

1980

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**WESTERN KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY
HILLTOPPER FOOTBALL**

**COMPLIMENTS OF
CONTRACTORS SUPPLY
RENTAL INC.**

1980

FOOTBALL

'80



Hilltopper schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time (Central)	Series Record		
				W	L	T
Sept. 6	Evansville	Bowling Green, Ky.	1:00 pm	12	3	2
13	Kentucky State	Frankfort, Ky.	1:00 pm	0	0	0
20	*Akron	Akron, Ohio	6:30 pm	0	4	2
27	*Austin Peay	Bowling Green, Ky.	1:00 pm	21	3	1
Oct. 4	Open Date					
11	Youngstown State	Bowling Green, Ky.	1:00 pm	2	2	0
18	*Tennessee Tech	Cookeville, Tenn.	1:30 pm	22	20	1
25	*Eastern Kentucky	Bowling Green, Ky.	1:00 pm	33	18	2
Nov. 1	*Morehead State	Morehead, Ky.	12:30 pm	30	6	2
8	*Middle Tennessee (Homecoming)	Bowling Green, Ky.	1:00 pm	24	21	1
15	Open Date					
22	*Murray State	Murray, Ky.	1:30 pm	23	17	6

Coaches Say Murray, EKV Will Battle for OVC Football Title Again

Here's How the Votes Added Up

Voting by coaches for their own team was not allowed. Points awarded on 7-6-5-4-3-2-1 scale. The results:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Murray	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	47
Eastern	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	41
Western	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	35
Akron	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	34
Peay	-	1	-	3	2	1	-	26
Morehead	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	18
Middle	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	13
Tech	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10



By Mike Johnson
Assistant Sports Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Ohio Valley Conference football coaches got together yesterday for a little food and fun before getting down to the serious business of tutoring their teams for the season.

The menu at the OVC's annual football press luncheon didn't offer the usual fare, however. Oh, there was some of the expected moaning and groaning about tough schedules and inexperienced players. But the coaches also spent a lot of time patting each other on the back and de-

batting the financial future of their sport.

Murray State, the defending OVC champion, was picked as the conference favorite in the coaches' preseason poll. The role of preseason favorite didn't bother Murray coach Mike Gottfried much, though. After all, he has 20 starters returning from last year's 9-2-1 team.

"I don't feel any pressure," Gottfried said. "The preseason means nothing. All it means is that we drew

the top spot, the rail, but it's where you finish that counts."

The coaches picked Eastern Kentucky, the defending Division I-AA national champion, to finish second. Western Kentucky was No. 3 in the voting, followed by Akron, Austin Peay, Morehead State, Middle Tennessee and Tennessee Tech.

Eastern coach Roy Kidd was a little surprised that his team was picked to finish second after losing eight defensive starters, but he didn't mind at all.

"I like the idea of not being picked first, though," Kidd added. "I'll guarantee you that when you're

picked first in our league you're gonna have a lot of pressure on you every Saturday."

Like Gottfried, Tennessee Tech coach Don Wade wasn't worried about his team's selection as the worst in the league.

"If I was picking, I'd pick us last too," Wade said, "but I don't believe we'll finish there. I think we're gonna win 'em all. I just don't know how."

"Heck, why should I worry about being picked last. Mike Gottfried is the guy that's got to worry because

(Turn to MURRAY, D-5)

Sportscene

Murray, Eastern 1-2 picks in OVC

It's a tag most coaches don't want, but Murray State's Mike Gottfried doesn't mind having his Racers picked to successfully defend their Ohio Valley Conference football title this year.

"Last season was a great season for us," Gottfried said Thursday. "It was a combined effort by our players. It was an obsession for us (to win).

"But I don't feel any pressure being rated No. 1. Preseason means nothing. It means we drew the top spot, the rail. But it's where you finish that counts."

It's really no surprise that Murray, with 20 starters returning from last year's OVC champions that compiled a 9-2-1 record, was the favorite in a poll of the league's coaches.

Murray received five out of a possible seven first-place votes and two seconds for 47 points. The coaches' second pick was defending Division I-AA national champion Eastern with three first-place votes and 41 points.

Eastern coach Roy Kidd, however, doesn't mind the runner-up position of his team.

"I like the idea of not being picked first," said Kidd. "It puts a lot of pressure on you every weekend."

Western, with All-OVC quarterback John Hall returning, was tabbed by the coaches to finish third with 35 points. Akron, eligible for the first time to win the title since joining the OVC in 1978, was the fourth choice with 34 points.

Finishing fifth in the voting was Austin Peay (26 points), following by Morehead State (18), Middle Tennessee (13) and Tennessee Tech (10).

Western led the league with six players named to the preseason All-OVC team. The 26-player squad was selected by the school's sports information directors.

Murray, EKV Picked 1-2 in OVC

From Page D-1

he's got all those players coming back and he won it last year. Roy Kidd has to worry because he won the national championship last year. I got nowhere to go but up."

Moving up in the OVC may not be easy, however.

"It's totally impossible to pick the outcome of this conference," said Austin Peay coach Watson Brown. "The reason is that this is the toughest conference in the country in I-AA football."

Brown didn't get any arguments from his colleagues about that.

"Our league is a powerhouse," Gottfried said. "I sincerely feel that our teams can play with a lot of teams anywhere in the country and I'm not just talking about I-AA teams either."

The OVC, of course, had Eastern and Murray in the four-team I-AA playoffs last year. At one point in the season, in fact, four OVC teams were ranked among the top 10 in I-AA.

However, Western coach Jimmy Feix offered a word of caution to his cohorts concerning the recent budget cuts Kentucky's state colleges have had to make.

"We're gonna have to take a long hard look at where we want to go and how we want to get there," he said. "We have to think long and hard when we go to our presidents and ask for more money."

"Our budgets have been reduced.

It's obvious that the taxpayers and the council on higher education are taking a longer look at the amount of money being spent on college athletics. We need to emphasize the good things that we do in athletics. We need to let them know we're turning out graduates, too. Three members of our board of regents played football. We need to let people know we're doing more than just playing football games."

OVC commissioner Jim Delaney pointed out that the conference schools split more than \$600,000 last year in television revenue from football. Each school received a proportionate share of that money to spend as it pleased, not necessarily on athletics.

Kidd, for one, was against any talk of cutting back on scholarships. The OVC currently allows 65 scholarships and plans to increase the number by five each year until it reaches the I-AA limit of 75.

"The biggest mistake that we could make would be to de-emphasize right now," Kidd said. "Our league is at a peak. We need to increase scholarships so that we can have a chance to play bigger schools with bigger names and make even more money. We're playing at East Carolina this year and they're guaranteeing us \$45,000."

"When you have a good athletic program, it helps your enrollment. Our enrollment at Eastern is up this year and I'd like to think the fact that our football team was on national television four times in the last two years and won a national championship helped."

Kentucky's OVC coaches worry about budget cuts

By JOHN MCGILL
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

What began as lighthearted banter about the upcoming Ohio Valley Conference football season turned into a serious discussion at yesterday's annual pre-season meeting of OVC coaches at the Executive Inn.

The subject was money. With inflation and cutbacks in school funding taking deeper and deeper slices out of athletic budgets, Western Kentucky coach Jimmy Feix sounded a warning.

"It's obvious that the taxpayers, and the Council on Higher Education, are going to look at the dollars given athletic institutions," said Feix. "The stress on winning is a natural result of needing bigger crowds and greater gate receipts. I would hate to see us get to the point where we have to compromise a student's education or health to win a game to make money."

While Tennessee representatives in the OVC already have been dealt a stiff blow, Feix believes the Kentucky schools — Western, Eastern Kentucky, Murray State and Morehead State — may soon feel the same crunch.

Regents at Middle Tennessee, Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech voted to limit each school to 80 scholarships from the general fund. At the same time, the OVC decided to allow 65 with a gradual increase to 75 — the maximum permitted in the NCAA's Division I-AA.

Kentucky schools currently receive funding for 65. But while OVC rules will allow 70 next year and 75 the following year, Feix said he believes Kentucky schools may suffer the same belt-tightening from school administrators as their Tennessee counterparts.

"It may not happen until next year, but it may be more immediate," he said. "If I lose a kid in mid-year because he left school, I may not be able to replace him. Normally, you'd give



Mike Gottfried, coach of defending football champion Murray State, spoke at the OVC pre-season coaches' meeting in Louisville yesterday.

the scholarship to somebody else who was deserving."

Ironically, the cutback in scholarships comes at a time when OVC football is riding high. Eastern Kentucky won the I-AA championship last season, and Murray, the league's champ, also made the four-team national play-off. Akron has joined the league, and OVC officials believe they have one of the best I-AA conferences in the nation.

"We're just getting up to where we

can compete with some of the bigger schools and make some money by doing it," said Eastern coach Roy Kidd. "And you can't tell me that having a good athletic program doesn't bring kids to campus. We were on national TV and our enrollment is up this year. We're one of the few schools where that's true. We've been on national TV four times in the last two years. It's got to help enrollment in our university."

Kidd and Murray coach Mike Gottfried

both had praise for the University of Louisville, which will play Murray this season and is negotiating for a game with Eastern.

They pointed out the advantages of scheduling in-state rivals, with travel expenses cut and the likelihood of better crowds.

"Everyone should take their hats off to Louisville," said Gottfried. "I think it's great. If teams like Memphis State and Vanderbilt would pick up

some of the Tennessee schools on the schedule, it would help us."

Kidd said he's talked about playing U of L in recent years, but that former coach Vince Gibson would agree only to a game in Louisville.

"What impresses me about U of L athletic director Bud Olsen is that he's willing to come to Richmond. He will play home-and-home," said Kidd. "But if we start to go down in scholarships, I don't want to play them."

Added Feix: "Playing the bigger

OVC football poll

Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team, and points were awarded on a 7-6-5-4-3-2-1 scale.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts.
Murray	5	2						47
Eastern	3	4						41
Western	3	2	1					35
Akron		2	2	3				34
Austin Peay		1	3	2	1			26
Morehead			1	3	2	1		18
Middle Tenn.				2	2	3	1	13
Tenn. Tech.						3	4	10

schools will generate more money, but you don't want to play a Miami and lose 60-6. You have to be competitive. That's all we want."

OVC commissioner Jim Delany said he hopes ABC-TV will again cover a league game during the regular season. ABC broadcast the Eastern-Western game two years ago and the Eastern-Murray game last year.

Delany added that ESPN, a cable sports network, will televise the Eastern-Western game on Oct. 25.

Murray was picked to repeat as OVC champion in a poll of league coaches. Eastern was second, followed by Western. Akron, Austin Peay, Morehead, Middle Tennessee and Tennessee Tech.

Four games against non-conference opponents will count in the OVC standings this season. Akron, still working the OVC teams into its schedule, will have games against Youngstown State and Eastern Michigan counted for its league record. The Tennessee Tech-Troy State game and the Morehead-Youngstown game will also count.

Youngstown has also joined the OVC but is not eligible to compete for the championship this season.

Over 100 report for WKU pre-season camp

More than 100 players reported for Western Kentucky's pre-season football practice camp Wednesday on the WKU campus.

Heading the list of returnees for the 1980 season are six Hilltoppers who were recently named to the Ohio Valley Conference pre-season football squad. They include senior quarterback John Hall; senior tight end Ricky Gwinn; junior defensive end Tim Ford; senior linebacker Brad Todd; junior defensive back Barry Bumm; and senior punter Ray Farmer.

Hall, one of four OVC players selected unanimously, has been voted the league's best quarterback in each of the last two seasons. He is now a threat to become the first signal caller in the league's 32-year history to earn All-Conference honors three times.

Other two-time All-OVC quarterbacks include Jimmy Feix, the current Hilltopper head coach, who turned the trick in 1951-52; Middle Tennessee's Bobby Hallum (1957-58); Tennessee Tech's Gordon Mason (1959-60); and East Tennessee's Jimmy Baker (1962-73).

The 'Toppers' six pre-season selections were more than any other team in the league. Historically, that follows suit since Western has had more grid athletes selected first team all-conference (78) more times (107) than any other school in league annals.

However, the Hilltoppers were picked to finish third in the OVC this fall in a poll of league coaches. Last year's champion, Murray State, was picked to repeat and Eastern Kentucky, the NCAA Division I-AA National Champion, was the runner-up choice.

WKU football practice underway

Over 100 players were expected to report Wednesday as Western Kentucky University began its preparations for the 1980 football season. Western's preseason all-conference players are quarterback John Hall, last year's OVC offensive player of the year, tight end Ricky Gwinn, defensive end Tim Ford, linebacker Brad Todd, defensive back Barry Bumm, and punter Ray Farmer. Western opens Sept. 6 against visiting Evansville.

Dark Days on the Hill Should Be Over

By Mike Johnson
Herald Assistant Sports Editor

Standing on the sidelines for 12 seasons, always wearing that resplendent red coat, has taught Western Kentucky coach Jimmy Feix that a bit of good can be born from even the darkest days.

So rather than dwell on the disaster wrought by a rash of injuries that left Western struggling to a 5-5 record last year, Feix prefers to think of all the experience it brought his young team.

"We thought we were gonna have a real fine team last year," Feix recalls, "then we had all of those injuries. It helped us, though, because it gave a lot of our young people a chance to play. I hope we benefit from that, because it sure caused us a lot of grief last year."

It seems unlikely that Western will experience much grief this

Western

season. Although Feix begins fall practice with just 12 seniors, he has 19 players who started in last season's final game returning.

"We feel like we've got some good players and I'm excited about getting started with 'em," he says.

The best place to start is at quarterback, where John Hall returns for his final season after three years as a regular. Hall has been the All-Ohio Valley Conference quarterback for the last two years. Last season he was the league's offensive player of the year when he passed for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Not even Hall's job is safe these days, however. He was running No. 2 in spring practice behind junior Marty Jagers until the

final week and Feix says he expects Jagers and sophomore Ralph Antone to push him hard again this fall.

"John's a notoriously slow starter," Feix explains. "He started slow in the spring, but he finished up real fine. I think he took the challenge of the pressure the others put on him.

"They're all three really fine quarterbacks and unless John continues to play well one of the other two could get his job. Heck, it's always good to have depth and experience at a position like quarterback."

Depth and experience is exactly what Western has at running back, too, with six experienced players. Senior Nate Jones is the likely starter at tailback, if he recovers successfully from knee surgery that knocked him out for the

season after three games a year ago.

If Jones can't cut it, then the Toppers can turn to junior Elmer Caldwell, who moved to tailback from fullback last year and rushed for 572 yards and five touchdowns. Craig Freeman (360 yards last year) and junior Barry Skaggs add depth at tailback. Junior Troy Snardon returns at fullback where he gained 358 yards last year and provided some strong blocking.

Split end Eddie Preston (39 catches, 739 yards, six touchdowns), Hall's favorite target last

(Turn to **DISASTER**, Page 25)

Western Schedule

Sept. 6 — Evansville; 13 — at Kentucky State; 20 — at Akron; 27 — Austin Peay.

Oct. 11 — Youngstown State; 18 — at Tennessee Tech; 25 — at Eastern.

Nov. 1 — at Morehead; 8 — Middle Tennessee; 22 — at Murray.



John Hall



Ricky Gwinn

Disaster of '79 Should Have Positive Results for Western

From Page 22

season, is gone but All-OVC tight end Ricky Gwinn (30 catches, 366 yards, four touchdowns) is back and Jerry Flippin moves from flanker to split end.

The offensive line appears solid with All-OVC tackle Phil Rich

(6-foot-4, 260 pounds), guard Pete Walters (6-2, 255) and center Greg Gallas (6-2, 225) the most prominent figures.

"Our offense can be strong and physical and very consistent," Feix says. "Losing a guy like Preston may cost us our explosiveness, though. We just don't have a lot of speed."

Still, you can expect Western to put points on the scoreboard. The Hilltoppers led the OVC in total offense last season (371 yards, 22.3 points a game), but whether or not they can stop the opposition is a bigger question.

Western appears to be solid up front in its 3-4 defense with All-OVC Tim Ford, Donnie Evans and

Tony Wells returning. However, the problem is at linebacker where sophomore Tom Tussey, senior Brad Todd, senior Bryan Gray and redshirt freshman Greg Barnes will be the starters. Barry Bumm is back at free safety, where he had 108 tackles and three interceptions last season.

"We just don't have the kind of overall experience you like to

have in your key players at linebacker," Feix says. "You've got to be able to run to play defense, too, and our lack of speed concerns me.

"We're going to have to have some young people play well for us at linebacker. That's all there is to it. That's gonna tell us a lot early about how this season is gonna go for us."

WESTERN KENTUCKY — Some of the suddenness may be gone from the Hilltoppers' usually explosive offense, thanks to a lack of speed and a surplus of power in Jimmy Feix's offense.

He'll still have the OVC Offensive Player of the Year in John Hall at quarterback, but the Hilltoppers will miss some speedy receivers and backs. Even Hall will face a battle for his job with a pair of promising youngsters pressing from behind.

Nate Jones is the Hilltoppers' big-play running hope, but Troy Snardon and Elmer Caldwell will also get plenty of time in the backfield. Seniors Phil Rich and Pete Walters head a veteran offensive line.

Feix hopes to find the magic that many of these same players had back in 1978 when Western Kentucky last grasped the OVC crown. Many of the same players still play for the team.

Defensively, the Hilltoppers still need to fill some holes.

HILLTOPPER FACTS: Preseason prognosis—Third place; OVC finish—Fourth place; 1979 record—5-6; OVC record—3-3

Quarterbacks

Ralph Antone, McMurray, Pa.
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 195 Yr.: So.
Jeff Bender, Tampa, Fla.
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 183 Yr.: Fr.
John Hall, Goodlettsville, Tenn.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 185 Yr.: Sr.
Marty Jagers, Cadiz, Ky.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Jr.

Flankers

Ron Hunter, Princeton
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 185 Yr.: So.
Mark Nelson, Mercer, Pa.
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 185 Yr.: So.

Split Ends

Jerry Flippin, Franklin, Ky.
Ht.: 5-8 Wt.: 165 Yr.: Jr.
Tony Jarrell, Cincinnati
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 170 Yr.: Jr.
John Newby, Clairton, Pa.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 186 Yr.: So.

Tight Ends

Ricky Gwinn, Nashville, Tenn.
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 220 Yr.: Sr.
Tommy Smith, Lebanon
Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 200 Yr.: So.
Jim King, Boling Brook, Ill.
Ht.: 6-6 Wt.: 210 Yr.: Fr.
Scott Rouch, Walton, Ind.
Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 215 Yr.: Fr.

Centers

John Carey, Woodbury, N.J.
Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 235 Yr.: So.
Greg Gallas, West Jefferson, Ohio
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 225 Yr.: Jr.
Mike Sharp, Jeffersontown
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 210 Yr.: So.

Western Roster

Tailbacks

Craig Freeman, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Ht.: 5-6 Wt.: 160 Yr.: Sr.
Nate Jones, Madisonville
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 185 Yr.: Sr.
Jo Jo Lee, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Ht.: 5-9 Wt.: 170 Yr.: So.
Barry Skaggs, Henderson
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 188 Yr.: Jr.
Danny Embree, Buffalo
Ht.: 5-9 Wt.: 170 Yr.: Fr.

Fullbacks

Elmer Caldwell, Hickman, Ky.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Jr.
Kelly Key, Nashville, Tenn.
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 200 Yr.: Sr.
Troy Snardon, Allensville
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 205 Yr.: Jr.
Doug Goforth, Dixon
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 193 Yr.: Fr.

Tackles

Tim Bereiter, Zion, Ill.
Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 215 Yr.: Sr.
Steve Catlett, Sebree
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 230 Yr.: So.
Kevin Kast, Tell City, Ind.
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 225 Yr.: Jr.

Elliott Mallard, Clearwater, Fla.
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 238 Yr.: So.
Phil Rich, Bee Springs
Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 260 Yr.: Sr.

Guards

Mark Blackburn, Cobb
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 215 Yr.: Jr.
Steve Grimsley, Titusville, Fla.
Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 210 Yr.: So.
Alan Jones, Louisville
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 210 Yr.: So.
Pat Simpson, Hopkinsville
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 240 Yr.: So.
Pete Walters, Shepherdsville
Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 255 Yr.: Sr.

Linebackers

Bryan Gray, Louisville
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 200 Yr.: Sr.
Tom Tussey, Catlettsburg
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 210 Yr.: So.
Jack Woodruff, Lexington
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 205 Yr.: So.
Tyrone Byrd, Toledo, Ohio
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Fr.

Paul Gray, Owensboro
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Fr.
David Hall, Springfield
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 209 Yr.: Fr.
Dennis Horning, Kent, Ohio
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Fr.
Ronnie Nobles, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Fr.
David Norwood, Louisville
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Fr.
Robert Ray, Nashville, Tenn.
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 190 Yr.: Fr.

Nose Tackles

Morell Moore, Somerset
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 210 Yr.: So.
Tony Wells, Louisville
Ht.: 5-9 Wt.: 195 Yr.: Jr.

Outside Linebackers

Greg Barnes, Prospect
Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 195 Yr.: So.
Eddie Battle, Titusville, Fla.
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 215 Yr.: So.
Brad Todd, Sonora
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 215 Yr.: Sr.

Defensive Ends

Tony Eatherly, Bowling Green
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 215 Yr.: Fr.
Donnie Evans, Franklin
Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 240 Yr.: Jr.
Tim Ford, Valley Station
Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 245 Yr.: Jr.
Tom Fox, Parma, Ohio
Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 230 Yr.: So.
Walter York, Bowling Green
Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 200 Yr.: Fr.

Cornerbacks

Mark DeRuzzo, Louisville
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 170 Yr.: So.
Lamont Meacham, Clairton, Pa.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 170 Yr.: Jr.
Davin Mullen, Clairton, Pa.
Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 170 Yr.: So.
Ronnie Fishback, Shelbyville, Tenn.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 180 Yr.: Fr.

Strong Safeties

Reginald Johnson, Tampa, Fla.
Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 205 Yr.: So.

David Suggs, Shelbyville, Tenn.
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 190 Yr.: So.

Free Safeties

Barry Bumm, Owensboro
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 175 Yr.: Jr.
Marvin Cottrell, Harlan
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 180 Yr.: So.
Mickey Lewis, Glasgow
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 198 Yr.: Fr.

Punlers

Phil Evans, Dunwoody, Ga.
Ht.: 5-10 Wt.: 184 Yr.: Jr.
Ray Farmer, Louisville
Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 180 Yr.: Sr.
Mike Miller, Frankfort
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 165 Yr.: So.

Placekickers

Ricky Anderson, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Ht.: 5-2 Wt.: 186 Yr.: So.
Mike Curmutte, Greensburg
Ht.: 5-8 Wt.: 170 Yr.: So.
Marvin Davis, Madisonville
Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 175 Yr.: Sr.

Murray's Racers Draw the Rail in Tight OVC Race

By Mike Johnson
Herald Assistant Sports Editor

Murray State coach Mike Gottfried smiles and shakes his head as he remembers the good times his football team encountered last season.

"I really hate to see last season end," Gottfried says. "In my playing career and in my coaching career, I've never had a year like that before. It was great, but last season is over."

What Murray did last year was win its last eight games of the regular season to finish with a 9-1-1 record, claim its first Ohio Valley Conference championship in 28 years and qualify for the Division I-AA national playoffs. But if the coaches around the OVC know their stuff, the good times have only just begun at Murray.

The OVC coaches picked Murray to repeat as conference champion in their preseason poll. The Racers received five of a possible seven first-place votes. Eastern Kentucky, the defending I-AA national champion and OVC runner-up last season, was picked second by the coaches, claiming the first place votes Murray didn't get.

The coaches picked Western Kentucky third followed by Akron,



Gottfried



Kidd



Feix



Brown

OVC Outlook

Austin Peay, Morehead State, Middle Tennessee and Tennessee Tech.

Playing the role of the OVC favorite doesn't bother Gottfried. It shouldn't with 19 starters returning, 11 of them on a defense that was the best in the conference and fifth in the nation.

"I don't feel any pressure," Gottfried says. "The preseason means nothing. All it means is that we drew the top spot, the rail, but it's where you finish that counts."

"We return everybody on defense and that makes me feel pretty good because defense did it for us last year. Our schedule is tough and we've got some question marks on offense but I think we'll have a good team."

Eastern coach Roy Kidd was somewhat surprised that his team was picked as high as second. Eastern returns seven offensive starters, but the Colonels will have to rebuild their defense.

"I have mixed emotions about this season," Kidd said. "I'm anxious to get started, it's been a long time since we've played a game, but I kind of like the way last season ended."

"I like the idea of not being picked first, though (that's where Eastern was picked last year in the OVC). I'll guarantee you that when you're picked first in our league you're gonna have a lot of pressure on you every Saturday."

Western appears to be the team most likely to knock Murray and Eastern from the top in the OVC. Coach Jimmy Feix's Hilltoppers return 17 starters from last

year's 5-5 team, including quarterback John Hall, the offensive player of the year in the conference.

Akron, eligible for the OVC title* for the first time since it came into the conference in 1978, should also be a contender. The Zips return 16 starters from a 6-5 club and enjoy the luxury of playing Eastern and Western on their home turf in the 35,000-seat Rubber Bowl.

One thing seems certain in the OVC — nobody wins this league with ease. Last year five OVC teams were ranked among the top 10 in the country in Division I-AA at different times throughout the season.

"Our league is a powerhouse," Gottfried says. "I sincerely feel that our teams can play with a lot of teams anywhere in the country and I'm not just talking about I-AA teams either."

Certainly, Gottfried will get no argument about that from his colleagues.

"It's totally impossible to pick the outcome of this conference," says Austin Peay coach Watson Brown. "The reason is that this is the toughest conference in the country in I-AA football."

OVC Coaches' Poll	
Murray State	47
Eastern Kentucky	41
Western Kentucky	35
Akron	35
Austin Peay	26
Morehead State	18
Middle Tennessee	13
Tennessee Tech	10

Preseason All-OVC Team

- QB — John Hall, Western, Sr.
- RB — Dale Patton, Eastern, Sr.
- RB — Dwight Yarn, Morehead, Jr.
- TE — Ricky Gwinn, Western, Sr.
- OG — Kevin Greve, Eastern, Jr.
- OG — Calvin Griffith, Austin Peay, Jr.
- OT — Charlie Young, Morehead, Sr.
- OT — Bill Spurlock, Middle Tenn., So.
- C — Juan Pope, Akron, Sr.
- WR — Steve Puthoff, Austin Peay, Sr.
- WR — David Booze, Eastern, Sr.
- WR — Jerry Parrish, Eastern, Jr.
- K — Wayne Anderson, Tenn. Tech, Sr.
- DL — Richard Wozniak, Austin Peay, Sr.
- DL — Rick Lanpher, Murray, Sr.
- DL — Tim Brewer, Morehead, Sr.
- DE — Tim Ford, Western, Jr.
- DE — Ronnie Dyer, Tenn. Tech, Sr.
- DE — Glenn Jones, Murray, Jr.
- LB — Brad Todd, Western, Sr.
- LB — Brad Reese, Akron, Jr.
- DB — Terry Love, Murray, Sr.
- DB — Barry Bumm, Western, Jr.
- DB — Greg Evans, Murray, Jr.
- DB — George Floyd, Eastern, Jr.
- P — Ray Farmer, Western, Sr.

Closing in

Tops to put on pads; local prep openers near

Western begins contact drills Tuesday in preparation for its Sept. 6 football opener here against Evansville, while the local high schools are beginning their final week of preseason drills.

Western's players reported to camp last week, with all but a couple of key players returning as expected.

Sophomore placekicker Ricky Anderson notified Hilltopper head coach Jimmy Feix recently that he would not be returning to school this fall after a disappointing freshman campaign, while junior linebacker Dave Cross has decided to give up football after a series of nagging injuries.

Anderson won the Hilltoppers' placekicking job last fall by impressing the coaching staff during the 1979 preseason. The rookie from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., went on to convert 25 of 27 extra points during the season, but missed 10 of 14 field goal tries including two from close range in the final seconds of Western's 8-6 loss last year at Eastern.

Meanwhile, Cross had been ticketed as a starter at linebacker going into each of the last two seasons before being felled by injury.

Going into the 1980 season, three Western seniors are well within striking range of several school records.

Item—Quarterback John Hall (6-0, 185) of Goodlettsville, Tenn., is a two-time All-Ohio Valley Conference pick and threatens to become the first signal-caller in league history to earn such honors three years in a row. Hall is also closing in on career records for passing attempts, pass completions, passing yardage, touchdown passes and completion percentage.

Item—Punter Ray Farmer (5-11, 180) of Louisville already holds the school record for career punting



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

yardage with a three-year total of 6,402 yards, and needs only three more punts to break that career mark of 166.

Item—Tailback Nate Jones (5-10, 185) of Madisonville missed most of last season with a knee injury after leading the team in rushing in 1978, but remains in contention to set career marks for kickoff returns and kickoff return yardage.

"They're three outstanding athletes," noted Feix. "It's good to know that they're so close to such honors, especially when you understand what great team players they are."

Moving to the high school level, both Bowling Green High and Warren Central are in their last few days of preparation before Friday night's season openers.

BGH opens the 1980 campaign at home against Barren County, while Central kicks things off on the road against Allen County-Scottsville. That latter match-up will feature a family feud between head coaches, Joe Hood of Central and Royce Hood of AC-S.

Beginning its eighth year under veteran head coach

Wilson Sears, BGH is expecting to field one of its strongest teams.

In fact, the Purples have lived up to that billing so far in a couple of preseason scrimmages. BGH whipped a Mayfield team picked to win the state Class 2-A title on Aug. 8 at Fort Campbell, and routed Owensboro's defending regional Class 4-A champions last week at Donaldson Stadium.

The Purples outscored Mayfield four touchdowns to two, and rolled up a 4-1 lead over Owensboro early in the second half before both teams cleared their benches.

Central, meanwhile, will apparently be fielding another tough defensive team. The Dragons bested Madisonville two touchdowns to none in their first scrimmage, with the defense providing both scores, and then battled Glasgow to a scoreless tie in last week's jamboree at Glasgow.

Warren East waits until Aug. 29 to kick off the season, opening at home against Todd Central.

After two scrimmages, the Raiders are not only unscored on but untested as well. East rolled over McLean County five touchdowns to none on the road two weeks ago, before drubbing host Hart County by the same margin the past weekend.

Bowling Green High is expected to fight it out with arch-rival Paducah Tilghman for this year's Class 4-A district championship, while Central figures to finish somewhere near the middle of the pack.

East is favored to win the local Class 2-A district crown, but the Raiders will have to face defending champion Glasgow on the road Oct. 10.

Tops hope to learn from last year

Continued from Page 2

short of awesome with senior Phil Rich (6-4, 260) at strong tackle, senior Pete Walters (6-3, 255) at strong guard and junior Greg Gallas (6-1, 225) at center. All three are all-conference material, and Rich—the former all-around athlete at Edmonson County—is a bona fide pro prospect.

Starters on the weak side figure to be sophomore Steve Catlett (6-1, 230) at tackle and junior Mark Blackburn (5-10, 215) at guard. Lettermen in reserve include senior Tim Bereiter (6-3, 215), junior Kevin Kast (6-2, 225) and sophomore Pat Simpson (6-2, 240).

DEFENSE

Line—The Hilltoppers return all three front men in last year's 3-4-4 alignment, including All-OVC junior Tim Ford (6-4, 245) at defensive end.

After transferring in from Tennessee as a sophomore, Ford got in on 73 tackles last fall despite most opponents showing a tendency to run away from him. That strategy didn't do much good, either, because junior Donnie Evans (6-4, 240) was at the other end to get in on 83 stops.

Almost dwarfed between the two bookends was junior noseguard Tony Wells (5-9, 195), who has started since his freshman campaign. But the inside spot may be up for grabs this fall, thanks to the rising star of sophomore Morrell Moore (6-0, 210).

Depth along the first line of defense will come from lettermen Larry Taylor (6-2, 250) and Tim Fox (6-4, 230), as well as Army transfer Tony Eatherly (6-0, 215), a former Bowling Green High standout.

Linebackers—One of the few places where the Hilltoppers were hit hard by graduation, the linebacking corps may well be the key to Western's entire 1980 season.

Chuck DeLacey and Carl Estelle, both former All-OVC linebackers, picked up their sheepskins in the spring, leaving Western especially thin on the inside. The starters at the two inside posts figure to be sophomore Tom Tussey (5-11, 210) and senior Bryan Gray (5-11, 200), both of whom saw some starting duty a year ago.

The Hilltoppers' top returning tackler is outside linebacker Brad Todd (6-2, 215), a senior who logged 43 individual tackles and 115 hits in all last fall. The other outside job will go to sophomore Greg Barnes (6-1, 195), who walked on in the spring and wound up winning a starting job.

Depth is almost non-existent both inside and out, but a lot of those incoming freshmen tight ends also doubled as linebackers.

Secondary—Junior free safety Barry Bumm (6-0,

175) is second among Western's returning tacklers this fall, which shows how many times the 1979 stop troops got penetrated all the way to the defensive backfield.

Nonetheless, Bumm is a good one. A preseason all-conference selection, the former Owensboro Catholic ace made 46 solo stops and 108 in all.

Strong safety Craig Smith graduated in the spring, and heir apparent is sophomore letterman David Suggs (6-0, 190). Promising sophomore Reginald Johnson (6-2, 205) is ticketed for backup duty at safety, but may wind up challenging Suggs for starting honors later in the year.

Western's young cornerbacks got their baptism of fire last fall, but junior Lamont Meacham (6-0, 170) and sophomore Davlin Mullen (6-1, 170) are both older and wiser this time around. Behind them are sophomore Mark DeRuzzo (6-1, 170) and senior Marvin Davis (6-0, 175), although Davis is better known for his placekicking.

All-OVC preseason team

		OFFENSE			
Pos., Name	School	Class	Ht.	Wt.	
*QB - John Hall	Western Kentucky	Sr.	6-0	185	
*RB - Dale Patton	Eastern Kentucky	Sr.	5-10	225	
RB - Dwight Yarn	Morehead State	Jr.	6-0	185	
*TE - Ricky Gwinn	Western Kentucky	Jr.	6-2	220	
*OG - Kevin Greve	Eastern Kentucky	Jr.	6-1	238	
OG - Calvin Griffin	Austin Peay	Jr.	6-1	270	
*OT - Charlie Young	Morehead State	Sr.	6-6	255	
OT - Bill Spurlock	Middle Tennessee	So.	6-5	239	
C - Juan Pope	Akron	Sr.	6-2	225	
WR - Steve Puthoff	Austin Peay	Sr.	6-2	185	
WR - David Booze	Eastern Kentucky	Sr.	6-2	188	
WR - Jerry Parrish	Eastern Kentucky	Jr.	5-11	173	
K - Wayne Anderson	Tennessee Tech	Sr.	5-10	170	
		DEFENSE			
*DL - Richard Wozniak	Austin Peay	Sr.	6-5	240	
*DL - Rick Lanpher	Murray State	Sr.	6-3	210	
DL - Tim Brewer	Morehead State	Sr.	6-3	245	
*DE - Tim Ford	Western Kentucky	Jr.	6-4	245	
{DE - Ronnie Dyer	Tennessee Tech	Sr.	6-2	220	
{DE - Glenn Jones	Murray State	Jr.	5-10	198	
LB - Brad Todd	Western Kentucky	Sr.	6-2	215	
LB - Brad Reese	Akron	Jr.	6-2	215	
*DB - Terry Love	Murray State	Sr.	6-4	205	
DB - Barry Bumm	Western Kentucky	Jr.	6-0	175	
*DB - Greg Evans	Murray State	Jr.	6-0	198	
DB - George Floyd	Eastern Kentucky	Jr.	5-11	185	
P - Ray Farmer	Western Kentucky	Sr.	5-11	180	

* Denotes 1st team All-OVC selection in 1979

Tri-captains

WESTERN COACH Jimmy Feix stands behind the tri-captains of the 1980 Hilltoppers (left to right): Bryan Gray, Ricky Gwinn and Pete Walters. Gray is a senior linebacker, Gwinn a senior tight end and Walters a senior offensive guard.





Flip on the loose

JERRY FLIPPIN (82) of Western eludes a Tennessee Tech defender during last year's 49-7 romp by the Hilltoppers at Smith Stadium. A former Franklin-

Simpson standout, Flippin may be Western's top deep threat this fall and has moved from flanker to split end for his junior season.

WKU seniors look to break records

When the 1980 Western Kentucky football season gets under way Sept. 6 against Evansville in Bowling Green, three Hilltopper seniors will continue their quests to erase a number of WKU all-time grid records.

Quarterback John Hall, punter Ray Farmer and tailback Nate Jones are all comfortably within distance of school records and one, or perhaps all, of them may challenge Ohio Valley Conference standards before the year is over.

Hall, a 6-0, 185 pounder from Goodlettsville, Tenn., is a two-time All-OVC selection and threatens to become the first field general in league history to be named to the squad three times. He is also challenging school marks in career passing attempts -- 619 (Hall has 478); career pass completions -- 289 (Hall has 241); career passing yardage -- 4,046 (Hall has 3,132); career touchdown passes -- 34 (Hall has 24);

and career pass completion percentage -- .496 (Hall is at .504).

Farmer, a 5-11, 180-pounder from Louisville, is regarded as one of Western's most consistent punters of all time. He, like Hall, was recently voted to the pre-season All-OVC team and he enters 1980 challenging the school record for career punts -- 166 (Farmer has 163). One of the most dependable kickers in Western history, Farmer already holds the WKU mark for career punting yardage with a three-year total of 6,402 (that's almost 1 1/4 miles off the toe).

Jones, a 5-10, 185 pounder from Madisonville, was the club's leading rusher (467 yards) at tailback as a sophomore in 1978 but fell victim to

a knee injury in the '79 OVC opener against Austin Peay and was lost for the remainder of the campaign. Despite the setback, Jones is still in contention to break records for career kickoff returns -- 40 (Jones has 33); and career kickoff return yardage -- 771 (Jones has 639).

"They're three outstanding athletes," said Hilltopper Head Coach Jimmy Feix. "It's good to know that they're so close to such honors; especially when you understand what great 'team players' they are. They play hard to win and they would be the first to remind you that football is a team sport -- all the way."

Feix Looking To Improve Standings In Tough OVC Race

By RICK BENTLEY
NEW ERA Sports Editor
BOWLING GREEN

Somewhere a wise old sage must have said, "You can tell a lot about a man by his office." If someone didn't say it they should have and it is very apparent when talking about Western Kentucky University grid coach, Jimmy Feix.

Looking around his office in the L.T. Smith Stadium, it is obvious that the Hilltopper mentor is a man of action but not a lot of flash. The office has a desk, chair, small table and a couch. A few trophies are placed in one corner but their are no flashy honors that would tell you that Feix is one of the winningest coaches ever to set foot in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Feix has always coached with a very subtle businesslike quality and does not require a lot of pizzazz to make things work. So far the system has been very effective.

The 1973 Hilltoppers entered the first-ever NCAA Division II national championship playoffs and finished second. Western went to the playoffs again in 1975 and finished No. 2.

Feix has a way of bouncing back after bad seasons and in 1973 (after being 1-8-1 the year before) the Hilltoppers finished with an 8-2 mark and a conference crown.

Feix goes into the 1980 campaign with a career coaching record of 84 wins and 37 losses plus five ties. In 12 seasons with Western, Feix has rolled up a 57-23-2 mark in the OVC.

All that is past credentials and Feix is very spartan in his approach to football so past credits mean little. The current crop of players and how the season progresses is the chief concern.

According to Feix, "We have a good group of players coming back and I feel that this season we will be at a high level of competition. This is not a rebuilding year and we should be competitive in all games."

The Hilltoppers have done some major work on their schedule and snipped some opponents who did not belong on the WKU lineup. Added this season are Kentucky State and Evansville. The Western team will also open the OVC on a different note in having Akron as their first conference opponent instead of the traditional rival, Austin Peay.

Feix sees the OVC as a very tough race this season. "Of course Murray and Eastern are going to be tough. Eastern lost a lot from their defense but they always seem to come up with strong material. Murray lost

only two players and had a good recruiting season."

Looking on down the league, Feix sees Austin Peay as a much improved

and Middle are improving.

"The key to our season is to stay healthy. If we can do that we will be okay. This is a slower team than I would like to have so we won't be able to do a lot of things we usually do."

One would think that after 12 seasons as a head coach, Feix would find it hard to get motivated for the approaching season. The Hilltopper mentor says there is no problem. "At the beginning of every season I get rekindled. I guess you can say that hope rises eternal."

The Hilltoppers are fighting another opponent this season that seems to be on everyone's schedule. Budget cuts have dropped the number of scholarships that

the Hilltoppers can have. That reduction has recruiting an even finer

"I have to go after the best we can get. We are longer to compete with major college scouts I kid but 90 percent of the we won't get the player."

The Hilltoppers are fortunate that about 50 percent their roster is made up of players who have alked onto make the squad. That success has made 65 scholarships go a lot further.

Looking at the offense this season, it is obvious that the

Hilltoppers will be powerful. Returning is OVC John Hall who hit on 108 of 215 attempts last year for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns. Hall is being pushed by former Trigg County standout Marty Jagers for the starting signal caller spot.

Feix stated, "Right now Hall is No. 1 and Jagers is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. I am going to make myself use both players a lot this year."

When the Hilltopper season opens Hall, along with punter Ray Farmer and tailback Nate Jones are all within distance of school records and possibly OVC marks.

Hall, a 6-0, 185-pounder is a two-time All-OVC selection and threatens to become the first field general in league history to be named to the squad three times.

He is also challenging school marks in career passing attempts which is 619 (Hall has 478) and career pass completions which stands at 289 (Hall has 241). Hall is less than a 1,000 yards away from the career passing yardage mark and is 10 away from career touchdown passes.

Farmer, a 5-11, 180-pounder is regarded as one of Western's most consistent punters of all time for the squad. In what might be a weak honor, Farmer is moving closer to the career punt total. The current record of 166 punts is only three more than Farmer has before the year starts.

Jones, is a former Madisonville standout and was the Hilltopper leading rusher (467 yards) as a tailback his sophomore season in 1978 but fell victim to a knee injury in the 1979 league opener against Austin Peay. Despite the setback, Jones still is in contention to break records for career kickoff returns which currently stands at 40. Jones has 33 to date. He can also take the career kickoff return yardage mark of 771 with a current total of 639.

Several local athletes will be pushing for starting roles at Western this season. Mark Blackburn has already assured himself a starting nod on the offensive line but will be pushed by Hopkinsville product, Pat Simpson. Simpson saw some playing time for Western last year but should prove a major key this year for the Hilltoppers.

The Hilltoppers led the OVC in offense last season and finished third in team defense. That is too impressive credentials to have a fourth place finish in the league. For the Hilltoppers it is a need for consistent play that will make the difference.



THIRTEEN SEASON — Western Kentucky University head football coach Jimmy Feix has never been at another college as either a player or coach. This will be Feix's 13th year at the helm. His winning percentage as a college coach is .687.

OVC Moves Into Spotlight With Strong Playoff Showings

By RICK BENTLEY
NEW ERA Sports Editor

The Ohio Valley Conference took a giant step into the public eye last season with both Murray and Eastern Kentucky advancing to the NCAA playoffs. The Colonels took the national title and helps prove what coach Jimmy Feix said about the league in that "it is the toughest conference in Division I-2A".

This year things will be even tougher with the addition of Akron to the league which will give the league abalance from top to bottom. While lasdt season's top teams look strong again, the bottom squads had good recruiting seasons and could be ready to make a move.

Akron--The newest addition to the league has been waiting for this opportunity and will be ready to make a very serious bid for the top spot in the league.

There is a total of 31 lettermen returning to the Zips this season and that includes returning fullback, Tim Staycer who tore up opponent's lines last season.

Head coach Jim Dennison carries a 46-31-1 record in his career and led the team to a 5-6 mark last season. In league play the Zips were 1-0 beating Morehead 23-17.

Eastern Kentucky--The Colonels will be carrying a big load this season as they enter league play as the defeding national champions. The Colonels will be the team that everyone will be shooting for this season.

Although the Eastern squad returns 33 lettermen, the defense was seriously hit by the graduation bug. The Colonels might be winning a lot of high scoring games this year if the young defensive unit does not jell fast.

On offense the Colonels will have quarterback Chris Isaac back and running backs Dale Patton, Nicky Yeast, Alvin Miller and Tony Braxton will give EKV a strong attack.

Western Kentucky--Rumor has it that the fans in Bowling Green are tired of waiting for another title. Coach Jimmy Feix went out and collected a fine group of freshmen and transfers to bolster the WKU outlook.

The Hilltoppers struggled through a 5-5 season last year and 42 returning lettermen will be out to raise that record.

The Hilltoppers will have a powerful offensive attack as they return the OVC's top offensive player of the year and OVC Player of the Year in John Hall at quarterback. The surprising fact that Hall is being pushed for the QB slot by Marty Jagers.

The defensive unit should again be strong with returning standouts Brad Todd, Barry Bumm, Tim Ford, Donnie Evans and Mark Blackburn.

Murray State--The Racers won the OVC title last season but two or three breaks the other way and they would still be looking for that elusive title. There will be only two starters missing this season when Murray takes the field but they are going to be missing that fire which gave the school the title.

Look for Murray to have a strong kicking game with the addition of Jeff Lancaster to the lineup.

Returning will be All-American safety Terry Love who was the OVC defensive player of the year. Glenn Jones, an All-OVC pick will also be back at defensive end.

The biggest problem that Murray could run into this season is meeting Louisville the weekend before the OVC season starts. If the Racers survive the drive to Louisville they could be too beat up for road games at Tennessee Tech and Morehead State the following weekends.

Austin Peay--The Governors have never experienced

four straight winning seasons in football but this could be the big change. The Govs boast a strong unit of 38 returning lettermen and should the squad stay helthy, the "Angry Red Men" could be back on top.

The Governors have to figure out a way to beat the Kentucky members of the OVC this season who last year handed the Govs all four of their losses. Getting over that hurdle is the biggest problem facing Watson Brown and his staff.

Austin Peay boasts one of the finest quarterbacks in the South in Sonny DeFillippis. Brown stated, "He is one of the finest quarterbacks I have ever seen. He needs a little more control on the field but has a good, strong arm."

The chief target for the Peay hurler will be Steve Puthoff who despite missing the last seven games of the season managed to catch 19 passes for 352 yards.



RUNNING BACK Craig Freeman of Western Kentucky University is one of many talented backs the Hilltoppers will be using this Fall. Western is hoping to return to the top of the OVC league with a strong running attack.

Morehead--Some of the Ohio Valley coaches feel that Morehead could be the team to beat this season. A total of 31 lettermen return from a team that finished 5-4-1 and was in several of the losses until the final moments.

Senior tackle Tim Brewer, nose-guard Sterling Ford and defensive back Carey Reid will pace the Eagles on defense this season. The Morehead defense yielded but 14 touchdowns all season long and recorded three shutouts. Eastern's 34 points is the top total by an opponent last season.

--continued from page 34

Dorrton Hunter will be at tailback and last season rolled up 246 yards last season on 52 carries.

Middle Tennessee-- Coach Boots Donnelly stepped in at Austin Peay and made the Governors winners in a quick period. Things won't be so easy this season at Middle since the Blue Raiders return only 25 lettermen from a team who finished 1-5 in league play.

Donnelly feels his two biggest obstacles in 1980 will be the age of his players (mostly sophomores) and the schedule. Besides a rough OVC slate, Middle must face the likes of North Alabama, Western Carolina and UT-Chattanooga.

With those odds against him, Donnelly and crew could be looking to next year already.

Tennessee Tech--The Golden Eagles use to be one of the most feared members of the league but recently they

have been limping though conference play. Tech ended 0-5-1 last season in the league collecting a tie against Morehead (3-3) as their only bright spot.

Head coach Don Wade lost 22 letermen and returns 28 which might be a blessing since last season's team



John Hall

finished so poorly.

Look for the Eagles to hang on to the bottom this year.

The final standins should be 1. Akron 2. Eastern 3. Western 4. Murray 5. Austin Peay 6. Morehead 7. Middle Tennessee 8. Tennessee Tech.

--continued on next page

Feix names WKU tri-captains to open 1980 season Sept. 5

Western Kentucky head football coach Jimmy Feix has announced the Hilltopper tri-captains for the 1980 grid season. They are linebacker Bryan Gray, tight end Ricky Gwinn and offensive guard Pete Walters.

Gray, a 5-11, 200-pound senior from Louisville, Ky., had an outstanding year for Western a year ago—stepping in for injured All-OVC linebacker Chuck

DeLacey and doing an admirable job. Gray was credited with 61 total tackles last season, and also had six “sacks” behind the line of scrimmage.

Gwinn, a 6-2, 220-pound senior from Nashville, Tn., has been one of Western’s most consistent offensive performers since he first stepped into a Hilltopper uniform three years ago. A

three-year starter for Western, Gwinn has caught 66 passes during his career, including 30 in ’79 good for 366 yards and four touchdowns. His efforts last fall earned him first-team All-OVC honors.

Walters, a 6-3, 255-pound senior from Shepherdsville, Ky., has anchored the Topper offensive line for the past three years. A tremendously strong athlete, Walters has the earned respect as one of the best offensive linemen in the OVC, and should be in line for All-OVC honors this fall.

30—The Gleaner, August 22, 1980

Western

Feix is ignoring preseason predictions this year

By TIM KAISER

BOWLING GREEN — If the coaches in the Ohio Valley Conference are to be believed, Western Kentucky is going to be one of the prime contenders in the OVC race.

But WKU coach and Henderson County native Jimmy Feix doesn't seem to share their beliefs, going so far as to pick his squad to finish a distant fourth in the OVC chase.

His guarded attitude stems from some disappointing setbacks last season.

“Last year everyone was so high on us, but then injuries struck and we finished 5-5,” Feix said. “That was disappointing. That’s why I try not to listen to preseason picks.”

“Potentially we have a chance to be awfully good, but we lost some good people, especially on defense, and we’re like most of the teams in the conference in that we lack depth.”

The fate that awaits the Hilltoppers this campaign may rest in the hands of former Henderson County star back Barry Skaggs, who was idled by leg injuries last season.

“Barry is an outstanding runner,” Feix said. “He plays an important factor in our offensive setup. He’s the key to our I-formation. We sorely needed him last year. A healthy Barry Skaggs would have meant two or three more wins for us.”

Another important cog in the “Topper offense is quarterback John Hall, who was selected the OVC Offensive Player-of-the-Year in 1979. Hall, a 6-foot, 180-pound senior, is hoping to duplicate last season’s stats — completing 50 percent of his passes for over 1,400 yards and 10 touchdowns, and rushing for two more.

Ricky Gwinn will be the main target for Hall’s passes, as the 6-2 tight end hauled in 30 catches in ’79 and was a preseason all-conference choice. Troy Snardon of Todd County will be Feix’s starting fullback when the “Toppers open

their season Sept. 6 against Evansville.

Pete Walters, a 6-3, 255-pound three-year starter, anchors Western’s offensive line. “They’re big, but not quick,” said Feix. “It seems you never can get the two together.”

Feix is hoping Brad Todd, also an early all-conference pick, and Barry Bumm can take up the slack on a graduation decimated defense.

“Again, we have big guys on defense, but they just aren’t quick. And our linebacking corps is very inexperienced — that’s the biggest question of our defense.”

And defense could be the key when the “Toppers face offensive powers like Eastern and Murray.

“I’m concerned with our defense,” Feix said. “This is a defensive conference — the best teams have the best defenses. We’d better have a better defense than last year if we want to win.”

Murray State, according to the head coach, “on paper seems to be the conference favorite.”

But Feix also sees Akron figuring in the conference race.

“Akron is eligible for the championship this season, and they’ve got speed to burn. They’ll give Murray a run.” Eastern Kentucky, last year’s Division I-AA national champion, rates a third place showing.

Despite how he feels his team’s chances are, one of Feix’s goals is to take the OVC crown.

“I think we’ll be a contender,” he said. “But I think it’ll be between those three. If Skaggs stays healthy and the defense comes around, who knows?” An 8-2 year, according to Feix, would be within reach.

Two additions to the WKU schedule are Kentucky State and the University of Evansville who is going through some rebuilding under new coach Randy Rogers.

“Every conference game is tough. We have no easy weekends ahead of us. It’s



Jimmy Feix



John Hall



Barry Skaggs



Pete Walters

Nov. 1	Morehead State*	Away
Nov. 8	Middle Tennessee* (Homecoming)	H
Nov. 15	Open	
Nov. 22	Murray State*	Away
	Ohio Valley Conference game.	

one of the toughest schedules we’ve had,” said Feix.

As for the home opener against U of E, Feix said, “We’d better be ready. They’ve got a new coach up there and I hear he plays a wide open game. There’s a renewed interest in a Western Kentucky-Evansville rivalry, and we’re tickled to be back on their schedule.” The last time the two teams met was in 1964, with the Hilltoppers prevailing, 37-0.

Feix has coached at Western 22 years, the last 12 as head coach.

WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPER SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	Evansville	Home
Sept. 13	Kentucky State	Away
Sept. 20	Akron	Away
Sept. 27	Austin Peay*	Home
Oct. 4	Open	
Oct. 11	Youngstown State	Home
Oct. 18	Tennessee Tech*	Away
Oct. 25	Eastern Kentucky*	Home

No Security

WKU'S Hall, Despite All-OVC Status, Isn't Taking His QB Job For Granted

By MIKE EMBRY
AP Sports Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — If John Hall has learned anything in three seasons as Western Kentucky's quarterback, it's that you don't take anything for granted.

Never mind that the senior from Goodlettsville, Tenn., has been All-Ohio Valley Conference for the past two seasons and was the conference's Offensive Player-of-the-Year last year.

Hall had a battle on his hands for the starting position when he reported to fall practice for his final season. And it was something he expected from Marty Jagers and Ralph Antone, challengers for the position.

"Those guys are good quarterbacks," said Hall, a 6-foot, 185-pounder. "It makes me a better player in practice. Marty could probably play for a lot of schools now and he'll probably play some this season in certain situations."

"But I know I've got to be more consistent to play. It puts a lot of pressure on me, but I think it will help me in the long run."

Consistency has been Hall's trademark the past two seasons. Last year he completed 108 of 215 passes for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns. In 1978 he hit 106 of 209 passes for 1,439 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Hall was particularly con-

sistent two years ago when he helped turn the Hilltoppers from an 1-8-1 record the season before to 8-2 and an OVC championship. He nearly missed being named the league's top offensive performer for his accomplishments that season.

Western Kentucky, stung by early-season injuries, hobbled in with a 5-5 record last season. Hall believes things will be different this year.

"I don't think we'll be down this year," said Hall. "If we keep Nate Jones (running back) and the line healthy, I think we'll have a good season. We don't play a Chattanooga or Lamar in the first two games like last year. This time we play Evansville and Kentucky State."

"If we can stay healthy in those games we should go into the conference schedule in pretty good shape."

Hall, who is closing in on several school passing records, can become the first quarterback in league history to earn All-OVC recognition three times. His coach, Jimmy Feix, was a two-time selection at Western Kentucky in 1951-52.

"It will be hard," said Hall of his chances. "There are a lot of good quarterbacks in the conference. If I win it, that's great. But I'd rather win another OVC crown than be picked as best quarterback."



Rogers Photography Photo

Hall: "Player Of Year" Has Competition

OVC Schedules

Austin Peay	
September	
13	at UT-Martin
20	James Madison
27	at Western Kentucky
October	
4	Eastern Kentucky
11	Morehead State
18	Nicholls State
25	at Middle Tenn.
November	
1	at Akron
8	Murray State
15	Tenn. Tech
22	at Arkansas St.

Western Kentucky	
September	
6	Evansville
13	at Kentucky St.
20	at Akron
27	Austin Peay
October	
4	Open Date
11	Youngstown State
18	at Tennessee Tech
25	Eastern Kentucky
November	
1	at Morehead State
8	Middle Tennessee
15	Open Date
22	at Murray State

Murray State	
September	
	SE Missouri
	Youngstown State
	at Louisville
	at Tenn. Tech
October	
	at Morehead State
	UT-Martin
	Middle Tennessee
	Akron
November	
	at Eastern Kentucky
	at Austin Peay
	Open Date
	Western Kentucky



Will Murray's Racers run off with the title?

By STAN SUTTON

FOR 28 YEARS the Racers of Murray State had been racing to nowhere. They went through four coaches, seven U. S. presidents and almost 300 games trying to win a conference football championship.

Folks at the Calloway County college may be a patient lot, but the Racers were trying their patience. It grated upon them that their neighbors at Western Kentucky had added seven OVC football trophies to their collection while Murray had won none.

After the 1977 season, Murray State decided it was time for a new administration. Bill Furgerson, who won 60 games and no Ohio Valley Conference titles, was relieved as coach and 33-year-old Mike Gottfried replaced him.

Gottfried started a recruiting program that the Marines might have envied. Despite a late start, he came up with a 1978 roster listing 70 freshmen. But success, like good coffee, was to come slowly brewed over a low fire, and Murray lost three of its first four games, rebounded to win three, then lost its last four.

A year ago an undaunted Gottfried brought some more new faces to Murray State. He had eight junior-college transfers who immediately started or played major backup roles. Almost before Murray's fans could learn the players' names, the unbelievable occurred. The Racers won an OVC title.

The first three games had left little indication of what was to come. Murray had a 1-1-1 record when the Racers started an eight-game winning streak that included an impressive 24-7 victory over Eastern in a regionally televised game.

Not even a loss to Lehigh in the NCAA playoffs could spoil the Racers' season, although Eastern's 30-7 win over Lehigh in the Division I-AA national title game left a bitter taste. It also gave Murray State fans a goal for 1980, a national title of their own.

Of course, another goal is a second consecutive OVC title. Then too, it would be nice for the Racers if they could beat Louisville at Fairgrounds Stadium on Sept. 20.

Several of the conference's coaches have

virtually conceded the OVC title to Murray.

"They're head and shoulders above everybody else," said Western Kentucky's Jimmy Feix, whose team may have the best chance of beating Murray. "We've got the prospects of a good bunch, but I think Murray, and possibly Akron, are really outstanding teams on paper."

"You hate to take the national champions [Eastern] and put them third," added Morehead State coach Tom Lichtenberg when asked to rate the teams. "But to me Murray is the best team, and I think Western probably is second."

Even Eastern's Roy Kidd, who retains an abundant portion of his championship team, figures Murray is the class of the league. "They're the favorite. They've got about all their people back, plus they've got depth," Kidd said. "I'd say Western will be awfully good, too."

"I think our league's tremendously improved since I've been here. I think it used to be more basketball oriented. And, it also used to seem that Tennessee schools dominated the football. I think we're getting better football."

Feix, in his 13th season as Western coach, also has noticed changes. "I think we have more good teams than we used to have. We've gotten a little increase in scholarships, which has helped considerably, and major schools have had a little decrease in scholarships, which has helped us considerably."

Morehead's Lichtenberg will be in his second season as an OVC coach. "I knew it was a good football conference. People underestimated it," he said. "And I think it'll be a better league this year. Tennessee Tech will be tough; they had some problems last year with kids not playing. And Akron will be an asset to this league."

This is the first year Akron will be eligible to win the OVC championship, although the Zips have played league schools several times. "We've never beaten them," Feix said. "They've got an outstanding team. He's [coach Jim Dennison] never had a losing team in his eight or nine years there."

OVC

Overall Balance In League Is Showing

Feix likes Tops' scrimmage

Jimmy Feix was both pleased with the way his team played Saturday without the services of All-Ohio Valley Conference quarterback John Hall, and with the services of senior running back Nate Jones.

Western conducted its first major scrimmage of the preseason Saturday morning at Smith Stadium, and the Hilltoppers' veteran head coach couldn't help but smile a little—no, make that a lot—after what he saw during the two-hour confrontation.

Feix was especially pleased with the way quarterbacks Marty Jagers and Ralph Antone filled in for Hall, who stayed on the sidelines with a stiff shoulder.

"I've said all along that Hall, Jagers and Antone give us the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost," noted Feix after the workout. "Well, the Father wasn't in there today so the Son and Holy Ghost stepped right in. I thought they both looked great."

Still, Feix said the highlight of the day was seeing the Nate Jones of old. Western's leading rusher as a sophomore two years ago, Jones missed most of last season with a knee injury.

"Nate had a tremendous scrimmage," said Feix. "It's good to see him going at full speed again, but this is really more than we had hoped for. After the way he was hobbling in the spring, we were just hoping he would sort of come along as the season progressed this fall."

Jones has obviously progressed at a quicker pace, judging from the fact that he is again the No. 1 tailback after starting out on the third team when fall drills began last weekend.

Hall, who is hoping to become the first quarterback in OVC history to be named all-conference three years in a row, wasn't the only key player on the sidelines during Saturday's intrasquad game.

While the senior quarterback kept a play chart on the field, senior tackle Phil Rich (6-4, 260) was part of the chain gang on the sidelines. The former Edmonson County standout was held out of action with a shoulder bruise, but was expected to return to contact early this week.

Only two nights earlier at the Hilltopper Hundred Club's membership banquet, Feix had accused his big



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

lineman of being born on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Still another key player missing from Saturday's scrimmage was junior free safety Barry Bumm, who broke a toe in a trail bike accident only three days before the start of fall practice. Expected to be one of the top headhunters in the league this fall, Bumm plans to be back in the lineup by Sept. 6 when the Hilltoppers kick off the 1980 season against Evansville.

"They say he can start taking some hits next week," said Feix, referring to his trainers, "and they think he'll be back at full speed by the season opener."

Perhaps taking a cue from former Western basketball coach Gene Keady, Feix has formed this year what he calls "The Secret Society of the Red Dot."

During his two-year stint at Western before moving on to Purdue the past spring, Keady preached about "The Three D's"—desire, dedication and defense. According to Feix, the R-E-D dot stands for readiness, enthusiasm and determination.

During the Hundred Club banquet Thursday night at the Downing University Center, Feix inducted Western president Donald Zacharias into the not-so-secret society.

Speaking of basketball, there's a flashy \$12,000 ornament in Diddle Arena that wasn't there a week ago.

At long last, Western has a new basketball scoreboard to replace the old one that seemed to malfunction at the most inopportune times. The new one is a four-sided centerpiece that was sitting on the court itself until Friday, when it was hoisted into position above the floor.

The actual cost of the scoreboard was \$11,800, according to Western's purchasing department, although the university paid only for the installation. The scoreboard itself was paid for by two local firms, American National Bank and Pepsi-Cola of Bowling Green.

The scoreboard will be operational well before the 1980-81 Hilltoppers open the season by hosting the Wendy's Classic here Nov. 28-29.

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WESTERN KENTUCKY is going to enjoy the talents of several defensive players who come back from last year. The Hilltoppers are hoping to break a small losing

skein which has produced losing seasons two years in a row.

Feix hopes to beat prediction

By Tim McKenzie

The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers were picked third in the OVC in the coaches' preseason poll, but coach Jimmy Feix has higher hopes for the 1980 squad.

"It will take lots of luck. Somebody else having a lot of injuries and our staying healthy plus executing the best we can is what it is going to take for us to win the conference," said Feix at WKU Press Day Friday.

Defending Ohio Valley champ Murray is picked to win the conference with Eastern Kentucky picked second.

The Toppers landed six players on the preseason All-OVC team with quarterback John Hall leading the way. Bandit back Brad Todd, tight end Ricky Gwinn, defensive end Tim Ford, defensive back Barry Bumm and punter Ray Farmer were the other Toppers named.

Hall has the chance to be the first player to be named to the all OVC squad for three years in a row in 32 years if he is named this year. The OVC Offensive Player of the Year last season has been all conference for the past two seasons.

The coaches agreed that the offense would be the strength this season but also said that they won't have the speed or explosiveness that they have had in the past.

Feix talked of his offensive strengths and the experience of this offensive line but readily admitted that it is a defensive league and "you have to be able to play defense to win."

Marty Jagers had an excellent spring and looks to challenge the all-conference Hall at the quarterback job. "The offense really fits Marty well," said Feix.

Feix said that just because Hall has won all the honors his quarterback job wasn't "sewn up."

"Hall and everybody else is in the same boat as I am," said Feix. "It is not what you have done for me in the past; it is what you can do for me this year."

Receiver coach Bob Rafferty said that sophomore Ron Hunter could be a "pleasant surprise" to replace all-conference Eddie Preston, who graduated last year. He also said that veteran Jerry Flippin will play, noting "you've all seen what he can do."

Among the players who will not be in the Topper lineup are David Cross and Ricky Anderson. Cross was nagged by injuries all last season and elected to go to school but not to play football. Anderson just didn't report to camp.

Preseason all conference pick Bumm will be lost for four weeks because of a

broken toe sustained on a trail bike. Bumm was the Chevrolet Player of the Game as a freshman and the coaches have "high hopes" when he comes off his injury.

Barry Skaggs and Nate Jones should aid the Toppers as much as anything with their return this season. Both players missed most of last season with injuries.

"Barry had a tremendous spring and we also have high hopes for him. We could have won three more games last year if he had been health," said Feix.

He also added that Skaggs does still have some ankle problems.

Jones is at 100 percent according to

offensive backfield coach Sam Clark but he hasn't had any contact yet.

Clark said, "He ran great but, like I said, he hasn't had any contact yet."

One key to the Toppers' health this season could be the different schedule. Last year they lost several key players in the first two games. Last season they opened the season against UT Chattanooga and Lamar, whereas this season they will open with Evansville and Kentucky State.

"We have a better chance of winning our first two games this year than last," said Feix, "and we will come out better physically because they are more like our level of football."

Western must avoid injuries

INJURIES dashed Western's hopes a year ago and the Hilltoppers finished with a 5-5 record. But the school's past success leads many opposing coaches to believe Western may have the best chance of upsetting Murray's OVC title hopes.

The Hilltoppers keep the '79 OVC Offensive Player of the Year, John Hall, who completed 108 of 215 passes for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns. Should Hall be injured, Western has capable Marty Jagers and Ralph Antone in the wings. Although Hall's favorite target, Eddie Preston, is gone, coach Jimmy Feix can count on tight end Ricky Gwinn (30 catches), Jerry Flippin and Ron Hunter.

"Gwinn is one of the best in the conference. We've got to find how to get the ball to him," Feix said.

"We thought we had a great team lined up last year," the coach contin-

ued. "But we lost a linebacker and two running backs." The runners were tailbacks Nate Jones and Barry Skaggs. Skaggs returned to have a great spring practice, but Jones was held out of contact in spring drills. "Jones looks awfully good, but he's had no contact," Feix said. "Knee surgery is a big thing to get over."

At fullback, Western has Troy Snardon, an excellent blocker. He will run behind a line led by All-OVC tackle Phil Rich (6 feet 4; 260 pounds), guard Pete Walters (6 feet 2; 255 pounds) and center Greg Gallas (6 feet 2; 225 pounds).

Returning on defense are ends Jim Ford, an All-OVC player, and Donnie Evans, who combined for 176 tackles last year. Bandit back Brad Todd was a standout with 115 tackles, and free safety Barry Bumm was in on 108 stops and had three interceptions.

"We've got some good first-liners back on defense," Feix said. "We're a little short at linebacker, but our secondary is in pretty good shape. But we can't stand an injury and be a champion." □

At WKU

Lewis 'getting long look'

According to a release from the Western Kentucky University Public Information office, Hilltopper football coach Jimmy Feix is quoted as having said, "Our club is right where we want it at this stage of the game."

Feix also said he was "extremely pleased" with what he has seen in the first

week of fall drills.

One cause for concern, however, is the free saftey position. Junior Barry Bumm, a pre-season All-OVC pick, was slated to handle that slot in the 'Topper defense. A late summer cycling accident, however, has left Bumm with a broken toe.

Sophomore Marvin Cottrell, from Harlan, was expected to move into Bumm's spot until he returned, but Cottrell has a severely sprained ankle that apparently isn't responding to treatment as well as the WKU training staff would have liked.

As a result, freshman

Mickey Lewis (a star receiver and defensive secondary man for coach Jerry Eubank at Barren County High for the past three years) is, according to the release, "getting a long look from the coaching staff, as is sophomore backup strong saftey David Suggs, who, because of experience, might make the switch to fill in until Bumm returns full strength."

According to BCHS assistant coach Billy Lindsey, who attended a scrimmage Saturday in Bowling Green, Lewis was running with the second team at free saftey.

"I talked with Mickey," said Lindsey, "and he seems to be getting along fine."

Meanwhile, Feix was quoted in the Bowling Green Daily news Sunday in a statement concerning Bumm, "They say he can start taking some hits next week, and they think he'll be back at full speed by the season opener."

Western opens its season September 6th against Evansville at Bowling Green.

WKU Notes

Feix happy with progress

Western Kentucky Football Coach Jimmy Feix has been "extremely pleased" with what he has seen in the first week of fall drills. Feix, now entering his 13th year as the Hilltopper skipper, says "Our club is right where we want it at this state of the game."

....

One of the most pleasant surprises for Western thus far has been the "comeback" performance of veteran tailback Nate Jones, who was injured in the team's third game of the '79 campaign and lost for the remainder of that year. Jones' knee injury required surgery, but Western Trainer Ron Dunn says Jones should be at full speed for WKU's season-opener at home against Evansville, Sept. 6.

"Nate has come back very strong this fall after somewhat of a slow spring practice," said

Dunn. "But, he has progressed the way we hoped he would and, barring any other injury, he should be the Nate Jones of old this fall."

And that, of course, is good news for Western fans. Jones, a Madisonville senior, gained 220 yards rushing in less than three full games of action last season. He was also the top kick-off return man in the Ohio Valley Conference, and in all of Division I-AA, at the time of his injury, averaging 43.3 yards per return.

....

"You can sure see where the experience is on this team," said Coach Jimmy Feix. "On the defensive side we've got 25 scholarships committed, but 10 of those belong to freshmen. On the other hand, in the offense we've got 26 scholarships and only five are freshmen. It's obvious that we'll have to have some freshmen ready to play on defense."

Hilltopper sports notes and quotes

Western Kentucky Football Coach Jimmy Feix has been "extremely pleased" with what he has seen in the first week of fall drills. Feix, now entering his 13th year as the Hilltopper skipper, says "Our club is right where we want it at this stage of the game."

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Valley Conference, and in all of Division I-AA, at the time of his injury, averaging 43.3 yards per return.

There has been a good deal of discussion in Red Towel Territory about the strength and depth of the Hilltopper's linebacking corps for the 1980 season following the graduation of such stars as Chuck DeLacey and Carl Estelle. But, Western Defensive Coordinator Bill Hape reflects a positive attitude about his squad's abilities to maintain the 'Toppers' long-standing tradition of outstanding linebacker performances.

"We've got two fine linebackers in Bryan Gray and Tom Tussey," said Hape. "It's no secret that we're counting on big years from them. Our main problem is depth, but we're confident that our talented freshmen will continue to develop during fall drills and some of them will be able to step in and do the job."

The place-kicking chores for the 1980 Hilltoppers appear to be in the hands (or feet, that is) of Greensburg sophomore Mike Curnutte. The 5-8, 170-pounder emerged from spring practice at the top of the list on the depth chart but was expected to be pressed hard for game duty by veteran kickers Marvin Davis (a senior from Madisonville) and Ricky Anderson, last fall's number one booter. However, Anderson elected not to return to school and Davis developed a knee problem over the summer, had surgery and is still trying to recuperate. Still, it is somewhat doubtful that Davis will be available for the '80 season.

Another cause for concern in the Hilltopper camp is the free safety position. Junior Barry Bumm, a pre-season All-OVC pick, was slated to handle that slot. However, a late summer cycling accident left him with a broken toe, slowing him considerably. Sophomore Marvin Cottrell (from Harlan) was expected to move into the position; however, a severely sprained ankle is not responding as quickly as the training staff would like. As a result, freshman Mickey Lewis from Barren

County is getting a long look from the coaching staff, as is sophomore backup strong safety David Suggs (from Shelbyville, Tenn.) who, because of experience, might make the switch to fill in until Bumm can return at full strength.

"You can sure see where the experience is on this team," said Coach Jimmy Feix. "On the defensive side we've got 25 scholarships committed, but 10 of these belong to freshmen. On the other hand, in the offense we've got 26 scholarships and only five freshmen. It's obvious that we'll have to have some freshmen ready to play on defense."

He was introduced as "the speaker that Earl Cox (Louisville Courier-Journal sports columnist) couldn't believe would be here tonight."

Chuckles filled the packed room in Western's Downing University Center and applause followed as University of Kentucky head basketball coach Joe Hall rose to address the annual membership banquet of the Hilltopper Hundred Club, the official booster organization of Western Kentucky University athletics.

Hall's visit was well received in Red Towel Territory. He talked of the outstanding athletic traditions at both UK and Western. "If I had to pick a school that has a basketball tradition parallel to the University of Kentucky, it would have to be Western."

Other business conducted at the annual Hilltopper Hundred Club function was the selection of new members for the group's Board of Directors. Bowling Green businessmen Harold Brantley, Mike Reynolds and Denny Wedge were named to the Board to replace Dr. Bob Goodwin, Jim Scott and Norman Kahn, whose terms had expired. Goodwin and Scott are from Bowling Green and Kahn is from Louisville. WKU Athletic Director John Oldham was re-elected president of the organization and Coordinator of Men's Athletics Jim Richards was renamed secretary-treasurer.

Former Caldwell-

Trigg Stars Now Playing

For Hilltoppers

RON HUNTER
Flanker, So., 5-11, 185,
Princeton, Ky.

Was used sparingly as first year receiver last season, serving as understudy flanker... his number has come up, however, and he should be a potent offensive weapon in '80...caught five passes last season and showed promise in his initial campaign...has fine speed and quickness...runs patterns extremely well, especially long routes...good blocker and capable runner once he has ball in hands...will team with split end Jerry Flippin to give WKU top-notch long bomb combination this fall.

Personal Information: Parent--Lena Mae Grooms; High School--Caldwell County.

MARTY JAGGERS
Quarterback, Jr., 6-0, 190,
Cadtz, Ky.

Saw limited action for second straight season, serving as back-up to All-OVC QB

John Hall...played well when used, however, hitting on six of nine attempts for 53 yards and one six-pointer... 'Toppers like to use him in key running situations, and he has shown ability to run the bootleg extremely well...despite reserve status, he is still a serious challenger for starting quarterback assignment this fall...fast, quick and an aggressive ball carrier... completed eight of ten passes as freshman with one TD...represents third generation football tradition at Western...his father and grandfather were both standouts for Western as was his uncle Johnny, a top-flight defensive back at WKU during late 60's...won All-State honors at Trigg County High in 1977 under coach--and dad--Joe Jaggers...along with Antone, gives Western more than adequate relief help at reserve QB spot...fine student.

Personal Information: Parents--Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jaggers; High school-- Trigg County '77.

MARK BLACKBURN
Guard, Jr., 5-10, 215, Princeton, Ky.

Switched from tight end to quick guard at mid-season and this spring won the starting job at that position...a versatile performer, he can adapt to virtually every position on the offensive line...has also been one of WKU's top performers on specialty teams...small but agile, he uses aggressiveness to make up for any deficiencies he may have...an All-Western Kentucky Conference fullback

at Caldwell County High, he "walked on" at Western and has won two letters since. Personal Information: Parents -- Mr. Robert Dale Blackburn; Mrs. Lillie Belle Blackburn; High School--Caldwell County '78.

1980 Hilltopper Outlook

By PAUL JUST
Director
WKU Sports Information

Coach Jimmy Feix and the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers are looking to turn things around during the 1980 football season, after struggling through a disappointing 5-5-0 campaign a year ago.

The 'Toppers lose only 15 lettermen from last year's squad and are once again making plans to be in the thick of the Ohio Valley Conference football race.

There are several reasons for this optimistic outlook, including the return of OVC Offensive Player-of-the-Year John Hall. A senior quarterback, Hall was named first-team All-OVC for the second consecutive season last fall. On the year he completed 108 of 215 passes (.502) for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns. However, Hall is expecting strong competition for playing time from his 1979 understudies, junior Marty Jagers and sophomore Ralph Antone.

In addition, the Hilltoppers have six experienced running

backs returning to vie for the starting backfield slots.

Senior Nate Jones may have the inside track on the tailback job, if he successfully recovers from a knee injury that knocked him out after only three games last fall. However, he struggled in spring drills and junior Barry Skaggs (152 yds., 5 TDs, in 4 games), a steady, reliable runner, emerged number one. Junior Elmer Caldwell will also have to be reckoned with. Filling in for Jones, he rushed for 572 yards and five scores in '79. Senior Craig Freeman (360 yards) will also see duty.

Junior Troy Snardon is the probable starter at fullback. He ran for 358 yards last fall and is an excellent blocker. Caldwell and senior Kelly Key will be available for back-up duty there.

Despite the loss of Eddie Preston, one of the premier pass receivers in the school's history, Western will still have some talented catchers to rely on.

Heading the list is senior All-OVC tight end Ricky Gwinn (30 catches, 366 yards, four TDs.) Speedy junior Jerry

Flippin ranked third on the squad in '79 with 16 receptions and figures to be the 'Toppers long ball threat.

The Hilltopper offensive line will be anchored by senior All-OVC tackle Phil Rich (6-4, 260), senior guard Pete Walters (6-2, 255) and junior center Greg Gallas (6-2, 225). Junior Mark Blackburn (5-10, 215) and sophomore Steve Catlett (6-1, 230) are slated to man the quick side of the line at kickoff.

The defensive unit should

again be strong. Returning standouts include banditback Brad Todd (115 tackles); junior free safety Barry Bumm (108 tackles, three interceptions); junior linebacker Tom Tussey (89 tackles); and junior defensive ends Tim Ford (73, tackles All-OVC) and Donnie Evans (83 tackles.) Speedy deep backs Lamont Meacham, Davlin Mullen and David Suggs, along with sturdy linebacker Bryan Gray, are also expected to get starting

nodes.

The punting chores will again be handled by senior Ray Farmer (39.7), one of the most consistent kickers in the school's history. Sophomore Ricky Anderson returns in the placekicking department. However, a shaky spring cost him his place on the depth chart. Sophomore Mike Cur-nutte emerged as the man to beat out; and senior Marvin Davis will also have to be reckoned with.

1980 WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

6—EVANSVILLE Home
13—Kentucky State Away
20—*Akron Away
27—*AUSTIN PEAY Home

OCTOBER

4—Open Date
11—YOUNGSTOWN STATE Home
18—*Tennessee Tech Away
25—*EASTERN KENTUCKY Home

NOVEMBER

1—*Morehead State Away
8—*MIDDLE TENNESSEE Home
[Homecoming]
15—Open Date
22—*Murray State Away

*Ohio Valley Conference game.

Eastern might feast if Yeast avoids rise

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Roy Kidd, the football coach at Eastern Kentucky University, believes fullback Nicky Yeast has too much in common with a baking ingredient of the same name: Both tend to get puffed up.

After a period in the coach's doghouse, Yeast, a sophomore athletically, has returned to Kidd's good graces by getting his weight down to 234 pounds.

"He came in for the third straight year not in good shape," Kidd said of his second-string fullback from Harrodsburg. "He went to summer school and lifted weights, and we thought we'd have him in good shape. But, in the two weeks from the time the summer program ended until he reported, he must not have done much.

"In summer school he got up to 247, and we told him to get down to 235. He came in at 242. He's the only upperclassman who never finished the conditioning test that we put him through. This is the third year in a row, and he's batting 1,000.

"But he's working at it. He's got a helluva lot of potential; he can run, and he's not afraid to hit."

Yeast is competing with Dale Patton for playing time at fullback, and Patton reported in top shape. "Golly, does he look great!" Kidd said. "He's down to 219, and he left here in the spring at 231. Dale always has worked pretty hard."

Patton, who was an All-Ohio Valley Conference pick last year, did not have a good spring, Kidd said. "But he was in his fourth spring practice; he's coming into his fifth year. Those guys don't get too motivated when it comes to spring practice. I thought Yeast had a better spring practice than he did."

Most of Eastern's freshmen won't be on exhibit often this season, but Kidd believes the crop may be the finest since he's been at the Richmond school. "On the basis of what I've seen so far, it's got to be our best," Kidd said. "I think most of them will fit in in a reserve role. There are some po-

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

sitions where they're going to have to be second string. But I don't think there's any freshman who's going to start at the beginning."

Kidd, admitting he doesn't want to praise a youngster too much too soon, still has trouble containing his enthusiasm about freshman quarterback Ronnie Wilkerson of Lincoln County, a Class AAA All-State selection last season.

"When it comes to technique and ball-handling, he's probably the most confused kid out there," the Eastern coach said. "But, standing there throwing the ball, boy, can he zip it in there!"

"I don't like to brag on a kid too early, but he's impressed me so far."

Eastern's Buddy Moor, who has used his 6-foot-5, 250-pound frame at tackle the past three years, is trying to fill the big shoes left by Joe Richard at nose guard. He's doing well in some areas, worse in others, Kidd reported.

"I think Joe Richard was one of the finest football players who ever played here," Kidd said. "I couldn't believe that he wasn't picked as the best defensive player in our league."

"Buddy can clog up the middle, but I doubt if he can make plays all over the field like Joe did. He spoiled us."

Richard and his former teammate at Eastern, Ricky Rhodes, are playing with a semipro team in Columbus, Ohio. "They're trying Richard at line-backer, so maybe somebody (in the National Football League) will take a look at him next year," Kidd said. "With his size, there's no way he can play in the defensive line."

Kidd seethes a bit when he talks about the pro experiences of David Neal, a center for Eastern's NCAA Division I-AA champions last year.

"David went to camp with the (Mi-

ami) Dolphins. He had really worked; he probably was in as good shape as he's ever been," the coach said. "They knew he couldn't run fast. He was a center, and they put him at guard. He practiced four days and they let him go."

"That's unfair to the kid. He couldn't play guard for us because he couldn't pull and he couldn't run. But, at center, he's got good balance and good agility. He could play there. I'll guarantee you, if a scout comes around I'll let him know about it."

MURRAY STATE — With the loss of defensive back Terry Love (dislocated thumb), Murray State now has two former conference Players of the Year out with injuries this season. Love, who was Defensive Player of the Year in '79, is expected to be out four to six weeks. Tailback Danny Lee Johnson was named the league's top offensive player in '78 but is being redshirted this season because of an injury. He also was hurt most of last season.

"It's doubtful he could have played (this year). His back didn't come along very well this summer," said Murray coach Mike Gottfried. Of course, the success last year of two other tailbacks, Lindsey Hulse and Nick Nance, made the decision to redshirt Johnson easier.

"I feel like we've progressed," said Gottfried of his defending OVC champions, who open at home against Southeast Missouri next Saturday. "We've had several people banged up a little bit, but we're about where we want to be right now."

With a veteran team, Murray has few spots open for freshmen, but a couple of them figure to play. Chris Biggers of Mayfield presently is a second-string wide receiver, and Ronnie Fike of Memphis, Tenn., is running second at tight end. Tailbacks Jeff Mays and Terry Suggs also are likely to play some, Gottfried said.

"We've got some depth. The areas where we don't have any are at quarterback and safety," Gottfried said. The quarterback will be Gino Gibbs, a junior-college transfer who will replace Ricky Ray, who left school.

"Gibbs had a good night last night, and he's getting better," Gottfried said Thursday.

MOREHEAD STATE — When Morehead graduated two outstanding linebackers, Tommy Warren and Rodney Jefferson, there was considerable doubt that they could be replaced. However, coach Tom Lichtenberg is breathing easier now.

"Danny Gooch has had a great fall," the coach said, "and Gary Carmichael, who was backup to Jefferson last year, probably is one of our fastest kids. Then, there is Rob Smith, a transfer from Arkansas State. He's 6-4, 228 and is getting better. Also, Steve Denny has been making improvement."

The other big loss on defense was free safety Greg Bright, but Ken Hopkins has done well in that spot. As a freshman two years ago, Hopkins started in the secondary, but he was moved to quarterback last year. In that position, he was used sparingly.

This year, Don Reeves has looked good at quarterback, Lichtenberg reported. "He has the ability to throw, and he can run," Lichtenberg said. "We'll have to throw more than we did last year."

WESTERN KENTUCKY — OVC Offensive Player of the Year John Hall has been nursing a sore shoulder, giving coach Jimmy Feix a better look at his other quarterbacks. And junior Marty Jagers and sophomore Ralph Antone have capitalized on the opportunity to show their talents.

"They've both moved the ball very well in game situations," Feix said. "Right now, Hall has to remain my starter at quarterback, but Jagers and Antone sure aren't going to let John rest on his past achievements."

Two other Hilltoppers are rallying from injuries. Offensive tackle Phil Rich has had a bruised shoulder and tailback Barry Skaggs has Achilles tendinitis. But the knee injury that put tailback Nate Jones out of action most of last season seems to have healed. Jones, a senior from Madisonville, reportedly has run well in recent scrimmages.

Jimmy Feix Fans!



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Injury free

Tops complete last scrimmage in good health

Western football coach Jimmy Feix accomplished exactly what he had in mind with Saturday's final major preseason scrimmage—getting in a few good licks without getting anybody hurt.

Maybe because of what had happened down the road in Murray earlier this week, that was first and foremost on Feix's mind going into the Saturday morning session at Smith Stadium. Murray standout Terry Love, an All-American deep back last year as a junior, suffered a broken thumb in a scrimmage and may miss the entire 1980 season.

"That can happen," nodded Feix after seeing to it that all his players made it safely to the showers. "Like Murray, we were picked to do well last season and then we started getting those preseason injuries."

"Unless something happens between now and next weekend, we'll all be healthy for Evansville," he added, referring to the Hilltoppers' 1980 season opener here Saturday at 1 p.m. "It almost makes you want to knock on wood, because by this time last year we had already had three surgery cases."

As was the case a week ago in the Hilltoppers' first major scrimmage of the preseason, Feix never had both his first-team offense and defense on the field at the same time.

As a result, the first-team offense went up and down the field during its playing time and the first-team defense gave up even first downs grudgingly. One exception to the rule came late in the intrasquad game when the first-stringers got burned on a long pass from junior quarterback Marty Jagers to wide receiver Mark Nelson.

"That was a little upsetting," noted Feix. "Our first-string cornerbacks (Lamont Meacham and Davlin



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

Mullen) had been looking good this fall, but we didn't look too good on that play."

"Sometimes it's hard to tell how good or bad people are playing when you don't put the first-stringers against each other," he added, "but we haven't done it in a team situation since we started fall practice. There's an element of pride that makes them go all-out against each other, and that's where you get people hurt."

Feix was especially pleased with the performance of senior quarterback John Hall, who had sat out most of last week's practice sessions with a stiff shoulder.

Despite stiff competition from Jagers and sophomore Ralph Antone, Hall is expected to be Western's starting signal-caller at game time Saturday. According to Feix, Hall's challengers will have to beat him out in a game situation to claim the starting job.

"That's the way it has to be," he explained. "He's been the top quarterback in the league the last two years. The other players will get their shot, but John is proven under fire."

Linebacker coach Bill Hape likes what he sees in three freshmen—Paul Gray (6-1, 190) of Daviess County, Robert Ray (6-2, 190) of Nashville Stratford and Walter York (6-3, 200) of Warren Central.

"We've been particularly impressed with Gray," noted Hape. "Ray and York have demonstrated a lot of ability. Like most freshmen, they just need to learn to be more physical."

Going into fall drills, the Hilltoppers' depth at linebacker was woefully thin on the inside behind

senior Bryan Gray (5-11, 200) and sophomore Tom Tussey (5-11, 210), as well as on the outside behind senior Brad Todd (6-2, 215) and sophomore Greg Barnes (6-1, 195).

Gray, Ray and York already are being counted on to provide depth, and a starting job isn't out of the question for any one of the three somewhere down the road. But for now, Hape will his young aces in the hole.

"Our first-line returnees have played well," he pointed out. "Besides, it's tough for young people to adjust from high school stardom to the competition from so many fine athletes here at the collegiate level."

* * *

Sophomore defensive back David Suggs (6-0, 190) was penciled in as the starter at strong safety after spring practice, but apparently has lost the job to promising sophomore Reginald Johnson (6-2, 205).

"Johnson looks to be the man to beat out at strong safety," said secondary coach Larry Walker. "He came back in great condition, and is learning the ropes quickly."

Meanwhile, Suggs will apparently be used as the No. 1 backup to both Johnson and junior free safety Barry Bumm, a preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference selection. Bumm (6-0, 175) broke a toe in a trailbike accident less than a week before the start of fall practice, but is expected to be healthy by next Saturday.

"Suggs has recovered from a summer cold that plagued him the first week of practice," observed Walker, "and seems to be in great shape. He's going to be very important to us in backing up both the strong and free safety positions."

* * *

Big Red, the furry mascot who made his debut at Western during basketball season last winter, will "join" the football team this fall.

The colorful mascot was a hit with both Western fans and opponents during the 1979-80 season, and this year will be impersonated by Hodgenville junior Mark Greer. At a recent cheerleading clinic in Blacksburg, Va., Greer—er, make that Big Red—walked away with the highest award in the team mascot division.

As a whole, Western's cheerleading squad finished a lofty third in the national competition.

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Ready to go

Western prepares for opener with Evansville

Pre-season training camps are fast becoming history as September 6 approaches, and with it the opening of the 1980 football season for most schools across the country.

Included among those are Western Kentucky and Evansville who square off on the turf of Smith Stadium in Bowling Green at 1 p.m. (CDT) renewing one of the oldest rivalries in the Hilltopper record books.

"I remember playing Evansville when I was in school," said Western Head Coach Jimmy Feix. "It's a very natural rivalry. And,

we know that their new coach, Randy Rodgers, has brought a number of outstanding people into the program there, including some experienced junior college players.

"We'll have our work cut out for us," he added. "They may not have done that well overall last year, but we know that they played Murray State (the Ohio Valley Conference champion) very tough before losing a close one 24-14. That's a sobering thought."

Evansville returns 30 lettermen from that 1979

team that went 2-9 overall and 0-6 in the Heartland Collegiate Conference. Western, meanwhile loses only 11 lettermen from last year's 5-5 squad that was 3-3 in the OVC (fourth). But, optimism is the watchword in Red Towel Territory.

There are several reasons for this optimistic outlook, including the return of OVC Offensive Player-of-the-Year John Hall. A senior quarterback, Hall was named first-team All-OVC for the second consecutive season last fall. On the year he completed 108 of 215

passes (.502) for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns. Junior signal-caller Marty Jagers and sophomore Ralph Antone may also see action behind the line.

Other WKU offensive standouts include tailback Nate Jones, who has successfully recovered from knee surgery which sidelined him after three contests last year; tailbacks Barry Skaggs (5 touchdowns rushing) and Craig Freeman (360 yards rushing); fullbacks Elmer Caldwell (562 yds. TDs) and Troy Snardon (358 yds.); and All-

OVC tight end Ricky Gwinn (30 catches, 4 TDs).

Returning defensive stalwarts include bandit back Brad Todd (115 tackles); free safety Barry Bumm (108 tackles), linebacker Tom Tussey (89 tackles); and defensive ends Donnie Evans (83 tackles) and '79 All-OVC selection Tim Ford (73 tackles).

Ray Farmer, one of the most consistent punters in Western grid history and a pre-season All-OVC pick, returns for his senior year after averaging 39.7 yards per boot in '79.

Evansville also has a good selection of quarterbacks and running backs to insert into their game plan. John Vernasco, a 6-3 sophomore, heads the list. However, two other sophs, 6-1 Mark Hoffman and 6-4 Ralph Pavek, should also see action. Pavek quarterbacked Rodgers' team at Inver Hills (Minn.) Community College last fall.

In the tailback slot Evansville, like Western, can call on a number of talented young men, Tedd Petrik should get the starting nod. However, Cris Guliani (another Inver Hills product, and Steve Seiler, are also likely candidates to carry the ball.

The Hilltoppers own a 12-3-2 advantage over the Purple Acres in the series that began in the fall of 1924 when the E.A. Diddle-coached Westerners topped Evansville 35-0. The two schools last met in 1964 when the Toppers came out on top 37-0.

Excluding current members of the OVC, only two other schools - Louisville and East Tennessee - have challenged Western more often on the gridiron. Evansville, like Louisville and Western, of course, was a charter member of the OVC. And, East Tennessee is also a former member of the league.

Hilltopper cheerleaders place third

Big Red' helping carry on

Western's winning tradition

Bowling Green - "Big Red," Western Kentucky University's furry creature who started winning hearts as the school's mascot last basketball season, continues to be a success story.

This time he has captured the Universal Cheerleading Association's highest award which goes to team mascots.

Big Red participated, along with Western's cheerleading squad, in the association's camp which was held August 18 through 22 at Virginia Polytechnical Institute in Blackburg, Virginia. He earned the association's "Key to Spirit" Award.

Big Red is impersonated this year by Mark Greer, a junior from

Hodgenville, Kentucky, who is the man behind Big Red's success.

Greer, er, Big Red, also managed to obtain two blue ribbons in skit competition.

Western's cheerleading squad captured top honors also by winning every blue ribbon possible in all areas of competition, and won third overall in the association's camp.

"They all did an exception job," said team advisor Miss Becky Rhoten of Lexington, Kentucky. "When you look at who we placed behind, you know what we mean," said Miss Rhoten, referring to championship winner Ohio State and first and second place winners Memphis State and

the University of Kentucky.

"Western walked away with the respect of all the schools there after they saw what our cheerleaders did," said Greer, who acts as official spokesman for Big Red who of course, doesn't talk.

Yell leaders for this year at the university are: Annette Thurman, Evansville, Indiana; Janice Dockery, Chandler, Indiana; Sally Sadler, Morehead, Kentucky; Patti Vencill, Elizabethtown, Kentucky; Karen Sheryak, Valley Station, Kentucky; Barry Morgan, Nashville, Tennessee; Dale Augustine, Owensboro, Kentucky; Tom Daughterty, Nicholasville, Kentucky; David

continued on page C-3

Big Red

continued from page C-1

Dilley, formerly of Greenville, Kentucky; Jack Quire, Jeffersonton, Kentucky; Jimmy Gibson, Brownsville, Kentucky; and Jenny Johnson of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Alternates for the squad are Terri Duncan of Edmonton, Kentucky; Jennie Sauer, Louisville, Kentucky; and Mark Allen of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Big Red and Western's cheerleading squad will make their first public appearance this school year with the opening of the Toppers' football season Saturday, September 6 at L.T. Smith Stadium against the Evansville Aces.



WINNERS in every category of competition were WKU cheerleaders at a Universal Cheerleaders Association Camp last week at Virginia Tech University. The Toppers came in third overall in competition. Following their return they proudly display their catch. Front row: Annette Thurman, Evansville; Karen Sheryak, Valley Station; Jenny Johnson, Bowling Green; Sally Sadler, Morehead; Janice Dockery, Chandler; and Patti Vencill, Elizabethtown. Second row: Tom Daugherty, Nicholasville; Jimmy Gibson, Brownsville; Barry Morgan, Nashville; David Diley, Greenville; Mark Allen, Bowling Green and Jack Quire, Jefferstown.

Western Hosts Evansville

Six OVC Squads Open Slates Saturday

By RICK BENTLEY
NEW ERA Sports Editor

The Ohio Valley Conference football schedule will open Saturday and marks the 33rd season in the league's history. Six of the schools will be in action with only one road contest slated.

Defending champions Murray State, with 20 starters back this season, will try to defend last season's mark of 9-2-1 with a season opener against Southeast Missouri. The game is slated for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff. In the season opener between the two squads last year the teams played to a 21-21 tie.

The Racers will be opening without the services of All-America safety Terry Love who suffered a broken thumb and will be out from four to six weeks.

Since Love has been out, the Murray coaching staff has been experimenting with some changes in the defensive line-up that has included one local switch.

Former Hopkinsville standout Victor Watkins has been shifted to the defensive secondary slot, but he also has been hampered

by some minor injuries.

When the season kicks off for Murray, it will be an ex-Christian County player doing the kicking. Jeff Lancaster has been tagged to handle the kickoff duties and will boot all of the long field goals for the Racers.

There is one other bit of local news connected with Murray. Neal Cummins, a walk-on from Caldwell County, has looked strong in pre-season. In one scrimmage Cummins pulled in a pass to go 80 yards for a touchdown. Cummins is listed as the third or fourth fullback on the Racer depth chart as a freshman.

Western Kentucky also opens at home in a 1 p.m. battle with Evansville. The Hilltoppers return 16 starters, including OVC Player of the Year John Hall.

Hall is slated as the starting quarterback this year but is being hard pressed by Marty Jagers and Ralph Antone. Hall has been on the sideline with a sore shoulder and has missed several practices.

Offensive tackle Phil Rich is out with a bruised shoulder and Barry Skaggs is suffering with Achilles tendonitis, but both are expected to be ready to play Saturday afternoon.

In other action around the league, Eastern Kentucky will open up a defense of its I-AA national championship with a home bout against Kentucky State. The Colonels return 33 lettermen with 11 starters scheduled to suit up again.

Akron, the new kid on the block, begins its first climb to an OVC title with a home battle against Northeast Missouri while Morehead will play host to long-time rival Marshall in a 1:30 p.m. (EDT) game.

Middle Tennessee opens on the road with a battle against North Alabama. The Blue Raiders will be looking to improve on a dismal 1-9 record from last season.

Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech open their seasons Sept. 13. The Governors will travel to UT-Martin while the Golden Eagles will host West Carolina.

Hall shakes off injury

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Most people know that Western quarterback John Hall not only was named All-Ohio Valley Conference last year as a junior, but also took home OVC offensive player of the year honors.

What most people don't know is that Hall played hurt throughout the 1979 campaign, thanks to a stiff shoulder he blames on nobody but himself.

"Everybody had always warned me about throwing hard without warming up first," recalled Hall, "but I didn't listen to them. About three or four days before our season opener at Chattanooga last year, I started throwing and felt something pop."

"I had a sore arm the rest of the year," added the freckle-faced senior from Goodlettsville, Tenn. "It didn't bother me enough to keep me out of the lineup, but it hurt all year long."

Stiff shoulder and all, Hall still finished the year with 108 completions in 215 attempts for 1,418 yards and 10 touchdowns. But Hall thinks he can do better, and needs only to point to his sophomore season to prove it.

Hall was the trigger man in Western's 1978 return from the dead, if you recall. In his first full year as a starter, he led the Hilltoppers to a surprising 8-2 record (6-0 in the OVC) by hitting on 106 of 209 passes for 1,439 yards and 12 scores.

"I had about the same passing yardage

both years," noted Hall, "but I felt like I had a lot better year as a sophomore. I had more touchdowns and fewer interceptions."

Western, of course, also had a better year in 1978. Despite all sorts of high hopes going into the 1979 season, thanks to the return of most of the key players from the year before, the Hilltoppers lost most of the close ones and dipped disappointly to 5-5.

The turning point of the season came in an 8-6 loss to Eastern at Richmond, where a victory might have helped Jimmy Feix's team overcome two early-season poundings at the hands of Division I-A powers UT-Chattanooga and Lamar.

"If we had won that Eastern game," mused Hall, "I think we might have wound up 8-2 again last year."

Western pushed the Colonels all over the field a year ago before a disbelieving crowd at Hanger Field, piling up some 340 yards in total offense and 22 first downs compared to only 10 for the winners, but still managed only six points. That left Eastern alive in the running for a berth in the Division I-AA playoffs, and the rest is history.

Like it happened only yesterday, Hall remembers very well seeing the Colonels hammer Lehigh 30-7 in the national championship game at Orlando, Fla., last December.

"It made me sick," he said. "I just couldn't believe it. But I think it also inspired me and the rest of our players after the way we pushed them around up there last year,

because we know we can go all the way if they can."

Hall will be the starting quarterback at 1 p.m. Saturday when Western kicks off the 1980 season at home against Evansville, but it hasn't been as easy as it sounds. Besides the stiff shoulder that is just now coming around, the veteran signal-caller also has had to fight off strong challenges from teammates Marty Jagers and Ralph Antone.

"I thought I might wind up in the pressbox with you guys for a while there," he chuckled. "My shoulder was so stiff I couldn't even brush my teeth, and both Marty and Ralph were looking great in practice."

"There really isn't any jealousy between us," added Hall. "In fact, Marty and I try to room together when we go on the road and we usually have wrestling contests the night before the game. We do some hunting and fishing together, too."

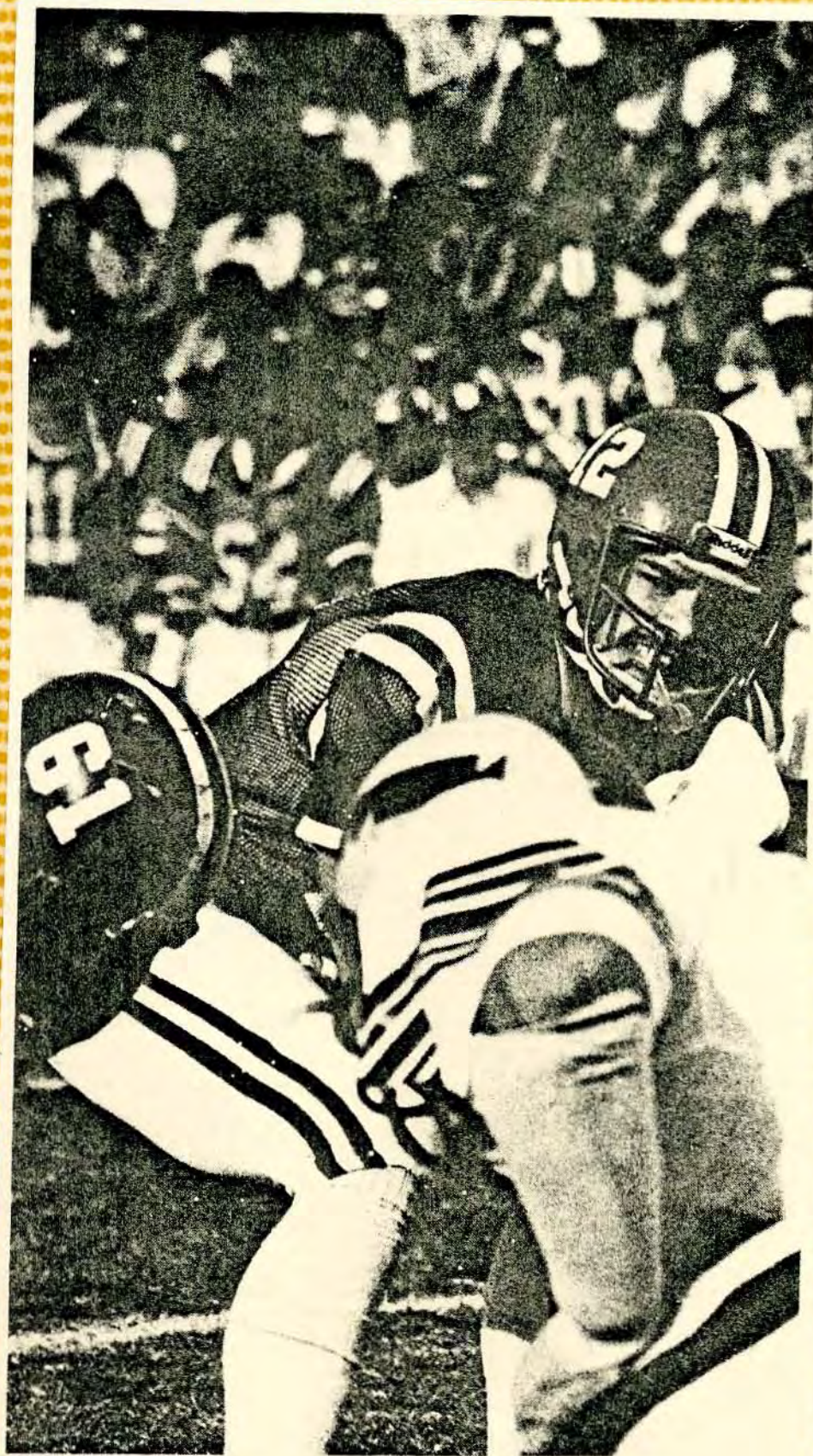
A week ago it looked like the quarterback job was up for grabs, but Hall's return to health took care of that. Feix has gone on record saying Hall will have to lose his job in a game situation if he loses it at all, giving the four-year starter a chance to become the first quarterback in OVC history to make all-conference three years in a row.

"I didn't even know about that until I read it in your paper a few days ago," admitted Hall. "I'm sure that would be important to me later on when all I have are memories, but right now I just want to do what Eastern did last year."

Healthy now

WESTERN quarterback John Hall was armed only with a pencil and clipboard during the Hilltoppers' first major scrimmage of the preseason recently, but figures to be at full speed Saturday in the season opener against Evansville. Hall played well in a scrimmage over the weekend, despite missing almost a week of practice with a stiff shoulder. In foreground is graduate assistant Kirby Bennett.

(Staff photo)



FORMER TRIGG COUNTY STAR Marty Jagers could get a chance to play Saturday in the Western Kentucky University opener. Starting quarterback

John Hall is suffering with a sore shoulder and Jagers could be called on to handle signal calling duties.

Mismatch?

HRS sees Western coasting in season opener

It's been five years since Western's football team won a season opener, but the Hanes Rating System is picking the Hilltoppers to do just that this weekend against Evansville.

Truth is, the HRS isn't exactly going out on a limb in picking Western to win its lidlifter 1 p.m. Saturday at Smith Stadium. The last time Evansville got the best of the Hilltoppers was way back in 1954, and the football programs of the two schools have gone in different directions since then.

In the only two gridiron meetings between the two in the last 20 years, Western won 54-14 in 1963 and 37-0 the following year.

In the interest of fairness, it should be pointed out that both of those Western teams did some beating up on other folks. The 1963 squad finished 10-0-1 including a 27-0 romp past top-ranked Coast Guard in the Tangerine Bowl, and the 1964 bunch followed up with a respectable 6-3-1.

It should also be pointed out, however, that Evansville's lack of emphasis on football in recent years is about the only thing keeping the Aces from returning to the Ohio Valley Conference.

Evansville was actually a charter member of the OVC, along with Louisville and the four present Kentucky members (Western, Eastern, Murray and Morehead). But in 1952, only four years after the formation of the league, Evansville dropped out and was replaced by Middle Tennessee.

Currently, the Aces are members of the Heartland Conference along with several smaller Indiana schools. Evansville didn't win a league game last fall and wound up 2-9 overall, with its best game of the entire fall perhaps coming in a respectable 24-14 early-season loss to Murray's eventual OVC champions.

The week before, the Aces had dropped a 15-10 decision to lowly Georgetown.

Western is one of five OVC teams in action this weekend. Eastern entertains Kentucky State and Morehead plays host to Marshall in other day games, while Murray entertains Southeast Missouri and Middle Tennessee travels to Northern Alabama under the lights.

This weekend also offers five games involving Southeastern Conference teams, including Kentucky's



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

season opener at home Saturday against Utah State.

As in recent years, the HRS will match its wits—dim as they are, on occasion—with those of the infamous Major Amos B. Hoople, who hasn't been able to see the forest for the trees the last few seasons. In contested games a year ago (where the HRS and Hoople forecasts disagreed on the outcome), our crystal ball wound up with almost a 2-1 advantage.

Comparing this week's forecasts, we find only four discrepancies...but one of them is a biggie. The HRS says Purdue will escape from South Bend, Ind., with a one-point victory over blood rival Notre Dame, while Hoople likes the Irish in a 31-27 free-for-all.

The HRS also differs with the Major this week by tabbing East Carolina over Duke, LSU over Florida State in a mild upset and Mississippi State over Memphis State.

On to the first fearless forecast of the season, which sees good things in store for both Western and Kentucky this weekend but tough sailing (into a Hurricane, no less) for the University of Louisville:

OVC

Western 41, E'ville 14: Jimmy Feix never has been much for rolling up the score on anybody, so it won't be a case of pouring it on. Trouble is, he's got three quarterbacks good enough to start for most teams in the OVC...not to mention Evansville.

In other words, look for the Hilltoppers to put points on the board regardless of whether John Hall, Marty Jagers or Ralph Antone is taking the snaps.

Eastern 24, Ky. State 7: The Thorobreds picked a bad year to start taking on their OVC neighbors. Opening with Eastern and Western back-to-back might just

break their backs, doing the same damage that non-conference games with UT-Chattanooga and Lamar did to Western last fall.

Other OVC games:
Murray 28, Southeast Mo. 7
Marshall 17, Morehead 13
M. Tenn. 20, N. Alabama 17

SEC

UK 23, Utah State 7: The Wildcats may struggle on offense some early in the season, but not against the likes of this bunch. If they do, they're really going to be in trouble next week at Norman, Okla.

Alabama 30, Ga. Tech 0: The Crimson Tide is looking for an unprecedented third straight national championship, while Tech is still looking for somebody else to show up in its place Saturday at Birmingham. Roll, Tide, roll.

LSU 21, Florida St. 17: Last year the Seminoles had two proven quarterbacks in Jimmy Jordan and Wally Woodham. This year they don't have any, and Tiger Stadium is a bad place to break somebody in.

Other SEC games:
Tennessee 21, Georgia 17
Miss. St. 14, Memphis St. 7
Texas A&M 27, Ole Miss 17

OTHER MAJORS

Purdue 24, Notre Dame 23: It will be an emotional game for the Fighting Irish, whose coach Dan Devine is stepping down at the end of the season, but it's also an emotional game for Purdue whenever it plays Notre Dame.

Miami 24, Louisville 14: The Cardinals figure to face a rebuilding season under new head man Bob Weber, while Miami is hoping to field its strongest team in years.

Other games:

Dunkel football ratings

KENTUCKY, INDIANA COLLEGES

Favorite, rating	Opponent, rating
Kentucky* 83.4	Utah State 79.8
Miami (Fla.) 78.8	Louisville* 72.8
Purdue 94.7	Notre Dame* 92.2
Central Michigan* 79.5	Ball State 76.2
Ferris State* 50.7	St. Joseph's 39.5
Franklin 36.7	Olivet* 32.5
Kenyon* 26.0	DePauw 23.8
Marshall 53.6	Morehead* 50.5
Murray* 64.7	SE Missouri 55.7
Platteville* 40.1	Indiana Central 38.4
Rose-Hulman 31.5	Taylor* 16.2
Western Kentucky* 62.3	Evansville 31.1

College report

Western, Centre getting ready

Most Kentucky College football teams engaged in intersquad scrimmages this past Saturday and Western and Centre were no exception. WKU, which will open Saturday, September 6 against Evansville, held their final big workout Saturday morning. Meanwhile, Centre held their first pre-season scrimmage in the afternoon. They open with Maryville, Saturday, September 13 at Danville.

Mike Curnutte, who is currently the Hilltoppers number one place kicker, booted two extra points and a 38 yard field goal. Curnutte was at the line for four attempts, with the final one being a false extra point, making him 100% for the outing.

Centre has a different look both offensively and defensively under new Coach Joe McDaniel. The offense posted three TDs during the scrimmage, all on runs, while the defense picked off a pass from

the second team offense to score once.

Wide receiver, Tony Curnutte will start for the second year at that position. He had a good day, catching three passes for a total of 37 yards.

Mike Ward who started at an offensive tackle position last season was used briefly at a defensive slot early in the week. He was back on offense for the scrimmage however, and made several key blocks.

The Colonels will hold their final big scrimmage with Georgetown College, Friday, September 5 at 3 p.m.

The fact that Green County has three former football players now starting on college squads is certainly a tribute to the Dragon program. No other school in our area can come close to this accomplishment. Therefore, Green Countians should make an effort to support these athletes.

Tickets to both Centre and Western games are inexpensive and readily available. The following are their home schedules:

Western		
Sept. 6	Evansville	1 p.m.
Sept. 27	Austin Peay	1 p.m.
Oct. 11	Youngstown State	1 p.m.
Oct. 25	Eastern	1 p.m.
Nov. 8	Middle Tennessee	1 p.m.

Centre		
Sept. 13	Maryville	12 noon
Sept. 27	Washington & Lee	12
Oct. 11	Principia	12
Oct. 18	Rose-Hulman	12
Nov. 1	Wabash	12

On the golf scene, Savona Williams, one of the Lady Hilltoppers top three golfers, will be returning to action this fall. Western's first tournament will be held on September 15 and 16 at Bowling Green.

Jim Perkins, freshman golfer at Campbellsville College, will also be playing on September 15. That tournament will be held at Evansville, Indiana.

Tops sport clean bill of health for opener

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Late last spring, Western football coach Jimmy Feix and his staff got together and decided which 22 players they'd like to have in the starting lineup for the 1980 season opener.

Down to the last man, those same 22 gridders will be starting when the Hilltoppers kick off the season at home Saturday (1 p.m.) against Evansville, a rival of years gone by. And according to Feix, that's something that's never happened before.

"I can't remember a single year

when all 22 players we had planned to start at the end of spring practice were still healthy by the time the season opener rolled around," said Feix.

"We all sat down in the spring and said we'd like to start these 11 guys on offense and these 11 on defense," he added. "That's what we're going to have Saturday, unless somebody slips on a banana peel on his way to class."

Speaking of freak accidents, one a few weeks ago came close to spoiling Western's perfect score in health. Junior free safety Barry Bumm (6-0, 175) suffered a broken toe in a trailbike

accident, and has seen only limited duty in practice so far this fall.

"He won't quite be at full speed," admitted Feix, "but we feel like we have to have him in there. His toe is still a little sore, but he needs to play."

Bumm is only one of 17 starters returning from last year's 5-5 team, and also one of six Western players recently named to the 1980 preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference team by the league coaches. Joining him on the honor squad were senior quarterback John Hall, senior tight end Ricky Gwinn, senior linebacker Brad Todd, junior

defensive end Tim Ford and senior punter Ray Farmer.

Western appears to be loaded on offense this fall, with Hall (6-0, 185) directing the passing game and senior tailback Nate Jones (5-10, 185) returning from a knee injury to head up the ground attack.

Hall, starting for the fourth year in a row and hoping to become the first quarterback in league history to be named All-OVC three years in a row, appeared to be back at 100 percent in the Hilltoppers' final major scrimmage after battling a stiff shoulder during

much of the preseason.

Jones, meanwhile, has been the most pleasant surprise of the fall after bouncing back from knee surgery a year ago.

"We haven't made any specific preparations on stopping either Hall or Jones," said Evansville rookie coach Randy Rodgers. "In fact, we don't even have a scouting report on Western. We're just going to try to play good fundamental defense."

One key player on the "doubtful" list is sophomore quarterback John Vernasco (6-3, 190), whom Rodgers brought

along with him from Inver Hills (Minn.) Community College when he got the Evansville job. Vernasco got cleated in a practice session recently, and was on crutches last week.

All of which leaves Rodgers with inexperienced sophomore Mark Hoffman (6-1, 170) at quarterback. If Hoffman does get the starting nod, the first play from scrimmage will be his first snap in a college game.

Evansville suffered through a dismal 2-9 campaign last fall, losing to such teams as Georgetown, Saginaw Valley and Valparaiso.

Evansville vs. Western

Time: 2 p.m. (CDT).

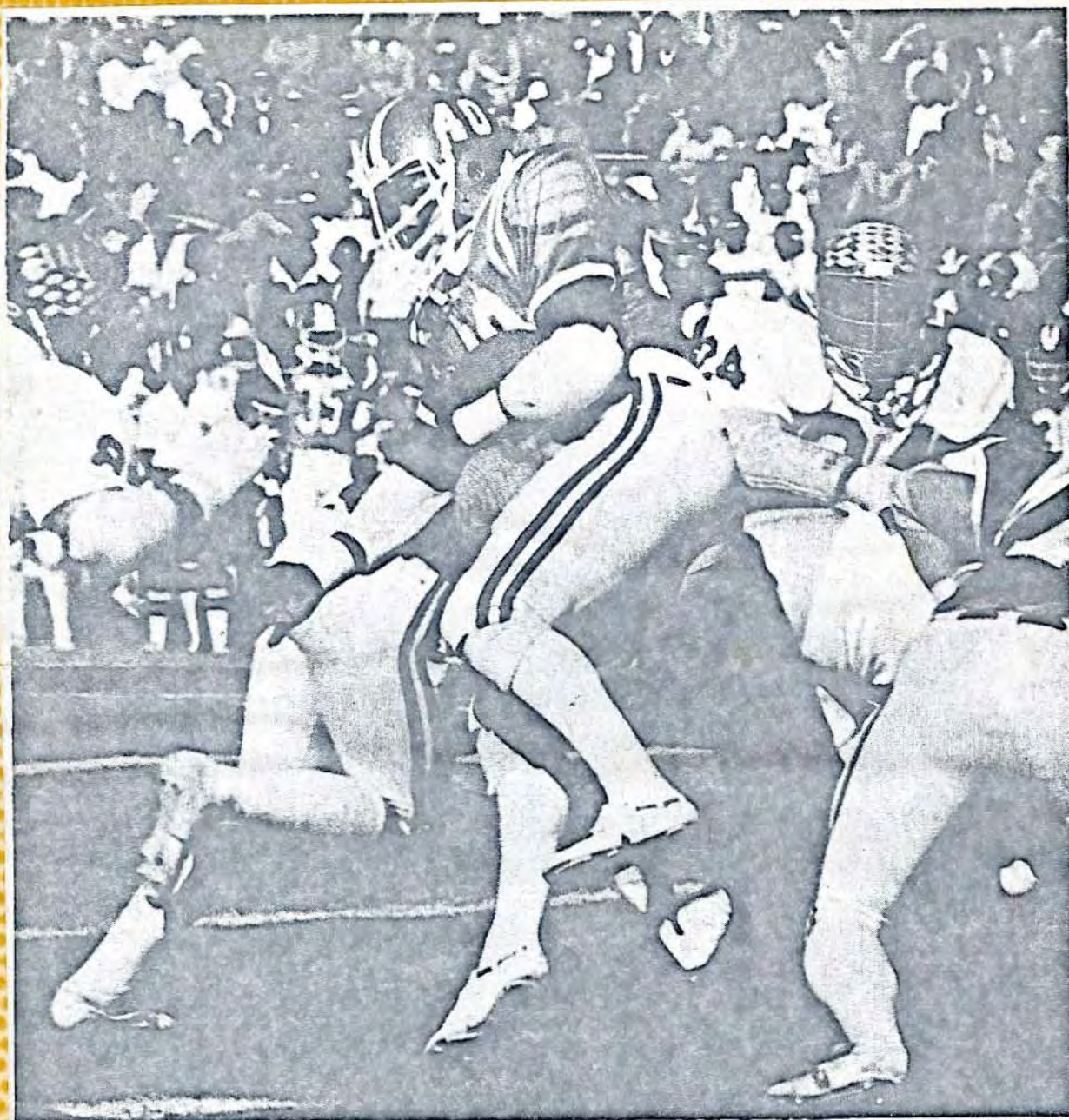
Location: L.T. Smith Stadium, Bowling Green, Ky.

Coaches: Randy Rodgers, Evansville; Jimmy Feix, Western.

Records: Evansville 0-0 (2-9 in 1979); Western 0-0 (5-5 in 1979).

Notes: Western is one of the leading contenders for the Ohio Valley Conference title. The Hilltoppers return 19 starters, including quarterback John Hall, offensive player of the year last season in the OVC. Evansville, a Division III team, returns 30 lettermen from last year's 2-9 team.





(Staff photo)

Double duty in the backfield

TROY SNARDON (40) of Western, a junior fullback and former prep standout at Todd Central, will again be used primarily as a blocking back this fall but also can carry the ball when called upon. The Hilltop-

pers kick off the 1980 season at home Saturday (1 p.m.) against Evansville.

The starters...

★ Evansville ★

OFFENSE (Pro Set)

Pos.—Player (No.)	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB—Mark Hoffman (5)	6-1	175	So.
TB—Cris Guliani (28)	6-0	180	Jr.
FB—Chris Benzel (31)	6-0	200	Sr.
F—Steve Wright (44)	6-0	200	Sr.
SE—Gary McCall (81)	6-0	175	So.
TE—Steve Pence (87)	6-3	220	Jr.
T—John Wessic (75)	6-4	215	So.
G—Tom Rhind (55)	5-10	205	Jr.
C—Marvin Boswell (66)	6-2	220	Sr.
G—Tom Shallenberger (62)	6-2	190	Fr.
T—Mark Foster (73)	6-4	235	Fr.

DEFENSE (3-4-4)

T—Steve Scott (53)	6-1	215	So.
NG—Melvin White (76)	5-10	210	Jr.
T—Carl Bellew (51)	6-0	220	Jr.
ILB—Phil Burk (50)	6-1	195	Jr.
ILB—Bill Mortis (52)	6-0	200	Fr.
OLB—Brad Hooper (54)	6-1	200	Jr.
OLB—Russ Garvey (77)	6-4	220	Jr.
CB—Ray Streight (11)	5-9	175	Jr.
CB—Tom Isaacs (23)	5-9	165	So.
SS—Joe Greg Wright (41)	6-0	180	Sr.
FS—John Hardaway (30)	6-0	185	Jr.

★ Western ★

OFFENSE ("I")

Pos.—Player (No.)	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB—John Hall (18)	6-0	185	Sr.
TB—Nate Jones (43)	5-10	185	Sr.
FB—Troy Snardon (40)	6-0	205	Jr.
F—Ron Hunter (86)	5-11	185	So.
SE—Jerry Flippin (82)	5-8	165	Jr.
TE—Ricky Gwinn (88)	6-2	220	Sr.
T—Phil Rich (70)	6-4	260	Sr.
G—Pete Walters (68)	6-3	255	Sr.
C—Greg Gallas (55)	6-1	225	Jr.
G—Mark Blackburn (64)	5-10	215	Jr.
T—Steve Catlett (65)	6-1	230	So.

DEFENSE (3-4-4)

T—Tim Ford (80)	6-4	245	Jr.
NG—Tony Wells (54)	5-9	195	Jr.
T—Donnie Evans (50)	6-4	240	Jr.
ILB—Bryan Gray (58)	5-11	200	Sr.
ILB—Tom Tussey (53)	5-11	210	So.
OLB—Brad Todd (85)	6-2	215	Sr.
OLB—Greg Barnes (32)	6-1	195	So.
CB—Lamont Meacham (28)	6-0	170	Jr.
CB—Davlin Mullen (20)	6-1	170	So.
SS—Reginald Johnson (37)	6-2	205	So.
FS—Barry Bumm (19)	6-0	175	Jr.



(Staff photos by Mark Workman)

Dee-fense!

TOM TUSSEY (above) of Western puts the crunch on Evansville running back Cris Guliani (28) during Saturday's season opener for both teams at Smith Stadium. Below, defensive end Tim Ford (80) of the Hilltoppers gives quarterback John Vernasco (7) something to think about as he launches a pass just out of Ford's reach. Western won 40-18, with Evansville scoring only after the Hilltoppers began clearing the bench.



UK 17 Eastern . . . 24 Western . .
 Utah State . 10 KSU 21 Evansville .

KENTUCKY EDITION

Louisville, Ky., Sunday morning, September 7, 1980

The Courier-Journal

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Western rips Evansville 40-18 as Hall passes for three TDs

Special To The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — John Hall may be on his way to winning the Ohio Valley Conference's Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight football season.

That is, if yesterday's performance in a 40-18 romp over Evansville is any indication of what kind of senior year the Western Kentucky University quarterback is going to have.

Hall completed eight of 11 passes for 258 yards and three touchdowns while sparking Western to an easy victory in the season opener for both teams. Hall threw one interception in the game played before an estimated 13,000 fans at L. T. Smith Stadium.

In all, Western used four different quarterbacks after jumping ahead 34-

0 entering the fourth quarter. Marty Jagers completed three of five passes and Ralph Antone two of six, including one for a touchdown. Jeff Bender's only pass fell incomplete.

Split end Jerry Flippin and flanker-back Ron Hunter were Western's top receivers. Flippin caught five passes for 148 yards and one TD, Hunter three passes for 100 yards and a score.

Western's leading rushers, Nate Jones and Troy Snardon, also scored one touchdown apiece. Jones, playing for the first time since suffering a knee injury in the third game of the 1979 season, ran 10 times for 79 yards, and scored on a 30-yard run. Snardon scored Western's first touchdown on an 11-yard run and gained 40 yards in eight carries for the game.

Ray Farmer, a senior punter from Waggener High in Jefferson County, set a school record for the most punts attempted in a career. Farmer booted his 167th punt late in the first half, surpassing the old record of 166 by Gary Mears from 1970 to 1972. Farmer totaled 186 yards on four punts yesterday for an average of 46.5. His longest punt covered 53 yards.

Defensive standouts for Western were nose guard Tony Wells and linebackers Tom Tussey and Paul Gray. Wells and Tussey each was credited with four main tackles and three assists. Gray, a freshman from Daviess County High, recovered one Evansville fumble and intercepted a pass.

Western took the opening kickoff and marched 62 yards in 11 plays, scoring on Snardon's 11-yard run. Its next scoring drive required only two plays as Hall connected with Hunter for a 71-yard bomb.

Statistics

EVANSVILLE	0	0	0	18	-	18
WESTERN KENTUCKY	14	7	13	6	-	40
Western — Snardon, 11, run (Curnutte kick); Western — Hunter, 71, pass from Hall (Curnutte kick); Western — Jones, 30, run (Curnutte kick); Western — Gwinn, 30, pass from Hall (kick failed); Western — Flippin, 47, pass from Hall (Fishback kick); Evansville — Schnell, 3, run (run failed); Western — Newby, 43, pass from Antone (kick failed); Evansville — Gulliani, 35, pass from Bernasco (run failed); Evansville — Barnett, 32, pass from Bernasco (pass failed).						
Attendance — 13,000 est.						
		Evansville	WKU			
First downs	.....	14	19			
Rushes-yards	.....	30-54	51-181			
Passing yards	.....	276	387			
Return yards	.....	35	61			
Passes	.....	16-33-3	13-23-2			
Punts	.....	8-36.8	7-34.1			
Fumbles-lost	.....	2-1	1-1			
Penalties-yards	.....	6-60	9-117			

Hilltoppers stomp Evansville

BOWLING GREEN (AP) — John Hall passed for three touchdowns Saturday afternoon to lead Western Kentucky to a 40-18 romp over Evansville in the college football opener for each team.

Hall completed eight of 11 passes for 258 yards in a little more than two quarters of action, including touchdown passes of 71 yards to Ron Hunter, 30 yards to Ricky Gwinn and 47 yards to Jerry Flippin.

"Overall I thought it was a good ball game for us," said Coach Jimmy Feix. "We looked much sharper offensively than we did last year."

Hall's long-ball assault allowed Western to roll up a 27-0 margin early in the third period that settled the issue.

"John Hall looked super," said Feix. "And I thought Jerry Flippin, Nate Jones and Ricky Gwinn had big games for us too."

area roundup

Evansville was blanked until the final period, when the visitors scored three times under the direction of substitute quarterback John Bernasco, who completed 13 of 25 attempts for 249 yards and a pair of scores.

With Hall at the helm, Western moved 62 yards in 11 plays for its first touchdown, which came on Troy Snardon's 11-yard run less than five minutes into the game. The Hilltoppers struck with 3:16 left in the first period when Hall hooked up with Hunter for 71 yards to complete a two-play drive that covered 84 yards.

Western went 85 yards in 11 plays in the second period for the score that gave the Toppers a 21-0 halftime edge. Nate Jones capped that surge with a 30-yard run with 2:15 left before intermission.

EKU WINS — David Flores kicked three field goals and an extra point, including a field goal with 1:39 left that gave Eastern Kentucky a 24-21 victory over Kentucky State in an inter-sectional college football game Saturday in Richmond.

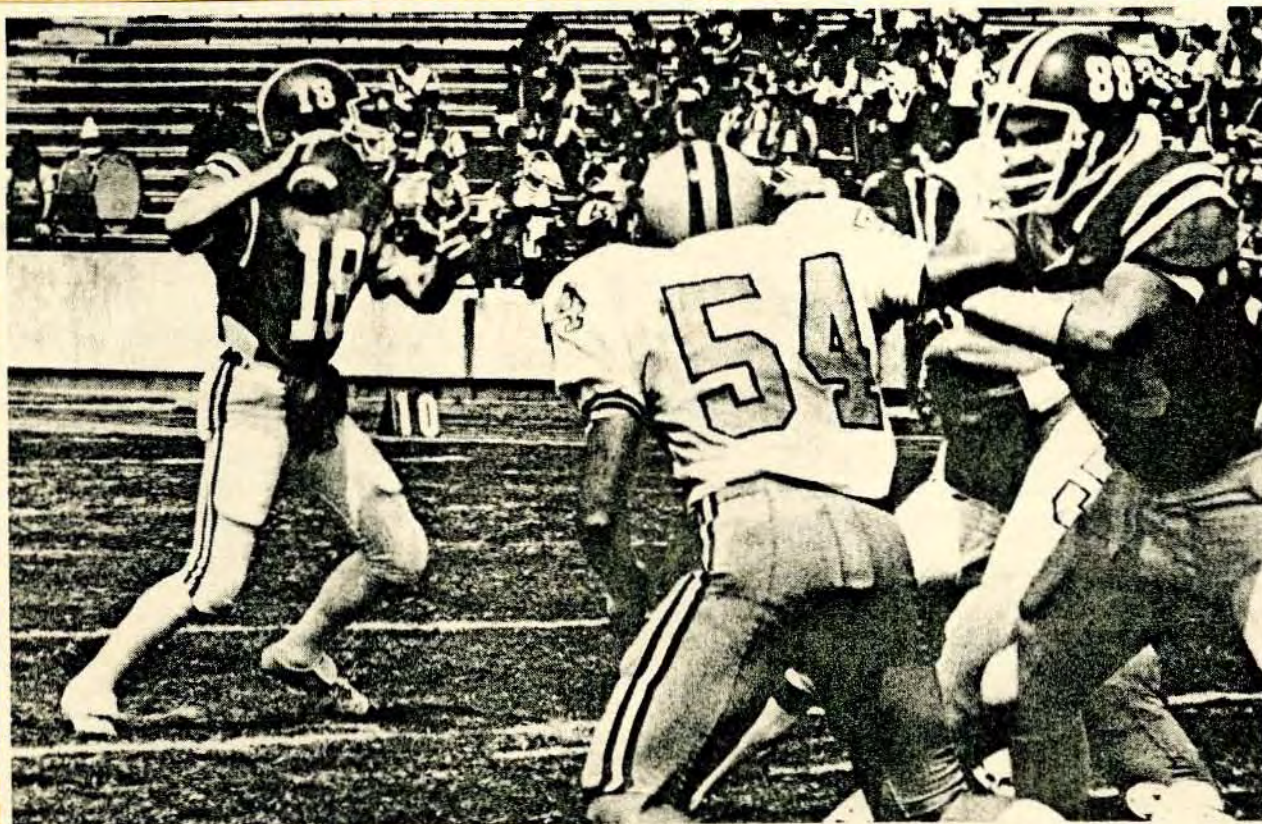
Eastern Kentucky opened the scoring with a 37-yard field goal by Flores with 9:27 in the first period, and added a 4-yard scoring run by tailback Alvin Miller at 2:49. Flores tacked on a 23-yard field goal with 13:30 in the half.

Kentucky State scored on a 2-yard run by Wilbur Dunn with 3:12 left in the half and Mark Stoute added the extra point to

leave the score 13-7 at the half. With 8 seconds left in the third period, quarterback Victor Rice hit Alphonso Bailey on a 37-yard scoring pass and Stoute added the extra point to give the visitors a 14-13 lead at the end of the quarter.

MARSHALL BOMBS MOREHEAD — Jon Sharretts passed for one touchdown and set up two others Saturday as Marshall swamped host Morehead 35-8 in the college football opener for both teams.

Sharretts broke open a tight game in the third period when he passed 19 yards to Dickie Rollins for the first touchdown of the day and a 13-0 Marshall lead. Sharretts' passing set up Marshall's next two scores, a 9-yard run by Tim Campbell later in the third period and Jimmy North's 1-yard run early in the fourth period.

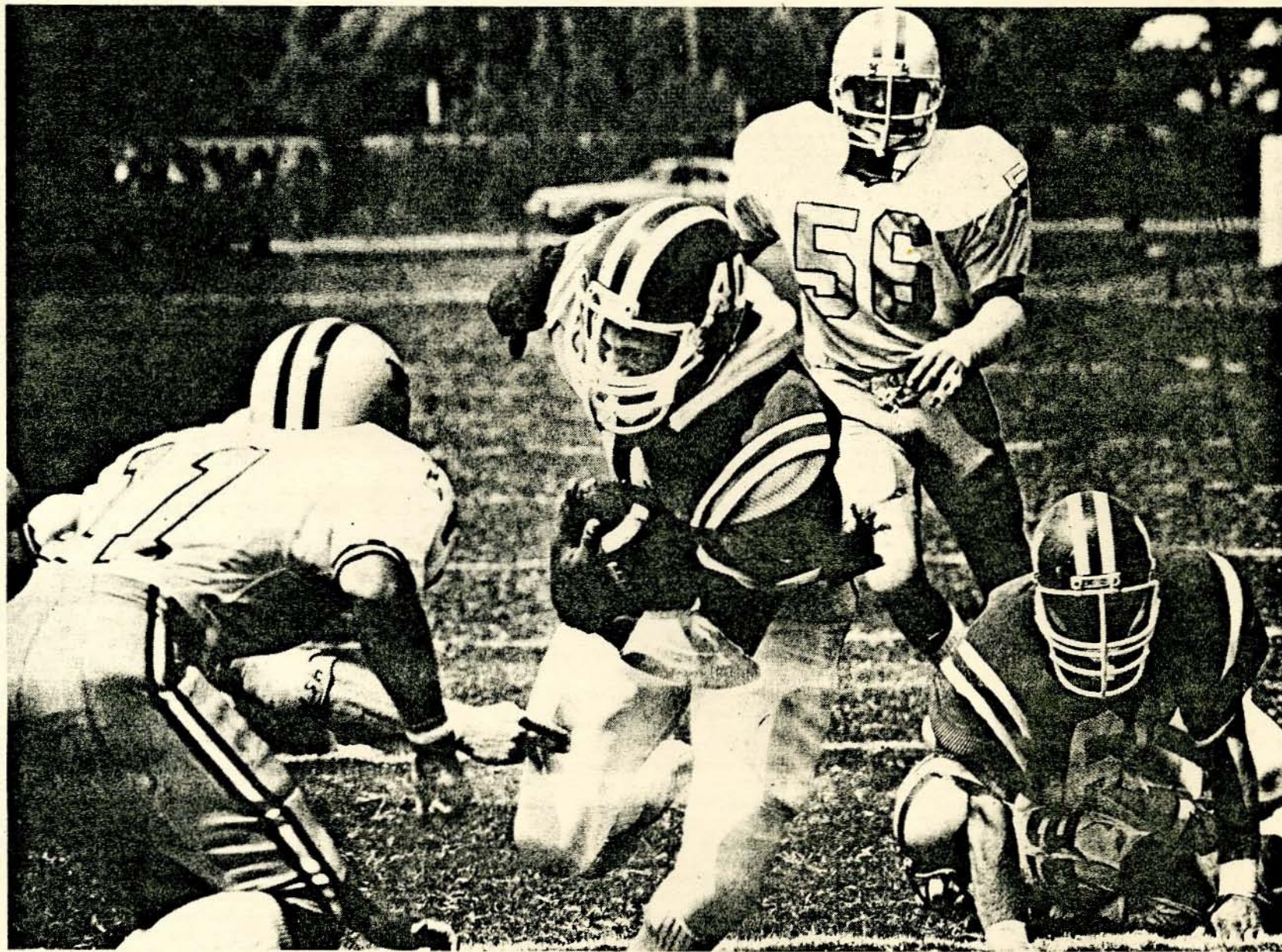


(Staff photo by Mark Workman)

Hall has a ball

WESTERN QUARTERBACK John Hall (18) prepares to deliver a pass while teammate Ricky Gwinn (88) blocks Evansville defender Brad Hooper (54) during

Saturday's game at Smith Stadium. Hall threw three touchdown passes to lead Western to a 40-18 victory.



Troy Snardon, 40, of Western Kentucky goes into the end zone for a score despite the soon-to-come hit of University of Evansville

defender Ray Streight, 11. The Hilltoppers won 40-18 in Bowling Green Saturday. It was the opener for both teams.

Gleaner photo by Chuck Stinnett

Tops to be tested Saturday

It seems safe to say that Western will get its first test of the football season Saturday against Kentucky State in Frankfort.

The Hilltoppers' first non-conference outing of the 1980 campaign was a 40-18 waltz past outclassed Evansville here over the weekend, and there were those of us who thought this week's trip to Frankfort might be another breather. But that was before the Thorobreds' trip over the weekend to Richmond, where Eastern's defending Division I-AA national champions apparently thought the same thing.

By the time Kentucky State had taken a stunning 21-13 lead early in the last quarter, the Colonels no doubt had changed their minds.

Eastern came back to win 24-21, with a 39-yard field goal by steady senior David Flores providing the margin of victory with less than two minutes to play. The Colonels had tied the game up with less than five minutes remaining when junior quarterback Chris Isaac hit Steve Bird with a three-yard scoring pass, and then connected with Jerry Parrish on a two-point conversion pass.

"I believe deep in my heart that the players underestimated Kentucky State," admitted Eastern coach Roy Kidd after the game. "I don't think the coaches did."

On the other hand, Western coach Jimmy Feix got to play everybody during Saturday's game at Smith Stadium that wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

In fact, the Hilltoppers wound up using 15 different running backs during the afternoon after piling up a comfortable 34-0 lead going into the fourth quarter. Evansville did do some damage behind quarterback John Vernasco in the last 15 minutes, but most of it came against Western's defensive reserves.

Feix was especially pleased that his second-team



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

defense got to see so much action, for obvious reasons. The unit includes only two non-freshmen, noseguard Morrell Moore and deep back David Suggs.

Feix is particularly high on his quartet of freshman linebackers—Paul Gray (6-2, 213) of Daviess County and Robert Ray (6-0, 201) of Nashville Stratford on the inside, along with Walter York (6-2, 200) of Warren Central and David Norwood (6-0, 195) of Louisville Iroquois on the outside.

Gray had been especially impressive during preseason drills, and looked the part again Saturday. He was always around the football, intercepting a pass and recovering a fumble.

* * *

Western punter Ray Farmer had a good day, kicking four times for an average of 46.5 yards, but Murray kicker David Tuck—the former Butler County standout—almost stole the show during the Racers' 19-6 season-opening win over Southeast Missouri on Saturday night.

Tuck does both the punting and placekicking for the Racers, and SEMO found out why the hard way. He averaged 44 yards on seven punts including a record-breaking 81-yarder that got Murray out of a deep hole, and drilled field goals of 37 and 30 yards.

Murray's defense limited the visitors from Cape Girardeau, Mo., to just 46 yards rushing, but highly-

touted quarterback Gino Gibbs had a less than auspicious debut. He hit on only three of nine passes for 74 yards.

In other games involving Ohio Valley Conference teams over the weekend, Akron rolled past Northeast Missouri 31-7 in a tuneup for this week's showdown with Eastern, Morehead fell apart in the second half and dropped a 35-8 decision to neighboring Marshall, and Middle Tennessee fell 36-0 on the road against Northern Alabama.

Akron begins OVC play at home against Eastern on Saturday night, and don't be surprised if the new kids on the block make some noise right away.

* * *

It figures to be a long, long weekend for followers of the Cats & Cards.

Kentucky was anything but impressive Saturday in Lexington, having to come from behind in the last period to defeat unheralded Utah State 17-10. Later in the evening, Louisville opened its first season under Bob Weber and dropped a 24-10 decision to visiting Miami of Florida.

Things won't get any easier for either club this weekend—UK travels to Oklahoma on Saturday, while UL plays a night game at Florida State.

It will be the season opener for the fifth-ranked Sooners, who return almost everybody from last year's potent wishbone offense that destroyed Florida State in the Orange Bowl. Meanwhile, Florida State may be better than last year's 11-1 outfit, if Saturday night's convincing 16-0 win at LSU is anything to go by.

Sports shorts

Hall player of week

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A two-time All-Ohio Valley Conference selection from Western Kentucky, quarterback John Hall, is picking up where he left off last year — throwing scoring strikes to Hilltopper receivers.

Hall, a 6-foot, 185 pound senior from Goodlettsville, Tenn., led Western Kentucky to a 40-18 nonconference victory Saturday over Evansville in the season opener for both teams.

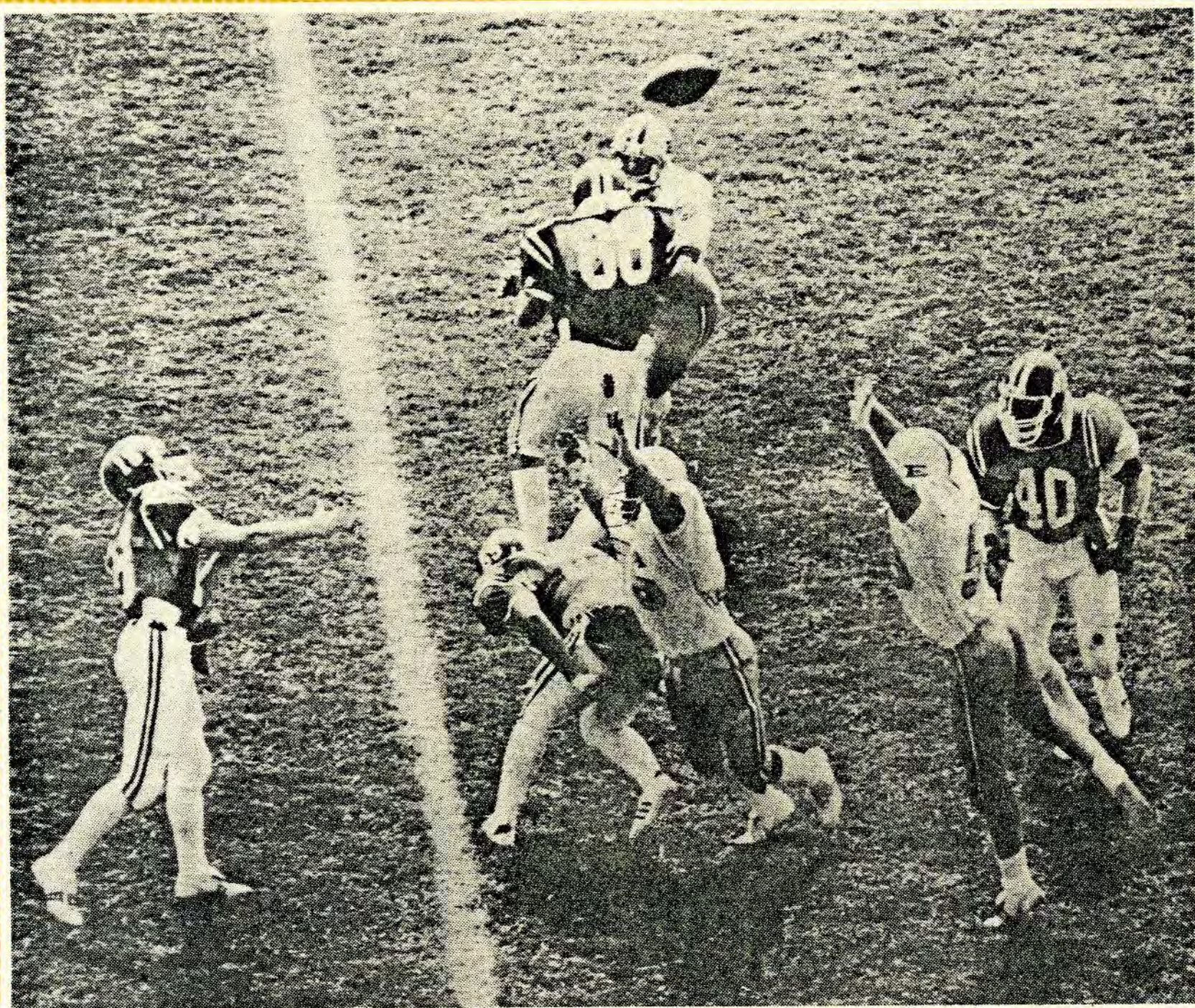
He completed eight of 11 passes for 258 yards and three touchdowns while playing only about half the contest. For his efforts, Hall has been named the OVC's first Offensive Player of the Week for the 1980 season.

His first touchdown pass of the day covered 71 yards and was caught by Ron Hunter. The second was a 30-yard aerial to tight end Ricky Gwinn and the third covered 47 yards to Jerry Flippin.

Hall was a preseason All-OVC selection and is bidding to become the first quarterback ever to be a first-team All-OVC pick three times.

Along the offensive line, Western Kentucky center Greg Gallas and Eastern Kentucky tackle Darryl Lawson were cited for their play in weekend contests.

The Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Week is selected by the league commissioner's office in Nashville.



IT'S "HALL" IN THE RELEASE—Western Kentucky quarterback John Hall (18) releases one of 11 passes he threw Saturday against Evansville in a 40-18 win by the Hilltoppers in the season opening game for both teams. Hall, last year's OVC offensive player of the year, completed eight of his throws for 258 yards and three touchdowns as coach Jimmy Feix's team led 34-0 before the Aces scored all of their points in the final quarter. Other identifiable WKU players include tight end Ricky Gwinn (85), tackle Steve Catlett (65) and fullback Troy Snardon (40). Western plays at Kentucky State this Saturday.

Murray defense, Western offense off on right track

By STAN SUTTON

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

For Murray State, the best part of the 1979 football season was the middle.

Despite a 9-2-1 year, the Racers lost their last outing, a 28-9 playoff game to Lehigh, and had a tie and a loss in their first three contests. But in between, Murray put eight games in the win column.

And, while there was suspicion that coach Mike Gottfried could walk on water, he always had gotten his feet wet in the season opener. In his debut at Murray two years ago, Gottfried's Racers lost 24-21 to Southeast Missouri. Last year, the eventual Ohio Valley Conference champions tied the same team 21-21.

So, when Murray beat the Cape Girardeau school 19-6 last Saturday night there was some extra rejoicing around campus. Still, Gottfried tempered his enthusiasm some yesterday.

"We played a decent football game, but we're by no means in midseason form," he said. "It was a close ballgame. I felt we did what we had to do when we had to do it. We got the big plays and the win. That's what matters."

Murray's veteran defensive unit, which twice held clubs to minus yardage in '79, was its old self Saturday. Southeast Missouri gained only 46 yards rushing, and its only points came on field goals. Even without injured star Terry Love, the Racers yielded only three yards rushing in the second half.

Love was replaced at safety by former cornerback Greg Evans, whose spot was filled by former tailback Lindsey Hudspeth. Hudspeth ran one play on offense, a one-yard touchdown plunge. And, despite more than a season away from defense, Hudspeth apparently has fit into the secondary. "Our defensive coach felt he played very well," Gottfried said. "Evans had a good ballgame; he's a good athlete."

With difficult games coming up against Youngstown State this Saturday and Louisville the next, Gottfried is concerned by a rash of injuries. He lost tailback Danny Lee Johnson before the season and lost Love only a few days before the opener. Both were former OVC Players of the Year.

Saturday's win may have cost him sophomore defensive guard Rick Posey for the season. Posey suffered an ankle injury Saturday. Another defensive guard in the wide-tackle six defense, Mike Watson, is considered doubtful for this week's game. "It's a day-to-day thing with Watson," Gott-

fried said of the senior's knee injury.

Murray's biggest question on offense was how well junior-college transfer Gino Gibbs would fit in at quarterback. Gibbs responded by throwing a 41-yard pass to Charles Ponder that set up the first touchdown in the opening quarter. In the final period Gibbs and Anthony Robbins combined for a 19-yard touchdown.

"I thought he did real well in his first appearance," Gottfried said.

Murray threw the ball only nine times, completing three. "I think we'll probably throw a little bit more," Gottfried said. "It depends upon what we have to do to win, but I think we'll probably open things up a bit."

Another bright spot for Murray State was sophomore kicker David Tuck, who had field goals of 37 and 30 yards and averaged 44.3 on seven punts. That included an 81-yarder that is a school and NCAA Division I-AA record.

In its 7:30 p.m. (CST) game Saturday at Roy Stewart Stadium, Murray will face the OVC's newest member. Youngstown State isn't eligible for the OVC football crown until next season, but the Penguins return 12 lettermen from a team that went 11-2 last year. Youngstown averaged 32 points a game and was over 45 points in four of its final five games.

Youngstown also advanced to the finals of the Division II playoff before losing to Delaware 38-21.

"I think they're going to be as strong a football team as we've played in the last couple of years," Gottfried said.

Murray also loses the advantage of having scouted its opponent, because Youngstown's opener is this week. "I think that's an advantage for them," Gottfried noted. "But we had an opportunity to get a lot of kinks out of the way in our first game."

Gottfried also noticed a near-capacity crowd of 15,000 fans Saturday night, almost double what Murray drew in his coaching debut two years ago. "It was a great crowd, and I think it makes a big difference in our play when we see the stadium that full," he said.

WESTERN KENTUCKY — In recent years opening day has not been kind to Western Kentucky. In 1979 the Hilltoppers lost to Tennessee-Chattanooga 41-28 in their first game. In '78 Chattanooga did a 42-15 tune on Western, and in '77 it was 27-3 Chattanooga. Before last Saturday's 40-18 victo-

See MURRAY
PAGE 5, col. 1, this section

Murray not in midseason form, yet

Continued from Page One

ry over Evansville, Western hadn't won its first game since 1975.

"It felt good," said Western coach Jimmy Feix after his team had run up a 40-0 lead over the overmatched Aces. "It's been awfully tough in the past. But, for a change we were healthy for an opener."

Feix especially was pleased with the play of All-OVC quarterback John Hall, who completed eight of 11 passes for 258 yards. For that Hall was named the OVC Offensive Player of the Week. "John had a tremendous game, and both (Jerry) Flippen and (Ron) Hunter had fine games," he said.

Tailback Nate Jones, who suffered a knee injury last year, pleased Feix in his return to action. Jones gained 79 yards in 10 carries and had a 30-yard touchdown run.

MOREHEAD STATE — Coach Tom Lichtenberg believed his Morehead team might have put up a better showing in its 35-8 loss to Marshall had the Eagles been able to start some momentum at some point in the game.

"We're such a young team that we've got to have a little momentum," he said. "Every time I turned around we either had fumbled or thrown an interception."

"A couple of calls could have gone our way that would have given us a little momentum. On the third play of the game we smacked a guy after he caught a pass, and I thought it was a fumble. Our kids got all excited and thought we had the ball. Then, on the next play the kid goes 18 yards. When you're not experienced little things get to you."

Morehead got another tough break when starting linebacker Rob Smith injured a knee on the game's first play. Then, on Morehead's first offensive play center Keith Watts hurt a shoulder. Smith is expected to be out of action three weeks, Watts two.

"Defensively, we played very well in the first half," Lichtenberg said. "We played most of the game backed up in our own territory. We played unemotionally. I was very disappointed."

EASTERN KENTUCKY — Defen-

sive back George Floyd is given a good chance of playing Saturday night in Eastern's OVC opener at Akron. A cut under Floyd's eye required three stitches after Eastern's 24-21 win over Kentucky State.

According to coach Roy Kidd, Floyd's eyeball also was scratched, but the stitches are expected to be removed Thursday.

Meanwhile, Kidd was hoping that Eastern's punting would improve before Saturday. He used two walk-ons, Steve Marionneaux and Steve Rowe. Between them they averaged 30.7 yards for seven kicks. Rowe, from Louisville Fairdale, had kicks of only 13 and 29 yards, while Marionneaux balanced out a 51-yarder with another of five yards.

"I was hoping Rowe would develop some consistency," Kidd said. "Sometimes in practice he can boom that thing. He's kicked it 60 yards and gotten it high, too."

"But the thing that really depressed me was the poor coverage on our kicks. The kids loafed down there a couple of times."



(Staff photo by Mark Workman)

Hot pursuit

TONY WELLS (54) of Western tries to run down Evansville quarterback John Vernasco (7) during last Saturday's game at Smith Stadium. The Hilltoppers

rolled up an easy 40-18 win in their season opener, but expect to get a stiff test from Kentucky State this weekend in Frankfort.

Daily News

PARK CITY



YEAR 126—NO. 220

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1980 100 PAGES 9 SECTIONS 50 CENTS

Topper defense shines in 30-8 win over KSU

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

FRANKFORT, Ky.—Western rolled to a surprisingly easy 30-8 over homestanding Kentucky State here Saturday, but an aroused Topper defense wanted more.

With the Thorobreds driving for a meaningless touchdown late in the game, Western coach Jimmy Feix started having trouble with his first-team defense that had played so well all afternoon before the near-capacity crowd of 5,400 at Alumni Stadium. That's because Western's second-team defense was on the field, while the first stringers were watching helplessly from the sidelines.

"They wanted that goose egg," smiled a sympathetic Feix. "They were begging me to let them go back in, but I told them to start worrying about Akron. This one was over."

It had been over for a long time, too. Western took control from the start and never let the upset-minded Thorobred think about pulling off the unexpected, although they had come painfully close in a 24-21 heartbreaker last week at Eastern.

Western finished with 403 total yards offense, with senior quarterback John Hall once again running the show with perfect precision. The two-time All-OVC quarterback hit on seven of 13 passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns, including one of the "That's Incredible" variety.

But that was almost expected. What was a pleasant surprise to Feix was the play of his defense, which stopped the Thorobreds cold while they were in the ballgame.

"After I saw we had it won late in the game," said Feix, "I said to myself 'The Big D' is back. They made the big plays all afternoon."

Kentucky State managed only 132 yards on the ground and 218 yards in all, with veteran coach Leroy Smith finding the going tough despite the obvious talents of alternating quarterbacks Charles Francis and Victor Rice. Rice had come off the bench to throw two touchdown passes against Eastern last week, but the two combined for only six completions in 21 tries against the Hilltoppers.

Perhaps knowing it was only a matter of time before someone asked him to compare Western and Eastern after the game, Smith beat everybody to the punch by volunteering the information.

"Western has a much stronger defense," said the KSU coach, "and they've got some good people at the skilled positions on offense. They got a lot of breaks today, but it takes a good football team to take advantage of them."

Kentucky State started getting the idea things might not go its way when Hilltopper Ray Farmer boomed a

57-yard punt all the way to the three-yard line. To make matters worse, Rod Hill fielded the ball and lost one yard to the two on the return.

That put the Thorobreds in the hole and set up Western's first score of the afternoon, a 21-yard field goal by Mike Curnutte with 2:23 left in the first quarter.

On the next to last play of the opening period, free safety Barry Bumm gave the Hilltoppers great field position by picking off a KSU pass near midfield. Just over three minutes into the second quarter, Hall capped the 48-yard march by hitting tight end Ricky Gwynn with a 13-yard scoring pass.

Following the kickoff, two plays in succession broke the Breds' backs. Backup quarterback Rice hit Darryl Cook with a 19-yard pass that would have gone for a touchdown had the receiver's momentum not carried him out-of-bounds, because Western cornerback Davlin Mullen had slipped and fallen on the play.

One play later, Mullen cashed in on his reprieve by recovering a fumble at the Western 44.

"I just tripped myself on the play before," noted Mullen, who was the defensive standout of the game. "It picked me up when I saw my man go out-of-bounds after catching the ball, and I was just in the right place at the right time on the next play when they fumbled."

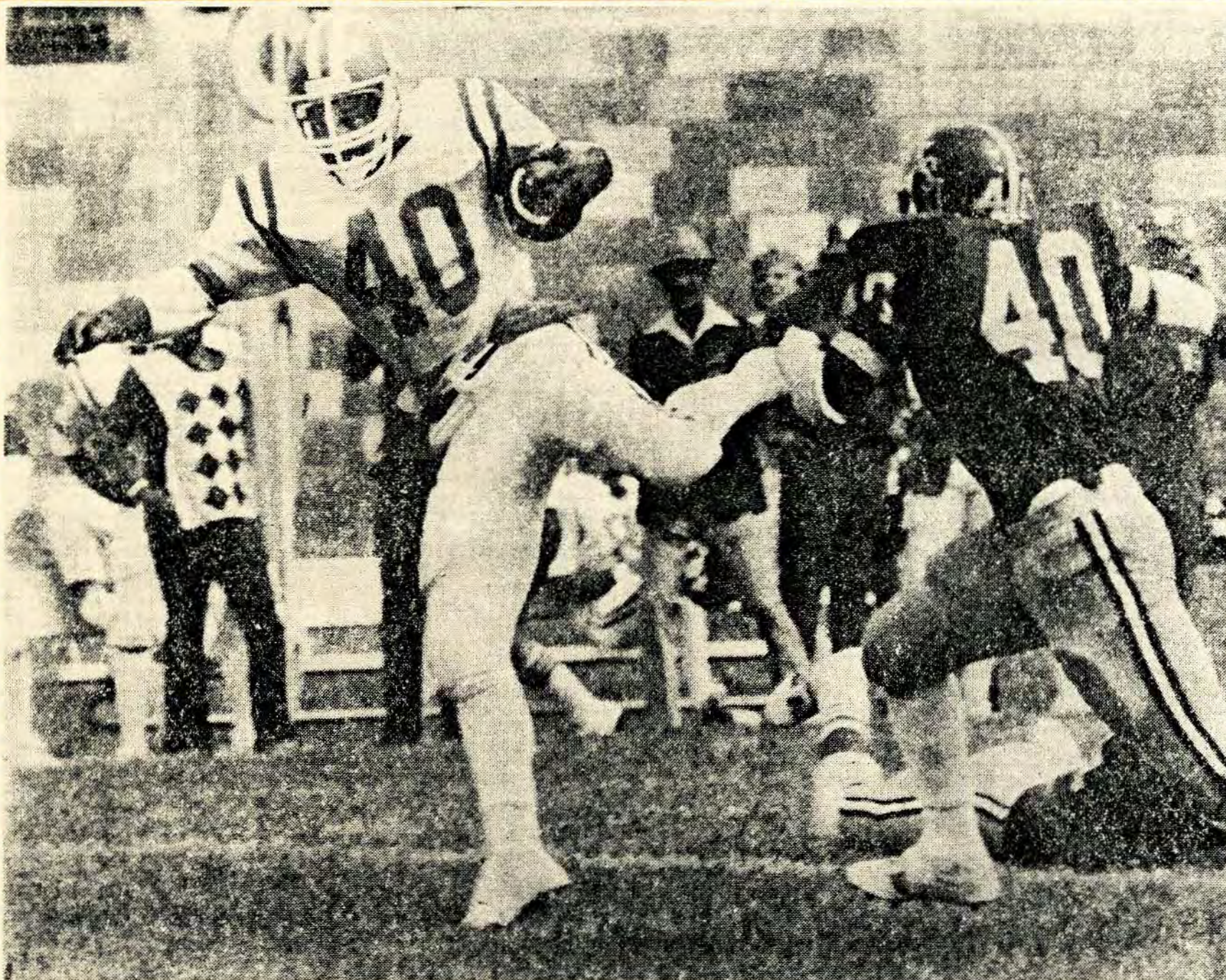
Mullen went on to set up the Hilltopper's next score with a punt return all the way back to the KSU 20, although it took a freak play to get the ball across the goal line. Reserve flanker John Newby got credit with the TD with 5:08 left in the half, recovering a fumbled pass reception by teammate Jerry Flippin in the end-zone.

A turnover at midfield set up the Hilltoppers' only score of the third quarter, a two-yard run by junior fullback Troy Snardon. However, the key play in the drive was a 24-yard strike from a scrambling Hall to flanker Ron Hunter on a desperate third-and-20 situation at the KSU 37.

Western's second-team offense put a score of its own on the board late in the game when sophomore Ralph Antone combined with tailback JoJo Lee on a 40-yard screen pass, and KSU finally got on the scoreboard with 29 seconds left when Henry Banks went in from one yard out against the Hilltopper reserves.

Western begins OVC action next Saturday night at Akron, putting a 2-0 mark overall on the line against the Zips.

W. Kentucky Kentucky St.	..3 13 7 7-30 ..0 0 0 8-8	KSU - Banks 1 run (Clark pass from Rice)		
WKU - FG Curnutte 21		First downs	20	13
WKU - Gwinn 18 pass from Hall (Curnutte kick)		Rushes yards	56-227	41-132
WKU (kick blocked)		Passing yards	156	86
		Return yards	155	22
		Passes	17-8-1	21-6-3
WKU - Snardon 2 run (Curnutte kick)		Punts	5-48	6-42
WKU - Lee 40 pass from Antone (Fish back kick)		Fumbles lost	1-0	4-2
		Penalties yards	10-111	10-106



Staff Photos by Keith Williams

Western Kentucky fullback Troy Snardon broke away from a tackle for a long run in the first quarter of yesterday's game against

Kentucky State. Henry Williams of Kentucky State chased Snardon, who ran for 84 yards in Western's 30-8 victory.

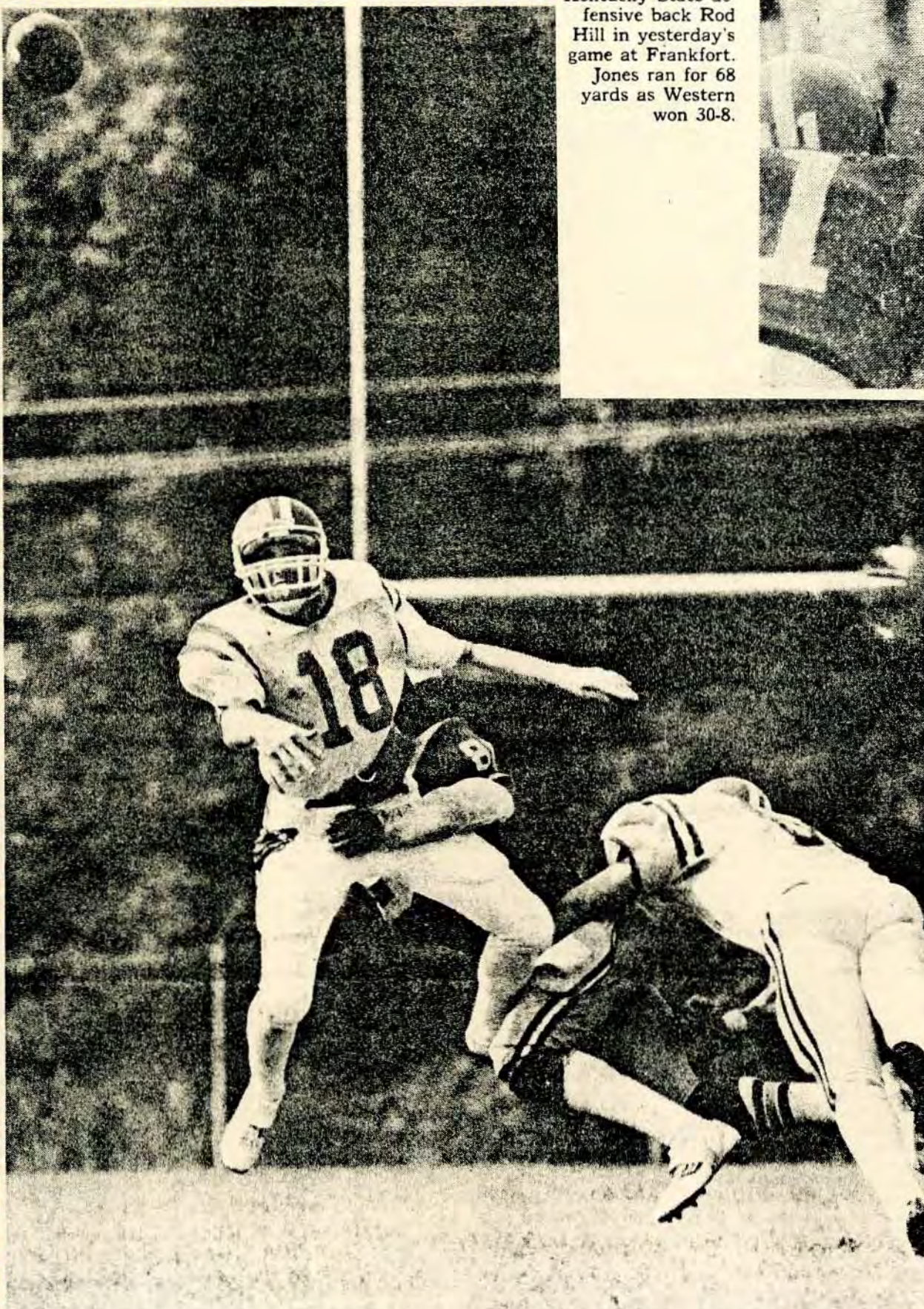


Staff Photo by Keith Williams

Kentucky State flanker Darryl Cook was knocked off his feet by Western Kentucky's Da-

vid Mullen on a second-quarter pass play yesterday. K-State managed only 86 yards passing.

Nate Jones (43) of Western Kentucky tried to fend off Kentucky State defensive back Rod Hill in yesterday's game at Frankfort. Jones ran for 68 yards as Western won 30-8.



Herald-Leader/E. Martin Jessee

K-State's Damon Randolph slams into Western's John Hall (18) as the latter passes

Mullen is OVC defender of week

Davlin Mullen is hoping to pay folks back with interest.

Last year as an inexperienced freshman, the defensive back from Clairton, Pa., was suddenly thrust into Western's starting lineup when former All-Ohio Valley Conference performer Carl Brazley went on the injured list. The results were disastrous, with Mullen being exploited by the opposition especially early in the season.

There were times a year ago, in fact, when it looked like the Hilltoppers had left their pass defense in the locker room.

But no more. Kentucky State—you know, the guys expected to give Western its first test of the 1980 season the past weekend at Frankfort—managed only six completions in 21 attempts during the Hilltoppers' convincing 30-8 victory, and Mullen was the biggest fly in the Thorobreds' ointment.

"Davlin had a great

game," said Western coach Jimmy Feix. "We review the films and give out our weekly awards every Sunday night, and it just about turned into Davlin Mullen night. He got defensive back of the week, defensive player of the week and specialty teams player of the week."

What Feix didn't know until early today was that Mullen also wound up being named the OVC's defensive player of the week, thanks to his busy day in Frankfort—three tackles, four assists, two quarterback sacks, two pass deflections, an interception and a fumble recovery.

"No, I hadn't heard," said Feix. "Well, that's great. That makes us two-for-two."

The veteran head coach was referring to the fact that last week's offensive player of the week in the OVC was senior quarterback John Hall, who picked Evansville's



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

defenses apart during a 40-18 Western victory in the season opener.

"Davlin went through the school of hard knocks a year ago," noted Feix, "and I guess people are still thinking they can pick on him. We had heard that Kentucky State's scouting report said to stay away from our other cornerback (Lamont) Meacham, so they turned Mullen into the player of the week."

A little luck never hurts, either. Mullen slipped and fell to the ground on one KSU pass play early in the second quarter, leaving receiver Darryl Cook of the Thorobreds a wide open

field ahead of him.

Cook did catch the pass from Victor Rice for a 19-yard gain, but his momentum carried him out of bounds near midfield. KSU running back Wilbur Dunn fumbled the ball on the very next play, and—as fate would have it—Mullen made the recovery for the Hilltoppers.

* * *

Hall is closing in on all sorts of career records held by former Western quarterback greats.

The four-year starter from White House, Tenn., completed seven of 13 passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns while he was in

the game Saturday, giving him a total of 256 career completions to tie Feix for third place in the all-time standings.

Johnny Vance holds the school record for career completions with 289, followed by Leo Peckenpaugh with 283.

Meanwhile, Hall moved into sole possession of third place in career touchdown passes with 29. He passed Vance's career total of 28 on Saturday, and now trails only Peckenpaugh at 35 and Feix at 29.

The touchdown pass that put Hall ahead of Vance was a bit tainted, but it counted nonetheless. Late in the first half on a second down at the KSU 20, Hall found split end Jerry Flippin streaking across the middle of the field and hit him at about the five-yard line.

Flippin fumbled the ball away while straining to reach the goal line, but teammate John Newby made the recovery in the

end zone for the touchdown.

According to NCAA guidelines, Hall got credit for a touchdown pass even though his actual receiver fumbled the ball away. And for the record, Newby's stats for the game were zero receptions for zero yards ... and one touchdown.

* * *

Going into Saturday night's Western-Akron game at the Rubber Bowl, the two teams rank 1-2 in the OVC in total offense.

Western leads the league with an average of 450.5 yards per contest, including 204.0 yards per game on the ground and 246.5 yards per game in the air. Akron is next with 312.5 yards per outing, most of it (201.5) coming on the ground.

The Zips wasted little time making their presence felt in the OVC, knocking off Eastern's defending Division I-AA national champions 21-10 over the weekend behind the running of workhorse Dennis

Brumfield. The Akron running back carried the ball a league record 44 times for 186 yards in the win over Eastern, which wasn't as much of an upset as some would think.

In fact, the real surprises in games involving OVC teams over the weekend took place at Martin and Cookeville, Tenn.

Austin Peay, hoping to field its strongest team since its league championship squad of 1977, dropped a disappointing 24-20 decision at UT-Martin, while Tennessee Tech ambushed visiting Western Carolina 26-10 to equal its win total of a year ago.

In other games involving OVC teams the past weekend, Murray ran its record to 2-0 with an impressive 24-6 thumping of Division II power Youngstown, Morehead outlasted James Madison 21-18 and Middle Tennessee dropped a 32-7 decision to UT-Chattanooga.

Offense Leaves Kidd In the Dark



Lexington Herald/E. Martin Jessee

Western's Barry Bumm (19) is greeted by his teammates after intercepting a Kentucky State pass last weekend

By Mike Johnson
Assistant Sports Editor

Some notes, quotes and ruminations after week No. 2 in Kentucky college football:

In the 16 years he has been coaching at Eastern Kentucky, Roy Kidd has never been through a night like the one he had Saturday at Akron.

Playing in the rain, with severe thunder and lightning crackling around Akron's 35,000-seat Rubber Bowl, Eastern lost 21-10 in Akron's first official game in the Ohio Valley Conference. The lights went out on Eastern in the third quarter — literally.

The lightning knocked out the stadium lights with just over two minutes left in the third quarter with Akron facing a third-and-seven at the Eastern 8. After a 24-minute delay in the dark, power was restored and Akron immediately scored its clinching touchdown on a pass from Tom Freeman to Pat Snow.

"I've never had that happen before," Kidd said. "We played a game in some real heavy rain down at Middle Tennessee a few years ago, but never in lightning like that. I never had the lights go out on us."

Kidd was much more concerned about Eastern's lack of offensive power. The Eastern offense not only bogged down on the soggy field after jumping in front 10-0, but made two crucial mistakes that led to Akron touchdowns.

"We just about beat ourselves," Kidd said. "We got a 10-0 lead and then we threw an interception and fumbled a pitch out that gave them two touchdowns."

"Then on the two touchdown passes they threw our defensive back slipped and fell. It was raining, but their kids didn't slip and fall, just ours."

Eastern quarterback Chris Isaac continued to have problems with his passing game. He completed just one of 12 attempts against Akron for a grand total of 1 yard.

"It seems to me that Chris is just trying too hard," Kidd said. "He's got to loosen up some. He's afraid that he's gonna make a mistake so he's trying to guide the ball everytime he throws it. He's got to forget about that kind of stuff and just let it go."

"I'm not gonna give up on the kid. We've got confidence in him and

we want to show him that we believe he can do it. We didn't play well on offense last year either until the third or fourth game. Our defense carried us until then."

"It's not just the quarterback that's making mistakes, either. We've missed blocking assignments and fumbled in key situations. We just haven't put it all together. It takes 11 people to move the ball."

However, Kidd did admit that he will give sophomore quarterback Tuck Woolum a long look this week.

"We put Woolum in late against Akron and he did a pretty good job under the conditions," Kidd said. "I think we're gonna work Isaac and Woolum both with the first team this week and see how things go."

Although he was impressed with Akron, especially Dennis Brumfield, who rushed for 186 yards on 44 carries, Kidd doesn't think the Zips will win the Ohio Valley Conference.

"I'd be surprised if they can beat Western," he said, "and I don't think they're as good as Murray. They're a good solid team, though, and they won't beat themselves. That guy (Brumfield) carried the ball 44 times and he didn't fumble it until late in fourth quarter. That's a pretty good night's work."

Western Kentucky coach Jimmy Feix has a lot of reasons to

smile these days. Western is 2-0 and averaging 25 points a game.

"So far, so good," Feix said. "It's going a lot better than it did last year. We were 0-2 instead of 2-0. We played UT-Chattanooga and Lamar last year in our first two games and they were a little out of our league. We're a little better team this year, too."

Western has also managed to stay healthy for a change. Last year the Hilltoppers were decimated by injuries and finished the season 5-5.

"I really can't remember the last time we've been in this good a shape," Feix said. "That's a real key in our league, too. The teams that stay healthy are the ones that win."

Feix insists, however, that Murray State and Akron are the teams to beat in the OVC, not Western.

"Murray and Akron have the potential to go undefeated in the conference," Feix said. "I've got to give Murray the edge, though, if they stay healthy. There's not many people that can beat them with their talent. They get to play Akron at their place, too."

Western, which began playing football in 1914, needs to score only nine points to reach the 10,000 plateau.

Last season, when Morehead

State lost to James Madison 16-3, the Eagles had a minus 1-yard passing. Saturday when Morehead beat James Madison 22-18 at Jayne Stadium, sophomore quarterback Don Reeves threw for 222 yards and two touchdowns.

That was quite a revival for Reeves, who suffered through a miserable afternoon in Morehead's 35-3 season-opening loss to Marshall. In that game, Reeves completed just one of 11 passes for three yards with two interceptions.

"He was crying after that Marshall game because he felt like he'd let the team down," said Morehead coach Tom Lichtenberg. "He had a lot of pressure on him, but he came back and got the job done."

Morehead played like a completely different team against James Madison.

"Enthusiasm was the difference," Lichtenberg said. "We got behind 10-0 and the kids just made up their minds to come back. That shows you something. We're still young and we're still gonna make mistakes, but we're getting better."

Murray State is 2-0 but the Racers have been troubled by some injury problems.

Tailback Danny Lee Johnson, the OVC offensive player of the year two

seasons ago, will miss the entire season. Terry Love, the OVC's defensive player of the year last season, has yet to play because of an ankle injury. He will miss at least two more weeks.

Now, Murray has defensive guard Rick Posey (ankle), defensive guard Mike Watson (knee) and running back Jeff Tarrence (knee) on the sidelines.

Still, Murray has played defense with vengeance. In Saturday's 24-6 victory over Youngstown State, the Racers intercepted a pass for a touchdown and blocked a punt to score another touchdown.

Kentucky State defensive end Harold Smith suffered an elbow injury in Saturday's loss to Western and played only sparingly in the second half. However, Smith is expected to play this week against Hillsdale College.

K-State coach LeRoy Smith artfully dodged any comparisons between Eastern and Western.

"They're different football teams," Smith said. "Maybe Eastern had the first game jitters when they played us. Scores don't mean that much."

"If you compare scores, it looks like Western is the better team. Nobody knows that, though. We'll find out who's the best when they play."

Kidd rates Akron as solid, but below Western, Murray

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Roy Kidd's remark yesterday was reminiscent of the one made by Vince Lombardi after Super Bowl I, when he said the Kansas City Chiefs couldn't beat the Baltimore Colts or the Los Angeles Rams.

On that occasion, the Chiefs were an unknown element out of the American Football League, about to enter the National Football League represented by Lombardi's Green Bay Packers. Everyone wondered how well the new guys on the block would do.

Akron is the new guy this season in the Ohio Valley Conference, and everyone was wondering if Akron was out of its league — or, as some coaches probably feared, if the OVC was out of Akron's league. Jimmy Feix, the Western Kentucky coach, shudders at the mere mention of the Rubber City. He's played Akron six times and hasn't won yet.

After Saturday's victory over Kentucky State, Feix asked if anyone had heard the Akron-Eastern Kentucky score. Since the game didn't start for another three hours, Feix's anxiety was obvious. Western plays at Akron again next Saturday, and its coach was looking for a quick comparison.

When Feix heard the news, it was not good. Akron, playing its first conference game, beat national Division I-AA defending champion Eastern 21-10.

Kidd, who coaches Eastern, spent much of yesterday answering questions about Akron. "They're not bad," he said. "I think they've got a good, sound team. But I believe we'll find that Western and Murray are better."

Whew! You almost could hear the sigh of relief from Bowling Green.

Eastern could, perhaps *should*, have won the game, according to Kidd. The Colonels took a 10-0 lead on a 51-yard run by tailback Alvin Miller and a 30-yard field goal by David Flores. However, the Zips recovered with a 26-yard touchdown pass from Tom Freeman to Pat Snow on which the Eastern defender fell.

After Akron had gone ahead 14-10, Freeman, Snow and the slippery turf combined for Akron's final touchdown in the third quarter. Again, the pass defender fell.

Otherwise, Kidd saw things he liked from his defense, much of which he

had rebuilt from Eastern's championship team. "Except for those passes, we were making things happen. I thought our defense got after them pretty good Saturday, but you can't fall down and let them make touchdown passes," Kidd said.

Akron was not a razzle-dazzle club against Eastern. "They're not fancy, and they don't make mistakes," Kidd said. "They had a back named Dennis Brumfield who carried 44 times, and he didn't fumble until near the end of the game. Their offensive line comes off the ball real well, and their backs run hard and come right at you, but they're not any bigger than other teams in our league."

On offense, where most of last year's starters returned, Eastern has been disappointing at times, especially in the second half Saturday, when it accumulated only four first downs.

"We're not throwing the ball real good, and we have worked harder on our passing game than we have in a long time," Kidd said.

Since Eastern's quarterback is Chris Isaac, a reserve last year, Kidd was asked if the fault rested with Isaac.

"Yes, basically it's him," Kidd said. "He's in too big a hurry, he's not getting his feet set, he's playing like he's afraid of making a mistake. But, we've got complete confidence in him."

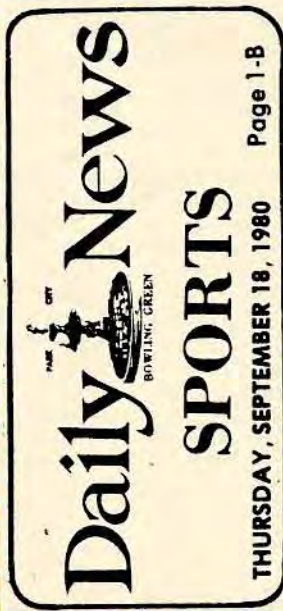
Confidence or not, Isaac was on the bench in the fourth quarter Saturday while sophomore Tuck Woolum played quarterback. "He came in at a time when we had to throw the ball," Kidd said. "It was raining, but he didn't do a bad job. He did misread the coverage on one pass, and it was intercepted."

One of Kidd's biggest worries at the start of the season was keeping Isaac healthy, because the coach didn't believe he had an adequate backup. "Woolum was overweight last spring, and he had a bad spring practice," Kidd said. "And he didn't play in the opener because he had a sore shoulder."

"I'm going to work them both this week. Whichever one has the best practices probably will get to start Saturday. I'd like to have Chris come along, because he's got a lot of ability."

Woolum completed four of 12 attempts for 53 yards in the game, but Isaac was only one for nine for two yards with an interception. Isaac is seven for 20 for 81 yards and one touchdown for the season.

Tone b- HPC nicks nt



On the strength of its impressive romp past Kentucky State a week ago, Western has been established as a one-point favorite in Saturday night's Ohio Valley Conference opener at Akron by the Hanes Rating System.

Western was expected to get its first stiff test of the young season last week at Frankfort, but the Hilltoppers rolled to a convincing 30-8 victory.

Meanwhile, Akron wasn't exactly playing checkers to pass the time. The Zips—in their first season of OVC competition—kicked off the league portion of their schedule last Saturday night with a rousing 21-10 win over Eastern's defending Division I-AA national champions, raising their overall record to 2-0.

Western will also take a 2-0 mark in Saturday night's 6:30 contest at the Rubber Bowl, where most of 35,000 seats are expected to be filled for the early-season shootout.

In case you've already forgotten, the HRS correctly forecast the Zips' win over Eastern. But games involving other OVC teams were the system's downfall by and large, with no less than four league teams going against the grain.

Murray, Morehead and Tennessee Tech all won when they knew better last weekend, while Austin Peay was a disappointing 24-20 loser to UT-Martin.

Other than that, it was a banner weekend for the HRS with a couple of near-perfect picks. Our crystal ball



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

called for Oklahoma to down Kentucky 28-6 and the final was 29-7, while Maryland's 31-6 win over Vanderbilt had been predicted as 31-3 two days before.

Overall, the forecast was good for a 33-11-1 mark (.750) and left the HRS with a .789 percentage over the first two weeks of the season. But the Hoople forecast outpicked us in two of the three "contested" games, and sports a slim 4-3 lead going into this weekend.

The HRS differs with the Major's forecast this week by picking Murray over Louisville, LSU over Colorado, Maryland over West Virginia, Virginia over North Carolina State and UCLA over Purdue.

On to the forecast:

OVC

Western 21, Akron 20: Eastern coach Roy Kidd would hate to think he's doing Western any favors, but the Colonels left a few lumps on Kentucky State despite having to come from behind to win 24-21 two weeks ago. Don't be surprised if Akron has a few bumps and bruises, too.

Murray 17, UL 10: The Cardinals are finally seeking their own level after back-to-back losses to major powers Miami and Florida State, but Murray will give them a rude reception at Fairgrounds Stadium.

Other games:

Eastern 21, Youngstown 13

Tennessee Tech 27, Northeast Mo. 7

Austin Peay 20, James Madison 7

Tops hoping to end Akron jinx

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Going into the 1980 football season, Western ranked fifth among the nation's Division I-AA powers in all-time winning percentage...no thanks to Akron.

The Hilltoppers took a 61-year record of 330 wins, 186 losses and 28 ties into the current season, good for a flashy .632 percentage, but those figures drop all the way to .000 against Akron. In six meetings between the two teams since 1965, the Hilltoppers show an 0-4-2 mark.

"We haven't had a whole lot of success against Akron in the past," noted Western coach Jimmy Feix. "We'd like nothing better than to go up there and win our first one against those folks—particularly now that the game is so crucial in our conference race."

Akron is competing for the Ohio Valley Conference title for the first time this fall, and kicked off its quest for league honors last Saturday night with an impressive 21-10 win over Eastern's defending Division I-AA national champs.

The Zips are hoping to repeat that performance Saturday night (6:30 p.m. CDT) in the Rubber Bowl, where a near-capacity crowd of 35,000 is expected for the early-season showdown of OVC contenders. Both teams bring 2-0 records into the contest, with Western still waiting to be tested after easy wins over Evansville (40-18) and Kentucky State (30-8).

"We must get our feet back on the ground," said Akron coach Jim Dennison, "but there's no question that our win over Eastern was a big one—our first in the OVC."



Daily News

SPORTS

Page 6-A

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1980

The week before, Akron had opened its 1980 campaign with a 31-7 romp past Northeast Missouri that left Dennison unimpressed despite the lopsided score. But after the Zips' big win over Eastern the past weekend, he was all smiles.

"We showed definite improvement over our initial performance of the season," he said. "Our work habits and concentration were very good, and we'll need a similar performance against Western this Saturday night."

Western, meanwhile, would probably settle for a performance similar to last week's Kentucky State game. It was supposed to be the Hilltoppers' first test of the young season, but Western dominated every phase of the game and shut out the Thorobreds until the final 30 seconds.

Senior quarterback John Hall completed seven of 13 passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns, giving him five scoring passes after only two

games, while junior fullback Troy Snardon turned in the best game of his career with 84 yards on 17 carries including a 17-yard touchdown run.

KSU had battled Eastern to the wire before dropping a 24-21 decision the week before.

"We've been playing well and we're going to give it our best shot Saturday night," said Feix, "but that Rubber Bowl is a tough place to play. We'll need to be 100 percent mentally and physically. A team just doesn't beat an outfit like Eastern 21-10 without a lot of talent."

Most teams don't beat Eastern by running right over them, either, but that's exactly what the Zips did last week. Junior tailback Dennis Brumfield (6-0, 205) carried the ball 44 times (an OVC record) for 186 yards, breaking the old mark of 43 carries by Alfred Thompson of Eastern against Morehead in 1973.

Eastern jumped out to an early 10-0 lead in the

game, but Akron roared back with two second-quarter touchdowns set up by an interception and a fumble recovery.

Dennison expects the Zips' defense to be severely tested by a Western offense that has piled up 901 yards in two games, although he doesn't necessarily think the Hilltoppers' passing game will make or break either team. Instead, he thinks a key will be stopping Snardon and tailback Nate Jones on the ground.

"A lot of people think that since Hall is such an excellent passer that we must be ready for an aerial barrage," he explained. "I disagree. First, we must stop the run. If we don't, we'll be in for a long evening."

In other games involving OVC teams this weekend, Murray gets a shot at Louisville, Eastern entertains Youngstown State, Austin Peay hosts James Madison and Tennessee Tech travels to Northeast Missouri.

While Western and Akron take care of some league business, Murray has a chance to earn some prestige for the Division I-AA conference when the Racers visit Division I-A foe Louisville, 0-2. Murray comes to the game off a 24-6 win over Youngstown that featured a pair of touchdowns by the Racers' league-leading defense.

Louisville, meanwhile, will attempt to pick up the pieces from last week's 52-0 rout at Florida State.

For those who might think that "major college" Louisville should win routinely, it would be wise to refer back to Louisville's last brush with the OVC. Western Kentucky invaded back in 1975 and dispatched the Cardinals 21-17.

Louisville last met Murray in 1960, when the Cards won 12-6 to take a 7-5 margin in the series.

Akron wants 'Ohio' in OVC

Associated Press

Akron has a chance this weekend to put Ohio back into the Ohio Valley Conference football race.

For years, the OVC has been a Kentucky affair with Eastern, Western and Murray taking turns wearing the league's football crown. But Akron, in its first year of league competition, has a chance to change that state of affairs Saturday night when the unbeaten Zips entertain Western.

The Western-Akron game is the only conference contest Saturday. In

OVC roundup

other games, Murray, 2-0, is at Louisville, Eastern, 1-1, entertains Youngstown, Tennessee Tech, 1-0, is at Northeast Missouri, and Austin Peay, 0-1, hosts James Madison. Morehead, 1-1, and Middle Tennessee, 0-2, are idle.

The unwritten rule in the OVC has been that any team with title aspirations must dispose of Eastern and Western. Akron took care of the

Colonels with a 21-10 victory last weekend, but the Zips might find things a bit more difficult against Western, simply because WKU coach Jimmy Feix knows what to expect.

"We have to blunt their aggressive offense, play with a great deal of consistency and play hard-nosed football," said Feix.

The key for Western will be the effectiveness of quarterback John Hall, who has thrown for five touchdowns so far. He had two TD tosses in last week's victory over Kentucky State.

The starters...

★ Western ★

OFFENSE ("I")

Pos.—Player (No.)	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB—John Hall (18)	6-0	185	Sr.
TB—Nate Jones (43)	5-10	185	Sr.
FB—Troy Sardon (40)	6-0	205	Jr.
F—Ron Hunter (86)	5-11	185	So.
SE—Jerry Flippin (82)	5-8	165	Jr.
TE—Ricky Gwinn (88)	6-2	220	Sr.
T—Phil Rich (70)	6-4	260	Sr.
G—Pete Walters (68)	6-3	255	Sr.
C—Greg Gallas (55)	6-1	225	Jr.
G—Mark Blackburn (64)	5-10	215	Jr.
T—Steve Catlett (65)	6-1	230	So.

DEFENSE (3-4-4)

T—Tim Ford (80)	6-4	245	Jr.
NG—Tony Wells (54)	5-9	195	Jr.
T—Donnie Evans (50)	6-4	240	Jr.
ILB—Bryan Gray (58)	5-11	200	Sr.
ILB—Tom Tussey (53)	5-11	210	So.
OLB—Brad Todd (85)	6-2	215	Sr.
OLB—Greg Barnes (32)	6-1	195	So.
CB—Lamont Meacham (28)	6-0	170	Jr.
CB—Davlin Mullen (20)	6-1	170	So.
SS—Reginald Johnson (37)	6-2	205	So.
FS—Barry Bumm (19)	6-0	175	Jr.

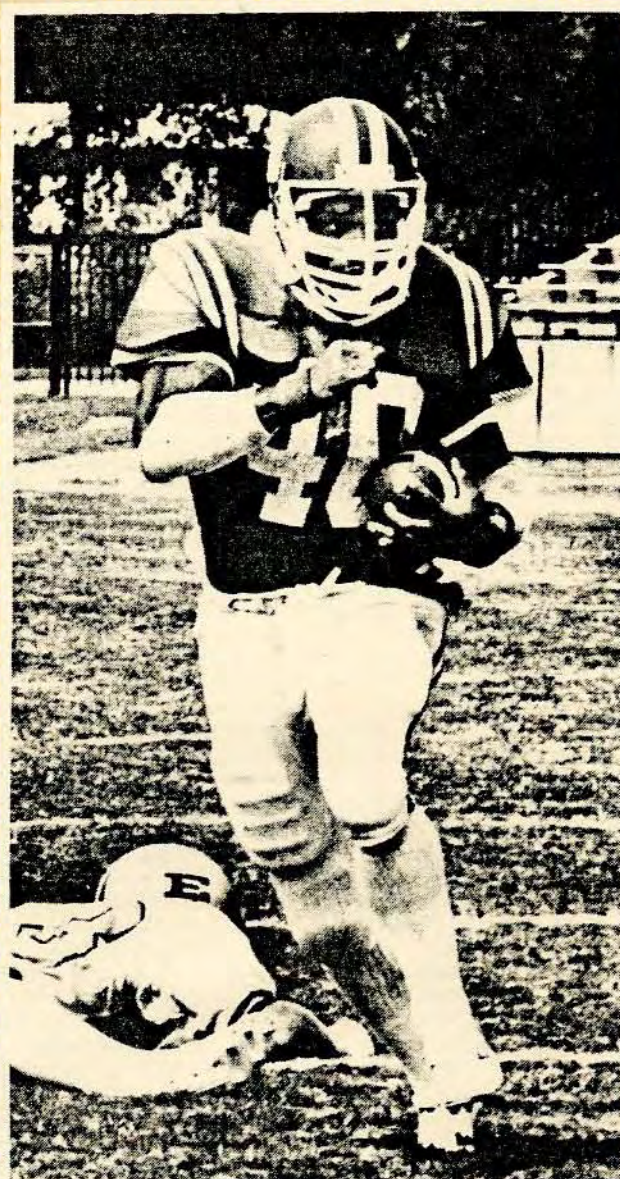
★ Akron ★

OFFENSE ("I")

Pos.—Player (No.)	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB—Tom Freeman (7)	6-3	200	Jr.
TB—Dennis Brumfield (22)	6-0	205	Jr.
FB—Jim Lechlitter (39)	6-1	220	So.
F—Pat Snow (15)	6-1	170	Jr.
SE—Steve Popovich (6)	6-0	175	Sr.
TE—Bruce Bigach (86)	6-4	220	Jr.
T—Mike Voight (70)	6-2	230	Sr.
G—Ed Szabo (63)	6-2	220	Sr.
C—Juan Pope (59)	6-2	225	Sr.
G—Reece Peery (61)	6-3	235	So.
T—Don Schutz (72)	6-5	252	Jr.

DEFENSE (3-4-4)

T—Scott Miller (73)	6-1	245	Jr.
NG—Jim Tawse (94)	6-2	235	Sr.
T—Joe Myers (95)	6-3	235	So.
OLB—Bob Baumbick (83)	6-1	220	Jr.
OLB—Jamie Warburton (64)	6-3	200	Jr.
ILB—Brad Reece (38)	6-2	225	Jr.
ILB—Tony Philpott (56)	6-1	195	So.
CB—Roosevelt Jewells (23)	5-11	185	Jr.
CB—Mark Padrutt (20)	5-11	175	Sr.
SS—Keith Anderson (1)	5-10	165	Sr.
FS—Rick Holman (9)	5-11	165	Sr.



(Staff photo by Mark Workman)

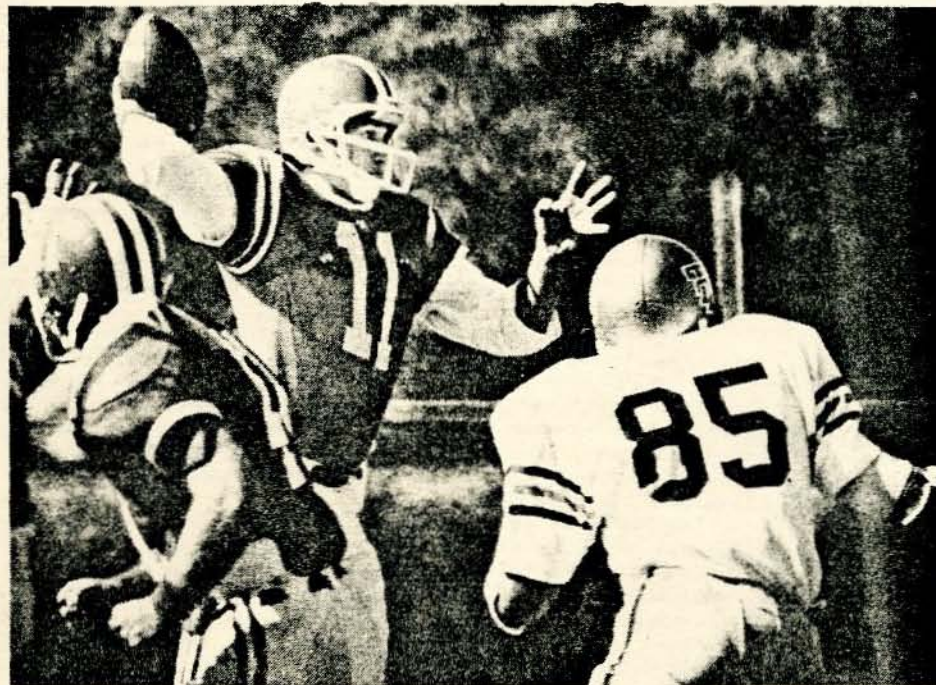
Gaining ground

TROY SARDON (40) of Western breaks loose for big yardage during the Hilltoppers' 40-18 romp past Evansville here two weeks ago. The junior fullback also was the leading rusher in last week's 30-8 win at Kentucky State, picking up 84 yards on 17 carries.



All-OVC performer

JOHN HALL (18), shown here sidestepping a would-be tackler, is hoping to become the first three-time All-Ohio Valley Conference quarterback in the history of the league this fall. Hall was the OVC offensive player of the year in 1979.



Talent in reserve

RALPH ANTONE (11) saw only limited action at quarterback for Western last season as a redshirt freshman, but the highly-touted signal-caller from McMurray, Pa., is expected to be in the thick of the battle for the starting job this fall.

Western at Akron

Time: 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

Location: Rubber Bowl, Akron, Ohio.

Coaches: Jimmy Feix, Western; Jim Dennison, Akron.

Records: Western 2-0; Akron 2-0.

Radio: WBGN, 1340; WKCT, 930; WDMS-FM, 98.5

Notes: Western has been impressive in its first two games, scoring 70 points and averaging 450.5 yards. Quarterback John Hall ranks second in the OVC in passing, with 374 yards and five touchdowns. Akron stands second in the conference in total offense, averaging 26 points and 312.5 yards a game. The Zips have the league's top rusher in Dennis Brumfield, who has gained 287 yards in two games. Brumfield set an OVC record last week against Eastern with 44 carries for 186 yards.



Youngstown's Narduzzi expects no relief while facing Eastern

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Bill Narduzzi sat at his desk, looking at a drawing of a beaten-up old football, replete with bandages, that hung on his wall. The lettering below it read: "Ohio Valley Conference. We compete in a tough league."

"Boy, did we find that out," Narduzzi said with a laugh.

As a former assistant coach at the University of Kentucky, Narduzzi knew what he was getting into when his Youngstown State team was admitted to the OVC last summer. Then, Murray State confirmed his fears last Saturday by belting Youngstown 24-6 in the Ohio team's opener.

At 2 p.m. EDT today, Youngstown plays at Eastern Kentucky. "I hate to think that we're going against a team that finished second in the league and was national champion," Narduzzi said. "It doesn't sound like it's going to get any easier."

Eastern lost last week at Akron 21-10, but Narduzzi still worries. "We looked at their film against Akron. Coach (Eastern's Roy) Kidd spoke to our news conference by telephone and made a statement that I have to disagree with. He said, 'We're not physical enough.' My gawd, they looked like they were killing Akron physically."

Narduzzi hopes Eastern isn't as good as Murray. "That's about as tough an opener as I ever want to get involved with," he said. "They're so doggone quick. They didn't give us time to breathe."

"They give you so many population problems at the point of attack. We were expecting an eight-man front all day, when in fact, we lined up for the first play and they're playing nine people up there. So, we were rather ill-prepared for them."

Youngstown continues as a Division II team until next year, when it becomes eligible for the OVC title. Thus, it is 10 scholarships shy of the other OVC schools this year. "We had to drop five of them to compete in Division II this year," said Narduzzi, who is both head coach and athletic director.

"I love playing good competition," he said, "but this season is something else. We're playing two national champions in Eastern Kentucky and Delaware, plus five Division I-AA teams."

Narduzzi left Kentucky for the Youngstown job in 1975, and he has compiled a 37-17 record there. Like another new OVC team, Akron, Youngstown benefits from being located in an outstanding recruiting area.

"I think we've got an advantage in that the population is so much greater here," Narduzzi said. "From where we sit we're 80 miles from Pittsburgh,

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Youngstown coach Bill Narduzzi knows the Ohio Valley Conference football is tough. His team lost to Murray last week and faces Eastern Kentucky today at Hanger Field.

80 miles from Cleveland. If you struck an 80-mile radius from Youngstown, you would include cities like Erie, Akron, Massillon, Canton, Steubenville and Wheeling.

"That's a great deal of population, which makes it different than any one 80-mile area of Kentucky. Since Akron and Youngstown have been accepted as members, we've felt a little more heat recruiting-wise from the OVC schools. We had Morehead up here for a couple of years. Western and Eastern came in here quite heavily recruiting last year. They will travel to northeastern Ohio to recruit, but we would not travel from Youngstown all the way to Kentucky to recruit, as a general rule."

Eastern has had a consistent running attack this season, but Colonel quarterbacks have completed only 11 of 32 passes with four interceptions. Bolstered by a 51-yard touchdown run last week, tailback Alvin Miller leads Eastern with 162 yards in 26 carries. Fullback Dale Patton has 74 yards in 14 tries.

But, Eastern's best offensive weapon has been place-kicker David Flores, who has connected on his last nine field-goal attempts over two sea-

sons. That's one shy of the NCAA Division I-AA record held by Middle Tennessee's Gerald Robinson.

Flores also is within four points of breaking the OVC record for most points by a kicker. He has 194, four fewer than former Tennessee Tech kicker Murray Cunningham.

Impressed by Akron's win over Eastern last week, Western Kentucky coach Jimmy Feix hopes the law of averages, if nothing else, will help Western beat the host Zips in a 7:30 EDT game tonight. Western has four losses and two ties in its series against Akron.

"We're a much better football team than we were last year at this time," Feix said. "That game at Akron is more meaningful to us than the others before, now that they're in the OVC. I hope we'll play harder against them than we have at other times."

Western has rolled past its first two opponents, whipping Evansville 40-18 and Kentucky State 30-8. In each case, the Hilltoppers have been led by All-OVC quarterback John Hall, who last week tied his coach for third place among school leaders in pass completions. Hall has 256 and needs only 33 more completions to set the Western record.

Before beating Eastern, Akron blitzed Northeast Missouri 31-7. Akron hasn't won its first three games since 1971. Western hasn't done so since 1975.

Other OVC games today include James Madison at Austin Peay, and Tennessee Tech at Northeast Missouri. Morehead and Middle Tennessee have open dates.

Among other Kentucky colleges, Kentucky State will be at Hillsdale for a 1:30 EDT game, Georgetown plays host to Franklin at 1:30 and Washington & Lee is at Centre at 1:30.

Daily News

PARK CITY



YEAR 126—NO. 226

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1980

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Tops rally past Akron

By CLARK HANES

Daily News Sports Editor

AKRON, Oh.—Jimmy Feix had vowed that "the Big D" was back a week ago, but he wasn't really sure of it until about 9 p.m. Saturday.

It was about that time that the Western coach and his players trotted off the field here at the Rubber Bowl with a hard-earned 8-2 win over homestanding Akron, the newcomers to the Ohio Valley who had bounced Eastern's defending Division 1-AA national champs 21-10 here last week.

Western had rolled past Kentucky State 30-8 last week, meanwhile, prompting Feix to make his declaration of defense. But the veteran coach admitted he wasn't really convinced until Saturday night.

"Now I can say it, for sure," he shouted over the den in a jubilant Western dressing room. "The Big D is back. About the middle of the third quarter, I started feeling awfully confident about our defense. I didn't know if we were ever going to score, but I was pretty sure they weren't."

Akron did wind up scoring on a safety late in the third quarter, but it later proved harmless when Western—after threatening time and time again in the first half—finally got on the scoreboard via a three-yard run by junior fullback Troy Snardon.

A 50-yard punt return by speedy sophomore Davlin Mullen had given the Hilltoppers the ball at the Akron 31, and Snardon bulled into the end zone eight plays later with exactly 10 minutes left in the game.

Western tacked on another two points with senior quarterback John Hall hitting Ricky Gwynn on the conversion play, and then turned things over to the defense which had dominated the Zips all evening long. In its last two possessions of the game, Akron never got past its own 30-yard line.

"We had a lot of trouble on offense, and Western had a lot to do with it," said a disappointed Akron coach Jim Dennison after the game. "Their defense just dominated the game. We've got a pretty good offensive line, but they manhandled it."

"I have said all along that Western had a much better team than Eastern," he added, "and its going to take a fine football team to beat them. I don't really know if anybody can."

The Hilltoppers limited Akron to just 156 yards in total offense, some 30 yards less than tailback Dennis Brumfield had gained by himself last week against Eastern. Brumfield managed only 61 yards in 20 carries, while junior quarterback Tom Freeman completed only two of 18 passes for a meager 56 yards.

"We were keying on Brumfield," said big Tim Ford, a junior defensive end. "We were ready for him. We are a lot stronger against the run than we were last year, and when they started passing we knew it was coming."

It was Western's first victory ever over Akron in seven tries, and left the Hilltoppers 1-0 in the OVC and 3-0 overall. Akron dropped to 1-1 in league play, and 2-1 in all games.

Western need only two plays after the opening kickoff to prove it could move the ball, with Nate Jones sweeping right end for 14 yards and Hall hitting flanker Ron Hunter for 23 more one play later.

But it eventually became the first of many first-half threats to fizzle, with Akron taking possession after a missed 34-yard field goal attempt by Ronnie Fishback.

The Hilltoppers marched to the Akron eight later in the period, but stalled again and saw another Fishback attempt miss from 33 yards out two plays into the second quarter. But the deepest cut of all came late in the first half when Western pushed all the way to the Akron one-inch line, and still came away

empty-handed.

It all boiled down to a fourth-and-goal situation with the nose of the ball almost touching the goal line. Junior tailback Barry Skaggs—the Hilltoppers' short-yardage specialist—got the call, and was met in midair by Akron linebacker Tony Philpott.

"We just tried to do what we do best," said Feix, "and they stopped us at it. We had gotten a little fancy the first time we got the ball down there, and they stopped us then too."

As a result, Western led only in statistics at the half. By intermission, the Hilltoppers had piled 203 yards and 11 first downs compared to just 83 yards and two first downs for Akron.

It became a game of field position in the third quarter, with the Zips getting the upper hand. They also wound up putting the first points on the board, when Western punter Ray Farmer was tackled on his own end zone while trying to quick kick the Hilltoppers out of a hole.

"I just didn't have room to get the ball off," explained the senior punter afterwards.

Farmer didn't make it to the goal line, needless to say. He was smothered by big Scott Miller (6-1, 245) to put the Zips ahead 2-0, but Western roared back moments to take the lead for good.

The Hilltoppers return home next Saturday for another OVC test against Austin Peay.

W. Kentucky	0	0	0	8-8
Akron	0	0	2	0-2
Akron—Safety Farmer tackled in end zone				
WK—Snardon 2 run (Gwinn pass from Hall)				
A—23,506				

	WK	Akron
First downs	15	6
Rushes yards	60-179	39-100
Passing yards	99	56
Return yards	85	32
Passes	7-10-0	2-18-1
Punts	6-43	10-43
Fumbles lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties yards	4-42	5-47

Snardon's late touchdown lifts Western

to 8-2 win

Special to The Courier-Journal

AKRON, Ohio — Troy Snardon scored on a two-yard run with 10 minutes to play as Western Kentucky remained unbeaten by posting an 8-2 Ohio Valley Conference victory over previously unbeaten Akron last night.

With the Hilltoppers trailing 2-0 early in the fourth period, Western's Davlin Mullen returned a punt by Akron's Andy Graham 50 yards to the Akron 31-yard line to set up an eight-play drive that ended with the game's only touchdown.

Western quarterback John Hall, who completed seven of 10 passes for 90 yards, passed to Ricky Gwinn for the two-point conversion.

Akron had three possessions after

Western's touchdown, but the Zips couldn't advance the ball deeper than the Western 35-yard line.

The final Akron drive ended when Mullen intercepted a pass by quarterback Tom Freeman, who completed only two of 18 tosses.

Akron had taken a 2-0 lead with 28 seconds left in the third quarter when junior defensive tackle Scott Miller tackled Western's Ray Farmer in the end zone. Farmer, a Louisville senior and Western's punter, entered the game to try a second-down quick kick,

but he was tackled before getting the kick off.

Akron had pinned Western on its one-yard line on Graham's 40-yard punt.

The crowd of 23,506 saw Western roll up 203 yards in the first half and limit the hosts to 83, but the Hilltoppers couldn't push the ball across the goal line. Western had first-half drives stall at the Akron 15- and one-yard lines.

The Western defense, led by senior linebacker Bryan Gray of Louisville with eight solo tackles and six assists, allowed Akron to cross midfield only once in the first half.

AKRON 0 0 2 0 - 2
WESTERN KENTUCKY 0 0 0 0 - 0

Akron — Safety, Scott Miller tackled Ray Farmer in end zone; Western Kentucky — Troy Snardon, 2 run (Ricky Gwinn pass from John Hall).

Snardon had a game-high 93 yards on 20 carries for Western, which improved its overall record to 3-0 by winning its OVC opener. Nate Jones added 61 yards on 17 rushes for the winners.

Akron fell to 2-1 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

Western will entertain Austin Peay State in an OVC game next Saturday while Akron will visit Indiana State for a non-conference game.

Statistics

	Akron	WKU
First downs	6	15
Net yards rushing	100	179
Passes	18-2-1	10-7-0
Passing yards	56	99
Fumbles lost by	0	0
Yards penalized	47	42
Punts	10-42.7	6-43.2



(AP Laserphoto)

Tough yardage

TROY SPARDON (40) runs a sweep around right end during first quarter action against Akron Univ. in Akron, Ohio. Bob Baumbick (83) made the tackle.

Western won 8-2 and Spardon scores the only touchdown of the game the fourth quarter.

Penalty Costs K-State; Western Wins

Staff, Wire Dispatches

An offside penalty proved costly to the Kentucky State Thorobreds yesterday.

Rick Vear kicked a 22-yard field goal with 19 seconds remaining to lift homestanding Hillsdale College to a 10-7 victory over Kentucky State in Hillsdale, Mich.

Vear had attempted a 27-yarder on the previous play and missed. However, the Thorobreds were offside and gave Vear another chance.

Hillsdale set up the score with a drive of 50 yards in seven plays.

Kentucky State scored first on a 2-yard pass from Victor Rice to Anthony Hardy with 13 seconds to go in the half and Mark Stoute added the extra point for a 7-0 lead at intermission.

Hillsdale came back in the second half, driving 60 yards in 12 plays to set up a 2-yard scoring run by Ross Robinson. Vear added the conversion kick for a 7-7 tie.

Rice, a junior from Birmingham,

Ky.-OVC Roundup

Ala., had his best performance as a Thorobred. He completed 13 of 25 passes for 157 yards. Rice's leading receiver was Darryl Cook, who caught five passes for 99 yards.

Ron Clark led Kentucky State rushers with 14 carries for 54 yards, while Bill Eberhart had 97 yards for 13 carries for Hillsdale.

Both teams had 14 first downs. Hillsdale rushed for 213 yards to Kentucky State's 126, but the winners had just 99 yards in the air. The Thorobreds were penalized 93 yards to Hillsdale's 29.

Kentucky State, now 0-3, hosts Knoxville College at 2 p.m. Saturday. Hillsdale is now 1-2.

Western Ky. 8, Akron 2 — Troy Snardon's 2-yard run with 10 minutes left in the game gave Western Kentucky an Ohio Valley Conference victory over Akron in the Rubber Bowl.

The Hilltoppers, 3-0, won their first Ohio Valley Conference game of the year. Akron fell to 2-1 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

Snardon's score came eight plays after a 50-yard punt return by Davlin Mullen moved the ball to the Akron 31-yard line. Snardon also was the leading rusher with 90 yards in 23 carries.

Akron's only score came on a safety with 28 seconds left in the third quarter as Scott Miller tackled Western Kentucky punter Ray Farmer in the end zone.

The Zips earlier had stopped the visitors on the 1-foot line.

Ronnie Fishback attempted field goals of 33 and 34 yards for the Hilltoppers in the first quarter, but both misfired.

The Hilltopper defense held Akron quarterback Tom Freeman to two pass completions in 18 attempts for 56 yards. One Freeman pass was intercepted.

Western defense is no longer giving Feix gray hairs

By STAN SUTTON

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Jimmy Feix wears a hat, so it's hard to tell whether gray hairs are creeping in around his ears. But, if there is a trace of silver, it probably arrived in September, 1979, when his Western Kentucky football team yielded an average of 40 points a game to its first three opponents.

That kind of defense would give Donny Osmond gray hair. But Feix just pulled down his houndstooth hat and watched patiently as his Hilltoppers lost to Tennessee-Chattanooga (41-23) and Lamar (58-27) and beat Austin Peay State (24-20). Western's defense was as suspect as the Swiss Navy's, and a lot of people farther down its schedule were waiting for their turn.

At that point, Feix's graying process

stopped, if indeed it ever started. In three of its next four games, Western yielded fewer than eight points and went on to salvage a 5-5 season.

That was like a squirt of Grecian Formula to Feix, who is looking younger than ever now that his defensive unit has recovered from the Bombing of Bowling Green last September. How far back it has come was evident Saturday night, when Western thwarted Ohio Valley Conference contender Akron 8-2, holding the Zips to 156 yards in total offense and only six first downs. Akron, which had scored 52 points in its first two games, crossed midfield only once in the first half.

A week earlier, the Hilltoppers had limited Kentucky State to 218 yards in a 30-8 victory. In its opener, Western thumped Evansville 40-18, allowing

three touchdowns when the outer occupants of its bench were in the game.

In fact, Western's defense has yet to allow a point in the first three quarters. Akron got a safety late in the third period when punter Ray Farmer was tackled while attempting to kick.

"We didn't execute it at all," Feix said. "One of the backs was supposed to pull up into the line, and he didn't. Farmer couldn't even get his leg up. Fortunately, he took the sack. He didn't kick it up there where they could get six points out of it."

That play put Western in a 2-0 hole, but didn't leave Feix especially worried.

"The two points didn't concern me too much. I felt it would take a touchdown to win," he said. "I was almost

glad to get away from our end zone to keep them from getting a touchdown."

While the Western defense had nothing to do with Akron's only score, one of its stalwarts played a big part in Western's lone touchdown. Sophomore cornerback Davlin Mullen returned a punt 50 yards to Akron's 31-yard line to set up the score by fullback Troy Snardon. Against Kentucky State, Mullen had returned a punt 27 yards to set up a score.

"Mullen has done an awfully good job the last couple of games. Our secondary is playing together better, and the two cornerbacks (Mullen and Lamont Meacham) are playing better each game," Feix said.

Akron quarterback Tom Freeman completed only two of 18 passes Saturday night. "I thought maybe he'd be

more effective," Feix said. "We were lucky on passes a couple of times, but I'd like to think we put a little pressure on him, too."

Feix is tentative about overpraising the Western defense. "We've got to stay healthy," he said. "If we can keep playing the same 11 or 12 players, we'll be OK."

"Akron didn't have a lot of outside speed. They're a come-at-you type of football team. I'm a little concerned about our speed. Our defense is progressing well, but we have to stay healthy because we don't have any depth."

Western's offense hardly was inept at Akron, which the Hilltoppers beat for the first time in seven attempts. The Hilltoppers gained 203 yards in the first half without scoring.

"I was pleased that we played tough

the whole ballgame," Feix said. "When we didn't get points we should have gotten early in the game, we didn't let down. The first time we threatened, we got sacked on a second-and-nine. Later, it was a delay-of-game penalty. We had a tricky play we were trying to call, and we didn't get everybody on the field in time. I hurt us there."

"The next time we didn't do anything but shoot our best barrel, and they just threw us back. We ran our best backs in there and got nothing."

Feix believes Akron, which defeated Eastern Kentucky Sept. 13, is still a threat to win the OVC in its first season. "It's hard to judge this early, but I picked them to be one of the best teams in the league. I think they justified that," he said.

In distress

Feix considered sending an 'SOS' to Curnutte

It was perhaps the biggest game of the year for Western, but coach Jimmy Feix—in his mind, at least—was several hundred miles away.

"I couldn't help but wonder if Mike Curnutte was home listening to the game on his radio," said Feix, referring to his field-goal kicker who was sorely missed during the Hilltoppers' 8-2 win over homestanding Akron on Saturday night before a Rubber Bowl crowd of 23,506.

Western's first-string placekicker didn't even make the trip to Akron the past weekend because of a torn quad muscle in his thigh, and that put freshman Ronnie Fishback in the hot seat.

A rookie from Shelbyville, Tenn., Fishback had earned the job of kicking off a couple of weeks earlier by showing a stronger leg than Curnutte, a sophomore from Greensburg. But the more accurate Curnutte still had the field-goal job, until being sidelined by an injury that may keep him out of this week's home game against Austin Peay.

It didn't take the Hilltoppers long to miss their kicking specialist.

Less than four minutes into the game, Western's first scoring threat of the night went down the drain when Fishback missed badly on a 34-yard field goal try. Two plays into the second quarter, the youngster who was actually recruited as a defensive back missed again from 33 yards out.

"I just told him to hang in there," recalled Feix, "and I wouldn't have been afraid to let him try again if the situation had called for it."

The situation didn't. Western was stopped on downs at the Akron one-yard line later in the first half, but finally scored on a two-yard run by junior fullback Troy Sardon with 10 minutes left in the game after a



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

50-yard punt return by budding sophomore Davlin Mullen.

* * *

Without a doubt, Saturday night's convincing win over the Zips put Western in the driver's seat of this year's Ohio Valley Conference title chase.

Three more OVC road games await the Hilltoppers, but only the Nov. 22 season finale at Murray figures to be as rough as the trip to northeastern Ohio. Western's other remaining road tilts are at Tennessee Tech on Oct. 18, and at Morehead on Nov. 1.

"We've still got some tough road games ahead of us," noted Feix, "but I doubt if any of them can be tougher than this one. Trouble is, everybody's going to shooting for us now."

Just like old times, in other words.

Chances are, it will be about a month before we learn much more about this year's OVC race. It looks like a case of the "haves" vs. the "have-nots" until Oct. 25, but then batten down the hatches for two big shootouts the same day—Eastern at Western, and Akron at Murray.

A week later, Murray goes to Eastern in another

game which will help determine the OVC champion.

As far as snakes in the grass are concerned, keep your eye on Tennessee Tech. The resurgent Eagles already have doubled last year's win total with non-conference victories over Western Carolina and Northeast Missouri, and quarterback James Aaron—a transfer from the Air Force—may become John Hall's stiffest challenger in his quest to become the league's first three-time All-OVC quarterback.

Akron coach Jim Dennison had big plans for his 1980 team, but Saturday night's setback probably cost the Zips any chance of making the Division I-AA playoffs.

With a win at Murray next month, Dennison's club might wind up claiming a share of the OVC title. But the Zips' overall record doesn't figure to be as good as either Western's or Murray's, thanks to three games against Division I-A teams.

Western knows a little bit about wading in over its head, thanks to last year's ill-fated games against UT-Chattanooga and Lamar.

Akron plays at Indiana State of the Missouri Valley Conference this weekend, entertains Eastern Michigan of the Mid-American Conference two weeks later and then travels to independent power Temple—a Top 20 team last fall, no less—on Oct. 18.

How big were Akron's plans going into 1980?

Well, nobody's mentioning any names but one OVC coach voted for his own team to win the league title in this year's preseason poll at Louisville back in August. You can draw your own conclusions, but it's probably no small coincidence that it happened during Dennison's first year to participate in the voting.

After all, all the other coaches knew they weren't allowed to vote for their own teams.

OVC Football Teams Are Something to Brag About

By Mike Johnson
Assistant Sports Editor

Some notes, quotes and ruminations from Week No. 3 in Kentucky college football:

"Our league has become a powerhouse league in Division I-AA. I sincerely feel our teams can play with a lot of teams anywhere in the country and I'm not just talking about I-AA teams either."

Murray State coach Mike Gottfried said that back in August when he was surrounded by his coaching cohorts at the Ohio Valley Conference preseason luncheon, before any team had stepped on the field.

In the first three weeks of the season, the OVC has done nothing to discredit such braggadocio. In fact, Gottfried showed he knew what he was talking about when his team defeated Louisville last Saturday, 13-9.

OVC teams have a combined record of 15-6 thus far. In non-conference games, the OVC is 12-4, including 2-1 against Division I-A teams. Middle Tennessee, at 0-2, is the only team in the conference under .500.

Now, that the preliminaries are out of the way, the conference race opens up in force this weekend. Murray is still the favorite, but no one around the league expects the conference championship to be decided until the final weekend of the season.

"I still feel it's gonna be a great race," Gottfried says. "It may be the best race we've ever seen in the OVC. We've got a tough, tough football league, that's all there is to it."

The last two OVC champions, Murray last season and Western Kentucky in 1978, went through the league undefeated. However, Akron is eligible for the championship this season, that means playing six league games instead of seven, and the prospects of an unbeaten champion seem unlikely.

Akron has been involved in the only two conference games played this season. The Zips beat Eastern Kentucky 21-10, but lost to Western 8-2. That gives Western some-

thing of an edge, with a victory over another contender on the road.

"That was a big win for us in a lot of ways," admits Western coach Jimmy Feix. "Not many folks are gonna go up there and beat that team. I feel mighty good that we got out of there with a victory."

"Beating a contender on the road is one of the requirements for winning a conference championship. The other requirement is not to lose to any of the other contenders at your place."

"Akron would've been in awfully good shape if they could've beat us. Their loss

(Turn to FLORES, C-5)

Flores Sets OVC Record For a Kicker

From Page C-1

was much more significant for them than our victory was for us."

Eastern's 45-0 victory over Youngstown, although admittedly aided by seven turnovers provided by the defense, was a big boost for the Colonel offense, which had been soundly criticized.

"We didn't let the talk bother us," said offensive guard Danny Hope. "We knew we hadn't been doing well, nobody had to tell us that. We also knew that we have the talent, it was just a matter of getting the job done."

There had been talk too that Eastern might consider changing quarterbacks, lifting junior Chris Isaac for sophomore Tuck Woolum. Hope, though, never expected that to happen.

"We know what Chris can do," he said. "He's got tremendous talent. Just because you have a couple of bad games doesn't mean you're not any good any more. We hadn't been giving him a lot of help either."

Eastern coach Roy Kidd figured Isaac would come through once he relaxed.

"That's what I told him all week," Kidd said. "I told him just to go out there and be Chris Isaac and forget about everything else. I said, 'We know you can throw it, so go throw it.'"

Eastern's David Flores put his name in the OVC record books against Youngstown when he booted a field goal and six extra points.

Flores now has scored 203 points as a kicker, breaking the conference career record of 198 set by Murray Cunningham of Tennessee Tech from 1973-76.

Flores missed a chance to tie a Division I-AA record for consecutive field goals when he missed a 35-yard attempt against Youngstown. Murray's David Tuck matched the record of 10 straight when he booted an 18-yarder against Louisville. However, he failed to break the record when he missed a 34-yard try.

Since Akron does not play Morehead State and Tennessee Tech this season, the OVC has designated Eastern Michigan and Youngstown as conference games for the Zips.

The Youngstown game will count as Morehead's other conference game and Troy State has been designated as Tennessee Tech's seventh league game.

★ ★ Tuesday, September 23, 1980



Mike Gottfried

Jimmy Feix

High School Star Evans Glad He Wound Up at Western

By Mike Johnson
Assistant Sports Editor

Back when Donnie Evans was a virtual one-man wrecking crew at Franklin-Simpson High School, Western Kentucky coach Jimmy Feix made the short trip down Interstate-65 to Franklin, Ky., quite often for the sole pleasure of watching Evans play football.

What Feix saw, he says, was sometimes almost beyond belief.

"He was so fast and quick for a man his size," Feix recalls. "I mean I was just amazed that a high school player could do the things he did."

During his numerous visits to Franklin, Feix kept bumping into other coaches from places like Ohio State, Kentucky and Tennessee. Evans, the lineman of the year in Kentucky in his senior season, was what coaches commonly call a blue-chipper, a can't-miss prospect. Feix, however, uses another term.

"He was what we call a 90 percent," the Western coach explains. "That means we got a 90 percent chance of not getting him. When they're that close to home and that good, though, we got to recruit 'em.

"The surprising thing is that when we got right down to the end I think

the final choice was between Western, Tennessee and Ohio State."

Donnie Evans is at Western now, a starting defensive end for a team that has opened the season with three straight victories. Evans has played steadily and sometimes spectacularly.

"We really kept things on a low profile when he came here," Feix says. "Our fans were really excited, but we've never had a player come in here that we called the franchise. That puts too much pressure on them.

"Heck, Donnie Evans has been super. He's done as much as anybody could expect from a player."

Evans did not arrive in Bowling

Green in the conventional manner, however.

First there was a recruiting battle that became a nightmare, a bad experience with a national magazine and then a season spent in limbo.

"The recruiting thing got totally out of hand," Evans says now. "Everybody wanted to tell me their opinion. There were all kinds of rumors about where I was really gonna go and when I had to tell people that wasn't true, well, I got told off pretty good sometimes."

Evans, in fact, became such a hot property that a recruiting trip by Tennessee coach Johnny Majors to visit

Evans in Franklin was featured in Sports Illustrated. If that sounds glamorous, Evans can tell you it isn't.

"I couldn't believe it when I read it," he says. "We're farmers. We've got a little dairy farm and the guy that wrote the story said that the house smelled like raw sewage.

"I'd just come in from the barn. I don't know what he thought I'd smell like. He said my dad had a pointed head and glasses the size of a windshield. My dad does wear glasses, and so does my brother, but so what?"

"I read that article again the
(Turn to WESTERN'S, B-9)



Evans: Amazed WKU's Feix

Western's Feix Glad High School Star Evans Wound Up Playing for Toppers

From Page B-1

other day, and I still don't like it."

Still, Evans decided that he could not pass up a chance to give big-time college football a shot.

Donnie Evans never played a single down for Tennessee. Hobbled by injuries, he became frustrated and bitter.

"I haven't regretted leaving Tennessee for one minute," he says now. "There was a lot of pressure on coach Majors. I thought it was a madhouse.

"I had a sprained ankle, had a pinched nerve in my shoulder and a sprained wrist. The coaches kept pushing me, telling me I could do it. I felt like I was being mistreated.

"I had a long talk with my dad and told him I just didn't want to be treated like an animal and I went home."

Evans figured his brief college career was over. As the summer wore on, however, he realized he missed not playing football and he gave Feix a call at Western. Feix offered Evans a scholarship with the understanding that he could quit after the first year without any hard feelings.

"I just didn't want to put any pressure on him," Feix says. "I told him to come on and get back in school and just not think about football for a

while."

The temptation is to suggest that maybe Evans just couldn't make it in big-time football. Evans expects that. He answers the charge simply.

"I like it here," Evans says. "The atmosphere is a lot more relaxed. That doesn't mean it's easy. We've got pressure on us here to win and we work hard. I've worked harder for this season than I ever worked at Tennessee."

Evans began last season at outside linebacker for Western, but after an inauspicious debut in a 41-28 loss to UT-Chattanooga, he moved to defensive end, his high school position.

"People around here were expecting a lot from me in that first game and I had five touchdown runs on my side," Evans recalls. "When they moved me back to end, it was like coming home. I mean I knew that stuff. I hadn't played the position for almost three years, but things started coming back to me on the first day. I made more tackles in one game on the defensive line than I did the entire time I was at linebacker."

If Evans managed to get his game together, however, Western struggled through a season of injuries to a 5-5 record. That was a real blow to the "Red Pride" Jimmy Feix often talks about.

"That was tough last year,"

Evans says. "That's the first time I'd ever played on a team that had lost two games in season. We were playing our third game, still hadn't won and we'd given up 99 points. It was different."

This season has been vastly different. Western is 3-0 and the defense has allowed only 28 points in three games.

"I'm pleased with the way I've played, too. I know I can be better, but I've done things people expect me to do," Evans says.

Even that may not be as easy it sounds when you've been a high school All-America with your name splashed across the pages of Sports Illustrated.

"There's a guy down at Murray who's been wanting to get me since I was in high school," Evans says.

"There are a lot of players around the league that know I went to Tennessee and know about Sports Illustrated. I hear a lot of stuff.

"A guy will hit me and when we get up, he says 'You're not so tough. Why were you in Sports Illustrated?' That kind of stuff's not much fun."

Donnie Evans smiles when he hears the talk, now. He answers it the same way he did when Jimmy Feix was watching him from the stands at Franklin-Simpson High School — on the field.

For an encore...

After banner week, HRS goes with Tops again

Coming off its best weekend in three years, the peerless Hanes Rating System has installed Western as a two-touchdown favorite in Saturday's game with visiting Austin Peay.

Unless our crystal ball has clouded up some time between last week's forecast and this one, that means the Governors from Clarksville, Tenn., might as well stay south of the border this weekend. The HRS was a perfect 5-for-5 in the Ohio Valley Conference last week, and 8-for-8 in the Southeastern.

In fact, last week's forecast correctly picked 42 winners in 47 games for a blistering .894 percentage. We were able to count last week's wrong picks on the fingers of one hand, in other words, which is the only way we know how to count anyway.

One of the HRS' correct selections was taking Western to get past Akron for the first time ever, and it all came true when Hilltopper fullback Troy Sardon scored the only touchdown of the game with 10 minutes remaining to highlight an 8-2 victory.

It made sense to go with Akron a week ago. Not only had Western never defeated the Zips going into Saturday night's game at the Rubber Bowl, but Akron was coming off an impressive 21-10 drubbing of



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

Eastern's Division I-AA national champions the week before.

However, the HRS had picked up a little inside information. Rumor had it that the Akron quarterback wasn't much of a passer, so we fed this to our computer (H2-R2-S2) and got the following response:

"Akron offensive line big and strong, but same can be said for Western defensive front. Stop. As a result, Akron to be forced to put ball in air whether quarterback can pass or not. Stop. Quarterback without passing arm about as useful as cable TV without Louisville stations. Stop. Pick Western. Stop."

The rest is history. Akron was unable to run the ball with any authority, junior quarterback Tom Freeman hit only two of 18 passes and Bowling Green apparently is going to get stuck with a cable TV system that has about as much to offer as Phyllis Diller.

Last week's forecast raised the HRS' overall percentage to .831 on the season, not bad by any stretch of the imagination.

Our forecast also whipped Major Amos B. Hoople in four of five "contested" games, putting the HRS up by a 7-5 count going into this weekend. We differ with the Major this week by picking Tennessee over Auburn, Baylor over Texas Tech, Southern Mississippi over East Carolina, Kansas over Louisville... and Ohio State over Arizona State.

That's right, Hoople—perhaps in an attempt to steal the show from the HRS this week—is going out on a limb with Arizona State. Here's hoping something breaks his fall.

The forecast:

OVC

Western 24, Austin Peay 10: Unlike Akron, the Governors don't mind putting the ball in the air. Speedy receiver Steve Puthoff terrorized the Hilltoppers' secondary last fall, but Western still came

out on top (24-20) and will do it again Saturday.

Other games:
Middle Tennessee 17, Morehead 16
Murray 24, Tennessee Tech 3
Indiana State 20, Akron 14

SEC

Kentucky 27, B. Green (O.) 7: The Wildcats' other open date this season falls on Oct. 11, following a road trip to Alabama and preceding a two-game homestand against LSU and Georgia. Enough said.

Alabama 44, Vanderbilt 3: This will give Bear Bryant 299 career victories, and guess who figures to be his 300th victim next Saturday in Birmingham? Enough said.

Other games:
Tennessee 23, Auburn 21
Mississippi 31, Tulane 30
LSU 26, Rice 14
Georgia 27, TCU 7

Florida 23, Mississippi St. 14

OTHER MAJORS

Ohio St. 27, Arizona St. 7: Those frustrated travel agents among us were able to see the powerful Buckeyes in person last week, what with Columbus being only a couple of hours down the road from Akron. It was worth it, and the HRS still says Ohio State is the best team in the country.

Penn St. 14, Nebraska 10: Even coach Tom Osborne of Nebraska is picking his own team to win this one, but don't be surprised if the Cornhuskers pay the price for rolling up the score (42-17) on Penn State last year in Lincoln.

Oklahoma 37, Stanford 14: It took the Sooners three quarters to get going against Kentucky two weeks ago, but look for coach Barry Switzer to have that situation remedied by game time Saturday.


Daily News
SPORTS
Page 2-B THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1980

Sports **AM** sports digest

Eastern's Tony Braxton Honored by Conference

Staff, Wire Dispatches

Eastern Kentucky's **Tony Braxton** rushed for 100 yards and a touchdown to win the Ohio Valley Conference's Offensive Player of the Week honors for last week.

Western Kentucky's **Bryan Gray** had nine solo tackles and dropped three runners behind the line of scrimmage to share Defensive Player of the Week honors with **Johnny Walker** of Austin Peay.

Braxton, a junior tailback from Cincinnati, carried the ball seven times in the Colonels' 45-0 win against Youngstown State Saturday.

Gray, a senior linebacker from Louisville, Ky., also posted 10 assists in the Hilltoppers' 8-2 win over Akron.

Johnny Walker, a sophomore from Memphis, came up with 12 tackles, four assists, an interception and a fumble recovery in the Governors' 21-3 win against James Madison.

The OVC commissioner's office selected **Marvin McClennon** of Tennessee Tech as Rookie of the Week. He rushed for 51 yards and two touchdowns in nine carries in the Golden Eagles 28-20 win against Northeast Missouri.



Three straight Tops' linebacker honored by OVC

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

For the third week in a row, a Western player has been selected as an Ohio Valley Conference player of the week.

This time, it was Bryan Gray's turn. A senior linebacker from Louisville, Gray was the top headhunter in the Hilltoppers' 8-2 come-from-behind victory Saturday night at Akron and finished with 14 total hits.

A former prep standout at Lou. Manual, Gray (5-11, 200) made nine individual tackles over the weekend at the Rubber Bowl and tacked on assists. All of which was good enough to give him a share of this week's OVC defensive player of the week award, with Austin Peay linebacker Johnny Walker being co-named by the league for the same distinction.

"I thought I might have a shot at it this week after I saw how many tackles I had," admitted Gray shortly before practice Tuesday afternoon, "but I had heard that the other guy had had a great game, too."

Walker, whose team will be coming to town Saturday to provide the opposition for Western, logged 12 tackles, four assists, a pass interception and a fumble recovery in the Governors' 21-3 win over James Madison the past weekend.

Meanwhile, Eastern running back Tony Braxton was named the OVC offensive player of the week after rushing for 100 yards in only seven carries during the Colonels' 45-0 shellacking of Youngstown.

Western quarterback John Hall had been cited as the OVC offensive player of the week following his three-touchdown performance against Evansville two weeks ago, and cornerback Davlin Mullen had been selected as the defensive player of the week last week after a strong showing in the Hilltoppers' win at Kentucky State.

Besides sharing this week's defensive honor with a

player from Austin Peay, Gray also said part of the prize belonged to the Western coaches.

"Let's give credit where it's due," he explained. "Our coaches told us exactly what Akron was going to try to do last week, and they were right. They just came straight at us, and I don't know if anybody is going to be able to do that this year."

"They're still running a Power-I offense," he added, "and about all you can do is try to run over the other team."

Going into last week's early-season OVC showdown, the Hilltoppers knew they would have to stop Akron's hard-nosed rushing game...and tailback Dennis Brumfield, in particular. The week before, the 200-pound junior had plowed for 186 yards on a record 44 carries in a 21-10 win over Eastern.

"We were saying 'let's get Brumfield' all week long," recalled Gray. "We knew if we could stop him, we'd force them to pass."

It worked like a charm, with Brumfield gaining only 61 yards in 20 carries, and the Zips had to reveal an inept passing game. Junior quarterback Tom Freeman hit only two of 18 aerial attempts for 56 yards, and was way off target at times.

In his defense, however, Gray & Company were chasing him out of the pocket with regularity.

"Maybe we're more determined to win this year than we were last year," said the Western tri-captain, referring to last season's disappointing 5-5 mark. "That might be it, but we could've had a lot better record last year if we'd gotten a couple of breaks."

"We've got some debts to pay," he added, "but first we've got to worry about Austin Peay. They always seem to get up for us, and I guess everybody will be as long as we stay undefeated."

Western will put a 3-0 mark on the line Saturday (1 p.m.) at Smith Stadium, while Austin Peay will bring a 1-1 record to town.

Murray rated first, Tops eighth in poll

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Murray State's football victory over Louisville last weekend has provided the Ohio Valley Conference with a double dose of glad tidings.

The win itself, a 13-9 road victory over a Division I-AA team, was sufficiently satisfying for the Division I-AA conference. But the league got another boost Tuesday when unbeaten Murray, 3-0, was voted the No. 1 team in the Division I-AA poll.

Another OVC school, Western Kentucky, was picked eighth in this week's poll after winning its third consecutive game of the season.

"That (ranking) speaks well of our program and is a tribute to our players," Murray Coach Mike Gottfried said after hearing of the latest poll. "They strive to be the best. This is one indicator of where we stand at this point.

"However, you have to keep it in the proper perspective," he warned. "They don't give trophies for being ranked No. 1 the third week of the season. The rankings are something that come out each week and we look at them, get a charge and that's it."

Murray earned the No. 1 spot on the combined basis of this year's 3-0 mark and the Racers' reputation from

last year. Murray won the OVC title last year with a 9-1-1 regular season record and finished the year ranked second in the I-AA poll. Among the Racer victims last year was Eastern Kentucky, which later won the Division IAA championship.

Murray received 45 points to edge Connecticut and South Carolina State, which shared the second spot with 40 points. Each team is 3-0.

Delaware was fourth and Alcorn State was fifth, followed in order by Nevada-Reno, Boston University, Western Kentucky and Northwestern Louisiana. Three teams — Boise State, Portland State and Massachusetts — were tied for 10th.

While Murray basked in the glory of its ranking, Louisville's football team tried to shake off the shattering effect of losing to a school from a lower division.

The comment from linebacker Eddie Johnson typified the feeling of many Louisville players.

"OVC team. That really makes us look bad," Johnson continued. "Here we are trying to build a program, and Murray is trying to build one, too. We feel our program is more established than theirs, but they come in and beat us. It's like us beating Alabama."

Farmer, NCAA's No. 1 punter, is no longer a secret

By STAN SUTTON

Courier-Journal Sports Writer

Ray Farmer felt like a Japanese pilot as he attempted to sneak unnoticed into enemy territory last Saturday night.

Unfortunately, within moments he realized that, unlike the planes over Pearl Harbor, he had been detected and was about to be shot down.

Farmer is Western Kentucky's punter, and his 45.7 average is the best in the nation among Division I-AA schools. His entrance into last week's game at Akron caught the eyes of the opposing players, leading to a safety that put Akron ahead 2-0 late in the third quarter.

Western had the ball on its own one-yard line. "I got sent into the game as a tailback to quick-kick on second down," said Farmer, a senior from Louisville Waggener High. "Everybody was pretty well confused because it was second down. We were expecting to do it on third down, and we were supposed to sneak me into the game."

"But I heard Akron's defensive linemen saying, 'Hey, isn't that their punter?'" Farmer said by telephone yesterday. "So, I kind of put my hands on my knees and said, 'Quick kick.'" It was like I was talking to the turf. John (quarterback John Hall) called quick kick, but everybody was still kind of confused, and when I stepped up to the ball there just wasn't any room. One of their guys met me head-on."

Fortunately for Western, the Hilltoppers rallied for an 8-2 victory that kept them unbeaten through three games. For Farmer, it was just another exciting moment in a lifestyle that includes shooting television newsreels, spelunking and maintaining a friendship with Mr. Savings and Loan, Grady Nutt.

Nutt, a regular on television's *See Haw*, got Farmer interested in photography. He got his start in kicking from his father, Ray Sr., a former player at the University of Louisville.

"My dad and I used to go out in the street near our house, and he'd kick to me," said the younger Farmer.

**RAY
FARMER**
Western punter
leads nation
with 45.7 average



"There were these big, tall sycamore trees in our neighbor's yard, and the ball seemed like it got as high as those sycamore trees. Dad was a good punter; he was the one who got me started."

"I started kicking for a team at St. Matthews Elementary when I was in the third grade. When I was in the eighth or ninth grade, I remember our physical education teacher brought me out one day to kick for coach (Dave) Peak. That kind of startled me a bit. I guess I impressed him. I don't know."

That sort of, ah, kicked off Farmer's career. As a freshman at Western he led the nation in punting for a couple of weeks. Now in his fourth year with the Hilltoppers, he has increased his average each season. His 45.7 mark is a yard per kick better than the Division I-AA runner-up, Tom Spadafora of Boise State.

His best career kicks were a 75-yarder against Tennessee Tech and a 73-yarder against Morehead State. But, as coach Jimmy Feix points out, he has had to battle to become consistent, a fight he apparently is winning.

Farmer's improved consistency was a major factor in Western defeating Kentucky State 30-8 two weeks ago. Farmer's assignment — and he chose to accept it — was to punt everything away from Kentucky State's Rod Hill, a distinguished kick returner. He had five punts in the game, averaging 48.2 yards, and only once did Hill get his hands on the ball.

Farmer's efforts have not gone unnoticed. "There was a scout from

Green Bay here today. He was taking some hang times and stuff like that," Farmer said. "I'd love to try the pros. I don't feel I could turn down the chance. But that's not the only thing that I think I can do."

One of those things is television, where athletes often wind up in front of the cameras. Farmer, however, likes to be on the other side. "I was a photography intern in the news department of WHAS," he said. "I learned a million things. I got sent to a couple of fires and stuff like that. I was shooting something about every day."

"I guess I got interested in photography because of Grady Nutt. He used to live on the next street over from us, and he kind of got me interested. He was the first one to get me in a darkroom, and then I took it up as a hobby. It kind of progressed from still photography to cinematography and news photography."

Apparently enthralled by working in the dark, Farmer took up another hobby: spelunking. The thought of his

punter's leg being crushed by a boulder was not comforting to Feix, so Farmer is selective about his explorations.

"We try not to do too much of that during football. It's kind of dangerous," Farmer said. "Around Bowling Green is supposed to be the largest cave area in the world. Me and Pete Walters — he's an offensive guard down here — well, two summers ago we went into a cave around here. I'd say we were in it 6½ or seven hours. We were up to our chests in water the whole way, and we were going through those little openings."

"We decided we'd better get going back because our flashlights were getting dim. We had about three or four flashlights, and even the spare ones were going dim. That was sort of scary, because it got real cold and we couldn't see the openings."

Fearless as he may be in the depths of caves, or aiming his camera at raging fires, Farmer wants no part of one thing: barefoot kicking. "I'm afraid it might hurt my foot," he said.



Staff Photo by Keith Williams

Western head coach Jimmy Feix let his feelings be known yesterday during his team's 20-14 victory over Austin Peay.

Unknown Kicker Boots WKU Over Peay 20-14

By Mike Johnson
Herald Assistant Sports Editor

BOWLING GREEN — They should do something to preserve Western Kentucky's 20-14 victory over Austin Peay yesterday in L.T. Smith Stadium. Perhaps reserving a spot in Ripley's Believe It Or Not would be appropriate.

That Western won was not unexpected. The Hilltoppers, after all, are now 4-0 on the season and stand alone at the top of the standings in the Ohio Valley Conference at 2-0. How Western won was another matter.

Strangest of all was the way Western came up with those six points that provided the margin of victory. They came on a pair of field goals by sophomore kicker Jim Griffiths, who booted two second-half field goals of 38 and 39 yards. At the time, the two field goals put Western in front 20-7 and enabled the Hilltoppers to withstand Austin Peay's fourth-quarter threat.

The two field goals were also the first of Griffiths' college career. For that matter, they are the longest field goals he's kicked, period. The

Surprise Hero

Austin Peay 7 0 0 7 — 14
Western Kentucky 6 8 3 3 — 20

WKU: Flippin, 57 pass from Hall (kick failed)
AP: Puthoff, 42 pass from Defilippis (Dyer kick)
WKU: Snardon, 11 run (Hall pass to Gwinn)
WKU: Griffiths, 39 field goal
WKU: Griffiths, 38 field goal
AP: Defilippis, 1 run (Dyer kick)
Att: 15,500

	Peay	WKU
First downs	17	24
Rushes-yards	34-139	60-297
Passing yards	151	151
Return yards	0	62
Passes	9-29-3	11-22-2
Punts	6-39	5-45
Fumbles-lost	3-1	1-1
Penalties-yards	3-22	9-108

previous best was a 29-yarder in flag football.

Griffiths came to Western as a walk-on from Anne Arundell Community College in Maryland. He missed Western's first game after a pre-season injury and then sat on the sidelines while Mike Curnutte did the kicking in the next two.

"I've got a stable of kickers and just keep trying and trying until I

(Turn to WESTERN, C-4)

Western Beats Austin Peay on Pair of Field Goals

From Page C-1

find one that can do the job," said Western coach Jimmy Feix, explaining Griffiths' sudden stardom.

"We almost lost a game last week (an 8-2 victory at Akron) because we missed some field goals," Feix continued. "So Monday, I had a little field goal scrimmage and he did the best job. He's the third one I've tried and I've got two left. After the way he kicked today, though, I guess I can quit looking for a while."

Griffiths got his chance after Curnutte had missed a 29-yard try right at the end of the first half with Western leading 14-7. That he wound up at Western to even get that chance was something of a surprise.

"I was supposed to go to Towson State this year and everything fell through at the last moment," Griffiths said. "I had talked to coach Feix earlier and he had told me he needed some kicking help. I had seen pictures of the school in a brochure and I liked what I saw so I decided to come as a walk-on."

Griffiths wasn't the only surprise that Western had waiting for Austin Peay. Putting its precision passing game on the shelf, Western ran the

ball 60 times, piling up 297 of its 448 total yards on the ground.

Tailback Nate Jones led the charge with 183 yards rushing on 25 carries, while fullback Troy Snardon carried up 109 yards on 19 attempts.

"I can't remember the last time we've had two backs with 100 yards in a game. We're supposed to be a passing team," Feix said with a laugh.

"We thought we'd have to throw the ball on them to win the game. They just played our pass so well that we had to run the ball to get anything. Really, I'm disappointed that we didn't throw the ball against them any better than we did, because it probably cost us a touchdown or two."

The way the game began, it looked as if the two teams might break the stadium scoreboard.

Western took the opening kickoff and scored in two plays, using up only 50 seconds. The touchdown came on a 57-yard pass from John Hall to Jerry Flippin, but Curnutte missed the conversion kick.

Austin Peay stormed right back, marching to the Western 4, but the drive stalled and Rusty Dyer missed a 21-yard field goal try.

The Governors got a second chance when Dexter Freeman inter-

cepted Hall's pass at the Western 44. Austin Peay scored three plays later when Steve DeFilippis hit Steve Puthoff with a 42-yard touchdown pass. Dyer's conversion kick gave Austin Peay a 7-6 edge.

Western jumped in front in the second quarter, marching 40 yards in four plays after a short Austin Peay punt. Jones put Western in scoring position with runs of 17 and 9 yards and Snardon got the touchdown with an 11-yard blast up the middle. Western went for two points and got it when Hall hit tight end Ricky Gwinn with a pass.

That set up Griffiths' field goals, and Austin Peay's last gasp at vic-

tory in the fourth quarter.

The Governors made it 20-14 with an 80-yard, 10-play drive capped by Defilippis' 1-yard sneak for the touchdown with 4:05 to play.

Western countered by marching down to the Austin Peay 22 and using up all but the game's final minute of play, forcing Austin Peay to use all of its time outs.

Griffiths missed a 39-yard try when the drive stalled, but Austin Peay could get only to its own 42-yard line before the game ended when Tom Tussy intercepted Defilippis' desperation pass.

Austin Peay, now 1-2 on the season and 0-1 in the OVC, entertains Eastern Kentucky next week.

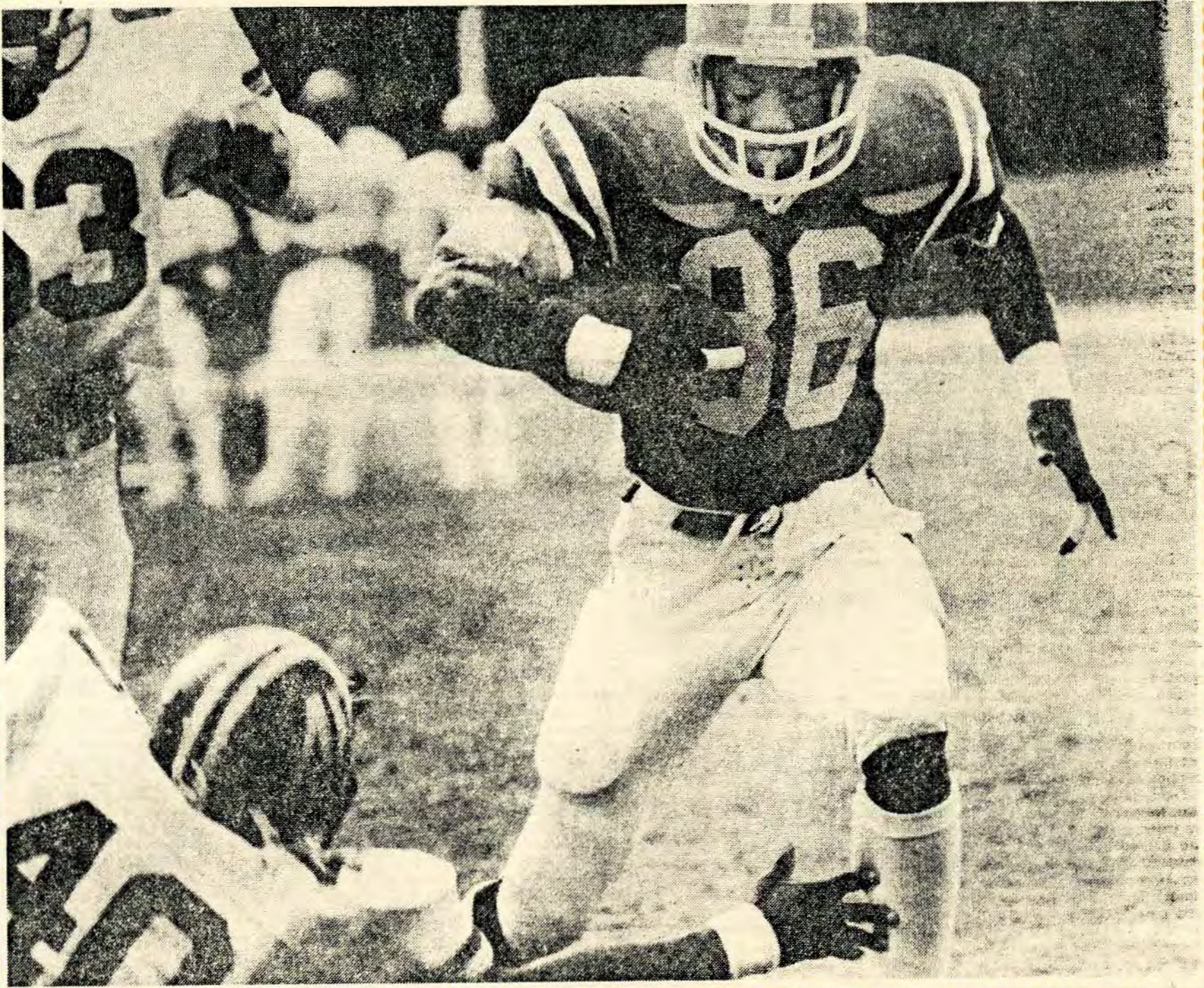
OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL



Staff Photos by Keith Williams

Breaking loose

Troy Snardon (above) crossed the goal line after a 10-yard run for Western Kentucky's second touchdown in its 20-14 victory over Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Peay yesterday at Bowling Green. Later, Western flanker Ron Hunter (right) broke away from Austin Peay's Michael Shelton (40) after catching a pass. The victory was the fourth for undefeated Western.



Overlooked?

Kicker overshadows Hilltopper backs

In most cases, your unsung hero is the offensive tackle who consistently makes the holes that his glorified teammate—the running back, of course—runs through.

However, Saturday was the exception. Almost overlooked in Western's narrow 20-14 win over Austin Peay the past weekend at Smith Stadium were the performances of running backs Nate Jones and Troy Snardon, thanks to the Cinderella story of walk-off kicker Jim Griffiths.

A sophomore from Glen Burnie, Md., Griffiths suited up Saturday for the first time this year and provided the margin of victory for the Hilltoppers with field goals of 39 and 38 yards.

"We don't even have a locker for him yet," said Feix after the game, pointing out that Griffiths had been using a locker in the managers' quarters. "I think we'll be able to find one for him after today, though. If we don't, he can just move into my office with me."

But Feix was also grateful to both Jones and Snardon, who ran over, around and through the opposition when Western took control in the second half.

Jones, a senior from Madisonville, finished with 183 yards in 25 carries while Snardon, a junior from Todd Central, wound up with 109 yards on 19 carries. Western amassed 448 yards



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

in total offense, including a surprising 297 on the ground.

"We thought we'd have to throw the ball to move it on them," noted Feix afterwards. "I can't remember when we've had two running backs gain over 100 yards in the same game."

* * *

Jones, in particular, felt like he had a score to settle with the Governors.

"They hurt me down there last year," he explained, referring to a knee injury he sustained in last year's 24-20 win at Clarksville. "It put me out for the rest of the year, and left me with a scar for life. I've been telling myself all summer it was a tattoo Austin Peay was going to pay for."

Pay they did. Jones was the workhorse of a Western offense that controlled the ball some 12 minutes and 38 seconds of the third quarter.

The former prep All-Stater averaged better than seven yards per carry on the afternoon, and may become Western's fourth OVC player of the week in as many weeks.

Senior quarterback John

Hall was cited for offensive honors in the Hilltoppers' season-opening win over Evansville (40-18), sophomore cornerback Davlin Mullen got the defensive award the following week against Kentucky State (30-8) and senior linebacker Bryan Gray shared defensive honors last week for his performance in the 8-2 win at Akron.

* * *

Saturday's game was a tale of two placekickers—Griffiths of the Hilltoppers, and Rusty Dyer of Austin Peay.

A former high school standout at Warren Central playing both football and baseball with the Governors, Dyer missed on a couple of field goals Saturday that might have turned him into the hero of

the day instead of Griffiths. Neither of the misses was really his fault, but he took the blame for both.


"The holder kinda fumbled the snap on the first one," he recalled, "but I still should've made it. On the second one, I just took too much time."

After Western scored in two plays following the opening kickoff, Austin Peay marched all the way to the Hilltoppers' four-yard line. But the visitors came up empty-handed when Dyer's 21-yard field goal attempt hit the right side of the goal, and fell harmlessly into the end zone.

Midway through the second quarter, a 29-yard try by Dyer was blocked by the aforementioned Mullen.

Besides those two excuses Dyer refused to hide behind, he also went into Saturday's game with a bum leg. He had pulled a muscle during the first days of fall practice, and was still less than 100 percent this weekend.

"It was hurting pretty bad," he conceded, "but that's still no excuse. If I had made those field goals, we might have won the ball game."


Daily News
SPORTS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1980 Page 1-B

roll call

FOOTBALL

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE — Named Western Kentucky senior tailback Nate Jones of Madisonville Offensive Player of the Week after he gained 183 yards in 25 carries against Austin Peay State.

SOUTHEAST — Jeff Olszewski, junior quarterback at Tennessee, was named Offensive Back of the Week by The Associated Press. Jim Burt, senior middle guard at Miami (Fla.), was named Defensive Lineman of the Week by The Associated Press.

MIDWEST — Minnesota linebacker Jim Fahnhorst was named Defensive Player of the Week by The Associated Press. Indiana quarterback Tom Clifford was named Offensive Player of the Week after completing 11 of 14 passes for 345 yards and five touchdowns in the Hoosiers' 49-7 victory over Colorado.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Announced that linebacker Fulton Kuykendall will undergo surgery to correct a separation of his right shoulder.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE — Rick Camp of the Atlanta Braves, who was credited with saves in all three games in which he appeared last week, was named Player of the Week.

AMERICAN LEAGUE — Named Cecil Cooper of the Milwaukee Brewers Player of the Week after hitting .478.

BASKETBALL

SAN DIEGO CLIPPERS — Waived guards Kevin Stacom and Bob Bender.

Eagle linebacker honored

Linebackers Gary Carmichael of Morehead and Brett Williams of Austin Peay were named OVC co-defensive players of the week.

Carmichael, a senior from New York, turned in 14 tackles, one assist, two tackles for a loss and a fumble recovery in Morehead's 17-10 win over Middle Tennessee.

Western's Nate Jones, a senior tailback from Madisonville, was named offensive player of the week for his 183 yards in 25 carries in the Hilltoppers' 20-14 win over Austin Peay.



Western's
Jim Feix

Western Kentucky, Murray teams on collision course

page 6

sports

The Gleaner, Henderson, Ky.

Wednesday, October 1, 1980

OVC title collision?

Hilltoppers, Racers could meet for conference title Nov. 22

Western Kentucky and Murray State's football teams seem to be on a collision course this season. Impact should be Nov. 22 in Murray; the effect could be a second straight NCAA Division I-AA crown for a Kentucky school.

So far in 1980, the Hilltoppers and the Racers each sport 4-0 records overall and undefeated status in the Ohio Valley Conference. Both are rated in the top 10 of the latest I-AA poll.

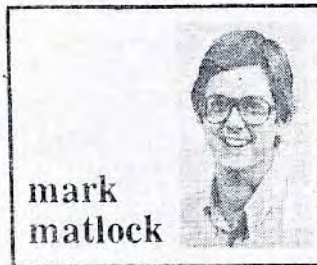
Reached by telephone Tuesday each head coach — Jimmy Feix at WKU and Mike Gottfried at Murray — said they've liked what they've seen this season.

"We feel really good about the progress," said Gottfried. "But we know we've got quite a few games left."

Feix, a Henderson native, said, "We've been real pleased with the progress and the attitude. Of course, the winning helps the attitude and the attitude helps the winning."

The Racers, 1-0 in the conference, are defending their first OVC crown in 28 years. They are coming off a 9-2-1 record in the 1979, including a perfect mark against conference opponents.

Gottfried's squad pulled off one of the bigger upsets in the country this year when they shocked division I-A member Louisville 14-9 Sept. 20 at the Fairgrounds Stadium in



mark
matlock

Louisville.

"No, not really," Gottfried answered when asked if he was surprised at the win over the Cardinals. "I thought we could. We felt very good about our chances." The key was "we didn't make any big mistakes."

Mistakes were lacking in the Racers' 10-3 win over Tennessee Tech Saturday night in Cookeville, Tenn. That win should retain Murray's No. 1 ranking in the national poll.

Meanwhile in Bowling Green, pinpoint passing and rugged defense have led the Hilltoppers to their best start since 1975 and an eighth-place ranking nationally.

The Akron University game Sept. 20 has to be



Mike
Gottfried



Jimmy
Feix

rated as the top game for Feix's squad. The Zips had thrashed defending 1-AA champ Eastern Kentucky the week before.

But thanks to the defense, Western shut down EKV 8-2 in the Rubber Bowl.

Quarterback John Hall has to be rated as the top offensive performer in 1980.

"It's really great that he's gotten off to such a great start," said Feix. "He's usually a slow starter and it takes awhile for him to get some good statistics."

The 1979 conference offensive player of the year has connected on over 58 percent of his passes for 603 yards and six touchdowns.

Nate Jones is leading Western in rushing with

391 yards on 65 attempts — an average of six yards a carry. His performance against Austin Peay last Saturday earned Jones player of the week honors in the OVC.

"Nate has had trouble realizing his potential," Feix said. "It's the little things that get him. Last year he had to have knee surgery after the third game."

"...It's been the combination of Hall's effectiveness and the running of Jones and (Troy) Snardon," said Feix of the offensive success. "We do have an offensive line which enables both the running and passing" to operate.

Injuries plagued Western in 1979 but that hasn't happened this season save for one player — former Henderson County star Barry Skaggs.

Last year a sore foot hindered "Bang Bang's" performance; this season it's been a tender right knee.

"It's a stretched ligament on the outside of his knee," Feix said. "He doesn't have the power to drive; that's his strength.... We need a healthy Barry Skaggs."

For Murray, the offense hasn't been a high-scoring machine; the Racers have averaged only 16 points a game.

But Gino Gibbs, a junior college transfer, has stepped into the breach left by the premature

departure of last season's starting quarterback Ricky Ray.

The 10 other offensive players have made the adjustment from Ray to Gibbs. "They're feeling more comfortable with him," said Gottfried. "He (Gibbs) is more of a run-pass type guy."

"If you concentrate on the run, he'll burn you on the pass, and if you concentrate on the pass, he'll run on you."

Defense is the Racers' forte. Witness the 24 points surrendered — all coming on field goals.

With all-American safety Terry Love out of the lineup for the first three games due to a broken thumb, some said Murray could be had by the pass. Not so said Gottfried.

Greg Evans was moved into Love's spot while Lindsey Hudspeth — normally a running back — filled in at the Evans' cornerback position.

Both Gottfried and Feix said their teams are not looking ahead to the probable Nov. 22 showdown at Stewart Stadium.

"I've been talking with them," Feix said. "... Each game has a uniqueness about it that lets me get the team to concentrate on that game."

"We don't even talk about it," said Gottfried of the Western game. "We can't afford to look down the road because then we will and we'll lose a game."

Going fast

Classic tickets becoming scarce as season nears

Less than 100 chair seats remain for the first Wendy's Basketball Classic set for Nov. 28-29 at Diddle Arena.

That's the latest from Western ticket manager Bobby Houk, who plans to begin mailing out the tickets for the tournament early this week. Joining host Western in the classy tournament field will be Vanderbilt, South Carolina and Iona.

Vandy will meet Iona in the tourney opener Friday night, followed by Western vs. South Carolina. The finals are set for Saturday night, following a consolation game.

Tickets for the tournament are good for both nights, and are priced at \$16 for chair seats (what few remain), \$12 for permanent bleachers and \$8 for the rollaway bleachers on the top concourse. Tickets may be purchased at the Western ticket office, located in the Diddle Arena lobby, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

According to Houk, tickets for the Hilltoppers' regular season are also moving well. His office has received what he termed "a sizeable number of new applications" for season tickets.

The season tickets will be good for a total of 11 home games during the 1980-81 campaign, seven games against Ohio Valley Conference competition plus four non-league contests with Alabama-Huntsville (Dec. 1), Evansville (Dec. 13), District of Columbia (Jan. 3) and Northern Iowa (Feb. 23).

Western closes out the upcoming regular season on the road against Louisville's defending national champions Feb. 28, and the OVC tourney is set for Mar. 6-7 at the site of the regular-season champion.

Considering the fact that it falls, between the Hilltoppers' OVC finale at home against Eastern (Feb. 21) and their regular-season finale at Louisville, that



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

game against Northern Iowa looks a little on the anti-climactic side.

However, steps are being taken to remedy the situation.

In the "for sure" category, there will be a preliminary game that night between two of the top junior college teams in the area—Lindsey Wilson of Columbia, and Cumberland of Lebanon, Tenn. Last year's part-time assistant coach at Western, Roger Schnepf, is the new head coach at Lindsey Wilson.

In the "maybe" category, meanwhile, is a possible 10-year reunion of the 1970-71 Western team that went to the Final Four in the Astrodome.

Clarence Glover, one of the stars of that Hilltopper squad that dropped a double-overtime decision to Villanova in the NCAA semifinals, is helping get the thing off the ground. A former high school standout at nearby Caverna, Glover is now an assistant to former Western coach Gene Keady at Purdue.

Many of the players off that team (Jim Rose, Rex Bailey, Jerry Dunn, Jerome Perry, Chuck Witt and Gary Sundmacher, to name a bunch) have wound up settling in Louisville, while former All-American Jim McDaniels currently resides in Los Angeles.

If it all comes off, Northern Iowa might be wondering

what it did to deserve such a turnout.

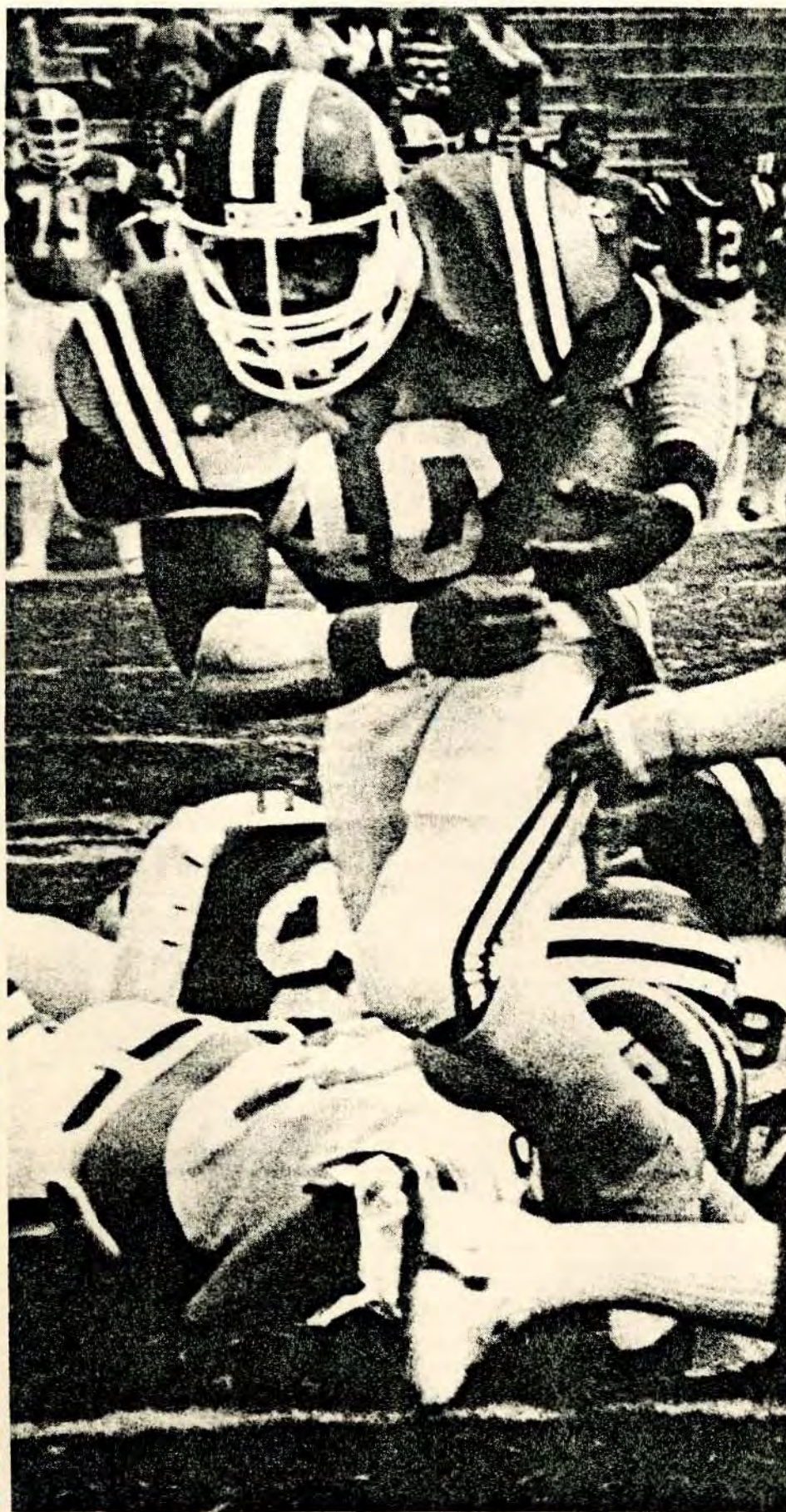
Speaking of Cumberland Junior College, that's where one of Western's recruits the past spring has wound up.

Ben Franklin, the 6-4 prep star from Oneida Institute who signed with Western in the spring, has opted instead for two years of junior college ball. The decision was made with the encouragement of the Western coaches, who felt that Franklin would benefit more from playing on the juco level the next two years than riding the bench at Western.

Franklin was actually the Hilltoppers' first of five signees last spring, after being named the top player in the 13th Region three years in a row. The 6-4, 190-pound forward averaged 24 points and 20 rebounds a game during his senior season.

Meanwhile, sophomore Percy White could also be put in the no-show category—that is, 37 pounds of him. That's how much is missing from last year's 6-6, 245-pound freshman from DeMatha Catholic.

White checked in at a little less than 210 pounds this fall, but his shoulders are as broad as ever. Needless to say, he figures to play a prominent backup role behind a probable front line of 6-7 sophomore Tony Wilson, 6-8 senior Ricky Wray and 6-9 junior Craig McCormick.



(Staff photo by Mike Morse)

Up the middle

TROY SNARDON (40) of Western, a junior fullback from Allensville, breaks through the middle of Austin Peay's defense for big yardage during the Hilltoppers' recent 20-14 Ohio Valley Conference win. Snardon will be looking for his second 100-yard in a row Saturday against Youngstown.

The starters...

★ Western ★

OFFENSE ("I")

Pos.—Player (No.)	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB—John Hall (18)	6-0	185	Sr.
TB—Nate Jones (43)	5-10	185	Sr.
FB—Troy Snardon (40)	6-0	205	Jr.
F—Ron Hunter (86)	5-11	185	So.
SE—Jerry Flippin (82)	5-0	165	Jr.
TE—Ricky Gwinn (88)	6-2	220	Sr.
T—Phil Rich (70)	6-4	260	Sr.
G—Pete Walters (68)	6-3	255	Sr.
C—Greg Gallas (55)	6-1	225	Jr.
G—Mark Blackburn (64)	5-10	215	Jr.
T—Steve Catlett (65)	6-1	230	So.

DEFENSE (3-4-4)

T—Tim Ford (80)	6-4	245	Jr.
NG—Tony Wells (54)	5-9	195	Jr.
T—Donnie Evans (50)	6-4	240	Jr.
ILB—Bryan Gray (58)	5-11	200	Sr.
ILB—Tom Tussey (53)	5-11	210	So.
OLB—Brad Todd (85)	6-2	215	Sr.
OLB—Greg Barnes (32)	6-1	195	So.
CB—Lamont Meacham (28)	6-0	170	Jr.
CB—Davlin Mullen (20)	6-1	170	So.
SS—Reginald Johnson (37)	6-2	205	So.
FS—Barry Bumm (19)	6-0	175	Jr.

★ Youngstown ★

OFFENSE ("I")

Pos.—Player (No.)	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB—Les Pakalnis (18)	6-0	164	So.
TB—Robbie Robson (26)	6-0	190	Sr.
FB—Jeff Johnston (39)	5-10	200	Sr.
F—Jeff Patterson (48)	5-11	162	So.
TE—Shawn Boyle (80)	6-1	225	So.
TE—Joe Koken (81)	6-1	205	Sr.
T—Bob Porter (65)	6-4	245	Sr.
G—Mark Cerni (68)	5-10	221	Jr.
C—Eric Warstler (56)	6-4	222	Jr.
G—Bob Bogner (74)	6-2	230	So.
T—Rick McDonnell (67)	6-2	272	So.

DEFENSE (5-2-4)

E—Tom Cullen (57)	6-2	229	So.
T—Dan Novak (51)	5-9	237	Jr.
NG—Sidney Peterson (46)	5-10	227	So.
T—Larry Sabino (91)	6-3	252	Jr.
E—Brett Modic (33)	6-0	206	Sr.
LB—Jeff Gergel (41)	6-2	210	Jr.
LB—Joe Schartner (16)	5-11	213	Jr.
CB—Pat Durina (20)	5-9	165	Sr.
CB—Larry Grist (17)	6-1	185	Sr.
SS—Dave Moray (25)	5-11	184	Sr.
FS—Dave Reed (27)	5-11	174	Sr.

Tops romp past

Youngstown 42-17

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

After scoring only two plays into their last game, Western's merry band of big-play artists decided that wasn't good enough.

Instead, sophomore speedster Davlin Mullen fielded the opening kickoff of Saturday's game against visiting Youngstown at his own two-yard line and took it back all the way for a near-record 98-yard touchdown to propel the Hilltoppers to an easy 42-17 romp before a sun-drenched crowd of 12,500 at Smith Stadium.

Ranked fifth among the nation's Division I-AA powers going into the game, Western raised its record to 5-0 on the year. Meanwhile, Youngstown slumped to a puzzling 0-4-1 mark after a banner 11-2 campaign in 1979.

As it turned out, Mullen's run was the second-longest kickoff return in Western history. During the Hilltoppers' perfect 1973 regular season, John Embree took one back some 99 yards while Appalachian State was falling by the wayside 42-7.

According to Western coach Jimmy Feix, Mullen's game-opening dash was no accident.

"We had noticed in our films of them that they always kicked off from one hash mark or the other," he explained, "and then they tried to pinch you in on that side of the field. We put in a special blocking pattern to get us to the other side, and they just didn't have any coverage left when we got over there."

Mullen did have to break one tackle shortly

after hauling the kick in, but after that it was off to the races.

Western went on to grab a commanding 21-7 lead by the end of the first quarter, settled for the same margin at intermission and piled up 21 more points in the third stanza before clearing the bench in the fourth.

Averaging more than 400 yards per game in total offense going into Saturday's non-conference clash, the Hilltoppers finished with only 271 total yards on the afternoon. But Feix admittedly took it easy on the Penguins once the outcome was no longer in doubt, making a believer out of Youngstown coach Bill Narduzzi.

"I think they compare very favorably with both Eastern and Murray," said the former Kentucky assistant, whose team had the dubious honor of opening the 1980 campaign with back-to-back road trips to Murray and Eastern. "They're as physical as Eastern is, and they seem to have as many skilled players as Murray does. They may have the best team overall because they mix it up so well."

"The game really went about the way I expected it to," he added. "Western is a big, strong football team, and we just can't say that about ourselves yet."

After the kickoff return by Mullen and the first of six straight extra-point kicks by walk-on placement specialist Jim Griffiths, Western upped its lead to 14-0 late in the first quarter on an eight-yard keeper by senior

quarterback John Hall.

A Youngstown fumble at the Penguin 19 set up the score, with Bryan Gray pouncing on a muffed pitchout by quarterback Les Pakalnis.

The visitors answered back with a seven-yard scoring pass from Pakalnis to tight end Joe Koken moments later after a Western fumble, but Hilltopper fullback Troy Snardon broke loose on a 75-yard touchdown run in the final seconds of the quarter to put the home team in command for good.

A junior from Allensville, Snardon finished the day with a staggering 159 yards and two scores on just 12 carries.

"Troy had an outstanding game," noted Feix. "Man, he broke a couple of long ones today. I knew he had good speed when he got to the outside, but I didn't know he would run off and leave their whole team behind like that."

Shortly into the second half, Snardon again broke loose on a sweep to the left side and sped 54 yards for his second score of the game.

Although the Penguins are actually the newest members of the Ohio Valley Conference, the game did not count in the league standings and Youngstown won't begin OVC play until 1981. Western returns to the OVC wars next weekend at Tennessee Tech, before returning home against arch-rival Eastern on the following Saturday.

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BOWLING GREEN

SPORTS

Page 12-A

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1980

Undefeated Murray Bops UT-Martin 20-6

Staff, Wire Dispatches

Gino Gibbs ran for a touchdown on the second play of the game and David Tuck added a pair of field goals as unbeaten Murray State stopped visiting Tennessee-Martin 20-6 yesterday.

Tennessee-Martin, 1-5, attempted an onside kick to start the game, but the ball was recovered at the Martin 46. Two plays later, Gibbs circled right end for the only touchdown needed by Murray, 6-0 and ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Division I-AA poll.

Tuck added a 37-yard field goal later in the first period and, in the third quarter, booted a career-best 49-yarder as Murray rolled to a 20-0 advantage.

Martin avoided a shutout with 2:51 left in the game when Tommy Overton ran into the end zone from 2 yards out.

Murray's defensive unit, rated one of the best in Division I-AA, limited Martin to 187 offensive yards, including only 58 rushing yards in 40 attempts.

Kentucky State 20, Lincoln 0 — Victor Rice passed for one touchdown and ran for another during a second-period explosion that lifted Kentucky State to victory over Lincoln in the Thorobreds' homecoming game in Frankfort.

Kentucky State evened its record at 3-3 with the victory.

As the first quarter ended, Kentucky State was on the Lincoln 9 after driving from its own 42. Rice passed 9 yards to Herman Lowery on the first play of the second quarter for the Thorobreds' first score.

Lincoln could not drive and punted, but punter John Taiffi fumbled at the Lincoln 26 and running back Ronald Clark recovered for Kentucky State at the 14.

Kentucky State scored again in three plays with Rice running it in from the 1 for the score.

Two unsportsmanlike conduct calls against Lincoln helped Kentucky State close out the scoring.

The Thorobreds started on their own 11 and a Rice pass to Lowery got them to their 23, when Lincoln was slapped with the penalties on its / bench to give Kentucky State a first down at the Lincoln 42. The victors drove from there, with Charles Francis passing 10 yards to Darryl Cook for the score.

Lincoln, now 2-4, was held to 66 total yards, 45 rushing and 21 passing, while Kentucky State totalled 292 yards, 202 rushing and 90 passing.

Clark led Kentucky State rushers with 79 yards on 17 carries.

Ky./OVC Roundup

Western 42, Youngstown 17 — Davlin Mullen returned the opening kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown and Troy Snardon added scoring runs of 75 and 54 yards as Western Kentucky romped to victory over visiting Youngstown State.

Mullen's TD romp in the opening seconds launched a 21-point opening period that gave Western, 5-0, all the points it needed in defense of its No. 5 ranking in the NCAA Division I-AA poll.

Snardon, who ran for 159 yards in 12 carries, broke loose for 75 yards only nine seconds before intermission to give Western a 21-7 halftime edge over Youngstown, 0-4-1. Snardon struck again with 8:22 left in the third period when he rolled 54 yards for another touchdown and a 28-7 Western advantage.

Youngstown managed to cut Western's lead to 28-14 when Robby Robson ran 11 yards with 2:30 left in

the third period. But the Hilltoppers were back in the end zone just over a minute later when Jerry Flippin ran 34 yards on a flanker reverse with 1:13 left in the third quarter.



(Staff photo by Mark Workman)

Making the exchange

MARTY JAGGERS (12), Western's reserve quarterback behind ace John Hall, prepares to hand off to fullback Kelly Key (41) in fourth-quarter action of Western's 42-17 win over visiting Youngstown State out of Ohio. The Hilltoppers used big plays in gaining their fifth win in as many outings.

W.KY. 42, YNGSTWN 17

Youngstown State	7	0	7	3-17
Western Kentucky	21	0	21	0-42

WK—Mullen 98 kickoff return (Griffiths kick)
 WK—Hall 8 run (Griffiths kick)
 YNG—Koken 7 pass from Pakalnis (McFadden kick)
 WK—Snardon 75 run (Griffiths kick)
 WK—Snardon 54 run (Griffiths kick)
 YNG—Robson 11 run (McFadden kick)
 WK—Flippin 34 run (Griffiths kick)
 WK—Todd 15 fumble return (Griffiths kick)
 YNG—FG McFadden 48
 A—12:50

	Yngstwn	W.Ky
First downs	21	10
Rushes-yards	65-214	34-221
Passing yards	125	50
Return yards	0	46
Passes	7-26-1	6-8-0
Punts	3-47	6-36
Fumbles-lost	5-2	2-2
Penalties-yards	2-10	5-60

Mullen and Snardon ignite Western

Special To The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky, led by Davlin Mullen and Troy Snardon, came up with the big plays yesterday as the Hilltoppers remained undefeated by beating Youngstown State 42-17.

Before the estimated 12,500 fans settled in their seats, Mullen — a sophomore defensive back from Clairton, Pa. — broke down the right sidelines and returned the opening kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown.

Snardon, a junior fullback from Todd County Central High in Kentucky, then added the finishing touches to Western's fifth victory under coach Jimmy Feix this season.

Snardon scored on runs of 75 and 54

yards, his final tally increasing Western's lead to 28-7. The 6-foot, 205-pounder gained 159 yards in 12 carries in the game. He now has scored six TDs this season and gained 482 yards rushing.

"Troy had an outstanding game once again for us," Feix said. "He's just having a great year when you get right down to it. He showed today he can run outside as well as inside. He has tremendous speed for a back his size."

John Hall, a two-time All-Ohio Valley Conference quarterback for Western, played only slightly more than one half, completing six of seven passes for 50 yards. Tight end Ricky Gwinn and split end Ron Hunter each

caught three passes for 25 yards.

Despite owning a 22-10 advantage in first downs and a 339-271 edge in total yards, the Ohio school's record fell to 0-4-1.

Bill Narduzzi, the Youngstown coach and a former assistant at the University of Kentucky, was impressed by Western. Earlier in the season, Youngstown lost to Eastern Kentucky 45-0 and to Murray State 24-6.

"Western is as physical as Eastern and as skilled as Murray State, in my opinion," Narduzzi said. "Western did as well as anybody in controlling our defensive line. Their offensive line is just tremendous. They controlled the line of scrimmage all day long."



Heading home

WESTERN BANDIT BACK Brad Todd (85), a senior from Sonora, heads for the goal line after intercepting a pass from Youngstown quarterback Gary Fritz as Penguin defender Bob Bogner (74) tries to make the stop. Todd's interception return for a touchdown was one of many big plays the Toppers used to down visiting Youngstown State 42-17 at Smith Stadium Saturday.

(Photo by Mark Workman)

Daily News

YEAR 126—NO. 245 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1980 16 PAGES 2 SECTIONS 20 CENTS

Ball control

Kids return kick three blocks before turnover

For a while Saturday, it looked like the only thing Western might lose was the football.

Walk-on placekicker Jim Griffiths booted five straight extra points for the Hilltoppers, including three that not only cleared the uprights but also sailed over the fence running along Center Street-Russellville Road. All of which set the stage for an entertaining sideshow during Western's easy 42-17 win over visiting Youngstown.

Griffiths' first kick that left the premises was promptly returned to a manager waiting on the inside of the fence, but not the second.

Instead, it was fielded on the bounce by a high school youngster who then turned and sped in the opposite direction—with a friend leading the blocking, no less. The manager took out after the pair, while the Smith Stadium crowd of 12,500 roared its approval of the amusing diversion.

Butch and Sundance had gotten a big head start, and the manager returned empty-handed a few minutes later. But a campus cop finally corralled the two near Wendy's on the by pass, and confiscated the goods.

The officer let the kids go after getting them to hand over the ball, apparently deciding they had learned their lesson of the day. So had the Western manager, who afterwards waited OUTSIDE the fence for the extra-point kicks.

While junior fullback Troy Snardon couldn't compete with Butch and Sundance for the longest run of the day,



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

he was a close second...and third.

In the final seconds of the first quarter after Youngstown had pulled to within 14-7, the 205-pounder with deceiving speed broke loose through the left side of the line and raced 75 yards down the far sidelines to put Western back in command.

Early in the third quarter, Snardon did it again. This time from 54 yards out, the former prep All-Stater at Todd Central swept left end and again walked a tightrope along the sidelines while dodging the last would-be tackler near the 20-yard line.

For the day, he finished with 159 yards and two scores on just 12 carries...and sat out the entire fourth quarter. That might be good enough to make him Western's fifth OVC player of the week in as many games, but not without a little competition from Austin Peay quarterback Sonny Defilippis.

In a 23-21 win over Morehead over the weekend,

Defilippis ran for two touchdowns and passed 69 yards to Ondra Woods for another.

A couple of additional notes on Saturday's game...

First of all, you might have noticed that several players were wearing different numbers this weekend. For instance, freshman linebacker Walter York—the former prep standout at Warren Central—was No. 35 instead of No. 56.

York hasn't been demoted, of course. In fact, he's seeing a lot of action in his first year at Western.

A couple of days prior to the Youngstown game, about a half dozen Western jerseys got a little too well done in a dryer at the campus laundry. Charco-broiled might be a better way to describe them, but replacements are on their way.

Secondly, you might NOT have noticed the bit of irony provided by the Western cheerleaders near the end of the game.

While the Hilltoppers' second-team offense was making plans in the huddle, the cheerleaders broke into a chant of "Hey, it's time to push across that line."

It was good advice, and Western's reserves should have been listening. Instead, they got called for delay of game.

Speaking of cheerleaders, this year's squad is a bumper crop for those of you who bring your binoculars to the game to appreciate all the aspects of college football. At least, that's what my cohorts in the pressbox tell me.

Western is still in the hunt for its first perfect season

By STAN SUTTON

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

The fact that Western Kentucky has won its first five football games this year hardly is a new experience for coach Jimmy Feix. Under Feix, Western won its first six in 1975, its first five in 1968, its first four in 1974 and its first 12 in 1973.

But despite its rich football tradition — earlier this season Western scored its 10,000th point in 62 seasons — Western Kentucky is still looking for its first unbeaten, untied season. Of course, the 1913 team went 1-0 by beating Elizabethtown High School 20-0, but against collegiate competition the best the Hilltoppers have done is 10-0-1 in 1963.

Like all coaches, Feix insists he is playing them "one at a time," which means that now it is time to play Ten-

nessee Tech, the 'Toppers opponent Saturday in Cookeville, Tenn. If Western gets its sixth victory there, it still faces a road full of nails before it can go unbeaten.

The biggest tests are expected to be Eastern Kentucky on Oct. 25 in Bowling Green and Murray State Nov. 22 in Murray. Other obstacles are Morehead State, which beat Western last year, and Middle Tennessee State, which almost did.

"I don't think we'll have any trouble getting ready for Tech," Feix said. "It's their homecoming, and they always play with a lot of emotion. It's awfully tough to play at Cookeville."

Western's play has been exciting, as well as effective. Davlin Mullen had a 98-yard kickoff return in last Saturday's 42-17 win over Youngstown State. Fullback Troy Snardon had runs

of 75 and 54 yards during a 159-yard day. "We had the ball for 42 plays, and they had it for 90," Feix said. "When we got it, we'd score in two plays."

Because it has been scoring on both kick returns and fumbles — Brad Todd scored on the latter Saturday — Western has been throwing less often. All-Ohio Valley Conference quarterback John Hall passed only seven times against Youngstown.

A year ago, Hall had to throw frequently because Western's tailbacks, Nate Jones and Barry Skaggs, missed most of the season with injuries. "Having those people healthy has made a lot of difference," Feix said. "Plus, we're quite versatile on offense."

Sports shorts

Tops move to fourth

Western has climbed to fourth place in this week's Division I-AA national rankings, while Murray continues to share the No. 1 spot with South Carolina State.

Both the Racers and South Carolina State finished with 45 points in this week's poll of the NCAA selection committee which will pick the I-AA playoff teams next month, followed by Lehigh with 39 points, Western with 36, Weber State with 33, Delaware with 30, Eastern with 27, Connecticut with 25 and Boise State with 20.

Rounding out the Top 10 in a tie for 10th place were Northwest Louisiana, Alcorn State, Boston University and Massachusetts, all with 18 points apiece.

Meanwhile, Western fullback Troy Snardon failed in his bid to become the Hilltoppers' fifth straight OVC player of the week despite his 159-yard rushing effort Saturday in a 42-17 romp past Youngstown. Instead, Austin Peay quarterback Sonny Defilippis was named offensive player of the week after running for two touchdowns and passing for another in the Governors' 23-21 win over Morehead.

Eastern tackle Mark Willoughby was named defensive player of the week. The Colonels shut out Middle Tennessee 24-0.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1980

Top tackler

TIM FORD (80) of Western, shown here meeting a Kentucky State running back head-on during a recent game in Frankfort, is the Hilltoppers' leading tackler five games into the 1980 season. The 6-4, 245-pound defensive end was All-Ohio Valley Conference last year as a junior.



Sports shorts

Todd out for year

Western senior linebacker Brad Todd (6-2, 215) has been sidelined for the rest of the season after undergoing surgery Tuesday for a knee injury suffered in the Hilltoppers' 28-17 win at Tennessee Tech over the weekend.

Todd was injured on the play where Western punter Ray Farmer bobbled the snap from center, and scrambled in the backfield before finally getting the punt off.

Todd was a pre-season All-Ohio Valley Conference pick this year, after ranking second on the team in tackles (115) a year ago as a junior. In the Hilltoppers' six games so far this fall, the former East Hardin prep standout had piled up 16 unassisted tackles and 44 assists for 60 total hits.

According to Western coach Jimmy Feix, Todd will be replaced at his outside linebacking spot by sophomore Tom Fox (6-4, 230).

Tops hold fourth

Western is ranked fourth again in this week's Division I-AA football poll and Murray continues to hold down the No. 1 spot, while Eastern has climbed to a tie for fifth in the latest standings.

Murray (7-0) holds down sole possession of the No. 1 spot this week with 45 points, followed closely by South Carolina State with 44.

Next in the ratings are Lehigh with 39 points, Western (6-0) with 36, Eastern (5-1) and Connecticut with 31 each, Boise State with 26, Boston University with 24, Massachusetts with 21 and four teams tied at 14 points apiece—Delaware, Alcorn State, Grambling and Nevada-Reno.

Western entertains Eastern at 1 p.m. Saturday, Murray visits Eastern next weekend and Western is scheduled to travel to Murray in the regular-season finale for both teams on Nov. 22.

The game

Say no more: it's Western-Eastern time again

Now for the big one.

Oh sure, this year's Ohio Valley Conference race may boil down to a battle of unbeaten between Western and Murray in the season finale Nov. 22. But as far as rivalries go, that one needs a few more years' worth of credentials before it comes anywhere close to Western-Eastern.

Even during slow years for both parties (there haven't been many, of course), the Western-Eastern game seems to stand out from the rest.

That's why Western stopped designating Eastern as its homecoming foe every other year. The game always comes close to sellout proportions anyway, so why not let all the old grads come to town for another game a couple of weeks later?

This week's game figures to sell out by Saturday's 1 p.m. kickoff, and also may wind up being regionally televised by ABC.

"I'm half optimistic about it," said Western athletic director John Oldham early today, "but we won't know anything one way or another until this afternoon. I felt like we had a good chance to get on if we both won this weekend, and we did."

Western ran its record to 6-0 with a 28-17 win on the road against Tennessee Tech, while Eastern's defending Division I-AA national champs raised their season log to 5-1 with a 25-6 pasting of winless East Tennessee.

Should the call come from ABC, it would probably force a choice between money and exposure.

Prior to the start of the 1980 season, the national sports cable network (ESPN) offered the Ohio Valley Conference about \$3,000 for the rights to televise the



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

game nationally on a delayed basis. But if and when ABC gets into the picture, we're talking about something in the neighborhood of \$400,000.

"I've already signed a contract with ESPN," said Oldham, "but there's a clause in it that gives us an out. All we have to do is notify them that another network is going to televise the game live, and then they have the option of dropping us for another game if they want to."

"We're talking about 400 stations carrying us on cable," he added, "and the last time ABC carried us I think we were picked up by six outlets. But we're also talking a big difference in money, too."

ABC carried the Western-Eastern game here two years ago, and had to be pleased with the turn of events. The broadcast from Smith Stadium came off without a hitch, and the Hilltoppers eked out a 17-16 victory on a last-second field goal by Kavin McGrath.

McGrath actually missed a 40-yard attempt as time ran out, but an Eastern lineman was called for

roughing the kicker. Getting another chance from 15 yards closer, the walk-on from Louisville split the uprights the second time.

Just another dull chapter in Kentucky's fiercest intrastate rivalry.

If there is a rivalry in the OVC that comes close to equalling the lack of love lost between Western and Eastern, it's the one between a couple of schools south of the border—Tech and Middle Tennessee.

The winner of the football game between the two bitter rivals each year receives a traveling trophy called the "Shinny Ninny," which resembles an old totem pole more than anything else.

Middle's only win last fall was a 17-14 decision over Tech in the season finale, giving the Blue Raiders possession of the coveted carving until this year's game later in the season. But a few Tech students decided not to wait until the Nov. 22 game, and kidnapped the "Ninny" on the eve of Tech's homecoming game with Western.

Not to be outdone, some Middle students journeyed to Cookeville the next day and kidnapped Tech's mascot—the Golden Eagle—only a couple of hours before the game.

It was almost halftime Saturday by the time the mascot finally got to the game, after being rescued in Murfreesboro by some Tech cheerleaders.

About that same time, a plane flying over Overall Field started dropping leaflets into the stadium. Actually, they were index cards bearing the MTSU insignia...not to mention instructions telling Tech where it could go after the game.

It's East vs. West as Kidd

and Feix Renew Rivalry

Eastern, Western ready for battle

By **MICHAEL EMBRY**
Associated Press

The battle lines were drawn 66 years ago for the Eastern-Western football teams.

And, if anything, the annual rivalry between these two NCAA Division I-AA powers has intensified over the seasons. This year is no exception.

The Hilltoppers, fourth-ranked and unbeaten in six games, entertain fifth-rated Eastern, 5-1, in Bowling Green Saturday. Besides the usual emotions that accompany these squads when they meet, there is a lot more at stake.

Western is 3-0 in the Ohio Valley Conference and the Colonels are 2-1. A loss will certainly be critical, if not fatal, to either team's hopes of winning the conference title, espe-

cially with No. 1-ranked Murray setting the pace.

"It's awfully important to us," said Western coach Jimmy Feix, whose team holds a 33-18-2 lead in the series. "A loss might be critical in that sense."

While realizing the importance of the game, Feix isn't overstressing its significance on the season.

"It's the biggest game of the week," he said. "But no way can we approach it as the biggest game of the year."

Eastern coach Roy Kidd, whose teams have not won at Bowling Green since 1968, believes the Colonels will have to be more consistent on offense to win this weekend.

"We're still making mistakes which is hurting our offense's con-

sistency," he said. "Our schedule changes very dramatically and we'll have to be ready for the change. We have played teams the past two weeks who have not won this season and now we're getting ready for two unbeaten teams."

Eastern entertains Murray in its homecoming game next weekend. Western gets a shot at the Racers on Nov. 22.

There is a full slate of conference games Saturday with Murray entertaining Akron, Tennessee Tech at Morehead and Austin Peay traveling to Middle Tennessee. Youngstown State, which is ineligible for the title, visits Eastern Illinois.

Murray will have its defense put to the test against Akron's ground-oriented offense. Akron, 3-3-1 overall and 2-1-1 in the OVC, has the conference's leading rusher in Don Brumfield, who is averaging 101.7 yards a game.

Murray, meanwhile, is fourth in the nation in rushing defense, holding opponents to a mere 72.1 yards a game. The Racers are 7-0 overall and tied with Western for first place.

Morehead, 2-2 in the OVC and 3-3 in all games, takes on Tennessee Tech in homecoming festivities.

Morehead had a sterling performance from sophomore linebacker Dan Gooch in last week's 20-14 victory over Youngstown State. Gooch, who earned conference defensive player of the week honors for his efforts, had a school-record 19 solo tackles and tied the mark for total defensive plays with 23.

LEXINGTON HERALD **Sports**

EAST vs. WEST

Expect Another Close One When Eastern, Western Meet Again

By Mike Johnson
Herald Assistant Sports Editor

□ Scouting report, Page C-3.

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky football coach Jimmy Feix was standing on the field at L.T. Smith Stadium yesterday afternoon, a cold wind and drizzling rain whipping around him, as his team prepared for its final workout before today's game with archrival Eastern Kentucky.

A fan walking past spotted Feix and hollered to him, "We're gonna beat 'em good coach." Feix smiled and yelled back, "I'll be mighty happy if it's just one point."

Then Feix turned to a visitor, shaking his head. "That's the truth," he said. "The way this thing has gone the last couple of years, one point will be just about it."

Jimmy Feix knows what he's talking about.

In the last two years, Eastern and Western have put on quite a show. Western won two years ago in Bowling Green 17-16 by kicking a field goal in the final seconds. Western got a second chance at that field

goal after its first try sailed wide but Eastern was called for roughing the kicker.

Last year, Eastern won 8-6 in Richmond when Danny Martin blocked a Western field-goal attempt that would've won the game for the Hilltoppers. That was after Eastern's Rodney Byrd had raced all the way across the field to make a game-saving tackle on Western's Eddie Preston at the 1-yard line.

Although the weather forecast for today calls for cool temperatures, the Eastern-Western rivalry should be just as hot as ever. Western is undefeated in six games, tied

with Murray State for first place in the Ohio Valley Conference at 3-0 and ranked No. 4 in the country in Division I-AA. Eastern is 5-1, a game out of first in the OVC at 2-1 and ranked fifth.

"I don't think either one of us has played a team as good as the one we're gonna play Saturday," says Eastern coach Roy Kidd. "I don't think Western has played anybody as good as we are and I know we haven't played anybody as good as Western."

Eastern seems to have more at stake in this game. A loss would most likely eliminate the Colonels

from the OVC race and almost certainly put an end to their chances of defending their national championship in the I-AA playoffs.

"If we don't win we can kiss it goodbye," Kidd says simply. "We're gonna find out just how good of a football team we are in the next two weeks."

But, Kidd seems to like Eastern's chances. The Colonels have won four straight games since losing at Akron and they have allowed just 16 points in those four games, shutting out Youngstown and Middle Tennessee.

That is what worries Feix the most.

"I've seen three different films on Eastern and you can see them getting better every week and that's what a coach likes to see in his team. They're peaking. I hope they can't get much better."

"That's what bothers me. It looks like they're coming on and we're not. We've been winning but we haven't got that much done in our last couple of games and that's disturbing."

The secret to this game seems
(Turn to EASTERN, C-3)

Eastern, Western Should Play Another Close One

From Page C-1

to be whether or not Eastern's young defense can shut down Western's potent offense. Eastern ranks second in the OVC in defense, allowing just 233 yards per game, and ranks fourth in the country in scoring defense, giving up just 9.7 points a game.

The Colonels will be facing a Western team that leads the conference in total offense, averaging 330 yards and 28 points a game. Western features two of the OVC's best runners in fullback Troy Snardon (559 yards this season) and tailback Nate Jones (508 yards).

Snardon and Jones have been so effective that quarterback John Hall, the OVC offensive player of the year last season, has attempted just 66 passes in six games. He has completed 37 for 658 yards and six touchdowns.

"Boy, they look pretty good," Kidd says. "Normally, when you think about Western, you think about stopping their passing attack. This year, they just haven't had to pass much."

"But our defense has played well. I was worried about it at the start of the season because we'd lost so many people. I knew we'd have good athletes on our defense but they didn't have any experience."

We've played better than I thought we could."

Neither Jones nor Snardon played much last year for Western. Jones was injured in the third game of the season and underwent knee surgery and Snardon was hobbled much of the year with a bad ankle.

"It's been a while since we've had an inside runner like Snardon," Feix says. "I could see in spring practice that we were gonna be a little more physical in our ground game than we had been. A big part

of that has to do with our offensive line. We've got three guys up there that have played a lot and that makes a difference."

Western leads the series 33-18-2 and Eastern has not won in Bowling Green since 1968 when the L.T. Smith Stadium was dedicated. Yet, Kidd likes his team's chances.

"I think we're ready," he says. "I feel pretty good about this one. In the past, I've been tense and tight and nervous. I've been so relaxed for this game that it worries me."

Eastern at Western

Time: 2 p.m. (EDT).

Location: L.T. Smith Stadium, Bowling Green.

Coaches: Roy Kidd, Eastern; Jimmy Feix, Western.

Records: Eastern 5-1, Western 6-0.

Radio/Television: WHAS, 840; WEKY, 1340; WEKU-FM 88.9; delayed telecast on ESPN at 10 a.m. Sunday and 3 a.m. Monday.

Notes: This game has all the trappings of most Eastern-Western showdowns. Western is ranked fourth in the country in Division I-AA; Eastern is ranked fifth. Western is tied for the Ohio Valley Conference lead at 3-0; Eastern is one game back at 2-1. The game also matches Western's explosive offense against Eastern's stingy defense. Western leads the OVC in total offense, while Eastern ranks No. 2 in the conference in defense. In its last four games, Eastern has allowed just 16 points. You can probably forget about all of that for this game, however. Eastern won 8-6 last year in Richmond, but Western leads the series 33-18-2 and Eastern has not won in Bowling Green since 1968.





Staff Photo by Keith Williams

Western Kentucky coach Jimmy Feix cast his concerns to the wind yesterday after his team

defeated Eastern Kentucky 13-10. The wind had caused both teams some concern during the game.

Griffiths rallies Tops past Eastern

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

Jim Griffiths discovered the secret to relaxation Saturday at Smith Stadium, and turned it into the secret to success.

A walk-on placekicker from Glenn Burnie, Md., Griffiths strolled onto the field before an overflow crowd of 19,700 and calmly nailed a 24-yard field goal with 5:20 left in the game to give undefeated Western a narrow 13-10 victory over arch-rival Eastern in the latest edition of a rivalry that has become known as World War III across the state.

With a 22-mile per hour wind at his back, the soccer-style kicker split the uprights with his second field goal of the afternoon...but only after convincing himself it didn't matter.

"I missed that first one early in the game and that was my third miss in a row," said Griffiths afterwards, "so at halftime I started trying to figure out if I was doing something wrong. I was pretty nervous when I kicked the one early in the fourth quarter, but I felt a lot better after I made it."

"On the last one," he continued, "I just told myself that it wasn't life or death at that point. I figured even if I missed it, we'd get back down into field goal position again with the wind at our backs. That helped me relax, and I hit it pretty good."

Good enough to give Western the margin of victory in a rematch of last year's shootout at Richmond, where two missed field goals in the final seconds left the Hilltoppers on the short end of an 8-6 score.

Western raised its season mark to 7-0 overall and 4-0

in Ohio Valley Conference play, while Eastern's defending Division I-AA national champions slipped to 5-2 and 2-2.

"This puts us out of it," Eastern coach Roy Kidd said bluntly after the game. "We shot our wad out there today. I know Western and Murray still have to play each other, but I can't see anybody else beating either one of them. You just can't win our league with two losses."

Kidd's troops had dropped a 21-10 decision to OVC newcomer Akron early in the season, but had roared back in recent weeks to join both Murray and Western among the five top-ranked teams in the latest I-AA national poll.

"You gotta hand it to Western," added Kidd, whose Colonels haven't won in Bowling Green since 1968. "They made the plays when they had to, and that's the mark of a good team."

Late in the first quarter, a fumble by Eastern quarterback Chris Isaac gave the Hilltoppers the ball only 19 yards from paydirt. It took Western seven plays to get it in, but junior fullback Troy Snardon finally bulldozed over from two yards out to give the home team a 7-0 lead.

In the second period, Eastern cut its deficit to 7-2 when Thomas White tackled the Hilltoppers' Davlin Mullen in his own end zone for a safety. Mullen had fielded an Eastern punt at his own 11-yard line, before putting it into reverse while trying to pick up blockers on the other side of the field.

The unusual play occurred early in the second quarter, and seemed to pick Eastern up at the half.

With the wind at their backs in the third quarter, the Colonels marched 63 yards on only five plays on their first possession of the half to go ahead 8-7 on a nine-yard run by senior fullback Dale Patton. Patton also tacked on a two-point conversion run, putting Western behind 10-7 with less than four minutes gone in the period.

But as it turned out, Eastern never crossed midfield again. And taking a cue from the World Series, perhaps, Western coach Jimmy Feix decided it was time to bring in a relief pitcher in the final seconds of the third quarter.

"I just felt like we had to try something different," noted Feix, who replaced senior quarterback John Hall with sophomore Ralph Antone to the delight of the partisan crowd. "It looked like Hall was losing confidence in himself, and Antone is a fine quarterback."

Antone hit junior split end Jerry Flippin with a 20-yard strike to the Eastern 49 on the first play of the fourth quarter, and came right back with a 42-yard bomb to the former Franklin-Simpson standout who made a leaping catch at the Eastern 7.

Western wound up having to settle for a 23-yard field goal by Griffiths that knotted the score at 10-10, but came back on its next possession for the game-winning three-pointer. Again with Antone at the helm, the Hilltoppers drove from their own 13-yard line to the EKU 7 before letting Griffiths do the rest.

Western continues OVC play next Saturday at Morehead, while Eastern entertains top-ranked Murray.

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Eastern Kentucky	0	2	8	0-10
Western Kentucky	7	0	0	6-13
WKU—Snardon 2 run (Griffiths kick)				
EKU—Safety Mullen tackled in end zone				
EKU—Patton 9 run (Patton run)				
WKU—FG Griffiths 23				
WKU—FG Griffiths 24				
A—19,700				

	E Ky	W Ky
First downs	8	19
Rushes yards	34-103	65-227
Passing yards	92	142
Return yards	9	4
Passes	7-18-1	7-11-1
Punts	10-37	8-31
Fumbles lost	3-3	0-0
Penalties yards	4-40	7-90

Whoops!

NICKY YEAST (32) of Eastern, a sophomore fullback from Harrodsburg, seems to have forgotten something during Saturday's game at Smith Stadium. Western ran its season mark to 7-0 with a 13-10 come-from-behind win over the Colonels.

(Staff photo)



Staff Photos by Keith Williams

Western's Jerry Flippin was hit by two Eastern defenders after a 20-yard pass completion during the fourth-quarter drive that tied the game.

The Courier-Journal

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Winds carry Western past Eastern 13-10

Westerly winds help Western win

Continued from Page One

Marionneaux somehow got off a 38-yard punt. Western was called for clipping on the return and had to start from its own 13.

Tailback Nate Jones and fullback Barry Skaggs chugged the Hilltoppers out to the 37, where Antone went to the air again. Ron Hunter made a juggling catch at midfield, and Antone passed to tight end Ricky Gwinn for nine more yards. With seven minutes left in the game, Western got a first down at Eastern's 41.

Tailback Elmer Caldwell carried four straight times, gaining 25 yards on his first run, before Western bogged down at Eastern's eight. Griffiths converted again from 24 yards with 5:20 to go, and Eastern could overcome neither Western nor the wind the rest of the game.

"I don't like to play in the wind, because it's not fair," Feix said, "but with Farmer punting I felt it was more to our advantage than it was to them."

The wind had not been a factor in a second-quarter play that appeared likely to haunt Western, if not cost it the game. Western's Davlin Mullen had fielded a Marionneaux punt at the 11 and retreated into the end zone in an attempt to turn the corner and go up the left sideline.

But Eastern's White nailed him for a safety that made the score 7-2. It also necessitated a free kick by Farmer into the strong wind. However, Farmer booted it all the way to Eastern's 32, and the Colonels couldn't score again in the first half.

"I didn't say anything to him (Mullen) about the safety," Feix said. "He's going to run the next one back for a touchdown. I should have told him not to catch the ball."

The game had many rough spots, as battles between rivals usually do. Western was called for holding four times. Eastern lost two fumbles, and only a recovery by Kevin Greve of Jerry Parrish's bobble on the opening kickoff saved another. At least three times Eastern got a receiver open deep only to miss a completion by inches.

"We felt that we could throw the ball deep, and we did get the receivers open but we couldn't get the ball to them," Eastern coach Roy Kidd said.

"We played a good game defensively. But when they had to make something work they did it," he said. "But I

thought we could run the ball better than we did."

Eastern gained only 128 yards rushing, compared with 262 for the Hilltoppers. And, thanks to Antone and the wind at his back, Western passed for 142 yards on 9-of-11 throwing. Eastern's Chris Isaac completed seven of 18 for 92 yards.

Caldwell led Western's balanced rushing with 72 yards in 14 carries. Fullback Troy Snardon had 64 in 13 cracks, and Skaggs gained 60 in 15 tries. Eastern's longest gain of the day was 24 yards — a pass from Isaac to Parrish — and its longest run was 18 yards, by fullback Dale Patton.

After Griffiths had missed a 34-yard field-goal attempt at 8:41 of the first period, a fumble by Isaac and a recovery by Western's Tom Tussey set up the first score of the game. Snardon scored on a two-yard run with 11 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Snardon later had to leave the game for several series of plays because of a pulled hamstring.

"I got hurt about two or three plays into the third quarter," he said. When he returned he plowed into the Western bench on a running play in which many Western fans questioned Eastern's sportsmanship.

But Eastern wasn't to blame, according to Snardon, who said the hamstring snapped again as he ran into the bench.

Eastern took the lead on its first series of the second half, thanks to a 24-yard pass from Isaac to Parrish that put the ball on Western's 39. Isaac and Parrish had another 21-yard gainer before Patton burst up the middle for a nine-yard score. Patton then ran over left tackle on the conversion for a 10-7 Eastern lead.

Western's victory increases the possibility of the Hilltoppers and Murray State matching unblemished records Nov. 22 at Murray in a battle for the Ohio Valley Conference championship. (Murray beat Akron 13-10 yesterday.) But first Eastern will test Murray next at Richmond and Western will go against an improved Morehead State team Saturday at Morehead.

"Roy wished me good luck after the game," Feix said of Kidd. "But I said, 'Hey, you're the one I want to have good luck.'"

"They're down right now, but we've got to bounce back," Kidd said of his players. "They wouldn't be a good team if they weren't down after a game like this."

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Jim Griffiths is from Maryland, Ralph Antone from Pennsylvania. But both took advantage of some good old-fashioned Kentucky windage yesterday to lead Western Kentucky to a 13-10 victory over Eastern Kentucky.

The wind that swept across L. T. Smith Stadium and the 19,700 people who shivered within was estimated at 22 miles per hour yesterday. It blew so hard that Western's Ray Farmer, who had averaged almost 45 yards a punt all season, was kicking boomerangs that averaged only 31 yards for the game. Western's all-conference quarterback, John Hall, tried to throw

the ball only twice in the first half because of the turbulence.

Beginning the fourth quarter, when Western got the wind at its back, unbeaten Eastern led unbeaten Western 10-7. Antone, a sophomore who started the season as the No. 3 quarterback, had entered the game and was prepared to complete all four of his passes in the final period.

Griffiths is a walk-on place-kicker who had missed his last three field-goal attempts, including one earlier in the game. "I hadn't slept all week, I was so nervous," he admitted.

The two non-Kentuckians turned the game around in an instant. Antone's first pass was a 20-yard flip to wide receiver Jerry Flippin at Eastern's 49.

Then he hit a 42-yard completion, again to Flippin, who leaped above defenders Gus Parks and Tommy White for the reception at Eastern's seven-yard line.

But Eastern wasn't about to yield further, and after three unsuccessful runs by Western, Griffiths kicked a 23-yard field goal that tied the game.

"I've never felt so much pressure in my life as when I lined up. My whole body was trembling," said Griffiths, who had walked into coach Jimmy Feix's office earlier this year and asked for a tryout.

Now facing the wind, Eastern could move only to its own 40 before Steve

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Sunday Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, OCTOBER 26, 1980

60 CENTS

Toppers Pull Off Miraculous Rally

Western Antones for Woes; Beats Eastern

By Mike Johnson

Herald Assistant Sports Editor

BOWLING GREEN — All the wondrous things that Western Kentucky had accomplished this season seemed to be slipping away from the Hilltoppers, along with the time, in yesterday's game with arch-rival Eastern Kentucky. The undefeated season, the No. 4 ranking in the country, the first place tie with Murray State in the Ohio Valley Conference — they were all were in danger.

Western, in fact, needed something next to a miracle, trailing Eastern 10-7 in the fourth quarter and going nowhere. The Hilltoppers found one when coach Jimmy Feix yanked starting quarterback John Hall and replaced him with sophomore Ralph Antone.

Antone did what Hall had not been able to do all day: he got Western moving against Eastern's bone-crunching defense. Antone guided Western to a pair of fourth-quarter field goals by Jim Griffiths, and Western won 13-10 to stay unbeaten at 7-0, 4-0 in the OVC.

Feix, for one, figured he wasn't taking much of a chance at all.

"I knew Ralph could come into a big game and do it," Feix said. "He's very, very capable.

"Heck, let's face it, John wasn't getting much done anyway. I don't know what John's problem is. He's a great quarterback with a great arm. He must just be pressing too hard,"

There was, Antone said, really no reason for all of the commotion.

"It was just one of those days when everything was clicking for me," he said. "Every quarterback has them. I've seen John have a lot of 'em. I knew I had to get the team moving. We had to come back. We weren't gonna be denied."

Antone first stepped on the field with just 30 seconds left in the third quarter with the ball at the Western 33. After Barry Skaggs was dropped for a two-yard loss, Antone pumped a 20-yard pass to Jerry Flippin that got Western out of the hole.

He came right back on the next play, finding Flippin open down the middle and gunning a 42-yard pass to

Comeback Falls Short

Eastern 0 2 8 0 — 10
Western 7 0 0 6 — 13

WKU: Snardon, 2 run (Griffiths kick)
EKU: Safety, Mullen tackled in end zone
EKU: Patton, 9 run (Patton run)
WKU: Griffiths, 23 field goal
WKU: Griffiths, 24 field goal
Att: 19,700

	EKU	WKU
First downs	8	19
Rushes-yards	34-103	65-227
Passing yards	92	142
Return yards	9	-4
Passes	7-18-1	7-11-1
Punts	10-37	8-31
Fumbles-lost	3-2	0-0
Penalties-yards	4-40	7-90

him for a first down at the Eastern 7.

However, the Eastern defense, magnificent all day against a Western offense that came into the game as the most potent in the OVC, wouldn't budge anymore. So with fourth-and-goal at the 6, Griffiths trotted on and booted a 23-yard field goal that tied the score at 10-10 with 13:06 to play.

Eastern, which dropped to 5-2 overall and 2-2 in the OVC, could not
(Turn to GRIFFITHS', C-6)



Herald-Leader/Charles Bertram

Eastern's Dale Patton (35) bulls through the Western line

Griffiths' Field Goals Boost Western Past Eastern 13-10

From Page C-1

put any points on the scoreboard when it got the ball back, but the Colonels did push it out to the 40-yard line. Steve Marionneaux's 38-yard punt and a clipping penalty backed Western up at its own 13 with 10:51 on the clock.

Skaggs gave Western some breathing room with a 13-yard run. Antone then hit Ron Hunter with a 13-yard pass and tossed a 9-yarder to Ricky Gwinn, and suddenly Western at the Eastern 41.

Antone then tured things over to Elmer Caldwell, Western's backup tailback who had rushed for 156 yards last year against Eastern. Caldwell swept the right side for 25 yards and then gained seven more on three carries to put the ball on the Eastern 7. Once again, Griffiths came on and booted a 24-yard field goal that gave Western its 13-10 lead with 5:31 to play.

Griffiths, who walked on at Western after transferring from a junior college in Maryland, was not around for last year's Eastern-Western game. However, he had heard all about how Eastern had blocked Western's try for the winning field goal to beat the Hilltoppers 8-6. It did not help matters, either, that he had missed a 32-yarder in the first quarter.

"When they went ahead of us, I started thinking about that miss," Griffiths said. "I was hoping it hadn't cost us the game."

"When I went out there to try the one that tied the score, my heart was beating about 100 miles an hour. I wasn't quite as nervous on the last one, but I was sure feeling some pressure. I'd been hearing for the last two weeks about the one they blocked against us last year.

"I just kept my head down and pushed the crowd out of my mind. There was never any doubt that they were good."

Western scored its only touchdown with 11 seconds left in the first quarter. It came after Tom Tussey recovered a fumble by Eastern quarterback Chris Isaac at the Colonel 19. Eastern's stubborn defense hung on until Troy Sardon plunged over for the score on fourth-and-goal from the two.

Eastern scored when Tommy White tackled Davlin Mullen in the end zone on a punt return for a safety. The Colonels took the lead the first time they got the ball in the second half. They marched 63 yards in five plays, highlighted by Isaac's passes of 24 and 21 yards to Jerry Parrish. Fullback Dale Patton got the touchdown on a 9-yard run and then bulled in for the two-point conversion that gave the Colonels their 10-7 edge.

That, however, was the last anyone heard from the Eastern offense. The Colonels had just eight first downs and only 195 total yards. Western, meanwhile, had 19 first downs and 369 yards.



Herald-Leader/Charles Bertram

Western players jubilantly celebrate after beating Eastern

Western to be on TV

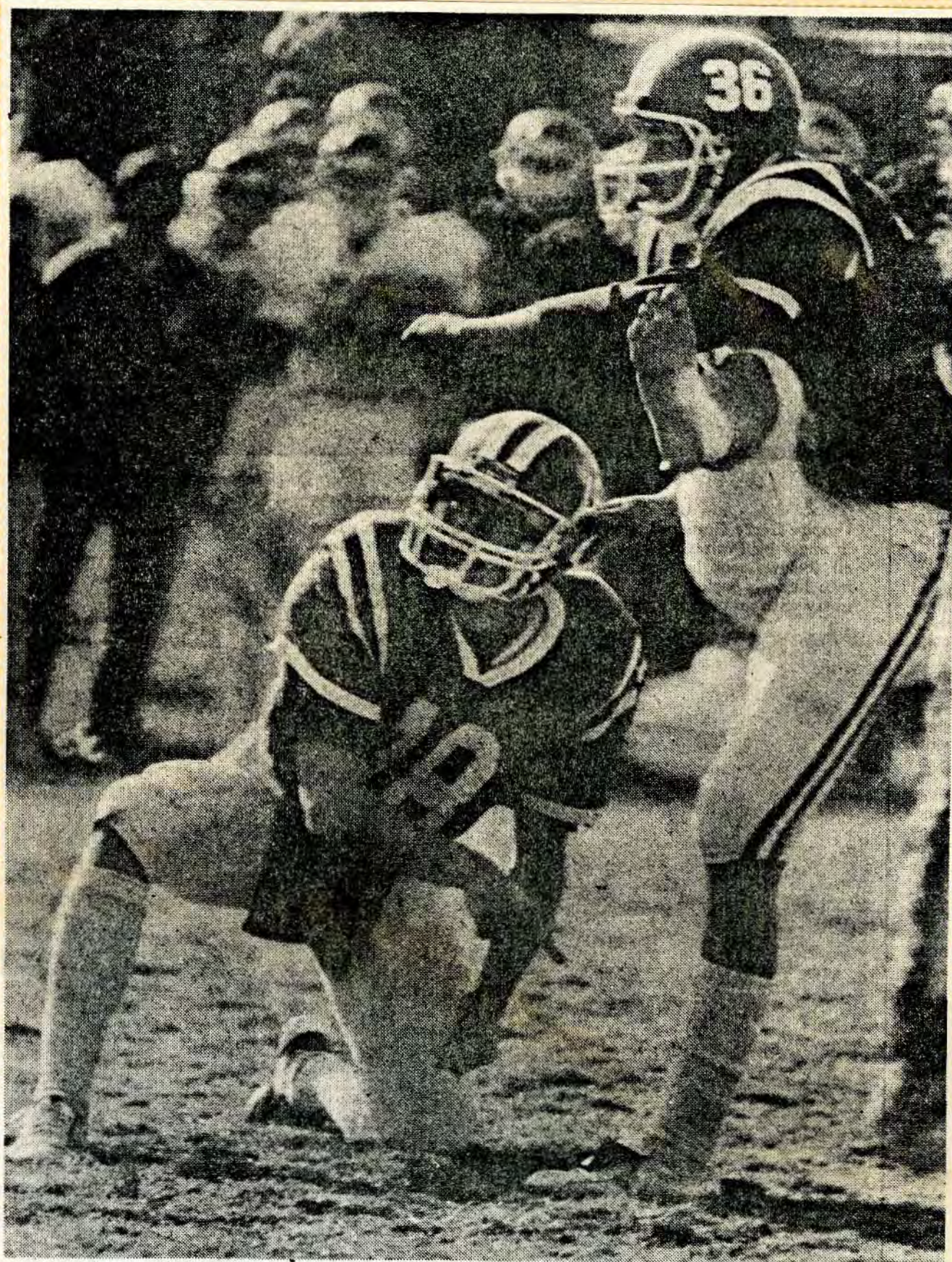
Saturday's football game between Western and Morehead will be regionally aired by ABC, the Daily News has learned.

The official announcement of the live telecast was expected later today, but sources close to Western confirmed at press time that ABC had selected the Ohio Valley Conference game in Morehead for broadcast on a regional basis.

Western will take a perfect 7-0 record into the contest, after knocking off arch-rival Eastern 13-10 the past weekend, while Morehead comes into the game with a 3-4 record after dropping a 31-29 decision at home against Tennessee Tech on Saturday.

Western's game the past weekend was televised nationally on a delayed basis by the ESPN cable sports network, with the school receiving \$3,000 for the telecast. Saturday's live airing by ABC will reportedly put another \$70,000 in the school's coffer, and a total of \$400,000-plus to the OVC.

Saturday's original game time of 1:30 p.m. (EST) is expected to be moved back a couple of hours, according to reliable sources.



Jim Griffiths connected on a 24-yard field goal that gave Western Kentucky its 13-10 victory

over Eastern Kentucky yesterday. Griffiths also hit a 23-yarder earlier in the fourth quarter.

Western, Morehead are on TV Saturday

By STAN SUTTON

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Amid speculation that the date of the Nov. 22 football game between unbeaten Murray State and Western Kentucky would be changed to encourage a television bid, ABC-TV yesterday dropped a bombshell on those ideas by announcing that it will telecast Western's game at Morehead State this Saturday.

The game at Morehead's Jayne Stadium was switched from a scheduled 1:30 p.m. EST kickoff to 3:50 p.m. to accommodate an earlier showing of a game between South Carolina and Georgia.

Morehead State may have gotten the telecast because it has lights at 10,000-seat Jayne Stadium, although a night game hasn't been played there in five years. Ohio Valley Conference commissioner Jim Delany has been soliciting a televised OVC game all season, and this week's most touted matchup is Murray's 1:30 game at defending national Division I-AA champion Eastern Kentucky. According to Delany, ABC could not consider showing that game because Eastern's Hanger Field does not have lights.

Morehead will be making its first live football appearance on television, although Western has played on TV, the most recent occasion being against Eastern Kentucky in 1978. The game is one of five regional telecasts and will be shown by Kentucky and Tennessee ABC affiliates, Moran said.

Western athletic director John Oldham expressed surprise that the Western-Morehead game had been selected by ABC. "We thought the Eastern-Western game was going to make it," he said.

Western defeated Eastern last Saturday 13-10 for its eighth consecutive victory. Morehead lost a 31-29 game to Tennessee Tech to drop the Eagles' season record to 3-4.

OVC teams were on television three times in 1979. Murray was shown in a regular-season game against Eastern in addition to a playoff game against Lehigh. Eastern won the national championship in a televised game against Lehigh.

A night game hasn't been played in Jayne Stadium since Sept. 27, 1975, when Morehead played Middle Tennessee. The stadium sits in a hollow in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, and fog had become a problem at several previous night games. Fog encompassed the field minutes after Morehead's game against Middle in '75.

"We're making a complete check of the lighting system. We've used it for a couple of track meets, and we turned them on in the second half of last year's Eastern game," Moran said. "I'm sure there will be some problems getting ready, but they're the kind of problems we're glad to have."

Moran said he was surprised that Morehead-Western was being shown, but said Delany pushed hard for the game. "I talked with the commissioner last week, and he was very anxious to get the OVC exposure," Moran said. "He pushed the Eastern-Western game hard, and they gave him reasons they thought they couldn't show that one. He suggested our game as a possibility."

"Jim called me last week and said he didn't think we had a real good chance, but that he had hit them (ABC) hard about our game. But yes, I was surprised when the call came."

Both Delany and Western athletic director Oldham speculated that this week's telecast probably rules out a regional showing of Western vs. Murray. "I don't think our conference would get two shots. I think we've probably lost that one," Oldham said. "There are a whole lot of things that would have to fall into place."

Changing the Murray-Western season-ending game from Nov. 22 to Nov. 15 is possible because both schools have open dates on Nov. 15. The problem for the schools is that ABC has not been willing to commit itself to covering the game.

"They won't be tied down until the Sunday or Monday before the game,"

See WESTERN
PAGE D 4, Col. 1, this section

Western-Morehead game will be televised regionally

Continued from Page One

said Murray State athletic director Johnny Reagan. "We can't get any commitment, and that makes us a little reluctant. If we could get them to say, 'Hey, if you'll change the date, we'll consider it,' then it would be easier. We don't want to change it and then find out that we could have had it telecast on the 22nd anyway."

A regional telecast by ABC earns the OVC \$425,000, which is split into 11 shares. Each participating school gets two shares, or \$77,272, and the other seven OVC schools get \$38,636 each.

Delany suggested to Oldham and Reagan about two weeks ago that they consider changing the game to Nov. 15. "It's really up in the air because we have no idea if the 15th or the 22nd will have regional games," Delany said. "They may both be national. We're trying to put ourselves in position for consideration, in the event one of those dates turns out to be a regional weekend."

"At one time, it appeared that the 22nd would be national, with UCLA vs.

Southern Cal and Nebraska against Oklahoma. There are some outstanding games that weekend. It would be a real longshot; either date would be a longshot.

"It's just so much speculation at this point. I can't think the game would be moved unless people know which games are going to be regional and which are national. It looks like those things won't be known until after the games on Nov. 8. They (Murray officials) may decide at that point that they can't move."

Reagan said Murray officials probably will decide "within the next 24, or certainly 48 hours" on whether to change the date. "I don't know if that (the Morehead telecast) has changed our chances, but it could have, I suppose," he said. "Naturally, we'd like to be the host school, but this is good for the league. We're delighted, but we just hope they'll telecast another one."

"We are agreeable if Murray wants to change the date. It's their game," said Oldham. "I know some of the problems of changing dates after putting out 75,000 schedule cards."

Sportscene

Western-Morehead kickoff changed

The Western Kentucky-Morehead football game Saturday at Morehead will be televised regionally, but kickoff time has been changed from 1:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. to accommodate the noon telecast of the South Carolina-Georgia game.

This week's OVC headliner matches co-leader Murray against Eastern Kentucky at Richmond. But, reportedly, ABC would not consider it because EKU's field doesn't have lights; Morehead's does.

It will be Morehead's first game on television. Western, the OVC co-leader, was last on television in its game against Eastern two years ago.

Also, ABC-TV announced that it hopes to telecast portions of Saturday's games featuring several nationally-ranked teams, in addition to televising six other games in their entirety.

An NCAA rule prohibits cutting away from a live telecast to switch to another game so ABC will show North Carolina-Oklahoma and Missouri-Nebraska highlights, time permitting, at the conclusion of the South Carolina-Georgia game, as well as at halftime and the end of the later regional telecasts.

Murray will not reschedule Topper game

Cleaner Staff Report

Murray State officials met Tuesday and decided not to reschedule the Western Kentucky-Murray football game from Nov. 22 to Nov. 15 to accommodate possible ABC television coverage.

Following a meeting — which involved Murray President Dr. Constantine Curris, Athletic Director Johnny Reagan and football coach Mike Gottfried — it was announced that the game will be played as scheduled. However, the university announced, should ABC decide at a later date to televise the game, Murray would consider changing the game to the 15th.

Murray and Western both have open dates scheduled for November 15 and Ohio Valley Conference officials had hoped that the showdown would draw national attention. There is also a possibility that the two OVC contenders could enter the final game of the regular season unbeaten. Murray stands 8-0 and

Nov. 22, it was learned, is a national doubleheader day for ABC. The network

will show two games on that date, both to be seen on all ABC affiliates. The games to be shown will be either Michigan-Ohio St., Oklahoma-Nebraska or USC-UCLA.

ABC had not contracted to show an OVC game up until this week, when it was announced that the Western-Morehead St. contest would be shown Saturday.

ABC also poses a problem for rescheduling since it often doesn't notify schools its intentions until just one week before the game. Murray officials said the school does not feel that it could justify changing the date of the contest and then risk the possibility that ABC wouldn't carry the game. School officials also feel that it wouldn't be fair to either school to change the game on just one week's notification.

The Racers played before ABC regional audiences twice last season. The regular season game with Eastern Kentucky was telecast, as was the first-round playoff game with Lehigh.

It was learned Monday that ABC opted for the Western-Morehead game over the more important Eastern-Murray game



because Eastern did not have lights on its game field. The late start of the game necessitates lighting.

The Western Kentucky-Morehead game will be shown locally on WTVW (Channel 7) following the Georgia-South Carolina tilt. Kickoff for the Hilltopper-Eagle clash is set for 2:50 (CST) from

Jayne Stadium in Morehead.

In related news, ABC announced Tuesday that it hopes to telecast portions of Saturday's North Carolina-at-Oklahoma and Missouri-at-Nebraska college football games, in addition to televising six other games.

Antone's Broken Toe Rekindles Western's Quarterback Quandary

By Mike Johnson
Assistant Sports Editor

Just when it looked as if coach Jimmy Feix had solved Western Kentucky's great quarterback quandry along came another complication — Ralph Antone's broken little toe.

Antone is the guy who came off the bench Saturday afternoon when the game with archrival Eastern Kentucky, seemed to be slowly slipping away from Western. The Western offense perked up immediately as Antone guided the Hilltoppers to a pair of fourth-quarter field goals and a 13-10 victory.

Afterwards, Feix admitted that he might have to make change at quart-

erback, replacing senior John Hall, Western's starting quarterback since his freshman season, with Antone, a sophomore.

"That is something I'm gonna have to sleep on," Feix said. "I'd have to say right now that it is a very real possibility."

Feix made up his mind Sunday. He decided to start Antone in Saturday's regionally televised game at Morehead State. Then he got the news about Antone's toe.

The Decision

"Ralph has played well everytime we've put him in a game and John has been having his problems," Feix said. "I decided that before we got

too much further down the road I better decide what to do about the situation.

"I decided I'd start Antone and then Monday afternoon we found out he had a broken little toe. Now, I don't know what we're gonna do."

Antone, in fact, played against Eastern with the broken toe. The injury occurred in the third quarter, before Antone even entered the game, on a play in which Western's Troy Snardon was knocked out of bounds near the Western bench. Someone scrambling to get out of the way of the play stepped on Antone's toe.

"The trainer says that we'll just have to wait and see how things go

this week before we'll know whether he can play or not," Feix says. "If he works the soreness out of it, we can tape it and Ralph could still play. Right now, he's my No. 1 quarterback and John Hall is No. 2."

That Antone has become Western's No. 1 quarterback does not surprise Feix. That Hall is now No. 2 mystifies the coach.

Hall was the Ohio Valley Conference offensive player of the year last season. He was the All-OVC quarterback as a sophomore and a junior, beating out Morehead State's Phil Simms for the honor in his sophomore season. It is ironic that Hall had played the finest game of his career

two years ago in Morehead when he threw five touchdown passes.

Hall entered this season having passed for 3,132 yards and 24 touchdowns in his career. This season he had completed 37 of 66 passes for 658 yards and six touchdowns, but he completed only one of eight passes in Western's victory over Tennessee Tech and was just three of seven for 58 yards and one interception against Eastern.

"After talking to John about it, I think he has just been pressing too much," Feix says. "He was the All-OVC quarterback for two straight years and the offensive player of the year. I think maybe it just put too

much of a load on his shoulders. He has lost his concentration and he's been trying to do too much by himself.

"The thing that really concerns me the most is that I think our team has lost confidence in John. I had to do something as much for John Hall's sake as for the team."

Antone, a 6-foot-2, 195-pounder from McMurray, Pa., has completed 12 of 22 passes for 254 yards and three touchdowns this season. He was four of four for 84 yards against Eastern. Antone is also a catcher and designated hitter for Western's OVC champion baseball team.

"Ralph has really impressed our
(Turn to WESTERN'S, B-5)

Western's New Starting QB Suffering From Broken Little Toe

From Page B-1

coaching staff since he's been here," Feix says. "After last fall, I thought he might come on and be our No. 1 quarterback before very long. I know it's strange to think you've got an all-conference quarterback that might get beat out, but I thought it might happen."

Feix discovered Antone while he was playing at Peter's Township High School. A Western alumnus tipped him off.

"We were looking for a quarterback when someone called and told us about him," Feix recalls. "We saw him on film and he looked just super. We flew an assistant coach up there to take a look at him right away.

"He's got a good arm, he's relaxed and he reads coverages very well."

Eastern coach Roy Kidd hasn't had much time to think about his team's loss to Western with No. 1-ranked Murray State visiting Hanger Field Saturday.

"They're tough," Kidd says. "There's no doubt in my mind that they're the best team we've played. Defensively they just overwhelm you. They come at you hard, they try to confuse you and they try to intimidate you."

Eastern is the defending I-AA national champion, but the loss to Western probably eliminated the Colonels from the OVC race and the playoff picture.

"It would be very difficult for us now," Kidd admits. "Anything can happen in our conference, though. Western still has to play at Morehead and Murray has to play us, Austin Peay and Western."

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DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

HRS tabs Tops in TV game

The Hanes Rating System has picked Western to win Saturday's game in Morehead by two touchdowns, but that's the easy part.

The hard part is figuring out why the game is going to be aired live on a regional basis by ABC, being picked up by most stations in both Kentucky and Tennessee. In fact, the second biggest surprise of the week was ABC's decision to carry the Western-Morehead game instead of several other seemingly attractive choices.

The biggest surprise, of course, was the fact that ABC even knew where Morehead was.

Seriously, folks, let's try to figure out exactly how Saturday's game—originally set for a 1:30 p.m. (EST) starting time, but moved back to 3:50 to accommodate the folks at ABC—got on the tube instead of last week's Western-Eastern game, this week's Eastern-Murray game and the Western-Murray shootout on Nov. 22.

First of all, the network decided that last week's game between Grambling and Jackson State was a more attractive Division I-AA offering than Western-Eastern.

Secondly, the folks at ABC probably would have televised this week's Murray-Eastern game in Richmond if the Colonels had lights. But because they didn't and because the network wanted a game to follow Saturday's major college shootout between Georgia and South Carolina, they turned their attention to Morehead.

Last but not least, the question of moving the Western-Murray game up to Nov. 15 had become a Mexican standoff. The folks in Murray wanted a guarantee that the game would be aired if they switched dates, and ABC refused to commit itself other than saying it would "improve the chances."

As a result, Murray athletic director Johnny Reagan



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

announced Wednesday that the dates would not be switched.

On to this week's forecast, but first a few kind words about last week's peerless predictions. The HRS' crystal ball went four-for-four in the OVC and six-for-six in the SEC, not to mention 32-7-1 overall for a lofty .821 percentage.

That was good enough to raise our overall season percentage to .796...eat your heart out, Hoople.

Speaking of the Major, the HRS won three of four "contested" games last week and now holds a staggering 22-13 edge on the year. This week, we differ with the Hoople forecast by picking Tulane over Kentucky, Wake Forest over Clemson, Duke over Georgia Tech, Minnesota over Illinois, Indiana over Michigan, Oklahoma over North Carolina, VPI over West Virginia and Oklahoma State over San Diego State.

The forecast:

OVC

Western 23, Morehead 10: The Eagles blew a 22-3 lead in last week's homecoming loss to Tennessee Tech (the final was 31-29), but at least they were ahead at one point. That's more than they'll be able to say after

their first TV game ever Saturday.

Murray 13, Eastern 10: The Colonels have revenge going for them after last year's 24-7 loss in Murray, but Murray has something even better—more talent.

Other games:

Akron 21, Austin Peay 10

Troy St. 24, Tennessee Tech 14

SEC

Tulane 28, Kentucky 13: If Fran Curci's boys can find so many ways to get in trouble in Lexington, he's got to be sweating this week's trip to Bourbon Street et al.

South Carolina 21, Georgia 20: The underrated Gamecocks had to play USC and Michigan back-to-back on the road earlier this year, and came out with a split. Georgia hasn't played anybody since its season-opening win over Tennessee.

Other games:

LSU 20, Mississippi 14

Alabama 38, Mississippi St. 10

Florida 26, Auburn 17

Memphis St. 28, Vanderbilt 23

Tennessee 27, Virginia 10

I-AA POLL

The Top 10 teams in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-AA football poll, with this season's records and points:

1. Murray St 8-0-0	45
(tie) South Carolina St 8-0-0	45
3. Lehigh 5-0-2	38
4. Western Kentucky 7-0-0	37
5. Connecticut 6-1-0	32
6. Boise St 6-2-0	28
7. Boston University 6-1-0	27
(tie) Grambling 6-1-0	27
9. Delaware 5-2-0	20
10. Bethune-Cookman 4-1-1	18
(tie) Eastern Kentucky 5-2-0	18
(tie) Massachusetts 4-2-0	18
(tie) Nevada-Reno 4-2-1	18

Tops hold off Morehead 17-7

By CLARK HANES

Daily News Sports Editor

MOREHEAD, Ky.- Junior fullback Troy Snardon rushed for 160 yards and two touchdowns here Saturday before a regional TV audience, leading sluggish Western to a 17-7 Ohio Valley Conference win over Morehead.

It was the eighth win without a loss for the Hilltoppers, who took over sole possession of the OVC lead with the help of archrival Eastern—a 24-14 winner over previously undefeated Murray.

However, Western's slow start before a partisan Jayne Stadium crowd of 6,000 was matched only by ABC. Not until the final minutes of the first quarter did the network finally get the game on the air because of technical difficulties, but nobody missed anything.

All the action took place in the second half, with Snardon providing most of the fireworks. Afterwards, he and Morehead tailback Dorrin Hunter were named their team's most valuable players by the ABC broadcasting team.

"I wasn't really trying to do anything different because we were on TV," said Snardon after his busy day. "I just wanted to win, and it didn't really matter how we did it."

A good thing it didn't, too. The Hilltoppers fell far short of overpowering Morehead's fired-up youngsters who were right in the thick of a 10-7 defensive struggle until they were forced to go for a first down late in the game and deep in their own territory.

A fake punt on fourth-and-20 didn't fool anybody, and Western took over at the Eagle 12. It took Snardon two plays to bull his way into the end zone with 1:04 left, ending Morehead's hopes of upsetting Western for the second year in a row.

The Eagles, 3-0 spoilers of Western's homecoming game last fall, dropped to 3-5 on the season, but second-year coach Tom Lichtenberg was anything but a beaten man after the game.



SPORTS

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"I'll tell you what, we are the best 3-5 team around," he declared. "We lost close ones to both Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech, and for all practical purposes that was a three-point loss out their today. We just gave them the last one."

"Western's the best team we've played," he added. "I know Murray beat us 30-6, but I think Western is stronger. Their running backs just keep coming at you."

Snardon wound up carrying the ball 27 times and did most of the damage, but teammates Elmer Caldwell and Nate Jones also pitched in. Caldwell rushed for 73 yards on eight trips, while Jones scampered for 64 yards on 15 carries.

The two teams traded touchdowns in the third quarter, and the real difference in the ballgame was a 33-yard field goal by Western walk-on Jim Griffiths early in the final period. Only a week ago, the sophomore from Glen Burnie, Md., had booted a game-winning field goal in a 13-10 win over Eastern.

"I guess I should be getting use to them by now," he smiled, "but I'm not. I can do without them. I think I am getting an ulcer."

After a scoreless first half, Western wasted little time getting on the

scoreboard in the third quarter although it took a couple major penalties against the Eagles to keep an 80-yard march going. A roughing the kicker call near midfield kept the drive alive, and a facemask penalty two plays later put the ball at the Morehead 12.

Snardon wound up going over from six yards out to give Western a 7-0 lead, but it was shortlived.

Moments later, Hunter snaked through a hole at the line of scrimmage and sped 67 yards to the Hilltopper 21. The rest was easy, with sophomore

quarterback Don Reeves hitting tight end Tim Devine on an eight-yard scoring pass to cap the drive midway through the third quarter.

"We felt like we had them on the run after our first touchdown," said Western head coach Jimmy Feix afterwards, "but then they came right back with that long run and made it a ballgame again."

Morehead missed a chance to take the lead later in the third quarter when Lenn Duff's 42-yard field goal was partially blocked by Davlen Mullen and sailed wide of the upright, and it was all Western in the fourth quarter.

Senior quarterback John Hall engineered the 75-yard march that resulted in Griffiths' field goal, but only after sitting out the first part of the game in favor of sophomore Ralph Antone. Hall replaced Antone in the second quarter, but the Hilltoppers' once-potent passing game still produced only 22 yards on the day.

Western returns home next Saturday for its homecoming game against winless Middle Tennessee, while Morehead plays a non-conference game at Liberty Baptist.

Daily News

YEAR 126—NO. 263 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1980 16 PAGES 2 SECTIONS 20 CENTS

Tops in OVC driver's seat

Don't look now, but there's a chance that long-awaited season finale between Western and Murray on Nov. 22 will turn out to be downright meaningless as far as the Ohio Valley Conference race is concerned.

First of all, Western can clinch at least a share of the OVC title Saturday by disposing of winless Middle Tennessee in a homecoming celebration.

That's the case, thanks to the Hilltoppers' 17-7 win at Morehead over the weekend combined with Murray's 24-14 loss at Eastern. Western is now 5-0 in league play and 8-0 overall, while Murray is 4-1 in the OVC and 8-1 in all games.

So if Western gets past hapless Middle (0-7) here Saturday, the best Murray can hope for is a share of the OVC crown by downing the Hilltoppers on Nov. 22. And that's assuming the Racers get past ever-improving Austin Peay this weekend in Clarksville, which suddenly looks like a tough assignment.

In case you didn't notice, Austin Peay drilled Akron 41-14 Saturday night... in Akron.

The best-kept secret in the OVC is that Austin Peay, with a break here and there, could easily be leading the league at this point. The offensive-minded Governors are 3-2 in the conference, with only six-point losses to Western (20-14) and Eastern (23-10) marring their



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

record in the OVC.

The Eastern score? Well, it was a 16-10 dogfight until the Gobs lost the ball on downs deep in their own territory in the final seconds of the game.

Stranger things have happened, and the combination of an Austin Peay win over Murray and a Western win over Middle would give the Hilltoppers the OVC title regardless of what happened two weeks later in Murray.

When you get right down to it, there are only a couple of ways to beat a small but lightning-quick defensive team.

You either run right at them if you're big enough and strong enough, or you take advantage of their quickness and force them to overreact with a lot of misdirection, trick plays, etc. Eastern was successful in both departments Saturday at Richmond, at least in the first quarter, and the Colonels' early 17-0 lead proved to be the difference in the grudge match.

Throwing caution to the wind, Eastern coach Roy Kidd hit the Racers with everything but the old Statue of Liberty play.

By the time Murray recovered, it was too late to do anything about it. The Racers' stunned defensive troops did bounce back to hold Eastern to just seven points in the last three quarters, but for the first time all year they couldn't sit back and wait for the other team to start making mistakes.

Going into the game, Murray had outscored the opposition 70-0 in the first quarter. What happened Saturday in Richmond was quite a jolt to the Racers, who may be in similar trouble this weekend.

Speaking of being in trouble, you can say that about Western if the Hilltoppers don't figure out whatever happened to that once-potent passing game that has all but died a slow death in recent weeks.

Jimmy Feix is still looking for the answer.

The veteran coach had been hoping it was sophomore Ralph Antone, who had come off the bench in the Hilltoppers' wins over Tennessee Tech (28-17) and Eastern (13-10) to bail out two-time All-OVC performer John Hall at quarterback. But alas, Antone was unable to cash in on his first starting assignment Saturday at Morehead.

Western was unable to move the ball on its first two possessions, and Antone's first pass attempt was intercepted. By the end of the first quarter, he was back on the bench and Hall was in the game.

Of course, Hall didn't wind up doing much more than handing the ball off to junior fullback Troy Sardon. The former Todd Central standout steamrolled for 160 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries, and was named the Hilltoppers' most valuable player by the ABC broadcast team which aired the game on a regional basis.

Sardon is now averaging 98 yards per game on the ground, and needs to average just over 100 yards in the Hilltoppers' last two outings to get 1,000 yards rushing on the season.

Topper duo honored

Western fullback Troy Sardon and Eastern quarterback Chris Isaac have been named offensive co-players of the week in the Ohio Valley Conference, while Western cornerback Lamont Meacham has been selected as the OVC defensive player of the week.

Sardon rushed for 160 yards on two touchdowns on 27 carries in the Hilltoppers' 17-7 win at Morehead over the weekend, while Isaac ran for 52 yards and passed for 89 more in the Colonels' 24-14 upset of previously undefeated Murray.

Meacham, meanwhile, had seven tackles and seven assists, two pass deflections and an interception in the regionally televised game at Morehead.

Floyd Jones of Austin Peay, a freshman running back, was named the league's rookie of the week for his performance in the Governors' stunning 41-14 romp past homestanding Akron. Jones rushed for 80 yards on only seven carries.

That's incredible! Western is now a running team

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Western Kentucky is still looking for a quarterback after winning eight consecutive games. As they say on television, "That's incredible!"

Incredible because two months ago people were talking about how Western had three quarterbacks who could start for almost every team in the Ohio Valley Conference. Incredible because one of them, John Hall, had been the All-OVC quarterback for two straight seasons. Incredible because, as coach Jimmy Feix admits, "It is tough to win in college without throwing."

Hall has become Western's unknown soldier. In the past three games he has thrown only 22 passes, completing seven. Two years ago he completed five for touchdowns in one game. Sophomore Ralph Antone has hit on six of 10 the past three games, and junior Marty Jagers has completed one of two.

Western has survived because it has a better ground attack than John Deere. Fullback Troy Snardon has averaged 101 yards rushing in wins over Tennessee Tech, Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State. As Morehead coach Tom Lichtenberg said, "It was like they were saying, 'Morehead, here we come.'"

Antone made his first start Saturday at Morehead. With Murray State coming up on Nov. 22, Feix said he needed "to find out if he was the quarterback. I hate to think about Murray, but our quarterbacking has not been effective."

Hall played most of Saturday's game, but about the only thing he completed were handoffs as Western went to a double-tight-end alignment and ran Snardon (162 yards), Elmer Caldwell (75 yards) and Nate Jones (64 yards). Feix said yesterday that Hall would start Saturday's game at Bowling Green against winless Middle Tennessee.

"Being home, with homecoming and all, we'll start John Hall. He's a senior and it's his last home game. That's one consideration," Feix said. "We'll work John and Ralph pretty much 50-50."

A former quarterback himself, Feix is slow to criticize his passers. "I think Morehead had a whole lot to do with our lack of passing," he said. "One play was to have been a breakoff pass, and John sort of threw the ball into the ground. He thought it was a 16-

yard breakoff, and it ends up the receiver went 18 yards. So the receiver went a couple of yards too long, and John came up short.

"But on most of the other routes we just didn't have anybody open."

Western's string of eight straight victories has been exceeded only once in the school's history. The 1973 Hill-toppers won the first 12 games before losing to Louisiana Tech 34-0 in the Camellia Bowl.

If Western defeats 0-7 Middle on Saturday, it assures itself a tie for the OVC championship. However, providing Murray can beat Austin Peay on Saturday, Western must beat the Racers to avoid sharing the crown with Murray.

"If we win this game we're OVC champions," Feix said yesterday. "I know it could be a sharing thing, but we coaches don't talk about that. It's still a championship."

The OVC title is not the only thing at stake for Western, Murray and Eastern Kentucky. Perhaps equally important is earning one of four bids to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Last year both league champion Murray and Eastern received bids, and Eastern won the title.

Three of the four bids go to teams determined to be the best in their region of the country. The fourth is an at-large bid, which Eastern received last year after Grambling was upset by Southern in its final game. If Western goes undefeated, it is considered a cinch to receive one of the three regional bids.

"We can still control our own destiny," said Murray coach Mike Gottfried, whose team lost for the first time Saturday at Eastern 24-14. "If we can win our final two games we can still win the OVC championship. If we don't win the final two, we don't deserve it anyway."

If Murray should lose again, Gottfried doesn't expect a playoff bid, even though the Racers have been ranked No. 1 or tied for that rating all season. "I feel only one team from our league will be chosen. That's my own personal opinion, but the fact that Eastern won it last year should get one of our teams a bid," he said.

Eastern's Roy Kidd must hope that two OVC schools will get a bid because his Colonels have lost to Western and to Akron. Last season Eastern also had two losses.

"It's a longshot," Kidd said. "I don't



Staff Photo by Keith Williams

Western Kentucky's two-time All-OVC quarterback John Hall has been an ineffective passer recently, completing only seven of 22 passes in the last three games. Hall will start in Saturday's game.

think there's any way Middle is going to beat Western. Then Western goes to Murray, and they're both capable of beating each other. If Western wins there I don't think there's any doubt that they'll go, and that might knock Murray completely out of it.

"We might sneak in there, but we've got to win our last three games."

The Colonels are on the road this

week at Tennessee Tech, next week at Division I-A school East Carolina and at home against Morehead to close the season.

"We were so keyed up to play Saturday that I hope we're not flat this Saturday," Kidd said. "I don't think we can end up with three losses and have any chance. Our only hope is to win the next three."

OVC cage race wide open

The upcoming basketball season will offer us one of the most wide open Ohio Valley Conference races in history, according to the league coaches.

If you could translate this year's preseason OVC poll into play-by-play action, Murray would nip Western in overtime for the league title...but only after the Hilltoppers had slipped past always underrated Middle Tennessee in two overtimes to get a shot at the Racers in the first place.

Like we said before, wide open.

Murray has been voted the preseason favorite with 49 points in the coaches' poll, followed closely by Western with 47 and Middle with 46. Murray wound up with three first-place votes, while Western and Middle got two apiece.

All of which makes it sound like a three-team race this year, but don't overlook Morehead and Eastern. Morehead also picked up a first-place vote in the balloting. Eastern was voted as high as second place on two ballots and both wound up tying for fourth in the preseason poll with 38 points each.

Bringing up the rear were Austin Peay with 24 points, Akron with 23 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Tennessee Tech with 14 $\frac{1}{2}$.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again," said Western first-year coach Clem Haskins during his turn at the podium. "I think we're rated too high. We lost four starters from last year's team, and I'm a rookie coach. But I do feel like there's about five or six teams in the league that can play with anybody in the country on a given night, and I think we're one of them."

Western center Craig McCormick, a 6-9 junior, and Murray point guard Lamont Sleet, a 5-10 sophomore, were unanimous selections to the preseason All-OVC team also announced Thursday in Nashville at the league's annual basketball confab.

Joining those two on the five-man first team were Middle Tennessee forward Jerry Beck, a 6-7 junior; Eastern guard Tommy Baker, a 6-2 senior, and Austin Peay forward Roosevelt Sanders, a 6-5 senior.

Two more Western players were named to the second team—senior guard Mike Reese (6-3), and sophomore forward Tony Wilson (6-7). Also named were Kenney Hammonds of Murray, Chris Harris of



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

Middle and Bruce Jones of Eastern.

Hammonds, a 6-5 junior forward, was an All-OVC selection two years ago as a freshman but missed most of last year with a stress fracture in his leg.

There's one in every crowd, so the saying goes, and Middle Tennessee coach Stan Simpson is turning out to be the clown prince of the current crop of OVC coaches.

"I'm not going to say how much our budget has been cut back," he quipped, "but we're going to make our biggest recruiting push of the year when we get back home today. It's called student body tryouts."

"We did sign three freshmen who came out of high school with grade-point averages of 3.8 or better," Simpson went on, "but we haven't figured out how to communicate with them yet. To balance it out, we've brought in a couple of junior college transfers."

If the truth be known, Middle is probably the most logical choice to win this year's OVC title.

In their second year under Simpson, the Blue Raiders return four starters from a 13-13 squad including the aforementioned Beck and Harris. Joining them will be three promising freshmen, two junior college transfers and two more transfers from the major college ranks.

Big Willie Johnson (6-9, 230) has been waiting in the wings after transferring in from Dayton, along with 6-1 point guard Danny Mayfield of Clemson.

As has been the case in recent years, the OVC women's coaches also took their turn at the podium

Thursday at the Airport Hilton.

"We had the worst record (8-19) of any team in the league last year," noted Western coach Eileen Canty, "but I see that we're picked to finish third in the OVC this year. I guess that means the other coaches in the league have been impressed with the kind of recruiting year we had."

Indeed they were. The Lady Toppers even got one first-place vote in the coaches' preseason poll.

Middle Tennessee was named the preseason favorite with 41 points, followed by Tennessee Tech with 37, Western with 30, Austin Peay with 25, Morehead with 24, Murray with 17 and Eastern with 15.

Alicia Polson, a 5-10 senior forward, represented Western on the preseason All-OVC first team. Joining her were Jerilynn Harper and Holly Hoover of Tech, Ester Coleman of Middle and Golena Rucker of Austin Peay.

Named to the second team were Robin Harmon of Morehead, Laura Lynn of Murray, Sherry Smith of Middle, Tina Wermuth of Eastern and Elaine Swafford of Austin Peay.

Homecoming (and football) at UK, Western

Homecoming will be celebrated at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, this weekend.

Football games, the excuse for it all, will see UK meet Vanderbilt University at 1:30 p.m. and Western play Middle Tennessee University at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Homecoming activities, already under way in Bowling Green, continue tonight with a special Alumni Association dinner dance at the Garrett Center Ballroom on campus. Danny Davis of the Nashville Brass will entertain. Davis will be grand marshal of a parade at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

For information about tickets to activities, call the WKU ticket office at (502) 745-5222 or the alumni-affairs office at (502) 745-4395.

A student dance, alumni activities and a show by Bob Hope are on tap at UK.

Johnny White and the Elite Band will play for tonight's student dance, held at the Lexington Center from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$4 and \$7 at the door.

The UK Alumni Association will have a brunch tomorrow at 10:15 a.m. in the Student Center. Cost is \$7.50. The group will have a post-game reception at the Hyatt Regency Lexington.

Comedian Bob Hope's show is at 8 tomorrow night in Memorial Coliseum. Tickets, \$10, \$8 and \$6, are available at the Student Center ticket office.

Daily News

YEAR 126—NO. 267 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1980 24 PAGES 2 SECTIONS 20 CENTS

By CLARK HANES
Daily News Sports Editor

At first glance, it looks like the mismatch of the year.

Western, etc., versus Middle Tennessee, etc. A Western team ranked third among the nation's Division I-AA powers with a perfect 8-0 record (5-0 in the Ohio Valley Conference), vs. a Middle Tennessee outfit that is still looking for its first win period.

To top it all off, it's not just another home game for the undefeated Hilltoppers. It's homecoming, meaning that Saturday's 1 p.m. contest at Smith Stadium will give them a chance to flex their muscles before the old grads.

However, Western coach Jimmy Feix isn't sure it's going to be that easy.

"That would sure be nice," he agreed, "but I'm afraid Middle will have something to say about that. They've got a lot of good young people, and they seem to be overcoming some injury problems. They're a good defensive team, and our information indicates that they've been rapidly improving in the past few weeks."

"Our kids need to remember that we'll be playing for the conference championship," added Feix. "If we can win this one, we're at least OVC co-champs."

True enough, Western can clinch at least a share of this year's OVC football crown with a win Saturday...thanks to arch-rival Eastern. The Colonels knocked off previously undefeated Mur-

ray 24-14 last week in Richmond, leaving Western alone at the top of the league standings.

Murray had been ranked No. 1 in the nation going into the game with an 8-0 mark, but now faces an uphill battle to claim even a share of the league title. The Racers travel to improving Austin Peay this weekend, before closing out at home against Western on Nov. 22.

While all that was going on in Richmond last Saturday, Western was struggling past fired-up Morehead 17-7 in a regionally televised game that saw the Hilltoppers continue to grind it out on the ground.

With neither senior John Hall nor sophomore Ralph Antone effective through the air, Western turned to its stable full of talented running backs. Junior fullback Troy Snardon answered the

bell with 160 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries, while teammates Elmer Caldwell and Nate Jones also got in on the fun. Caldwell rushed for 73 yards on just eight carries, while Jones finished with 64 yards on 15 carries.

Snardon is now well within range of topping the 1,000-yard mark this fall, needing "only" 217 yards in the last two games, but Middle coach Boots Donnelly doesn't feel he can afford the luxury of trying to stop just one man Saturday.

"We won't be able to key on any one person on Western's team," he explained. "When you play Western, you have to stop the whole team to win."

"They've really pulled it together this year," added Donnelly, in his second year with the Blue Raiders after a successful stint at Austin Peay.

"But we're in good shape, physically, for the game. We've also improved our mental approach as the season has progressed. Our players, even though they are still young, are starting to mature."

Middle is led by sophomore quarterback Brown Sanford (5-10, 176), who led the league in total offense last year as a freshman. Sanford is a threat as a runner as well as a passer, but the Raiders' top ground-gainer is junior tailback Sammy Bryant with 456 yards on 105 carries.

Still, the Raiders have managed only 37 points in seven outings. As a result, their overworked defensive unit has put in more than its share of playing time.

Middle is 0-4 in league play and 0-7 overall, but the Raiders battled neighboring rival Austin Peay down to the wire two weeks ago before finally falling 7-3. That score impressed Feix, who earlier in the season had seen his own warriors taken to the limit in a 20-14 win over Peay.

"That score is a good indication of what we might be in for," he noted. "They play good, hard-nosed football, and a team that can do that can beat you if you're not careful."

"It would really make their season if they could come in here and knock us off," added Feix. "But our kids are fired up, too, and I don't anticipate any type of letdown. We just hope to do the things we've been doing all season long. Nothing fancy, just good solid football."

Middle invades for homecoming

Daily News

SPORTS

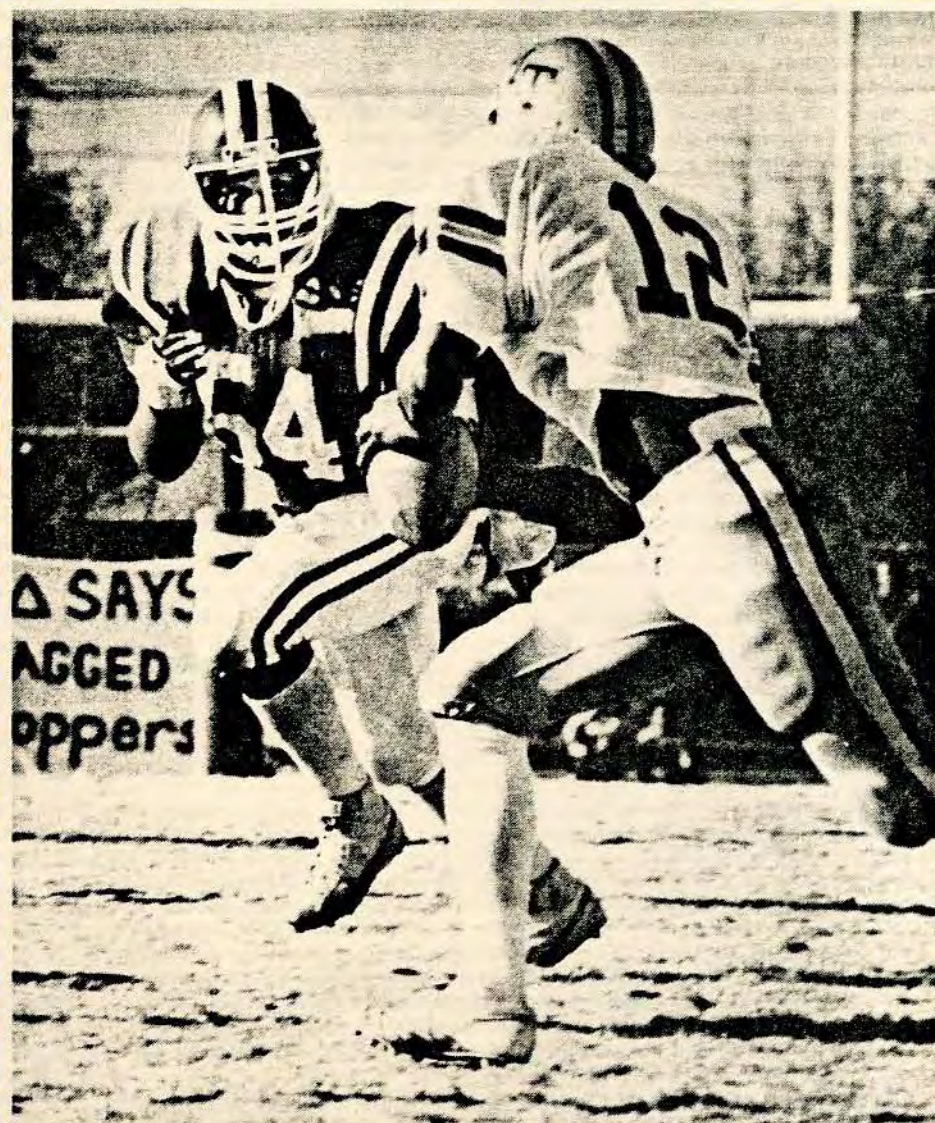
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(Staff photo by Mark Workman)

Hero off the bench

BARRY SKAGGS (45) of Western lowers his head and drives for additional yardage during the Hilltoppers' 30-15 homecoming win over Middle Tennessee during Saturday's game at Smith Stadium. Skaggs, a junior fullback, came off the bench to rush for 90 yards in the win that clinched the OVC title for Western.



Footrace

MIDDLE quarterback Brown Sanford (12) gets into a footrace with Western defender Tony Wells (54) during Saturday's game at Smith Stadium. Western won its homecoming contest 30-15, and in the process clinched this year's Ohio Valley Conference title.

(Staff photo)

The Courier-Journal

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Western knocks off Middle to earn OVC championship

Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The periodic announcements of the Austin Peay-Murray State score left the Western Kentucky players aware that they could win the Ohio Valley Conference football title yesterday.

Knowing that second-place Murray was on the verge of losing, all Western had to do was defeat Middle Tennessee, which it did. But it took a goal-line stand in the fourth quarter before Western earned a 30-15 victory and its eighth conference championship.

Western, the third-ranked team in NCAA Division I-AA, is 6-0 in the OVC with a single game remaining — at Murray on Nov. 22. Murray is now tied

with Austin Peay and Eastern Kentucky for second at 4-2.

"A lot of what we've done this year is motivated by the (5-5) season we had last year," Western coach Jimmy Feix said. "We had a competitive team, and they wanted to show that they could do what they thought they were going to do a year ago."

Middle Tennessee is 0-9 this season and has won only two of its last 30 games, but it was still threatening in the fourth quarter.

Western (9-0) led 30-15 after Ralph Antone's one-yard touchdown sneak, but Middle moved to a first down on the Western six-yard line. On fourth and goal from the one, Western stopped

Middle back Sammy Bryant's drive up the middle.

Western literally ran out the last 5:03, keeping the ball on the ground to clinch the victory.

Western ran often and well, using 56 carries for 353 yards, even though leading rusher Troy Snardon played little more than a quarter. Snardon aggravated a back bruise and left the game after gaining 54 yards.

Western hardly missed him. Fullback Nate Jones gained 120 yards in 16 carries, and backup tailback Barry Skaggs, who had only 101 yards previously, ran for 90 yards in 15 carries.

Cornerback Lamont Meacham's two

See WESTERN

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Middle Tennessee falls 30-15

Western captures OVC title

Continued from Page One

interceptions set up Western scores. His first interception and 47-yard return to the Middle 46 led to Snardon's seven-yard touchdown run for a 7-0 lead. His second theft, in the end zone, started Western on a 95-yard drive that Antone capped with a 35-yard touchdown pass to Ricky Gwinn for a 23-7 lead in the third quarter.

Starting quarterback John Hall completed only one of six passes for no yards and left the game in the second quarter after suffering a slight rib injury. One of his passes was intercepted by James Griffin and returned 38 yards for a second-quarter touchdown.

Antone came on to complete five of eight passes for 83 yards and a touchdown.

"John was just having a hard time of it," Feix said. "Then he got those ribs banged up and just couldn't play any more. But as far as I'm concerned, John Hall is still our quarterback."

Middle quarterback Brown Sanford completed 16 of 34 passes for 241 yards but was intercepted three times.

"I couldn't understand why they were passing on us like that," Feix said. "At first we were playing man to man and they were simply beating our men. Then we switched to the zone and still couldn't stop them. I don't know what happened."

Middle coach Boots Donnelly did.

"Western did exactly what we thought they would," he said. "They manhandled our defensive front (line). We're playing 194, 196 pounds on our defensive line, and that just doesn't match up with their 240-, 250-pounders."

"They're not a big-play team like they used to be. They grind out the yardage and punish you."

Western punter Ray Farmer, the fifth-ranked kicker in Division I-AA, averaged 44.8 yards on four punts.

At Bowling Green, Ky.
MIDDLE TENNESSEE 0 7 8 0 — 15
WESTERN KENTUCKY 7 10 6 7 — 30

Western — Snardon, 7, run (Griffiths kick); Middle Tenn. — Griffin, 38, interception return (Robinson kick); Western — Jones, 1, run (Griffiths kick); Western — FG, Griffiths, 25; Western — Gwinn, 35, pass from Antone (kick failed); Middle Tenn. — Roebuck, 21, pass from Sanford (Bean pass from Sanford); Western — Antone, 1, run (Griffiths kick).
Attendance — 20,100 est.

	Middle Tenn.	Western
First downs	18	20
Rushes-yards	33-111	56-353
Passing yards	241	83
Return yards	91	116
Passes	16-34-3	6-14-1
Punts	3-36.0	4-44.8
Fumbles-lost	1-0	3-0
Penalties-yards	3-15	6-87

Western's Victory, Murray's Loss

Associated Press

Sophomore quarterback Ralph Antone passed for one touchdown and ran for another and Nate Jones ran for 120 yards and another score yesterday as unbeaten Western Kentucky clinched the Ohio Valley Conference football title with a 30-15 victory over visiting Middle Tennessee.

Antone passed 35 yards to Ricky Gwinn for one score and completed the scoring in Western's ninth consecutive victory with a 1-yard run three minutes into the final period.

Western was able to clinch the title when defending champion Murray, losing for the second time in as many weeks, dropped a 24-0 decision at Austin Peay.

Middle Tennessee, 0-9 overall and 0-6 in the OVC, was hardly an easy mark for the Hilltoppers. Middle twice challenged the Western goal in the opening period, but pass interceptions by Lambert Meacham and David Suggs turned Middle away empty.

Middle Tennessee had another drive stall at the Western 1 with 5:03 to play when the Bucs came up short on a fourth-down run.

Austin Peay 24, Murray 0 — Quarterback Sonny Defilippis threw

Ky.-OVC

three touchdown passes and rushed for 50 yards in leading Austin Peay past visiting Murray.

In the process, Defilippis, a senior from Savannah, Ga., became the OVC's all-time single-season rushing leader for quarterbacks, eclipsing a record set by Murray signal-caller Charlie Forrest in 1964. Defilippis has racked up 1,809 total offensive yards thus far this season.

Austin Peay kicker Rusty Dyer booted a 40-yarder through the uprights to open the scoring for the Governors, now 6-3 on the season and 4-2 in the OVC after having won their last five games.

Defilippis connected on a 1-yard scoring flip to wide receiver Ondra Wood and made good on a 10-yard scoring aerial to split end Steve Puth-off.

Give Hilltoppers OVC Title

Western Kentucky clinches OVC crown

By The Associated Press Western Kentucky clinched the Ohio Valley Conference football title this weekend, defeating Middle Tennessee 30-15 as defending champion Murray State fell to Austin Peay 24-0.

In defeating Murray State, which earlier this season was ranked No. 1 nationally in Division I-AA, Austin Peay quarterback Sonny Defilippis set a new OVC single-season rushing record.

And Eastern Kentucky

Coach Roy Kidd on Saturday became the winningest coach in the conference, scoring his 118th win as his team tied the school's scoring record with its 48-7 victory over Tennessee Tech.

Elsewhere in the OVC Saturday: Liberty Baptist defeated Morehead State 23-20, Northern Michigan beat Akron 38-10 and Youngstown shut out Western Illinois 22-0.

In Western Kentucky's ninth win this season without a loss, reserve quarterback Ralph Antone passed for one touchdown and ran for another, while Nate Jones ran for 120 yards and another score. The victory was earned before a near-capacity Western homecoming crowd of 19,000.

Middle Tennessee is now 0-9, 0-6 in the OVC.

Defilippis, a senior from Savannah, Ga., rushed 50

yards Saturday against Murray State to become the OVC's all-time single season rushing leader for quarterbacks.

Austin Peay kicker Rusty Dyer booted a 40-yarder to start the scoring for the Governors, now 6-3, 4-2 in the conference.

The loss dropped Murray, whose offense was held to less than 200 yards for the day, to 8-2, 4-2 in OVC play.

Eastern Kentucky reserve tailback Tony Braxton ran for three touchdowns and David Flores made good on five conversion kicks to equal a school scoring record Saturday in the win over Tennessee Tech at Cookeville, Tenn.

Teammates Chris Isaac scored on a 57-yard run, Terrence Thompson bulled into the end zone from the 5, Chris Curtis caught a 7-yard pass

from Tuck Woolum, and Gus Parks returned a Tech pass 47 yards to garner Eastern's 48 points.

The game lifted Eastern Kentucky to 7-2, 4-2 in the conference.

Tech, 4-5 and 1-4, lit up the scoreboard when Sam Smith drove into the end zone in the last period.

In its first game against a Division I-AA team, Liberty Baptist, 6-3, rallied to victory over Morehead, 3-6. Liberty's Greg Mosely scored twice in the final period — the last time on a 65-yard run with 5:14 left.

In Marquette, Mich., Phil Kessel threw for two touchdowns and George Works rushed for three more to lead Northern Michigan over the OVC's Akron, now 3-6-1 on the season.

Two state teams could earn berths in I-AA playoffs

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Only four teams in the nation will be selected to compete in the NCAA's Division I-AA playoffs this year, but there still is a chance that two of them could be Kentucky schools.

The one with the best chance is Western Kentucky, which is unbeaten and appears almost certain of a bid if it can beat Murray State on Nov. 22 at Murray. But Eastern Kentucky, with a 1980 national championship in its lapel, may be able to convince the authorities that it deserves another bid. Murray State, which has lost two straight after opening with eight victories, apparently is out of consideration.

The fate of the contenders is basically in the hands of four men, the officials who vote each week for the teams in the Division I-AA poll. That poll will be the basis on which the highest-rated teams in three different regions and the top at-large team will receive invitations.

The Kentucky schools are in the South Region, ostensibly the toughest of the three. The region also includes South Carolina State, 10-0 this season and ranked first last week in the I-AA poll, and Grambling, 8-1 and anxiously awaiting its regular-season game against South Carolina State two weeks off.

In last week's poll, six of the top 12 teams were from the South Region. Western was ranked third, Eastern and Grambling were tied for fifth and Murray was eighth. Alcorn State was in a three-way tie for 10th.

One of the men voting on the poll is Eastern Kentucky athletic director Donald Combs. The others are Andrew Mooradian of New Hampshire University, Lyle H. Smith of Boise State and Milton D. Hunter of South Carolina State.

Hunter and Combs are co-chairmen in the South Region and share that vote. At the end of the regular season, however, each of the four men will have a full vote toward playoff invitations.

Because all but Mooradian represent schools competing for berths, the objectivity of the system has been questioned. However, that will not be a factor when the vote is taken to fill the playoff berths. Any pollster whose school is in contention will be replaced, probably by a member of an advisory committee for his region.

Combs and Hunter have A. L. Williams of Northeast Louisiana and Walter Reed of Jackson State on their South Region advisory committee.

"I think that the people are doing the best job they can with the information they have," Combs said yesterday. "It is difficult to be objective with the information we have."

Eastern coach Roy Kidd wonders if a team's won-lost record doesn't play too big a part in the poll. "They look at your record. A loss is a loss; it doesn't matter who it is to," said Kidd, who worries about such things because Eastern must play Division I-AA foe East Carolina this Saturday.

"Last year Murray had wins over Evansville and Indiana Central and got invited. Western's non-conference games this year were against Evansville and Kentucky State. I don't think it matters much who you beat," Kidd said.

Combs claims otherwise. "We're looking at the strength of schedules, but that's very difficult," he said. "What was the situation of the team at that time? Were they playing at home? Had they lost people because

See STATE
PAGE 5, col. 3, this section

State teams could form half of Division I-AA playoff field

Continued from Page One

of the flu, or did they lose it because of some fluke?"

After beating Nevada-Reno 14-3 last Saturday, Boise State will be favored to come out of a West Region that has only nine I-AA teams. Lehigh, ranked second, probably is the favorite in the East, but Boston University is ranked fourth and beat Connecticut 28-24 Saturday. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Alcorn State were tied for No. 10.

Eastern defeated Lehigh 30-7 in the national championship game last December, and the mention of teams from the East raises the red in Kidd's neck. "There's no way they're going to convince me that teams in the East are that good," he said. "I've written every team in the East, and I can't schedule any of them."

"Lehigh, Boston University and Delaware (No. 9) are considered strong in the East by Eastern people," Combs said. "But it's difficult to tell when there is no intersectional play."

"There are 12 Division I-AA teams in the East, and we think there needs to be another division."

"There are too many good teams in the South; it's not divided fairly," Kidd said. There are 18 teams in the South Region.

Because only four men vote in the poll, changes in position are more drastic than in polls involving more voters. For instance, Murray dropped from first to eighth after losing its first game to Eastern.

"I think we were ranked fifth the week before we played Western. They only beat us three points, but we dropped to 10th," Kidd said. "I couldn't believe Murray dropped that far, either. I know Don voted for them higher than that."

Combs insists that those conducting the poll study the teams as thoroughly as possible. "We talked on the phone for 45 minutes this morning just on how to rank the South," Combs said.

Sports shorts

Toppers remain third

Western is again ranked third in the latest Division I-AA football poll, trailing second-place Lehigh by a single point in the standings.

South Carolina State (10-0) still holds down the No. 1 spot in the ratings with 45 points, followed by Lehigh (7-0-2) with 41 and Western (9-0) with 40. Boston University is fourth with 36 points, followed by three teams tied for fifth—Eastern, Grambling and Boise State—all with 31 points apiece.

Rounding out this week's Top 10 are Delaware with 24 points, Massachusetts with 20 and four teams tied with 15 points each—Murray, Connecticut, New Hampshire and North Carolina A&T.

The teams are ranked by a Division I-AA selection committee that will choose four playoff teams at the end of the regular season.

Poll bowl

Another (No.) one bites dust in I-AA ratings

It's going to be very interesting to see what this week's Division I-AA ratings look like.

A few weeks ago, Murray was sailing along with an 8-0 record and the No. 1 ranking among the nation's I-AA teams...until the Racers came out on the short end of a 24-14 score on the road against Eastern. And after lost to the defending I-AA national champions, Murray dropped all the way from first to eighth in the poll.

The past weekend, another top-ranked I-AA team bit the dust. In its season finale, South Carolina State—which succeeded Murray at the top of the I-AA ratings—saw its hopes of a perfect season go by the boards in a convincing 26-3 loss to Grambling.

Will another team drop all the way from first to eighth?

Not likely. First of all, SC State still finished with a decent 10-1 record—nothing to scoff at. Secondly, the school's athletic director happens to be a member of the I-AA selection committee that votes on the poll.

Nobody is calling the guy dishonest, or even saying that it's a situation that shouldn't exist. But it does...and it can't hurt.

Speaking of having a man on the inside, the same can be said for Eastern.

Don Combs, the Colonels' athletic director, also happens to be on the I-AA selection committee. And just about the time it looked like Eastern was out of this year's playoff picture, Roy Kidd's team started imitating last year's I-AA national champions.

"In fact, I believe we're playing better now than we did last year when we won the national championship," said Kidd after his team's eye-opening 28-16 win over highly-touted East Carolina.

Since their 13-10 loss to Western on Oct. 25, the Colonels have rolled past three good ball clubs—Murray (24-14), Tennessee Tech (48-7) and East Carolina.

Look for Western to be ranked second and Eastern to hold down the No. 4 spot in this week's ratings. Lehigh, 8-0-2 on the season and an easy 42-19 winner over Nor-



Clark Hanes

Daily News Sports Editor

Commentary

theastern the past weekend, will probably move into the top spot—although the Engineers were just a point ahead of Western in last week's poll.

Grambling, now sporting a 9-1 mark going into its Nov. 29 season finale with Southern, figures to move into the No. 3 spot this week, perhaps followed by Eastern, South Carolina State and Boise State (7-3).

Lehigh can nail down the East playoff berth with a win over Lafayette this weekend, while Boise State can

do the same in the West with a win over Idaho State. Western will be a shoo-in in the South if the Hilltoppers get past Murray this Saturday, and will still have a good shot of making the playoffs even if they lose a close one.

Stay tuned.

Going into this week's game at Murray, Feix has lost his second starter of the year to a knee injury.

Sophomore offensive tackle Steve Catlett (6-1, 230) underwent knee surgery last week after going down in the Hilltoppers' 30-15 homecoming win over Middle Tennessee, and will be out for the remainder of the season. Starting in his place Saturday will be senior Tim Bereiter (6-3, 215), who missed most of last season with a severe shoulder injury but has logged plenty of playing time this fall.

Western's only other serious injury to date was the loss of senior linebacker Brad Todd (6-2, 215), who required knee surgery after falling in the Tennessee Tech game on Oct. 18.



Making the difference

TROY SNARDON (40) of Western heads for the sidelines before turning upfield during the Hilltoppers' win over Evansville earlier this season. With the junior

fullback heading Western's powerful running game, the Hilltoppers take a flashy 9-0 record into Saturday's regular-season finale at Murray.

He thinks of himself confidently as a capable athlete. Jimmy Feix, his coach at Western, likes to describe him as versatile.

But for those having the misfortune of playing opposite him this season, what Troy Snardon has been doing on the football field merits a little more than those commonplace adjectives.

The powerful 6-0, 205-pound fullback has made his presence felt in the Hilltopper camp, causing a change or two in a backfield where the fullback has, until Snardon came along, been primarily responsible for blocking assignments. But, the big junior has bulled his way through—and around—enough defensive lines this fall to pave a path that may lead to All-Ohio Valley Conference, and even All-America, honors at season's end.

"He's the difference," Middle Tennessee head coach James "Boots" Donnelly said of Snardon's role in Western's efforts in turning last year's .500 team into a national contender.

When WKU escaped with a 17-12 win over Donnelly's MTSU squad last year, they evened their season mark at 4-4-0. After last week's 30-15 win over the Blue Raiders, Western (9-0-0) has clinched the OVC title outright and needs only a win against Murray this week to assure the "Toppers a birth in the national playoffs. The Hilltoppers are ranked second nationally in NCAA Division I-AA poll.

In 1979, Snardon, then a sophomore, carried

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the ball 76 times for 358 yards, the third best rushing total on the squad. Through the first nine games he has carried the ball nearly twice as many times (143) and has gained well more than twice as much yardage (837). He is averaging 5.9 yards per carry and 93.9 per game.

A year ago Snardon was used primarily as a blocking back in scoring situations, getting one touchdown himself the entire season. In 1980 he has scored more than a touchdown every game and has scored twice three times. He ranks among the nation's leaders in scoring. His 12 TDs tie him for third place in the Hilltopper record book.

"This is the first year that Troy's had the chance to do the things we wanted him to do," Feix said. "He has the capability to go both inside and outside. He's a double threat and that gives up a lot of capabilities."

Snardon has indeed proven himself a one-man

dynamic duo. While he has torn through the middle for several of his touchdowns, it's not easy to forget performances like his effort against Youngstown State. On only 12 carries he picked up 159 yards with touchdown runs of 54 and 75 yards.

Feix thinks his new scoring machine has made a smooth transition into his role.

"He's handled the pressure well," Feix said. "Troy does a steady, consistent job. He just does the best he can and that's got to be enough. Thank goodness it has been."

"I've always had confidence that I could score but I never had the opportunity as a blocking back," Snardon said. "Any one of our backs can do the job, it's just a matter of what play they call."

Snardon never really had a reason to believe that he couldn't carry the football. As a tailback at Todd Central, he was a five-year starter

rushing for a career total of 4,900 yards. He was a second-team All-State selection as a junior and a first-team All State and All America choice as a senior. So impressive was he that many of the nation's top major football powers traveled to the small community of Allensville (population about 400) to recruit him.

But when Snardon got to Bowling Green, it looked at though his rushing days were over. He was moved to safety as a freshman where he tore knee ligaments early in his first year. He rejoined the team in 1978 and last season was moved back to the offensive backfield.

"It didn't matter to me where I played so long as I contributed to the team and helped us win," he said. "I'm comfortable where I am now. I just wanted to settle down somewhere, learn my position and contribute."

Which all kind of explains why Snardon turned down such lucrative offers with big-name schools to play Division I-AA football.

"I knew if I went to a big school I'd have to sit back and wait for a couple of years and I wasn't ready to do that," he said. "I wanted to play more than I wanted to wait. I don't feel like I made a bad decision. I'm probably as important to this team as I would have been to any of the others I might have played on."

As far as the OVC is concerned, Snardon doesn't have to try to hard to convince anyone of that.

New math:

5-5 + Snardon = 9-0

Staying up

MURRAY TAILBACK Lindsey Hudspeth (22) pushes off Western linebacker Bryan Gray (58) in Murray's 49-0 blitz over the previously undefeated Hilltoppers. Hudspeth raced for four touchdowns and tied a Murray record for touchdowns in a single game. Hudspeth had 150 yards in 17 carries in leading the 1979 OVC champions over this year's league champs.

(AP Laserphoto)



A shocker! Murray shatters Western unbeaten hopes by 49-0!

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Lindsey Hudspeth ran for 150 yards and four touchdowns and Gino Gibbs passed for three scores Saturday as Murray State buried previously unbeaten Western Kentucky 49-0 in a shocking Ohio Valley Conference football game.

Western Kentucky's OVC champions entered the game with a 9-0 record and shared with Lehigh the No. 1 ranking in the NCAA Division I-AA poll. But the shocking setback to No. 10 Murray, now 9-2, not only ended Western's unbeaten season but also seriously jeopardized the Hilltopper's playoff hopes.

Hudspeth gave Murray all the points it needed with 2:47 left in the

first period, capping a 60-yard, eight-play drive with a 15-yard run.

Murray blew the game open with a 28-point second period that featured scoring runs of 75 and 3 yards by Hudspeth and TD passes of 48 and 42 yards from Gibbs to wide receiver Anthony Robbins.

So completely did Murray dominate the game that Western made only one serious scoring threat. That came with three minutes left to play when the Hilltoppers moved to Murray's 13-yard line. But thirdstring quarterback Marty Jagers was sacked for a 14-yard loss on third down to kill the drive.

Western Ky	0	0	0	0-0
Murray St	7	28	14	0-49

Mur-Hudspeth, 15 run (Tuck kick)

Mur-A. Robbins, 48 pass from Gibbs (Tuck kick)

Mur-Hudspeth, 75 run (Tuck kick)

Mur-Hudspeth, 3 run (Tuck kick)

Mur-A. Robbins, 42 pass from Gibbs (Tuck kick)

Mur-C. Robbins, 1 pass from Gibbs (Tuck kick)

Mur-Hudspeth, 4 run (Tuck kick)

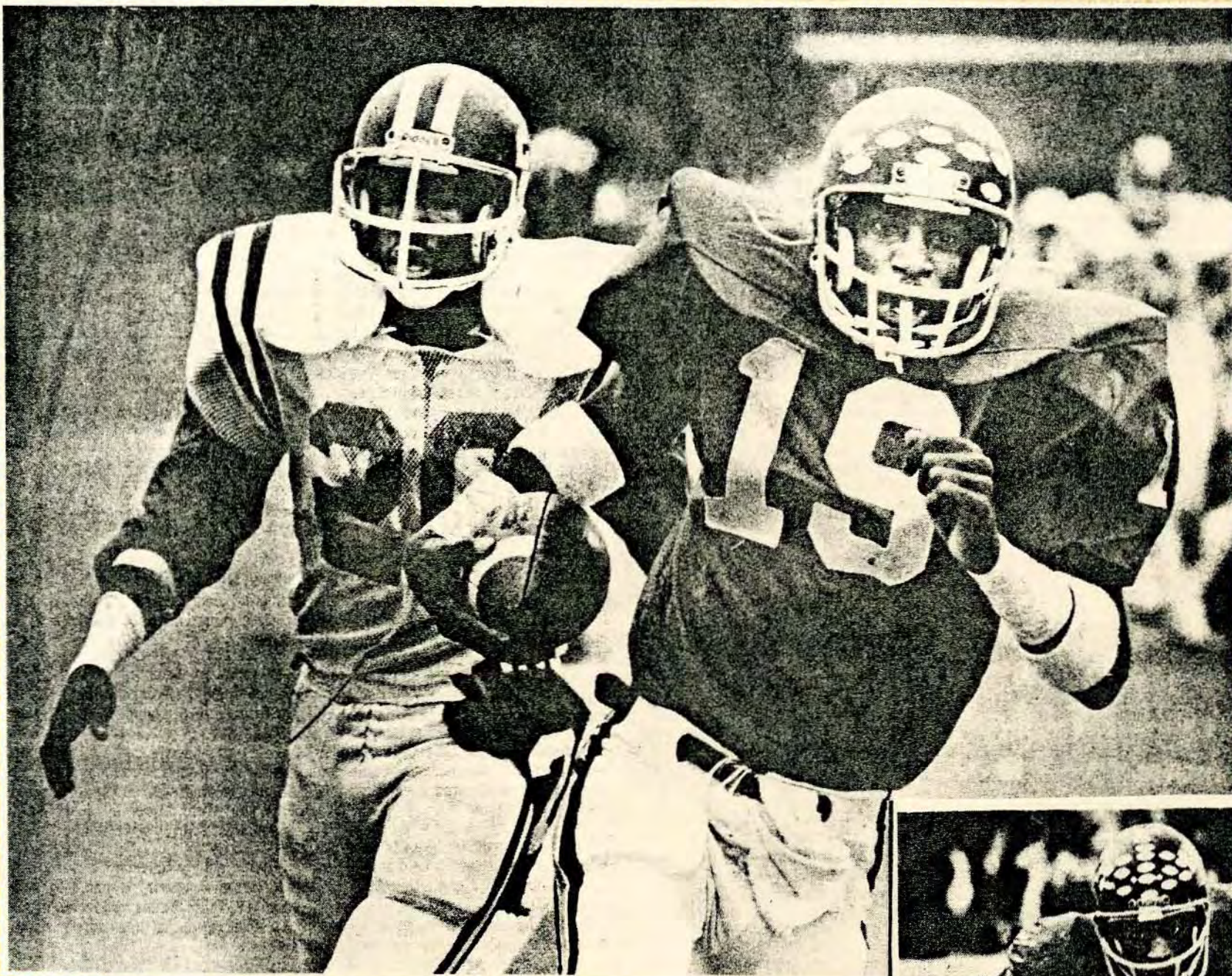
	W.Ky	Mur
First downs	13	23
Rushing yds	131	311
Passing yds	46	160
Return yds	177	471
Passes	4 25 2	9 20 1
Punts-avg	9.37	5.35
Fumbles-lost	1-1	3-0
Penalties-yds	5-34	0-103



Staff Photo by Keith Williams

Murray's Greg King made a catch, good for a first down in the second quarter, as Western's

Lamont Meacham made the tackle. Murray shocked the previously unbeaten Hilltoppers 49-0.



Two of the main factors in Murray's 49-0 thrashing of Western Kentucky Saturday were Lindsey Hudspeth, above, who rushed for a career high 150 yards and four touchdowns, and wide receiver Anthony Robbins, left, who burned the Hilltopper secondary for two touchdowns.



Sunday Herald-Leader

METRO FINAL

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, NOVEMBER 23, 1980

75 CENTS

A Funny Thing Happened

Fired-Up Murray Routs Western 49-0

By Gene McLean
Staff Writer

MURRAY — Late in yesterday's game with Western Kentucky, the Murray fans stood and applauded as the boosters presented Violet Cactus, the 11-year-old thoroughbred and team mascot, with flowers.

It's a wonder the poor horse had the strength to walk to midfield.

Violet Cactus circles the field each time Murray scores a touchdown. Yesterday she made so many laps it looked like the Indianapolis 500.

For the record, Murray sent the horse on seven trips while running over Division I-AA's undefeated and No. 1-ranked Hilltoppers 49-0 in the last regular-season game for both teams.

on the Way to the Playoffs ...

"This is the kind of game a coach always dreams about," said Murray coach Mike Gottfried in the noisy locker room afterwards. "Western is a great, great football team. They are well-coached and have an awful lot of class. But today was just our day."

Murray scored seven points in the first quarter, added 28 more in the second and then put 14 more on the scoreboard in the third before Gottfried put in his second string. The 49 points were the most a Murray team has had since Gottfried took over

(Turn to MISSING, C-4)

Missing Murray Offense Returns to Blast Western

From Page C-1

three years ago. It's the most since a 53-49 shoot-out with Austin Peay in 1969.

It was done by a team which has caught more criticism than touchdown passes all year for its lack of offense. Entering the game, Murray was averaging just 17.7 points a game and fresh off a 24-0 shutout by Austin Peay. It also was done to a WKU team which had allowed only an average of 12 points a game.

"We wanted to open things up early today and just go right at 'em," said Gottfried. "We kinda changed our offense a little by putting in a roll-out passing attack, rather than just the straight drop back which we had been using all year. And it worked great. It gave our quarterback more protection and we really generated some offense."

Murray showed it had an offense

Crrrrunch ...

Western 0 0 0 0 — 0
Murray 7 28 14 0 — 49

M: Hudspeth, 15 run (Tuck kick)
M: A. Robbins, 48 pass from Gibbs (Tuck kick)
M: Hudspeth, 75 run (Tuck kick)
M: Hudspeth, 3 run (Tuck kick)
M: A. Robbins, 42 pass from Gibbs (Tuck kick)
M: C. Robbins, 1 pass from Gibbs (Tuck kick)
M: Hudspeth, 4 run (Tuck kick)
Att: 15,800

	W	M
First downs	13	23
Rushes-yards	40-131	52-311
Passing yards	46	160
Return yards	8	54
Passes	4-25-2	9-20-1
Punts	9-37	5-35
Fumbles-lost	1-1	3-0
Penalties-yards	5-34	9-103

when the Racers took the opening kick on its own 20 and marched to the Western 18 yard line. But the drive stalled there, and it appeared Western

had escaped when Jeff Lancaster missed a 43-yard field goal.

The next five times the Racers had the ball, however, they scored.

After Lancaster's miss, Western took over at its own 26, managed one first down and punted, Murray taking over on its own 40.

Behind the passing of junior quarterback Gino Gibbs and the running of senior tailback Lindsey Hudspeth, the Racers marched 60 yards in just eight plays. Hudspeth, who finished with 150 yards rushing and four touchdowns to tie an Ohio Valley Conference record, capped the drive with a 15-yard option play around the left end. David Tuck's kick made it 7-0 with 2:47 left in the first quarter.

After stopping Western again, the Racers took over at their own 14. A couple of Gibbs passes and a couple of runs moved the ball to the Western 48. Gibbs then rolled out to the left, spotted Anthony Robbins streaking down

the middle the field and hit him with a perfect strike. Tuck's kick made it 14-0 with 11:31 left in the first half.

Again, Murray's defense stopped Western and forced a punt. This time, the Racers took over at their own 19. On the third play, Hudspeth took the handoff from Gibbs on a draw play, spurred through the left side and sprinted down the sideline 75 yards for Murray's third TD in a row. Tuck's kick made it 21-0 with 5:43 left.

Up 21-0, it didn't take Murray long to put the game out of reach. Western took the ensuing kickoff on its own 20 and on the first play from scrimmage, senior defensive back Tommy Houk picked off a pass from Ralph Antone at the 30 and returned it to the Western 8. An unsportsmanlike conduct call on Houk, for holding up the ball and tempting the Western players, moved it back to the 23 but it didn't matter. Three straight runs by Hudspeth produced another TD and Tuck made it 28-0 with 4:17 to go.

Lehigh, Boise State in playoffs; Eastern, Western are on hold

By STAN SUTTON
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Lehigh and Boise State were chosen yesterday to fill half of the field for the NCAA's Division I-AA playoffs, and both Eastern Kentucky and Western Kentucky are among five teams still under consideration to fill the two remaining berths.

Eastern athletic director Don Combs, who has been one of four men voting on the I-AA poll this season, said the final two selections probably will be announced Sunday. Under consideration are Grambling, South Carolina State, Delaware, Eastern and Western, he said.

Lehigh (9-0-2) will be the site of a first-round game on Dec. 13. The other first-round game will be played the same day, with one of the undetermined representatives serving as host. The winners will advance to the NCAA Division I-AA title game at Sacramento, Calif., Dec. 20.

The playoff field will be made up of a representative from three regions plus an at-large representative. Lehigh represents the East Region, Boise State (8-3) the West. The South Region team will be chosen from among Grambling, South Carolina State, Eastern and Western. Delaware and the three teams rejected for the South Region bid will be considered for the at-large entry, Combs said.

Because of conflicts of interest, two of the four men determining the I-AA ratings will not vote in the final poll, which is to be released on Dec. 3. Combs will be replaced by A. L. Williams of Northwest Louisiana. Milt Hunter of South Carolina State will be replaced by Walter Reed of Jackson State. Both Williams and Hunter have served as South Region advisors to

IN THE FIELD

(Rankings are from last week)

Lehigh (9-0-2)	No. 1
Boise State (8-3)	No. 9

IN THE RUNNING

Western Kentucky (9-1)	No. 1
Grambling (9-1)	No. 3
Eastern Kentucky (9-2)	No. 4
S. Carolina State (10-1)	No. 5
Delaware (9-2)	No. 6

Combs and have been in on weekly ratings conversations all season.

One reason Lehigh was selected as a first-round site was because that school had competed in six previous playoffs and had not had a home game.

All of the contending teams have finished their seasons except Grambling, which meets archrival Southern Saturday. Grambling has a 9-1 record and handed South Carolina State its only loss. Western also has lost only once, but it was a 49-0 setback at Murray State last Saturday that is certain to topple the Hilltoppers several notches in this week's poll, which will be released Wednesday. Western was tied with Lehigh for the No. 1 spot last week.

Eastern has two defeats, but has lost only to Western in its last nine games. Delaware is 9-2 and is the defending NCAA Division II champion, having advanced a class this season.

"Delaware has consistently been a contender in Division II. They are familiar with post-season competition and average about 18,000 to 20,000 a

See OVC
PAGE 5, col. 1, this section

OVC schools await poll outcome

Continued from Page One

game," said Combs, emphasizing that these money-making considerations would not influence the selection of teams, but would be considered when playoff sites are determined.

Most teams in the East don't play intersectional games, so Delaware has met only one mutual opponent of either Eastern or Western. Eastern blitzed Youngstown State 45-0, while Delaware beat the Penguins 20-13.

Combs said that with the exception of Grambling, it was unlikely that any of the other teams would change position in next week's poll because their seasons are completed. The at-large team will be selected from the high-

est-rated team not winning a regional berth. Thus, if either of the Kentucky schools trails two other South Region teams in Wednesday's ratings, it presumably is out of luck.

Eastern figures to benefit from winning the national championship last season, when it buried Lehigh 30-7 in the championship game. Western won the Ohio Valley Conference championship, and the OVC has had three teams in the top 10 all season.

There are 46 colleges playing Division I-AA football. Combs said that if that number ever approached 64 teams the NCAA probably would lean toward increasing the playoff field to eight schools.

Lehigh, Boise St. Claim I-AA Berths; Others Wait

MISSION, Kan. (AP) — Lehigh, Pa., 9-0-2, and Boise State, Idaho, 8-3, have been named to compete in the NCAA Division I-AA football championship playoffs.

Two more teams will be selected Nov. 30 to complete the four-team bracket.

Lehigh will host one of the semifinal games to be played Dec. 13.

In Division II quarter-finals Saturday, Eastern Illinois, 9-2, hosts Northern Colorado, 7-3; North Alabama, 9-1, hosts Virginia Union, 9-1-1; Santa Clara, Calif., 8-2, hosts Northern Michigan, 9-1, and California Poly San Luis Obispo, 7-3, hosts Jacksonville State, 8-2.

Semifinals will be played Dec. 6 with the winners advancing to the Zia Bowl Dec. 13 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Murray Lands Four On Team

Western, Eastern Top All-OVC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Nine football players from Ohio Valley Conference champion Western Kentucky and five from Eastern Kentucky head up the 1980 all-conference first team.

Hilltopper guard Pete Walters was one of two unanimous choices by OVC coaches, who selected the team which was announced Monday. The other unanimous pick was Austin Peay wide receiver Steve Puthoff.

Four players were repeat selections from the 1979 all-OVC squad. They were tight end Ricky Gwinn of Western Kentucky, defensive end Glenn Jones of Murray State, safety Terry Love of Murray State and guard Kevin Greve of Eastern Kentucky.

The 24-man all-conference first team includes 14 seniors and 10 juniors.

Western Kentucky selections to the team were: runningback Troy Snardon, the OVC's leading scorer; Gwinn; offensive tackle Phil Rich; Walters; punter Ray Farmer; wide receiver Jerry Flippin; defensive lineman Donnie Evans; defensive backs Barry Bumm and LaMont Meacham.

Eastern Kentucky placed second in the balloting with five all-conference players. They were: Greve; offensive tackle Darryl Lawson; center Joe Schipske, defensive lineman James Shelton; and defensive back George Floyd.

Four Murray State players were selected, as were three from Austin Peay, one from Akron, one from Morehead State and one from Tennessee Tech.

In balloting for the second

team, Eastern Kentucky placed six players; Tennessee Tech had four; Western Kentucky, Murray State and Morehead State had three apiece; Akron and Austin Peay placed two each; and Middle Tennessee had one.

Austin Peay, Eastern Boast Top Players In OVC Football Action

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Austin Peay quarterback Sonny Defilippis and George Floyd, a defensive back at Eastern Kentucky, have been named Ohio Valley Conference offensive and defensive football players of the year.

The two were chosen Monday in balloting by conference coaches.

Defilippis, a senior from Savannah, Ga., led the Governors to a 7-4 overall record — the team's second-straight 7-4 season and fourth consecutive winning year. The 6-foot-1, 185-pound quarterback

led the OVC in total offense this season, compiling 2,199 yards — the fifth-best single season performance in the OVC's 32-year history.

Until Austin Peay's season-ending game Saturday against Arkansas State, Defilippis had the conference record for the most yards rushing by a quarterback. But Saturday, he was held to minus yardage and fell nine yards short of the record of 590 yards.

He was personally responsible for 22 Austin Peay touchdowns this season, passing for 12 and rushing for 10, the highest combined total in the league this year.

Defilippis is the first Austin Peay player ever selected for the OVC offensive award. He collected 31 of a possible 36 points to edge out of Western

Kentucky's Troy Snardon for the honor.

Western Kentucky quarterback John Hall was the 1979 winner.

Floyd, a junior from Brooksville, Fla., narrowly edged Austin Peay's Brett Williams 15 points to 14 points for the defensive player honor.

Floyd led the conference with 129 yards on five interceptions this season, along with making 63 tackles, 27 assists, one fumble recovery and seven tackles for loss totaling 39 yards.

He also finished second in the OVC with an 8.4 average in punt returns. Floyd is only the second Eastern Kentucky player to win the defensive award, the other being Buddy Pfaadt in 1966.

Terry Love of Murray State was the 1979 recipient.

All-OVC picked

Nine football players from OVC champion Western and five from Eastern head up the 1980 all-conference first team.

Hilltopper guard Pete Walters was one of two unanimous choices by OVC coaches, who selected the team which was announced Monday. The other unanimous pick was Austin Peay wide receiver Steve Puthoff.

Four players were repeat selections from the 1979 all-OVC squad. They were tight end Ricky Gwinn of Western, defensive end Glenn Jones and safety Terry Love of Murray, and guard Kevin Greve of Eastern.

Eastern's selections were: Greve; offensive tackle Darryl Lawson; center Joe Schipske, defensive lineman James Shelton; and defensive back George Floyd.

Eastern placed six players on the second team.

Feix is Coach of the Year

Eastern's Floyd named best in OVC on defense

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — George Floyd, a defensive back at Eastern Kentucky, was chosen as the year's best defensive player in the Ohio Valley Conference, narrowly edging Austin Peay State's Brett Williams, 15 points to 14 points.

Jimmy Feix, who guided Western Kentucky to a 9-1 regular season and the OVC championship, has been selected the league's Coach of the Year. Feix collected five of eight possible first-place votes from fellow conference coaches.

Quarterback Sonny Defilippis became the first Austin Peay player ever selected OVC Offensive Player of the Year. He collected all but five of 36 possible points in the voting.

Western Kentucky's Troy Snardon was runner-up for the offensive honor.

Feix's Western team was ranked in Top 10 of the NCAA's Division I-AA for most of the season and at one point was tied for first.

An All-America player at Western in the early 1950s, Feix is in his 13th

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

year of directing the Hilltoppers' football program. He also received Coach of the Year honors in 1973 and 1978.

Coach Watson Brown of Austin Peay received two votes, and Tom Lichtenberg of Morehead State received one.

Floyd, a junior from Brooksville, Fla., led the conference with 129 yards on five interception returns this season. He also had 63 tackles, 27 assists, one fumble recovery and seven tackles for losses totaling 39 yards.

He finished second in the OVC with an 8.4 average in punt returns.

Floyd is only the second Eastern Kentucky player to win the defensive award. The other was Louisville Manual High coach Buddy Pfaadt, also a back, in 1966.

Defilippis, a 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior from Savannah, Ga., helped Austin Peay to a 7-4 overall record.

D 4 THE COURIER-JOURNAL, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1980

Western tops offensive team

State players dominate 1980 All-OVC choices

Special to The Courier-Journal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Western Kentucky guard Pete Walters and Austin Peay State wide receiver Steve Puthoff were the only unanimous selections on the All-Ohio Valley Conference team announced last night.

Both the offensive and defensive teams were dominated by Kentucky players. Western had five representatives on the 12-member offensive team, and Eastern Kentucky had three. Murray State, first nationally in Division I-AA in scoring defense, and Western each placed four members on the defensive team, and Eastern placed three. Morehead State's lone first-team representative was running back Dorrn Hunter.

Western's first-team offensive players are fullback Troy Snardon, tight end Ricky Gwinn, tackle Phil Rich, wide receiver Jerry Flippin

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

and Walters. Eastern landed center Joe Schipske, guard Kevin Greve and tackle Darryl Lawson on the offensive team.

Murray's defensive representatives are tackle Rick Landpher, end Glenn Jones, linebacker Donald White and safety Terry Love. Western end Donnie Evans, defensive backs Barry Bumm and Lamont Meacham and punter Ray Farmer are first-team members, while Eastern has tackle James Shelton and back George Floyd on the defensive team.

The offensive and defensive Players of the Year and the Coach of the Year will be announced today.

All-OVC Grid Teams

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — These are the players selected to the all-Ohio Valley Conference college football team Monday in balloting by league coaches:

Pos	Player	School
First Team Offense		
RB	Troy Snardon	Western Ky.
RB	Dorrn Hunter	Morehead St.
QB	Sonny Defilippis	Austin Peay
TE	Ricky Gwinn	Western Ky.
OT	Phil Rich	Western Ky.
OT	Darryl Lawson	Eastern Ky.
OG	Pete Walters	Western Ky.
OG	Kevin Greve	Eastern Ky.
C	Joe Schipske	Eastern Ky.
WR	Steve Puthoff	Austin Peay
WR	Jerry Flippin	Western Ky.
K	Wayne Anderson	Tenn Tech
First Team Defense		
DL	Donnie Evans	Western Ky.
DL	Rick Landpher	Murray St.
DL	James Shelton	Eastern Ky.
DE	Brett Williams	Austin Peay
DE	Glenn Jones	Murray St.
LB	Donald White	Murray St.
LB	Brad Reese	Akron
DB	George Floyd	Eastern Ky.
DB	Barry Bumm	Western Ky.
DB	Terry Love	Murray St.
DB	Lamont Meacham	Western Ky.
P	Ray Farmer	Western Ky.
Second Team Offense		
Pos	Player	School
RB	Dennis Brumfield	Akron
RB	Nate Jones	Western Ky.
RB	Dale Patton	Eastern Ky.
QB	Chris Isaac	Eastern Ky.
TE	Tim Devine	Morehead St.
OT	Charles Tucker	Austin Peay
OT	Ronnie Dyer	Tenn Tech
OG	Davey Locke	Morehead St.
C	Greg Gallas	Western Ky.
WR	David Booze	Eastern Ky.
WR	Jack Kelly	Tenn Tech
K	David Flores	Eastern Ky.
Second Team Defense		
DL	Tim Ford	Western Ky.
DL	Jeff Gardner	Murray St.
DL	Don Edwards	Tenn Tech
DE	Lamar Williams	Murray St.
DE	Mark Daniel	Austin Peay
LB	Danny Gooch	Morehead St.
LB	Alex Dominguez	Eastern Ky.
DB	Greg Evans	Murray St.
DB	James Griffin	Middle Tenn
DB	Rodney Byrd	Eastern Ky.
DB	Tony Chatman	Tenn Tech
P	Andy Graham	Akron

Football



AP All-America team

Here is The Associated Press College Division All-America football team for 1980.

First Team

Offense

Tight End — Mike Maher, Western Illinois, 6-5, 232, Senior, Macomb, Ill.

Wide Receivers — Reggie Eccleston, Connecticut, 5-11, 182, Senior, New London, Conn.; Trumaine Johnson, Grambling State, 6-3, 190, Sophomore, Baker, La.

Tackles — Mike McDonald, Bucknell, 6-4, 245, Graduate, Lancaster, Pa.; Todd Thomas, North Dakota, 6-6, 255, Senior, Cedarburg, Wis.

Guards — Don Greco, Western Illinois, 6-3, 256, Senior, St. Louis, Mo.; Pete Walters, Western Kentucky, 6-3, 255, Senior, Shepherdsville, Ky.

Center — Steve Wigton, Capital, 6-2, 220, Senior, Loudonville, Ohio

Quarterback — Neil Lomax, Portland State, 6-3, 215, Senior, Lake Oswego, Ore

Running Backs — Frank Hawkins, Nevada-Reno, 5-11, 212, Senior, Las Vegas, Nev.; Bobby Hedrick, Elon, 6-0, 177, Senior, Sedalia, N.C.

Defense

Ends — Pete Catan, Eastern Illinois, 6-3, 250, Senior, Peneheld, N.Y.; Brett Williams, Austin Peay, 6-2, 225, Senior, Memphis Tenn.

Tackles — Mike Barker, Grambling State, 6-4, 276, Senior, Franklinton, La.; Randy Trautman, Boise State, 6-3, 245, Junior, Caldwell, Idaho

Middle Guard — Steve Scillitani, Clarion State, 6-0, 208, Senior, East Brunswick, N.J.

Linebackers — Mike Humiston, Weber State, 6-3, 230, Senior, Anderson, Calif.; Bruce Rarig, Lehigh, 6-2, 212, Senior, Whitehall, Pa.; Larry Werts, Jackson State, 6-3, 237, Senior, Newberry, S.C.

Backs — William Dillon, Virginia Union, 6-1, 195, Junior, Detroit, Mich.; George Floyd, Eastern Kentucky, 5-11, 185, Junior, Brooksville, Fla.; Bob Manning, Massachusetts, 6-1, 180, Senior, West Newton, Mass.

Second Team

OVC players

Offense

Guard — Kevin Greve, Eastern Kentucky.

Defense

End — Glenn Jones, Murray State.

Third Team

Offense

Wide Receiver — Steve Puthoff, Austin Peay.

Defense

Backs — Terry Lowe, Murray St.



(Staff photo by Mark Workman)

Named All-American

WESTERN'S Pete Walters (68), a 6-3, 255-pound offensive guard from Webster County, has been named to the Associated Press 1980 College Division All-American team announced Wednesday. Walters, a four-year starter at offensive guard for the Hilltoppers,

captained this year's OVC championship squad and played an integral in the team's 9-1 season. Austin Peay defensive end Brett Williams and Eastern defensive back George Floyd were also named to the first team.

All-American

Western's Walters is honored nationally

By The Associated Press
Frank Hawkins, a running back from Nevada-Reno, was named to The Associated Press 1980 College Division All America football team Wednesday for the third year in a row. He was joined in the backfield by Neil Lomax of Portland State, college football's all-time passing king.

Three players from the Ohio Valley Conference were named to the honor squad, including Western senior offensive guard Pete Walters (6-3, 255). A four-year starter from Webster County, Walters played a large part in the Hilltoppers' drive to the OVC title this fall.

Besides Hawkins, the only other repeater was defensive end Pete Catan of Eastern Illinois.

Lomax, who was on the third team a year ago, com-



Daily News
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pleted 296 of 473 passes — a red-hot 62.6 percent — for 4,094 yards and 37 touchdowns this season. He finished his career with a whopping 13,220 yards in 42 games and 106 touchdown passes. Of his 1,607 career passes, only 55 were intercepted and Lomax passed for 300 or more yards 28 times and went over 400 yards in 12 games.

Hawkins, one of only six runners in NCAA history to go over 5,000 career yards, led Division I-AA ground-

gainers this season with 1,719 yards, averaging 156.3 yards per game and 5.6 per carry.

His colleague at running back is Bobby Hedrick of Elon, who became the NAIA's all-time leading rusher with his fourth consecutive 1,000-yard season. He gained 1,383 yards and scored 18 touchdowns, boosting his career yardage to 5,177.

Reggie Eccleston of Connecticut, one of the wide receivers, caught 50 passes

in 10 games for 1,081 yards and nine touchdowns. The other wideout, Grambling State's Trumaine Johnson, the only sophomore on the so-called Little All-America team, caught 41 passes for 910 yards and 13 touchdowns and was the Division I-AA punt return leader, averaging 17.4 on 13 returns.

The rest of the offensive unit consists of tight end Mike Maher of Western Illinois, tackles Mike McDonald of Bucknell and

Todd Thomas of North Dakota, guards Don Greco of Western Illinois and Pete Walters of Western Kentucky and center Steve Wigton of Capital.

Joining Catan on the defensive unit are end Brett Williams of Austin Peay, tackles Mike Barker of Grambling State and Randy Trautman of Boise State, middle guard Steve Scillitani of Clarion State, linebackers Mike Humiston of Weber State, Bruce Rarig of Lehigh and Larry Werts of Jackson State and deep backs William Dillon of Virginia Union, George Floyd of Eastern Kentucky and Bob Manning of Massachusetts.

The College Division All-America team was picked from all four-year football-playing colleges except the 139 members of the NCAA's Division IA.

Walters selected as All-American

From Gleaner Staff and AP reports

Western Kentucky's Pete Walters, a senior tackle out of Webster County High School, was named Wednesday to the Associated Press first team Little All-American football team. The team is comprised of players from the NCAA's Division I-AA, II and III members.

The 6-3, 255 pounder, who is originally from Shepherdsville, Ky., was named two weeks ago the Kodak All-American team.

Walters, in a phone conversation Wednesday night, said he was very happy and honored to be named to the team. "I would just like to praise the Lord for everything I have received from him. If it were not for him I would not have been selected to this team," commented Walters.

A deeply religious person, Walters went to Western on just a half scholarship, became a starter midway through his freshman season and held the position the next three-and-a-half seasons.

"He's a jewel, really something else," said Western offensive coordinator Butch Gilbert from Bowling Green

Wednesday afternoon. "He is such a fine person it is really hard to describe him. When he came down here as a freshman he told us that religion came first and that's the way it's been. But he has dedicated himself both on and off the field and has been the most dedicated person on the weights I've ever seen."

Walters is on record as being the one of the strongest players ever to wear a Hilltopper uniform, bench-pressing an amazing 465 pounds last winter.

"If he had one drawback, it's that he didn't solely concentrate on football like some of our kids do," Gilbert said in describing Walters. "But there's a story behind that. One morning before a game, when a lot of our players were preparing for the opponent, we found Pete on the phone in our offices calling someone to come visit a friend of his on campus who was in need of something. That's the kind a person he is, something special."

Walters graded out at an 85 percent efficiency for Western this season and was simply awesome at times, according to Gilbert.

"I have worked out on campus with the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Washington

Redskins and the New York Giants. All have expressed an interest in my services as a pro but nothing is definite yet," added Walters.

He has several pro teams interested in his services and Gilbert notes, "Three NFL teams, Pittsburgh, Washington and the New York Giants, have all been back to see Pete for a second look in special workouts. That should mean they think pretty highly of him. And he wants to play pro football. That's where he thinks he can serve the Lord best."

The silent Hilltopper leader is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Walters. His father is a pastor.

In closing Walters said, "I would just like to thank all the folks back home for all their support. My coaches at Webster County, Walter Hawkins in football and Ken Sheridan wrestling, were always telling us how good we could be. They were pushing us all the time but always had time to help us when we needed it."

Walters wasn't the only player from Kentucky schools to make the honor squad. Eastern Kentucky's George Floyd, a defensive back who is just a junior, was also named to the first team.

Murray St. defensive end Glenn Jones was tabbed for the second team and Terry Love of Murray, a first-teamer last year, was a third-team selection this season.

Nell Lomax of Portland State, who put on an incredible display of aerial fireworks in becoming college football's all-time passing king, was named to The Associated Press' 1980 College Division All-America football team Wednesday,

while running back Frank Hawkins of Nevada-Reno made it for the third year in a row.

The only repeater besides Hawkins was defensive end Pete Catan of Eastern Illinois. Western Illinois teammates Mike Maher, a tight end, and Don Greco, an offensive guard, moved up from last year's second team.

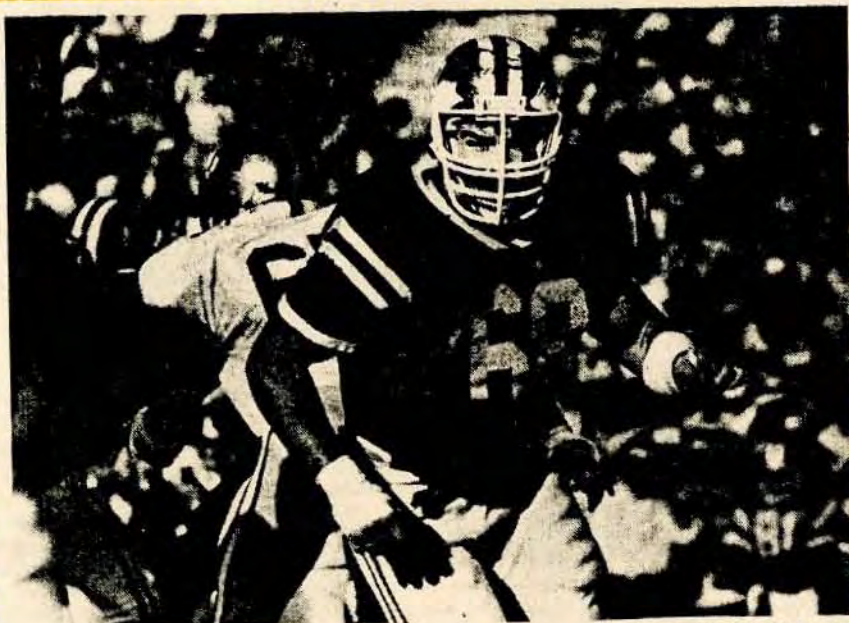
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Hawkins' running mate on the elite team is Bobby Hedrick of Elon, who became the NAIA's all-time leading rusher with his fourth consecutive 1,000-yard season. He gained 1,383 yards and scored 18 touchdowns, boosting his career yardage to 5,177.

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Gleaner photo by Chuck Stinnett

Western's Pete Walters looks around for someone to hit during a game with Middle Tennessee. Walters was selected to the Little All-American first team.

