Sophomores Show Top Varsity Football Potential

by Joseph Hask

Their style is cool—sometimes sly—but still cool enough that their varsity football prowess somehow seems more high school than college.

Sure they show the tension and anxiety that most rookies experience in their first varsity appearances, but they play in such a way that they've got the potential to be conference contenders.

You've got to put out 11 percent during practices and games, says defensive guard Jeff Rodgers. Built like a football player, Rodgers at 5'11", 155 lbs., likes being helped by his senior teammates.

"The coaching here is pretty good, but there are some things that only the bigger players on the team can help you with. It's that relationship that makes a team strong."

Reliance on Speed

Grizzly reliance on speed has put tailback Andy Phillips in the public eye. Noted for size, the Ashland offense has been running more often than passing. "Sure I'm scared when there's a big smash in."

says Phillips, who at 5'6", 155 lbs., was impressive in the Anderson game setting 72 yards in 22 carries. "I just keep running and don't let anybody get a square shaft at me."

"Sophomores add depth to the team," says Rodgers. "There's more competition for positions—everybody works harder—everybody tries to help each other."

Sophomore depth is apparent in little recognized defensive back Greg Harris. Reader pegging two yards in one carry in the Anderson game, Harris' interception of a Cubs' pass on the Ashland 32 in the fourth quarter helped to solidify the Grizzly defense.

Hopes of District Title

Gymnastics Team Young

Girls gymnastics has a new face at the high school.

The Lady Bears, under the leadership of a new coach—Sara Larson—consists largely of sophomores with a single year of compulsory routine experience at the high school. Only three members of last year's district championship team returned to the competition this season: seniors, Sharon Hill and Kathleen McClure and junior, Teresa McCuller.

Another District Title

Even though, it is an obviously young team, hopes of an unprecedented third consecutive gymnastics title are rising steadily. Former Ashland High's gymnast, Lois Hill, who has been helping the team in her spare time, feels "the girls should take district again, I didn't think we were experienced enough at first but everyone is working hard and learning the routines now. All the floor ex girls are doing back handsprings."

Cancellation of the Klamath Falls invitational conference competition up to October when the Lady Bears encountered their toughest rivals, Medford and Lakeview, Mrs. Larson has temporarily scheduled the first meet of the year against her former gymnasts from Beaverot, next week, either on Thursday or Saturday. Even if the Beaverot meet materializes, she expects the Medford-Lakeview meet to be a real test since the Lady Bears have an extra meet before meeting us.

"The girls from some of the other schools show a lot of practice and skill. We will have to work hard as a young team to maintain our supremacy for the third year in a row. It's my feeling that if the girls continue their maximum effort in practice that we will prevail," said Mrs. Larson.

Expected Starters

Two sophomores, Karen Dew and Liz Steineck, will compete in the all-around competition as well as Mrs. Hill who assumes the top all-around position vacated by AIS graduate Pamela Holtbohr.

Lack of depth presents problems only on the floor exercise mat. The three all-arounds will be joined by Sue Bedesige, a freshman back-up performers are scarce with Pam Bennet, Kathy Danlap and Kathleen McClure as possible alternates.

Balance beam, uneven bars and vaulting each have the added depth necessary for a championship team. Vaulting looks very promising with assistant coach Patricia Selby working eight girls on hand springing, vaults. With just four events allowed per event in a meet, there are nine gymnasts on the beam and seven on the bars vying for these crucial positions.

That type of depth has been Ashland's strong suit for four years now and will hopefully result in another title when November 17 - the district meet rolls around.

Cross Country Crew Building For Future

Ashland High's cross-country team is very good and very young. Already Robert Julian's long distance runners have proven themselves as a track power by taking a strong second place finish at the Crabier Invitational and first place honors at the Lost River Invitational.

Mark Simonsohn, Mark Farrell, and Dale Simons were three of the best reasons Ashland was able to take second place out of the eight competing teams at the Invitational. Five out of the Grizzlies seven varsity runners finished in the top eleven giving Ashland an unbeatble 35 points.

To post a win Ashland had to beat teams such as Medford, Crater and Eagle Point. Mark Farrell lead Ashland's winners by taking second with 15:04 time. Ashland's Junior Varsity also took first place.

Last year with a much more experienced team, the high school finished third. But this years young but talented crop will be challenging the field of thirty teams for the prestigious track.

The meet being held tomorrow at Gilcrest, will be held at 12:00, led by juniors Mark Farrell, Mark Simmons Jim Troutman and Brad Studebaker. Challenging for a share of the lead will be sophomores Bill Yeoman, and Freshmen John Winter and Dale Simmons.

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