

Handsome Gain

Freshman running back Calvin Handsome churns out yardage in the Rams' 51-0 rout over St. Paul's. Closing in for the Tigers are Tyrone Tobias (90) and Quincey Gaines (74) (photo by James Parker).

Inside Stuff

Suddenly he's a great coach

By DICK DEVENZIO
Syndicated Columnist

Two years ago, supposedly expert basketball commentators were criticizing Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski for playing man-to-man defense all the time. As though they had never heard of Bobby Knight, they said Coach Krzyzewski was inflexible, and they questioned his ability to coach.

It became the "in comment" to talk about Duke not using zones, about Coach K not understanding how to use his personnel.

Of course, Mike Krzyzewski played and coached under Bobby Knight, and the basketball world has seen recent, vivid examples -- against North Carolina in the NCAA playoffs, and in the Olympic games -- of what the Knight philosophy can do on a basketball court. The hallmark of

it is rigid, inflexible, man-to-man defense. Coach K has used it at Duke for the past two years, and he is planning to use it again -- with basically the same players he had two years ago.

It tells you simply that critics should think twice before throwing in their meager two cents.

This year, Duke's front line -- Alarie, Bilas and Meagher -- should still be too small and too slow to be able to play man-to-man. Coach K should know better. None of them has grown.

Yet, last year they beat Perkins and Jordan with that man-to-man in the ACC Tournament, they went 7-7 in the conference, beat almost everyone else, and now the critics are rushing into the fold, almost unanimously installing Duke as a Top 10 pick in the nation (*The Sporting News* has Duke No. 4) and the number one team in the ACC.

I don't think Duke ought to be

rated so highly, but I like Coach K's attitude about it, and the attitude he projects in Duke's practice sessions. He is low-key, seldom raising his voice, and he is a teacher, patiently gong over each important point.

He has avoided the typical coach's denial of interest in ratings. He says that he and his players are proud of their high preseason ratings, and they see this as recognition for their accomplishments last year.

As Assistant Coach Bob Bender, a star on Duke's Final Four team several years ago, said, "The high ratings may not be realistic, but they help our recruiting."

Danny Ferry, the "superstar" center from D.C., visited Duke Oct. 21, and Jeff Lebo, the superstar guard from Pennsylvania, was also recently in Durham.

Eagles down Demons

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Geoff Purvis on short passes for first downs.

"We knew that we had to hit the short passes," said Pearson. "Every time we got in a situation where we needed a first down, we went to them."

While East didn't score any second-half points, Pearson said his team continued to play well.

"Reynolds did a little better at stopping us in the second half," Pearson said. "They had a lot of fight in them, but our bunch showed a lot of character, too."

The Eagles finished the season with a 7-3 record. Pearson said his team performed well in '84, all things considered.

"We had some real good kids on this team," said Pearson.

"They didn't tuck it in after the loss at North (when the Eagles lost, 25-22, in triple-overtime). It took a lot for them to finish the season strong. Never could I fault them for their effort."

Despite the loss, Reynolds Coach Doug Crater said his team didn't quit either. The Demons finished the season with a 4-5 record, an accomplishment considering their lack of experience.

"This team has done more with their talent than any we've ever had," said Crater. "They gave us a lot of heart. I think they really gave more than they had to give."

The home-standing Demons had a chance to do early damage to the Eagles when they recovered Rodney Mullins' fumble in the opening minutes of the game. However, on the next play, Reynolds tailback Patrick Friday was stripped of the ball.

East then mounted a drive that resulted in a touchdown. On first and 10 from the Demons' 31-yard

line, Barber found Keaton behind the Reynolds defense on a play-action pass. Keith Shaeffer's PAT made the score 7-0.

The Eagles put together another drive, this time going 79 yards in 13 plays after stopping Reynolds on the ensuing possession.

Running backs Mullins and Maurice Robinson did most of the work, Robinson bursting 16 yards off-tackle and lumbering 23 yards with a short pass to keep the drive going.

However, Reynolds' defense stiffened once the Eagles moved inside the Demon 10-yard line. Pearson opted to go for the touchdown instead of a short field goal on fourth and goal from the Demons' one and Barber sneaked in for the Eagles' second touchdown.

Reynolds made gallant attempts at closing the gap in the first half, but each time the Eagle defense rose to the occasion.

"It was our last game and we really wanted to go out with a win," said Geno Segers, who tallied three quarterback sacks for East. "The whole defense played intense football. Our defense was the key to winning the game. I thought we played well."

The Demons did, however, have a chance for a big break late in the second quarter. East returner Chris Christmas was backed to his one and tried to field a booming 52-yard punt by the Demons' Scott Faircloth. Christmas fumbled the catch but beat several Demon defenders to the ball to prevent a scoring threat by Reynolds.

Following the half, neither team could get its offense going.

The Demons took to the air in hopes of mounting a comeback bid, but the East defense sacked quarterback Troy Gurkin repeatedly.

The only points of the second half were scored when a snap from center sailed over the head of Shaeffer for a Reynolds safety.

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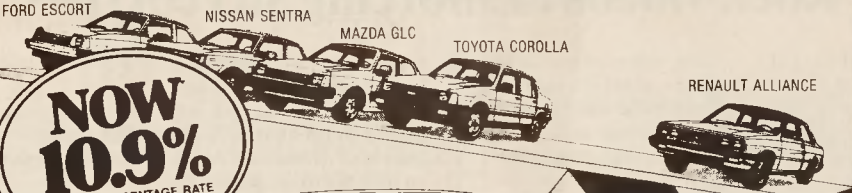
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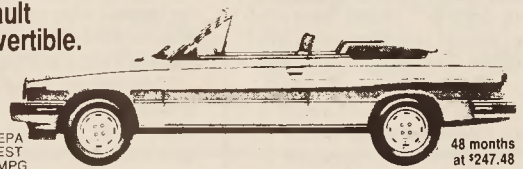
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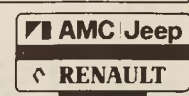
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