

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Black Bear Sideliner

Department of Athletics

9-1978

Black Bear Sideliner, vol. 1, no. 3

University of Maine Athletics Department

Len Harlow

Jack Walas

Rand Erb

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_pubs_bbs



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Black Bear Sideliner by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

KNELL'S FOOTBALL BEARS LOOK TO BE IMPROVED

UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

"We will be a very much improved ballclub this year." Those are the quietly optimistic words of head football coach Jack Bicknell, as he evaluates the prospects for his third season at the Black Bear helm.

"We have more physical size — the most ever at Maine — and we have upgraded the caliber of our athletes through our winter weight program and our spring program. We are finally looking like a Division One-AA team. We don't have the obvious weak spots we had the past two seasons, as several players have really developed physically," reports Bicknell.

Defense should be the team's strong area and co-captain and linebacker Chris Keating is a big reason. The All-East candidate can do it all. He will likely be joined by hard-hitting Steve Vermette or veteran Steve Giordano.

Other leading candidates for defensive positions include ends Tom Warren and Steve Salter, tackles Jay Kelly and Joe Lipinski and nose tackle Tom Keahon. The secondary prospects give the Bears a solid unit and includes safety Bob Laberge, monsterback Dave Harrison and halfbacks Mike Cosgrove, Steve Wood, Mike Gerber and Rich Flanders in a wide open battle.

The top offensive candidates include linemen Bill Leroy, co-captain and center, tackles Tom Sullivan and Rich Leonard, and guards Jon King, making the switch from tackle, and Jon Weed. Tight end Mike Hodgson will also be the leading place kicker and gives Maine an added weapon on offense with fine range and accuracy.

One of the toughest jobs for Bicknell will be replacing such offensive backfield standouts as all-time leading rusher tailback Rudy DiPietro and three-year quarterback Jack Cosgrove.

(continued on back page)

BLACK BEAR SIDELINER

Vol. 1 No. 3

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT ORONO

September, 1978

IT'S DOCTOR CHARLIE NOW

by
Roland Wirths

It's Dr. Charles Belisle now and he is alive and well and living in Yarmouth, Maine where he is slowly outgrowing the label of "that new young doctor in town."

It doesn't take a very long memory to recall when Charlie Belisle was playing fullback at the University of Maine at Orono.

He was a fullback during the 1964, 1965 and 1966 seasons. He went to the Tangerine Bowl with the 1965 team when Maine lost only to Tampa in nine regular season games, but suffered a 31-0 lashing at the hands of East Carolina.

A year later, Charlie was co-captain along with John Huard. All through his college career, Charlie was among the youngest major college players in the country. At 20 he certainly must have been one of the youngest team leaders in college football at any level.

At one point, coach Harold Westerman, who was to go on to become athletic director at UMO, described Belisle as one of the best blockers on his team. This is remarkable in that at 190 pounds, Charlie was outweighed by 20 to 50 pounds by most of the defensive ends that were his primary assignment.

Traveling with the team, one of the distinguishing features about Charlie was that he looked as if he were attending one of the nation's service academies and that he was always bringing his textbooks with him.



Fullback Charlie Belisle (right) and 1966 teammate John Huard were the Black Bears' co-captains during Harold Westerman's last year as head football coach.

His diligence was rewarded. He was a proctor in his dorm his last three years and in his senior year he was named to the All-Yankee Conference academic team.

"I majored in zoology," Belisle said recently, "I knew when I was a little kid I wanted to be a doctor. I guess I had about a 2.8 accum when I graduated."

From Orono, Charlie went to the University of Vermont medical school. He saw Maine play there at least once while he was a student. He was in the Navy and did his internship in Portsmouth, Va., and his residency for two years in Florida. He has been in Yarmouth about a year.

"It's been pretty hectic," Charlie says. "I haven't been back to Orono to see a game but I hope to when things settle down."

"I heard from Sam Sezak the other day. He wanted some money," Charlie said with a chuckle. "I guess that's what they needed a long time ago. Things are different in Maine than they are in other places."

Sezak is everyone's "nice guy" and chief solicitor for the Black Bear Hall of Fame which is seeking to make Maine's scholarship program better.

While he was still at Vermont, Charlie married Patricia Emory of South Portland, a classmate at Maine. They have five children, Lisa 7½, twins Amy and Adelle, 6, Emily 3 and Jeff 1.

FALL SPORTS TEAMS READY

They don't play in front of the huge cheering throngs, nor do they command eight column headlines on the sports pages. But they do succeed in many other ways — and they win.

"They" are the intercollegiate sports other than football that comprise the fall athletic scene at the University of Maine at Orono.

Last fall, for instance, the other four men's and four women's teams combined to win 61 contests, lost 30 and tied two.

The Men . . .

For the men, the most successful was the cross country team that was 11-3 in its regular season. In order to duplicate that mark, coach Jim Ballinger will need some breaks along the way and perhaps a pinch of luck. The "ifs" on this year's squad include a return to form of Bill Pike, injured last year, and continuing development on the part of Sam Pelletier and Peter Brigham. Combine that with steady performances by Phil Garland, Mike Westphal and Greg Downing and the Bears will growl.

The soccer team will have a new coach in Doug Biggs, former Cape Elizabeth High coach and state coach of the Maine Soccer Federation. His main chore will be to instill some offense for the Bears who last season finished at 5-9 but were shutout in their last five games. The return of 16 veterans and two transfers, Dave Rackowsky and Mohammud Badawi, should help him with this task.

The golf team returns four players who aided in posting a 4-2 mark last season. They are Jeff Jones of Milo, Joey Joseph of Waterville, Rob Simpson of Bangor and Bob Croy of Rangeley. They should insure a better Yankee Conference finish than last year's sixth and could surprise in the state.

The loss of Bill Hammer will hinder the chances of the men's tennis team although there are a number of fairly experienced sophomores on hand to vie for the top positions behind number one player Jim Levesque. Leading the returnees will be Rob Manter, George Skillin and Jim Tartre.

The Women . . .

With the women, the field hockey and volleyball teams look exceptionally promising. In cross country it may be difficult to improve on a 7-1 mark but there are nine returning letter-winners and three promising freshmen for outstanding balance. Among the letter-winners are Sandy Cook, the team's captain, Lil Riley, Nancy Duval, who has returned from a year studying in Spain, and Joan Westphal, ranked 40th nationally.

Coach Janet Anderson minces no words about her volleyball team this fall. She predicts, "by far our best season." Last year the team was 15-6 and six veterans of that team return along with two transfers, Carole Wise and Wendy Farrington, both from the University of Maine at Farmington.

The women's tennis team may even improve on last year's 9-1 record if it can find a player like last year's standout Sue Staples. Coach Eilene Fox has six returning veterans and the immediate goal is to regain the state championship won in 1976.

The field hockey team must find some new offense to replace several top scorers lost to graduation. Scoring power may come from Janice Lamborghini, Joanne Petkus and Robin Taylor while the return of Tricia Hartnett, who missed last season with an ankle injury, should help the defense. An improvement over last year's 6-2-2 record and a state title are the team's goals this season.

Best bets for this fall? Keep an eye on the men's soccer team and the women's volleyball and field hockey combines.



VOLLEYBALL ACTION



FIELD HOCKEY AT LENGYEL FIELD



SCHOLARSHIP CORNER



The Black Bear Athletic Scholarship Fund has received support from many sources during the past year. The coaches and athletes at the University of Maine are truly grateful for the generosity of their many friends and extend their thanks to them.

We were particularly touched by an unusual letter from a twelve year old girl in a small Maine town. After reading the basketball and scholarship articles in the latest "Sports Digest," she wrote to head basketball coach Skip Chappelle:

Mr. Chappelle,

Thank you very much for the "Sports Digest". You can't know how surprised I was. I know how busy you must be preparing for school. I'm sure you'll have a terrific season.

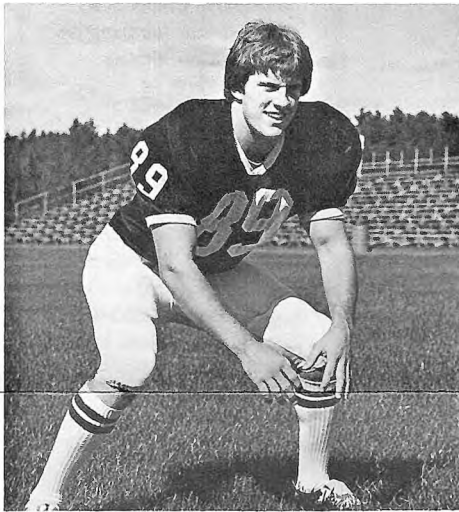
I hope the team achieves the goals that you and themselves have set. I believe that you are the best team there is. I share that belief with many other people, and we are all wishing you the best.

Again, thank you for the Digest. Please express the winning wishes that I feel to Mr. Savett and the rest of the team.

Enclosed with the letter was a donation to the Black Bear Athletic Scholarship Fund. Can we count on you, too?



Coach Jack Bicknell talks about the Bears' tough schedule with William Cannan, Regional Vice-President of Bangor's Northern National Bank. NNB was the first site for the new football ticket displays (shown here) in the greater Bangor area.



All-New England Candidate Co-Captain Chris Keating

BLACK BEAR SIDELINER

Published quarterly for University of Maine at Orono athletic program supporters and fans.

- Editor Bob Creteau
Photography Al Pelletier
Contributors Len Harlow
Printed by UMO Printing Office



Coach Vince Martino during pre-season drills

Football Bears Improved

Junior signal-caller Tony Trafton and sophomore prospect John Tursky will be the top two at quarterback as they compete for the starting slot. At runningback, halfback John Marquis and fullback Chris Scontras have the early lead for starting jobs, but should be pressed early by prospects that include Mike Edwards, blue chip runner Bill Blake, former Bridgton Academy Stand-out Cal Nicholas and freshman prospect Ray Thombs.

Robbie Carmichael leads the candidates for the flanker post, while split ends Rich Camire, Richie Pullen and Dennis Shafto will battle for the other wide receiver position, along with Tim Fedroff.

While Hodgson, Gerber and punter Steve Wood give Maine solid kicking, Bicknell reports that Harrison, freshman prospect Mike Conena and possibly Blake will see action as kick returners, along with Fedroff.

Bicknell is also very pleased with his recruiting and says several good-looking freshmen will see plenty of action and contribute heavily to the team's success.

"We look to get off to a good start," says Bicknell. "If we start well, we could build enough momentum for a good season. I feel that we have the toughest schedule in Maine football history ahead of us — maybe even the best Division One-AA schedule in the country."

LOOKING AHEAD

Season tickets for hockey are going fast as hockey and basketball season approaches. As of presstime, there are ONLY 200 HOCKEY SEASON TICKETS LEFT. These tickets sell for \$39 each.

In basketball, head coach Tom "Skip" Chappelle will be looking to improve what was the third-best record (17-8) in UM history beginning with the team's Nov. 25 opener at Providence, traditionally one of New England's finest college quins. The Bears will host such teams as Siena, Morgan State, Long Island, Wisconsin/Milwaukee and the tough Yankee Conference rivals in what shapes up to be a tremendous home slate.

The season's highlight will be the long-awaited game at the Cumberland County Civic Center against powerful Marquette Jan. 5 in Portland.

Coach Jack Semler's hockey squad, after surprising even the most diehard fan with a 15-12 season in the team's maiden campaign, will have a much-improved home schedule, featuring Dartmouth College and state rival Bowdoin College. The icemen will open with two games at Mt. Allison Nov. 3-4 before opening at home against Lowell (Nov. 18). The Bears will host Salem State, Bishop's and Buffalo Nov. 24-25 in the first Maine Invitational Tournament at UMO's beautiful Harold Alfond Sports Arena.

For more ticket information on these and all Black Bear home contests, call John McCutcheon (207/581-7763) at the Athletic Business Office. REMEMBER — THERE ARE ONLY 200 HOCKEY SEASON TICKETS LEFT.

MEN'S SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Jack Bicknell

Table of football games for men's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

SOCCER

Head Coach: Doug Biggs

Table of soccer games for men's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: Jim Ballinger

Table of cross country events for men's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

GOLF

Head Coach: Tom "Skip" Chappelle

Table of golf events for men's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

MEN'S TENNIS

Head Coach: Brud Folger

Table of tennis matches for men's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

WOMEN'S SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Janet Anderson

Table of volleyball games for women's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

FIELD HOCKEY

Head Coach: Deb Davis

Table of field hockey games for women's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: Jim Ballinger

Table of cross country events for women's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

TENNIS

Head Coach: Eilene Fox

Table of tennis matches for women's sports, including dates, opponents, and times.

TICKETS

Table of season tickets for football, basketball, and hockey.

SINGLE GAME TICKETS

Table of single game tickets for football, basketball, and hockey, including adult and student prices.

Support the BLACK BEAR HALL OF FAME

ATHLETIC BUSINESS OFFICE MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM 581-7763