

July 30, 1989

Sports

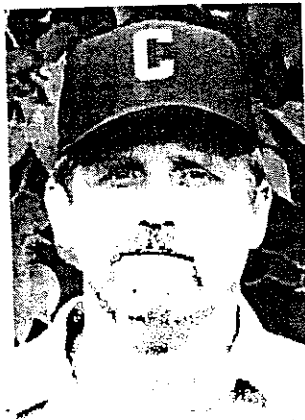
Inside

Saturday Scores
In The Fairway
Road Racing

6
7
8

OVAC All-Star Clash A Classic Match-Up

W. Va. Ground Game vs. Ohio Air Force



Jim Potts
..Mountaineer mentor

By DON CLEGG
News-Register Sports Writer

West Virginia head coach Jim Potts and Ohio head man Dave Caldwell have announced their starting lineups for tonight's 18th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football All-Star Classic and battle lines appear to have been drawn between a powerful Mountaineer ground assault and the Buckeyes' potent aerial attack for the 7 p.m. kickoff.

"Certainly it's much easier to put together a defense than it is an offense in 10 days," said Cameron's Potts, "but we've been getting our timing together the last couple of days and when we've been able to execute properly, we've moved the ball very well."

Caldwell also concedes that defenses usually have an edge at all-star time but couldn't resist giving out glowing reports on his pitch-and-

catch combos.

"(Bellaire's) Scott Woods has just been throwing super up here all week," he said, "and (Bellaire St. John's) Pat Staley really gave us a lift at wide receiver after (Mingo's) Randy Rouse went down with a bad ankle. Staley's just a super athlete and it's going to be tough to take him off the field on offense or defense."

Weir High tailback Keith Jeter (5-11, 175), one of Johnny Majors' prize recruits at Tennessee, will start at tailback for West Virginia with Wheeling Central's rugged Reese Coles (6-1, 225), bound for Bowling Green on a grid grant, clearing a path from the fullback position.

Jeter was presented the Kennedy Award last winter as the top high school football player in West Virginia after ripping off 1,453 yards in 201 carries (a 7.2 yard average) to lead the Red Riders into the Moun-

tain State Class AAA playoffs while the ruggedly-built Coles rumbled for over 600 yards to lead the Maroon Knights' 6-4 squad.

Magnolia's Jamie Clegg (6-ft., 175) will get the starting nod at quarterback for West Virginia and the former Blue Eagle standout presents a triple-threat with his slick ball-handling on the option, 1,000-yard passing arm, and elusive running style.

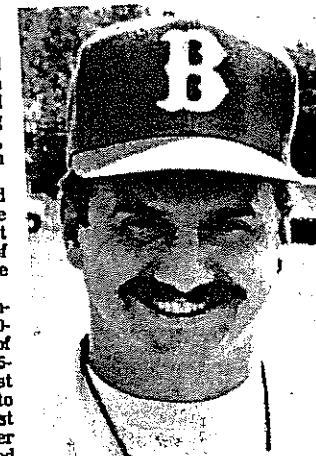
When the Buckeyes have the ball, look for Woods (6-3, 185) to go to the air early and often with such inviting targets as Staley (6-1, 185), Rick Haines (6-1, 170) of Buckeye North, J.B. Domenick (6-1, 190) of Buckeye SouthWest and fellow Big Red tight end John LaRoche (6-1, 215) to choose from.

Woods, who's signed to play his college ball at Marshall, averaged nearly 200 passing yards a game —

including a record-setting 405-yard outing against East Liverpool — in leading the Big Reds to a 9-1 record last fall while Haines was the leading small-school receiver in the valley, averaging over 20 yards a catch with 743 yards on 34 receptions.

Although the Ohio air game and West Virginia's ground attack have attracted most of the attention, it would not be surprising if the hero of the night came from somewhere else entirely.

With Jeter and Coles in the Mountaineer backfield, backed by 1,000-yard rusher Jason Smith (5-10, 160) of Tyler and hard-nosed Brad Sorge (5-9, 180) of Wheeling Central, West Virginia can certainly be expected to put Ohio's rushing defense to the test early but though the Mountaineer offense is likely to be ground-oriented



Dave Caldwell
..Buckeye grid boss

Please See All-Stars, Page 2

All-Stars

(Continued from Page One)

it certainly won't be ground-bound.

"From what I've seen this week," said Potts, "I think we have a pretty good passing attack — especially if they're drawn up close looking for the run.

"Both of our quarterbacks (Clegg and 1,000-yard passer Rick Lazasz of Linsly) have strengths in different areas and that helps our versatility in terms of things we might want to try."

Clegg and Magnolia flanker Mike Fox (5-11, 165) will be reprising a successful passing combo that clicked 55 times for 725 yards last fall while Lazasz's favorite receiver, fellow Cadet John Bodkin (6-ft., 160), and Cameron's Dan Trowbridge (6-1, 155) are both versatile athletes who combined for over 1,000 receiving yards as seniors. Smith may also see time at wide receiver.

Also not to be overlooked are the Mountaineer tight ends. John Marshall's Dougan Dietz (6-3, 235) gets the starting call and combines with Oak Glen's Craig Thomas (6-5, 225) to present Clegg with a pair of inviting targets over the middle.

Woods and fellow Buckeye signal-callers Jeff King of Buckeye North and Bill Seach of Mingo threw for nearly 5,000 yards combined last fall but Caldwell would be the first to tell you that teams do not win by the pass alone.

"I believe in taking what the other team gives you," said the Beallsville grid boss. "It doesn't matter how well you throw the ball if you can't keep the other guys honest with the run."

Ohio's running attack features St. Clairsville fullback Jay Sayre (6-ft., 180) running interference for Bellaire tailback Michael Honeycutt (5-10, 206) and has the potential to create problems for West Virginia.

Sayre averaged nearly six yards a pop in racking up 1,000-plus yards for the Red Devils last fall while Honeycutt, who missed four mid-season

games with a leg injury, nevertheless averaged over 140 yards per outing in the six games he was healthy.

Also available for duty is Toronto tailback John Taylor (6-ft., 185) and Steubenville Catholic fullback Rodney Pierce (5-9, 200). Taylor, who capped his high school career with back-to-back 100-yard efforts against Wellsville and Buckeye North, has been one of the most impressive athletes in camp while the hard-running Pierce came up just 67 yards shy of a 1,000-yard campaign.

Defensively, both teams are well-stocked with impact players who like nothing better than leaving a lasting impression on any enemy ballcarrier unwise enough to venture into their comfort zone.

St. Clairsville linebacker Joe Pabian (6-4, 235) has drawn raves from Caldwell throughout the week for his work behind the line and the WVU recruit teams up with Bridgeport's Todd Burk (5-10, 170) to give the Buckeyes an inside linebacking tandem which was involved in over 300 tackles during their senior campaigns.

Seach, a 6-3, 215-pounder who quarterbacked Mingo to an undefeated regular-season last fall, was considered too valuable an athlete to keep on the bench while Woods and King were flinging the football and will be a starter at defensive end while Staley will see double-duty in the defensive backfield.

West Virginia's defense also boasts a pair of standout linebackers in Tyler's Kevin Kissner (6-2, 230) and Weir's Levi Livingston (6-1, 205). Kissner was felled by a knee problem, thought to be bursitis, late last week but should be able to play tonight.

With holding the Buckeye passing attack in check a top priority for Potts and his crew, a huge burden will fall on the Mountaineer secondary.

Leading this group are Magnolia

strong safety Pat Dawson (6-2, 180) and Wheeling Central cornerback James Bryant (6-1, 160).

Both team will utilize a basic "50" set on defense and multiple formations on offense with Ohio expected to try an unbalanced line — featuring Pabian and fellow tackle Corey Hall (5-11, 240) of Union Local on the same side of the ball — in an attempt to hammer out some running room for the Buckeye backs.

Ohio, which has won three straight and five of the last six, leads the OVAC portion of the series by a 10-7 margin but Potts feels the Mountaineers have the offensive punch to prevail if the game develops into a shootout.

"Looking back at the past games," said the Cameron coach, "it appears that West Virginia has had the most success when it puts the ball in the air.

"We think we can establish a running game and hopefully that will enable us to open things up in the passing department."

Gates will open at 6 p.m. with pre-game festivities featuring the McDonald's-OVAC All-Star Band commencing at approximately 6:30.

Admission at the gate is \$5 with plenty of parking available in Wheeling Downs' adjacent parking lot.

W. Va. Wins OVAC Game

By JEFF GILLESPIE
The Intelligencer Staff

West Virginia used an opportunistic defense and a solid running game to defeat Ohio 22-14 in the 18th Rudy Munnley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic on Sunday night in front of an estimated 7,500 spectators at Wheeling Island Stadium.

With the victory, the Mountaineers broke a string of three straight wins by Buckeye squads. Ohio still leads the series by a 10-8 count since the OVAC started sponsoring the game. Overall, Ohio has a 24-20 advantage.

"Our line played a great game. That was one of the keys," said W. Va. Head Coach Jim Potts of Cameron afterwards. "Our offensive line opened it up for our running game. They played a heck of a game."

He continued: "We ran at will in the first half. We were able to get good yardage. It feels great to win."

In the first quarter, the Mountaineers got good field position right off the bat — when Ohio tried an onside kick that failed to travel the necessary 10 yards.

But, the Buckeye defense held firm — forcing W. Va. to punt the football back.

And then, the Mountaineers' opportunistic defense struck for the first time.

On third-and-seven at his own 19-yard line, Ohio's quarterback Scott Woods of Bellaire fired a pass that was intercepted across the middle by W. Va.'s Levi Livingston of Weir at the 28-yard line.

Livingston returned the ball to the Ohio 11-yard line — giving the Mountaineer a golden opportunity to score with 9:39 remaining in the first quarter.

But two incomplete passes and a penalty caused the Mountaineers chance to stall at Ohio's 12-yard line. Oak Glen's Damian Durante tried a 28-yard field goal that was wide for W. Va. — and the game remained scoreless.

That sequence of plays should have been an omen of things to come for the Ohio squad.

On W. Va.'s next series, the Mountaineers marched 49 yards on seven plays to paydirt behind the running of Weir's Keith Jeter and Wheeling Central's Reese Coles.

Coles and Jeter combined for 47 stripes on the march, and Weir's tailback capped the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run off the left side at the 4:23 mark.

Magnolia's Jamie Clegg nailed the extra point — giving W. Va. an early 7-0 advantage.

It didn't get any better for Ohio, because on the kickoff the Buckeyes' John Taylor coughed up the ball at the 31-yard line on a late fumble — where Wheeling Park's David Hanna fell on it for the Mountaineers.

On the next play, Clegg and Tyler's Jason Smith hooked up on a 14-yard completion that moved the ball to the Ohio 17. On the play, the Buckeyes were flagged for a personal foul which advanced the ball to the eight-yard line. But, Ohio's defense held forcing Clegg to attempt a field goal.

The Blue Eagle standout connected on a 22-yard boot that gave W. Va. a 10-0 with 2:44 left in the first quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, Bishop Donahue's Tony Reilly made a touchdown saving tackle from behind on Bellaire's Mike Honeycutt at the 50-yard line.

In the second quarter, the Mountaineers marched down the field 68 yards on 12 plays for Jeter's second touchdown that gave them a 16-0 lead.

Key plays on the drive were Clegg's 23-yard strike to Magnolia teammate Mike Fox on third down, and Clegg's 12-yard toss to Tyler's Smith on a fourth-and-eight at Ohio's 27-yard line.

Two plays later Jeter finished the drive with an eight-yard touchdown run at the 7:15 mark. The Kennedy Award winner rushed the ball 21 times for 50 yards in the game, while Coles added 85 yards on 15 attempts.

Following that score, the Mountaineers' defense rose up on two occasions to stop Ohio. First, the W. Va. secondary forced receiver Pat Staley to fumble at the Mountaineers' 27-yard line — with the ball recovered by Weirton Madonna's Rich Milbert. Then, Magnolia's Pat Dawson picked off a Jeff King toss for Ohio.

In the third quarter, the Mountaineers went ahead 22-0 with 3:21 left in the frame on Dougan Dietz's 40-yard yard touchdown pass-and-run from Linsly QB Rick Lazasz.

On Ohio's next series, Woods connected with Buckeye SouthWest's J.B. Domenick on a 73-yard pass play. Once again, Reilly made a key play for the Mountaineers by running down Domenick from behind. Ohio could not capitalize on the series.

Finally, the Buckeyes got on the scoreboard with just 10:20 left in the contest — when Woods hit Bellaire St. John's Staley with 19-yard touchdown strike on a flag route in the right corner of the end zone.

At the 4:42 mark, Tyler's Kevin Kissner snuffed out another Ohio drive with an interception at his own 19-yard line.

Staley finished off the scoring for the Buckeyes, when he dashed 76 yards on a punt return with just 38 seconds left in the game. Mike Honeycutt ran in the two-point conversion making the final score 22-14.

"The turnovers killed our drives," commented Ohio Head Coach Dave Caldwell afterwards. "I said before the game the team that turned the ball over the least would win."

He added: "We made adjustments at halftime and took some of their plays away. The West Virginia line just played an outstanding game. You have to give them credit for the way they played."

Was It Turnovers Or W.Va.'s Guile?

By RICK RYAN
Associate Sports Editor

Turnovers are a funny thing.

Any football coach worth his whistle will agree that fumbles, interceptions and mistakes will spell the difference in almost every game at every level.

They did just that in Sunday night's OVAC All-Star Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium, enhancing West Virginia's 22-14 victory over Ohio. The only question, however, is this: were those five turnovers which spelled Ohio's demise caused by the Buckeyes' own mixups, or by West Virginia's crisp hitting?

Depending on which dressing room one visited after the game, the response was varied.

"We came out and got a few good sticks right away," explained West Virginia defensive back Dave Hanna of Wheeling Park. "That got momentum going in our favor. We just went on from there."

"There was a lot of hoopla all week (before the game) about how they were better, a lot better than us. We just came out and did it on the field."

Ohio quarterback Scott Woods of Bellaire, who had known nothing but success the last two years — with a 17-3 record as a starter — watched his club come unraveled with four first-half turnovers. The Buckeyes had their moments, but could not string together two or three good plays in a row.

"The rhythm just wasn't there for us, especially in the first half," Woods acknowledged. "We threw two interceptions."

"Everything we ran was working, but we weren't executing right. We were down (16-0) at halftime, but we didn't change anything on offense. If we'd have executed better, I still think we could have beaten them. We had a lot of guys (at the skill positions) we should have gotten the ball to, but we couldn't because of the turnovers. That's what it all came down to."

Ohio's four first-half turnovers came at its own 28, 31, 18 and the W.Va. 41. Even though only one of W.Va.'s first half scores came directly after an Ohio mistake, the Mountaineers had a much shorter field to work with; in fact, 28 of W.Va.'s 37 first-half plays were run from Ohio territory. Other obstacles for Ohio were a botched onside kick and a fake punt which came up short of the necessary yardage.

"They had to rely on their passing game too much too early," assessed W.Va. back Tony Reilly of Bishop Donahue. Ohio attempted just five rushing plays in the first half, netting 13 yards.

The Mountaineers, however, received smart running from fullback Reese Coles of Wheeling Central and tailback Keith Jeter of Weir. Coles had 68 of his 85 yards in the first half, while Jeter added 39 of his 50 — allowing W.Va. to control the ball for long intervals.

"The line just did an excellent job of blocking," Coles stressed. "They just took it to 'em. That made it a lot easier for us."

"Our line just blew them out," Reilly admitted. "We worked hard all week on following our cadence — and not jumping offside."

Another key for W.Va. was the work of several players from its smaller OVAC member schools. The efforts of Donahue defenders Reilly and Jake Padlow were particularly inspiring.

"We worked all week as a team," Reilly noted. "That's all we are. Everyone did their job and no one tried to be the hero. That's what we kept telling each other all week (in practice): 'We don't need any heroes.'"

Reilly had a pair of open-field tackles which saved dead-certain Ohio touchdowns. He brought down Ohio's J.B. Domenick after a 73-yard pass completion and tackled Mike Honeycutt following a 45-yard kickoff return.

"I was gone," Honeycutt confided to a teammate. "That kid came out of nowhere. I didn't even see him."

"I got lucky on that kickoff return," Reilly smiled. "I was the contain man, but I got sucked into the middle."

Fittingly, Reilly recovered Ohio's onside kick attempt in the final minute to secure the victory — just the third for W.Va. in the last 12 games of the series between the neighboring states.

West Virginia's only score of the second half was a picture-perfect 40-yard hookup between Linsly quarterback Rick Lazasz and John Marshall end Dougan Dietz on a slant pattern.

"We'd run a similar play in the first half," Deitz explained, "but just missed breaking it. Then, there was an opportune time (in the second half) to run it again. After I caught it, I saw the free safety slip — and I knew I had the score."

Return of Sunday Night Football To Wheeling Draws Crowd of 7,000

By NICK BEDWAY
Associate Sports Editor

For the first time since the heydays of the Wheeling Ironmen and Ohio Valley Panthers, Sunday night football returned to Wheeling Island Stadium.

And from all indications, it's here to stay—at least as far as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Rudy Mumley Charity All-Star Football Classic is concerned.

On an picture-perfect mid-summer night for gridiron warfare, a crowd some estimated in excess of 7,000 gathered at the Island ballyard for the 18th addition of the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star series since the OVAC took over sponsorship of the game.

Contrary to some reports, the turnout was not the lowest in the history of the classic but, in fact, was one of the largest in recent years.

The Mountaineers won last night's battle, 22-14, dominating on defense against the turnover-plagued Ohioans from the outset.

But the true outcome of the evening was that everybody went away winners, including Stone and Thomas Queen of Queens Pageant titlist Carrie Lee Day of Weir High; members the McDonald's OVAC All-Star band, which put on an outstanding halftime presentation; the coaches, trainers and players from both squads.

"We could not have asked for anything better," OVAC Executive Secretary Sam Mumley said Monday morning. "The evening was a total testimonial to the hard-working kids in our conference and to the fans who support our programs.

"There is no doubt in my mind that by playing this game on Sunday night, we have struck that happy medium to attract the fans," Mumley continued. "Especially when we play the game in Wheeling. Road construction problems and traffic congestion because of the dog track when we've played the game on Friday and Saturday, really cut down the crowd in the past.

"Also, we have to listen to the people (fans) who support this game. It's our job to give them what they want and I think they showed us Sunday night that this is when they want the game to be played."

Keith Jeter, the University of Tennessee-bound tailback from Weir High who won last year's Kennedy Award given to the Mountain State's high school football player of the year, accounted for two of West Virginia's TDs. The flashy one broke loose on runs of 10 and 8 yards, sandwiched around a 22-yard field goal booted by Jamie Clegg, former Magnolia High three-sports standout who handled the first-half quarter-



Reese Coles
...leading ground-gainer

back duties for W. Va. Coach Jim Potts, the Cameron High mentor.

Rick Lazasz, the ex-Linsly QB, fired the only TD aerial for the winners, teaming up with John Marshall grad Dougan Dietz on a well-executed 40-yard tight-end hookup.

West Virginia looked headed for a shutout last night until the fourth quarter. But a tipped screen pass wound up being intercepted by Union Local's Corey Hall and returned 28 yards to the Mountaineer 23. That resulted in a 19-yard scoring toss from Bellaire High's Scott Woods to Bellaire St. John's flanker Pat Staley.

Staley, a dynamo in a football uniform, then turned in the play of the night when, with under a minute on the clock, he fielded a Clegg punt on his own 24. Staley hesitated a fraction and then took off as a convoy of blockers helped spring him near the sideline in front of the Ohio bench. Once in the open, nobody had a chance to run down the former Fighting Irish ace, whose trip ended 76 yards later in the end zone. Michael Honeycutt, another former Big Red, tacked on the two-pointer that closed the scoring with only 39 seconds to go.

Ohio's last-ditch effort to recover an inside kick failed as Bishop Donahue's Tony Reilly, one of many Mountaineer defensive stickouts, was able to fall on the pigskin.

It was a botched inside kick at the outset of the game that got the Buckeyes in a first-half hole.

Mingo's Bill Seach booted the ball on the surprise attempt and fell on the bouncing pigskin. The problem was he didn't all the football to travel the necessary 10 yards, thus giving W. Va. possession at the Ohio 45.

"The inside kick was there if we had only kicked the ball 10 yards," said a disappointed Dave Caldwell, Ohio's coach who has directed Beallsville High to back-to-back 9-1 record seasons. "If we had gotten the ball in their territory right away, things could have worked out differently.

"But the game was lost on our own turnovers. You can't turn the ball over five times like we did and expect to win. Desite those mistakes, though, we were just eight points away at the end," he added wistfully.

Although the Mountaineers failed to score on this early opportunity, they punted to Ohio's 16 and got another break two plays later when Scott Woods' pass over the middle was picked off by Weir High's Levi Livingston near the 30 and returned to the 11. Again Ohio held, forcing a 25-yard field goal try by Oak Glen's Damian Durante that was wide right.

West Virginia started a third straight possession in Ohio territory when Wheeling Park's Dave Hanna fielded a punt at the Mountaineer 45 and brought it back seven yards to the Bucks' 49.

Jeter and Wheeling Central's Reese Coles, a tailback-type who plays fullback, took over from there to spark a seven-play drive.

Bowling Green-bound Coles, the game's leading rusher with 85 yards in 15 carries, had a big 14-yard pickup on a second and eight from the 47, bouncing outside after finding no room inside tackle.

With the ball at the 10, Jeter again displayed his well-known rushing style as he started to break outside tackle, saw a seam and then zipped between two defenders who wound up grabbing at nothing but air as the former Red Rider went in for the TD. Clegg's placement made it 7-0 with 4:23 on the clock.

The ensuing kickoff resulted in another Ohio turnover. Toronto's John Taylor found some daylight as he ran from the four up the middle to the 31 before the ball was jarred loose on a vicious hit by Magnolia's Pat Dawson. The alert Hanna made the recovery.

A 14-yard completion from Clegg to Tyler dandy Jason Smith, accompanied by a deadball foul on the Buckeyes, put the ball at the eight. Staley then led an Ohio defensive surge that prevented WV from getting into the end zone. Clegg was called on for the three-point try this time and he connected for a 10-0 spread at 2:44.

Honeycutt's 45-yard kickoff return to midfield put Ohio in business for the first time. He nearly broke this one all the way but Reilly came through with the clutch stop. After getting one first down, a holding penalty found the Buckeyes' stymied at the Mountaineer 45. On fourth and 18, punter Seach had trouble with the