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DeLacey, Preston named Western football co-captains

The Courier-Journal, May 8, 1979

Delacey, Preston named Western football co-captains

By BOBBY GREEN, KY.

Bowling Green, Kentucky University's Hilltopper football squad has elected seniors Charles DeLacey and Eddie Preston to co-captain the team through the 1979 campaign. Carl Estelle, also a senior, was named alternate captain.

DeLacey, a 6-foot-1, 210-pound linebacker from Owensboro, was a second-team all-OVAC Conference choice from the Hilltoppers' 1978 OVC championship team.

The 6-foot, 185-pound Preston, one of the most successful pass receivers in Western history, was a member of the all-OVAC first team last fall while leading the league with seven touchdown receptions.

A "bandit back" from Louisville, Estelle, a 6-1, 210-pounder, will serve as the team's alternate captain.

The Hilltoppers open their 1979 campaign Sept. 1 on the road against the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga - one of the only two schools who claimed 1978 victories over Western.

The Western home opener will be Sept. 15, when Lamar (Texas) University visits Bowling Green.

Although Western's women's tennis team will not be representing the state of Kentucky in this year's Region II AIAW championships, Topper freshman Sandy Leslie will be playing in the singles competition and will team with junior Kathy Perry in the doubles.

The tournament will be held in Clemson, S.C., Wednesday through Sunday.

Lamar added to slate

Lamar University has been added to Western's football schedule in the fall, giving the Hilltoppers the fifth home game they were looking for after East Tennessee State dropped out of Lamar's schedule.

East Tennessee State dropped out of the Ohio Valley Conference last year, and did not renew its contract in the Missouri at Johnson City, Tenn. A member of the Southland Conference, Lamar A level out of Belmont, Tenn. However, the Cardinals limped home with a 2-8-1 record last fall and new head coach - former SMU assistant Larry Kineman - this spring.

Western will entertain Lamar on Sept. 15, followed by home games against Northern Michigan on Oct. 6, Tennessee Tech on Oct. 13, and Austin Peay on Oct. 20. Middle Tennessee on Nov. 3 and Northern Iowa on Nov. 10.
Okay, folks, brace yourself.
What you’ve heard about in the following paragraphs is indisputable proof that neither Alabama, nor Southern California, nor Oklahoma is the No.1 college football team in the nation. And don’t you go getting your hopes up, either, Penn State and Clemson.
No way. All it takes is a simple comparison of scores, and your new national champion is... (a little fanfare, please) Western.
That’s right, our own hometown heroes, who were clobbered from a disastrous 0-1 1/2 season in 1977 to a surprising 8-2 mark this fall. Nobody thought those red clad warriors of Jimmy Feix would come close to winning the Ohio Valley Conference the past season, much less wind up winning the national championship.
Which reminds me... I still need to explain just how Western is the No.1 team in the country, don’t I?
First of all, we’ve been presented with not just one but two national championships this week thanks to (a) the Associated Press; (b) the United Press International; and (c) the lack of a major college playoff system that would put both wire service polls right where they belong... on the shelf.
Right away, it’s easy to throw out UP’s choice for the top spot. USC needed a touchdown that wasn’t really a touchdown to beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl, so the Trojans obviously aren’t the best team in the nation.
Admittedly, it’s a little harder to discredit AP’s selection of Alabama. After all, the Tide was ranked No.2 before they beat the old No.1 (Penn State), so where else can you put them?

By CLARK HANES

Daily News Sports Editor

Jimmy Feix has run out of playmates, and it’s his own fault.
About this time a year ago, everybody and his brother were beating a path to Western trying to get on the Hilltoppers football schedule in the next couple of years. Feix and his program, they figured, had reached their peaks a few years earlier and were going down fast.

The facts seemed to bear them out, too. The Hilltoppers had struggled to a 1-10 record in 1977, and were expecting a similar rebuilding situation last fall. However, what rebuilding Feix and his staff needed to do was all but complete by the start of the 1978 campaign. Despite holding one of his youngest teams ever, Feix guided the Hilltoppers to a perfect 6-0 finish in the Ohio Valley Conference and an 8-2 mark overall.

Weather permitting, Western was expected to begin spring practice today with only five starters missing from last year’s first 22 players. In fact, the main thing missing right now is a fifth home game for the Hilltoppers in the fall.

“East Tennessee dropped us,” noted Feix before leaving with his staff Monday afternoon, “and we’ve had all kinds of problems trying to replace them. We’ve tried everybody we can think of from Division 1 through Division III.”

The business at hand, meanwhile, is spring practice. Drills were expected to start Monday, but the rain postponed them without costing Feix a day of practice. Once drills begin, the NCAA allows only 20 practice days in a 36-day span.

According to Feix, one of the keys to last year’s surprisingly successful season was a good spring session. “We’ve got slack in our stomachs this year,” he quipped. “We’re coming off a good year this time, so we probably won’t be as hungry as we were last spring. But that 1-8 season hasn’t been that long ago, and most of our guys remember how things can turn on you if you don’t keep your guard up.”

“Without a doubt, we’re a much better team right now than we were at this point last year,” Feix added. “I’ll be the first to admit that, but it’s how good you are in November that counts.”

Western returns nine starters on offense, having only fullback Flip Stevenson and flanker Darryl Drake on defense. Oddly, the offensive line returns intact, with All-OVC performers John Hall at quarterback and Eddie Preston at split end.

Three starters are missing on defense, including All-conference players Tony Towns at tackle and Reggie Hayden at linebacker. But junior deep back Carl Braden heads a list of eight returning regulars, and a couple of prize transfers from Tennessee figure to fill in for Towns and Hayden.

UT transfers Donnie Evans and Tim Ford will have to play somewhere on defense, according to Feix, while a spot must be found for Vandy transfer Jeff Duncan in the offensive line.

“We’re going to start Evans out at Hayden’s old spot,” said Feix, referring to the former Franklin-Simpson star, “but I’ll put it outside linebacker, but he’s really a stand up defensive end. I don’t know about as much speed as Hayden had, and he’s close to 15 pounds heavier.”

“Ford will be at Towns’ old spot in the defensive line,” Feix continued. “His speed isn’t quite as good as Tony’s was, but he goes about 240-something. We’re sacrificing speed for size, in other words.”

Feix also toyed with the idea of having the late seniors bringing up the defensive line even more than the 260-pound Duncan, but decided against putting all his new found eggs in one basket.

“We had talked to him about playing defense,” said Feix, “but his best shot at the pros is in the offensive line. I don’t think it’s any way they things were going down at Vanderbilt, and he had given up football until we started talking to him.”

Duncan is currently attending Somerset Community College, after starting during his rookie season at Vandy and being named to the All-SEC freshman team.

Oh sure, I’ve heard all that talk (and it’s not just talk, either) about how much the NCAA has tied up in the various bowl games. So let them keep their bowl games already... and at the same time, turn each of the 15 major bowls into a step to determine an undisputed national champion.

There were exactly 15 major bowl games the past season, which by coincidence is just the right number of games needed for a 16-team playoff.

Because it is the oldest and biggest bowl of all, the Rose Bowl would be a natural for the finals. That’s ‘er easy part. Each of the three other New Year’s Day bowls (Orange, Sugar and Cotton) might eventually settle for becoming seminational games, but one of the three would have to get left out.

Make it the Cotton Bowl. Not only is it a few years younger than the Orange and Sugar bowls, but Dallas is also considerably less exotic (not to mention warm) than either Miami or New Orleans.

It might take Henry Kissinger to convince the folks in Texas that, unlike their state, their bowl game is neither the biggest one nor the best. But if he or somebody could talk them into settling for a quarterfinal game (or if the NCAA would just tell them that’s the way it’s going to be), it is easy to see the Gator, Liberty and Fiesta bowls also accepting quarterfinal roles.

That would leave us eight first round games for the eight remaining major college bowls—the San, Peach, Tennessee, Bluebonnet, Hall of Fame, Holiday, Garden State and Independence bowls.

More importantly, it would also eventually leave us with a real national champion.
Toppers look forward to fall

The NCAA announced Monday that the Division I-AA football championship games will be played Dec. 15 at Orlando, Fla., where the contest will be nationally televised by ABC from the Tangerine Bowl. When coach Jimmy Feix of Western hears the news, he doesn't expect much of a reaction. But deep down inside, he's got to be wondering what Disneyworld is like in December.

Over the weekend, Western concluded what Feix called a "good spring practice." What is just what the rest of the Ohio Valley Conference didn't want to hear, considering the fact that Feix has just about everybody back from last year's team that posted a perfect 6-0 mark in OVC play, and an 8-2 record overall.

In fact, Western just missed getting into the I-AA playoffs a year ago. The Toppers' four losses, giving the last of four playoff berths to Florida A&M, which went on to win all the marbles.

This year's playoff format will be similar to last year, with two semifinal games set for Dec. 8 at the home fields of the two highest-seeded teams. That was the case a year ago, although the title game was held at the Pioneer Bowl in Wichita Falls, Texas.

If the town sounds familiar, that's where the recent wave of tornadoes hit the hardest. But according to Eastern athletic director Don Combs, who has replaced outgoing OVC commissioner Bob Vanatta on the Division I-AA football committee, the move to Orlando was being considered several weeks before a killer tornado destroyed much of the northern Texas community.

Ironically, the major reason behind the move was the hotel which had played the Toppers' games there.

Feix was admittedly less than satisfied with the Hilltoppers' offense through the first half of spring drills, but things began to change for the better as practice continued.

"I think as the weather dried out, our passing offense started looking good," he observed. "It's pretty much a fair-weather offense. We started throwing the ball a lot better, and we finally started getting our timing right on our patterns.

"We just weren't finding the open man for a while," he added, "but the offense wound up having a good spring."

Western has nine starters back from last year's offense that averaged 20.4 points a game during 1978, including first-team All-OVC picks John Hall at quarterback and Eddie Preston at split end. Back in the trenches are tackles Jeff Aliap and guard Pete Walters, both second-team all-league selections a year ago.

Western's only starters lost to graduation were fullback Flip Stevenson and flanker Darryl Drake, although two part-time regulars also have left the team. Chet Horne, a guard, is giving up football because of a nagging knee injury, and center Greg Oost is dropping out of school entirely.

At the start of the spring drills, the offensive backfield had Hall at quarterback, Joel Mead at tackle and Troy Snauder at fullback. Snauder was perhaps the most pleasant surprise of the entire spring, after being moved over from the secondary.

"We wanted to find a big, strong fullback," noted Feix, "and moving him there solved that problem immediately."

Majors league baseball's annual All-Star game is now history, which means that the season is more than half gone...which means that football season is just around the corner, and basketball season is right behind.

Not that I'm tired of baseball (after all, my Cardinals aren't even mathematically eliminated yet), but I'm really looking forward to the fall.

It's no secret that Western figures to field one of the nation's strongest Division I-AA football teams this year, with 17 starters back from last year's 8-2 squad that finished unbeaten in Ohio Valley Conference play. Add to that two prize transfers from Tennessee and another from Vanderbilt, and you know why the rest of the OVC is battening down the hatches.

However, there is no truth to the rumor that Western coach Jimmy Feix already has reserved a block of motel rooms near Disneyworld in mid-December.

In case you missed it, the NCAA voted in the spring to move the Division I-AA finals from Wichita Falls, Texas, to Orlando, where this game will be played on Dec. 15 at the 50,000-seat Tangerine Bowl.

While just everybody and his brother knows Western has the best football coach in the nation, the sports editor in Raleigh, N.C., is saying the same thing about the Hilltoppers' baseball team.

More on that later...

You can find a summer clearance sale on every corner in town, but the best buy in Bowling Green may be at The Arena.

That's where the Western ticket office can be found, and that's where you'll find the attending fall season tickets are now on sale. The ticket office is located in the lobby of the arena and open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Dame topped the list of schools which signed three players or less, while Kentucky might have guessed that one or two signed the list of schools with more than three signees.

The survey listed Western transfer Alex Mosley as one of the top 10 junior college players in the country, referring to the big 6-5 inside man who sat out last season here after transferring in from Alpena, Mich.

The accompanying article also had words of praise for incoming freshmen Percy White, a 6-2 forward from DeMatha Catholic in Hyattsville, Md., and Tony Wilson, a 6-6 forward from Lexington Lafayette.

At the press conference, Western "a team to watch in the national ratings."

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"We wanted to find a big, strong fullback," noted Feix, "and moving him there solved that problem immediately."

For a mere $20 (it costs more than that to fill up my gas tank, these days), one can get his hands on a season ticket good for five home games this fall—Lamar University on Sept. 15, Northern Michigan on Oct. 6, Tennessee Tech on Oct. 13, Morehead on Oct. 27 and Murray on Nov. 17.

Single game tickets will not be available until Aug. 15, when reserved seats will be offered at $4 apiece and general admission at $3.50. General admission for children will be $2 at the gate, and $1.50 in advance.

All chair seats are already sold out for the season, and all seats will be reserved (no general admission) for the homecoming game against Morehead on Oct. 27.

Looking a little further ahead to basketball, Caution Tudor of the Raleigh Times says Western fans can expect a banner season in basketball as well.

It goes without saying that Raleigh is deep in the heart of the basketball-crazy Atlantic Coast Conference, so it's no surprise that the Raleigh newspaper conducted an investigation of the Hilltoppers' basketball recruiting. However, it is a little surprising to find Western ranked 10th in the nation among schools which signed three players or less.

continued on next page...
1979-80 WKU
men’s schedule set

Western Kentucky Athletic Director John Oldham has released the 1979-80 Men’s basketball schedule featuring 18 home dates.

The Topper open the hardwood season on Dec. 1 when they take on Rollins [Fla.] College in Diddle Arena, the 13,174 seat home of the Hilltoppers.

This year, Western will host such teams as Florida State (Dec. 26), Butler (Jan. 3), East Tennessee State (Jan. 7) and Dayton (Jan. 21).

Even tougher could be the Hilltoppers road schedule which will see Western travel to Duquesne (Dec. 6), Illinois State (Dec. 3), Louisiana Tech (Jan. 6), South Carolina (Feb. 23), and Louisville for the Annual Holiday Classic (Dec. 14-15) which will feature Western, Louisville, Evansville, and UNC-Charlotte.

In addition to these strong opponents, the Topper will also encounter the always-tough Ohio Valley Conference foes, which will include, for the first time, the University of Akron. However, the zips will not be eligible for the league title until the 1980-81 season.

Western finished the 1978-79 season with an overall record of 17-11 and an OVC mark of 7-5, claiming the runner-up spot in both regular season and tournament play.

Western lost only one starter off last year’s squad (Greg Jackson), and with the addition of 6-6 Virginia high school stars Tony Wilson, Percy White and transfers Bill Hearn and Alex Moneey, the Hilltoppers should again be a top challenger for the OVC crown.

ton (6-2, 188) who totaled 21 solos and 21 assists; sophomore George Floyd (5-11, 185) with 26 solos and 32 assists; and senior Steve Fletcher (5-11, 177) with 25 and 11, respectively. Sophomore defensive back Tommy White (5-9, 177) intercepted two passes for 61 yards, and added 11 solos and six assists. Junior Charlie Brunson (6-2, 194) picked off two passes for 104 yards and a touchdown, and totaled 43 solo tackles and 24 assists.

The Colonels’ kicking game is in excellent condition with the return of junior placekicker and second team All-OVC player David Flores (5-9, 170), who had 32 of 33 in extra points last season and nine of 14 on field goal attempts. He set an Eastern record for most points by a kicker with 59.

“Time will tell about our freshmen,” said Kidd. “We signed several defensive kids and a couple of quarterbacks. But we failed to sign any runningbacks, which we felt badly about. The kids that we did sign, though, we’re very happy about.”

The Colonels’ schedule, besides OVC opponents, includes Division I foe Kent State, Division I-AA powerhouse Jackson State, Troy State, and California State-Fullerton.

“I guess this schedule will show us just how good we really are,” said Kidd.

Kidd has proven how good he really is as a coach. He ranks fifth among NCAA Division I-AA’s winningest active coaches. He owns a 100-48-6 (699) record entering his 16th season.

WESTERN KENTUCKY

“I feel much better about entering the 1979 season than I did about entering the 1978 season,” said head coach Jimmy Feix. “I remember that we had just come off a one-win season (1977) and I was doing a lot of praying and hoping.”

That was understandable, considering that Western had finished that miserable 77 campaign with five freshmen and three sophomores among its 11 offensive starters. The 1-8-1 record (1-5-1 in the OVC) was the worst in Feix’s then 10-year coaching record with the Hilltoppers.

Western won one game last year,” Feix lamented then, “and that team is no longer in the league (East Tennessee). So, I don’t know who we’re gonna beat this year.”

The answer to that, as it turned out, was nearly everybody. Western rumbled to the OVC championship with a 6-0 league record and an 8-2 overall slate. It’s last-minute 17-16 victory over favored Eastern Kentucky on a field goal was one of the most thrilling college football games ever played in the OVC or, for that matter, on ABC regional TV, which televised the contest. The Hilltoppers were even under consideration for a bowl bid before being nudged out by powerful Jackson State.

It therefore stands to reason that even though a poll of the OVC coaches showed Eastern Kentucky as the pre-season favorite, you’d have a tough time convincing the folks in Bowling Green of that. The Hilltoppers, you see, are loaded.

“It’s about as scary to have all these players back as it would be not to have them back,” said Feix. “We have very definite strengths on this club, but one injury and it could go down the drain.”

With the talent that the Hilltoppers have to offer this season, though, it will take more than one injury to deflate Western’s title—and bowl—hopes.

Western lost just seven seniors off last year’s club, while returning nine starters on offense and eight on defense (36 lettermen overall).

Heading the offense again this season will be All-OVC quarterback John Hall, a 6-1, 186-pound junior who missed by just one vote being named the OVC’s offensive player of the year. Hall led the OVC in passing while ranking seventh in the nation in that department, hitting on 106 of 209 passes (.507) for 4,439 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also ranked fifth in the country in total offense, averaging 145.1 yards per game. Hall’s backups will be sophomore Marty Jaggers (6-1, 190) of Elizabethtown and freshman Ralph Antone (6-2, 195).

“They’re all very, very fine quarterbacks,” noted Feix with more than a hint of satisfaction in his voice. “We’ve had some trouble in recent years with depth and experience at quarterback, but that problem seemed to remedy itself last season. Jaggers and Antone are not just so much window dressing.
They're both very capable, and they'll keep Hall on his toes.

Troy Snaeder, a 6-6, 205-pound sophomore from Allensville, has switched from the defensive secondary to fullback, giving Feix the strong, powerful player he had been seeking to fill the slot. "Snaeder had a heckuva spring practice at fullback," said Feix, "which isn't surprising since he was an All-State running back in high school. Since he's only a sophomore, we feel he could develop into an excellent fullback." Elmer Caldwell, a 6-0, 192-pound sophomore from Hickman, who had a heckuva spring practice at fullback as well, will also see action at fullback.

Other key runnbacks in the Hilltopper stable include junior tailback Nate Jones (5-10, 178) of Madisonville; sophomore tailback Barry Skaggs (5-10, 188) of Owensboro; and junior tailback Craig Freeman (5-8, 165). "They're three very fine tailbacks," said Feix.

Sophomore Jerry Flippin (5-10, 169) of Franklin is expected to fill the flanker position vacated by Darryl Drake, who graduated. He'll have competition from junior Tony Rose (6-0, 180) of Louisville, who was redshirted last season.

The favorite passing target of John Hall this season should once again be All-OVC wide receiver Eddie Preston. The senior speedster (6-0, 180) led Western in pass receiving last year with 37 catches for 664 yards and seven touchdowns.

Talent abounds at split end where, besides Preston, the Hilltoppers can use redshirt Jo-Jo Lee (5-9, 170), or bring in flankers Flippin or Rose. At tight end junior Ricky Gwinn (6-3, 225) and senior Kirby Bennett (6-0, 215) will battle for a starting spot with Gwinn, a two-year starter, getting the pre-season nod.

"We're paper-chas on our offensive line," remarked Feix. Maybe in depth, but the starting lineup appears solid as rock.

Second team All-OVC picks Jeff Alsup (6-2, 225 senior) and Pete Walters (6-2, 225 junior) return at the guards, while Phil Rich (a 6-4, 360-pound junior) and freshman Jeff Duncan (6-7, 360) appear to have the tackle slots nailed down. That is, if Duncan reports. The former All-State from Somerset, who was first-team All-Southeastern Conference Freshman Team selection while at Vanderbilt, was reportedly reluctant to return to college life even though he had already signed to play for the Hilltoppers. If Duncan is a no-show, then the tackle slot could be filled by sophomore Kevin Kast (6-2, 225) or junior Tim Benett (6-3, 220).

Sophomore Greg Cullas (6-2, 225) looks to be the leading candidate at center, but he'll get stiff competition from freshman Norman Neufer (6-1, 215) of Louisville.

Our defense is an experienced and talented bunch," said Feix. "It especially like the word experienced."

The Topper defense, with eight returning starters, features first-team All-OVC pick Carl Brazley at corner back. A 5-11, 172-pound senior from Louisville, Brazley grabbed five interceptions last season to lead the league. His supporting cast in the secondary includes senior Craig Smith (5-10, 185) of Bardstown and sophomore Barry Bumm (6-0, 175) of Owensboro.

Second-team All-OVC choice Charles Delacey, a 6-1, 212-pound senior from Owensboro, heads the experienced linebacking crew. He'll be joined by past All-OVC selection Carl Estelle, a 6-0, 216-pound senior from Louisville, and sophomore Mark Kunkol (6-0, 214). Sophomore Dave Cross (6-1, 207) and sophomore transfer Donnie Evans (6-4, 230) of Franklin give Western some depth at linebacker. Sophomore Tony Wells of Louisville (5-10, 185) will be back at noseguard, while former back-up noseguard, senior Alfred Rogan (6-1, 225), will battle for a defensive end spot with sophomore Preston Holt (6-3, 240) and redshirt freshman Larry Taylor (6-3, 225) of Williamsburg.

At the other end, vacated by All-OVC performer Tony Towns, who has graduated, will be University of Tennessee transfers Tim Ford, a 6-4, 245-pound sophomore from Louisville, or, possibly, linebacker Donnie Evans.

Sophomore Lamont Meacham (6-0, 172) is the leading contender to fill the deep back position vacated by Fred Kissmiller.

Western's kicking game should be stronger this season thanks to the efforts of junior Ray Farmer (5-11, 180) of Louisville. Farmer averaged over 39 yards per kick last fall and booted nine for more than 50 yards. The placekicking chores, which were inconsistent last season, will again be handled by junior Marvin Davis (6-0, 175) of Madisonville.

"I feel a lot better about this club now," said Feix. "It'll be a real fight for the OVC title this year with Eastern loaded again and Murray having improved the way it has."

Feix, entering his 12th season at Western's helm, currently ranks third on the NCAA list of winningest active coaches. Feix has compiled a 79-32-5 slate (.703).

MURRAY STATE

"We have only two seniors on our roster," laughed Murray head coach Mike Gottfried, "and so I'd guess you'd have to say our pre-season picture is a little fuzzy. We'll be better than last year, but then all the other teams have everyone back, too."

"We're just so doggone young." Shed no tears for Murray. The fact is, several teams could be shedding lots of tears because of Murray before this season's over. This club isn't merely a darkhorse in the OVC race, it's a heart-breaker. Any club that takes Murray lightly is asking for a huge post-game headache.

"We sat down after last season and looked at the players we had returning," said Gottfried. "We saw that even though they had gained one year..."
Major league baseball's annual All-Star game is now history, which means that the season is more than half over, which means that football season is just around the corner, and basketball season is right behind.

Not that I'm tired of baseball, (after all, my Cardinal aren't even mathematically eliminated yet), but I'm really looking forward to the fall.

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While just about everybody and his brother knew Western was supposed to be loaded in football this year, a sportswriter in Raleigh, N.C., is saying the same thing about the Hilltopper basketball team.

More on that later.

You can find a summer clearance sale on every corner in town, but the best buy in Bowling Green may be at Deltite Arena.

That's where the Western ticket office can be found, and that's where you'll exchange your football season ticket for that just-received basketball ticket.

--and that's bad news for the other six teams hoping to dethrone the reigning Ohio Valley Conference champions. It's good news, of course, for the principals involved.

Just ask quarterback John Hall or receiver Eddre Preston, both Midstate high school products and major weapons in the Hilltopper offense.

"That's all John and I talked about this summer," Preston, a senior split end and ex-Dowling High standout, said yesterday, "We worked together on a construction job here in Bowling Green. When we were at work -- and we didn't do much of it -- we talked about football a lot, and this past game. I expect us to throw a lot."

The Hilltopper back cars.

"If we're supposed to pass a lot this season it's all right with me," said Hall, "I'd like to see us pass a lot." Preston concurred. "I do like to throw the ball."

So the stage is set for "behind the backs" at Western and Preston is ready for the fireworks.

"Yeah, we'll throw," said the coach at the Hilltoppers' annual preseason picture day gathering. "That's our strength. We've got some quality players at the skill positions, and we intend to use them.

The Hilltoppers averaged over 20 passes per game last season against the likes of Kentucky, Louisiana-Lafayette, 5-0 in the OVC. Hall and Preston, both named to the all-conference list, are major reasons why.

Another former NIL player is expected to figure heavily in the Western passing attack. He's tight end Ricky Gwinn, also from Hillwood, who was the third leading receiver on the squad last year catching 19 passes for 190 yards.

"Overall, Frix feels confident about his club's chances recurring as conference champs."

"I get vibes that are good about this team," he said, "I hope now that they've got something in their bellies (the OVC title) they don't lose their hunger. But I think they're still very aggressive, and that's the key in it sustained.

"Remember, two years ago we only won 1-6, and I didn't think we'd forgotten what that felt like.

Frix has a good crop of transfer players to help this season. One of them is former Bellarmine running back Kelly Key, who sat out last year after transferring from Baylor.

Two former Tennessee Vols, seniors Donnie Evans and Tim Ford, are also back this year. Both are listed as starters. Evans, at linebacker and Ford at defensive end. The absence of Jeff Dungan, a former Valier

Billiman who hesitatedly decided not to return to Western after all, hurt even more when it was learned veteran offensive tackle Tim Bederer will have surgery for a shoulder injury.

continued on next page...
Top lose a tackle?

Western doesn't even begin fall football practice until later this week, but the Hilltoppers already may have a 260-pound hole in their offensive line.

Western coach Jimmy Feix was expecting to go with big Jeff Dungan (6-7, 260) of Somerset at strong tackle this fall, but the transfer from Vanderbilt may not be coming to school all year. According to Feix, it looks doubtful at best.

"I don't think he's coming," sighed Feix today. "At least, that's the way it looks right now."

Dungan started as a freshman two years ago at Vandy, and was named to the All-Southeastern Conference freshman team. But he left school last fall, and attended Somerset Community College the past spring.

The big former Somerset standout also signed a football grant-in-aid with Western in the spring, but was ineligible to participate in the Hilltoppers' spring drills.

That might have been where we lost him, if we have," noted Feix. "His case was a lot like Donnie Evans at Tennessee. He thought he had gotten his fill of football, but he was able to work out with us in the spring and found out that he could still have fun playing the game."

A former prep standout at Franklin Simpson, Evans was lured to Tennessee by coach Johnny Majors. But both Evans and Tim Fort of Louisville transferred to Western last year, and both are expected to play key roles in the Hilltoppers' offense this year.

However, Dungan is another story.

"He just doesn't sound good at all, " said Feix. "He just isn't interested in going to college. He's got a pretty good job there in Somerset, but I don't know if he's going to get motivated enough to go."

"I was never there to talk him Friday," Feix added, "but he's got to make up his own mind. If he doesn't think it's worth it, then he's not going to help us anyway."

The Courier-Journal sports column

Jimmy Feix and Gene Keedy, coaches of Western Kentucky University's major sports, are eating high on the Hill these days.

Keedy coached the South basketball team to the championship with a perfect record at the National Sports Festival at Colorado Springs.

When Feix's football team practices, he will greet three young guards who are expected to help keep Western in the thick of the Ohio Valley Conference race. All are Kentuckians who were highly sought by the University of Kentucky's Fran Cucci two years ago.

Two of them went to Tennessee and the other to Vanderbilt.

Now one of them, Somersett's Jeff Dungan, a 6-7, 260-pound offensive tackle, is listed No. 1 on the depth chart even though he has never worn a Western uniform.

Feix plans to play the two transfers from Tennessee at different positions from the ones they have been playing.

Donnie Evans of Franklin-Simpson is quick that Feix plans to use the 6-4, 220-pounder at linebacker. He has moved to 255 pounds.

The OVC looks like a two-team race between those old rivals, Western and Eastern, with Tennessee Tech in third place.

The schedule favors Eastern, Tech has to play Western in Bowling Green and Eastern in Richmond. The biggie comes up Oct. 20 when Western visits Eastern.

For the record, Murray was fourth in the OVC voting. Austin Peay fifth, Middle Tennessee sixth and Morehead last.

Akron, the OVC's eighth member, won't participate in the conference race until 1980.

Rupert to the rescue:
The girl's portion of next week's Kentucky State Closed Tennis Tournament at Asbury has been turned into a qualifying showcase for free trips to California for next spring for Seventeen magazine's national tournament.

Prior to this year, the Gunther, a clay-courts tournament, was the Seventeen qualifier, but numbers of the Kentucky Tennis Association decided this year to let players from outside the Lexington and Louisville areas, which have nearly all of the clay courts in the state. Instead of playing in their age categories in the State Closed, several girls are playing up, shooting for the Seventeen trip, and at least one player was gone to the lengths to avoid Gay Kutter, the state's outstanding player.

All of which has brought a promise from Asbach's Bites Report, who is in charge of the State Closed, that "I'm going to push for a separate tournament to serve the Seventeen qualifier next year. All will take it in a time window, maybe over Labor Day."

There were whispers last week that seven of the Seventeen's standout Kentucky sisters, but only Feix of the top three in the five-week period will be allowed to compete in the six-week period.

The schedule for the Western Conference was opened up to the state. The buggie comes up Oct. 20 when Western visits Eastern.

Feix counts heavily on three transfers

Continued from Page 2
can't get anyone to say that. Carolanne, Suzanne and Claire are Fort Mitchell residents. Because their county, Kenton, and Campbell and Boone are in the Western section and the rest of Kentucky is in the Southern, they can't qualify in a closed tournament in either Kentucky or Ohio.

FINAL WARMUP: Owensboro's Sherri Rose, winning her second tournament of the week and third in a row, beat Paducah's Cheri Simpson 6-1, 6-3 in the women's final at the State Closed.

Other girls' winners: 12s -- Missie Blair (defeated Sarah Rowan 6-3, 6-1); 14s -- Delia Denton (defeated Stephanie Coyle 6-1, 6-1); 18s -- Starr Jones (defeated Delia Denton 6-4, 6-0).

SHERIDAN'S Bobby Montgomery, the winner of the girls' 16s, took home the state's best tennis player.

Laughter (Danny Burch 7-6, 6-4, 6-4); 16s -- Billy Jeff Burton (defeated Underwood 6-4, 6-6, 6-3).

Sepple the Coach: Larry Seple has retired from professional soccer and is back in coaching. Back in coaching?

Yes, he helped Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula in 1975 when he was on the injured reserve list. And is now at Harvard.
Feix not elated with No. 1 pick

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Western's football team put on the pads for the first time during Tuesday's morning and afternoon preseason practice sessions. About the same time the Daily News' football magazine was hitting the streets with a lead article picking the Hilltoppers to win the Ohio Valley Conference this fall.

"Coach, what is your reaction to being picked in today's paper to win the OVC?" asked a certain sports writer, long in cheek, during practice Tuesday.

"I had a rumor they were going to do that to me," answered Western coach Jimmy Feix, grinning all the time. "You know, I don't think they've looked at our schedule. We've gotta play Eastern up here this year.

"I'm sure Feix was exactly elated to learn somebody had picked him to win the OVC instead of Roy Kidd at Eastern. He was at least thankful his staff had returned to normal.

In a football magazine published by another newspaper over the weekend, his assistant coaches had been listed as Clem Haskins, Ray Hite and Roger Schnegel—assistant under Western head basketball coach Gene Ready.

"Coach Haskins called me Sunday night," Feix quipped. "And wanted to know where his shirt and whistle were.

"For the record, Western's assistant football coaches are Butch Gilbert (offensive line), Sam Clark (offensive backfield), Bob Kallferty (receivers), Stumpy Baker (defensive line), Bill Hope (linebackers) and Larry Walker (defensive backfield).

Sophomore defender Preston Holt (6-3, 245) has rejoined the Hilltoppers after almost becoming an academic casualty, according to Feix.

The big Nashville native, who started much of the 1978 season at defensive end, had to complete a summer school course before regaining his eligibility for the upcoming season. Last year as a freshman, Holt made 22 individual tackles and got in on 26 stops in all.

Holt is expected to battle redshirt freshman Larry Taylor (6-3, 225) for starting berth at one defensive end this fall, joining sophomore Tony Wells (6-1, 190) at noseguard and sophomore transfer Tim Ford (6-4, 245) at the other end in the Hilltoppers' three-man defensive front.

Western football coach Jimmy Feix was expecting to greet over 100 varsity football candidates on campus today, with two notable absences.

Earlier this week, Feix confirmed it was "doubtful" that Vanderbilt transfer Jeff Dunigan would be coming to Western. After all, Dunigan had been named to the All-Southeastern Conference freshman team during his only season at Vandy two years ago and the big (6-1, 260) offensive tackle had been saved a spot in the Hilltoppers blocking corps that fall.

However, Dunigan apparently has decided against returning to college after signing a grant-in-aid with Western in the spring.

Meanwhile, the Daily News learned Tuesday from a reliable Western source that prize linebacker Mark Kunkel—who earned himself a starting berth last year as a freshman—is transferring to Indiana State to play baseball.

A 5-10 pound inside linebacker from Jasper, Ind., Kunkel was not expected to start last fall but got his shot at a regular spot in the lineup when sophomore Dave Cross suffered an early-season injury. By the time Cross was healthy again, the job belonged to Kunkel.

"Mark really did an outstanding job for us last year," noted Feix. "After he took over for Cross, he just couldn't be stopped."

Feix said early today that he still had "little hope" that Kunkel might report for the start of fall drills today but he admitted his chances were slim. In fact, the Western coach termed it "a 6 percent chance".

Holt entered the starting lineup at one defensive end this fall, joining sophomore Tony Wells (6-1, 190) at noseguard and sophomore transfer Tim Ford (6-4, 245) at the other end in the Hilltoppers' three-man defensive front.

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Western signs Räymmer

Warren Central pitching ace Greg Räymmer has signed a baseball grant-in-aid with Western, marking the first recruit of new head coach Joel Murrie.

A 6-1, 170-pound righthander, Räymmer compiled a 21-4 record on the mound during four years at Central under coach Vanoss Lloyd. During the 1978 season, the hard-throwing pitcher helped lead the Dragons to the local district crown and a runner-up spot in the regional tournament.

"Greg has real good velocity and is a fine control pitcher," said Murrie. "Once he gets some experience, he should become a first-line pitcher."

Räymmer recorded a 6-1 win-lost mark with the Bowling Green American Legion team last summer, and was the ace of the staff for the new Southern Kentucky squad this summer. His record was a deceiving 6-8, but his earned run average was an impressive 1.92.
By Mike Johnson
Herald-Aournal Staff Writer

Nobody likes the idea of being the Ohio Valley Conference favorite in August. November is the only time when it really counts, folks point out. Besides, favorites haven't had much luck in this league the last couple of years.

Last year, Tennessee Tech was the preseason pick but the Golden Eagles were virtually destroyed by injuries and stumbled to a 5-6 record. Two seasons ago, Eastern Kentucky was the early favorite but the Colonels also suffered from injuries, finishing 5-6-1.

Kidd Picks Western

As the 1979 season approaches, Eastern coach Roy Kidd says defending champion Western Kentucky is the most obvious favorite. Western coach Jimmy Fex says Eastern is the likely choice.

Western Kentucky is the team to beat. Injuries to starters last year delayed the Hilltoppers' season for the first two games. They started 3-0 before finishing 7-3-1.

OVC Outlook

And everyone else in the league admits both Eastern and Western look pretty good.

"I think it might be Western," says Kidd. "They've got more starters back, they picked up three transfers and won it last year."

Fex doesn't buy that.

"I think the two will be close," Fex says. "Eastern has older, more experienced players. We won last year but we still have to rely on a lot of young players."

If the OVC coaches are correct, Eastern is indeed the team to beat. The Hilltoppers can start with quarterback John Hall, who led the league in total offense with 1,439 yards.

Murray, Austin Peay, Middle Tennessee and Morehead. Eastern returns 17 starters from last year's team, which finished 9-2 overall and 5-1 in the OVC. That includes quarterback Bill Hughes, who directed the Hilltoppers to their second straight division title.

Hall Leads Hilltoppers

"If the Hilltoppers can start with quarterback John Hall, who led the league in total offense with 1,439 yards, and as a result some of the OVC teams are gonna go at it toe-to-toe and the rest of us are gonna be fighting for the gravey and the garlic," Coach Kidd says.

OVC Preseason Poll

1. Eastern Kentucky
2. Western Kentucky
3. Tennessee Tech
4. Murray State
5. Austin Peay
6. Middle Tennessee
7. Morehead State

All-OVC Preseason Team

OFFENSE
L - Joe Richburg
R - James Walker
T - Tom Leopold
G - Carl Rater
C - Ken Wilson
H - Eddie Boyd
W - Steve Huggins
RB - Mike Young
K - Billy Lott
Special Teams - Eric Statham

DEFENSE
L - Jim Richburg
R - James Walker
T - Tom Leopold
G - Carl Rater
C - Ken Wilson
H - Eddie Boyd
W - Steve Huggins
LB - Mike Young
K - Billy Lott
Special Teams - Eric Statham

The Hilltoppers also return nine starters from a defense that was tops in the conference last year, allowing only 9.3 total yards per game.

Things looking up for Western Ky.

By Staff Correspondent

BOILING GREEN - Things are looking up for Western Kentucky University football coach Jimmy Fex as he enters his 12th year at the Hilltopper helm.

With only seven seniors gone from last year's team that posted an 8-2 mark and captured the school's first Ohio Valley Conference crown, the Hilltoppers appear to have the makings of another solid club.

The Hilltoppers return nine starters on offense, with All-OVC selections John Hall and Eddie Preston heading the list. Hall, a junior quarterback who was the league's leading passer a year ago, could also be among the premier signal callers in Division IA this season.

Preston, a popular target of Hall's, returns as the league's leading pass catcher. He ranked sixth in the country with 97 catches and 1,439 yards last season. Preston also returns as the league's leading pass catcher.

The Hilltoppers lost nine starters on defense, with All-OVC selections Jeff Alpay and Dave Excell returning at guard. Phil Kimbrough and end-apparent ESPN Frank and sophomore Jeff Hundon will man the ends.

Western's running attack, which was third in the nation last year, returns only the pilots and a new quarterback. Charles Darcy, who was a quarterback, is expected to move to the left at right end.

Schedule

Game 1 - Eastern Kentucky at Western Kentucky, Sept. 17
Game 2 - Western Kentucky at Austin Peay, Sept. 24
Game 3 - Western Kentucky at Middle Tennessee, Oct. 8
Game 4 - Western Kentucky at Morehead State, Oct. 16
Game 5 - Western Kentucky at Tennessee Tech, Nov. 6
Game 6 - Western Kentucky at Murray State, Nov. 13
Game 7 - Western Kentucky at Tennessee, Nov. 20
Delacey And Preston To Captain '79 Hilltopper Footballers

Western Kentucky University's Hilltopper football squad elected seniors Charles Delacey and Eddie Preston to co-captain the team through the '79 campaign. Carl Estelle, also a senior, was named alternate captain.

"The members of the team showed excellent judgment in their choices," said Western Head Coach James For."All three young men are quality individuals and should provide for us the leadership that is so important in our program." Delacey, a 6-1, 212-pound fullback from Owensboro, was second-team All-OVC Valley Conference choice from the Hilltoppers' 1978 OVC championship outfit. A 1978 graduate of Owensboro High School, he is a public relations major and is the son of Mrs. Marc DeLacey of Owensboro.

The 5-11, 180-pound Preston, one of the most successful pass receivers in Western history, was a member of the All-OVC first team last fall while leading the league in touchdowns receptions (seven). A graduate of Nashville's (Tenn.) Hillwood High School, he is a recreation major and is the son of Mrs. Mary Goodner of Nashville.

A bandit back from Louisville, Ky., Estelle, a 6-1, 210-pounder, will serve as the team's alternate captain. The graduate of Butler High School is a broadcasting major. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Estelle of Louisville.

The Hilltoppers, open their 1979 campaign Sept. 8 on the road at tough UT-Chattanooga. It will be the season opener for Coach For's charges, which will be Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. when Lamar (Texas) University visits Bowling Green. Lamar comes to Western after opening its season at Southwest Conference power Baylor.

Bowling Green, Ky. - With the season less than a week away, the second-year Hilltopper football team is getting ready to turn the page on the past and move on into the future. The team is shaping up to be a strong contender in the Southern Division of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Last year, the Hilltoppers finished third in the Southern Division with a 7-3 overall record and a 5-1 conference record. This year, they are looking to improve upon last year's success.

The team has a solid core of returning players, including quarterback John Smith, running back Mike Johnson, and wide receiver Tim Mitchell. They will be joined by a group of talented freshmen, including tight end Ben Davis and defensive back Tony Jackson.

The Hilltoppers also return a strong defense, led by linebacker Todd Williams and safety John Foster. The defense will be counted on to stop the high-powered offenses of the Southern Division.

The Hilltoppers open their season on Sept. 8 against Missouri State, a team they beat last year. They will face tough competition throughout the season, with games against Western Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky, and Murray State.

The Hilltoppers are looking to improve their record from last year and compete for the conference championship. With a strong nucleus of returning players and a talented group of freshmen, they have the potential to do just that.
Western football coach Jimmy Feix is getting quite a kick out of preseason drills lately, thanks to a younger named Hixky Anderson.

Going into fall practice a couple of weeks ago, the veteran head coach made it clear he was not pleased with a certain aspect of the Hilltoppers’ kicking game. While punter Ray Farmer gained the consistency last fall he had lacked the previous year, Western’s placekicking was a hit on the errate side.

Fortunately for Feix, he wasn’t the only one who knew there was room for improvement in the Hilltoppers’ kicking game.

A few miles down the road at Cookeville, Tenn., placekicker Wayne Anderson of Tennessee Tech also had noticed that after poor chucks in Western’s armor. And while there wasn’t much he could do about it, Anderson figured he knew someone who could.

During the summer, Feix got a call from Anderson’s dad in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., concerning another member of the family who also boasted a strong kicking leg.

"Wayne’s still got two more years at Tech,” explained Feix, “so they sure aren’t going to have any room for another Anderson down there, no matter how good he was. Most of the other schools around the conference had their kickers coming back, too, but I guess he told his dad we needed help.

Anderson was right, of course. The Hilltoppers had made only four of 12 field goals a year ago including a game winning three-pointer against Eastern by a young Louisiana Tech McGraws who later dropped out of school.

Madisonville junior Marvin Davis wound up doing most of the Hilltoppers’ placekicking last fall, and his strength made him more than adequate on kickoff. But putting the ball through those uprights 25 feet apart was a different story, especially at long range.

No when Anderson called this summer from Florida, Feix was interested.

"I told him we’d be more than glad to have Hixky walk on up here this fall," recalled Feix. "I made it clear to him that we didn’t have a scholarship to give him, but I also made it clear that he would get his chance to earn one.

 Apparently, that chance was all young Anderson needed because he went on scholarship Monday morning, after a lengthy kicking session.

"We started both him and Davis from 25 yards out,” said Feix, "and gradually moved them all the way back to the 50. Anderson wound up hitting something like 90 out of 120 including a couple of 59-yarders, while I think Davis was nine for 22."

Anderson has given Feix and staff a sneak preview of his talents in the Hilltoppers’ first major scrimmage over the weekend, hitting on field goals of 27 and 42 yards in his only two tries.

"All we’re asking is that he lives up to the Anderson reputation his brother has established at Tech," grinned Feix.

During his two years at Cookeville, Wayne Anderson has hit on 35 of 56 field goals and 42 of 67 extra-point tries while being named to the All Ohio Valley Conference team both seasons.

Other highlights of the aforementioned scrimmage, according to Feix, were the running of junior tailback Nate Jones, the passing of backup quarterback Randel Antone, and the defensive play of Tim Ford, Chuck Brown, and Dave Cross.

Feix was admittedly disappointed in the play of junior quarterback John Hall, who threw two interceptions during the session, but he noted that the Hilltoppers’ four-man secondary gave similar fits to the opposition last season.

"We don’t want to start changing our pass patterns just because we can beat Western,” he pointed out, looking ahead to the Hilltoppers’ season opener on Sept. 8.

"We’ve got to worry about beating Chattanooga.

Western came out of Friday’s scrimmage in good shape, injury-wise, except for a minor groin pull suffered by Jones. But when they returned to regular drills Saturday morning, running backs Troy Snodgrass and Barry Staggs both went down with bruised shoulders that promised to keep them out of contact for at least a few days.

"They all happen to be running backs so it’s a little inconvenienient in that regard,” said Feix, “but at least we’re not talking about anything serious.”

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Jimmy Feix literally can’t wait to get to Chattanooga.

That may come as a bit of a surprise to those of you who know that Western opens its football season on the road Saturday night against the defending Southern Conference champions, whose 7-5 mark last year included a 42-15 romp past the Hilltoppers at Smith Stadium.

UT-Chattanooga is also picked to win this year’s Southern Conference, coach, so what’s the rush?

Truth is, Western’s football team is hitting Chattanooga a day earlier than originally planned so the Hilltoppers can get in a good workout under the lights at Chamberlain Field. The team was scheduled to leave Bowling Green on Friday all along, but original plans called for an overnight stop in Monticello, Tenn.

According to Feix, Western’s lighted practice field has been re-sodded and will not be available for use for another couple of weeks. Ergo, the change in plans.

"We thought about asking Bowling Green High or Warren Central if we could work out under their lights this week," said the veteran coach, "but this works out better now. We feel like once under the lights will be enough, and we’ll be in the same surroundings we’re preparing for on the road.

"It’s going to be the middle of September before our practice field is ready," he added, "so at least that’s what they tell me. If it’s ready by the 20th, that’ll be soon enough.”

After the home Saturday night 7:30 p.m. EDT in Chattanooga, the Hilltoppers don’t play again under the lights until a Sept. 25 date at Austin Peay. Sand witched in between those two contests is the team’s home opener Sept. 15 against Lamar University.

Following the Western game Saturday night, the Alumni Association will sponsor a reception in the Town Hall Theatre at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hilton in downtown Chattanooga for all students, fans and alumni making the trip this weekend.

Despite the loss of three-year quarterback standout Tony Merendino, UTC is an overwhelming favorite to win its third Southern Conference title in a row this fall.

The Mocs were counted as books to beat earlier this fall in a coaches’ poll, and a writers’ poll released last week supported those opinions. Twenty of the 33 writers and broadcasters polled picked Chattanooga to repeat, and only three picked the Mocs to finish lower that second in the eight team race.

Farmers, which shared last year’s title with the Mocs, received seven first-place votes and finished second in the preseason poll, followed by Appalachian State and West Carolina.

The coaches’ poll also made UTC a top-heavy choice at the top of the standings, but picked Appalachian to give the Mocs their stiffest league challenge. That was hardly the case a year ago, when Chattanooga rolled up a staggering 75-14 score over the team it had shared league honors with the previous year.

East Tennessee, formerly of the Ohio Valley Conference, was picked to finish seventh in the writers’ poll and dead last by the coaches.

Western conducted its final preseason scrimmage over the weekend with the varsity going against the first-string, so the result was predictable.

"It was pretty lopsided," noted Feix, "but I was pleased with the way things went. Our passing game still needs some improvement, but John Hall looked a little better from top to bottom than he had in last week’s scrimmage.".

Feix held two of his top running backs, sophomores Troy Snodgrass and Barry Staggs, out of the scrimmage because of bruised shoulders, but both were expected to be available by game time Saturday night. Meanwhile, junior tailback Nate Jones sailed the show despite playing with a pulled groin muscle.

"He looked like a freshman," boasted Feix.
By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor
HENRY R. TANGHERLINI, Ter-
ner. It was the Fourth of July, roughly a month later, here in the early summer, when the Moccasins na-

The Courrier Journal
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thwestern Sports

ener and UT.

ight up on the scoreboard in the second quarter of the first half.

The defending Southern Conference win-

ners finished the game with 56 yards in total offense, including 11 of the 13 total Western.

In the opening minutes of the second quarter, UTC capped its first 13 to 9 lead with a 5-

yard scoring pass from Berker-

y to John Hall's quick pass.

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Ofener to be a test for defending OVC champs

By CLARK HANES

Toppers hope to turn tables on UTC

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Daily News-Sports Editor

UTC-Chattanooga buried Western 42-15 last fall at Smith Stadium in the season opener for both teams, but Western football coach Jimmy Feix called it a "valuable learning experience" that helped his young team go on to post a surprising 8-2 overall record.

This year, Feix is hoping his team can teach UTC a thing or two.

With preseason optimism at an all-time high, thanks to the return of almost all the key players from last year's Cinderella squad, Western kicks off the 1979 season at 4:30 p.m. (CDT) Saturday at Chamberlin Field in Chattanooga.

Unfortunately for Feix & Company, optimistic chimes are also being heard in the shadows of Lookout Mountain. UTC has captured two straight Southern Conference championships, and the Moccasins are an overwhelming favorite to make it three in a row this time around.

Nevertheless, Feix says the timing is right.

"If we've got to play a team as good as UTC-Chattanooga, I'd rather get it over with early," observed the veteran coach, whose 11-year record at Western stands at 79-25-4 for a lofty .776 percentage. "If we lose it's another learning experience like last year, and if we win it's a great way to start the season."

Feix would prefer the latter of course. With eight starters back from last year's offense that averaged better than 20 points a game and seven regulars back from last year's defense that led the league, it's not out of the question.

Trouble is, UTC has a lot of talent returning from last year's 7-1-1 squad that shared the Southern Conference crown with Furman.

Back in the fold are junior running backs Gwain Durden and Mike Smith, both 185-pound speedsters who rushed for 1,000 yards apiece two years ago as freshmen. Other top names include junior flanker Joe Burke, who averaged 23.3 yards per catch last year to lead the nation, and steady punter Greg Carrier, who figures to wind up in the NFL someday.

"We're very aware of how tough UTC can be," noted Feix. "They not only have the 1A scholarship advantage over us, but they've got some outstanding people. When the polls are looking at them as a Top 20 prospect, you know you're got your work cut out for you."

Among the missing for the Moccasins is quarterback Tony Merendino, a three-year starter who did everything but sing the national anthem in last year's game at Smith Stadium. The versatile signal-caller ran for three touchdowns and passed for two more, before UTC coach Joe Morrison mercifully sent him to the sidelines.

This year's quarterback job has been won by senior Dennis Berkery (6-4, 195), but only after slaying off a promising sophomore named Steve Woods (6-4, 185).

"We're dangerously inexperienced at quarterback, in the offensive line and in the defensive secondary," said Morrison, a former NFL star, with the New York Giants. "We're going to have to mature quickly."

"Our kicking game and defense will be our strong points to begin with," he added. "They will have to carry us in the early going."

Experience at quarterback is no problem for Western, thanks to the return of junior John Hall. After struggling as a freshman while the Hilltoppers were posting a 1-6-1 mark two years ago, Hall hit on 16 of 20 passes last fall for 439 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Joining him in the offensive backfield will be junior tailback Nate Jones, last year's leading rusher with 667 yards and sophomore halfback Troy Seaborn, who has looked like a "real deal at the position after over from the injury last spring."

UTC split end Eddie Preston will again lead the receiving corps after grabbing 27 passes for 666 yards last year as a junior, with big Eddy Quinn (5-11, 225) returning at tight end and sophomore Jerry Floyd moving in at flanker.

The only new face in the offensive line belongs to freshman guard Steve Catlett (6-1, 230), a redshirt last year. All-UTC second-teamers Phil Schir (6-2, 240) and Jeff Alsup (6-2, 225) will start at the tackles, junior Pete Walters (6-2, 255) will go at the other guard as sophomore Greg Gallas (6-2, 255) is back at center after missing most of last season with a knee injury.

The defense figures to be led by two prize transfers from Tennessee, Tim Ford (6-4, 245) at end and Donnie Evans (6-4, 235) at linebacker. The only other new face will be sophomore cornerback Lamont Meachen who'll take up the slack on Earl Stanley and sophomore Barry Rummen free safety and senior Craig Smith at strong safety.

"We're anxious and optimistic at this time," says Feix. "But we realize that Chattanooga is probably a good team anyone we'll face this year. That's a sobering thought when you run out there for that first kick-off."

On the other hand, UTC might be saying the same thing about Western this year.

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Chattanooga chugs past Western 41-28

Chattanooga, Tenn. — Western Kentucky overcame a 19-point deficit in the first half of its season-opening football game last night. By halftime, the Hilltoppers led Tennessee-Chattanooga 21-19.

But Western's lead didn't last, and Chattanooga chugged past Western 41-28.

Western scored three touchdowns in the second quarter to wipe out Chattanooga's 19-point lead, but Western's edge didn't last through the third quarter.

Senior quarterback Dennis Berkery passed 14 yards in leapfrogging tight end Ed Stanford in the end zone with 4:40 left in the third quarter to cut Chattanooga ahead again. Chattanooga went ahead 27-21 when Berkery passed Joe Burke for a two-point conversion.

Samford also caught another touchdown pass from Berkery.

Gwain Durden ran 62 yards for a score to give the Moccasins a 34-21 lead before the two teams traded touchdowns.

Western coach Jimmy Feix had promised that his team would pass, and he made good on his promise. Quarterback John Hill, an all-OV C Conference selection last year, completed 14 of 21 passes for two touchdowns.

He also threw interceptions, though.

One of those touchdown passes came in Western's second-quarter rally.

Western tailback Barry Skaug scored twice in the second quarter, on runs of one and two yards, and Hall passed 19 yards to Eddie Preston for a third score.

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(Craig Freeman led Western with 94 rushing on 13 carries, and Nate Jones added 87 yards on 14 carries.)
Toppers to work on defense

Going into Saturday night’s season opener at UT-Chattanooga, Western football coach Jimmy Feix had to feel his team would win if it put 28 points on the scoreboard.

The Hilltoppers did just that over the weekend, getting 21 of these points in the last five and a half minutes of the second quarter, but still wound up losing by two touchdowns to the defending Southern Conference champions. After the 41-26 decision before a near-capacity crowd at Chamberlain Field, Feix indicated his concern for the Western defense.

When you give up 41 points,” he noted, “you gotta be making some mistakes somewhere.”

At times, the Hilltopper defense looked not only slow but slow to react. UTC, on the other hand, showed off enough team speed on offense to qualify for next year’s Kentucky Derby.

Junior speedster Goini Durden, who rushed for over 1,000 yards as a freshman and 900 yards last year as a sophomore, averaged almost 10 yards a carry with 132 yards on 14 tries. The powerful Mocs finished with 430 yards in total offense, including 318 on the ground, while Western featured a more balanced attack and finished with 306 total yards.

Not only were 58 points put on the board, in other words, but the two teams combined for a staggering 1,400 yards in total offense.

One of the few bright spots on defense was surprise starter Brad Todd, a junior outside linebacker from Sonora.

Tennessee transfer Donnie Evans and senior Carl Estelle were expected to go on the outside, with senior Chuck DeLacey and sophomore Dave Cross on the inside. But Cross stayed on the sidelines with a preseason injury, moving Estelle to the inside where he had played two years ago.

Todd made the most of his opportunity, sacking the enemy five times for a total of 42 yards in losses.

A former quarterback at East Hardin, Todd finished with six solo tackles and nine hits in all. DeLacey was the Hilltoppers’ leading tackler with 11 individual stops and two assists, while sophomores Barry Rumih and Tony Wells finished with seven tackles apiece.

Looking on the positive side of things, UTC is without a doubt the best football team Western will play this fall.

The Mocs finished 1-14 two years ago and 7-5 last season, but were disappointed both years because they had to share Southern Conference honors both times around - first with Appalachian in 1977, and then with Furman last fall.

“We’re going to win it all this year,” said senior quarterback Dennis Berkery in the waning minutes of Saturday night’s game. “We’re good.”

“I was pleased with the way I played tonight,” he added. “I’ve been waiting a long time to get this first start. Too long, in fact. I didn’t realize we’d have this much trouble with them (Western), but it’s still a win so I’ve got to be satisfied.”

In the pressure prior to the game, rumors were circulating that the Mocs were expecting to win by something like 30 points.

Providing more proof that UT scholarships are worth 61, a darkhorse in the Southern Conference whipped a darkhorse in the Ohio Valley Conference over the weekend.

While the two league’s defending champions fought it out in the shadows of Lookout Mountain, Western Carolina rolled past visiting Tennessee Tech 28-7 in a contest at Cullowhee, N.C.

Meanwhile, Lamar University was supposed to be getting kicked all over the field Saturday night against Southwest Conference power Baylor.

After all, the SLC team returned 18 of its top 22 players from last year’s team that ripped Texas 36-14 in a conference game last season, but Baylor got a much stiffer fight than expected, and wound up winning only 20-7 despite being a prohibitive favorite.

That could be bad news for both Baylor and Western, which opens at home Saturday (2 p.m.) against that same Lamar squad.

Clark Hanes
Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

Former Webster County Football Players

Now Starting In WKU Offensive Line

Former Webster County star Pete Walters, starting at guard for his third consecutive season for the Western Kentucky University football team, has signed a pretty familiar company in the Hilltopper offensive line this year.

Joining Walters at Western is freshman tackle Steve Catlett, a 1978 graduate of Webster County, who was red-shirted last season.

When spring practice ended earlier this year, the 6-1, 220 pound Catlett had come away the top back-up at both the strong guard and strong tackle positions. But, when transfer Jeff Dungan, expected to open at strong tackle, failed to report for practice, quick tackle Phil Rich moved into that slot. To fill the void left by Rich, Catlett was then moved to the quick tackle position.

At 6-2, 255 pounds, Walters is one of the biggest Hilltoppers in uniform. A three sport (football, track and wrestling) all-stater at Webster County, Walters was selected a second team member of the Ohio Valley Conference all-star squad during his sophomore year.

Steve Catlett

Pete Walters
By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

With five touchdown passes and a minus 42 yards rushing, Western linebacker Brad Todd was one of the few defensive bright spots in the Hilltoppers’ season-opening 41-28 loss to UT-Chattanooga over the weekend.

But according to the soft-spoken junior from Sonora, it comes with the territory.

"It wasn’t so much me being in the right place at the right time,” said the former East Hardin standout. "The ball was just where it was set up, the gap in my position should be making a list of tackles. And when we’re меньше, there’ll be some big among them.""

Unfortunately for the Hilltoppers, UTC’s explosive offense provided most of the big plays Saturday night in Chatta-

tanooga.

The powerful Mocsins in quest of their third Southern Conference title in a row, rolled up 486 yards in total offense — including 107 yards on 4 carries by quarterback John Gary Darden. Western held its own only the middle, but the Hilltoppers’ lateral pursuit was a stop or a behind the yard line most of the night.

As a result, Western coach Jimmy Feix has made several defensive changes this week in preparation for Saturday's home opener against Lamar University.

After one only game at outside linebacker: big Donnie Evans (6, 230) has been switched to defensive end and the Hilltoppers’ other LT transfer, Tim Freet (6, 240), will remain at the end, but diminutive and effective Tony Wells (5-10, 190) at noseguard. Former All-OVC player Carl Estelle will move back to his original position opposite Todd this week, after replacing the injured Dave Cross on the inside against UTC. Cross will miss the entire season after knee surgery, paying the way for walks on Tom Tunezy to start with starting back Chuck Delacey at the inside linebacker berth.

"We’re looking for more overall speed on defense," said Feix before practice Tuesday. "We’re not really making all those changes just to get Brad in the lineup, although he’s got what we’re looking for."

"Brad played very well at Chattanooga," he added, "and I’m not just talking about those sacks he had. He played a good overall game, according to our game films, and he made very few mistakes.""

Not only did the former high school quarterback rack up five tackles behind the line of scrimmage, but one of his hits led to the fumble that figured in the Hilltoppers’ furious second-quarter comeback.

After spotting UTC a 19-0 lead early in the game, Western rallied to take a 21-19 lead at intermission with three touchdowns in the last five and a half minutes of the half. One of those scores came after Todd jarred the ball loose from quarterback Dennis Berkery, with teammate Wells recovering the fumble deep in Moc-

topan territory.

"They had me coming on that play," Todd recalled, "so I was there waiting for him."

"I still thought we might get them after we caught up at halftime," he continued. "But our pursuit just couldn’t keep up with them, like I thought we would. We were missing a lot of tackles, and that’s probably two of the best backs we’ll face all year.""

"Todd was a year-round athlete at East Hardin, where he lettered all four years in football and baseball as well as three in basketball.

During his high school career, he became a superb two-way offensive tackle and a100-yard returner on punts.

As a high school team, he had a superb inside linebacker quarterback for the rebels. He also played in the defensive secondary, though, and Western wound up recruiting him as a defensive end.

"That’s where I started out, but they moved me to that tight end when some of the guys there got hurt," Todd noted. "But I was glad when they moved me back defense."

Ironically, it is the second game in a row that the fullback cross has helped Feix find a player. Cross was scheduled to start at inside linebacker last night before suffering a severe ankle sprain, and replacement Mark Kunkel turned out to be one of the best defenders in the Western camp.

Kunkel was ticketed for starting duty against this fall, but instead transferred to Indiana State to play baseball.

That detection, plus the move by Evans to the defensive line, leaves the Hilltoppers a little on the thin side in a linebacking corps that was supposed to be one of the strongest in the SEC this fall.

Depth will have to be found from journeymen Brian Gray and Wayne Hall, along with freshmen Mike Phipps and Tim Fox.

But as long as Feix keeps finding diamonds in the rough like Todd, don’t expect him to complain.

The key to being a successful tight end is learning all aspects of the position, and that includes of course, blocking," said Gwinn. "Just like everybody else, I have to have the ball thrown my way, but when you’ve got a guy like Eddie Preston on your side, it makes sense to get him the ball at all possible.""

Gwinn came to Western after a celebrated high school career at Nashville’s Hillwood High, where he was a two-time All-Nashville performer at fullback and an All State selection as a senior in 1975.

In Gwinn’s two seasons as a Hilltopper, he has known both the bitter and sweet. During his freshman season, Wesley struggled through a horrendous 1-8-1 cam-

paign, but bounced back a year ago to finish 6-4 and win the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

As far as this year’s conference race is concerned, Gwinn feels it “should be a real dogfight,” and more balance than most folks have made it out to be.

"I’ll be tough, real tough. I don’t think one team in this league can be considered a powerhouse this year," he said. "I’d consider us definite underdogs to Eastern (Kentucky) since we’re playing there this time. I’ve been to Richmond once, and I’d love to have it the greatest place in our conference.""

Gwinn and everyone else will get an idea of what that GWC race is going to be like this weekend when Western, and all the league schools except Eastern Kentucky, plunge into the first weekend of conference action. The WKG is live and anchor Duane Adams, Derick Van Dyke and the Gang. The GWC game of the week is Western vs. Kentucky, on the road. The game will be at 7 p.m. (CST) contest. 

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Gwinn bounces right back

Western tight end Ricky Gwinn has been knocked around quite a bit already this fall, but the sturdy 6-5, 220-pounder from Nashville keeps bouncing back to take his place in the Hilltopper offensive line.

For the second time in as many games, Gwinn was the target of a hard blow to the head that sidelined him in Saturday’s disappointing 50-27 loss to powerful Lamar of the Southland Conference.

The previous week, in the opener at UT-Chattanooga, he was knocked out in fourth quarter action and suffered a mild con-

cussion.

"I must have taken a pretty good lick, because I can’t recall one thing about that Saturday," Gwinn said. The film shows that it was blocking on a ‘tanker delay’ and somebody just came up and cold clocked me."

But the big Tennessean who has steadily developed into one of the ‘Topper’s most consistent offensive weapons refused to stay out of the lineup, and was ready to go when Lamar came to flowing Green last Saturday.

Before bowing out late in the game with that second head injury, Gwinn managed to lead the Hilltopper receiving corps with five catches for 49 yards and two touchdowns—one on an 11 yard loss by John Hall and another on a 50-yarder.

It was Ricky’s outstanding scoring performance of the Western career that has been catching passes on a regular basis for Coach Jimmy Feix since his
Haynes & Co. will be going up against a revamped Western defense, thanks to several changes Fick made last week, a 40-yard crasher by UTC. Former Franklin Simpson standout Donnie Evans will join fellow sophomores DeWayne Walston and Tim Ford in the three-man front wall, facing a linebacking spot. Sophomore Charlie DeLuca will be joined by sophomore Tom Tusaney at inside linebacker, while senior Carl Lego and senior Todd Will fire in from the outside.

All-SEC center Carl Bradley missed last week's game with a bad ankle and is still doubtful this weekend, leaving sophomores Lamont Meacham and Davion Mullen at the centers backed by Barry Bumgar free at safety and Craig Smith strong at strong safety.

It was obvious from our Chattanooga game that we needed a team speed on defense,' noted Fick. "I'm really anxious to see how it all works out Saturday."

No changes are planned on offense, although two of the Hilltoppers' top three tailbacks shifting starting with senior John Jones has a blurred hand and may be spell- tioned by junior Craig Freeman, while running a similar game plan as he was out for two to three weeks with a sprained elbow.

By CLARK HANES

When Western kicks off the home portion of its 1979 football season Saturday against visiting Lamar University, two old friends will be standing at each other from opposite sides of the field. On one side will be Western assistant coach Larry Walker, in his second year with the Hilltoppers' defensive unit. On the other will be one Larry Kennan, the first-year head coach of the Cardinals at SMU.

As a result, Walker has a pretty good idea of what to expect from his former colleague following the 2 p.m. kickoff.

"They'll come out throwing," said Walker in no uncertain terms. "Kennan was the offensive coordinator while I was at SMU, and he has a great passing game. Without a doubt, they'll be putting the ball in the air this weekend." Walker has always said there's 12 courses of air in the Faddel Walker, 'so that's what it's made for'.

Of course, Western wasn't exactly a three-yards-and-a-cloud of dust last season, so the same old separations, opening losses to V.T.-Chattanooga Junior linebacker John Hall put the ball in the air at 31 times during the wide-open contest, suffering three interceptions but completing 16 other attempts for 253 yards and two touchdowns.

However, what's left of Hurricane Frederic might make both pass happy teams stick more to the ground than they would otherwise.

"I really don't know what kind of weather to expect," Western coach Jimmie Feix said Thursday. "I think we heard a different forecast on every TV station last night. But if the weather is bad, it'll make it tough on both." Weather or not, Feix is expecting a tough enough time from the invaders from Beaumont, Tex. The Hilltoppers knew when the game was scheduled only a few months ago that Lamar was like UTC: a Division I-A school with only a smattering of scholarships as Western, but the Cardinals were coming off a dismal 2-9 season and promising a Southeastern Conference game in the last four years.

In other words, last Saturday's season opener against rugged Baylor or the Southwest Conference was supposed to be a joke. But there was nothing funny about the Cards. It was Saturday night, according to Feix, 'I was really impressed with that score,' he admitted.

"I've got to hand it to Baylor's defense. They've got a lot of good junior college talent that's really pumped up their program." Leading the Card defense is senior nose tackle Larry Haynes, a second-team All-Southern Conference pick a year ago. While Lamar was winning only twice in 11 outings last fall, Haynes had a remarkable 93 of 154 tackles (63 percent) for a sack, an interception, four blocked kicks, and six quarterback pressures.

"They're a good football team," said Feix. "But we've got to go in and just get the job done. We've got to play hard, play smart, and we can have a good chance of coming out on top."
Oddly enough, the scoring play didn't seem to bother the Lamar coaching staff. After winning only twice in 11 games the previous year, they were already celebrating.

"I just don't know what to tell you," lamented Fex. "When you give up 56 points, the first place you look is your defense. I'll have to see the films to be sure, but I thought our offensive mistakes were responsible for giving up a lot of those points."

"I've been from top to bottom in this game," he added, looking back to 1978-1979 season only two years before, "and I'm not sure where I stand right now."

Fex may find out where he stands next Saturday night in Clarksville, Tenn., where the Hilltoppers begin defense of their OVC title against undefeated Austin Peay.

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Disgusted

HEAD COACH Jimmy Feix of Western slams his fist to the turf to show his displeasure with an official's call during the Hilltoppers' 56-27 loss to Western Kentucky University on Saturday at Smith Stadium.

"We really had a good day at the office down here Saturday," Western coach Jimmy Feix said yesterday. "We really didn't know how it happened. We looked at the film, and we played better than the score indicated, as a coach I want to say it.

Western last to Lamar 56-27 Saturday, and no coach would want to say that his team played as poorly as that would indicate. But Feix won't say that he has given up on his defense, which has already yielded 41 points.

"I don't think it's personnel," he said. "I think it's a matter of cultivating."
Explosions just backfire for Western

Continued from Page 1

age in an ankle. Feix began a swap meet with his defense. He moved another first-team player to Brazeley’s position and filled in elsewhere.

“My lineup on defense has changed pretty radically,” Feix said. “It’s sort of a ripple effect, especially at our level. With our number of scholarships, we don’t have three sets of linebackers. When one goes out, you have to move somebody in there who’s not quite as good.

“It’s like playing dominos.”

Western’s level is Division I-AA, in which 60 scholarships are allowed. Chattanooga and Lamar are a cut above that in Division I, in which 95 scholarships are allowed.

“This is the direction the university wants to go with its football program,” Feix said. “I think people understand we’re building a small major-college program down here.”

Defense was one area that did not appear to need much building. Eight starters returned from a unit that allowed fewer than 16 points and 256 yards a game last year. When Western won the OVC championship.

But those are deceptive figures, according to Feix. “We’re awfully young defensively,” he said. “When Brazeley comes back, we’ll have four seniors and seven sophomores starting.”

Brazeley may come back for Western’s conference opener Saturday at Austin Peay. Austin Peay (2-4) did not play last weekend. “I think half of Austin Peay was out in our stands Saturday,” Feix said.

“They were probably laughing at how easy it’s going to be.”

Western set or tied a series of dubious records against Lamar. It 19 kickoff returns set school and OVC records for most in a game and tied the Division I-AA record. Its 181 yards on kickoff returns set a school record. The game’s 11 first downs on kickoff returns set a Division I-AA record. The game’s 181 yards on kickoff returns set a school record for back-to-back games.

“We’re all tied the school record for first downs. The other time Western had 26 first downs, it won 45-0.”

Western Kentucky football coach Jimmy Feix believes practice is the cure for the ailments of his explosive young squad. which has been "killed" by turnovers in losing its first two games this season.

“Just backfire for Western

Former Hillwood Star
Rick Gwinn Gets Off
To Best Start at TKU

RICKY GWINN
From Conversion To 50s

Championship In 1978.

It was unbelievable. We went down 7-0 with 10 minutes left in the game, and somebody scored straight points to win the game. It was a 27-20 win over Lamar University of the Southland Conference.

The second time in as many games, Gwinn was the target of a hard blow to the head that sidelined him in Saturday’s disappointing 58-27 loss to Lamar University of the Southland Conference.

The previous week, in the opener at UT-Chattanooga, he was knocked out in fourth quarter action and suffered a mild concussion.

“I must have taken a pretty good lick, because I can’t recall one thing about that Saturday,” Gwinn said. “The film shows that I was blocking on a ‘fixer’ delay and somebody just came up and cold-cocked me.”

But the big Tennesseean who steadily developed into one of the Hilltoppers’ most consistent offensive weapons, refused to stay out of the lineup and was ready to go when Lamar came here last Saturday.

Before bowing out late in the game with that second head injury, Gwinn managed to lead the Hilltoppers returning from the game with five catches for 49 yards and two touchdowns — one on an 11-yard toss by John Hall and another covering six yards from Marty Jaggers.

It was Gwinn’s outstanding scoring performance of his Western career. He has been a starter since his freshman year when he took over for veteran Kirby Bennett, who suffered a serious knee injury. As a rookie, Gwinn caught 17 passes. Last year he grabbed 19.

In the Toppers’ first two contests this fall, he has grabbed eight aerials for 80 yards and two scores. He has no touchdowns so far this season. Gwinn’s scoring total for the past two seasons. His 1975 figures rank second among Western receivers to date. Only All-American candidate Eddie Breston, a senior split end, and with it catches for 166 yards and two TDs, rank ahead of Gwinn.

Both went to Hillwood High, Breston graduating in 1975 and Gwinn in 1976.

“The key to being a successful tight end is learning all aspects of the position, and that includes, of course, blocking,” said Gwinn.

“Just like everybody else, I like to have the ball thrown my way. But when you’ve got a guy like Eddie on your side, it makes sense to get him the ball if at all possible.

Of all the highlights during his prep career, one game in particular stands out in Gwinn’s mind. It was a comeback victory over Goodletsville for the NIL.Class A

Nashville Banner
9-19-79

Gwinn gets off to best start at TKU.
By MIKE MORROW
Tennessee Sports Writer

CLARKSVILLE — Western Kentucky, long-feared and respected as a bunch of trigger-happy assailants rode into town here last night and shot holes into Austin Peay's thriving football season.

The Nashville Green gang stormed into Municipal Stadium, fired off fierce resistance from the field, took a 24-20 victory and made tracks for the hills of Kentucky with nothing but dust in their path.

The victims at Austin Peay begin repairs here this morning.

The bandits needed all the loot they could get. It was the Hilltopper's first victory of the season and ran their record overall to 1-2, 1-0 in the Ohio Valley Conference. Austin Peay is now 1-2 overall, and 0-2 in the OVC.

It was in the old Western style, a classic shootout.

Both clubs kept the crowd of 6,000 fans on their toes, up in their seats, and biting their nails from the opening kickoff. The outcome was not determined until only seven seconds left in the game when Peay's frantic scoring attempt came up short.

Leading the pack was Western's rifletoting quarterback John Hall, a White House, Tenn. native who runs for one touchdown and connected with Nashville Eddie Preston for a two-yard touchdown later to pace the Hilltoppers' scoring.

But defensively it was sharp shooters like Chuck DeLacey, Charles Dillard and Donnie Evans, a former Tennessee player, who kept down Austin Peay offensive players in crucial situations to take the see-saw victory.

Perhaps the most damaging blow of the night was a dazzling 93-yard kickoff return by Western's Nate Jones only moments after Austin's first.

Peay scored a go-ahead touchdown in the third quarter.

The stage was set for another dose of gun fire in the fourth quarter but defense—particularly Western's — rose to the occasion.

Austin Peay, under 25-year-old head coach Watson Brown got two Steve Brewer-to-Steve Puthoff touchdown passes for its side of the scoreboard.

Brewer connected with his favorite target on a 72-yard score in the second quarter. He found his man again in the second quarter on an eight-yard pass which accounted for the Governors' 12-7 halftime advantage.

But Hall came out smoking with Preston, a former Hillwood star, for the 93-yard bomb in the third period. Three minutes later Peay tuner Cosmo Cochran dived over from the one to regain the lead. Then Jone's took the ensuing kickoff down the left sideline to dampen Peay's momentum.

Western got a 24-yard field goal from freshman kicker Dennis Anderson in the third quarter.

Statistically, Puthoff caught seven passes for 228 yards. Quarterback Preston had four catches for 128 yards. Brewer finished with 18 of 36 passes for a whopping 308 yards. Hall, meanwhile, efficiently connected on eight of 14 for 159.

Austin Peay travels next week to Eastern Kentucky, the OVC title favorite. Western Kentucky has an open date.

Continued on next page

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WKU's Snardon a hard worker on football or in tobacco fields

It was Friday afternoon, and the Western Kentucky football team was getting ready for their final practice session before the Labor Day weekend.

The past week had been a succession of long, grueling practices in preparation for the season-opener at UT-Chattanooga on Saturday and the home opener Sept. 15 with Lamar, 2:00 p.m. CDT. The fatigue showed.

Most of the players set around their lockers talking about their plans for a little rest and relaxation during the last few weekend before kickoff.

Meanwhile, Tom Snardon, Western's well-built 6-1, 225-pound fullback was talking about his weekend, which would include anything but rest.

Snardon, a sophomore from Allensville, Ky., had recruited some of his classmates to his hometown for a day and a half in the fields cutting tobacco on his family's farm.

"Try is a fine, responsible young man," said Hilltopper Head Coach Jimmy Feix. "He's a product of a good rural Kentucky farming family and as folks in this part of the world know, the tobacco crop is a prime concern this time of the year. He's been excited about getting the tobacco in and he's relieved to see it in the barn."

Snardon discovered that experience and Snardon got his crop in the barn. It was an interesting break from the routine of the practice field, but, as might go, it was nothing new for Snardon, who has worked on the Allensville farm "all my life."

"I started helping out on the farm at a very early age, and I don't think I'll ever lose interest," said Snardon. "The hours are long—sometimes I'll work 10 to 16 hours a day. But, once I'm finished and I've done a good job, it gives me a sense of accomplishment."

It has been a way of life for Snardon, whether he be on the football field or in the family tobacco farm in Western Kentucky.

"I learned early that to gain anything in life it takes a lot of hard work," he said. "So I put my best effort in everything I do."

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WKU's Snardon a hard worker on football or in tobacco fields
'Tops' DeLacey cited after big game at AP

By The Associated Press

A pair of outstanding performances in weekend Ohio Valley Conference football action has netted player-of-the-week honors for the Kentucky players responsible.

Western Kentucky inbacker Chuck Delacey, who leads the OVC in tackles, was named defensive player of the week while Murray State's Danny Lee Johnson received the honor on offense.

Delacey, a 6-foot 1 senior, led a Western Kentucky defense Saturday that was credited with saving the game against Austin Peay in a 24-20 shutout.

Delacey was credited with 24 tackles against the Governors, 11 of which were assisted. In addition, he caused one fumble and generally harassed the opposing defense throughout the game. He has 64 tackles in three games including the conference.

Honorable mention went to another inbacker, Morehead State's Rodney Jefferson who racked up 13 tackles, two for losses and two which broke up Middle Tennessee passing attempts in his team's 38-7 win.

Also singled out for his defensive play was Murray State's Rich Langner, who had nine tackles, a quarterback sack, a pass deflection and a pass interception in a 21-20 win over Tennessee Tech.

Johnson, the 1979 Ohio Valley Conference player of the year, had his best rushing game so far this season in his team's 3-0 win over Tennessee Tech. The 6-foot 1 running back carried the ball 28 times for 137 yards.

For the year, Johnson has carried the ball 91 times for 403 yards, an average of 100.3 yards per contest. His total ranks second in the OVC and sixth in NCAA Division I-A.

In being chosen the conference offensive player of the week, Johnson, a junior, shared several others who had excellent games last weekend.

One of them was Austin Peay's Steve Puthoff, who had seven catches for 118 yards and two touchdowns in a losing effort against Western Kentucky.

Others drawing honorable mention included Western's Eddie Preston, with four receptions for 119 yards and a touchdown against Austin Peay, and Morehead State's Bernard Mcintosh, who had 116 yards in 14 carries and a 70-yard scoring run against Middle Tennessee.

Defensive linemen Jeff Alsup at Western Kentucky, Murray State's Vernon Broadnax and Tom Wheeler, and Morehead State's John Moen, Davie Locke and Rich Zurrenich also drew mention by the OVC Commissioner's office for their play last Saturday.

**DAILY NEWS** Tuesday, September 25, 1979

**Opposers take steps to replace pair**

While Western football coach Jimmy Feix was introducing his staff to the Hilltoppers Hundred Club during Monday's luncheon Monday at the Bowling University Center, someone across the room whispered "Chuck Murray under his breath."

It wasn't supposed to be known at that time because the move had yet to go through proper channels, but Feix was in the process of finding a replacement for retiring assistant coach Stumpy Baker. And while there has still been no official word from the university, the word is out former assistant coach Lee Murray is returning to the staff as a temporary replacement for Baker.

Feix confirmed as much early today.

"Lee has been named the Interior defensive line coach during Stumpy's absence," said Feix. "We have been trying to get along without him, but it's just not the same.

"After looking at the game films," he added, "we felt something had to be done.

"A member of a former head coach at Russellville before joining the Hilltoppers' staff is recuperating after suffering an apparent mild stroke during the team's trip to Chattanooga two weeks ago."

The Hilltoppers' defensive line coach was hospitalized a couple of days later, and doctors recommended that he stay off the sidelines for the remainder of the season.

Murray served as an assistant coach under Feix for nine years, before resigning after the Hilltoppers posted a dismal 2-7 record in 1977. Murray had served as the defensive line coach, as well as overall defensive coordinator.

"Last year was Lee's first year out of it," noted Feix. "He hasn't really been gone that long.

"It's awfully nice to have somebody like that who can step right in," he continued. "We've got a fair football team, but we've got our problems on defense. We've lost some good ball players as well as a good coach, but having a guy like Coach Murray around should ease that.

"Murray is expected to be temporarily relieved of his duties as assistant director of the university center.

Not only are the Hilltoppers losing a coach and gaining another, but also losing a tailback."

During his brief talk before the booster-club members Monday, Feix announced that junior tailback Nate Jones of Madisonville was to be declared later in the day for possible knee damage from Saturday night's game at Austin Peay.

Today, Feix confirmed that his leading rusher has been lost for the rest of the season.

"He was supposed to have surgery today at noon," said Feix. "If it had happened one game earlier, we could've gotten a handicap ruling and given him an extra year of eligibility. But that was our third game of the season, so it looks like he'll lose a year.

"It's the type of injury where he might be able to come back late in the season," he added, referring to Jones' torn cartilage, "but we're not going to get our hopes up."

After siphoning up 126 yards in 21 carries during Western's 58-27 loss to Lamar University here on October 6, Jones was hurt early in the 24-20 win over Austin Peay this past weekend. He carried the ball only eight times for a net seven yards, sitting out most of the contest.

But apparently after the damage had been done, the fleet 180-pounder—his knee heavily tape—returned to the game just long enough to take a kickoff back all the way for a 95-yard touchdown on what proved to be the winning score late in the third quarter.

Jones' speed will be sorely missed, but Western will have regained the services of another young tailback by the time they take the field at home against Northern Michigan on Oct. 6 (this Saturday is an open date).

Hard-nosed sophomore Barry Skaggs (5-10, 190) is expected be at or near full speed by next week after sitting out the last two games with an injured elbow.

Skaggs, last year's leading scorer who has shown a nose for the end zone, was hurt during the Hilltoppers' season-opening 41-28 loss at UT-Chattanooga two weeks ago. The injury was never actually diagnosed as a fracture, but it was treated for a week because the sprain was so severe.

Last year as a freshman, the former Henderson County standout rushed for only 111 yards but nine touchdowns.

The featured speaker at Monday's luncheon was new Ohio Valley Conference commissioner Jim Delaney, a long-time friend of Western assistant basketball coach and former North Carolina grad Ray Hogue.

Most of the commissioner's talk centered on expansion—expanding the league's coverage in the Southern Conference, and reaching out to the TV networks and expanding the league itself.

"There's a big cable outlet out of Bristol, Conn. that has indicated some interest in airing this year's Western-Eastern football game," said Delaney, "provided both teams are still playing well going into the game.

"The same group is also planning to telecast at least one of the Western-Eastern basketball games this season," he added. "I still am not talking about a lot of money, but it's great exposure. We'll be going into about five million homes.

On expansion itself, Delaney noted that both games will have Eastern Division opponents actively seeking "admission" into the OVC.
Murray's defense produces victory, Western uses third-quarter rally

Special to The Courier-Journal

This time last football season the Murray State team was on its way to a 1-5 record and a pitiful finish in the Ohio Valley Conference. Overall, it finished with a 6-7 record.

Right now, Murray is on its way to a home date Saturday with Morehead with the OVC lead — however brief it may be — after a 24-21 upset over Tennessee Tech. Murray has already equaled its 1978 conference victory record. It is humming along with a 2-1-1 overall record.

The difference between last year's team and the current one at Murray is not just hot to spool.

After four games last year, Murray had given up an average of 359 yards a game. This year's team is allowing only 207 yards a game.

Tech ran face-first into this difference Saturday. It got only 284 yards against Murray. In the second half, its offense showed a net loss of six yards and no first downs.

Tech mustered a field goal with 8:34 left in the opening quarter. After that, it didn't move the ball past its 36-yard line.

The Murray defense intercepted Tech twice. Two of those — near the end of the first half — led to touchdown.

Mind you, this was the same Tennessee Tech team that just a week earlier had run up 525 yards against Carson-

Meares. All this time, the Murray offense was not exactly site. It churned out 349 yards. Typically, junior running back Danny Lee Johnson, the OVC offensive player of the year last season, played a considerable role in producing Murray's total. He picked up 137 yards on 28 carries.

Murray and Morehead, which defeat-

ed Middle Tennessee 26-7 last Saturday, are both 1-0 in the OVC. Western Kentucky

tucky also is 1-0, but will not be playing this weekend. That means the Murray-

head-Murray winner will have exclusive possession of the top spot after Saturday — assuming, of course, they will not tip each other.

WESTERN RIDES RALLY — West-

ern looked for a while Saturday as if it might be the only Kentucky OVC school to fall to a Tennessee conference team.

But Western beat Austin Peay 24-20.

To do that it had to overcome a 12-7 halftime disadvantage. It did it by out-

scoring its OVC foe 17-4 in the third quarter. That left Western 1-2 overall.

Nate Jones scored the eventual win-

ning touchdown on a 59-yard kickoff re-

turn with 37 seconds remaining in the third period. The extra-point kick made it 24-20.

Austin Peay, 2-1 overall and 0-1 in the OVC, raced back and picked up a first down at the Western 40-yard line with about a minute left in the game.

However, Austin Peay quarterback Steve Brewer, trying to pass, slipped and lost 18 yards on first down. He threw an incomplete pass on second down, and completed a 10-yarder on third down to get Austin Peay back to the line of scrimmage. Then he threw another incomplete pass on fourth down. It was halted down on the goal line with 10 seconds to go.

Without, Brewer had a strong performance, completing 18 of 35 passes for 306 yards and two second-quarter touchdowns. — both to Steve Pullhof, one for 79 yards and another for eight yards. In all, Pullhof had sev-

er receptions for 218 yards.

Western's Eddie Pryor had four catches for 123 yards, including one for 83 yards and a touchdown.

Western junior tackle Phil Rich was so slim and unimposing during his four-

year, full-sport career at Henderson County, his basketball coach nicknamed him "The Mountain.

Last Saturday night, during the Hilltoppers' exciting come-from-behind 24-20 victory over Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Play, "The Moun-

tain," thought at high speed, far downstream to throw a key block leading to the winning score.

On this third-quarter play, songwriter Nate Jones took a Governor kickoff at the Western five-yard line and faced down the sideline toward paydirt. However, an alert Austin Peay defender seemed to have the angle on the junior from Madisonville. Then out of nowhere came the "Mountain."

The 6-4, 285-pounder moved close, Jones slowed slightly, and suddenly Phil Rich was moving away like a Governor tackle.

Jones then gleaned on into the field zone to register the winning score.

"You have to give Phil a lot of credit on that play," said Hilltopper head coach Jimmy Fink. "He came a long way and, when Nate slacked off a little bit to give him a shot at that man, he rolled right over him."

Rich believes that added weight the past four season has added his strength and endurance without hurting his quickness.

"Actually, I didn't even realize it when I was putting on the weight," said Rich. "But I think it can only serve as an advantage. I feel quite a bit stronger, and I'm as quick as I was last season."

After serving two years at the quick tackle slot, Rich was moved to strong tackle early in the fall to fill the void left by 6-1, 298-pound Jeff Dungan, who signed in January to play at Western, but decided against enrolling in college just before fall practice began.

Despite the switch, Rich feels there has been no change in his effectiveness or style of play.

"I really don't think I've had to make any major adjustments. Because my position is suited for either strong or quick tackle," said Rich. "If anything, it might be a little easier for me now because I'm lined up next to the tight end, which helps me. At quick tackle, I didn't have that advantage."

Western assistant coach Dutch Gilbert, who is also in charge of the Hilltopper offensive line, feels that Rich's great all around athletic ability has enabled him to make the transition easier than most others would.

"Phil is just a fine all around athlete with that likeable combination of strength and quickness," said Gilbert. "He is one of the hardest working guys I've ever coached, and if he continues to improve as much as he has in the first two weeks here he'll be a good one."

As far as Western's chances in the Ohio Valley Conference race are con-

cerned this year, Rich feels that there is no reason, barring injuries to key players, that the Hilltoppers couldn't repeat as a conference powerhouse.

"I think we've got a good chance of winning the OVC again, but there's a certain amount of luck you have to have to win in a competitive league that we play in," said Rich.

"To be honest, I think we would have had a pretty good chance last year if we hadn't gotten in the playoffs," he continued. "But like I said, it's a matter of a few breaks at the right time, and in that instance it didn't go our way."

Leaty Goulds might be a bit premature in some people's mind, but climbing to the top is nothing new in the surging filled career of Phil Rich.

Ironically, the biggest success story of Rich's high school days came not on the football field but on the basketball court, where he helped lead Madison County to their "Cumberland" state championships.

Regarded as one of the biggest upsets in Kentucky sports history, people still marvel in wonderment at how the Wildcats from the hills of southeastern Ken-

saw pulled off the near-

impossible Rich, who was the team's starting center and a member of the All-

Dixie Tournament squad, still has trouble putting that accomplishment into clear focus.

"It was just an un-

believable, unbelievable event in my life that I'll truly never forget, ever," said Rich. "I didn't really think of it as im-

possible at the time, because we just took one game at a time, and kept winning.

"But it's been nearly four years since we won it and, the reality of it has set in," he continued. "One I go home and look at the net and trophies I put at Freedom Hall and think to myself, 'How in the world did we do it?'

Rich credits basketball — coach Herman Davenport as being the first to instill self-discipline in him, and says that the leadership at
**By CLARK HANES**

Daily News Sports Editor

Western Michigan for only the third time in gridiron history this weekend, and Jimmy Fex is trying to play down the fact that the Hilltoppers are still looking for their first win against the invaders from the north.

The brief series began four years ago in Sacramento, Calif., of all places, where Northern Michigan came behind to score a 14-14 win over the Hilltoppers in the 1975 national championship game in Division II.

Western's loss to the Wildcats two years later in Marquette, Mich., didn't cost anybody a national title, but the 20-0 decision was the most localized loss suffered by the Hilltoppers since Fex took the helm some 11 years ago.

Still, Fex says revenge will not be a factor in Saturday's 1 p.m. non-conference game at Smith Stadium.

"I don't think there's going to be any revenge involved," he said Thursday. "We haven't really played them enough for it to be a big rivalry or anything like that. Besides, if we started talking it up about how Western is similar in that regard"

"Coach Davenport was a hundred percent over all the way, who preached that you should never quit," said Rich. "He was hardened and wouldn't stand for anything less than all-out hustle, and it paid off with many comebacks behind wins during our state championship season in '76.

"We believe this team can win over other schools, but I've followed Western for a long time and never really wanted to go anywhere else," said Rich.

"Likewise, folks at Western are very happy that "The Mountain" has made "The Hill" his home."

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1979**

**SPORTS**

Page 1-B

"The break has been beneficial to us," said Fex. "Sometimes you can lose your momentum when things are really going right for you, but the open date gave us a little more time to savor that first win. We needed it.

"We're not going to do anything drastic like changing our entire defensive alignment," he added, "but we might start sending a few more people after the quarterback. We went two weeks without a defensive line coach, you know, and that really hurt us.

"As a result, Western will go into Saturday's game with a new defensive coach as well as a new ballhawk. The new coach in the defensive line is former assistant coach Lee Murray, replacing the ailing Stumpy Baker. A former head coach at Russellville, Baker suffered an apparent mild stroke a month ago and will be taking it easy for at least another month.

Meanwhile, Fex is expected to open with sophomore Barry Skaggs at tailback. Skaggs has been held out of action since the UTC game on Sept. 8 because of a severely sprained elbow, and will be replacing junior Vince Freeman who went down for the season with a knee injury in the win at Austin Peay.

Skaggs is actually expected to share time at tailback with junior Craig Freeman, although neither offers the versatility of Jones.

"He was really starting to come into his own," noted Fex. "He was making some fine plays right before he got hurt (including a 10-yard kickoff return against Peay for the game-winning touchdown), and we're really going to miss his big play potential.

The only other anticipated change in the Hilltoppers' starting lineup is sophomore Charles Dilllard, who earned himself a job at cornerback in the Austin Peay game.
Davis is in there kicking for Western

Bowling Green, Ky. — When Western Kentucky University loses the coin toss prior to the start of each football game, chances are good the Marvin Davis will be the first Hilltopper to touch the football. As soon as he arrived at Bowling Green, Davis, a 6-0, 175 pounds junior from Madisonville, earned the position as the WKU kickoff man. In 1997 Davis was also used at the Hilltopper placekicking specialist where he hit on 3 of 3 extra point attempts and was Western's third leading scorer. Consistent accuracy from longer distances has proven a problem for Davis, and freshman Ricky Anderson has taken over the field goal and PAT duties this season. Western Kentucky has won one of its three contests so far in 1997. The lone victory came against Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Peay; they ranked No. 8 in the nation in Division I-AA. WKU returns to action on Oct. 6, playing host to Northern Michigan in Smith Stadium.

Davis, a health and safety major, spent his prep career at Madisonville-North Hopkins High School where he lettered three times. An accomplished running back, he finished with a flourish, scoring four second-half touchdowns against Duquesne County.

Western could lose Jones for remainder of season

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Indications are that Nate Jones, whose 95-yard kickoff return for a third-quarter touchdown led Western Kentucky to a 24-20 victory over Austin Peay last Saturday, may be sidelined for several weeks — and possibly for the remainder of the football season — with a leg injury.

Ironically, the injury suffered by Jones, a junior from Madisonville, came before his spectacular return.

Western coach Jimmy Feix was awaiting word from team doctors as to the extent of cartilage damage to Jones' leg.

"We'll miss Nate," said Feix. "He was really beginning to live up to his potential this fall."

With 33 runbacks totaling 639 yards, Jones ranks second only to Jim Sprinkle (1965-68) among Western's all-time leading kickoff-return specialists. Sprinkle had 49 returns for 771 yards.

Craig Freeman is slated to take over at tailback for Jones, with Barry Skaggs, who has been hurt, expected back to help out in Western's next game Oct. 6 against Northern Michigan here.
DePlayer, DeLawyer

Western star DeLacey mixes academics with 'mixing it up'

By PHIL COFFIN

By Ellison Green, Ky. — He was hitting the road, not the weights. Chuck DeLacey was off preparing for a profession, not the pros.

Not that the pro's lack interest in him, but DeLacey is more interested in a profession, notDeLacey. He is a linebacker by trade. He wants to be a lawyer by trade.

His training — athletic and academic — has earned DeLacey high marks.

Last fall as a junior he was a second-team all-Ohio Valley Conference selection. Last fall as a junior he was a second-team all-Ohio Valley Conference selection. Last fall as a junior he was a second-team all-Ohio Valley Conference selection. Last fall as a junior he was a second-team all-Ohio Valley Conference selection.

"Our battle," Western Kentucky football coach Jimmy Fox said yesterday, "was to get him to come here to school to play football. He wanted to go somewhere in the Ivy League."

DeLacey never went to Dartmouth as he once considered, but he has covered plenty of ground elsewhere. He spent last summer in West Germany, England and Scotland. For two weeks he was a guest of the West German government.

For five weeks he studied British institutions first hand. For two weeks he was a backpacker in the highlands of Scotland.

"I just like traveling," DeLacey said, "I want to go back when I can spend some more time."

DeLacey will be busy for a while. First there is the matter of a football season. "We hope to have a shot at the OVC title," he said.

It is just as interesting in winning an administrative interview as winning the conference title. Before the season ends, he also wants to take the LSAT, the entrance examination for law school.

That may be a bigger test than Tennessee Tech, the team Western will play on Saturday afternoon. DeLacey, however, is not making judgments. Athletics and academics may be different, but DeLacey doesn't think that athletes and academicians need to be.

"Good football players have all different personalities," he said. "Some of the toughest linemen in the field, the most fast guys, are really passive off the field."

The main thing is you've been brought up playing football. Most of the guys here have been playing since they were nine or 10. You learn to hit hard. I don't think being mean comes into it.

"I like to hit people hard, but I don't think I'm mean. Some people have to learn that to get up to play. They have to hate out there to get up for the game."

If you can just get yourself up without believing something you don't have to, you're better off.

Other teams would be better off not playing against DeLacey. He leads the OVC in tackles with 46 in four games. At a school with a tradition of good lin­ e­ men, he is one of the best ever.

I was just going over this form for an NCAA postgraduate scholarship, and they ask, 'How good is the player?'

Fox said. "Well, he's in the top of those we've had. In the last few years, he's in the top 10 percent."

DeLacey is as concerned with his personality in the classroom. The difference is balancing grades from the coaches against grades from the professors. "(Playing football) definitely takes away from studies," DeLacey said. "I just don't know how much. You can do as well grade-wise if you're playing football or not, but you have to be more disciplined."

"I don't have time to do everything, and I realize it. I come home from practice and I go to the library and we have an 11 o'clock curfew."

"But if I don't want to do it, I wouldn't. If it wasn't important to you, I don't see how you would do it with all the time you spend. If you don't feel it's helping you, I don't see how you could do it."

DeLacey has been helping Western since he was a freshman just out of Oswego High. He played sparingly then and became a starter as a sophomore. He was second in tackles last year on a team that led the OVC in defense. Not everyone sees how DeLacey does it.

"He's not that big, 6 feet 1, 212 pounds and he doesn't have exceptionally good speed," Fox said. "He is, however, an awfully accurate tackler. And he's just so smart."

DeLacey is certainly smart enough to have sensed that his future should keep him in the office, not on the field. "I want to go on and get my law degree," he said, "and then have my options." Fox figures he cannot miss. "He can tackle anything he wants to."
As youngsters growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Ricky and Wayne Anderson saw Western in action nearly every Sunday afternoon on the Nixons' television set. Ricky, the younger of the two, developed idolizing a quarterback or another equally glamorous player, they became intrigued with Kansas City placemaker Jan Stenerud. Wayne, the older of the two, copied the sideward-motion motion and taught it to his brother.

With his new-found talent, Wayne set a Northwest (Fort Lauderdale) High record by kicking a 46-yard field goal, and earned a scholarship to Tennessee Tech. Anderson went on to make the All-Oklahoma Valley Conference team in each of his first two seasons, setting several conference and NCAA records for the latter.

When Wayne graduated from Fort Lauderdale High school, Ricky took over the kicking duties. With the skills Wayne had taught him, the younger Anderson tied his brother's 46-yard field goal record while preparing a league all-state conference performer.

On his brother's advice, Ricky enrolled at Western this fall and won a scholarship during pre-season drills. As a result, the Andersons will play in the same football game for the first time ever this Saturday when the Hilltoppers entertain Tech in a 1 p.m. OVC contest at Smith Stadium.

"I want to shine Wayne that I'm capable of doing the job he has," says the younger Anderson. "I want to prove to him that I can perform just as well as a freshman as he did."

Ricky apparently likes to set his goals high. His older brother hit on 45 of 45 extra points and five of seven field goal attempts during his freshman season, setting a league record for most conversions in a season and also breaking the single-game mark with nine in a 60-20 rout of East Tennessee.

A year later, Wayne hit on 24 of 24 extra points and made 10 field goals including three from 45 yards. There is a lot of pressure playing college football during your freshman year," noted Western coach Jimmy Feix, "and I think Ricky has put a great deal more pressure on himself by trying to do as much as his brother. But he has handled it well."

"He is a very relaxed, very enthusiastic young man," added Feix. "He has the perfect temperament to be in the responsible position that he is in."

In Western's 24-20 win at Austin Peay two weeks ago, the family (4-2, 100 Anderson kicked a field goal and three extra points to earn OVC rookie of the week honors. The past weekend, his third-quarter field goal gave Western a 20-13 lead over Northern Michigan and forced the visitors into a position of needing two touchdowns and two two-point conversions to win the game.

Western wound up winning 24-20, evening its record at 2-2 on the season. "Ricky is so much more relaxed now than when he first came," said Western assistant coach Sam Clark, who oversees the Hilltoppers' kicking game. "After the first day that he kicked here, he turned and told me how glad he was that it was over. He was scared to death.

"Now he knows that he's our placemaker," added Clark, "and when he gets hit at the ball, he does a doggone good job."

Anderson himself admits the pressure was getting to him earlier in the season, but he feels the worst is over. At least he has radar, because the Anderson family's parents from Fort Lauderdale, as well as some cousins (grand and uncles from Canada) is "crazy" about something of a reunion Saturday at the stadium.

"I was tight on my first kick at UT Chattanooga," recalled Ricky, "but I was feeling a little better after that."
By CLARK HANES

Daily News Sports Editor

Over a month into the college football season, folks around Cookeville, Tenn., are still waiting for Tennessee Tech to live up to its preseason billing as a contender for the Ohio Valley Conference crown.

So far this year, Tech has been a pre-tender.

Despite the Golden Eagles' lackluster 14-record going into Saturday's game with Western at Smith Stadium, Western coach Jimmy Feix is genuinely concerned about his team's chances of extending a modest two-game winning streak.

"We're not going to let their record fool us," he said. "Coach [Don] Wade's folks have been playing good football, particularly against us."

"Everyone knew Tech was going to be tough this year," added Feix, "but they seem to have some trouble putting points on the board. Still, they have that good, tough defense that has caused us much trouble through the years."

While the visiting Eagles have won only once in five outings this fall, Western now stands 2-2 after back-to-back wins over Austin Peay (26-20) and Northern Michigan (18-21).

Meanwhile, the Hilltoppers are starting to feel a little better about their defense that was taking such a pounding early in the season. Western came out on the short end of the scoreboard against both UT-Chattanooga (41-26) and Lamar (50-27) in its first two outings, but neither of those opponents has lost since.

But if Western's early-season problems can be at

clouded to the stiff schedule, Tech is still looking for an ounce of its slow start.

"We've had numerous things go wrong," noted Wade, "and I guess most of our problems stem from a lack of mental discipline. For example, at Jacksonville State we jumped their score six times on defense. On one occasion, we had the ball on their one-yard line, but we went in motion and got moved back to the six."

Wade was referring to last Saturday's 21-7 at Jacksonville, Ala., where the Eagles dropped their third in a row.

"Our defense played well near the goal line," he went on, "but we lacked aggressiveness otherwise. We certainly need to develop consistency and aggressiveness at both sides of the football before we take the field against Western," because Feix always has a well-coached football team.

Besides, it remains to be seen whether Tech can ex

plod the soft spot in the Hilltoppers' armor.

Western has been burned by the forward pass all year, and each of the Hilltoppers' opponents to date boasted a strong passing game. But the Eagles hadn't gone so bad at Tech, where Wade's troops are averaging only 82.2 yards per game through the air and have completed only 38.6 percent of their passes this fall.

"Those passing statistics might be deceptive," warned Feix, "but I'm very pleased with the progress our defensive unit has made."

Feix also was pleased with his team's offensive showing last Saturday, especially since it was the Hilltoppers' first time out without junior tailback Nate Jones. The former Madisonville prep standout went down with a knee injury in the win at Austin Peay on Sept. 22, and is expected to miss the rest of the season.

Western started with sophomore Barry Skaggs at tailback instead of junior Craig Freeman, but the lat
ter saw enough action to rush for 81 yards. With much of Freeman's yardage coming in key situations, he may have earned the starting job this weekend.
Bumm raps

Tops' safety likes to dish them out

"I love to hit," says Western safety Barry Bumm, "and if you love to hit, defense is where you belong."

For the last two seasons, Bumm has "belonged" in the Hilltoppers' two-year old four-man secondary, one of the main reasons Western went from 1-9 in 1977 to 8-2 last fall. Needless to say, Bumm's tendency for contact made him a hit with the Western coaching staff.

"Barry is a very head player out there," said head man Jimmy Feix. "At times, it almost seems as if he has a sixth sense about a developing play. That has enabled him to step up plays bigger and quicker than he is."

Going into this Saturday's crucial Ohio Valley Conference clash at Eastern, Bumm ranks fifth on the Western squad with 47 tackles. He also has three pass interceptions, a fumble recovery and three sacks to his credit, with two of the interceptions coming in last week's 49-7 rout of hapless Tennessee Tech.

Bumm already has improved on last year's marks of 25 total tackles, 13 assists, one sack and two interceptions, although raised some eyebrows as a freshman.

His second interception of the 1979 season, for example, was returned for a touchdown to clinch the Hilltoppers' season-ending 14-6 win at Murray—giving them the OVC title and the trip to the Sugar Bowl. Earlier, Bumm had been named the defensive player of the game in Western's regionally televised 17-16 win over Eastern.

According to the 6-0, 175-pound sophomore, he earned a starting berth last fall by "working hard and showing the coaches that I wanted to play. Coach Feix is a fair man."

"My responsibility as a defensive back is the deep middle zone," he added. "My first thoughts when the ball is bobbled is to watch the tight end. When I am sure the ball isn't coming to him, I come up to the line of scrimmage to defend the run."

Bumm played his high school ball at Owensboro Catholic, where he did just about everything but punt in the footballs before the games. He played both ways at quarterback and safety, as well as returning points and kickoffs.

After riding the bench the first three games last season, Bumm got his first start against East Tennessee. But he injured an ankle early in the game, and didn't return to action until the showdown with Eastern three weeks later.

After helping the Hilltoppers win their last five games a year ago, Bumm was hoping to keep the streak going well into 1979. But the Hilltoppers dropped non-conference games to Division I-A toughies UT-Chattanooga and Lamar, before bouncing back to win their next three outings.

"I'm a little disappointed," he admitted. "I think we could have beaten both Chattanooga and Lamar. We just didn't play together as a team on defense. You could tell that by all the big plays we had against us."

Western dropped a 41-28 decision at Chattanooga in the season opener, and then returned home to take a 38-27 pummeling from Lamar. But in their last three games, the Hilltoppers have turned things around with wins over Austin Peay (24-20), Northern Michigan (28-21) and Tech.

"My thoughts were that the Hilltoppers were very good, and we had a chance for a conference title, and that's why they were so tough," Bumm said. "But we've had a lot of trouble with our pass defense this year. We've been able to stop the run, but we've had a lot of big plays in the air."

When the Hilltoppers went to Murray for the OVC title game, Bumm said he didn't care how many tackles he'd get, "as long as we won the game and my team kept the ball away."
By CLARK HANES  

Daily News Sports Editor

Okay, folks, step right up to the 11th annual meeting of the minds between Ohio Valley Conference arch-enemies Jimmy Feix of Western and Roy Kidd of Eastern.

It would probably make a better story if the two conferences could meet in each of the four top in Bobcat, but that’s not the way it is. Feix and Kidd have been competing for much of the time that either they were rival quarterbacks at their respective schools in the early 1950s, and a mutual respect has developed over the years.

That respect will carry over into Saturday’s 1 p.m. OVC football game at Bobcat Stadium in Richmond, but only in the form of some of the finest competition since the last days of the gladitorial era.

Feix holds a big 83 edge over his Eastern counterpart going into this weekend’s contest at Hangar Field. Where a capacity crowd of 24,500 is expected, but almost all of the games have been close. In fact, most of those games have more or less decided that year’s OVC champion.

Neither coach ever takes the other team lightly. In other words, and the same holds true this year.

Eastern is a tremendously impressive football team,” noted Feix, pointing to the Colonels’ 31-4 record and No. 3 ranking among the nation’s Division I-A powers. “Their easy win over Austin Peay is what I call my attention. Austin Peay has a fine football team, and it’s not the first time they’ve beaten up on us.

After dropping two early-season games to Division I-A powerhouses UT-Chattanooga and Lamar, Western started its current three-game winning streak with a 29-14 victory over a month ago.

One week later, Austin Peay went up the road to Richmond and limped home three hours later after absorbing a 30-13 spanking. Which seems to indicate that Eastern should do the same to Western this weekend, until I hear somebody say, “Don’t let Western’s 3-2 record fool you.”

You know, I picked Western to win the conference because they had so many returning starters and lettermen. They’ve been very experienced, and have the ability to put a lot of points on the scoreboard in so many ways.

Despite its slow start, Western is far and away the offensive leader in the OVC. The Hilltoppers are averaging 31.2 points a game, with a balanced attack netting 349.4 yards per outing.

These figures are also good enough to rank Western second among the nation’s Division I-A teams in scoring with 35.3, and seventh in total offense.

Eastern, meanwhile, ranks right behind Western in both offensive categories, and—on paper—at least—holds a big edge on defense. The Colonels are giving up just 13.9 points a game, while Western has been burned for an average of 24.9 points a game in its first five outings.

Fortunately for the Hilltoppers, their battled stop troops finally showed signs of coming around in last week’s 39-7 romp past hapless Tennessee Tech. The uniters from Cookeville shut down only 125 yards of total offense, and didn’t get on the scoreboard until the second half.

“We had a good game Saturday,” said Feix, “but now we have to settle down and get back to work. We must exercise well against Eastern, or we’ll be in trouble quick.

More times than not, Western finds a way to get into trouble at Richmond. The Hilltoppers haven’t won there since 1973, when they rolled to a surprising easy 20-13 decision on route to the only perfect regular season (out of the school’s history.

Two years later, a 10-7 loss to the Colonels turned out to be the only blemish on a 9-4 regular-season mark and in the Hilltoppers’ most recent trip to Richmond (1977). Eastern put them to rout 35-10.

“I remember that game very well,” said Western quarterback John Hall, who made his first collegiate start on that fated afternoon two years ago. “I can remember how many times they knocked me out. I knew it was either two or three. I stayed flat on my back most of the day.”

Needless to say, the junior from White House, Tenn., has been a better signal caller since then. Last year the Hilltoppers were only 4-4 in the form of the nation’s OVC champion.

EASTERN BEAT THE Socks off Western to win 35-10 last year. Eastern, in fact, won only 10 of its games that season. However, John Hall has begun to learn some valuable lessons.

“We just never could get things together this season,” Hall says. “But we started to learn how to play together and take things one game at a time. My only goal was to try to get a little better every game and I think I did that.”

He did indeed. Last year, John Hall started every game for Western. He completed 301.7 percent of his passes for 1,418 yards and 12 touchdowns and was named the quarterback of the All-Ohio Valley Conference team. In a game against Morehead State, when the press box was filled with NFL scouts looking at Morehead’s Phil Simms, Hall set a school record by throwing five touchdown passes.

“I never had any idea that there were pro scouts there that day,” Hall says with a laugh. “It was just one of those games when everything fell into place for me. I can’t really say I had much to do with it. Our receivers were wide open and I just threw it to them.”

IT IS NO COINCIDENCE, however, that Western went 2-2 last season, because Eastern 17-16 won the OVC championship with John Hall as both quarterback and place kicker.

“When we recruited John we felt that he could develop into the kind of quarterback he has become,” said Feix. “I don’t think there’s any doubt that he has emerged as one of the finest quarterbacks Eastern has ever had. He’s got an awful strong arm. He’s got the ability to throw long and the touch to throw the short passes.”

John Hall will play in his third Eastern-Western game Saturday afternoon at Eastern’s Bobcat Stadium. Eastern lost its first two games this season, but the Hilltoppers have since won three straight. Like Eastern, they are unbeaten in the OVC. Hall has been just a little good, maybe even better, than last season. He has completed 45.7 percent of his passes for 469 yards and nine touchdowns.

Ironically, Hall came out of White House High School in Goodlettsville, Tenn., known mostly as a runner. In Hall’s three years as the starring half, White House won 30 of 36 games and finished as the state runner-up twice.

“I always felt that if I could throw the ball pretty well but I probably didn’t throw more than five passes a game in high school,” Hall says. “You know how most high school teams are, they just don’t throw much.”

He throws plenty, now.

Hall spent this summer working on a construction crew with Eddie Preston, Western’s leading receiver. Every day after work, Hall and Preston practiced their passing game. “I’d say I threw at least 150 to 200 passes to him every day,” Hall says.

The extra time was well spent. Preston has caught 20 of Hall’s passes for 48 yards and five touchdowns this season.

“There’s not very many like him,” says Hall. “I’m glad he’s on my side. He can really catch the ball but he’s also very knowledgeable. He can really read defenses and on critical occasions he breaks his patterns a bit. He’s the type of wide receiver who can really create big things.”

John Hall also knows about all the trash talked about the Eastern-Western game.

“I think only I’ve ever heard it in the subcontractor league come together,” said Feix. “I don’t think we ever let it become a major factor. We just went out and played our ball and let the results talk for themselves.”
Eddie Preston: WKU Record-Setter

By CLARK HANSS
Daily News Sports Editor

HIGHLAND, Ky. - For the second year in a row, Western got it just right and two chances to knock off Eastern in the closing seconds of their annual Ohio Valley Conference football contest.

A year ago, the Hilltoppers had edged their arch-rivals from across the state 17-10 on a last-second field goal by Kevin McGaugh. Only seconds earlier, McGaugh had missed another attempt before getting his last chance on a rough kick.

Eastern gave the Hilltoppers their second chances to win another battle of OVC unbeaten here Saturday at Memorial Stadium. But somehow managed to hold on for a thrilling 4-0 victory.

With less than two minutes remaining, Western freshman Ricky Anderson missed badly on a 34-yard field goal attempt that might have been the game-winner. That should have been enough to bury the visitors, but again it wasn't.

Western wound up getting the ball, back with 46 seconds left after using up six time outs while holding the Colonels on downs. Taking over at the Eastern 41, two plays later, junior quarterback John Hall found split end Eddie Preston open inside the EKU 10-yard line and the ball wound up on the one.

With 22 seconds to go but no time outs left, Western coach Jimmy Feix apparently decided to take what he could while he could.

To the surprise of the overflow crowd of 25,500, Feix sent young Anderson in for what had been a sure three points. But Anderson never made it to the EKU 10 before his leg was snatched out from under him, thanks to Eastern defensive back Dan Martin.

A senior from Louisville, Anderson was come through unmentioned to block An- den's field goal attempt and save the Colonels victory.

"I know we had 32 seconds left," said Feix afterwards, admitting his decision had left him open to all sorts of second-guessing. "But we didn't have any time outs. I just figured there wasn't enough time to try to run a play and get something out of the goal unit or that we didn't make it, so we went for the field goal on first down.

"I've seen too many games where a team has fooled around trying to score a touchdown, he added, "and then wound missing a field goal because they had to rush it." As it turned out, Western appeared to rush its field goal try in the closing seconds despite the abundance of time. At least something went wrong in the offensive line that had pushed Eastern around most of the afternoon, because Martin wasn't the only defender to break through on Anderson's last field goal attempt.

According to the former Lou. St. Xavier standout, he had been waiting a whole year to get his hands on another punt return try.

"I got a finger on that field goal that best down to Western last year," said Martin, "but it wasn't enough to make it go wide. This time, I really realized they were going to go for the field goal until somebody in the huddle said something about it.

"I didn't jump on the ball," he added. "Nobody touched me.

The high-scoring offense of both teams had been ex- pected, never materialized, with two fired-up defensive units stalling the show. Eastern scored on its first possession of the day and fumbled the rest of the way, while Western's only scoring drive came early in the last quarter of the way, while Eastern set up scoring drive came early in the last quarter with the help of a crucial facemask penalty.

On the opening series of the game, the Colonels marched 80 yards in eight plays with junior quarterback Bill Hughes getting most of them on a 45-yard keeper play. Hughes also capped the drive with a five-yard scoring run, and Eastern won on the scoreboard with less than five minutes gone.

However, those six points were an important as the two that followed. Hughes missed the extra point snap while attempting to hold for placekicker David Flores, but recovered in time to hit tight end Cirio Cortez with a two-point conversion pass. It all came off a nifty pass to a pass for a premeditated pass, but Eastern coach Ray Kidd said otherwise.

"I wish I could say we planned it that way," he noted. "But it was just something that happened. We boobled the snap, and when that happens we have a set play where we try to find somebody open in the end zone." After the Colonels' early touchdown, Western came right back with a long drive from its own eight-yard line to the EKU 1. But only seconds after another fumble by sophomore Kimer Caldwell was negated by an Eastern offensive penalty, another Caldwell fumble turned the ball over.

Late in the second quarter, still another Caldwell fumble ended a Western drive at the Colonels' 14-yard line. Late in the third quarter, the Hilltoppers drive inside the Eastern 20 before losing the ball on downs.

Western finally got its only score of the afternoon, early in the fourth quarter, when Caldwell—the workhorse wound up rushing for 158 yards on 37 carries—bucked out from two years old By cap 18-yard line.

Again Austin Paye was the victim.

For the past two summers, Preston and Hall have stayed in Bowling Green, working on the occasionally outside project and working out together several times a week.

Now we are able to communicate with each other without having to say anything. If I have to break off a pattern and go to the open area, I know John will find me," Preston said.

Western, the defending Ohio Valley Conference champion, travels to Richmond, Ky. Saturday to take on preseason favorite Western Kentucky. EKU is 5-1 overall, Eastern 5-1. Both are 2-0 in league play. The pros have shown an interest in Preston (seven scouts were at the Northern Michigan game), and a shot at professional football is in Preston's dreams.

"But the most important thing to me right now is to graduate from college," he said. "My family is the oldest of five children and sacrificed a lot for me.

Preston is majoring in Recreation and Physical Education and expects to graduate next summer.

"I think my mother (Mary Godman) would get more excited about that than she would about me playing pro ball," he said.
The Hilltoppers have been a game-winner for many years. With one particular player, Feix, the team has been able to make a deep run in the tournament. Feix, a former reserve fullback, has carried the ball into the end zone on several occasions, scoring touchdowns for the team. He is known for his strong running and ability to break tackles. The team's success is partly due to the contributions of players like Feix. Feix, along with his fellow teammates, is looking forward to making a deep run in the tournament and bringing home a championship trophy.
No regrets

Although offensive guard Jeff Alsup is in his fourth and final season as a member of Western's football team, he still babbles with enthusiasm when talking about the college he chose to attend.

"I was recruited by most of the Ohio Valley Conference schools, and I narrowed my decision to Western and Middle Tennessee," he said. "At first, I leaned a little towards Western because my dad had played there in the early 60s."

"But then I came to Western for a visit and fell in love with the place," he added. "The friendly atmosphere, the beautiful campus, and the academics and Western's athletic tradition erased any doubt in my mind as to where I would go."

Meanwhile, the Hilltopper coaching staff babbles when talking about their prize offensive guard. An All-American candidate, Alsup is a cornerstone in a Western offense that leads the OVC in total offense and scoring.

Jeff is just one super performer out there," said Western head coach Jimmy Feix. "He's one of the most coachable young men we've had here. You give him a job to do, and he goes out there and does it."

Alsup is so adept at his position that he has earned team offensive lineman-of-the-week honors in three of Western's six games to date. In two of those games, noted offensive coordinator Butch Gilbert, "he graded better than 90 percent. That takes some effort." Alsup, a 6-2, 225-pounder from Goodlettsville, Tenn., has taken somewhat a rollercoaster ride with the Hilltoppers' football fortunes since coming to Western.

"The year I was redshirted (1975) we had a tremendous club and wound up as national runners-up in Division II," he recalled. "When you're winning, a lot of attitude problems tend to take care of themselves, and that's what happened that season."

"Then we slumped for two straight years, and our concept of team togetherness began to sour quite a bit because we had some players on those teams who didn't want to give a maximum effort," Alsup continued. "After the 1977 season, we made it a point to pull ourselves together as a team. That, along with a couple of good recruiting years, was the key to our OVC championship last season."

As a prep star at Goodlettsville High, Alsup was a three-time selection as offensive guard on the All-AAA Nashville team, and as a senior was voted to the All-Nashville first team.

In addition to those high school honors, he was a member of the National Honor Society and was a finalist for Nashville's prestigious Blume award for excellence in both academics and athletics.

An accounting major at Western, Alsup hopes to become a certified public accountant in the Nashville area following his graduation in May. However, he eventually plans to use his degree "as a springboard to something better." "I wouldn't want to be a CPA all my life," he said.

Alsup already has a two-time selection to the All-OVC second team and a pre-season choice to make the first unit this fall, has set no personal goals this season other than setting a steady example for the younger players to follow.

"The only real goal I have this year is to be a part of another OVC championship team," he said. "I just go out there day after day, week after week, and do the best job I can. I don't think a player can ask any more of himself than that."

Looking back on his collegiate career, Alsup has no regrets about coming to Western. According to him, getting to know people like Gilbert has made his college life all the better.

"All you have to do with 'Coach G' is give him your best effort and he'll treat you right," said Alsup. "He's the type of coach you're not afraid to call on if you need to talk out problems."

"That's the way it's been here at Western," he added. "Someone is always around to pick you up when you get down about something. If I had to do it over, I wouldn't change a thing."
The last two weekends of college football season have not been particularly good games for either Western or Kentucky, but the Hames Rating System says both teams will turn things around this Saturday.

Western, coming off back-to-back Ohio Valley Conference losses to Eastern and Morehead, tries to regroup on the road against winless Middle Tennessee. According to the HRS, the Hilltoppers are a three-touchdown favorite in Saturday's 1:30 p.m. contest at Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Kentucky, after back-to-back Southeastern Conference losses to LSU and Georgia, returns home to play before the old grads in Saturday's 12:30 CST p.m. game against Bowling Green.

That's Bowling Green, Ohio, for those of you who tend to forget and have no football to watch who scheduled to entertain undefeated Ohioans in the first round of the Class A playoffs. Tonight, although Big Eight coach Wilson Sears will tell you they are still playing UK.

According to the HRS, Kentucky is a 10-point favorite against Ohioans.

The HRS really missed Western's Westerner's Conference, calling for the Hilltoppers to turn things around at home against Eastern Kentucky.

The Hilltoppers are still rolling up yardage at a good clip, but they have stopped putting points on the board. Middle Tennessee is giving up close to 36 points a game, though, and the Hilltoppers have been able to get by with that lately.

The Hilltoppers' biggest disappointment in the Big Right this fall, while it could have been the Huskers' best team, since Tom Osborne took the reins from Bob Devaney a few years back.

Notre Dame 24, Navy 10

The Irish were down last week after the loss to USC the week before, and South Carolina gave them all they wanted before bowling 15-7 this week. Notre Dame will be ready to play again.

USC 49, Arizona 7

The high-scoring Trojans may be the best team in the country, but this is the week to pick USC with Pac Eight rival Stanford may wind up coming from the national championship.

Other games:

Western 24, Tenn Tech 18

As 10, Morehead 18

UK 27, B. Green 17: The Wildcats left their hearts in Baton Rouge two weeks ago, where they almost beat LSU in its own back yard, and it showed last week against Georgia. The early-season loss to Miami of Ohio will probably hurt Fran Cardo's boys from taking this one too lightly.

Illini 30, Missouri 23: The Crimson Tide took it easy on outmatched Virginia Tech last Saturday 31-7, but don't expect Bryant to try to be as considerate against a conference rival.

Memphis 21, Vandy 14: It will be close and will be exciting, but it will also be another unhappy ending for the hapless Commodores.

Other games:

Auburn 27, Florida 21

LSU 11, Oklahoma State 3

Georgia 26, Virginia 14

Tennessee 34, Rutgers 10

OVC games:

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Murphy 37, Fray 6

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By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

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Tops rally to win 24-17

By CLARK HANES Daily News Sports Editor

Western visits w '''less Middle

Two games into the 1979 football season, it became apparent that Western had some patching up to do on defense if it was going to enjoy the banner season everyone was expecting. After all, the Hilltoppers had given up 99 points in non-conference losses to UT-Chattanooga (64-18) and Lamar (58-27). But the tables have turned during Western's most recent two-game losing streak, which has seen the Hilltoppers manage only six points in two games.

Western pushed Eastern all over the field but still dropped an 8-4 decision at Richmond two weeks ago, and then fell flat on its face in a 56 homecoming loss to Morehead last Saturday. All of which dropped the Hilltoppers to 3-4 on the season, and out of the running for this year's Ohio Valley Conference title.

As a result, pride will be about the only thing on the line Saturday when the Hilltoppers visit winless Middle Tennessee in a 1:30 p.m. contest at Jones Field.

While it has been a disappointing year for Western, with so many returns from last year's 8-2 squad that won the OVC title, it has been a total disaster for coach Boots Donnelly in his first year at Murfreesboro. The hapless Raiders bring an 0-7 mark into the fray, giving up some 27 points a game.

That has to be good news for the Hilltoppers, whose defense has improved from week to week while the offense has gone in the other direction.

"Our defensive unit has really made great strides," said Western head man Jimmy Felts. "Those kids have played hard all year, and in the past few weeks things seemed to fall into place. We've been able to execute and do the things we want to do."

"But there are several things that have hurt us lately. We miss the experience some of our injured players (fullbacks Nate Jones and Barry Skaggs) would give us in the backfield."

That Western hasn't gotten good performances from standouts like sophomore Einer Caldwell, who rushed for 156 yards in the loss to Morehead, and freshman Jo Jo Lee, who zipped for 92 yards last week against Morehead.

Still, the Hilltoppers' most potent offensive weapon remains the John Hall-to-Eddie Preston passing combination. Hall racked up his 500th career completion on the first play from scrimmage last week, while the same play—a 49-yard bomb to Preston—gave the latter his 100th career reception.

Meanwhile, Middle has had its problems both ways—averaging only two touchdowns a game while being more than generous on defense.

"Don't let those numbers fool you," warned Felts. "Boots is a very resourceful coach, and he has some fine people. That big linebacker (Stan Wright, 201) is a good player, and they've got a good young quarterback (Brown Sanford). I know they're ready for us."

Wright is one of the leading tacklers in the OVC, while Sanford ranks behind only Hall in the OVC in total defense.
Western team shows class in comeback

Despite a rash of injuries and an epidemic of penalties that always seemed to go the other way, Jimmy Petr's squad closed the gap to 17-7 at the half and then took command of the game in the last two periods.

By the end of the game, the befuddled Panthers were sending out distress signals across the Iowa plains.

On the other hand, Western's football team was sending a couple of signals back home. The first was that the bunch still had a lot of class despite its earlier disappointments, and the second was that Murray wasn't going to let the OVC this weekend without a fight.

The surprise team in the OVC this fall, Murray will bring a perfect 5-0 league mark and an 8-1-1 overall record into Saturday's season finale for both teams at Smith Stadium.

However, it may only be the regular-season finish for the Racers. If they knock off Western to win the league title outright, there is more than a 50-50 chance that the Division I-A selection committee will take them as one of four playoff teams.

Eastern made all the possible over the weekend by knocking off second-ranked Jackson State 27-21 and the Colonials still have playoff hopes of their own. A win over Morehead combined with a Western victory could leave both with a share of the OVC title and the best overall record in the league.

Either way, it figures that the OVC will land a team in the playoffs this year unless both Murray and Eastern bite the dust.
Little Big Man
Wells making mark despite stature

When Tony Wells, a 5-foot-10, 165-pound “Mighty Mite” from Louisville, first came to Western in 1977 to try out for the football team, prospects of him making it were not too bright.

First of all, Western’s defense at the time was built around a 6-4 set with no end guard. Wells’ natural position as an All-Stater at Lou Main was that of an end. Secondly, no matter where he played he would likely be giving away 30-35 pounds across the line—no small difference in the trenches.

But after sitting out that first season as a redshirt, the battles began to turn in Wells’ favor. Following the Hilltoppers’ disastrous 1-8-1 season (1-3-1), coach Jimmy Felix decided to switch to the 3-4 defensive set and suddenly Wells was in the picture.

With the diminutive Wells in the center of the defensive line, Western immediately turned things around with a surprising 8-2 mark last fall.

“Last season was like a dream come true,” said Wells, who leads the conference in tackles when he comes out during many short-yardage situations. “I came from out of nowhere to win a starting spot, and our club came from nowhere to win the OVC.”

Western is having to settle for the spoiler’s role in this year’s OVC race, with league-leading Murray coming to town this weekend in the season finale for both teams. But the Hilltoppers averted any chance of a losing season last Saturday night with a 24-17 come-back win over Northern Iowa, where Wells turned in his best effort of the season.

Playing before a partisan crowd in the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Wells slipped through the Panthers’ line on three different occasions to sack enemy ball-carriers for losses totaling 15 yards. In all, the calm, quiet sophomore finished with four main tackles and five assists.

“Tony has proven to be a key factor in our new defense since we installed it two years ago,” noted Felix. “Though he is small for his position, he makes up for it with quickness, a tremendous knowledge of the game and a lot of hard work.”

Thanks to his lack of size, Wells has been in the underdog’s role ever since he can remember.

“I’ve been small all my life,” he said, “and I’ve had to deal with that factor in many different situations. As far as football is concerned, I just have to work that much harder than guys that are bigger. I’ve found that a lot of hard work can help make up the difference.”

Wells feels that a major reason for the dramatic turnaround in the Western football program is the team’s newfound togetherness, which he says he and his teammates share both on and off the field.

“Ever since our 1-8-1 season a couple of years ago, we have pulled together as a unit,” said Wells, who didn’t bother to admit he has been a catalyst in the movement. “That has helped tremendously. We’ve got to know each other well by communicating on a personal level.”

“There is no racial tension on this squad,” he added. “We think in terms of red.”

Daily News
November 14, 1979

Tops ink griddcr
Webster County running back Doug Galbreth has become Western’s first football signee of the fall, after completing a banner high school career at the Dixon school.

A 6-1, 195-pounder with excellent speed for his size, Galbreth rushed for 1,448 yards and 15 touchdowns on offense this fall while also serving regular duty on defense as a linebacker. With Galbreth leading the way, Webster County posted an 8-3 season.

“Doug is one of the top prospects in the state,” said Western coach Jimmy Felix. “He’s a talented young man, Foulk. He’s a talent with a world of potential, and we look forward to having him in our program.”

A 4.4-second sprinter in the 40-yard dash, Galbreth was also a track stand-out at Webster County. Last spring, he ran as an individual entry in both the 100 and 220-yard dashes, and also ran a leg on the school’s 100-relay team.
Racers eyeing playoffs

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

A year later, the shoe is on the other foot.

Going into the traditional football season finale one year ago between Western and Murray, the Hilltoppers needed their first-ever win at Stewart Stadium to rival down sole possession of the Ohio Valley Conference title. Murray was out of the OVC picture, but a win by the Racers would have left Western sharing the title with Eastern.

Murray made a game of it, but the Hilltoppers—like they had been doing all year long—found a way to escape with a 13-12 victory.

This year, the teams have reversed their roles going into Saturday's 1:00 p.m. contest at Smith Stadium. Western's defending OVC champs are cast as the spoilers this time, while Murray is hoping to clinch undisputed possession of its first league crown since 1981.

Murray can do just that by winning Saturday, finishing with a perfect 6-0 mark in league play and a 9-11 worksheet overall. A win would also probably put the Racers in the Division I-AA playoffs, although second-year coach Mike Gottfried isn't about to jump to any conclusions.

"We feel like, once again, we're masters of our own destiny," he said regarding the Racers' playoff aspirations. "We're more concerned about our final game than anything after that. We know we have to win Saturday.

Meanwhile, Western comes into the season finale with a disappointing 5-4 record and the dubious honor of leaving Murray tied with arch-rival Eastern if certain things happen this weekend.

If the Hilltoppers upset Murray and Eastern wins its own season finale at Morehead on Saturday, both Murray and Eastern would finish with 5-1 marks in OVC play. And because of the overall record at a win would leave them 6-2, while a loss to Western would have Murray 8-2-1, not to mention last week's win over highly-touted Jackson State, Eastern would likely get the playoff bid.

Eastern dropped a 24-7 regionally televised battle at Murray earlier this fall, but returned to the playoff picture last week with an impressive 27-21 decision over previously second-ranked Jackson State. Of course, the Colonels' win also helped Murray's playoff chances.

"It was a good plug in the arm for the conference," noted Gottfried, "but it helped us. There can't be any doubt about that.

Until last Saturday night, there was some doubt about how much opposition Western would provide the league-leading Racers considering the circumstances.

After all, helping Eastern win a share of the league title is hardly incentive for Jimmy Fex's troops. But if Western was in the mix, last week in Cedar Falls, Iowa, was the time and place. The Hilltoppers spotted Northern Iowa a 17-0 leads, meaningless non-conference game, but rallied to pull out a 24-17 victory.

Sophomore tailback Elmer Caldwell sparked the comeback, rushing for 150 yards on 18 carries all in the second half. A reserve fullback at the start of the season, Caldwell wound up going 58 yards, for the game-winning touchdown and was later named the OVC's offensive player of the week for the second time this fall.

Meanwhile, Western's defense dug itself out of an early hole and held the opposition to a touchdown or less for the fifth game in a row. Northern Iowa's only points came via a blocked punt recovery and a field goal.

Fex was more pleased than pleased with the way his team rallied to win last Saturday night's game in the UNI-Dome, but he wasn't crazy about looking ahead to Murray.

"We've seen the film," he pointed out, "and we respect the things Murray can do on a football field. They execute well and can do it in a number of ways. And that defense of theirs can give anybody headaches."

The Racers rank second in the nation against the rush, giving up just 64.7 yards per game on the ground, and fourth in the nation in scoring defense with an average yield of 9.6 points per outing.

On the other hand, Western leads the league in total offense with 386.1 yards per game. That mark also is good enough to rank fifth in the country, while junior quarterback John Hall—with 99 completions for 1,385 yards and 16 touchdowns—continues to rank among the top passers in Division I-AA.

Split end Eddie Preston also still ranks among the top receivers in the nation despite not catching a single pass last week, and is one of nine seniors playing their final game for Western this weekend.

For the third time this season, the Hanes Rating System is picking Western to come out on the short end of the score.

All of which has to be good news for Murray, going into Saturday's regular-season finale for both teams at Smith Stadium. With a victory here this weekend, the Racers will finish with a 4-0 Ohio Valley Conference mark and a 5-1 record in all games.

Barring a natural disaster, those marks would be enough good to get the Racers a berth in the Division I-AA playoffs.

The HRS cast Western in the underdog's role only twice earlier this season and was right on both occasions. Our crystal ball foresaw the Hilltoppers' season-opening loss to Chattanooga 42-28, and also told of the tragedy to come against Eastern 18-6.

Western also dropped two games it was supposed to win, according to the HRS. The Hilltoppers were favored in their second game of the fall against underrated Lamar 13-27, as well as their homecoming game against overrated Western Kentucky 24-17.

Murray has enjoyed surprising success in its first year under coach Tom Lichtenberg, but showed its true colors last week in a 1-9 record against James Madison. Needless to say, that upset was also believed to be predicted by the HRS.

In fact, our system enjoyed its best weekend of the fall last week with 38 right picks and only six misses for a percentage of 88. It raised our season percentage to 77-4, not bad in this day and age where the weekly Irish are 9-2 and Penn State is struggling to stay above .500.

The HRS also made a shambles of last week's CFB prediction, picking the Major on eight of nine games to lift our season record to 58-32 in "contested" games this fall.

We tried to tell him what was going to happen to the Fighting Irish last week, but he wouldn't listen.

We're picking Notre Dame to get knocked off by another bunch of Underdogs this weekend, even though the Irish will be back at home against Clemen.

But we also differ with the HRS forecast this week by taking Texas A&M over Arkansas, California over Stanford, Georgia Tech over Navy, Iowa over Michigan State, Oregon over UCLA, Auburn over Georgia and Kentucky over Florida.

That's right, folks. The HRS is picking UK to even its record at 5-5 this Saturday while the Major thinks Florida is ripe to run its perfect 6-7-1 season.

On to another fearless forecast of the activities of the Fighting Irish.

Hilltoppers-Murray forecast: 24-13, Murray. With so much on the line, the visiting Racers are a good bet to play things close to the vest Saturday.

Jimmy Fex always has played things that way at Western, and he'll look for the game to turn into a grueling defensive battle.

Clark Hanes
Daily News Sports Editor
Tops ink gridders

Western has announced the signing of two area high school football players to scholarships to play ball for the Hilltoppers.

Walter York (6-3, 230) of Warren Central High School and Mickey Lewis (6-0, 195) of Barren County Nov. 13.

York, who was recently named to the Daily News All-Southcentral Kentucky team for the second year in a row, is a three-year starter at Central where he excelled on offense as well as defense.

Lewis, one of the area's leading scorers and also named to the All-Southcentral team, led Barren County to a 1-0 record this season.

By CLARK RANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Murray had waited some 38 years for its first Ohio Valley Conference football crown, so it wasn't any problem to wait for the breaks to come in Saturday's regular-season finale with Western at Smith Stadium.

These breaks came late in the second quarter when the visiting Racers scored on three straight possessions en route to a little-clutching 20-9 win over the defending OVC champs.

Murray, picked to finish somewhere in that middle of the pack in most preseason circles, finished with a perfect 6-0 record in conference play and a 9-1-1 mark overall. Nobody had made any promises, but those numbers were expected to be good enough to get the Racers a berth in the upcoming Division I-AA playoffs.

"We haven't had any communication with the people that select the playoff teams," said second-year coach Mike Gottfried after the game, "but I would hope we looked like a representative team out there today. We're conference champs, and we're from a tough conference."?

For Western, on the other hand, it was a disappointing end to a disappointing season. Despite returning almost everybody from last year's league champions, the Hilltoppers slipped to a final 5-3-1 mark in the OVC and 8-5 overall.

In other words, Western was out of the running for this year's conference crown even before Saturday's opening kickoff. But according to coach Jimmy Feix, his team had no trouble getting up for the season finale played before 12,306 spectators.

"Incentive wasn't a problem for us," he said. "Murray was the top dog going into today, and it was a matter of pride for us to play well."

"We got one break and cashed in on it," added Feix. "That got a lot of breaks, and cashed in on most of them. Our first touchdown put us right back in the game, but they took the kickoff back and it really hurt."

After spotting the visitors a 10-0 lead, Western drove 77 yards in eight plays midway through the second quarter to close the gap to 10-7. But Murray sophomore Nick Nance fumbled the ensuing kickoff at the Hilltoppers' own one-yard line, a fumble that Feix said was "a real mess in the blocking and tackling," and that Murray "managed to put the Racers back in command."

Two plays later, teammate Tommy Henscock picked off an errant pass from Western quarterback John Hall and returned it 12 yards to the WKU 15. On first down, Murray quarterback Kirby Ray found wingback Greg King all alone in the end zone to make it 14-7.

Two more plays later, Hall fumbled after being hit from behind and gave the opportunistic Racers the ball only nine yards away from another score. Western's defense stiffened this time, but former Butler County standout David Tuck booted a 26-yard field goal to put Murray up 27-7 at the half.

Tuck wound up hitting three field goals in as many tries, not to mention stretching his consecutive extra-point streak to 31.

Murray wasted no time setting the tone of the afternoon. On its first play from scrimmage after downing the opening kickoff in the end zone, Nance found a big hole in the right side of the line and scampered 40 yards for the score.

"We didn't have any idea that play would break open the way it did," said Gottfried. "But our game plan was to get ahead early in the game. We were going to pull out all the stops in the first half, if we had to."

Murray tacked on a 35-yard field goal by Tuck early in the second quarter to go ahead 10-0, before Western got on the scoreboard. A 32-yard pass interference penalty set up the Hilltoppers' score, which came on a three-yard slant off tackle by Elmer Caldwell.

The Racers then scored on their next three possessions, but Western still came back early in the third quarter after a humble at the Murray 25. Bullish sophomore Barry Skaggs crashed into the end zone a few minutes later on a key fourth-and-one situation, and the game was again in doubt.

However, Tuck wasn't through. Later in the same period, he drilled a 23-yarder that seemed to put things out of reach.

Murray's defense, which held the Hilltoppers to just 16 yards rushing, slammed the door shut until Feix went to freshman quarterback Hugh Antone in the final minutes. Coming off the bench, Antone threw four straight completions to march the Hilltoppers 86 yards for their final score.
Western will tune up for next week's season-ending showdown with Murray by taking the measure of Northern Iowa on the road this weekend, according to the Hilleppers Rading System, while Kentucky gets a invisible and Vanderbilt in Saturday's battle of Southeastern Conference Leaders. Western can even over the possibility of a losing season Saturday night in Chicago, Ill., where the Hilleppers will be making their debut in the UNI-Dome. The Hilleppers journey are clear down from 30 years ago, in New York, and back in November, playing getting game turned into a battle of both teams against the elements—rain, sleet, snow, etc. But the Panthers have since moved indoors to a 15,000-seat stadium, much to the delight of Western coach Jimmy Feix and his home going northernmen. Feix held on to win a 2-10 decision over the Iowa Hawkeyes during the 1975 playoff contest, and was on to finish second in the nation. The Hilleppers had similar Division I-AA aspirations this fall, but found themselves with a mediocre 4-4 mark going into the last two games of the year. Neither team can expect even a 5-0 mark in Saturday's SSCC battle of Nashville, but both UN and Vanderbilt are coming up victors. Kentucky shipped its way past lightly regarded Murray Green (100) last week in a 36-14 homecoming game with the Commodores—after dropping 21-11 with a little defense and defeated cross- state rival Memphis State 12-7. Going into the game, Vanderbilt was giving up better than 46 points an outing. The Hoople forecast tried to tell us about that Vanderbilt game last week, but the HRS refused to believe it still, our crystal ball wound up predicting the Major on five of seven "outdoors"—games due up this fall's overall lead in a staggering 42-23 margin. Last week's forecast hit on 26 of 39 games (with one tie) for a respectable 66.9% percentage, leaving our seasonal mark at 76%. The forecast. OVC Western 27, N. Iowa 21 The best news out of Cedar Falls, as far as the Hilleppers are concerned, is that Northern Iowa is particularly fond of passing the ball. Western's defense has been improving with each game, and held Stiddle Tennessee to just 49 yards rushing last Saturday. Jackson St. 14, SMU 18 The visitors from Mississippi are ranked ahead of both Eastern and Murray in the latest Division I-AA poll, but an Eastern team might put one of the OVC teams in the post-season playoffs. Other games: A. Peay 17, Tenn. Tech 13 East Tenn. 50, M. Tenn. 7 J. Madison 13, Morehead T. 32 UK 26, Vandy 17 One thing the Commodores won't have to worry about is overconfidence, and one thing the Wildcats will have to worry about is last year's 3-2 upset by Vanderbilt at Commonwealth Stadium. Nevertheless, the Cats in a close one. Alabama 27, LSU 14: The Tide may finally get the stiff test they've been looking for all season, but they're up to it. 177 29, Notre Dame 21: Were the Volunteers looking past Rutgers last week? Yup. Will the Irish be looking past Tennessee this week, as in a result? Yup again. Other games: Georgia 23, Air Force 26 Arkansas 23, Baton 17 Louisiana 21, Mississippi St. 14 Louisiana Tech 5, Alabama St. 21 Arkansas 30, North Carolina St. 21 California St. 17, Virginia 21 Florida St. 29, Duke 10 South Carolina 20, Tulane 17 North Carolina 17, Tennessee 14 Ohio St. 20, Oregon St. 14 Missouri 41, Nebraska 14 Mississippi 17, South Alabama 10 Purdue 24, Abilene Christian 21 Ole Miss 30, Oklahoma St. 21 Tennessee 23, Texas 28 Texas Tech 31, Vanderbilt 21 Texas Christian 31, East Texas St. 28 Kentucky 31, Louisiana Tech 17 Arkansas 21, Louisiana St. 21 Missouri 27, South Carolina 20 Mississippi St. 23, Alabama 17 Ole Miss 14, Louisiana 7 Michigan St. 17, Michigan 10 Temple 14, Southern Illinois 7 Houston 34, Temple 14 North Carolina St. 17, Mississippi 14 South Carolina St. 21, Louisiana St. 18 South Carolina 21, Georgia 17 Missouri 20, Arkansas 14 Vanderbilt 23, Tennessee 17 Virginia 21, Kentucky 21 Florida St. 24, 14, Missouri 17

**Tops a big disappointment**

Prior to Saturday's football finale with Murray, it was pointed out that Western was only a field goal away from being in the thick of the Ohio Valley Conference race. The reference was to not just one but two muffled field goal attempts in the closing minutes of an 8-6 loss at Eastern last month, which left the Hilleppers flat enough to drop a 3-6 decision to Morehead one week later in the second game played before the old grades. Western did finally back to win its next two games (Macon Tennessee and Northern Iowa) to avoid a losing season, but fans left scratching their heads about the program in general Saturday after seeing Murray go away 30-20.

Question is, where does it all leave Western? Going nowhere, of course, and there are some who feel the same can be said for the Hilleppers' football programs. Such accusations seem a little harsh to light at this year's OVC championship, unless one takes a closer look.

Looking it one way, Western went in last season and perhaps came with a field goal of doing the same this time. Hane's Reading System, it's not completely out of the question to say the Hilleppers have slipped into mediocrity for the last four seasons. It all started with the 1976 season, only one year after coach Jimmy Feix had sent his team to the Erviston II national finals for the second time in three years. The 1976 team, pleased by both inexperience as well as success, clocked a 9-3 record and a 4-1-1 mark overall. Things went from bad to worse a year later, when the Hilleppers stumbled to a dismal 1-8-1 mark.

The rest is history.

Making the most dramatic turnaround of any program in the nation, Western climbed to the top of the OVC last fall with a perfect 6-0 league record and a surprising 8-2 mark overall. It was a young Western team that, giving false hopes of great things happening in 1979...
Toppers sign griddler

Ronnie Fishtack, a 4-0, 185-pound Shelbyville (Tenn.) Central senior has signed to play college football at Western next fall.

"Ronnie is a very talented young athlete," said Western head coach Jimmy Flex. "He can do a lot of things very well, but he has great tools to become a fine defensive back."

Fishtack, a running back-cornerback at SCHS, was selected as one of the top 25 football players in Tennessee in a pre-season poll conducted by the magazine 'Tennessee Sports.' During his final prep season he rushed for 956 yards, 19 touchdowns, and he intercepted five passes. Fishtack figures to perform as a corner-back with the Hilltoppers, helping to fill the gap left by former All-OVC Defensive back Carl Bradley.

"Ronnie is one of the best all-around athletes that I've ever seen," says Ray Emmanuelli. Fishtack's high school coach. "He has a very good attitude toward work and what it takes to be a really good football player. At Western, he could be even better than he was here because he will be able to concentrate on a specific position. He did so many things here, handling so many different facets of the game."

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Hall of fame

Tops' QB named OVC player of year

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Western quarterback John Hill has been named the Ohio Valley Conference offensive player of the year, and is one of six Western players named to this year's All-OVC football team.

Joining Hill on the league's honor squad were fellow Western standouts Eddie Preston at split end and Jeff Alsup at offensive guard. Ricky Swinn at tight end, Carl Estelle at defensive end and Tom Ford at defensive down lineman. Eastern led the league with seven players being named, while OVC champion Murray placed only five on the squad.

However, Murray did cop the other two individual honors. Second-year coach Mike Gottfried was named the coach of the year, while junior deep back Terry Love was named the OVC defensive player of the year.

Hill, a 6-4 junior from Goodletsville, Tenn., led the OVC in passing for the second year in a row by hitting on 108 of 213 attempts for 1,418 yards and 19 touchdowns. He finished with a 502 completion percentage, and was ranked among the nation's leading passers in Division I-AA throughout the year.

Hill's closest competition in the voting came from teammate Preston and Morehead running back Bernard Welsh, who both finished four votes behind Hill's total of 15.

Love was a unanimous pick on the All-OVC team in the secondary, but got stiff competition from Eastern linebacker Joe Richard in the player of the year balloting. Love wound up with 15 votes, while Richard finished with 13.

A 6-4 junior from Maywood, Ill., Love accounted for 36 tackles and 36 assists in the Racers' secondary to play a big part in the Cinderella story at Murray this fall. He also caused three fumbles, logged two sacks behind the line, intercepted two passes and blocked three kicks.

Love was one of four unanimous selections on the All-OVC squad. Others being picked by all the league coaches were McIntosh of Morehead, tackle Ken Dew of Tennessee Tech and tackle Richard Womack of Austin Peay.

Dew, a senior from Alken, S.C., is a repeater from the 1978 all-conference squad, while Womack, a junior from Centerville, Tenn., led Austin Peay with 99 tackles and topped in league with 166 yards worth of sacks.

Other members of the first-team offense were Eastern running back Dale Patton, Murray running back Danny Lee Johnson, Morehead tackle Charlie Young, Eastern guard Kevin Greve, Tech guard Fred Rockymore (tied with Greve), Eastern center David Neal and Eastern placekicker David Flores.

Rounding out the first-team defense were Eastern down lineman Joe Richard, Murray down lineman Rick Laqueur tied with Ford of Western; Murray and Glenn Jones, Morehead linebacker Rodney Jefferson, Eastern linebacker Bob McNalley, Austin Peay deep back Lynn Hallstock, Eastern deep back Danny Martin, Murray deep back Greg Evans and Tech punter Steve Davis.

Western's only representatives on this year's All-OVC second team were senior linebacker Chuck DeLacey, who missed the latter part of the season with a knee injury, and junior punter Ray Farmer.

Continued on next page.
Tops ink Tennessean

Western High football coach Jimmy Fexx has announced the signing of Ronnie Nobles, a 210-pound linebacker from Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Nobles, who was also a standout tight end, punter and team captain at Riverdale, closed his four-year career with a brilliant senior season in 1979. He was credited with 104 total tackles, and 68 assists while being named the club's defensive player-of-the-week five times.

On offense, Nobles found time to make 17 catches, tying a school record, and score four touchdowns. He also helped keep enemy offenses backed up with a 27-3 yard average per punt.

Nobles, a four-year letterman, was named All-District, All-Mid-State and AAA All-State as he helped lead Riverdale to the Tennessee State AAA District championship this season.

"Ronnie's a good one. I'll guarantee you," said Fexx. "We feel that he was one of the real 'blue-chip' prospects in Tennessee and are very happy that he will play his collegiate football at Western Kentucky."

DeLacey receives award

Senior linebacker Chuck DeLacey of Owensboro, who missed the last half of his final season at Western with a knee injury, was named the winner of the A1 Almond Memorial Award for leadership both on and off the field at the Hilltoppers' football appreciation banquet Tuesday night.

DeLacey, named to a second-team All-Ohio Valley Conference both this year for the second season in a row, was the league's leading tackler when he was hurt in the Eastern game.

Other award winners Tuesday night were senior offensive guard Jeff Alsup, who was honored as the highest academic average; Eddie Preston, outstanding offensive player; senior linebacker Carl Estelle, outstanding defensive player; and sophomore Charles Dillard, specialty team.
Tops get Norwood

David Norwood, a 6-1, 190-pound linebacker from Louisville Iroquis, has signed to play collegiate football at Western beginning with the 1980 season.

Norwood, a three-year starter at Iroquis, has appeared in every game since his freshman year. He was his team's defensive captain for the past two seasons. He was named to the All-Jefferson County and All-Region teams as both a junior and senior and was an All-State selection in '79.

Norwood intercepted five passes in his final campaign, returning two for touchdowns. He averaged six tackles a game.

"That's not a lot of tackles but there wasn't anybody running past him," said Iroquis head Coach Lynn Kern. "They just didn't run toward him often. But when they did he made the most of it. He didn't come out of the game often, but when he did there was a very noticeable difference in the atmosphere. If he can gain some weight, like I know he will, and maintain his speed, he's going to be a heck of a college football player."

Tops get Embree

Danny Embree, brother of former Western running back John Embree, has signed an Ohio Valley Conference football letter of intent.

"Danny is a blue-chipper," said WKU head coach Jimmy Feix. "John ranks as one of the finest running backs in the history of our program, if not the finest. If Danny continues to develop, he could wind up in the same company."

Embree, a 5-8, 170-pound tailback-defensive back for LaRue County, was selected as the area player-of-the-year in a poll conducted by the Elizabethtown News-Enterprise.

He was the first unanimous selection in the history of the poll. He has also been honored as a first team all-state selection.

As a senior at LaRue County, Embree rushed for 1,490 yards (including games of 312 and 230) and 26 games of 100 yards or more. Among those scoring plays were three kickoff returns and one pass reception. He also passed for another touchdown. As a defensive back, he intercepted four passes during his final prep campaign.
Tops nab griddler

Tyrone Byrd, a 6'1, 196-pound linebacker from Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio, has signed a letter-of-intent to play football at Western.

Byrd was a four-year starter at both linebacker and offensive guard at Scott High and was honored as a member of the All-City and All-District teams in addition to being named an honorable mention All-State.

Since signing at Western, he has received the Scholastic Athletic Award from the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame. A 3.3 student, Byrd plans to study computer science at WKU.

"Tyrone is one of the better young men that I have ever had the pleasure of working with," said Roy Allen, Byrd's high school coach and a former classmate of Hilltopper assistant coach Larry Walker at Bishop College. "He's a fine gentleman and really quite a scholar."

Hilltopper head coach Jimmy Fex echoed that sentiment. "Tyrone is a fine young man with a world of potential," he said, "and he's a capable of playing in places where we'll need help."

Griddler signs

News Trammell, a Tennessee Class AA All-State safety, has signed a letter of intent to play football with Western.

Trammell, a 6'2, 180-pound senior at Bellevue High School in Nashville, was also selected to the all-Nashville Intercollegiate League team. A wide receiver on offense, he caught 25 passes for 431 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior.

"News has fine speed and could help us on either offense or defense," said Hilltopper head coach Jimmy Fex. "He's a very bright young man and we're happy to have him here at Western."

Trammell, who didn't plan for the Bellevue football team until his junior season, intercepted four passes during the 1978 campaign and made what his coach, Jim Crawford, referred to as "numerous touchdown-saving tackles."

"He breaks off the ball very quickly," said Crawford. "We run basically the same coverage as most colleges do so I don't think that he's going to have a lot of difficulty in learning the college game."