

PHILOSOPHICAL TECH COACH WINNING

Phillips Calmly Faces Biggest Challenge



LIKE ON OCCASIONS with the West Virginia Tech basketball team he coaches, Pete Phillips recently found himself on the losing side late in the game. Make no mistake, Phillips' teams at the Montgomery school have won more than they have lost. And just like the Golden Bears, Phillips has rallied. He's no longer in the final minutes of his life. IT WAS A different situation just a couple of months ago. Hospitalized after discovery of a spinal tumor classified as "red hot" (short-term), the word he got from the doctors was that he may have only a couple of months to live. Subsequent study provided a different diagnosis and the possibility of three to five months more. Finally, the tests and x-rays, sent to the Mayo Clinic and other leading hospitals around the country, revealed that it was a rarer type of tumor. A second major operation was conducted Sept. 1, removing one vertebra from the middle of the back and reconstructing it with bone from the hip. Phillips



coach in his first interview since the summer of surgery. "No, I don't think so. I like to think I've always appreciated life. I didn't have to come to the brink to appreciate it." Sitting rigidly in a recliner, Phillips thought for a moment. "No, I didn't have to come to the brink to discover my values," he confirmed. "Life is terminal," he said easily. "In the Pepsi generation, we're taught not to think about death, or prepare for it." "Pete took it all very calmly," said his wife, Dorothy. "When he came home after the first surgery, he just went on like nothing happened. After I got the kids in bed that night, it got to me. I said, 'Pete I do not know how you can sleep with something like this on your mind and never say a word.' "I remember that he said, 'Well, if there's something wrong and you can't do anything about it, there's no sense wasting today, tomorrow and the next few weeks worrying about it.' See PETE PHILLIPS, Page 7B, Col. 3

3 Stadium Sites Favored

MORGANTOWN — Three of the 13 sites under study as possible locations for West Virginia University's new football stadium are most feasible, according to Dr. Raymond Haas, WVU provost for planning. The Daily Athenaeum, the school newspaper, reported that in a meeting of representatives of planning boards from Star City, Morgantown, Monongalia County and WVU, the locations most under discussion were the Coliseum, the WVU golf course and a Mileground site on the WVU dairy farm. Dr. Haas said the faculty-student-staff committee agreed on the three sites as the best. A total of 17 criteria are being evaluated at each of the 13 sites. They are size, topography, soils, pedestrian access, automobile access, PRT access, utilities, ecology, hydrology, water quality, air quality, acoustics, fitting into the WVU program objectives, adjacency to existing facilities, conformity to campus plan, cost and parking.



NITRO DEFENSE — Trying to stop the No. 2-ranked football team is West Virginia is the task faced by the Nitro Wildcats' defensive line when it goes up against

invading George Washington Saturday night. From left: Bryan Roberts, Bobby Shiltz, Benjie Smith, David Cadle and Jimmy Walker.

COACHES HUMAN Paterno Straightens Warped Perspectives Of 'Sick' Grid Fans

By BILL LYON Knight-Ridder Newspapers Winter came early to Penn State. It snowed in Happy Valley Sunday, and Monday was raw and bleak, the wind ripping away the leaves of flame and sending them scuttling across the landscape with the sounds of autumn's death rattle. Sixty miles away from Happy Valley, Joe and Sue Paterno kept their hospital vigil. The Penn State coaching staff watched films as usual, polished the game plan for West Virginia Saturday, and the players baked their aches in whirlpools. But hardly anyone was interested in football. "Something was missing at Syracuse Saturday," young defensive tackle Matt Millen said. "I guess that something was Joe." For the first time in 27 years, Joe Paterno was not on the sidelines. His oldest child, David, 11, was unconscious in the intensive care unit of Geisinger Medical Center, a swift one hour's drive away on Interstate 80 east of Happy Valley. Each hospital bulletin was the same: "Condition serious but stable. Unconscious. We are satisfied with the patient's response to treatment." Cold, clinical, factual. Words that convey neither hope nor despair. There was, finally, a sliver of optimism in the last hospital statement Monday night which said: "Condition slightly improved, which has permitted reduction of supportive treatments." The boy, a sixth-grader, had fallen from a trampoline atop a stage at school last Friday. He has a fractured skull.



The medical center has 24-hour visitation rights. Joe and Sue Paterno were rationed 20 minutes of each hour at their son's bedside. Joe Paterno changed his mind a million times between Friday night and kickoff Saturday about whether he would try to make the game. He decided he would stay at the hospital, knowing deep down that would be his decision from the first. Those of us who know the Penn State head coach would have been surprised if he had done anything else. He is a devoted family man. He is a person whose perspective about life and sports has always seemed balanced, lucid, sensible.

PATERNO He is a man of principles and convictions who has spurned offers from the pros—one of them that would have made him a millionaire—because he truly likes the atmosphere of a college community, genuinely enjoys working with people for who football is a game and not a business. "Kids are so sick of listening to me after four years, I'd never last in the pros," he has often joked. If nothing else comes of it, the accident will jolt awake the people who take sports too seriously — the sickies who make death-threat phone calls, the drunken alumni who call for a coach's head. When Dan Devine was at Green Bay, some Packer fans butchered the family dog because the Pack wasn't winning. Before Bill Battle was let out at Tennessee, some loonies had a moving van backed up to his front door. They are people who see football coaches only on a Saturday afternoon, whose perspective becomes warped and twisted, who forget that coaches are people, too. They are men with families, with wives with whom they fight and love, with kids who can make you want to kill them one minute and kiss them the next, with bills that pile up. They are people just like us. The Paternos, who have celebrated many victories, had their biggest Tuesday when their son opened his eyes and smiled at them. It will still be awhile before the full extent of the injuries will be known. Just about the time you are soured on the human race, it does something very redeeming. Such was the case Saturday at Syracuse. It was homecoming for Syracuse, a team that has waged a bitter rivalry with Penn State for supremacy in the East for decades. The Orangemen have fallen on hard times. But Saturday, just before kickoff, a stadium full of people forgot about football and past hatreds and prayed silently for David Paterno. And after the game, which Syracuse very nearly won, the players knelt on the cold concrete and prayed for David Paterno again. They would cry about the game later. At that moment, they had something much more important to do. "I don't blame Joe for not coming," a red-eyed Frank Maloney, the Syracuse coach, said later. "I'd like to think I would have done the same thing. Your family comes first. That's the way it should be."

G.W., HOOVER LOOKING AHEAD?

Pats Intend To Keep High Rating

By CHUCK LANDON Daily Mail Sports Writer George Washington's number two ranking among West Virginia Triple-A teams is the highest in school history. And, it's a rating the Patriots plan on keeping. That's why head coach Steve Edwards is so adamant about GW playing the rest of its schedule one game at a time. "We can't afford to sneeze at Nitro just because they have a losing record," said Edwards, whose Pats take on the 3-4 Wildcats at 8 p.m. Saturday at Underwood Field. "Leave nothing to chance... that's the way I look at it. You can't afford to take anything for granted at this stage of the game. "We like being ranked number two. It's the highest ranking we've ever had. And I'll tell you, it was tough to get there but it's even tougher to stay there. That's why I'm concerned with Nitro." And, Nitro's fine comeback to defeat Dunbar 16-13 last Saturday only heightens Edwards' anxiety. "They beat a pretty good team in Dunbar," said Edwards. "But what impressed me was their comeback. Dunbar had them 13-3, but Nitro still came back to win. They showed me a lot of character in doing that. Basically, Nitro has a good sound team. They're not very big, but they execute well. Like I said, we can't afford to take them lightly." Meanwhile, Nitro coach Pat Vance hopes to catch GW looking ahead to next week's big game against fourth-

ranked Herbert Hoover — the exact thing Edwards is trying to guard against. "You know they have to be thinking about Hoover at least a little bit," said Vance. "So, maybe we can catch them looking ahead. Of course, any time you play the number two team in the state you're in for a tough game. And this year, GW is doing it all. They run on you, pass on you and play good defense. In fact, I think their defense is very underrated. I'm impressed with it. And another thing which makes playing GW tough is they seldom make a mistake. To me, that's the mark of good coaching." Duane Snyder, senior quarterback who moved in from Maryland, sparked Nitro's comeback last week and will start against GW. Sissonville at Herbert Hoover — Joe Cowley, coach of the undefeated and fourth-ranked Huskies, is trying to combat the same things as GW's Edwards. "We'll try to treat our game with Sissonville just like any other game," said Cowley of the Friday night game against the winless Indians. "We have a lot to look forward to and we certainly don't want to ease up now. Along those lines, I was real pleased with the way we played against Hurricane (a 40-0 Hoover victory) last week. We got better blocking in the line than we've had all year, so they didn't take them lightly. And, I'm hoping they'll treat Sissonville the same way. Of course, we're tickled to death to be number four in the state. Everyone in school has really

been behind us... it's a real good atmosphere." Meanwhile, Sissonville coach Forest Mann believes Hoover's ranking speaks for itself. "People around here are talking about them maybe being state champions," said Mann, "so this is a big challenge for us. We'll appeal to our kids' pride and hope they hang tough. That's what they've been doing all season and I have to admire them. They're disappointed, but they keep coming back strong. They won't give up." Charleston at St. Albans — Frank Vincent hopes his Mountain Lions can correct the problem which has plagued CHS all season... turnovers. "St. Albans isn't a bad football team," said Vincent. "But, I don't think we are, either. When they play us it will be their third game in eight days and it's bound to have some affect on them. We're hoping to knock them off. And, we can if don't play give-away. That's the same problem we've had all year. It's the mark of a young team." Stonewall at South Charleston — Black Eagle quarterback Greg Young, who suffered a neck injury Monday against St. Albans, will be sidelined for SC's battle against the streaking Generals.

"They took Greg to the hospital and kept him overnight for observation," said Homer Criddle, SC head coach. "He's okay, but he's awfully sore. He won't play against Stonewall and of course that's a big loss for us. He has really been doing the job. Instead, Mark Grandon will start at quarterback. "But as far as Stonewall is concerned... what can you say about them? They've won three games in a row, they've got Adolph Johnson and Eddie Dyess back together in the backfield and they're really coming on. For us this game is like going from the frying pan into the fire. In the last eight days we've played East Bank, St. Albans and now Stonewall." Meanwhile, SJ coach Bill Jarrett has finally gotten his team to the point he expected them to be at in late August. "We've got everyone back and healthy for the first time this season," said Jarrett. "Now we're where we hoped to be in August. But, we still expect this to be a tough game. I've only seen them play once and that was against St. Albans when they were wore out and stoved up, but I still think they're tough."

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