

Jets' Holtz To Speak At OVAC Banquet May 13

By BILL VAN HORNE
N-R Sports Writer

Colorful, wise-cracking Lou Holtz, the Follansbee native and East Liverpool High graduate who is now the head coach of the National Football League's New York Jets, will be the principal speaker at the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference spring dinner meeting and awards night, it was announced today by Sam Mumley, executive secretary of the conference.

"We are tremendously fortunate to obtain a personality so prominent in the sports world as Coach Holtz is today," Mumley said. "With Lou on our program, I anticipate a tremendous demand for tickets. We should have one of the largest crowds ever to attend as OVAC banquet. Only because of his close ties with the local area were we able to land Coach Holtz. He has a reputation as a very entertaining speaker and now, of course, he has been thrust into the national spotlight as coach of the Jets."

The OVAC dinner meeting is scheduled for Thursday night, May 13, at 7 p.m. at Glessner Auditorium at Wilson Lodge in Oglebay Park.

This will be the first speaking appearance by Holtz in the local area since

he came to Steubenville in January, 1974, to accept the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan "man of the year" award.

Holtz has gone to the Jets from North Carolina State University, where in four seasons he was established virtually as a legend. He faces a herculean rebuilding job with the Jets but people in pro football feel that if anyone can accomplish the task, Holtz is the man. Rick Forzano, coach of the Detroit Lions, says, "He is an exceptional person and an exceptional coach. I predict that inside of one year, they will be saying in New York that they haven't had a guy like him before."

Upon accepting the position with the Jets, Holtz said, "I believe in God, Lou Holtz and the Jets, just about in that order. To me, the delight in coaching always comes from creating and not in maintaining. I'm not a miracle worker but I guarantee we'll field a team that will play exciting, enthusiastic football."

Under Holtz, North Carolina State rocketed from the depths to the heights. In four seasons, his teams won 33 games, lost 12 and tied two. He took the Wolfpack to four consecutive post-season bowl games and lost only one of



NEW YORK JETS COACH LOU HOLTZ

them. His 1974 club (9-2-1) became the first team in the history of the school to conclude the season ranked in the top 10.

The trademark of Holtz-coached teams has been innovation and explosive offense. His N.C. State teams eclipsed 91 school records and either equalled or bettered 14 Atlantic Coast Conference records.

Now 39 years old and embarking upon a five-year contract with the Jets, the Follansbee-born Holtz, who has a number of relatives in this area (including his parents in East Liverpool), got his start in football as a blocking back at Liverpool, where he lettered in three high school sports. After graduation from high school in 1954, he enrolled at Kent State University, where he lettered twice as a center and linebacker, although weighing only 160 pounds. He obtained his bachelor's degree at Kent in 1959 and his master's at the University of Iowa in 1961.

Lou began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Kent State. He became an assistant at Iowa in 1960. From 1961 through 63, he served as an assistant at William & Mary, before joining Forzano at Connecticut (1964-65). After serving two years as an aide at South Carolina and one season under Woody Hayes at Ohio State, where he was defensive backfield coach of the victorious 1969 Rose Bowl team, he returned to

William & Mary as a head coach and promptly took the Indians to their first bowl appearance in 24 years and first Southern Conference title in 23 years.

At North Carolina State, Holtz inherited a loser and immediately produced an 8-3 team. He was named Atlantic Coast Conference

"coach of the year" and NCAA District 3 "coach of the year" in 1972. In seven years as a head coach, he has compiled a 46-31-3 record.

Holtz, and his wife Beth, who also hails from East Liverpool, have four children, two sons and two daughters, ranging in age

from 14 to seven.

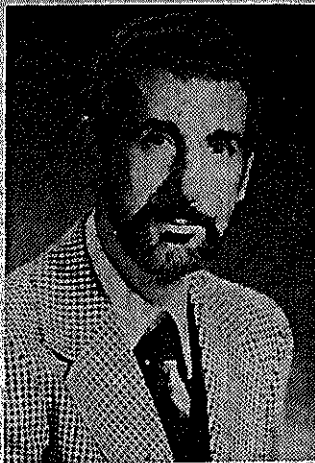
Tickets may be purchased at Berhnhardt's, in Wheeling, and Kelly Mike's Sporting Goods, in Martins Ferry, or by calling Mumley at 695-0372 or Melvin Balgo at 859-6553.

Tickets are priced at \$6 per person. The banquet is open to women.

Ponzo Named OVAC Toastmaster

Raymond Ponzo, Shadyside High instrumental music director and sports enthusiast, will be toastmaster for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference annual spring dinner meeting and awards night at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium on Thursday, May 13.

Ponzo, a fluent speaker, has been able to combine two of his loves, music and sports, successfully. His band has been commended from the White House for its promotion and encouragement of patriotism in half-time shows at football games and his popular "God and Country" show, which was performed at the OVAC all-star game in 1972, is being revived for the



RAY PONZO

Bicentennial.

In addition to his work in music, Ray serves as seventh grade basketball coach, statistician, sports

announcer and official photographer at Shadyside. For his efforts, he has been honored by the Booster Club there.

The genial, witty Ponzo now teams up with News-Register sports editor Bill Van Horne in announcing major valley track meets.

A native of Pittsburgh and a 1956 graduate of Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University) with a degree in music education and also a conservatory degree, Ponzo became a member of the Wheeling Symphony in his junior year in college and has been a member ever since. He taught at Benwood

Union High School for eight years and during that time his band was selected to represent Marshall County in saluting President John F. Kennedy when he visited Wheeling.

In 1962, he received a "man of the year" award for his work in rehabilitating inmates at the West Virginia Penitentiary by their participation in music. In 1965 he was selected as one of the outstanding young men of America for his services to his community, country and profession.

He has been at Shadyside High for the last 12 years.

OVAC Banquet To Attract 600

With the colorful Lou Holtz, new head coach of the New York Jets, as the featured speaker, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will attract a record crowd of 600 to its annual spring dinner meeting and awards night presentations this evening at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium in Wilson Lodge.

A Follansbee native and East Liverpool High and Kent State University footballer who once assisted Woody Hayes at Ohio State, Holtz will not be an unfamiliar territory. Head coach at North Carolina State for the past four years, he took the Wolfpack to four straight bowl games, including two appearances against West Virginia in the Peach Bowl at Atlanta. He received the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club "man of the year" award at Steubenville in January of 1974.

Eldon Miller, newly-appointed head basketball coach at Ohio State University, will be an added attraction.

Conference track trophies will be presented to Cambridge, Cadiz and Shadyside; basketball trophies to Wheeling, Wellsville and Mingo; the swimming trophy to Linsly Institute, which has won it 30 straight times; and the wrestling dual meet trophies to Weirton, Cadiz, and Warwood.

Special presentations will include the Picoma Industries and Morris Plan Bank student-athlete scholarships; the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award, presented by the Wheeling Central Boosters to the outstanding performers in the conference wrestling tournament, Cadiz's Randy Davia and Bridgeport's Ed Covey; the Calvin J. J. Giffin Memorial Award for service to track and field; the News-Register OVAC "coach of the year" trophy, and the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials sportsmanship awards.

Service awards will also go to three veteran educators who have contributed much to athletics and who are now retiring—James Dixon, superintendent of schools and former coach at Bellaire; Jim Foti, veteran coach at Warwood; and Victor Salisbury, former athletic director at Woodsfield.

Special Awards to Highlight Thursday's OVAC Spring Fete

A record throng of nearly 600 will attend the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's annual spring dinner meeting and awards presentation Thursday night at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium.

Sam Mumley, executive secretary of the conference, said today that he felt the great demand for tickets could at least partially be attributed to the attraction represented by principal speaker Lou Holtz, the Follansbee native who is now head coach of the NFL's New York Jets, and an appearance by Ohio State basketball coach Eldon Miller.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the presentation of the annual News-Register Award to the OVAC "coach of the year". Bill Van Horne, N-R sports editor, will make the presentation.

Another feature will be the presentation of the first annual Calvin J. J. Giffin Memorial Award, dedicated to the former conference president and long-time track and field coach and official who was superintendent of St. Clairsville schools at the time of his death last fall. It will go to an individual recognized for years of service to track and field in the valley area. Tony Sperandio, representing Jostens, Inc., will make the presentation.

Two outstanding student-athletes will receive scholarships, the \$750 Picoma Industries Award and the \$500 Morris Plan Bank Award.

The Dave Bierkortte Memorial Award, presented by Mike Kloepfner in behalf of the Wheeling Central Boosters Club, will go to Cadiz's Randy Davia and Bridgeport's Ed Covey, selected as the outstanding wrestlers in the OVAC tournament at Steubenville last January.

which has won the title for the third straight year, while the swimming pennant will be provided by United Ohio Valley Dairy.

Charles Vogt will award the basketball trophies to Wheeling High (triple-A), Wellsville (double-A) and Mingo (single-A). The Ohio Valley District Board of Approved Basketball Officials will present sportsmanship awards.

Track trophies will also be awarded. Walter Jablonsky, of the Times-Leader, will

present that in Class A to Shadyside, with the donor being Mull Machine Co.; Fred Tweedie Sr. will present that in double-A to Cadiz; and Jablonsky will present the Times-Leader A. V. Dix trophy to triple-A titlist Cambridge. Charles Bowman is responsible for the track pennants.

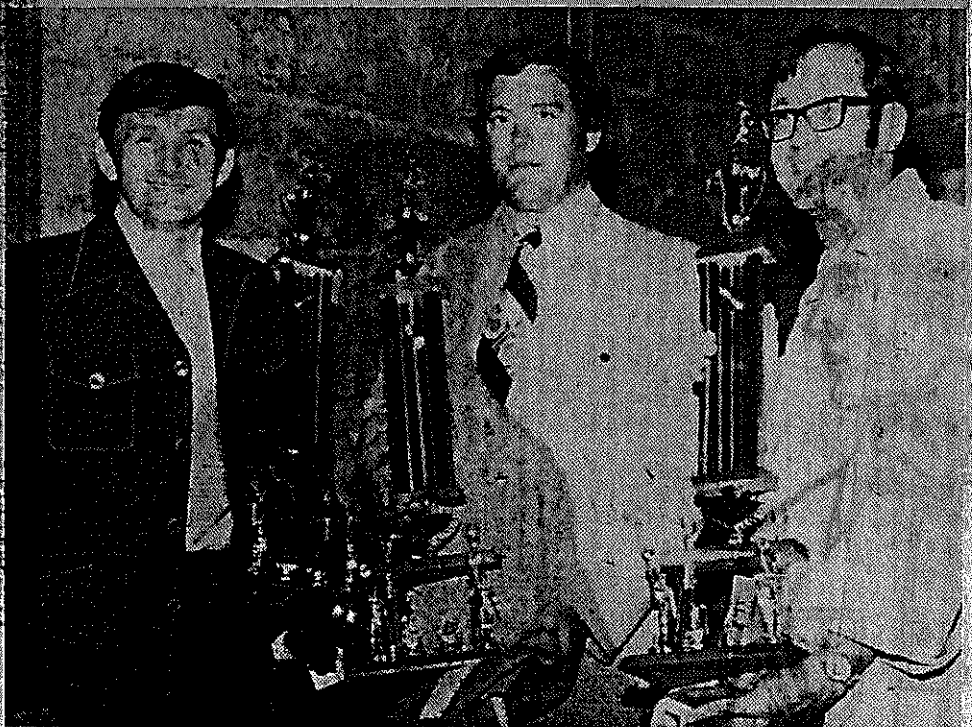
Raymond Ponzio, Shadyside High instrumental music director and sports enthusiast, will be toastmaster and will introduce special guests.

One of the heart-warming moments is bound to come when conference service awards are presented to three veterans educators who have given much to athletics and who are retiring—Jim Foti, basketball coach at Warwood; Jim Dixon, superintendent of schools at Bellaire; and Victor Salisbury, former athletic director at Woodsfield.

Invocation will be by David Bovenizer, of the Barnesville Enterprise.

The conference dual meet wrestling trophies will also be presented. John Swan will present that in Class A to Warwood; William Davis, of Josten's, will present that in double-A to Cadiz, and William Minor will do the honors in triple-A, where the recipient will be Weirton. Minor will also present pennants to the three mat team titlists.

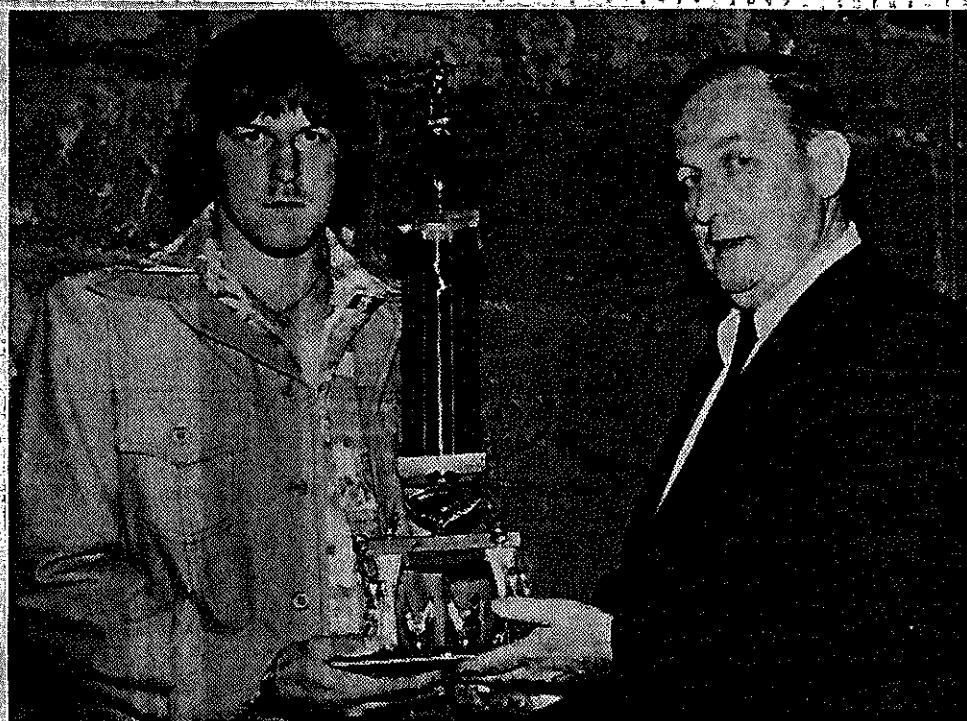
John Domenick, representing WTRF-TV, will present the swimming trophy to Linsly Institute.



Coaches of the three teams which won Ohio Valley Athletic Conference track and field championships last Saturday at Bellaire received in behalf of their schools at the OVAC spring dinner meeting Thursday night at Glessner auditorium. From left to right are Tom Vichich of Shadyside (Class A), Mark Nicholson of Cadiz (Class AA), and Pete Nordstrom of

Cambridge (Class AAA). Shadyside has now won nine straight OVAC track titles, eight in double-A and one in single-A. Track trophy donors are Mull Machine, Fred Tweedlie Sr., and the Times-Leader. Blue Ribbon Paint Co. provided the pennants.

(News-Register Photo—Cochran)



Cadiz High's Randy Davia, left, receives the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award from Mike Kloeppner, at right, president of the Wheeling Central Booster Club, which provides the trophy to honor the memory of the former Central wrestling great. Davia won 27 matches and lost only one this past wrestling

season and was third in Ohio in the double-A 175-pound ranks. Davia shared the Bierkorte Award, which is for the outstanding wrestler in the annual OVAC tourney, with Bridgeport 119-pounder Ed Covey, who was not present for the awards ceremony.

(News-Register Photo—Cochran)

Holtz Cites Need for Decisions to Huge OVAC Banquet Audience

By CAL POKAS

Times-Leader Sports Editor
Lou Holtz is always telling people he's just Lou Holtz.

To the 500 or so persons who turned out for the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Spring Awards Banquet at Oglebay Park Thursday night, Lou Holtz was at his best.

He charmed his audience with humorous and inspiring stories. The Ohio Valley native, who recently signed a five-year contract as head coach of the New York Jets following a sparkling college coaching career, said he's approached his new job with a positive attitude, but declared that he was no miracle worker in his bid to return the Jets to respectability in the NFL.

On the subject of positive thinking, Holtz said, "You have to have courage to make decisions. We don't have enough people willing to make decisions."

"There is something wrong with our country when we lose our self-respect and turn to self-pity," Holtz said. "Self-pity is the greatest crippler of potential."

Holtz said one of the great assets he has gotten out of coaching has been the genuine love and feeling for people. "If you ever talk to anyone

associated with a championship team, you'll find a lot of genuine affection among those involved. It's necessary that we take time to show our affections for other people."

A special guest at the banquet was Eastern Ohio native Eldon Miller, the Gnadenhutten product who has enjoyed a fine college basketball coaching career and was recently appointed cage boss at Ohio State University.

"Being named coach at Ohio State fulfills a lifetime dream," Miller said.

He noted that success of the Buckeye cage program will depend on recruiting and urged all Buckeye loyalists to help in attaining this goal.

He said coaching basketball at a school noted primarily for its football achievements was not a detriment, but an asset. "Coach (Woody) Hayes has been a great help in our recruiting," Miller said. "Ohio State is the school when it comes to football and we want to make it the very best in basketball also."

A number of team and individual awards were presented during the lengthy fete.

One of the features was the presentation of the first Calvin J. J. Giffin Memorial Track Award. It was presented to

Fred Thomas, long-time track mentor at Martins Ferry High who is now retired, and Warren Pugh of Wheeling, an official at valley track meets for more than four decades. The award honors the late school administrator and coach who was regarded as one of the most knowledgeable track officials in the tri-state area.

Honored by the OVAC for their many years of service to Ohio Valley athletes were James A. Dixon, retiring superintendent of Bellaire Schools who is a former coach and official; James Foti, retiring from coaching after nearly 40 years of service, most recently as basketball mentor at Warwood High; and Victor Salisbury of Woodsfield, who spent more than 40 years in the field of education and athletics prior to his recent retirement.

Sam Andy, who guided his Wheeling High cagers to the OVAC Class AAA title and to the West Virginia Triple-A crown in the school's final year of existence, was named OVAC coach of the year.

Fast-Talking Holtz Wows OVAC Crowd

By BILL VAN HORNE
News-Register Sports Editor

If Lou Holtz could talk his way to the Super Bowl, the New York Jets would be a cinch to be in Pasadena next Jan. 9 when the eleventh edition of the NFL's "ultimate" game unfolds on the turf of the Rose Bowl Stadium.

The 39-year-old, glib-tongued Follansbee native wowed a throng of nearly 600 at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's thirty-third annual spring dinner meeting Thursday night at Oglebay Park's Glessner auditorium as he had his audience alternately spellbound by his oratory and engulphed in gales of laughter at his unending stock of punch lines.

There have been unusually talented speakers at OVAC gatherings in the past, particularly Jesse Owens, Bart Starr and Deacon Jim Carlen. But as the folks were filing out of the hall last night, the consensus seemed to be that this was it—the most entertaining talk they had ever heard delivered at a sports banquet, with a little bit of Lou's "hobby" prestidigitation, thrown in for added spice.

However, the Jets, who went 3-11 last season, didn't hire the strawberry-blond, bespectacled East Liverpool High and Kent State University graduate for his ability on the podium, though I seem to recall that a character named Casey Stengel took the Big Town by storm with his colorful prose. But Casey won pennants too and Holtz will have to perform some of his magic to transform the Shea Stadium tenants from a rag-tag, dispirited, trouble-ridden football team into a winner if he is to justify the five-year contract with which he was lured from North Carolina State.

Holtz, who made a rapid ascent in collegiate coaching ranks once he was tendered his first opportunity at a head job at William & Mary, does not minimize the difficulties facing him. He says, "They tell me the Jets had racial problems and drug problems. The defense was the third worst in the history of the NFL and the offense ranked fourth in the conference. Our best running back, Jon Riggins, who gained over 1,000 yards last year, played out his option. We have a quarterback who is immobile and an offensive line that is questionable, at best; we have no speed at wide receiver; we have the worst punter in the league; and we play seven games in a stadium with a 30-to-35-mile-per-hour wind. Now consider that and tell me what we have to do to win."

Moreover, Lou isn't even certain that the immobile QB, Joe Namath, will be with him. "I used to say that there wasn't much difference in coaching college football and coaching pro football but if you are a bachelor, you don't really know the difference between yourself and a married



LOU HOLTZ TALKS TO THE PRESS

man until you get married. I still don't think that the game is really that much different. There are still the intangibles in getting the proper athlete, there is still the essential of establishing respect and lines of communication, and you still win with sound football—with execution. But I will admit that is an unusual experience to have your quarterback come to visit you in a chauffeur-driven limousine."

It's no secret that Namath wants out of his contract with the Jets. He would like to be traded. "I've found Joe to be a great competitor," Lou insists. "He has everything there is in life but he tells me that he is tired of everything except winning. He figures that if he is going to play only a year or two more, he would like to go out a winner. He believes he has a better chance to be with a winner in Los Angeles than in New York but we would have a better chance to be a winner with him in New York than we would

if he were in Los Angeles. So I don't intend to be part of any move to trade him."

Still, with Namath's gimpy knees, there is always the danger that, even if he suits up, he won't last long. So what happens then?

"We'll close ranks and march on," Holtz answers. "We'll do what we have to do to give us the best chance of moving the football."

Lou candidly admits that his strategy may well include the twin veer offense which his North Carolina State Wolfpack executed so successfully. "You can't run Namath in a veer but we have drafted two quarterbacks who played four years in option offenses in Richard Todd and Dave Buckley. The veer is the only offense in which you can get by with inferior offensive personnel. It enables you to neutralize superior defensive people. I haven't seen it stopped yet. The people in the pros are very negative about it and say it can't succeed. Maybe it can't but if we don't give it a try in our exhibition games, I'll never be able to sleep at night. You can't gang up on the quarterback in the veer. I think it would cause problems for pro defenses, which are used to facing offenses with quarterbacks that don't run. Saying your quarterback won't run is like playing a game of basketball and not allowing the center to shoot."

Holtz says frankly that he was an "unpopular choice" for the Jets' coaching job. "I don't blame the fans because they wanted Don Shula, George Allen, John Madden or Chuck Knox," he emphasizes. "Those coaches are smarter than I am and they proved it when they had the common sense to turn the job down."

If there is one implication which has resulted from his innovativeness that Lou doesn't appreciate, it is that he is a "gadget" coach. "I have never delivered a pep talk in my whole life. I believe in telling my team what's important about a game and what we have to do to win it. I believe I coach sound football and I coach it with confidence. I think it is very important to be honest with the players. I don't try to con 'em."

As for his proclivity for wisecracks, he contends, "You have to know when to be loose and when to tighten up. I believe in having fun but when we hit the field and the whistle blows, we'll do it the right way or I'll know the reason why."

Lou is concerned that Riggins and ex-West Liberty griddy Lou Piccone, whom he describes as "a player loved by the New York fans, our outstanding special teams performer", have played out their options. He's hoping

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that Piconne, at least, will return to the fold.

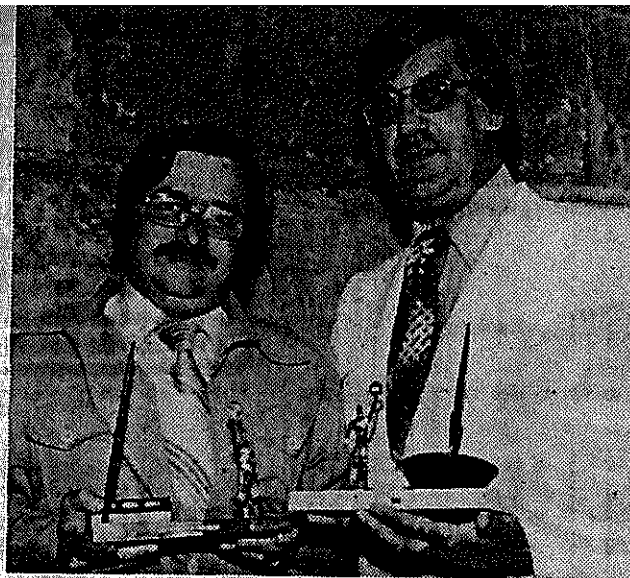
Holtz says he has no preconceived notion as to how much time it will take him to rectify the Jets' situation. He points out that he did not draft many "big people" but drafted for "folks with pride who can run."

He knows that he has to make some progress this year. "The only friends you have when you lose are the people you eat with, sleep with, bleed with, cry with and drink with. You don't have any more friends when you win but you have a lot more supporters. The problems with the Jets are consistent with the problems of life. The trouble is that 95 per cent of the people don't want to make decisions. They are afraid of being second guessed. I believe that to be successful, you have to have the courage to make a decision."

The Jets have signed "about 15" draft choices and all of their high picks except No. 1, Todd, the quarterback from Alabama. His agent is still negotiating.

But whether the Jets go into battle this year with Namath or Todd or Holtz's N.C. State protege, Buckey, at quarterback, the opposition had best come to the ball park prepared.

"I don't care whether what we do is orthodox or unorthodox if it gives us the best chance to win. We owe it to management and the fans to do whatever is necessary. People tell me that you can't do this and you can't do that in the pros. Well, I respect their opinions but I have to see for myself."



Special recognition was paid to two dedicated Ohio Valley newspapermen at the OVAC spring dinner meeting Thursday night. Honored with desk sets were Nick Bedway, at left, associate sports editor of the News-Register, and Calvin Pokas, sports editor of the Times-Leader. They were recognized for their many contributions to the conference. They compile the conference football and basketball standings on a weekly basis and are in charge of much of the conference's publicity, including that for the Ohio-West Virginia all-star game.

(News-Register Photo-Cochran)

NEWS-REGISTER—Wheeling, W. Va.—Friday, May 14, 1976



Smiling recipients of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship basketball trophies in behalf of their schools last night were, left to right, Dick Pannett of Mingo (Class A), Bob Dawson

of Wellsville (Class AA) and Sam Andy of Wheeling High (Class AAA). The trophies were provided by Charles Vogt, of C. & R. Cable Co., of Shadyside.

(News-Register Photo—Cochran)



Scholars Athletes, Too

Two scholarship awards were presented to outstanding student-athletes at the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference spring dinner meeting at Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium Thursday night. Paul Donahie presents the \$500 Morris Plan Bank Scholarship to Mike Zervos of John Marshall High School, and James Collins (right) presents the \$750 Picoma Industries Award to Joe Michalski of Bridgeport High. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph

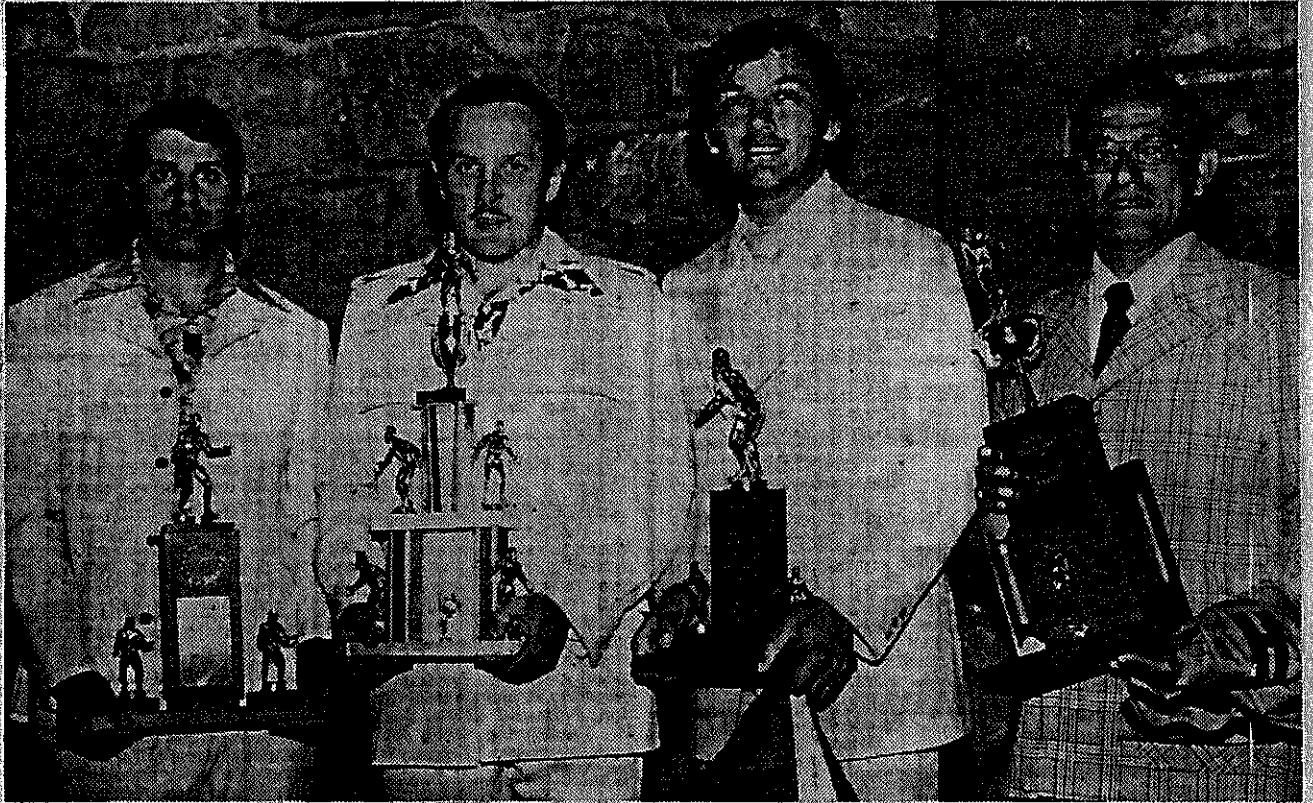
Michalski, Joe plans to attend Ohio University. He was a guard on the basketball team and plays second base in baseball at Bridgeport. Zervos is the son of Mrs. Gerda Zervos and the late Pete Zervos and is a track, cross-country and basketball performer for the Monarchs. He is valedictorian of his graduating class. The awards are based on character, leadership, scholastic achievement and athletic participation.

(News-Register Photo—Cochran)



The recipient of the News-Register Award as Ohio Valley Athletic Conference "coach of the year" for the 1975-76 school year is Wheeling High basketball mentor Sam Andy, shown here with his pretty wife, Sandy. Andy was selected by the press, radio, and TV people of the area for his accomplishment in directing his Wildcats to OVAC sectional, regional, and state triple-A championships in Wheeling High's final season before consolidation.

(News-Register Photo—Cochran)



Wrestling and swimming champions of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference were among those recognized at the OVAC dinner meeting at Glessner Auditorium Thursday night. From left to right are John Stephenson, at left, of Class AA Cadiz; Eric Carder, of Class A Warwood, and "Skip" Murray, of triple-A Steubenville. They were the coaches of the wrestling titlists. At right is Eugene

Joseph, athletic director at Linsly Institute, with the WTRF-TV Award won by the Cadets with their thirtieth straight OVAC swimming championship and their third under Paul Blair. The wrestling trophies were donated by Swan's Sports Shop, Josten Co., and William B. Minor Trophy Co. The pennants were provided by Isalys, of Bellaire. (News-Register Photo—Cochran)