

PROFILE



While at Gresham High, Lemon juiced up the Gopher offense.

Lemon

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And that's true. But they're not handed to you. I could go down there without working out and just get my college paid for, just slip through. But you have to have a sense of pride. I want to excel as much as anybody."

That is quite obvious. Detwiler fairly raves about the excellence of his prize pupil. To wit:

- "He's sure a fun kid to work with."
- "He's probably the most coachable kid we have."
- "He's a real quality kid. He's going to be a great player for us."
- "He's the headiest ballplayer we have. I don't think he's ever missed an audible."

Enough? How about one more?

- "He really takes on a challenge."

There is even more, but suffice to say, Detwiler is "glad to have him in our program."

Lemon is bound to see a lot of playing time next year regardless of what happens in his confrontation with St. Jeme or MacMillan, should he be healthy by now. The Cardinal defense was a trifle weak a year ago — in fact, says Detwiler, "It can't be any worse this year," — and the coaching staff has made it clear the best athletes are going to play. That may involve some shuffling to open spots for the likes of Lemon, should he not already have opened his own.

The young man they used to call "Juice" ("That name is history") is taking it all in stride. By now he has moved into his trailer off campus. Dormitory life also is history. "It was fun as far as parties and social activities went," he says. "But it's not real great when you're trying to get some sleep and the guy next to you is playing Hawaiian music."

The grueling daily doubles sessions are now in progress, which means season No. 2 is under way. Lemon likes his team's chances for success, but he knows the value of predictions and has no use for them. "I think we'll be good. But it would be stupid to shoot my mouth off and say we're going to win the Pac-10. Any team could."

The man with The Neck doesn't stick it out for just any old reason.

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