

Namath quits; no more Broadway Joe

Editor's note: This article was a sports column in the Daily Barometer, the student newspaper at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

by GENE SALING
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This column is for those who remember Super Bowl III.

It's also for those who remember a player that GUARANTEED a win in that game, and then produced it.

This is for those who have seen "superstars" come and go like so many dime store comedians, but who find true sports heroes a rarity.

And to these people, I join in mourning the end of a truly great career.

Joe Willie Namath, alias "White Shoes," was the best, no doubt about it. Tuesday he announced his retirement from the National Football League.

He was, without a doubt, the most exciting (if not the best) passer in pro football history during his glory years.

Had he not had so many problems with his knees, he would have been the greatest quarterback in history as well.

And he was a true sports hero. Face it, there aren't many of those around any more.

What, you say? Jimmy Connors, Fran Tarkenton, Terry Bradshaw, Catfish Hunter, Johnny Bench, Pete Maravich, David Thompson, Tony Esposito, Johnny Miller, and all the rest-aren't they sports heroes too?

No way. Some are good, some are great, some

are even stars, but none of them are true sports heroes.

There are a few still around, and once in a while a new one crops up, but there aren't many.

Today's top players are often either robots or crybabies. And often, they're overpaid.

The "in" phrase used to describe today's top athletes is "superstar." But the phrase has become worn and cheapened in its meaning.

The main qualifications for superstars today is to have an annual salary reaching into six figures, and to do as little as possible to earn that money.

Namath was a true sports hero. Ironically, it was he who ushered in the era of the high-priced athlete, and yet, his contributions to pro football can never be measured in terms of dollars and cents.

He was signed by the new York Jets of the then "inferior" American Football League, and within five years, the NFL and the AFL merged. Since then, the popularity of pro football has exploded. Namath was one reason why.

Namath guaranteed a win by his Jets over Baltimore in Super Bowl III, while most people laughed and figured it would be the Colts by 30.

Well, Joe and his Jets embarrassed the Colts in that Super Bowl, and most of the sports world was shocked. But not Joe. Remember, he guaranteed it, he delivered on his promise and afterward he was humble and let the results speak for themselves.

(I had a personal stake in that game. While most of the people in my junior high agreed with the "experts," I took the guarantee to heart, bet heavily on the Jets-nickles and dimes, you understand-and cleaned up the Monday after.)

Football fans might also remember one of the other great moments Namath provided the sport of football. Who can forget that classic Jets-Colts game in the early 70's where Namath outdueled Unitas and threw for almost 500 yards?

Or that great Monday night game against Oakland four years ago where Namath, with a backfield hobbled by injuries and no defense to back him up, almost singlehandedly defeated the Raiders with a performance that left even Howard Cosell speechless?

I can give a little personal insight to the real Joe, not the playboy-image, high-living, commercial, Broadway-oriented Joe who was always presented in the press.

At a celebrity golf tournament in the late 60's Namath was sitting alone at a table drinking a coke during a tourney banquet, while most of the rest of the celebrities there were drinking, loud and generally overbearing.

My parents were at the tournament, and my mom bravely walked up to him to get his autograph for me, not knowing what to expect.

He not only gladly signed, he talked to her for a few minutes and was polite and pleasant the whole time. He was one of the few "stars" at that tourney who gave such a positive impression to my mom, a tough woman to impress.

Yes, Namath was a true hero.

He played 13 seasons on a pair of knees most people wouldn't have lasted five years on. And he kept on playing not for the money, but because he loved the game.

Pro football won't be the same without him.

Sports notes

The ACU-I tournament will continue with frisbee which began yesterday at 1. The competition is based on distance and accuracy. For more information contact Maureen Kearney, extension 237.

The fitness and conditioning clinic for women will be held tomorrow from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Randall Hall gym and weight rooms. Community Services will sponsor the event. For more information call extension 232.

The college gym will remain open to the public on Sundays and will be set for different activities.

From 1 to 3 p.m. volleyball, badminton and other activities, excluding basketball, will be played. Basketball can be played from 3 to 6 p.m.

More information is available from the Community Services office at 656-2631, ext. 232.

Hoopsters lose three more

About the only bright news for the College's Womens Basketball team was that they lost a close game to Lane Community College, 59-56.

Playing their best game of the season, the Cougar gals came back from deficits of seven in the first half to trail 26-23.

In the second half, Clackamas got behind by 14 but rallied and would have had a good shot at winning the game if there had been more time remaining.

Tammy White led the Cougar ladies with 17, while Jan Buse and Erin Gambee had ten each, and Cindy Kirkpatrick had eight points.

Buse also grabbed 14 rebounds and Gambee had ten to lead the team.

Cindy Corkum and Lori Quick led Lane with 18 points each.

The difference came from the free throw line as Clackamas connected on only 12 of 29 free throws for a .407 percent.

However, for the rest of the week, the Cougars were beaten by very strong clubs from Portland State University and Clark College.

Against Portland State on Thursday, the gals were never really in the game as the Vikings won 66-39.

Clackamas trailed at the half 34-15 and got behind by as many as 35 points before pulling off a late rally in the final seven minutes to close the gap to 27.

"I was really proud of the girls in that six or seven minutes because they showed me that even though they were way behind, they will refuse to give up," said head coach Nancy Mikelton "They tried to come back even though winning the game was unlikely."

Buse had a strong game at the post position as she scored 18 points and grabbed 19 rebounds.

White, on the other hand, the team's top scorer for most of the year, did not score a point.

Against Clark College last Saturday, Clackamas was simply beaten by a very strong team.

Playing against one of the top womens teams in the Northwest, according to Mikelton, the Cougars didn't really stand a chance, as they lost 82-36.

The game at the outset was much different than the final outcome as Clackamas only trailed by four at 12-8 before Clark's speed proved to be too much for the Cougar gals.

The difference in the game was the fact that Clackamas had 53 turnovers.

"When you get girls playing who really haven't had the game experience, one turnover tends to lead to another. This leads to mental lapses, and for some reason, the girls seem pressured to

shoot too quickly and then they rarely get their best shot," said Mikelton.

Cougar turnovers led directly to Clark baskets as they were to connect on 39 of 73 shots or 53 percent.

Ruth Peeke had 16 points and guard Joyce Robertson hit 13 of 16 shots and 28 points, to lead Clark.

Clackamas was only able to make 14 of 37 shots, or about half as many as Clark was able to get off, for 37 percent.

White was 6 for 8 for 14 points and Buse had 13 rebounds to lead the Cougars.

The Cougars next game is Jan. 31 at home, against the University of Portland. They are then a part of the basketball double-header against Linn-Benton on Friday, Feb. 3

Boy held by Jacuzzi

Eric Petersen, 12, was injured in a freak accident on Monday when his hair was caught in the College's whirlpool in Randall Hall.

Petersen, his brother, Tim, and Bob Schnepel came to Sun-Deer recreation. Schnepel went to the sauna while the other two were in the whirlpool. Apparently Petersen was going to wash his hair and because his hair was long it got caught in the whirlpool.

When Schnepel came out of the sauna and turned off the whirlpool and then pulled the plug. This forced the water out and Schnepel turned Petersen's head upward so he could breathe.

"Someone came running into the P.E. office," Steve Maynard, the locker room attendant on duty, said. "He said a guy was drowning and asked if we had some scissors to cut his hair with."

"We went down there and I gave the scissors to Schnepel because he was closer and could get at it better," Maynard said.

"He (Eric) was really shook up," Maynard said. "The cut really looked deep. It was pretty bad."

Both an ambulance and the Mulino Fire Department Rescue Squad responded to the call. Paramedics bandaged Petersen's head and he was taken to the hospital. He was later released.

SPORTS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Men's basketball	Wed. 1	Blue Mtn.	7:30	Pendleton
	Fri. 3	Linn-Benton	8:00	Home
Womens basket-	Fri. 3	Linn-Benton	6:00	Home
	Mon. 6	Mt. Hood	6:30	Gresham
Wrestling	Sat. 4	Tournament	1:00	Seattle

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