

Heel Prints...

By Owen Davis

LEXINGTON, Kentucky means a lot of things, but on those cold, wintry nights when the wood stove needs stoking and an extra blanket must be found for the baby, Kentucky and basketball are one.

Churches let out early for the high school games on Wednesday nights, whole families brave blizzards in the mountains to see the local team play and almost every kid in the state learns to walk while dribbling a basketball.

To outsiders it's the state for horse racing, and for sure every native takes pride in the Derby at Louisville and sheds a sentimental tear when the band strikes up "My Old Kentucky Home" before the big event at Churchill Downs.

But few hillbillies out in the Appalachian foothills have ever seen a horse race, unless it was between a couple of mules chasing a deer in the lower forty.

Kentucky is also known for its distilled bourbon, that delectable corn mash which makes many a freezing night seem warm. And most Kentuckians drink plenty of it. If you are a newcomer to the state, initiation rites include turning up a pint of Yellowstone Mash straight, and then taking the driver's license eye test.

Some water faucets discharge the aromatic liquid in family homes, and the natives claim it doesn't need fluoridating. Plus it's guaranteed to be at least seven years old.

But mountaineers around Hazard snicker at the mention of bourbon. "That watered-down junk?" they say, "wouldn't give it to my dog." What they do feed of Bullet is backyard-distilled squeezin's, which travels under the name of moonshine, white lightnin', busthead or rotgut, but always travels one step ahead of the revenuers.

And of course there is bluegrass, which supposedly grows all over the state. Trouble is, you can drive the length of the Bluegrass Parkway from Lexington to White Sulphur and never see a blade of the stuff.

But there is one thing all Kentuckians enjoy as much as whole hog sausage and fiddling in Harlan County, and that's basketball.

Ever since Dr. James Naismith threw a wad of paper in a peach basket and decided it would make a good game, Kentucky folks have been putting up hoops on garage sidings and saving sewing money for a precious round ball.

The state is dotted with small hamlets, whether in the mountain sticks or on the Ohio River, and every little settlement has a high school basketball team. Some have more seats in the gymnasium than people in the town, but enough outlanders take time off from running a whiskey load down to Nashville to make up the difference.

Few games are played before empty seats. Football is only for those boys too slow to play on the hardcourt, and besides, in many parts of the east the flattest place for a 100-yard field is a 45 degree slope leading up to Snuffy Smith's shack.

When a youngster wants to go out for the local team he doesn't approach the coach in October to inquire when practice starts, because the coach will reply, "Last spring." It's a year-round game.

The state high school all-stars play a rival group from Indiana every summer, and always pack the house.

If a baseball comes to a sporting goods dealer, he just tears off the cover, inflates it and has a new basketball for sale.

College coaches from all over the country know what's happening in Kentucky, and they raid the state of those players who aren't lured to the University, Louisville, Western or Morehead.

There are reputedly twice as many high school players capable of making the big time than do, but they live in such remote communities such as Stamping Ground and Strunk that nobody ever hears of them.

And since 1930 when Adolph Rupp found that Lexington swings a little bit more than Freeport, Ill., the University of Kentucky has picked the most prized plums.

Rupp is now in his 39th year at Kentucky, and his teams have been a natural for those who also follow the horses.

Kentucky horseplayers like to put their money on the nose when stakes are mentioned, and Rupp's Wildcats have made a winning bet almost a sure thing. In more than 80 percent of its games since 1930, Kentucky has done better than place or show, and has never finished out of the money.

Rupp has 779 coaching victories going into tonight's game with North Carolina, more than any other college coach in history.

The Baron, who at 67 is just as ornery as ever, has much in common with Carolina Coach Dean Smith. Both are Kansas natives, and both played college ball for Phog Allen at the University of Kansas. And both field winning teams.

But Rupp began at Kentucky when Smith was still wearing diapers. Adolph looks warily at Smith these

(Continued on page 4)

MSU Aid Named Wake Forest Coach

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (UPI)—Cal Stoll, who has developed some of the nation's best ends at Michigan State, took control of the Wake Forest University football team Friday promising to bring a "new era" to Deacon football.

The official announcement of the appointment of the Michigan State assistant coach to succeed Bill Tate as head coach at Wake Forest came at a news conference here. It was no secret, however, because newspapers had printed the story two days ago.

Stoll acknowledged this in

answering a question about his staff when he said, "For something that's supposed to be a secret, I've got a lot of calls the past couple of days from people looking for work."

Stoll said he expected to announce the appointment of the first assistants on his six or seven man staff Monday.

"I'm looking forward to a new era at this school," the former Minnesota defensive end said. "I will work at continuing the development of the type of football program this university and this

community deserve."

Stoll acknowledged that recruiting would be a big problem for him since the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) deadline is Dec. 14, barely more than a week away.

"Certainly a lot of folks are ahead of us but we run real strong when we're behind," he said. "The important thing is to salvage what we can."

He said he thought Wake Forest had a number of things to offer a high school graduate, including a good education and a good football program.

The appointment was

officially announced by Dr. J. Ralph Scales, University president, who told Stoll, "You have a big challenge but you have great assets too—some fine players, a campus ready for a winner, a ready-made football constituency..."

Scales said Wake Forest's athletic program would continue to be "consistent with uncompromising standards of academic integrity." Dr. Gene Hooks, the Deacon Athletic Director, said the school had interviewed "some truly outstanding

candidates" since Tate resigned three weeks ago after five years as head coach.

"None of them, however, could match the numerous fine qualities and experience Coach Stoll brings to Wake Forest," Hooks said. "His most attractive qualities are his sensitivity to the current problems in college football and his ability and willingness to cope with them."

Stoll, taking his first job as head coach for a college team, had coached Michigan State's defensive and offensive ends for nine years.

Stoll will be 45 years old next Thursday.

He came to MSU in 1959 from a job as assistant coach at the University of Georgia. He had earlier coached at Mound High School near Minneapolis, Utah State and the University of Denver.

The Page, N.D. native coached such MSU standouts as Fred Arbanas of the Kansas City Chiefs, Ernie Clark of the St. Louis Cardinals, Bubba

Smith of the Baltimore Colts, Gene Washington of the Minnesota Vikings and Al Brenner, the current MSU All-America end.

5 Sports Greats Recently Inducted Into North Carolina's Hall Of Fame

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (UPI)—A Golfer, a football coach, a basketball player and a "knuckleball throwing" baseball pitcher Friday night became the newest additions to the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame.

In ceremonies here which included an induction speech

by golfing great Arnold Palmer, the names of D.C. (Peahead) Walker, Hoyt Wilhelm, the late John B. (Jack) Cobb and Richard S. Tufts were added to the list of the Hall of Fame—the greatest honor North Carolina pays its athletic stars.

Palmer, a former Wake Forest star, delivered the induction address for Tufts. Called Mr. Golf by many, Tufts is best known as the man behind Pinehurst, an outstanding golfing center.

Tufts founded the Carolinas Golf Association and is a

former president of the U.S. Golf Association. He captained the U.S. Walker Cup team in 1963, and in 1951 he was awarded the Richardson Trophy, golf's highest honor, for his contribution to the game.

Clemson football Coach Frank Howard, a longtime rival, inducted Walker into the Hall of Fame. Walker coached football at Elon, Wake Forest, Yale and Montreal of the

Canadian League. He now lives in Charlotte and is a scout for the New York Giants.

A native of Huntersville, Wilhelm is officially recognized as the greatest relief pitcher in baseball history. He holds major league records for most pitching appearances, most victories in relief and most consecutive errorless games by a pitcher. At age 45 last year, he had a 1.72 earned run average.

ACC Approves One Year Junior College Transfers

GREENSBORO, N.C. (UPI)—The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Friday approved a proposal that would permit qualified junior college transfers to play in athletic events for three years for ACC teams.

The new junior college transfer rule would permit a junior college student to transfer to an ACC school after one year, provided he has 24 semester hours of transferable credits with a "B" grade

average. He would be immediately eligible to participate in athletics.

The old rule said the students had to graduate from a junior college to become eligible immediately, or if they attended the junior college only one year, to sit out a year of residence at the ACC school.

The new rule, which complies more nearly with NCAA legislation than the old one, was proposed by Wake Forest and approved on a 7-1 vote, with Duke casting the only opposing vote.

The ACC, closing out its annual winter meeting with a general business session, also changed baseball rules so that tie games will not count in the standings.

The ACC also appointed a committee to study relations

with professional football. Named to the committee were Athletic Director Paul Dietzel of South Carolina, Athletic Director Gene Hooks of Wake Forest, Sports Information Director Frank Weedon of North Carolina State, and Gene Corrigan of the ACC office here.

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Bristol, Va. (UPI)—The President of the Appalachian League said Friday there was a good chance the rookie baseball circuit would expand from four to six or possibly seven teams for the 1969 season.

"I'm optimistic we can get things away and have a big season in 1969," Devault said.

Four cities in the league last year return and all have major league affiliations. Bluefield, W. Va., will have an agreement with the Baltimore Orioles; Marion, Va., with the New York Mets; Johnson City, Tenn., with the New York Yankees and Covington, Va., with the Houston Astros.

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