

# Ione mentors face facts

A tall, burly, crew-cutted man in his late 30s throws a clipboard down. He kneels on the sidelines, hands held to his face. Plays scratched on paper, clipped to the board, didn't work.

But he keeps on keeping on. He looks to the future. A future that should be a heck of a lot brighter than this football season.

Gordon Myers, head football mentor for Ione's Cardinals, is coaching his 13th Card football team. It is the first losing team he has coached.

But it was a year of no returner. A building year, if a

likes Ione and Ione must like him.

In 1965, Myers won the league with a 6-2 record; in 1967, an 8-1 record gave Ione the title; in 1968, a 9-1 mark sent him to the semifinals where he fell to Prairie City; and in 1972, the Cards fell to Alsea in the state championship.

Myers may look perplexed when he walks back and forth along the red and white sideline. He is. But in the back of his mind, there is a smile... and a smile with a future.

## Del LaRue

Del LaRue is a strategist. He'll bounce up next to his head mentor and mention a play. He'll do that about every third play and for Ione, it will work.

LaRue has a history of coaching that includes a state football title when he coached Wheeler at Fossil in 1968.

LaRue, a shortly cropped head of hair not shadowing his rock jaw, looks like a disciplinarian and the way most coaches look.

Stern face with a smile.

He started his coaching in Lostine in 1960 as basketball and track heads. He moved to Wallowa with Lostine's merger and was assistant football and head basketball and track coach.

In 1966, he moved to Fossil. He was there one year as an assistant football coach and head basketball and track. In his last three years at Fossil, he was head coach in all three Wheeler sports. In 1968, he had 10-0-1 record, tying with Riverside for the 8 man football state championships. In 1970, a semifinal game was slowed by Prospect's victory

over his Wheeler squad.

He has been in Ione for five years, serving as assistant football and head basketball and baseball mentor.

LaRue must face a winter and spring of the same losing possibilities. He faces it the same way Myers has to. He will mold his Cards into winners. Maybe not this year, but time will tell.

Next Week—  
Arlington  
Oct. 29



La Rue (left) and Myers offer encouragement along Cardinal sideline. (G-T Photo)

coach could ever call one that.

Myers was slapped with no senior leaders. He has a couple of sophomores, a junior, and a whole lot of freshmen.

They can truthfully look at the future. But Myers would like at least one win this season.

Since his start in 1964, the big lanky Myers has compiled an impressive, 73-28-2 record, placing second in the state in 1972.

Myers is a bold coach. He'll criticize another mentor if he deserves it, pat a player on the back if he deserves it, and discipline a player if he deserves it.

He is constantly molding fundamentals; always improving his Cards into a team that will have a future. And one day, the Cards will be on the bright side of those 69-6 scores.

Ione is the only place Myers has ever taught or coached. It is his 13th year there. One would have to think Mr. Myers

## Glen Krebs

No. 61

Fr.

115 lbs.



Rietmann's  
Hardware

Ione

422-7211

## Gari Gaustad

No. 66

Fr.

160 lbs.



Akers  
Motor Service

Ione

422-7112

## Terry Starr

No. 44

Fr.

155 lbs.



Chas. O'Connor  
Insurance

Ione

422-7195