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UA12/2/1 Fall Sports Preview

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Inside

Senior tailback Joe Arnold has high aspirations for the upcoming football season.

**No ordinary Joe**

Senior tailback comes of age on, off field

By Tom Hernes

Sitting in the locker room after his second preseason scrimmage, Western tailback Joe Arnold dreads the thought of struggling to take off his bulky equipment.

"Getting undressed is definitely the worst part of practice," Arnold says, as he pulls off his pants. "I like to train as a Hilltopper. He wants it to be his best."

In two weeks, the 5-11, 194-pound senior from Decatur, Ga., will begin his final season as a Hilltopper. He wants it to be his best. "I want 1,000 yards rushing," said Arnold, who has never broken the 1,000-yard barrier. He has come close before. He gained 999 yards and 987 yards in his junior and senior years of high school. "I've got to get it done.

"But if I do, I wouldn't criticize myself." Such is the character of Arnold, in his first three seasons on the Hill, he gained 1,000 yards. Those credentials will make him a main cog in the offensive scheme this season.

Despite his success on the field, Arnold said he tries to maintain a low profile off it: "A lot of people at this school know Joe Arnold on the football field, but when I walk down the street now, I bet half of the people don't recognize me. But I like it that way." Having showered and conformed with teammates, Arnold slowly dresses in a gray Western spring practice T-shirt, blue shorts, Reebok running shoes and an Atlanta Braves baseball cap.

"It's not for the Braves," Arnold explains. "The hat only signifies a small portion of the Arnold who considered himself outgoing as a freshman.

"When I first got here, I was like many typical freshmen: you know, being on my own for the first time and thinking I was bad being a football player," Arnold said. "But now, as I have realized there's life after college, I have grown up being more responsible."

As a 199-pound freshman, Arnold was listed sixth on the running back depth chart. Like most newcomers, he had typical freshman blues.

Those were remedied by calls to his mother, Judy Arnold, three times a week. The calls amounted to over $200 in bills the first month.
Restocking key positions critical to team's success

By TOM HERNE

Coach Dave Roberts' rebuilding project finally showed positive results last season. Now in his fifth year at Winter Haven, Roberts' expectations of this year are higher than ever, and for good reason. 

He's trying to rebuild a starting lineup, but he's also trying to build a winning team. He is using the same techniques that he used at Winter Haven, the success of which is well-known. 

The foundation of a winning team is the foundation of a winning program. Roberts believes that the key to building a winning team is to have a strong core of players. He is looking for players who can bring leadership and experience to the team. 

The tough season that Roberts is facing is a result of the previous season's lack of success. Roberts is looking to improve his team's performance this year, and he is working hard to achieve that goal. 

Roberts' approach to rebuilding the team is not an overnight process. He is taking his time, building the team from the ground up. He is looking for players who can bring leadership and experience to the team. 

Banks, Ngubeni return for men

By JULIUS DAVII

Western's cross-country teams will be rebuilding this season after losing four of their top seven runners. The men will seek their seventh consecutive Sun Belt title. The women have won the title for the past three years.

The men are looking for a fourth straight victory in the Sun Belt title. They are led by returnee Moe Lupu, a senior from Moshi, Tanzania. 

The women are looking for a fifth consecutive title. They are led by returnee Moe Lupu, a senior from Moshi, Tanzania. 

Football

Roberts' goals for his players: 

- To improve physically and mentally. Roberts' players will train hard to increase their strength and endurance. 
- To play together as a team and perform as a team. Roberts wants his players to be united and focused on winning. 
- To complete goals. Roberts' players will be focused on completing goals such as making touchdowns and scoring points. 

The team has high expectations this season, and Roberts is looking for his players to meet those expectations. 

 afined by a strong defense and a solid offensive line, Roberts' team will be looking to improve its record this season. 

The team's defensive line is led by returnees Moe Lupu and Jon Carstensen, while the offensive line is led by returnees Moe Lupu and Jon Carstensen. 

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Arnold not depending on NFL

Continued from Page 11

of school.

"My mom keeps the going," said Arnold, whose parents were divorced when he was 7 years old. "She provided me with everything I needed as a kid, and she never missed one of my high school football games and none of my home games at Western.

But homesickness didn't cause Arnold to have second thoughts about choosing or staying at Western.

"I was recruited by many large schools as a wide receiver and defensive back," Arnold said. "The schools included Wisconsin, Purdue and the University of Georgia. But I like coming out of the backfield better.

Arnold helped himself as a freshman by recording the Trojans' longest run from scrimmage that season - a 57-yard touchdown against Central Florida.

"People like Joe don't come along often," Coach Dave Roberts said. "He is definitely one of the top five individuals I have ever coached. He is a sensational person on and off the field, a great team leader and has real work habits."

Armchair trips with teammates helped Arnold adjust to Western; he said those relationships will last longer than his playing days.

"He shows leadership off the football field," said linebacker Wayne Bush, a Scottsville senior. "He is a great talent, and he handles himself well off the field."

But after leading the Trojans in rushing with 721 yards and 29 touchdowns with 30 receptions his sophomore year, Arnold still faced the reality of decreased playing time because of the arrivals of transfer running backs, David Smith and Tony Brown.

Tony and Semy are two good backs, but they are powerful straight ahead runners, while I have something different to offer being built as a North-South and East-West runner," Arnold said.

When Smith and Brown were injured in the middle of last season, Arnold took control of the backfield duties and finished with 901 yards rushing and eight touchdowns to earn the team's Offensive Player of the Year Award.

"Staying in shape has helped Arnold avoid major injuries although he didn't start lifting weights until college. Arnold can bench press 360 pounds and squat 475 pounds. But he doesn't let his conditioning get in the way of his love for soap operas and reggae music."

"All My Children" and "General Hospital" are his favorites," Arnold said.

"I like listening to this kind of music to relax after a hard day of practice," said as a UB40 tape played in the background.

The Omega Phi fraternity also offers him a chance to relax.

"When I came to college, one of the things I always wanted to do is join a fraternity and, hopefully, I did it," Arnold said. He was initiated into the fraternity this past summer.

"We will make it in whatever he does," said Tight end Doug Jones, also a member of the fraternity. "He will be the best all-purpose running back around and should have no trouble getting All-American."

But reaching All-American status isn't first on Arnold's list of goals.

"I just want to have a winning season, be happy when I leave, and know I accomplished something," he said.

Although Arnold hopes for a call to the National Football League this spring, he plans to put his psychology degree in good use.

"Whatever I do after I leave, I'll be successful," Arnold said. "I want to play in the NFL, but if I don't, I won't be disappointed."

JUST THE FACTS

Baseball tryouts scheduled for Sept. 6

Baseball coach Joel Murnie will have tryouts Sept. 6 at 3 p.m. in Diddle Arena. The tryouts will be held in Room 119 and anyone interested is asked to attend.

UCB, Food Services cookout tonight

A "Welcome Back BBQ" tonight on the south lawn of the university center will give students a chance to eat, dance and mingle.

The event had been scheduled for last week but was rained out. "National Lampoon's Animal House" will be shown on a large screen after dinner.

The event is sponsored by campus recreation, University Center Board and Food Services and runs from 5 to 8 p.m.

Music will beprovided by WULG 102.5 FM radio station.

Advocates will include volleyball, horses and fireworks.

Barbecued ribs, baked beans, potato salad, chips and a soft drink will be served for $2.99.

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Head sees brighter days ahead

Outlook good after disappointing year

By ANDY DENNIS

Coach Norman Head is optimistic about the 1988-89 version of the men's golf team.

"The outlook is good," Head said. "Last year was a down year for us."

MEN'S GOLF

Team captain Richard Lennox, a junior from Hamilton, Ontario, will lead the team this season.

"Day in and day out, Richard Lennox is probably our top player," Head said. "Our first five are pretty even."

Head said he also expects solid play from Eric Hogge, a freshman, and the team's walking-on player.

Lennox, who had the lowest average last fall at 76.2, will be joined by returning players from the 1988-89 season.

"The top five players compete in tournaments. The four best scores from the five comprise the team's score," Head said.

The Toppers recruited freshmen Ron Poore and Ed Laxton for this season. Poore, from Terre Haute, Ind., was the third ranked junior (17 and under) in Indiana last year.

Laxton, of Richmond, has been ranked in Kentucky's top 10 for the last two years.

Western's first tournament is Sept. 22-23 at the Johnny Bench Invitational in Cincinnati.

4 returning seniors-lead team

By ANDY DENNIS

Coach Kathy Teichert expects experience to be a key factor in the team's success this season.

Last fall, inexperience caused the team to struggle through a disappointing 30-34 record. But every returning player will be a better player this year, Teichert anticipates.

"The seniors should take leadership roles and be consistent through the season," Teichert said.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Keying the team will be four seniors headed by Susanne Noblet of Newburgh, Ind. Noblet led the team in scoring last season.

Also expected to contribute are seniors Len Oldenbeck, from Florence, and Kim Rogers of Elizabethtown and Marci Butler of St. Louis. Teichert said the most improved player may be Jen Thomas, a sophomore from Evansville, Ind., along with bowling Green freshman Leslie Gary who is also fighting for a spot on the roster. The top five players compete in the tournaments.

"Realistically, nine or 10 probably have a shot at making the final five," Teichert said, "but the lineup may change week in and week out.

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Greenwood Square 842-1646 2945 Scottsville Rd.
Hilltopper coach, David Holmes inherited a losing program and turned it into a competitive one in four years. But he wants to accomplish something else in his fifth year—a spot in the final four of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

His team is young, with 10 freshmen and one transfer student joining the squad.

The team is “as green as we'd like the grass to be around here,” Holmes said. “It's going to be a learning experience of you and question marks, and the answers won’t be known until we play some games.”

To reach the final four, the Topper must replace six starters from the team that finished with a record of 13-5-2 last season.

Holmes said the team will miss the leadership and ball-winning ability of fullback Todd Rich and the scoring of senior Laszlo Emley, the leading scoring in NCAA Division I soccer last season.

Holmes must also replace starters—Jimmie Johnson, Bruce Ellis, Moniek Jensen and Eduardo Alcaro.

And this green team must survive a schedule that by far its most challenging in years played.

Youth optimism buoyed voters

By MARK CHANDLER

As Western begins its 1987-88 campaign, team members are full of optimism— and probably the most challenging year played.

SOCCER

Evansville, Southern Illinois at Edwardsville and conference rivals South Florida, South Alabama and the University of Alabama are among the bigger competitors.

Traditional rivals Kentucky Wesleyan, Vanderbilt and Louisville are also on the schedule that has only two Division II schools.

Two seniors Holmes will count on to lead the team are Lanny Hall and Chris Greco, both are midfielders and co-captains. Joining them on the midfield-line are freshmen Paul Newbon and Andy Demling.

He also expects goalkeeper Lpe Walton, fullback Mike lithy and striker Pat Dicks to see a lot of playing time.

The coach and the co-captains have been happy with the progress and the way that preseason practice has gone.

“Preseason practice has been great. It's the best preseason I've been involved in,” Hall said.

“The guys are really enthusiastic, and they are forming quite a cohesive unit,” Walton said.

Hall said this year’s style of play will differ from the way they played last year.

“Last year we played pure defense and relied on one striker to get goals,” Hall said. “This year we will be much more well-rounded. We will build up play and set up to get back and have better ball control. We won't just have to keep the ball out of the net.”

The Toppers open Saturday in Charlottesville against Davidson. Western meets North Carolina Charlotte on Sunday. The home opener will be Sept. 8 against Vanderbilt.

“Just try to tell them the problems I've fixed this past and help them with theirs,” Nelson said. “So far they've (the younger players) done a real good job. I think they're really good.”

Daniel listed Michelleing, Len Nobert and Mark Lemly as his impact freshmen and said Nobert isn't the hardest hitter on the team.

Nobert said she thinks the team is coming together and is getting to the point where she needs to turn her head off and play.

The Toppers face another rough schedule this season including midseason weekends at New Mexico State University and Washington, D.C., to play the University of Maryland.

Western will also host its Topper Tournament Sept. 30-Oct. 1, the Coca-Cola Classic Sept. 8-9 and the Mid-Season Sun Belt Conference Tournament Oct. 8-9.

Ultimately, Daniel said the success of this year's team depends on two factors.

“Whether or not our freshmen can come in and do the job, and whether or not we can win the big points at the net,” Daniel said.

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