Playoff special

College Heights Herald

Inside

Tomorrow’s Camellia Bowl pits teams similar in size, speed, record and virtually every other aspect. It could explode into a high-scoring game. See story by Verenda Smith. Page 2

If it never rains in California, how come it’s pouring in Sacramento? See soggy story by Leo Pechenpaugh. Page 3

The Hilltopper basketball team made it 5-0 last night with a win over Butler. See story by Carter Pence. Page 8

The road to the Camellia Bowl for the Hilltoppers was paved with great expectations and 12 victories. See story by Al Cross. Page 6 and 7.
Toppers trying to make a name for themselves

"By VERENDA SMITH
SACRAMENTO, Calif.-Here in "sunny California," (where it's raining and 50 degrees) there are 42 football players trying to make a name for themselves.

Although they sometimes all around "relaxing," they don't feel many people. The Western ball team wants to win the championship game against Louisiana Tech tomorrow so badly that Topping quarterback Dennis Tomek declared, "I'll run the touchdown myself if I have to. I've had enough of this run-up hit."

The two teams will meet tomorrow in the Camellia Bowl at 11:30 a.m. PST. (1:30 Bowling Green time) in the final game of the NCAA Division II playoffs. Western's won its championship berth by virtue of a 10-6 regular season and by defeating Lehigh and Grambling.

The Bulldogs were 9-1 in their regular season, losing the season's opener to Eastern Michigan and then going 11 straight. They beat Western Illinois and Boise State to earn their trip to Sacramento.

Watching the game could be confusing—if you're not careful you might get the two teams mixed up. Although the defensive units are different (Coach Jim Feix compared the Bulldogs' defense to Lehigh's, who gave up 25 points), the offensive units are similar in speed, execution and personnel.

Both teams, coach Feix said, are quick and pass a lot. Louisiana Tech quarterback Denny Duron threw a 51-yard winning touchdown with 12 seconds to go in the game with Boise State, and the Bulldogs have outstanding receivers in All-American Roger Carr, flanker Pat Tilley and tight end Mike Barber.

Carr has 26 receptions for 587 yards and Tilley has 22 catches for 389 yards. But Barber is potentially Louisiana Tech's most dangerous receiver. He has caught only six passes this season, but five of them were for touchdowns and he is averaging 46.3 yards per completion.

Western, however, has been passing more than usual during the last three games, and piled up 2,100 yards passing in the regular season (Louisiana Tech had 1,700).

"We're going to have to try and keep it on the ground a lot," predicted Feix, though. "They have a very good pass defense, and a lot depends on whether or not they can stop our running game."

Both teams have been piling up around 400 yards per game, and where Western has tailbacks Clarence Jackson and Embree and fullbacks Arnold Snard and Van Pitman, the Bulldogs can counter with tailbacks Charles Mcdaniels (known as "Quick Six," in reference to the number he wore on his jersey), Glenn Berteau and Art Moody and fullback Roland Harper.

Western had outscored the Bulldogs during the regular season, 51 touchdowns to 28 goals—but the passing game, which is expected to play an important part in the anticipated high-scoring game, is almost even. Where Western's Charlie Johnson is averaging 433 yards per kick, the Bulldogs have been kicking an average of 40 yards.

The status of John McChlelian and Bob Morehead, who have suffered injuries late in the season, is still unknown. Although they are expected to play, their performance is expected to be below par.

Also on the not-for-certain list is Berteau, who rushed with 105 carries for 510 yards. He suffered an ankle injury late in the season and is not fully recovered.

But what it all comes down to was aptly phrased by one sportswriter: "Can you beat them people?"

"I don't know why not," answered Tomek. "It's going to be a good game, though."

Western and Louisiana Tech will be playing in the 12th Camellia Bowl. Proceeds of the game go to the Cerebral Palsy fund.

Last year's game, between California Poly and North Dakota, was played before the largest crowd in the history of the game, 17,194.

Western and Louisiana Tech for a name for themselves.
The Rain Bows sends team to the showers

By LEO PECKENPAUGH

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—It was a warm welcome in a not-so-sunny California for the Western delegation, some 150 strong, Wednesday night when the Toppers arrived in this state's capital via their charter flight.

A local high school band chimed out with some modern sounds, pretty girls decorated the ladies on the flight with colorful camouflage as they stepped off the aircraft and the Hilltoppers stood poised and ready for tomorrow's clash with Louisiana Tech in Sacramento's Hughes Stadium.

But the weather caught the team a bit unexpectedly as cold (the temperature ranged in the mid 40s to low 50s) rain dampened this first national football championship in NCAA history. The weather broke and the sun peeked through the cloudy skies momentarily yesterday, but more of the preppy that greeted the Toppers when they arrived was predicted for tomorrow.

And the "rainy season" as one maid called it here at the hotel yesterday morning has put a big question mark on the condition of the game field.

Hughes Stadium, a city-owned and operated structure that seats 21,300, played host to some 40 area high school games this season. To say the least, when the prep season ended just before Thanksgiving, it was a mess.

So the field was raked on, as 300 pounds of seed were spread over the terrain and a tarpaulin, ventilated with a special gas used to help the grass, covered the field until today.

What the turf looks like is still the question of the hour, but one Camellia Bowl official warned both sides to be ready for a pretty slick surface.

And a slick surface may be a relief to both the team's defenses, as both face possibly the highest-powered offenses in the country.

Louisiana Tech is paced by the combination of Danny Duron and All-American receiver Roger Carr. Western, on the other hand, relies heavily on their quarterback, Dennis Tomek, and split end Porter Williams.

Both teams will throw a lot if the situation presents itself. And both teams are figuring, as Tomek put it yesterday in his room, that "we can win it if we just play good football."

But, for a national championship, there seems to be a relaxed mood around the Hilltopper headquarters on the eve of the most important game in the 55-year history of Western football.

Several of the players sat around the room following breakfast yesterday morning, reviewing plans for the afternoon and evening.

Preparations are extensive. Bobbi Johnson noted that a movie was in line for post-dinner activities and he was asked about which movie the team was to attend.

"Some corny Walt Disney film," replied the sandy-haired Johnson.

"Well," said Tomek, "you can go watch that if you want to, but I hear there's a real good show down the street (referring to the Linda Lovelace film "Deep Throat")!

But relaxed or not, Dave Carter perhaps expressed the most prophetic line of the trip when talking of just what it meant to him.

"Sure," said the burly center, "I came out here to have a good time, but I also came out here to do one thing in particular, and that's beat Louisiana Tech."

Sounds like somebody's ready to play ball, doesn't it?

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Hot and heavy

WHAPPING UP the ball carrier, (above, John Bushong 76) shows an opponent's running attack. A singy pass defense, left, anchored by Bob Morehead (38) and Virgil Livers (44) makes yardage via the airways extremely difficult. Western's highscoring offense, commanded by Dennis Tomek, below, pick up where the defense leaves off.

Photos by Roger Lovett and Bill Monroe

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Western Louisiana Tech

Camellia Bowl foes

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Picture this:

Mike McCoy named Kodak All-American

WKU defensive back Mike McCoy has been named to the Kodak All-American team by the American Football Coaches Association. The Louisville senior has 14 interceptions this season and is in his career.

The three-year starter was also named to the OVC first team for the second year in a row, and was the only unanimous choice.

Several of Western's opponents were also named to the team. They include Western Carolina defensive tackle Mark Ferguson, Lehigh quarterback Ken McNeill, Murray tailback Dae Clayton and Grambling defensive back Willy Bryant.

The Tops will face another All-American tomorrow. Louisville Tech Busher Roger Carr has caught 30 passes for 587 yards and four touchdowns this season. Two of the TDs have come in the playoffs.
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A Christmas Carol

Great Expectations make for a Dickens of a season

By AL CROSS

"Great Expectations" was probably the theme for the 1973 Hilltopper football team even during spring practice last year. Nine offensive and eight defensive starters returned from the club that finished runner-up in the Ohio Valley Conference in 1972. Western was picked by "every poll from Waukegan to Walla Walla" to walk away with the conference crown this year.

Head Coach Jimmy Feix, in his usual guarded manner, said in August, "There are in no way we have the awesome football team that people have said." He qualified that statement when he glanced at his player chart and noted, "We have a fine bunch of football players."

WESTERN 23 Austin Peay 0

Following an open date, the Hilltoppers went on the road again to meet Austin Peay. Jackson, playing at tailback the entire game because of an Embree injury, again scored three touchdowns as Western won 28-0. The Tops led only 7-0 at halftime and starting quarterback Dennis Tomek was replaced by former No. 1 signal-caller Len Pockenpaugh at the start of the third quarter. As it turned out, the Western scoring output was the lowest of the regular season.

WESTERN 30 East Tennessee 0

The Hilltoppers returned to the friendly atmosphere of Smith Stadium to face a highly-rated opponent, East Tennessee, in game No. 3. After a Buccaneers-dominated first quarter, the Toppers defense went on to hold quarterback Alan Chadwick. Chadwick's passing was complete only 42 per cent of the time (mostly short ones) and he was intercepted twice and sacked several times.

Two players later declared ineligible for the playoffs were the defensive stars. Tackle Lonnie Shuster had eight tackles and one assist and linebacker Robert Walton had seven stops with seven assists.

Jackson continued his prodigious scoring with two more touchdowns while Porter Williams shared offensive honors by catching a touchdown pass and several other crucial throws in the 30-0 romp.

WESTERN 45 Western Carolina 7

Non-conference foe Western Carolina was shocked by the WKU passing attack.

The ineligibles

FOUR WESTERN SENIORS who made a large contribution to the 10-0 regular season record, were forced to sit out of the playoffs due to the NCAA five-year rule. Leo Pockenpaugh (right) enjoyed his best season as a Hilltopper quarterback as he set a new career record for touchdown passes with a total of 35. Aundra Skiles (68, above), Lonnie Schuster (71) and Robert Walton (64) led the Western defense in tackling. Schuster was also named the OVC Defensive Player of the Year.
in Game 4. Pechenough and Tomek completed 18 passes for 277 yards to ensure a 45-7 win at home. All told, the offense gained a record 608 yards. The defense was stingy as ever, allowing only one first-quarter score.

Western 41, Tennessee Tech 0

Western gained a measure of revenge by besting Tennessee Tech 41-0 in the next outing. The game was again decided in the air, as Pechenough and Tomek passed for 171 yards while the defense held the defending OVC champs to only 35 yards passing.

Western 35 Eastern 0

Both offense and defense continued to excel as the Big Red Machine steamrolled Eastern Kentucky 35-0. In what was probably the Toppers’ finest game of the year, they gained 479 yards and held the Colonels scoreless at home. The defense’s fourth shutout was saved by some important tackles and goal-line stands, and the offense survived four fumbles to register a decisive win.

Western 24 Morehead 7

Homecoming lacked much of its usual excitement as the Hilltoppers disposed of Morehead. The outcome was never in doubt. The only setback Western suffered was Morehead’s last-minute score, the first against the Top defense by an OVC team.

Pechenough, starting his second straight game, scored two touchdowns to lead the WKU scoring. The defense forced two fumbles and intercepted four of Toppers’ quarterback Dave Schaetzel’s passes.

“In no way do we have the awesome football team that people have said.”

—Jimmy Feix, August, 1973

Western 42 Middle Tennessee 6

The eighth win in a row was one of the sweetest. Middle Tennessee, conqueror of the Toppers for the last three years, was humiliated at home by a 45-6 score. Pechenough was exceptional, hitting on 12 of 19 passes for 214 yards and three touchdowns. Jackson scored two TDs and Embrase the other.

The victory, which clinched a tie for the OVC championship, was enlivened by the appearance of Heaven Doe, an exotic dancer from Nashville.

Western 48 Butler 6

Butler posed no real problem for Western, even at Indianapolis. The Hilltoppers won 48-6 in a game that had no real stars except teamwork. Pechenough hit a milestone, though, by throwing the 51st TD pass of his career, breaking a record set in 1863 by Felix.

Western 32 Murray 27

Between the Big Red and a perfect season stood the Murray State Racers, who came to Bowling Green hoping to tie for the conference title. They left disappointed, suffering a 32-27 defeat after leading 13-6 at halftime. Pechenough, playing his last college game, teamed with Williams for four second-half touchdowns and scored the other himself on a short run in the first half.

Western 29 Grambling 20

The Grambling game will remain in Western fans’ memories for many reasons. First, it was a victory in the backyard of one of college football’s traditional powers. Second, it proved Western’s offensive line could handle a defensive line that weighed an average of 30 pounds more per man.

Third, it proved that Tomek had as much cold as he seemed. Interceptions six times, the junior signal-caller came back throwing in the last quarter and sealed the victory with a 2-yard TD pass to Dave Maley.

The 29-30 win at Rattie Rouge, La., was certainly the harshest fought of the season. Grambling took an early lead but was overtaken by the Hilltoppers, who posted a 21-7 halftime edge. Momentum in the second half eventually swung Grambling’s way, and only a missed extra point prevented a tie at the close of the third quarter.

It was a game made by the break. Tomek was intercepted six times, Grambling’s quarterback four; but the tenacious Topper defense recovered five Tiger fumbles. This enhanced the drama of the game, which had most of the surprisingly large Western cheering section on its feet most of the time.

Western’s best season ever saw much drama and many stars. Doubtless we can look for even more Saturday in Sacramento.

Record breakers

CLARENCE JACKSON (above) finds the going a bit rough as he meets a group of Morehead tacklers in Western’s 34-7 Homecoming win. Jackson ended the regular season with two OVC records for most points in career with 234 and most TDs in career with 39. Porter Williams (right) hauls in one of his four TD passes in the Murray game, setting an OVC record. It also set a record for most touchdowns scored in a single game.

Photo by Lynn LeMarr

Photo by George W. Redd
Toppers rally to leash Bulldogs 104-96

By CARTER PENCE

A strong second-half performance, with Western's Kent Allison and Mike Odom taking over the boards, routed undefeated Western to a 104-96 victory over a stubborn Butler University basketball team last night.

Leading the 'Toppers to their fifth win of the young season was Allison, whose 23 points and 14 rebounds led both teams and earned him the game's most valuable player award.

But Allison wasn't the only man on the court as five other Toppers scored in double figures. Among them were 6-6 center Ray Rowan, whose inside punch kept Western rolling in the second half with some easy baskets underneath. Calvin Wade added 19 and also handed out nine assists.

Both teams kept a strong pace in the first half, but neither could open up any more than a six-point lead. Combining some strong outside shooting by 6-4 guard Jeff Williams and some inside baskets, Butler shot holes in Western's first-half defense. Add the fact that the Toppers only managed five of 11 free throws, and you have the reason why Butler was on the high side of 53-47 score at the half.

Had it not been for the presence of Chuck Rawlings, Butler's scorer could have been held to two-thirds of his scoring. Williams's shooting accounted for most of the shots coming outside of Kent Allison

20-feet. Rawlings entered the game with 8:29 left in the first half and provided a spark for a lagging Western defense. Williams's next shot in the middle of the second half gave Rawlings and the rest of the Butler 104 points.

"Chuck really did some kind of job with him," said Richards. When a guy goes in and shoots off their hottest shooter, start's casing them. If I let him go to the air, he's going to make two or three points on top of that. I just don't know of anything else we can ask of him.

Both teams were a bit looser in the second half, but a flurry of Western baskets in the early going made up the six points and the Toppers took the lead back. Butler's Bowan hit a layin with 16:35 left. Another layin by Bowan, a 15-foot jumper by Wade and a steal by Rawlings that resulted in another layin had Butler playing catch-up the rest of the way.

But the Bulldogs refused to lay down, although the closest they came after that was five points when Lina hit a 15-foot jumper with 1:31 left.

But Bowan connected on another lay-in and Wade hit both ends of a one-and-one to seal the game for coach Jim Richards.

"We've got a lot of game," said Richards. "They've got a great team."

"Coach made sure we got our defense in place," said Allison. "It's hard to get a team ready mentally for a game like this," he said. "After you play a game with a school with a ranked team, it's hard to get ready for a school that doesn't have a big name or the ranking, even though they have a great ball club."

"We've got a great team," said Richards. "We've executed extremely well."

Richards added a little praise for his own team. "It's great to see Allison get back into form," he added. "He's had a little problem with his confidence, but he was ready here tonight."

Allison agreed, "My shooting has been off and I guess I did lose a little confidence in myself," said the 6-4 junior forward. "But I'm coming out of it now. The other guys were coming to a little bit."

"In four games, Allison is the fourth point on the Western team to walk away with the MVP award. "That's great," said Coach Williamson, "it lets you know that you have a team."

Despite Coach Williamson's statement, Butler coach George Theobald said that his team's slow start in

the second half hurt the most. But the fact that three of his starting five fouled out and the two others ended up with four trips didn't help things any, he said.

"Western really played ball in the second half," he said. And the fouls did slow us down quite a bit.

We had the lead and we just came out flat. You just can't sit on the ball for an entire half."

Theobald said Western compared somewhat to the University of Louisville, which convinced Butler by 10 points last week. "They're an awful lot alike," he said. Both teams are very physical and both like to run.

Western's next outing will be in the Big Sun Invitational in St. Petersburg, Fla. That tournament begins on Dec. 21 and Florida State will be the Toppers' first round opponent.

Also on Western's schedule is the Gator Bowl Classic which begins in Jacksonville, Fla., on Dec. 26. Other teams participating are Jacksonville, Florida and Duke.

Jayvees down Volunteer

By DON COLLINS

Western's Jayvees basketball talers overran 24 turnovers to down Volunteer State Community College 95-58 last night in Dickenson Hall.

Shooting a difference as the Toppers canned 42 of 79 shots for 44 percent while Volunteer State was only able to convert 24 percent of 40 shots attempts.

Dennis Benningfield again held the hot hand for Western in scoring 23 points. Bill Scillian dropped in 19 and pulled down 11 rebounds from his guard spot.

Gary Elliott added 17, including a crucial layup with 13 seconds left to boost the Western lead to 93-60.

The Toppers, started the game hot and they jumped to an early 64 advantage. However, Volunteer State battled back to 8-6 on a layup by Larry Knight, who led the visitors in scoring with 22 points.

Volunteer State stayed close as the result of numerous Topper turnovers, and finally tied Coach Ralph Baker's outfit at 84-all with 2:45 left in the game.

As loyal supporters of WKU football and basketball, we are disappointed to see some Western fans tarnish the image of a fine university. At this Providence basketball game, on Dec. 10, we were embarrassed by the lack of sportsmanship shown by many fans. Basketball has a lot of judgement calls by the referees, but boozing won't change them. Also, there's quite a difference between enthusiastic cheering for one's team and unsportsmanlike cheering of the opponents. At least our players and Coach Richards stayed cool (the players while playing a high caliber of ball), and the cheerleaders didn't allow the rude noise during the opponents' foul shots. Some fans seem to forget that sporting events are still only games.

This year our basketball team seems to be putting it all together. But no matter how the season ends, win or lose, it's support the Toppers in a way that won't send our opponents away with a bad image of Western and Bowling Green.

Letters to
the editor

May we offer some applause? We have been proud Western fans for a long time, but never prouder or happier than now. We loved being a part of the excitement at the Sun Bowl—helping to enjoy the sweet thrill of success. That was extra good icing on the cake of a great season.

A little applause for the band, too. We would like them to know how much they added to our enjoyment of the game all year. Excellent performance and enthusiasm that was contagious were evident and appreciated by all.

It was a real challenge for the next person to fill Jim Simpson's fast-stepping, bow-legged boots. He's one of a kind and a great performer. The band and fans caught the spirit of Western from the band and the yell leaders—such exuberance!

It was very pleasant to see Butler Rouge as well as all season long—we had the best team, the best band, and the best cheering section led by the best yell leaders—AND the best cannon and cannon crew. We want to "Stand Up and Cheer" for WKU! Long may the red towels wave! Let the cannon BOOM!

Mr. and Mrs. James E. (Snooz) Davis Henderson, Ky.

COACH JIM RICHARDS makes a point during a timeout, and his players made some shots, too, as they rallied to whip a stubborn Butler team 104-96 here last night to extend their season record to 6-0.

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz
Mary F. Wawrukiewicz

Photo by Scott Applewhite