

# KERR RATES PANTHER

## Duquesne Prepares To Defend City's Grid Championship

Five Changes Made in Schedule with Pitt Game as Headliner; Captain Basrak Is Great Center.

By Jack Sell

Hopeful of extending a five-game victory cluster which marked a brilliant sweep down the home stretch last season, and determined to make a dogged defense of their city championship, 35 Duquesne University gridgers are at work daily on the campus field. John P. (Little Clipper) Smith, the fourth head coach in as many years, supervises the work, aided by Aldo (Buffalo) Donelli, promoted from the freshman mentorship last winter.

Little Smitty has no delusions about the winning streak remaining intact over the nine-game stretch ahead but despite the customary tinge of pessimism so chronic with all college tutors, he figures the Red and Blue will be a mighty tough ball club to subdue.

Checking over his squad yesterday he deplored the fact that many of his best boys reported far under weight. The first three days of drill under a hot sun haven't helped the situation. Captain Mike Basrak, the great center of the Bluffites, reported at 200 pounds while last year he scaled 215 on opening day.

### Sold on Captain.

When you mention the Bellaire bearcat Smith waxes eloquent. He says Mike is zipping the ball to the backs in perfect fashion, never making a bad fling. He comes right out and confesses that his leader is one of the best boys at the pivot post he has ever glimpsed. A few more Basraks and there would be no need of all this pre-season practice fuss.

The chief source of Duke strength will come from holdovers. Only 11 freshmen were retained and with one or two exceptions the new men will have a tough time cracking the varsity lineup.

John Perko and Steve Barko figure to take spots next to Basrak at guards. Joe Laputka, Joe Maras, Bob Goodman and Marsh Manuel all saw some tackle service last fall. Chet Airhart, Ernie Hefferle, George Platukis and Larry Kirsling are still pursuing terminal posts. Frank Zoppetti looks like the first string signal barker. Ken Bechtloff, who reported weighing but 174 pounds but reminds Coach Smith a great deal of Elmer Louder, will

This Year's Schedule	
Sept. 25—Waynesburg (night).	
Oct. 2—Rice (night).	
Oct. 9—Geneva (night).	
Oct. 17—At Pitt.	
Oct. 23—W. Va. Wesleyan (night).	
Oct. 31—At Detroit U.	
Nov. 6—At Washington U.	
Nov. 14—At Carnegie Tech.	
Nov. 21—Marquette.	

Last Year's Results	
Dukes..... 20	Illinois Wesleyan... 6
Dukes..... 0	Kansas State..... 13
Dukes..... 7	Rice..... 27
Dukes..... 0	Catholic U..... 6
Dukes..... 13	Washington U... 0
Dukes..... 7	Carnegie Tech... 0
Dukes..... 20	Oklahoma A.&M. 0
Dukes..... 19	West Virginia U. 0
Dukes..... 13	Detroit U..... 6
Total..... 99	Total..... 63

deus Grabinski, a guard, has been impressive while Bill Critchfield and Jim Faziola are other linemen with promise.

The rookie backs are speedy but lack heft. Geno Onder, brother of Cheeso, the former Pitt guard, and Angelo, the West Virginia U. terminal, John Minnick, Vincent McKeeta and Mitchell Barron have possibilities as ball toters.

Although rabid Duke followers will likely resent the statement, the city championship garnered last year was a trifle synthetic, Duquesne beating Tech, Tech tying Pitt and Bluffites and Panthers not meeting. It will be a real round robin, long a Duquesne aim, this fall to form one of the big features of local college football.

Duquesne has never beaten Pitt and there is no doubt that such a triumph would be about as welcome as any on the Hilltop program. The Blue and Gold are one of five changes from the 1935 card. Illinois Wesleyan, Kansas State, Catholic U., Oklahoma A. & M.,

## Big Guns Of Dukes For

BETO VAIRO, Halfback.

KEN BECHTLOFF



# To Defend City's Grid Championship

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### Arnold Recruit Outstanding.

Probably more

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## Last Year's Results

Dukes .....	29	Illinois Wesleyan ..	6
Dukes .....	0	Kansas State .....	12
Dukes .....	7	Rice .....	27
Dukes .....	0	Catholic U. ....	6
Dukes .....	13	Washington U. ...	6
Dukes .....	7	Carnegie Tech. ...	0
Dukes .....	20	Oklahoma A.&M. ...	0
Dukes .....	18	West Virginia U. ...	0
Dukes .....	13	Detroit U. ....	6
Total .....	99	Total .....	63

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Duquesne has never beaten Pitt and there is no doubt that such a triumph would be about as welcome as any on the Hilltop program. The Blue and Gold are one of five changes from the 1935 card. Illinois Wesleyan, Kansas State, Catholic U., Oklahoma A. & M., and West Virginia U. make way for the Sutherlanders, Waynesburg, Geneva, West Virginia Wesleyan and Marquette. It would appear here that the layout is a bit tougher.

Eleven lettermen who graduated included the three Jims, Fillingham, McDonald and Campbell, Kakasic, Joe Gates and Ed Zane. The following: Pete

BETO VAIRO, Halfback.

KEN BE



BOYD BRUMBAUGH, Halfback.

Some of the leading gridgers of the 1936 Duquesne University squad are pictured above. Vairo and Bechtloff are fine punters while Dillon and Brumbaugh possess passing ability in addition to their ball carrying prowess. Basrak, rated one of the finest centers

DISTRICT COLLEGE

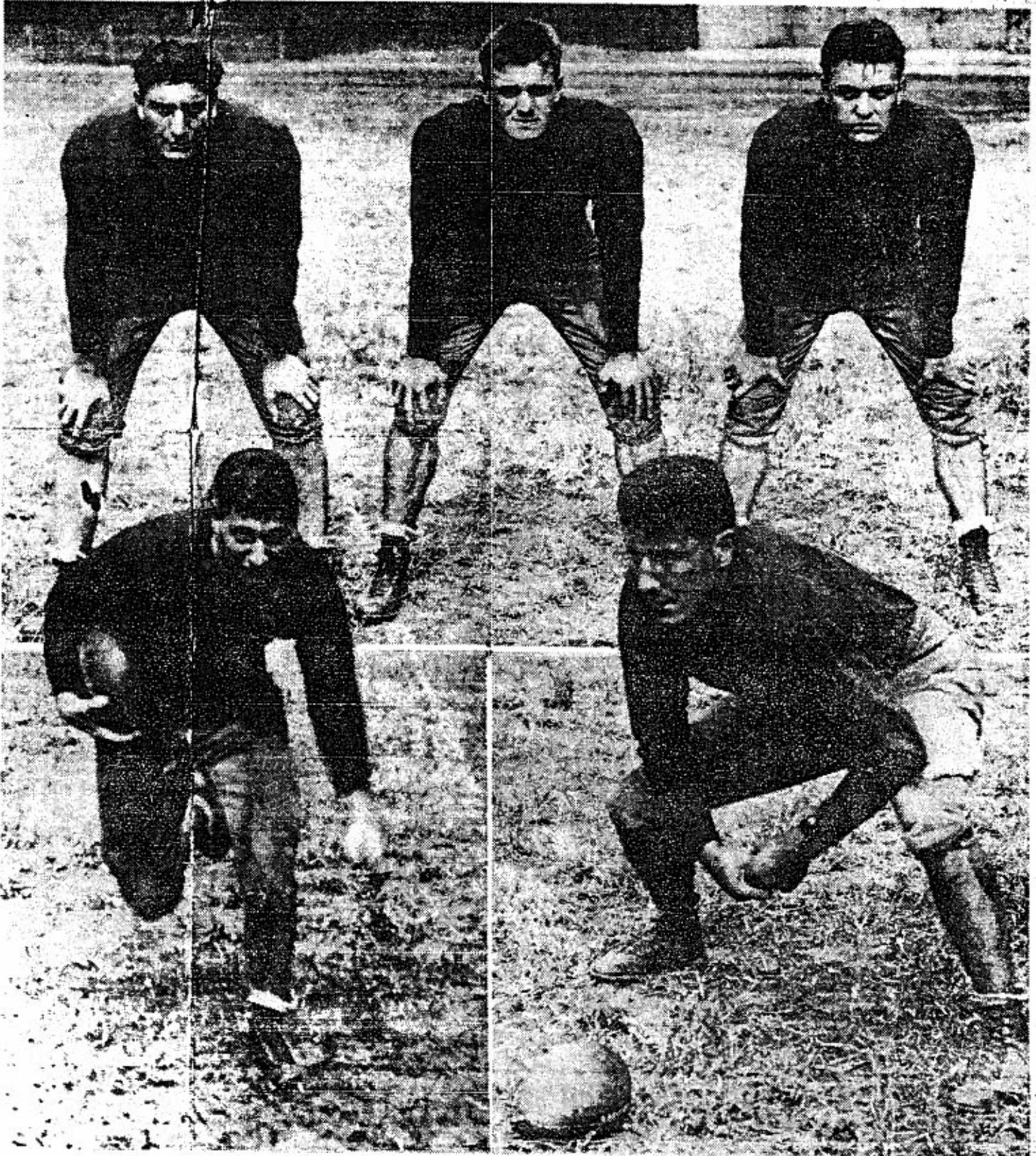
# S PANTHERS STRONGE

## Big Guns Of Dukes For Defense Of City Grid Title

BETO VAIRO, Halfback.

KEN BECHTLOFF, Fullback.

BILL DILLON, Halfback.

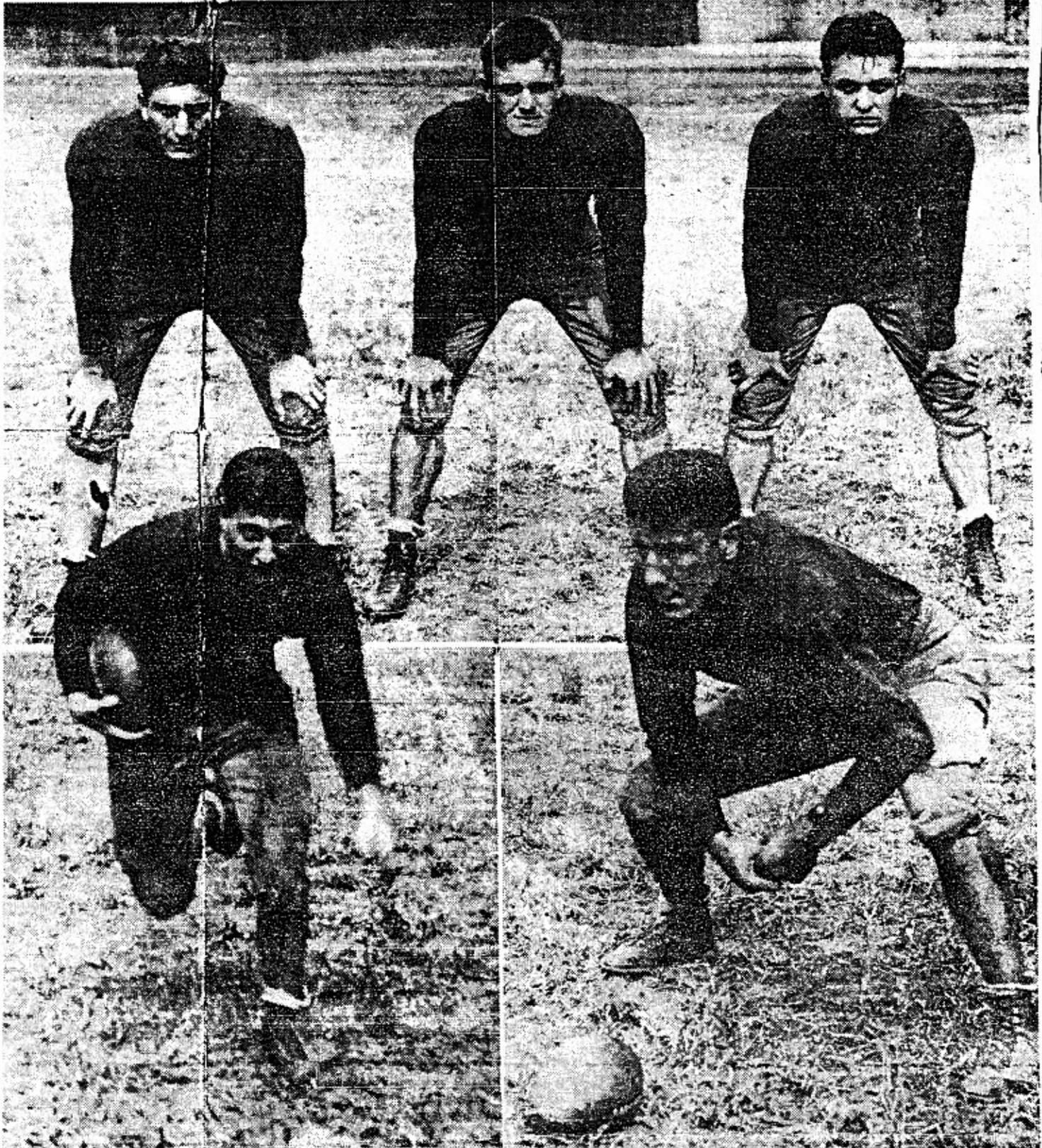


# DIG GUINS OF DUKES FOR DEFENSE OF CITY CHAMP

BETO VAIRO, Halfback.

KEN BECHTLOFF, Fullback.

BILL DILLON, Halfback.



BOYD BRUMBAUGH, Halfback.

CAPTAIN MIKE BASRAK, Center.

—Post-Gazette Photos.

Some of the leading gridgers of the 1936 Duquesne University quad are pictured above. Vairo and Bechtloff are fine punters, while Dillon and Brumbaugh possess passing ability in addition to their ball carrying prowess. Baarak, rated one of the finest centers

in the East, hopes to attain his greatest fame and grasp for all-America honors in this, his senior year with the the Red and Blue. These lads will have much to say concerning the retention of the city championship captured last season.

TRICT GOLFED

# Facts On Orange Bowl Game

## MISSISSIPPI STATE COLLEGE VS. DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Kickoff: 2 p. m., January 1, 1937.  
Place: Miami Stadium (seating capacity, 12,000).

Address:	Mississippi State College	Duquesne
Coach:	State College	Duquesne
Coach's school:	Mar. Ralph Sasse	John F. Smith
Colors:	Army	Notre Dame
Nickname:	Maroon and White	Red and Blue
Captain:	Maroons	Dukes
	Bob Keenan and Charles Armstrong	Mike Masrak

### MISSISSIPPI STATE'S 1936 RECORD

(Won: 7; Tied: 1; Lost: 2)

Mississippi State	20	Millsaps	0
Mississippi State	35	Howard	0
Mississippi State	0	Alabama	7
Mississippi State	32	Loyola (South)	0
Mississippi State	0	Texas Christian	0
Mississippi State	68	Sewanee	0
Mississippi State	0	Louisiana State	12
Mississippi State	28	Mississippi State	6
Mississippi State	32	Mercer	0
Mississippi State	7	Florida	0

### DUQUESNE'S 1936 RECORD

(Won: 7; Lost: 2)

Duquesne	14	Waynesburg	0
Duquesne	14	Rice	0
Duquesne	33	Geneva	0
Duquesne	7	Pittsburgh	0
Duquesne	0	W. Va. Wesleyan	14
Duquesne	7	Detroit	0
Duquesne	28	Washington	0
Duquesne	13	Carnegie Tech	0
Duquesne	13	Marquette	0

Totals 220 Totals 25 Totals 117 Totals 16  
 First Orange Bowl (January 1, 1935). Bucknell 26; University of Miami, 6.  
 Second Orange Bowl (January 1, 1936). Catholic 20; Mississippi, 19.  
 Palm Festival (January 1, 1933). University of Miami, 7; Manhattan, 0.  
 Palm Festival (January 1, 1934). Duquesne, 33; University of Miami, 7.

### PROBABLE LINEUPS

#### MISSISSIPPI STATE

Pos.	Name	No.	Wt.	Home Town
L. E.	Charles Gelatka	28	185	Chicago.
L. T.	Alexander Lott	20	193	Kilmichael, Miss.
L. G.	Carl Reash	30	200	Memphis.
C. C.	Dave Price	31	207	Covington, Tenn.
E. G.	John Moak	12	205	Brookhaven, Miss.
R. T.	Oren Pittman	14	226	Raleigh, Miss.
R. E.	Robert Keenan	27	185	Chicago.
Q. B.	A. B. Stubbs	17	170	Charleston, Miss.
L. H.	Fred Right	22	170	Kosciusko, Miss.
R. H.	Ike Pickle	23	180	Memphis.
F. B.	Robert Hardison	24	177	Kosciusko, Miss.

#### DUQUESNE

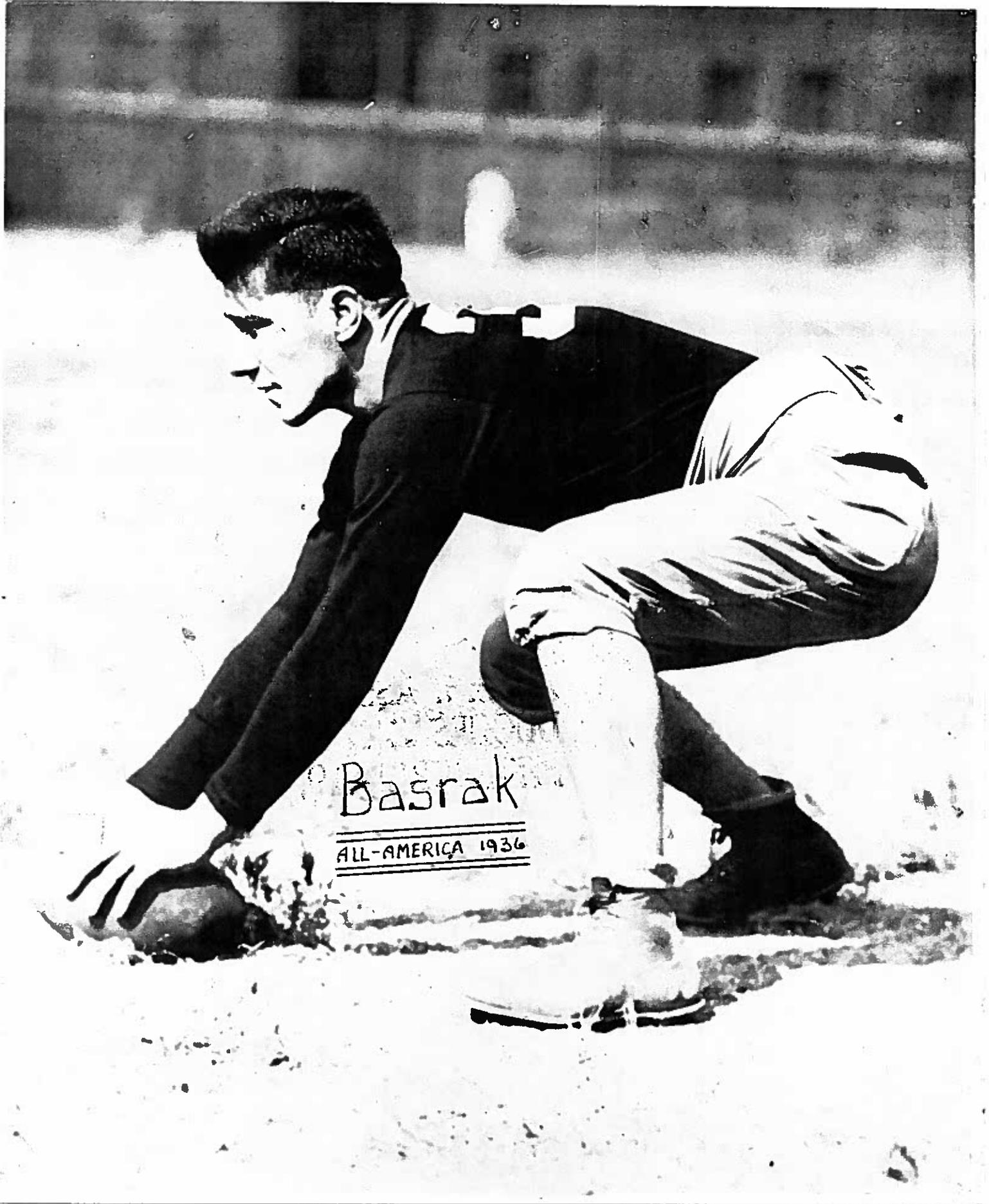
Pos.	Name	No.	Wt.	Home Town
L. E.	George Platusis	25	170	W. Hazelton, Pa.
L. T.	Joe Marcas	29	180	Hibbing, Minn.
L. G.	Arthur Amann	18	168	Erie, Pa.
C. C.	Michael Basrak	37	180	Bellairs, Ohio.
E. G.	Stephen Barko	32	170	Clairton, Pa.
R. T.	William Critchfield	35	200	Ursina, Pa.
R. E.	Ernest Hefferle	10	175	Herminie, Pa.
Q. B.	Louis Terrone	11	180	Hazelton, Pa.
L. H.	William Dillon	16	170	Altoona, Pa.
R. H.	Foyd Brumbaugh	17	171	Springdale, Pa.
F. B.	John Kars	18	180	Arnold, Pa.

Line Average	Mississippi State	Duquesne	Difference
Backfield Average	200	177	23
Team Average	174	175	1
	189	176 1/2	12 1/2

Officials: Referee, Tom Thorp (Columbia); Art Hutchins (Purdue); Ted Ar (Auburn), and Col. H. B. Hackett (Army).

SELECTIONS

WORKOUTS



Basrak

ALL-AMERICA 1936

## Reunion Here Friday

# '36 Football Dukes Among Best

## They Defeated Pitt And Tech

By CHESTER L. SMITH  
Sports Editor

Someone labeled them the Dashing Young Dukes, and it turned out to be a nickname that the Duquesne football forces of 1936 lived up to the last yard.

These were the Hilltoppers who, along the way, defeated two teams that were bowl-bound, won the city championship and produced the university's first and only All-American.

They'll have a lot to rehash, these Dukes will, when they come back to the campus next Friday for their first reunion in 26 years, the feature of Homecoming Day on the Bluff.

George Matsik will have to tell over and over again how he ran 71 yards against Pitt for the touchdown that was enough to cage the Panthers, 7-0, and give them something to remember, even while they were flailing Washington in the Rose Bowl the following New Year's Day.

The afternoon Carnegie Tech was flogged, 13-0, to batten down the city title won't be lost in the shuffle. Vince McKeeta was the stand-out that day.

The eavesdropper is bound to hear much about the Marquette game, which ended the regular season. The Midwesterners came to Forbes Field unbeaten, with victories over Wisconsin, Washington of St. Louis, Kansas State, Michigan State, St. Mary's of California, Creighton and Mississippi. The Dukes dunked them, 13-0, but the Marquettes still wound up in the Cotton Bowl against Texas Christian.

With which talk will, of course, get around to the trip to the Orange Bowl—the 13-12 victory over Mississippi State that came about when Boyd Brumbaugh flung his historic, almost-the-length-of-the-field pass to Ernie Hefferle.

With their "ups", the '36



ALDO (BUFF) DONELLI JOHN (CLIPPER) SMITH  
They coached classy 1936 Dukes.



MIKE BASRAK ERNIE HEFFERLE GEORGE MATSIK  
Among the standout players of that team.

night and the Dukes couldn't handle the slippery ball or keep their footing, but don't take anything away from the Bobcats from Buckhannon. They were gamesters who were to win from all district opponents except West Virginia and had the staying qualities to make a safety stand up for the 2-0 decision.

As one of the old Dukes so quaintly puts it, "It was like walking out of a banquet in your Sunday suit and stepping on a banana peel."

Smith's aide was Buff Donelli, one of the school's all-time athletes who is now securely anchored at Columbia where his Lions last fall shared the Ivy League championship with Harvard.

Doc Skender, the Dukes' athletic director, primed the pump for the varsity as freshman coach.

The overall record, including the bowl game, was 8-2. Waynesburg, Rice, Geneva, Pitt, Washington of St. Louis, Carnegie Tech, Marquette and

## Closed With Win In Orange Bowl

ability and a nose for the ball that made him a terror to pass against, an asset that was to stay with him all through his football life, college and pro.

Fanning out along the line from Basrak were George Perko and Steve Barko at guards, Bob Goodman and Joe Maras at tackles, Hefferle and George Platukis at the ends, Lou Tarone was the quarterback, Matsik and Roto Vairo double-teamed one halfback spot, and the other was the exclusive property of the gifted Brumbaugh. The fullbacking was done by Johnny Karra.

Behind them was an able and eager bench.

The Dukes will be traipsing back this week from here, there and everywhere.

Two are high school principals—Paul Urik at Har-Brack and McKeeta at Wilmerding.

Four went into coaching. Hefferle is on Johnny Michelson's staff at Pitt; Basrak, Karrs and Jim Casille hold high school posts at Skokie, Ill.; Har-Brack and Louisville, Ky., respectively; Maras is holding down a post at Union College of Schenectady, N. Y.

Chet Airhart is an agent for the FBI in West Virginia. Brumbaugh is with the American Bridge Co. United States Steel's Homestead plant superintendent is Matsik.

Perko owns a chain of shops in McKeesport, Irwin and Greensburg and Goodman is mine host at a steak house in Bradford. Joe Laputka is vice president and treasurer of the Gorham Manufacturing Co. in Providence, R. I. Vairo is in merchandising in Greensburg.

Only two members of the 36-man squad have died in the more than a quarter century that has passed. Their surviving team-mates will drink a toast to John Minnick and Ray Serangeli.

'36 Dukes' Record

# Pitt And Tech

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With their "ups", the '36 Dukes also had their "downs." If winning over Pitt had been one of the surprises of the season, the boys on the Bluff had another one to unwrap for their fans the following Friday night.

They lost to West Virginia Wesleyan!

There was deep mud that



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As one of the old Dukes so quaintly puts it, "It was like walking out of a banquet in your Sunday suit and stepping on a banana peel."

Duquesne was coached that year by John P. (Little Clipper) Smith, a Notre Dame man who was in his first season here after succeeding another South Bender, Christy Flanagan. Smith stayed only until 1938, retired from coaching not long afterward and is now in business in Connecticut.

Smith's aide was Buff Donelli, one of the school's all-time athletes who is now securely anchored at Columbia where his Lions last fall shared the Ivy League championship with Harvard.

Doc Skender, the Dukes' athletic director, primed the pump for the varsity as freshman coach.

The overall record, including the bowl game, was 8-2. Waynesburg, Rice, Geneva, Pitt, Washington of St. Louis, Carnegie Tech, Marquette and Mississippi were beaten. The second setback came from Detroit, the week after the Wesleyan comedown.

The Dukes were far from being a one-man show, but they did revolve around their All-America center—big, angular Mike Basrak of Bellaire, O. Mike the Mountain had good speed, great maneuver-

# in Orange Bowl

ability and a nose for the ball that made him a terror to pass against, an asset that was to stay with him all through his football life, college and pro.

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## '36 Dukes' Record

14	Waynesburg	0
14	Rice	0
33	Geneva	0
7	Pitt	0
0	W. Va. Wesleyan	2
7	Detroit	14
26	Washington (St. L.)	0
13	Carnegie Tech	0
13	Marquette	0
<b>ORANGE BOWL</b>		
13	Mississippi	12

# ts, Detroit Sign Working Agr

## Dukes' Orange Bowl Champs Hold Reunion



Post-Gazette Photo

**HOMEcomings HIGHLIGHTS**—A reunion of the 1936 football squad which beat Mississippi State, 13-12, in the Jan. 1, 1937, Orange Bowl game in Miami highlighted the Homecoming celebration at Duquesne University last night. The grid group which made the successful Southern invasion included those above, front row, left to right—

George Matsik, Boyd Brumbaugh, Ernie Hefferle, Mike Baarak, Lou Terrone, Paul Urik, Lou (Doc) Skender, John D. Holahan, Chet Alhart and Rev. Louis A. Dietrich. In the rear row, left to right—Vince McKeeta, Alex Tashan, Ed Benedict, Vic Monaca, Eto Vairo, Mitchell Barron, Gene Ouder and Bill Critchfield. Brumbaugh was the star.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
15219

December 15, 1977

My apologies for the delay in answering your letter, however, with basketball season upon us, things really get backed up.

Mike Basrak was not only a Bellaire standout, he is a real "Duquesne standout." He played center for the Duquesne team know as the "Night Riders" from 1934 through 1936. At that time Duquesne football games were held at Forbes Field at night ... therefore, the term "Night Riders." Listed below is year-by-year information on Duquesne's first All American football player:

1934 - sophomore, center, 180 lb, 6'2, used as a sub . . . said Coach Joe Bach, "Basrak can use a little more weight and a little more experience. He has the stuff."

1935 - junior, age 22, 185 lb, "Bas" was in the School of Education and was referred to as "first team material." Former Duquesne coach Elmer Layden, then at Notre Dame said, "Basrak can make any team in the country." By 1935 Basrak was considered an All American prospect . . . good defensive man . . . accurate passer-back

1936 - Captained the team to an Orange Bowl victory

1934 (8-2-0) Coach Joe Bach

39	Waynesburg	0
0	West Virginia U	7
99	Ashland	0
12	Bucknell	0
67	Haskell	0
20	Detroit	6
39	W VA Wesleyan	6
32	Oklahoma A & M	0
0	Carnegie Tech	3
14	Catholic U	0

1935 (6-3-0) Coach Christy Flanagan

20	Illinois Wesleyan	6
0	Kansas State	12
7	Rice	27
0	Catholic U	6
13	Washington U	6
7	Carnegie Tech	0
20	Oklahoma A & M	0
19	West Virginia U	0
13	Detroit	6

1936 (8-2-0) Coach John "Clipper" Smith

14	Waynesburg	0
14	Rice	0
33	Geneva	0
7	Pitt	0
0	W VA Wesleyan	2
7	Detroit	14
26	Washington U	0
13	Carnegie Tech	0
13	Marquette	0

Duquesne FACTS . . .

Nickname - Night Riders  
Colors - Red & Blue  
Home Field - Forbes Field  
Capacity - 36,000  
All American Football Players -  
Mike Basrak - Center '37  
Carl Nery - Guard '39  
John Rokisky - '41 - End  
Al DeMao - Center '41

POST SEASON - ORANGE BOWL, Miami, FL

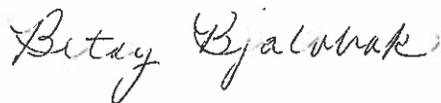
13 Mississippi State 12

I've enclosed a few copies of clippings which you might find interesting and informative. Also enclosed is a picture of Mike Basrak which you may keep with our compliments.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me in care of the Sports Information Office or by calling (412) 434-6564.

Thanks for your interest in Duquesne athletics, and good luck with your research.

Sincerely,



Betsy Bjalobok  
Sports Information

PS If possible, could we obtain a copy of the "History of Bellaire, Ohio - The All American Town." It would fit right in with our football archives. If there is a charge, let me know.