

Howie Carr

Books get worse

The trouble with crazes is that everyone tries to cash in on them. Take the "sports expose" fad, for instance. Former baseball pitcher Jim Bouton and sportswriter Leonard Shecter staked out their claims as the forerunners of this trend early in 1970 with the publication of "Ball Four" and "The Jocks," respectively. They were good books, and they told a lot about a segment of American life that had previously been left by default to the platitudes and inanities of Curt Gowdy, Dick Young, et al.

A couple of more interesting sports books, written by ex-gridders John Sample and Dave Meggsey, appeared at the end of 1970, and an inevitable host of imitators has followed in their wake this year.

Bouton came up with a sequel to "Ball Four," prompting a bored Dick Cavett to tell him bluntly, "I don't have time to read every ex-jock's book," and at least two other former football players wrote books on the same subject that others had written about earlier and more eloquently. The whole thing has become a real bore, both for readers and late-night talk show watchers. Hopefully Neil Amdur's "The Fifth Down: Democracy and the Football Revolution" will be the last of its breed.

A New York Times sportswriter who covered the Bill Arnold controversy here in October, Amdur divides his book into two sections, "The Way It Is," and "Democracy."

"The Way It Is" purports to tell what football has come to represent in America today, and if Amdur's anecdotes aren't as good as Shecter's, well, neither is his writing. Amdur, of course, hasn't been in the business as long as Shecter, and until last year he covered an area, Florida, not nearly as interesting as Shecter's nation-wide beat for Look and the New York Post.

Amdur, however, does include some effective quotes from various coaches that pretty well indicate the dominant "philosophy" of American coaching.

"We have a complete democracy as far as the squad is concerned," Paul Dietzel of South Carolina explains. "We do exactly as I want them to, and in my way of thinking that is a complete democracy, because I am very prejudiced."

And Amdur has done his homework in a chapter about the rising costs of collegiate football, which have driven 42 major universities out of the "business" in the last decade.

Amdur proves the correlation between successful football and alumni contributions dramatically by citing the fact that Ohio State received \$1,200,000 in donations when its team went 7-2 in 1965. The next year the Buckeyes dipped to a 4-5 mark, and alumni contributions fell off to \$750,000.

Amdur also reports that Amherst College won the Little Three championship eight times during the sixties, losing only in 1961 and 1966. In the same period, contributions to Amherst's alumni fund increased every year except two: 1961 and 1966.

"The Fifth Down," though, is less concerned about the current state of football than what Amdur believes the sport could become, and that's what the second section, "Democracy," as personified by George Davis, is all about.

George Davis is a 45-year old high school football coach in Willits, California. After a football career at Southern Cal and on various naval base teams he was an assistant coach at various high school and junior colleges until 1960, when he became head coach at St. Helena High School in California.

At St. Helena Davis instituted his controversial system of letting the players decide the starting team for each game by secret ballot. Davis was immediately blasted by critics who told him discipline would fall apart.

"That's not true," Davis answers in one of his several long italicized monologues in "The Fifth Down." "They'll be more closely disciplined by their peer group and what they think of them than they would possibly be by what their coaches think of them. Joe Namath is a good example. He's independent, a free soul, but his commitment to his teammates is complete. He would rather hurt himself than his teammates."

Davis believes that his system counteracts the fact "that somehow motivation has gotten away from the individual. We're trying to escape from responsibility because the responsibility isn't worthwhile or because we didn't ask for it."

His "democracy" worked, and St. Helena won 45 straight games between 1960 and 1964. Davis, however, has never risen above the rank of assistant collegiate coach (although he was offered the post of athletic director at Idaho), and considering the people in control of the American sports establishment, Davis will probably still be coaching at Willits High in another 20 years.

It's too bad, but that's just the way things are, and a sense of moral outrage at the shabby treatment of Davis won't stop anybody from the Dallas-Washington game this weekend. Maybe the callousness that all fans seem to have developed is what's wrong with football, and it's certainly what's wrong with the book. Nobody cares, Mr. Amdur, nobody really cares.

Phac-Ins win volleyball

In the finals of the Graduate - Independent Volleyball League last Thursday night, Phac-In barely squeaked by the Lab Retrievers in as close a match that can be played. The Lab Retrievers jumped out to a quick lead as they took the first game 15-11. Phac-In didn't let that bother them too much as they turned around and almost skunked the Retrievers 15-1. In the deciding game the Lab Retrievers got off to a blazing start but flattered midway as the Phac-Ins held on and slowly caught up. They off several game points and went on to a very

narrow win 16-14, wrapping up the title. Congratulations to the Phac-Ins: Matson, Nelson, Cleveland, Michael, Boynton, Glad, Peterson and Losse!

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Culbreth reflects on season

by Mark Whicker
Sports Editor

When senior defensive back Rusty Culbreth looks back on his career and the almost-completed football season, he sees eight victories, virtual Tar Heel dominance in conference statistics, and at least a tie for the ACC title.

It could have been so much better, though.

Scout impressed with Blue Devils

Although he saw them on one of their bad days - last week's 23-7 loss to Wake Forest - assistant coach Ron DeMelfi was impressed with the Duke Blue Devils.

"They played well, except for three individual breakdowns in the third quarter that gave Wake Forest its touchdowns," DeMelfi says. "They're a very good football team."

Last year's Blue Devils were 6-5 thanks to the passing arm of Leo Hart and the catching of Wes Chesson. They came within a 59-34 loss to Carolina of winning the ACC title.

This year, under Mike McGee, Duke is 6-4. The Devil injuries look like the casualty lists at Verdun. Without a proficient passer, McGee has gone back to the basics - a tough defense and dependable running.

"They're better this year," De Melfi says. "Their defense doesn't give up the least touchdown, and although they might not have the quick striking power they did with Hart, Duke controls the line of scrimmage better and has outstanding backs."

The Blue Devils started off with four straight wins, including a shocking 9-6 victory over Stanford. Since then, however, wins over State and West Virginia have been overshadowed by losses to Georgia Tech, Clemson, Navy and Wake Forest.

In those four losses, Duke only scored three touchdowns.

"Everyone talks about their injuries," DeMelfi says, "but actually most of those injured players are back. Bruce Mills, their fine defensive tackle who was hurt

"We have a good football team and we still have a chance to prove we're a great team," says Culbreth, a senior from Greensboro. "But it's a shame things have happened to us the way they have."

"We could have beaten Notre Dame if any number of things had happened. We shouldn't ever have lost to Tulane - that was a complete lapse on the part of the defense."

"And all the controversy about Bill

Arnold's death, too. That, in part, kept us from reaching an emotional peak. We still have a chance to do it Saturday at Duke." Duke represents something special to the Tar Heels and Culbreth. An undisputed ACC title, a bowl appearance, and the usual thrill of beating an arch-rival all rest upon it.

Culbreth missed last year's 59-34 win, along with eight other games, because of badly torn ligaments in a knee. As a sophomore, he fumbled a punt late in the game that gave Duke the opportunity to kick a field goal and sew up a 17-13 upset.

"I don't really have any regrets, though," says Culbreth. "It hurt to fumble and it hurt to lose that game. But I was in the act of running the punt back when I got hit (by Duke tight end Jim Dearth) I would try to return the punt again."

"It was great when we won, but I didn't get to take part in it. I'd be in there this year, however."

Culbreth was a flanker and running back at Virginia Tech before transferring for "personal" reasons.

He was a starter his first year at Carolina, and returned punts well his first two games in '70, against Kentucky and State. However, he injured his knee in a return against the Wolfpack and missed the rest of the year. Understandably, his spirits sagged.

"It was very depressing, very hard for me mentally," Culbreth recalls. "I wanted to be close to the football program, but the closer I got, the worse I felt because I wasn't playing."

He was held out of spring practice because the knee still hadn't come around. "Being held out was the greatest thing that could have happened, because then I was ready to play in the fall," Culbreth says. "And the knee has been completely well this year."

Culbreth started returning punts again against Wake Forest, and against Clemson he broke a return for a 55-yard touchdown. The play was called back for a clipping penalty, a call which the Carolina coaches questioned.

Opponents have passed successfully on the Tar Heels this season. Culbreth and secondary mates Richard Stilley and Lou Angelo have sometimes received open criticism.

"Our mistakes show up more than anyone else's," Culbreth replies. "Pass defense is such a team thing - a good pass rush, linebackers coming back to help, and then the defensive backs doing their jobs."

"It's a very tough position mentally, but I think we're doing better. Stilley is a clutch player, and Angelo is a better player than most people think he is - he's been a victim of circumstances and makes more good plays than people realize."

"People throw at us more because we stop their running. Only Wake Forest did much against us with ball control, and we won anyway."

Rusty owns two interceptions this year, one which set up a touchdown against Clemson. And his nimble punt returning did a lot to keep Wake Forest in bad field position during that all-important 7-3 victory.

Yet Culbreth's football career has been complex. Carolina victories and moments of personal accomplishment have been clouded by the injury, the transfer, and the confusing events of this fall.

After Saturday's game and his December graduation, Culbreth will take six months off in Europe "to figure out what I want to do."

"I still love the game and I wouldn't play if I didn't," he says, even though the affair has been trying at times.

Boat club

The UNC Boat Club is having an exhibition crew race this Sunday at University Lake at 2 p.m.

Crew teams have been invited from Virginia, East Carolina, and Virginia Commonwealth. Races will be held in eight-man shell, four-man shells, and singles. This is the only time spectators will have a chance to watch a crew meet until next spring, since the lake closes in December.

Smith preview tonight

Basketball fever is here again—and spreading.

One odd symptom of this contagious, annual disease is scheduled tonight in the Great Hall.

Coach Dean Smith will show highlights of last year's Tar Heel victory in the National Invitation Tournament and will preview this year's basketball season. There are two performances, at 8 and 9 p.m.

And there are no more tickets available.

The Carolina Union gave out of free tickets earlier this week.

Smith has quite a team to preview on paper. Bill Chamberlain, George Karl, Dennis Wuycik and Steve Previs are returning starters.



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