterbacks involved.

Western's Jeff Cesarone and BU's Pat Mancini could have some fun matching career records. The two already hold all of their school's respective passing records, except career touchdowns. Cesarone is tied with Leo Peckenaugh (1970-73) for that record with

35. Mancini needs four to tie school mark.

"They throw the ball as much as we do," said Western coach Dave Roberts.

"The game is going to be longer, and time of possession is going to be more important. This week the team that is going to be on the field longest is going to win," said Cesarone, who last week became the first Western quarterback to complete 500 passes in a career.

Mancini, a big 6-3, 220-pounder from Franklin Square, N.Y., has had his share in injury problems in the four years he's played for the Terriers.

"My main goal was to stay healthy this year," said the red-shirt junior. "I haven't been as consistent as I'd like to be. We have a lot of young guys on the offensive line, but we're coming a

Continued on Page 5
Column 2, This Section

long well. We've kind of been stuck in a rut. A lot of guys haven't experienced a winning season, and it hurt to get off to a slow start this year."

Mancini has hit on 121 of 264 passes this year for 1,448 yards and eight touchdowns. Cesarone has been good on 143 of 259 passes (55.2 percent) for 1,506 yards and nine touchdowns. Mancini has been intercepted 10 times, while Cesarone has been picked off eight.

Dennis Gadbois has been Mancini's main target this year, catching 50 passes for 716 yards and three touchdowns.

Three different Western receivers have each caught 25 passes this year. Cedric Jones has 27 receptions. Pat McKenzie and Joe Arnold

each have 25 catches.

While the two quarterbacks have their names in the record books an equal number of times, they have different styles, according to Stetson.

"Pat gets to the outside a little more than Cesarone," the second-year coach said. "We're predominantly a passing team due to personnel, not any philosophy I have. We went through a stretch where we had All-America running backs year in and out."

No such luck this year, though.

Western's running situation looked bright until Arnold went out of the Georgia Southern game with a hip pointer in the second quarter. Arnold had 64 yards in less than a half and was on the way to his second straight 100-yard game.

Arnold, who has 494 yards on the year, is questionable for this week's game.

Western's top two tacklers — linebackers Neil Fatkin and Calvin Edwards — will miss this game because of injuries.

Edwards has an ankle sprain. Fatkin's problem is a little more serious. The junior has a virus around the heart muscle.

McKenzie and Keith Paskett became the fifth and sixth men in Western history to catch 100 career passes last week. Both now have 101 career receptions. Paskett has 19 receptions this year.

Western kicker Dan Maher needs just one more field goal to tie Jim Griffiths' career mark of 19.



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Running away

JOE ARNOLD of Western runs out of the grasp of a Georgia Southern defender during last week's homecoming game at Smith Stadium. Ar-

nold is questionable for this week's game with Boston University.

U. N. 11-7-86

Toppers throw Boston Massacre

11-9-86

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

The Founding Fathers wouldn't have liked it too much.

Western's spirit cannon was firing in the direction of the Boston University bench every time the Hilltoppers scored a touchdown Saturday.

With the smoke swirling around the Terriers bench almost continuously in the second half, the guys firing the cannon were having themselves a regular Boston Massacre.

That pseudo massacre was nothing compared to the real thing the Hilltoppers put on BU in the second half on a dreary day at Smith Stadium.

Western came back from a 7-0 halftime deficit to blitz BU 28-7 in front of an estimated 1,500 rainy weather lovers.

"We made a few comments at halftime, and we usually don't do that. We told them we didn't think they were playing very well," said Western coach Dave Roberts, who was referring to the defense's first-half play, but could've been talking about the whole Hilltopper effort in the first 30 minutes.

"The first half everybody came out tight," said nose guard Noel Harris, who caused one fumble and recovered another, both of which led to Western touchdowns.

"Maybe we were a little flat. We came in thinking we could do a lot of passing, but it was wet and the receivers dropped a couple of balls. We couldn't keep anything going," said Jeff Cesarone, who passed to Keith Paskett and Joe Arnold for touchdowns.

"We looked like the mud bothered us. They knocked us around some," Roberts said after the Toppers went to 4-4-1.

The Terriers, who fell to 2-7, took advantage of the slow Western start to go ahead on a 3-yard scoring pass from Pat Mancini to Den-

WKU football

nis Gadbois with 4:27 left in the first period. Gadbois has now caught a pass in each of his last 24 games.

BU was paced in the first half by tailback Randy Pettus, who had 130 first-half yards and 146 on 26 carries before getting knocked out of the game early in the third quarter.

"Randy was outstanding. He was running real well," said BU coach Steve Stetson. "He sustained a shoulder injury and after that it affected our running game."

Cesarone started getting untracked in the second half after completing only 6 of 17 passes in the first half. Several of his incompletions were hitting receivers right in the hands but being dropped.

"We had some routes wide open but the ball was so wet it was hard to catch," said Cesarone, who finished the day 15 of 35 for 250 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. "The balls were brand new and they hadn't been worn in. When they're new, they're real slick."

Cesarone hit Paskett from 21 yards out to tie the score 7-7 after Dan Maher's extra point with 4:34 left in the third.

He put Western ahead when he hit Arnold with a screen pass and the sophomore tailback made his way the rest of the 38 yards with 1:47 to go in the period.

"At practice Friday I told Coach (Steve) Shankweiler that a screen pass would work," Arnold said with his usual confidence. "(Ron) Hopkins and (Dean) Tiebout were out there with me."

Receivers Chuck Kimbell and Tommy Shakir also threw key blocks to spring Arnold, who would score two more touchdowns and gain 64 yards on 24 carries during



JEFF CESARONE (8) of Western looks for a receiver Saturday afternoon as Darrell Felder (30) of Boston University closes in. Cesarone

the afternoon.

Arnold suffered a hip pointer against Georgia Southern and was not expected to play, but Vincel Anthony went out early Saturday with an injury and Arnold was pressed into action.

"I felt some pressure on it when I got hit, but when I'm in the game my mind's on one thing," Arnold said.

Harris' recovery of a Mancini fumble set up Arnold's 3-yard run with three seconds left in the quarter. Maher missed the extra

point — his first miss in 23 tries and in 18 this season — and it was 20-7.

Harris forced another Mancini fumble just minutes later at the BU 5 that led to the Toppers' last score.

"Allen King and Arthur Davis forced him to me and I couldn't do nothing but hit him," Harris said after leading the team in a rendition of "Hilltopper Rock," Western's unofficial victory song.

Arnold drove up the middle for 5 on the first play to make it 26-6.

Rolling out

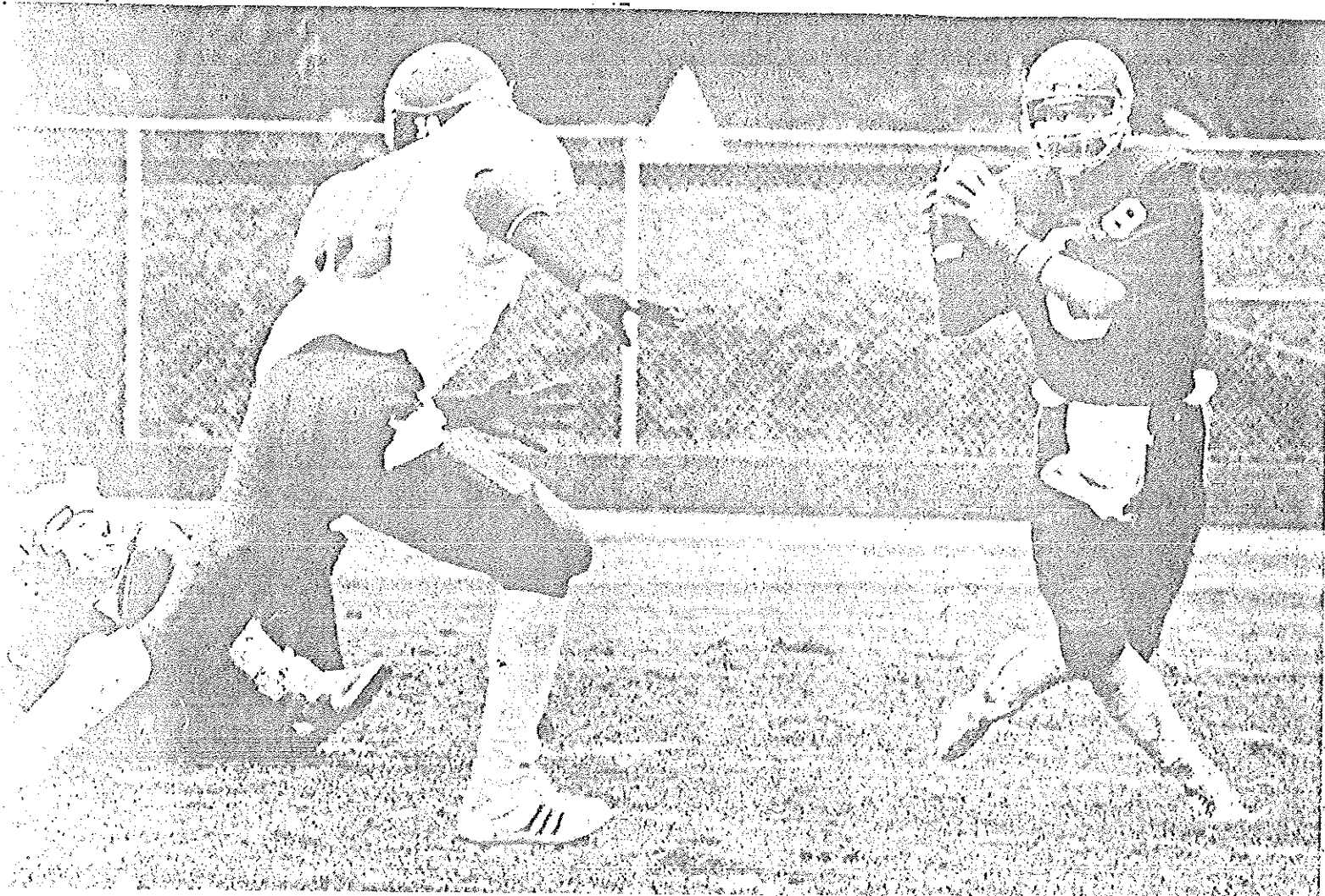
passed for two touchdowns. Hilltoppers rolled to a 28-7 win.

Rodney Astree sacked Ma for a safety with 1:02 left in game to close out the scoring.

"If we're going to make kinds of mistakes, they'd be not to take advantage," Stetson said. "When you give them the where we did it's suicidal."

Or it can lead to a massacre.

Boston U.	7	0	0
W. Kentucky	0	0	14
BU—Gadbois 3 pass from Mancini (kick)			
WKU—Paskett 21 pass from Cesarone (kick)			
WKU—Arnold 38 pass from Cesarone (kick)			



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

Rolling out

D. N.
11-9-86

CESARONE (3) of Western looks for a receiver Saturday after Darrell Felder (30) of Boston University closes in. Cesarone

passed for two touchdowns in the game at Smith Stadium and the Hilltoppers rolled to a 28-7 win.

noon.
I suffered a hip pointer at Georgia Southern and was expected to play, but Vincel Arnold went out early Saturday with a hip pointer and Arnold was pressed

point — his first miss in 23 tries and in 18 this season — and it was 20-7.

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Arnold drove up the middle for 5 yards on the first play to make it 26-6.

Rodney Astree sacked Mancini for a safety with 1:02 left in the game to close out the scoring.

"If we're going to make those kinds of mistakes, they'd be nuts not to take advantage," Stetson said. "When you give them the ball where we did it's suicidal."

Or it can lead to a massacre.

WKU—Arnold 3 run (kick failed)
WKU—Arnold 5 run (pass failed)
WKU—Safety Mancini tackled in the end zone
A—1,500

Boston U.	7	0	0	0-07
W. Kentucky	0	0	14	14-28
BU—Gadbois 3 pass from Mancini (Green kick)				
WKU—Paskett 21 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)				
WKU—Arnold 38 pass from Cesarone (Maher kick)				

	BU	WKU
First downs	18	16
Rushes yards	38-114	39-106
Passing yards	119	250
Return yards	14	20
Passes	13-34-1	15-36-1
Punts	7-41.1	9-39
Fumbles-lost	3-2	1-0
Penalties-yards	7-55	7-75
Time of Possession	29:56	30:04

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING — Boston U., Pellus, 26-146. W. Kentucky, Arnold 24-64.
PASSING — Boston U., Mancini 13-34-1-119. W. Kentucky, Cesarone, 15-35-1-250.
RECEIVING — Boston U., Gadbois 5-46. W. Kentucky, Paskett 5-86, Darden 3-75.



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

In a jam

JOE ARNOLD (33) of Western is sandwiched between a pair of Boston University defenders Saturday at Smith Stadium. The Hilltoppers defeated the

Terriers 28-7 to improve their record to 4-4-1. Western will visit Eastern Illinois next Saturday.

D.N. 11-10-86

Western taking lead in scholarship proposal

D.N. 11-10-86

Western's football program has been under pressure since the early 1980s to eliminate, or at least reduce, its budget deficit — it was \$121,415 in the red last year.

Many critics of the program have suggested eliminating football altogether at Western. Others have said it should be knocked down to Division II or III. No scholarships are awarded on the Division III level, and there is a limit of 45 scholarships in Division II.

The problems Western is facing in the athletic budget arena are not exclusive to that school. They are becoming national in scope among Division I-AA members and even some Division I-A schools.

After looking at the problem and wishing it would go away by itself for the last several years, it seems like Western's administration is finally ready to start combating the money crunch.

Five of six members of the Gateway Conference — which includes Northern Iowa, Southwest Missouri, Western Illinois, Southern Illinois, Illinois State and Eastern Illinois, Western's football opponent this week — have recently proposed an agenda item for the NCAA Convention in January that could change the face, and the financial fortunes, of I-AA football programs.

That proposal, if it became an NCAA regulation, would begin to reduce the number of football scholarships I-AA schools can give in 1988.

Schools in I-AA now can give 70 scholarships. The proposal would reduce the number to 65 in 1988 and 60 in 1989.

The problem is, six schools are needed to get an item on the NCAA agenda. That's where Western comes in.

Executive Vice President Paul Cook, who is also the Athletic Committee chairman, said Saturday night that Western will be joining the five Gateway schools to get the proposal on the agenda for the



**Mark C.
Mathis**

**Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary**

San Diego meeting.

There has been talk for a couple of years in I-AA about cost containment, but Cook and Athletic Director Jimmy Feix said schools have been reluctant to take leadership roles.

"The problem is almost universal, but nobody wants to take the leadership," Cook said.

"In talking to people around I-AA most would be interested in cutting scholarships. It would be very close to passing," Feix said.

If such a proposal passed, it could save Western \$28,000 per year in scholarships for Kentucky residents and \$37,400 per year for out-of-state players at the 60 scholarship limit.

But while we're on the subject, why not go one step further and reduce the limit even more, to say 50 scholarships.

The American Council on Education has recommended that I-A football scholarships be cut from their present limit of 95 to 80 and Division I basketball grants be reduced from 15 to 12.

A cut of 20 scholarships on the I-AA level would be right in line with the recommended cuts for I-A.

Western has dragged its feet on the football problems long enough. I for one am glad to see the university take a first step in attacking a problem that everyone shares — and one that won't go away by

itself.

Another issue of national importance — drug testing — was discussed at the just completed Sun Belt Conference meeting for university officials in Tampa, Fla.

Cook said drug testing was on the agenda only as a discussion item. A course of action will probably be mapped out after the NCAA meeting in January.

SBC Commissioner Vic Bubas said in an interview last month that schools across the country and the NCAA is in a "period of re-evaluation" about drug testing.

"I don't think you can call it backpedaling. We are seeing some legal objections and we're looking at some alternatives," he said. "Everybody is still concerned."

Some of the alternatives mentioned have been withholding an individual from competition if he tests positive, instead of penalizing an entire team.

Also, there seems to be a moving away from the exit testing at championship events, which was earlier discussed as the primary testing time.

The problems after the Wendy's Classic road race are a prime example of what needs to be avoided.

Testing needs to be done to eliminate the possibility of drugs being used by athletes. But would you want to be the one to walk up to a 290-pound defensive tackle after his team just lost the national championship in the Orange Bowl and ask him to fill a cup? I wouldn't.

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Western was down 17-6 at Austin Peay three weeks ago and came

back to score a 34-20 win.

Don't be too concerned with the close score of Western's men's exhibition game with Fort Hood.

The Hilltoppers won 99-95 Saturday night and never really could put Fort Hood away. The main reason for the close score was Coach Murray Arnold was mixing players and seeing who could play where.

Also, the Hilltoppers seemed to have problems with the new man-to-man defense that Arnold has employed.

People playing in different spots on defense will take some getting used to, Kannard Johnson said.

The game did show, however, the offensive firepower Western is blessed with this year.

Five players of national prominence have included Western as one of their college choices, according to the Off The Glass basketball publication.

Aubrey Boyd, a 6-4 guard out of Macon Southwest (Ga.), is the top prospect who could sign with Western on Wednesday, the first day of the early national letter-of-intent signing period.

Sources close to the situation say that Boyd will sign with either Western or Florida State.

Two of the top prep players in Kentucky are among the other four.

John Pelphrey, a 6-7 forward out of Paintsville, and 6-3 Desmond Porter of Louisville Pleasure Ridge Park are the two in-state players with Western on their lists. Pelphrey, however, is said to be leaning toward Vanderbilt.

Dale Davis, a 6-8 product from Stephens County (Ga.) likes the Sun Belt schools. Sean Byrd, a 6-7 forward from Miami-Hialeah Lakes (Fla.) includes Western, Jacksonville and Old Dominion as the schools he might attend.

Tops want revenge at Payton's place

D. N. 11-14-86

There's no Division I-AA playoff berth awaiting Western after this season is over like there is for Eastern Illinois — the Hilltoppers' opponent this Saturday — but a win over the Panthers would be almost as good as one.

Western and Eastern Illinois have developed a healthy dislike for each other during the three-year series.

Let's see, in 1983 EIU's players almost boycotted the game because they didn't want to ride a bus to Bowling Green. So, the Panthers took out their frustration on Western with a 34-14 win.

The next year in Charleston, Western coach Dave Roberts steamed about EIU running up the score in a 50-19 whipping.

A measure of revenge was gained last year — a very small measure — when it took a two-point conversion late in the game for EIU to beat the Hilltoppers 14-13.

Now, Western (4-4-1) will travel to Charleston once again to take on a nationally ranked team at 1 p.m. Saturday (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM).

EIU (9-1) is fourth in the latest I-AA poll, and like Georgia Southern — the last ranked team Western played this year — it has a very good quarterback.

Sean Payton, a 6-1, 195-pound senior, is the top passer in I-AA with 3,102 yards. The Naperville, Ill., native is second in I-AA in total offense with 304.1 yards per game.

Several other EIU players rank high in I-AA individual statistics.

Calvin Pierce is fourth in receiving yardage with 1,053 yards. Ron Reynolds is 12th on the interception list with seven.

The Panthers' high-powered offense is first in passing with 323.3 yards, third in scoring with 37.4 points per game and fifth in total offense with 446 yards per game.

Linebacker Jeff Mills has 114 tackles to lead the defense. Defensive end John Jurkovic has 13

quarterback sacks this year.

EIU is the fourth ranked team Western has played this year. The Toppers beat No. 14 Eastern, but lost to No. 5 Georgia Southern and No. 9 Tennessee State.

Western's defense came through with one of its better efforts in recent years during the second half of the Boston University game.

The Toppers limited BU to 46 yards in the second half of the 28-7 win.

Leading tackler Neil Fatkin will be out again this week with the infection around his heart muscle. Trainer Bill Edwards said Fatkin may be able to return for the season finale against Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Linebacker Calvin Edwards should be able to play this week after missing the BU game with a sprained ankle.

Jeff Cesarone broke the career mark for touchdown passes with the two he threw last week. Cesarone now has 37, two more than Leo Peckenpaugh's former record of 35 stood for 13 years.

The junior from Geneva, Ill., also is now the only Hilltopper to pass for more than 6,000 yards in a career. He has 6,039 yards. This fall, Cesarone has hit 158 of 294 passes (53.7 percent) for 1,756 yards, 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Senior Pat McKenzie, who already is the school's all-time record holder for career receptions by a running back, leads the Toppers with 30 catches for 218 yards. Keith Paskett has 443 yards on 24 receptions.

Joe Arnold is on the verge of becoming the first Western rusher to gain more than 600 yards since Danny Embree did it in 1983. The sophomore from Decatur, Ga., has 558 yards this season. Arnold scored three touchdowns against U last week.

Fourth-ranked Eastern Illinois dumps Western

11-16-86
From AP and Special Dispatches

CHARLESTON, Ill. — In a game in which the two quarterbacks completed 60 of 99 passes for 750 yards, a bad pass may have decided Eastern Illinois' 35-18 victory over Western Kentucky yesterday in a non-conference college football game.

Trailing 21-12, Western (4-5-1) took the second-half kickoff and marched to the Eastern Illinois 16-yard line before a Jeff Cesarone pass was intercepted by David Whitehead at the 10 and returned 79 yards to the Western 11.

Three plays later, Sean Payton scored from three yards out for a 27-12 advantage.

"We drive all the way to their 16-yard line and are about to score when their kid intercepts a pass and almost runs it all the way back," Western coach Dave Roberts said. "Then they score and we're deep in the hole again.

"I was proud of the effort that my

WESTERN KENTUCKY 0 12 6 0-18
EASTERN ILLINOIS 8 21 14 0-35
Western Kentucky — Arnold 2 run (kick failed);
Eastern Illinois — Marable 1 run (Ehmke kick);
Eastern Illinois — Pitts 21 run (Ehmke kick);
Eastern Illinois — Wilhelms 10 pass from Payton
(Ehmke kick); Western Kentucky — Paskett 38
pass from Cesarone (pass failed); Eastern Illinois
— Payton 3 run (Ehmke kick); Western Kentucky
— Paskett 31 pass from Cesarone (pass failed);
Eastern Illinois — Pierce 3 pass from Payton
(Ehmke kick).

Attendance — 6,020.

	Western Kentucky	E. Illinois
First downs	27	21
Rushes-yards	38-91	28-117
Passing yards	396	354
Return yards	25	136
Passes	33-53-2	27-42-2
Punts	4-36	3-40
Fumbles-lost	3-2	2-2
Penalties-yards	7-54	6-55
Time Possession	36:34	23:26

team had, but Eastern Illinois has a great senior football team."

The Panthers (10-1), who won their 10th straight, are ranked fourth in NCAA Division I-AA and were the third ranked team Western has faced this season.

"I was worried about being men-

tally prepared for this game after already having a spot in the playoffs," Eastern Illinois coach Al Molde said. "Looking at their personnel, it's obvious that they (Western) have gotten better and better every year we've played them."

Cesarone, for one, has improved. Against the Panthers, he completed 33 of 58 passes for 396 yards and two touchdowns, with two interceptions. The junior signal caller threw two scoring passes to wide receiver Keith Paskett, one for 38 yards in the second quarter and another for 31 yards in the third. Paskett caught 11 passes for 187 yards, just four yards shy of Western's single-game record.

"Jeff played extremely well for us, and Keith had a super football game," Roberts said. "We threw him the ball and he ran with it the way we know he can."

After a lackluster first quarter by

both teams, with four consecutive possessions ending in turnovers, Western got the scoring started in the second quarter on a two-yard run by Joe Arnold, who finished with 68 yards rushing and 58 yards receiving on eight catches.

But Eastern Illinois then exploded for three consecutive touchdowns, including a one-yard run by James Marable and a 21-yard run by DuWayne Pitts.

The third was a 10-yard pass to Derick Wilhelms from Payton, who completed 27 of 41 passes for 354 yards and two touchdowns, with two interceptions. Payton also threw a three-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Pierce in the third quarter. Pierce caught eight passes for 147 yards.

Payton, a senior, now is third on the all-time collegiate passing list, regardless of division, with 10,655 yards. It was the 20th game in which he has thrown for 300 or more yards in his career.

The Hilltoppers return to Bowling Green Saturday to play host to Tennessee-Chattanooga at 2 p.m. EST in their season finale.

WKU seniors have seen it all

11-21-80

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Of the 10 seniors on Western's football team, there are four who have seen a little more despair, felt a little more pain, gotten beat a little more and come back a little further.

Those four seniors — Barry Anderson, Adam Lindsey, Pat McKenzie and Keith Paskett — are all that's left of the last team Jimmy Feix ever coached.

They are the survivors of the final freshmen class recruited by Feix.

Western's athletic director had more freshmen, of course, in 1983, but these four are the only ones who made the sacrifice with Coach Dave Roberts when he took over the program to try and reverse the downward spiral.

"People don't understand that when you've been beat down like they were, it's easy to quit," Roberts said. "These guys are great leaders."

He could be saying this about any of the other other six seniors on the squad, but they were transfers or walk-ons. And while they are no less responsible for the limited success in the slow rebuilding job that Roberts has undertaken, they are not as much a part of history as

the other four.

All of the seniors will play their last game in a Hilltopper uniform Saturday when Tennessee-Chattanooga (3-7) comes to Smith Stadium for the 1 p.m. season finale (WKCT-AM, WDNS-FM). Western (4-5-1) will be trying to break even for the first time since 1982.

Anderson, Lindsey, McKenzie and Paskett have all seen what was before, what has been done in the interim and maybe can offer more insight into what needs still to be accomplished.

Weights have come into vogue at Western with the arrival of Roberts.

And perhaps the biggest cosmetic change has been the addition of size and strength to the whole team.

"We made great progress in the weight room," said the 6-3, 275-pound Anderson, who will miss his final game because of an injury. "We used to not lift very much, but we've gotten stronger. The weight room has gotten bigger and we have more equipment."

Seniors Noel Harris (270) and Ron Hopkins (295) are examples of the bigger is better theory.

The weight room isn't the only facility change that Roberts in-

stituted.

"The changes throughout the facility have really picked up," said punter Adam Lindsey. "We've gotten more weights, the locker room is bigger and we have more field space to practice on."

More quality athletes have also been brought in by Roberts.

Paskett, the fine split end from Nashville, Tenn., is a major professional prospect. Feix brought him to Western, and Roberts has surrounded the journalism major with other good athletes.

"That may be the best thing is that we've gotten a whole lot more talent," said Lindsey, who has worked hard since he was a freshman walk-on to develop his skills.

Another hard worker has been senior Billy Haynes. Not blessed with the speed of fellow senior defensive backs Mark Johnson and Vernard Johnson, Haynes has made big contributions through savvy and hard work. Haynes has been most noticeable as a punt blocker on special teams.

Dennis Cecil walked on in 1984 to snap for the special teams. The senior from Evansville, Ind., made a huge sacrifice just to be on the team.

Other sacrifices have been made.

and the team has grown closer.

"Making the adjustment from Feix to Roberts took a lot out of us. But to be a winner, you can't be easy on yourself. I'm glad it's behind me, but I'll miss it," McKenzie said.

"Everybody is more together now. There's no arguing between the offense and defense. The offense and defense has more confidence in each other now," Anderson said.

The losses and criticism have been hard to take, but none of the four have any regrets about coming to Western.

"We've come a long way. At first, everybody said we should drop down. But there's no question we're going in the right direction," Paskett said. "It just takes time to get back to the level this program was six or seven years ago. I feel I was part of the start of something."

"The attitude on the team's changed. But around school it has a lot to do with winning and losing. The students relate to winning and losing, not whether you played well or not," Lindsey said.

"We've made a lot of progress. I wish we could've won a few more, but look around and see who we've been playing."

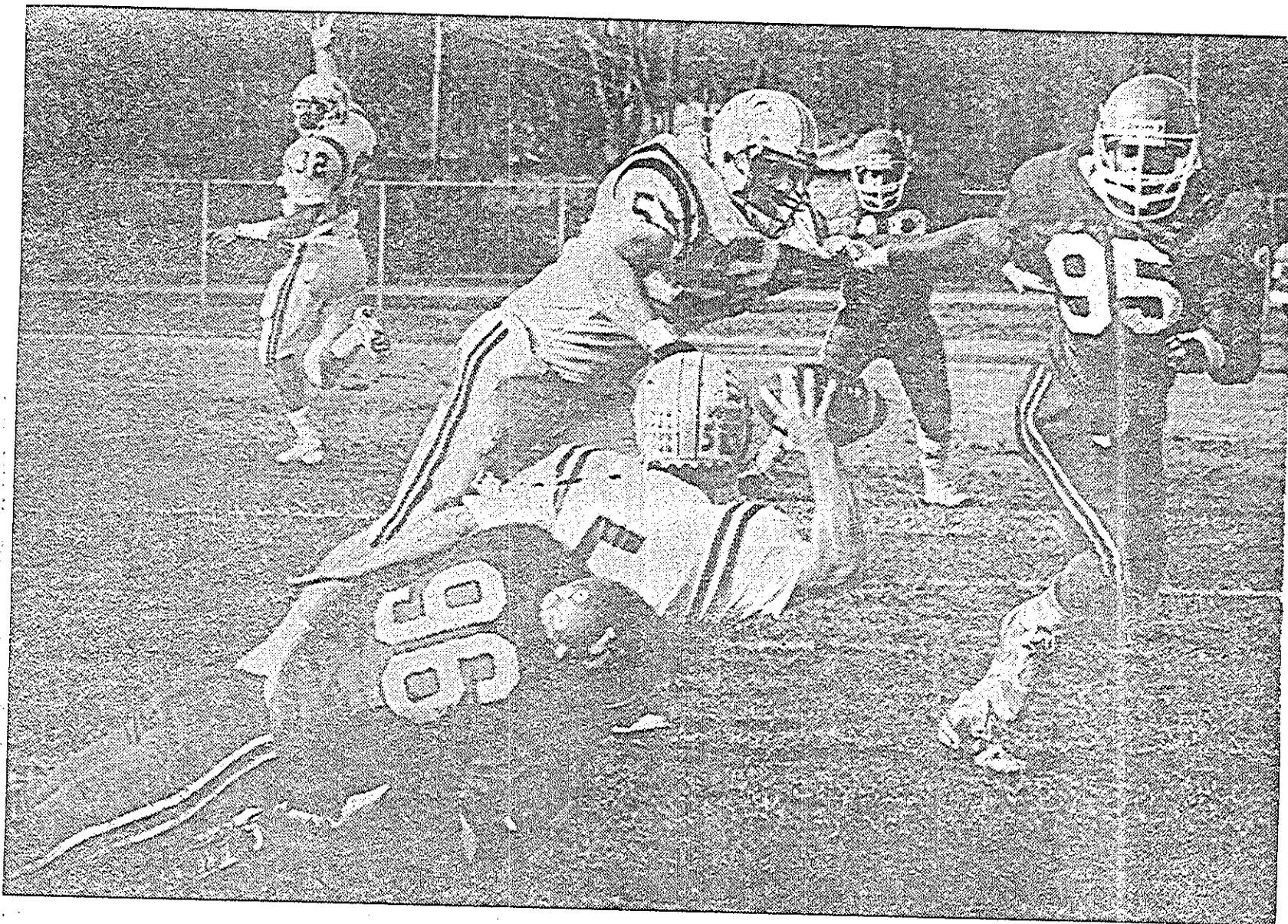


(Staff Photo by James Morris)

The senior class

SOME SENIOR members of the Western football team pose recently while reflecting on their years with the Hilltoppers. Saturday's game

against visiting Tennessee-Chattanooga will be the final game for the seniors. The game kicks off at 1 p.m. D.N. 11-21-56

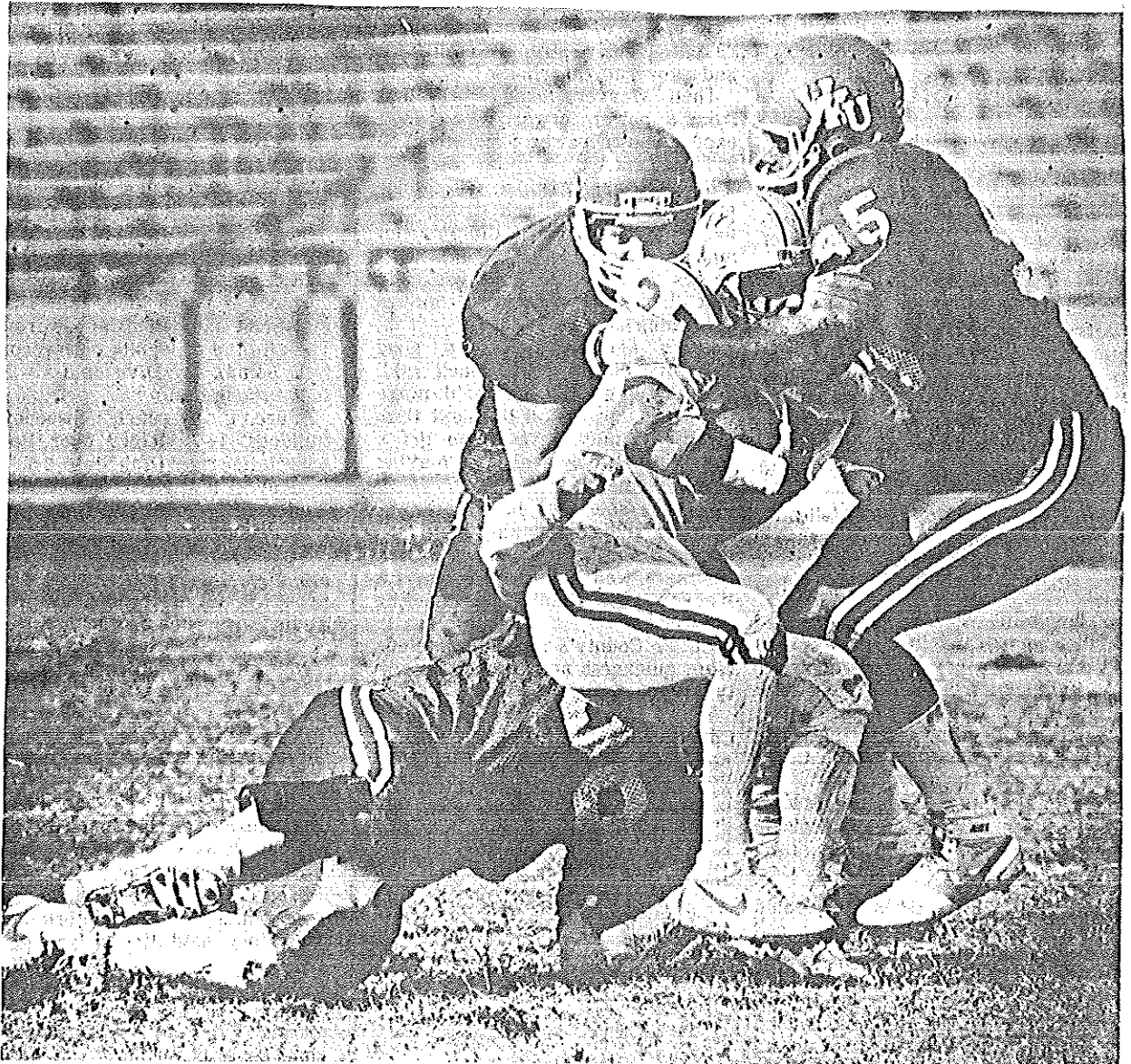


Associated Press

Western's Allen Reitcheck (96) dragged down Tennessee-Chattanooga quarterback Brad Patterson as potential receiver Mitch

Foutenot (32) raced downfield. The visiting Moccasins rallied for a 21-17 win in the final game of the season for both teams.

11-23-50



(Staff Photo by James Morris)

Gang tackle

THREE WESTERN DEFENDERS gang up on a Tennessee-Chattanooga runner in Saturday's game

at Smith Stadium. The Hilltoppers lost the game 21-17 to end the season with a 4-6-1 record.

P. H. 11-24-46

Livingston, UTC mar Tops' season

D.N. 11-24-86

In taking a quick look back at Western's football season, two glaring sights come to mind.

The first sight is Andy Lomax's 27-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter to give Livingston a 23-21 win over the Hilltoppers in the second game of the season.

The second is David Williams' 1-yard charge with 34 seconds left Saturday to give Tennessee-Chatanooga a 21-17 come from behind win in Western's final game of the 1986 campaign.

In between those two disasters, there are some pleasant memories, and some not so pleasant, but those two events will stand out like a swollen big toe as Western closes at 4-6-1.

This season, as maybe all do, started with high expectations for a Hilltopper squad that has struggled to find its place in Division I-AA football after leaving the Ohio Valley Conference before the 1982 season.

Western wasn't expected to go to the playoffs after winning just eight games in the previous three years, but it was expected to finish at .500, or better this time around.

After the shocking loss to Livingston, Western observers had their doubts about a .500 season happening.

The University of Louisville game was a much bigger blowout than expected, but the Hilltoppers recovered well enough to tie Murray — the OVC champion, believe it or not — the next weekend. Then came the huge win over Eastern.

The Toppers just didn't beat the



**Mark C.
Mathis**

**Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary**

archrivals from Richmond, they dominated and intimidated them.

If Western could just play solid the rest of the way, it would indeed have a shot at that .500 year. But from early October on, it became a roller coaster ride.

Lose one week, win the next. That was the pattern for five of the six remaining Saturdays.

By sticking to that formula alone, Western should've beaten UTC. After all, it had lost to Eastern Illinois the week before.

Instead, the Moccasins will have the offseason momentum, while Western will simply have to wait and see what happens in the spring.

Just as there's no way Western should've lost to Livingston, the Toppers shouldn't have fallen to UTC, especially after building a 17-6 third quarter lead.

But fall they did, and it left the Toppers with a record not that

much better than last year's 4-7 mark.

Western did improve, though, over last year.

Coach Dave Roberts' goal was for the Toppers to be competitive this year. And that they were — most of the time.

The Louisville game notwithstanding, Western ran into very few teams it couldn't at least stay with.

The Tennessee State score was deceiving, mainly because of the cheap touchdowns TSU got off two interceptions.

Georgia Southern was out of Western's class because of Tracy Ham. Take away a couple of mistakes and the Eastern Illinois game would've been closer, too.

The difficulty of Western's schedule has been discussed at length.

Five of the 11 teams on Western's schedule are in the I-AA playoffs. In fact, Murray and Eastern Illinois will meet each other in Charleston this Saturday in the first round of the playoffs.

People have mentioned that if Western had been in the OVC this year, they would have been in contention for a playoff berth.

That's possibly true, but as Roberts said several times during the year, Western's not in the OVC anymore and it has to go out and win the tough games against the tough people.

The world of independence is a hard one, but Roberts, with the renewal of his contract, which expires this season, will be able to survive it.

Neither he nor the program have any choice in the matter.

Because of an oversight on my part, two of the seniors on Western's football squad were left out of the senior story that ran in Friday's Daily News.

Marcus Burnett, a defensive end from Houston, and Chuck Kimbell, a split end from Inglewood, Calif., also played their last Western game Saturday.

My apologies.