

DiRuggeris attracting attention at SC

Ex-Bensalem star pleased with early going

ED DI RUGERIS is beginning to attract attention at the University of South Carolina.

DiRuggeris saw action for the third straight game as a freshman for the Fighting Gamecocks. "I played 20 minutes against Michigan," an excited DiRuggeris said in a telephone interview.

Coach Frank McGuire is bringing DiRuggeris slowly. DiRuggeris, who was the Courier Times "Co-Player of the Year" last season at Bensalem Township High School, did not play in the Gamecocks' opener. He saw a combined 17 minutes against Oklahoma and Toledo.

McGuire gave DiRuggeris more freedom against Michigan. "I'm very pleased with the way things are going," the 6-2 DiRuggeris said from Ann Arbor. "There were 10,000 people cheering but not too many for South Carolina. But that's what it is all about. And traveling. It is just great."

DiRuggeris electrified the crowd when he poured in six for seven from the floor. Two of his field goals turned into three point plays. He was two for two from the line. Three times South Carolina trailed Michigan by 17 points but rallied to pull within two points. DiRuggeris' floor play helped the Gamecocks roar from behind. He did walk with the ball twice in clutch situations, but it didn't mar an otherwise brilliant display for an 18-year-old.

South Carolina trailed by five with a minute to go and finished a 91-82 loser to Michigan.

"We're hoping to come to the Garden with a 5-1 record," DiRuggeris said.

Before the Gamecocks head to Madison Square Garden for the Holiday Festival on Dec. 26-27-29, they will compete in their own Carolina Classic beginning Dec. 22. In that tournament are Yale, Oklahoma State and Virginia.



ED DI RUGERIS
... Gamecock ace



ARNOLD ODY
... stepping down



VINCE PRESTO
... ref retires

Joining South Carolina at Madison Square Garden will be Villanova, Temple, St. John's, top-ranked Indiana, Columbia, St. Bonaventure, and Manhattan. "We hope to get a shot at Indiana," DiRuggeris said.

South Carolina sports information director Tom Price compares DiRuggeris with former Gamecock All-America Kevin Joyce. "Joyce was All-America in his senior year and was on the Olympic team in 1972. He played two years with the Indiana Pacers of the ABA and the San Diego Sails. DiRuggeris is very much like Joyce. If he develops like Joyce he'll be quite a player."

Price rattles off the names of Brian Winters (Milwaukee Bucks), John Roche (New York Nets, Utah Stars) and Mike Dunleavy, currently a Gamecock senior. "We've had a tradition of outstanding guards here. DiRuggeris could fit right into it," Price said.

DiRuggeris likes the schedule he is currently on. But he always bends an ear north to hear what is going on in Lower Bucks County.

"What do you hear about Billy Keys?," Ed asked. "I saw in a boxscore he scored four points against one team."

Bristol's Keys, who shared "Player of the Year" honors with DiRuggeris, is a 6-6 freshman at Syracuse. The former All-Pennsylvania selection is on Syracuse's traveling team. He's seen action in five of Syracuse's six games. Keys is four for 12 from the floor, none for four from the foul line, has hauled down 12 rebounds and has five assists. Syracuse's next opponents, all at home, are Penn State (Dec. 19), Boston College (Dec. 20) and Dayton (Dec. 30).

JOHN PETERCUSKIE was a smashing hit as the main speaker at the 34th annual Langhorne Lions Club banquet. The football squads of Neshaminy Langhorne and Neshaminy Maple Point high schools were honored.

Petercuskie, former head football coach at Neshaminy, is now defensive coordinator at Princeton. He paid tribute to Harry Franks, now assistant principal in charge of co-curricular and athletic activities at Neshaminy Maple Point. Petercuskie said Franks was "the architect of Neshaminy School District football. In the formative years of the 1950s, he was far ahead of anyone in Bucks County and the surrounding area in building a successful football program."

Petercuskie, of Polish extraction, paid tribute to Polish greats: "... the Father of our country was Polish— who else would try to cross the Delaware River in a rowboat?"

"You get a few alumni letters at the college level (of football). I even got quite a few when I was here at Neshaminy."

"Nobody ever teaches you to lose. The best definition of a loser is the piano player in a marching band."

In more serious moments, Petercuskie said, "You've got to



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play to win. But the important thing is to become a winner during the game. If you can walk off and say you've done the best you can, you're a winner.

"Perfection is not where something can never be added. It's where nothing can ever be taken away." Petercuskie, who guided Neshaminy to 51 straight victories, ended his coaching career at Neshaminy after the 1965 season...

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP HIGH School principal Arnold D. Ody will leave his current position at the end of the school year and will assume another post in the system. Ody is a former head baseball coach and jayvee basketball mentor for the Owls. Bob Dampman, ex-Owl football coach, is expected to take Ody's job as high school principal...

COUNCIL ROCK HIGH SCHOOL'S GREG PRITCHARD was honored at a dinner in New York City by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Hall of Fame. Pritchard was representing Lower Bucks County. He is a senior who played linebacker for the Indians. Pritchard is 6-3, 215 pounds...

VINCE PRESTO of Feasterville has retired as a basketball official. "After 27 years I have decided it is time to call it quits," the 54-year-old Presto said.

Presto has always been considered one of the finest refs ever to handle a scholastic game in this region. He said the decision was made after he officiated the Abington-Plymouth-Whitemarsh playoff game in the Palestra. "It was a triple overtime game and after that one I figured it was time to get out."

Presto has a lot of good memories and immediately said the St. Joe's-Villanova game, which was also a triple over-time game a few years ago was another one he'll never forget. "It is a young man's game," he added. "And there are a lot of good refs coming up." Presto will retain his position as basketball commissioner of the Lower Bucks County League.