

Bus Saidt

Staff Writer



Football Climbs In Brain League

Once upon a time the idea of a good football player owning and operating a sharp supply of brains received about the same acceptance as a suggestion that LeRoi Jones be appointed Secretary of State.

To put it in a plain and simple manner, gridiron brains and brawn were thought to be incompatible.

If you're old enough to remember hulking Nat Pendleton, who used to be the Hollywood conception of the football bruiser in the old rah-rahers featuring Ronald Reagan, Jack Oskie, Priscilla Lane and Spring Byington, you can get the picture.

They were all Joe Palooka types, guys with muscles on muscles who couldn't think their way out of a paper bag.

When they got up to speak they'd give it the "Da, da, da, I ain't much of ar, ah, speaker" bit, and the audience would gaffaw and enjoy their embarrassment.

There was a time when a sportswriter would be thrilled if one of Saturday's pigskin heroes gave him his name properly.

Like the free lunch at your favorite pub, those days are gone forever.

There still are muscle-bound brain boys playing the game, but very, very few.

Fifth Annual Dinner

Next Monday night, January 29, the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Foundation and Football Hall of Fame will hold its fifth annual Scholar-Athlete Awards dinner in the Faculty dining room at Rider College.

This is the showcase affair presenting living proof-positive that one of the pre-requisites of a successful football career is an ample supply of gray matter between the ears, and, more important, the inclination to utilize same.

Ascertaining, dramatizing and honoring outstanding football players who have achieved academic excellence is a major raison d'etre of the National Foundation.

The Delaware Valley Chapter, under the leadership of Presi-

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dent Fred Schluter, an old Columbia Light Blue griddier with a solid scholastic transcript, is on the move in advancing the cause of recognition of the scholar-athlete in the greater Trenton area.

Chamber Of Commerce Helps

This year, in a notable step forward, the Greater Trenton Chamber of Commerce has joined forces with the football group in co-sponsoring the dinner.

"We know that anything that we can do to support this program, which promotes and recognizes the need for a high standard of education combined with proficiency in sports, will be to promote the betterment of the community," said the Chamber's dinner co-chairmen, the Hon. Judge Arthur S. Lane and John H. Nevius.

Individual Chamber members will sponsor tables of eight, to include four places for the businessman and his associates, one of the award-winning nominees, his parents and his coach.

At the same time, the 22 scholastic standout footballers of the Delaware Valley as selected by the Times sports department will be the guests of the Trenton Times Newspapers.

Weber Award Winner

Princeton tailback Bob Weber, earlier a winner of the NCAA District Two Scholar-Athlete award and a Rhodes Scholarship candidate, will be the recipient of the collegiate division top award. Trenton State's Robert Taylor was a close runner-up.

"In the high school and prep division," reported selection committee chairman Irwin W. Weiss, "individual winners were very hard to decide. Every boy nominated was a potential winner. It's too bad we couldn't have called it a tie among them all."

In the prep school division, nominees include Bob Kugler, Peddie; Gary Confer, Lawrenceville; John Claghorn, Princeton Day School; Ken Kelly, Hun School; Richard Beach, Pennington Prep and Doug Stevens of George School.

High School candidates are Lewis Flack, Ewing; Dan Hough, St. Anthony's; Craig Johns, Neshaminy; Gordon Davies, Pennsbury; Steve Parker, Florence; Don Hawkey, Rancocas Valley; Tom Butterfoss, Princeton; Joseph Novalis, Bordentown Regional; George Carmichael, Allentown; Gary Cortina, Steinert; Richard Rains, Lawrence; Harold Schmitz, South Brunswick; Mike Drulis, Notre Dame; Gary Gray, Bishop Egan; James Brewer, Morrisville; John Hill, Franklin Township; James Flam, Trenton Central; Bob Wolfrum, William Tennett; Bryan Freeman, Burlington Township; Richard Shinn, Northern Burlington; Edward Vogler, Hamilton; Arthur Edinger, Delaware Valley and Norm Greczyn of Hightstown.

'Another Milestone'

"The cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce marks another milestone in promoting understanding persons among business leaders, citizens and the sports community," said Schluter. "The dinner affords these fine boys and their parents the opportunity to rub elbows with business and professional leaders. It gives college coaches a chance to meet these young men, enhancing the chance for scholarship assistance."

The Times Newspapers' Editor and Publisher, James Kerney, Jr., will be toastmaster, with the main address to be delivered by Judge Lane, a winner of the Chapter's Distinguished American Award.

Tickets are available at the Times, the Chamber of Commerce, 104 N. Broad St., and at Schluter's office, 960 E. State St.

As the professor said, all play and no brainwork makes Jack a dull boy. There is nothing dull here.