

## Onofrio Honored by Active Mo. Athletic Club

The Missouri Athletic Club has been serving the state for 70 years now, a proud, grandiose remnant of another era in American sports. M.U. football coach Al Onofrio, on the other hand, has been serving the state for about 15 years, and while he too recalls another era, it became obvious Tuesday night that neither Onofrio nor the Big MAC wish to look back.

Onofrio received the Missouri Athletic Club (social director Ervin A. Pickel, Jr. says the "prestigious Missouri Athletic Club") award as Missouri's Sports Personality of the Year at a \$15-a-plate banquet.

FOR ONOFRIO, the banquet provided a break in his arduous off-season recruiting schedule, as well as an opportunity to thank the members for their past help and to ask for continued support of Tiger football. To put the award in perspective, Onofrio recalled a dinner Chancellor Herbert Schooling gave for the coaching staff over a year ago that Schooling felt compelled to give Onofrio an unofficial vote of confidence.

To further put the award in perspective, it was interesting to note last year's winner on the back of the banquet invitation, Joe Torre. Before Torre, Bob Gibson was the recipient of the big silver trophy, now three years old. For the Missouri Athletic Club, still standing on its original site at 405 Washington Ave. in downtown St. Louis, the award carries as much significance, if not more, as the men it honors.

The reason is that the 10-story MAC — "the architectural wonder of its day" according to Pickel — is "confronted with the same problem hundreds of other athletic clubs across the nation are facing. For the most part, the clubs were spawned around the turn of the century, an era when "amateurism" in sport and urban centralism were still positive factors on the



national scene. By nature, the clubs became downtown facilities, and social vehicles for the leaders of business and the professions.

"NOW, according to Pickel, there are few athletic clubs "not having problems." Although Pickel insists the Missouri Athletic Club isn't one of them, he says the troubled clubs were hurt by the suburban boom (thereby negating the advantage of centralized facilities), and by a failure to keep the properties operable.

"Ours has been refurbished several times," says Pickel. "Deep within the MAC's tradition of Olympic medalists and its devotion to excellence in sport, there is an attitude of social responsibility. It is, at the same time, admirable and depressing.

On the positive side, the Missouri Athletic Club realizes its position as one of the last pillars in a decaying urban core. Much of its efforts in recent years has been concentrated on

pledging younger members, partly to give the club a future, and partly to fend off the desertion of St. Louis' downtown. One thousand, five hundred of the Big MAC's 5,000 members are classified as junior members.

"There's tradition here, but we're always looking ahead," says Pickel. "This club is anchored downtown and it's a strong support to the downtown."

On the other hand, the Missouri Athletic Club still carries a stigma that has drawn criticism from those who care to look a little deeper. There is not one black man in the entire membership, and not one black attended the banquet Tuesday.

"THERE IS no restriction against black members," says Pickel. "All reference to race was crossed from the by-laws about five or six years ago. They just have their own places."

Still, any change is heartening. Bob Gibson acknowledged this in his acceptance speech after winning the first MAC Award two years ago. "A few years ago," said Gibson, "I couldn't come in the front door here."

Part of the MAC's future plans are riding on the award Al Onofrio won Tuesday night. Nick George, one of the club's governors, hopes the award (if it goes national) will grow to the stature of the annual award given by the New York Athletic Club, the Heisman Trophy. The idea is that if all else fails to attract and hold members, (such as the 22 dining rooms, the swimming pool on the third floor, the gym, handball and squash courts, and the vigorous social schedule) then the prestige of the award alone will uphold the MAC.

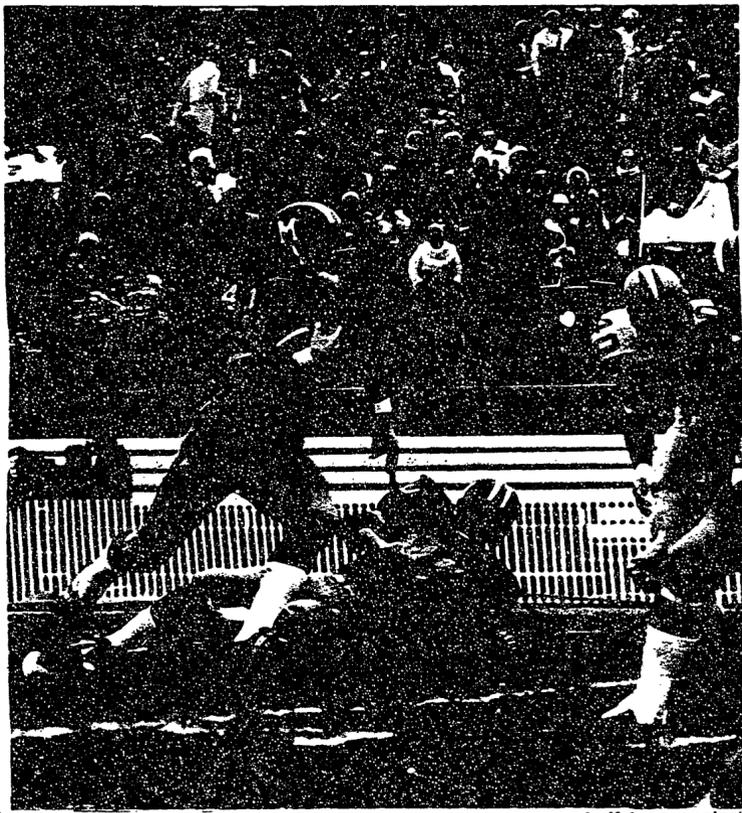
THERE'S A big difference between the game Al Onofrio coaches, and the game played by the institution which honored him Tuesday night. One is football, while the other is survival.



MISSOURI football coach Al Onofrio and St. Louis Cardinal manager Red Schoendienst share a light moment at the Missouri Athletic Club dinner Tuesday night. Onofrio was honored by the club as the Missouri Sports Personality of the Year. (UPI Telephoto)

### Dream Comes True in 9th Round

## Fink Picked by Saints in Draft



TIGER defensive back Mike Fink, running back a kickoff here against Iowa State, will try to prove his worth against rougher foes soon. Fink was selected by the New Orleans Saints Wednesday in the NFL draft. (Missourian Photo by Martha Hartnett)

By Jay Coleman  
Missourian Sports Writer

About a month ago Missouri's Mike Fink sat beside the three-hole golf course at the Mountain Shadows Hotel in Scottsdale, Ariz., contemplating his football future.

"I just want to do well in the Fiesta Bowl and the Hula Bowl and then hope to be drafted by the pros," he said.

WEDNESDAY that dream came true when a New Orleans coach called and told the Parkville, Mo. native that he had been picked in the ninth round of the pro football draft by the Saints.

"Some coach, I can't even remember his name, called about 11 this morning and told me about it. It was a quick conversation — we didn't talk about money or anything. But all these things add to the beauty of the whole thing."

Since then, Fink has been busy talking with former Missouri players about being a pro football rookie. Wednesday night he found time to celebrate by taking his wife, Candy, out to dinner.

"He said they'd call back in a week or so, and that they have a rookie camp at the end of February," Fink recalled. "I talked to John Cowan (former Missouri defensive tackle and Green Bay rookie last year) and he told me a lot about it."

Wednesday night Cowan said he told Fink to "make sure and stay at one position and point out your advantages. Since he's a multi-talented player, he should emphasize the possibility of playing wide receiver, defensive halfback or running back kickoffs.

"I POINTED out the advantages of going to Canada to play, too," Cowan said. "The fields there suit his talents more and his chances to make it would be good there."

"When you negotiate for a contract you have to find out just how bad they want you and let them bid back and forth," Cowan added.

Fink said he'd like to play on the specialty teams or at defensive back, his positions during the 1972 Tiger season.

"I'd like to play cornerback or safety. That's where I played the best in the last half of the season. I had good games against Notre Dame and Colorado. But the biggest thing was probably the last two games (Fiesta and Hula Bowls).

"I think my speed and quickness will make up for my size (5-10)," Fink contended. "Anyway, I have the confidence, and New Orleans must too, or they wouldn't have drafted me. And with confidence, you play a lot better."

FINK SAID he thought he might have a chance to get drafted by St. Louis or Dallas. He hadn't heard from New Orleans until Wednesday.

"Since New Orleans was down this year, that may present an opportunity in itself," Fink said. "They're in a readjusting period and need some new blood. So that may enhance my chances of making the Saints."

"Right now I just want to make their final cut," he added. "Everything stops after you're drafted. Now I have to prove myself again."

A 9.7 sprinter in the 100-yard dash, Fink intercepted passes in the Notre Dams, Colorado, Arizona State and Hula Bowl games and ran back a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown in the Fiesta Bowl.

The marketing major ran back kickoffs 100 and 91 yards for touchdowns and ranked fifth nationally in kickoff returns with a 28.3 average in 1971. Fink was named to the Big Eight second team this year.

"My goal was to be drafted by the pros... now I'll just have to set new goals."

Fink was the only Missouri player picked in the pro draft.

### Lake Placid Recommended by U.S. Committee

NEW YORK (AP) — Lake Placid was unanimously recommended by the officers of the U.S. Olympic Committee to replace Salt Lake City as this country's representative to hold the 1976 Winter Games, USOC President Clifford Buck announced Wednesday night.

Buck said the USOC took the action after receiving a telegram Wednesday morning from

Lake Placid Mayor Robert J. Peacock stating the New York community wanted the Games.

Salt Lake City had officially withdrawn Tuesday night.

Buck said that he cabled the International Olympic Committee stating that the USOC "certifies Lake Placid's competency to originate and stage the Games," if "the Lake Placid Committee obtains the necessary federal funds."

Lake Placid representatives will appear before the IOC executive committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, to present their case Feb. 3-4.

The Rev. Bernard J. Fell, a Lake Placid booster, said Lake Placid needs a minimum of \$5.5 million from the state and \$15.5 million from the federal government to host the games.

### Heidelberg Tops Has Beens 65-61

## It's the Smith & Jones Act Again

By Gary Goldman  
Missourian Sports Writer

For Heidelberg it's still Smith and Jones. The Jones is the same Gene Jones whose intimidating defensive work and rebounding led Heidelberg to a 65-61 victory over the Has Beens, a team loaded with former Missouri basketball players.

SMITH AND JONES, with a lot of help from Butch Allen (18 points), led Heidelberg Wednesday night at the Armory to a 65-61 victory over the Has Beens, a team loaded with former Missouri basketball players.

unbeaten and one game ahead of the second-place Columbia Brothers at the halfway point in the City AAA League.

The ball game was a seesaw affair from the opening jump. In the second half alone, the lead changed hands a half dozen times.

Greg Flaker started the scoring with a jump shot from the head of the key to get the Has Beens off to a lead they didn't relinquish until the second half.

Throughout most of the first half the teams traded baskets, except for a few Heidelberg cold spells. With 9:10 left in the first half the Has Beens spurred to a nine-point lead, the biggest of the night for either team.

GENE JONES and Butch Allen led a Heidelberg

comeback. With seven seconds left in the half, Heidelberg tied the score at 32-32.

In the first half Butch Allen led all scorers with 10 points and Gene Jones had eight points.

In the second half it was Smith, who had two points in the first half, and Gene Jones, who sparked Heidelberg.

Jones and the Has Beens' Doug Johnson (another former MU player) opened the second half by trading baskets.

Smith's behind-the-back layup with 13:00 left in the game gave Heidelberg a four-point lead, its largest of the night. However, the Has Beens came back and tied the score at 48-all with 10:31 left.

Flaker's jumper with 2:59 to play gave the Has Beens a 61-55 lead. But then Butch Allen and

Larry Smith went to work for Heidelberg.

Allen connected on a 30-foot jump shot to cut the score to 61-58. With 1:20 left Smith converted a rebound to cut the lead to one.

The Has Beens made a turnover. Heidelberg's Tom Hoefler followed by connecting on a hook shot with 24 seconds left to give Heidelberg a 62-61 lead.

Smith then finished his heroic efforts by stealing a Has Beens' pass with 15 seconds left. Butch Allen was intentionally fouled and converted a free throw. Allen finished the scoring with two free throws at the end of the game to give Heidelberg a 65-61 victory.

Smith finished the game with 16 points and Jones had 14.

### Scores

College Basketball	
Lafayette 86, Bucknell 52	
Davidson 73, E. Carolina 62	
Ohio U. Kent St. 64	
Fairleigh Dickinson 56, Iowa 54	
Kings 82, Scranton 50	
Queens 69, Stony Brook 55	
Geo. Washington 59, Navy 56	
Kings Point 72, Cathedral, N.Y. 48	
Canisius 80, Wayne St. Mich. 67	
Hartford 76, C. Conn. 61	
Mo. Western 84, Chicago Loyola 83	
North Carolina 69, Wake Forest 51	
N.C. State 86, Maryland 76	

NHL	
Pittsburgh 4, Los Angeles 1	
N.Y. Rangers 3, California 1	
Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 3	
Buffalo 4, Cleveland 89	
ABA	
Golden State 131, Philadelphia 115	
Detroit 94, New York 91	
Indiana 91, Cleveland 89	
High School Basketball	
Lebanon 78, Willard 53	
Waynesville 96, Dixon 72	
Lebanon 78, Willard 53	

BIG STANDINGS	
Kansas State	1 1 14.3
Colorado	1 1 7.8
Iowa State	4 2 13.5
Missouri	3 2 15.2
Kansas	2 2 4.10
Oklahoma	2 1 12.5
Nebraska	1 3 6.10
Oklahoma State	1 5 5.11

## Matuszak Admits He, Al Were Not on Best Terms

NEW YORK (AP) — Mighty John Matuszak, with the body of Paul Bunyan and fists like shotpots, once smashed the face of a party rowdy who had "put his hands on my girlfriend."

Charges were filed against Matuszak. Dan Devine, his college football coach at Missouri, refused to give up on the 6-7½, 275-pound specimen. But, about that time, Devine was hired away to coach the Green Bay Packers.

The new coach at Mizzou (Al Onofrio) wanted no part of Big Bad John.

"If these unhappy events hadn't occurred," Matuszak says now, "I wouldn't be sitting here as the No. 1 draft choice of the National Football League."

Finished at the Big Eight school, John went to the little-known University of Tampa and played in a virtual publicity vacuum before the Houston Oilers picked him Tuesday.

"About my fight," Matuszak said without hesitation, "it was at a fraternity party. This fellow, an Air Force cadet, was extremely inebriated. He insulted a girl who was then my fiancée, and then grabbed her."

Big John hit the man twice. "I guess he had some fractures and I was charged with felonious assault. If I hadn't been a big, strong football player, nobody would've said anything."

The charge was later reduced to common assault. Matuszak continues to serve a two-year probation.

Devine, feeling he had to take action, suspended his sophomore tight end from the football squad. John was promised, "When I could prove I was a Missouri Tiger again, I would be back on the team."

He never got a chance. Devine accepted the Packers' lucrative offer. "If he hadn't left Missouri, I would still be there," Matuszak said Wednesday.

"The only thing is that Coach Devine demanded that I trim to 250 pounds and play tight end. I would not have been the No. 1 draft pick as a tight end."

Matuszak admits that he "didn't see eye-to-eye" with Al Onofrio; who moved up as head coach when Devine left. I said, "Okay, coach, see you later."

Fran Curci, then the energetic coach at Tampa, had been sending brochures to Matuszak and John knew he could sign with the Spartans, then classified as small college, and not be forced to sit out a season as a major college transfer.

"I was too strong to be a tight end by then," he recalled. "I became a defensive lineman and loved it. I like to reach back and tee off at the quarterback. That makes me feel great."

Even at 275 pounds, this agile giant can cover 40 yards in 4.75 seconds.

Matuszak brushed his mod hair Wednesday in a 32nd floor hotel room.

Downstairs, the 26 NFL clubs were venturing into the unknown world of the 11th round of the draft.

Bob Woolf, the Boston lawyer who handles contracts for over 300 athletes, grinned as Matuszak's incredible muscles rippled while the 22-year-old combed his curly mop.

"John will become the highest-salaried lineman in pro football history," said Woolf, refusing to suggest a money figure. "He was No. 1 in a great class of athletes."

That could mean \$250,000 for a total of three seasons.

"Only in America," smiled the big kid, "can a guy who's half Irish, one-fourth Polish and a bit Italian play football in Oak Creek, Wis., Fort Dodge, Iowa, Columbia, Mo., and Tampa, Fla., before being drafted No. 1 by a team in Texas."

Marvin and Audrey Matuszak never pushed their fast-growing son in either athletics or academics, but were appropriately proud when he became a NFL celebrity Tuesday.

"I was sorta skinny, about 6-4 and 175-pounds, when I was in the ninth grade," John said. "Then I began to blossom, 200 pounds as a sophomore at Oak Creek High, 220 the next year and 6-feet-6 and 230 pounds as a senior."

Matuszak's mother talked his dad out of buying a set of history books for John a few years ago. Instead, she purchased a set of weights so he could put muscles on those bones.

"I was a bad student. My grade average in high school was 1.7, which is terrible," John said, glancing out the window at the sun-bleached New York skyline.

"But, in college, I learned to bear down. In 4½ years, my average was 2.7. I think I can hold my own in an intellectual conversation."

Those sickly prep grades caused major colleges to shy away from recruiting Matuszak. There were few "hardship" deals in those days. He went to Fort Dodge Junior College.

After a year as a two-way star, John's grades had improved enough that he could enter the University of Missouri. He had a so-so sophomore season before a fight and a departing coach were to change his life.

"I idolized football as a youngster, especially the Green Bay Packers," he said. "Coach Devine, who obviously still likes me a little, got word to me that he would draft me No. 1 if I was available when Green Bay's turn came."

Houston beat many teams to the punch. The Baltimore Colts, picking second in the first round, promised Woolf that his boy was their first pick.

"The Chicago Bears also promised," said John. "The Cincinnati Bengals said so, too, and even sent people down to Tampa to give me an IQ test. After all that, I was still surprised. I'm a guy who believes it when he sees it."

## Late-Round NFL Draft Choices Include Track Standout Milburn

NEW YORK (AP) — Rod Milburn, Olympic gold medalist and world record-holder in the 110-meter hurdles, was drafted Wednesday as a pro football player.

The Los Angeles Rams made the Southern (La.) University speedster their 13th pick as the National Football League draft rumbled into the talent-thin late rounds.

Willie McGee, co-holder of the world 100-yard dash record of 9.1 seconds, had gone earlier—in the fifth round to San Diego—as the NFL clubs began taking some personnel gambles.

UCLA's great quarter-mile runner, John Smith, was plucked by the Dallas Cowboys in the 13th round. Houston tabbed quarter-mile flash Edsel Garrison of Southern Cal in the

fifth, but he had also starred as a wide receiver for the football Trojans.

"Milburn played high school football," explained Don Klosterman, assistant to the president of the Rams. "He says he wants to try pro football. Anybody with that kind of speed who's also put together physically should have a chance."

Milburn stuck to track at Southern.

Mike Rae, who quarterbacked Southern California to the national collegiate championship, was not high on the pros' lists and went in the eighth round to Oakland.

Two other well-known collegiate quarterbacks, John Huffman of Penn State and Eddie McAshan of Georgia Tech, were picked even later. Huffman was taken on the 14th round

by Denver and McAshan was chosen on the 17th round by New England.

Buffalo gave a black quarterback from Grambling, Jimmy Harris, a chance at the No. 1 job two years ago and he didn't make it. The Bills drafted Matt Reed, a 6-5 black quarterback, from Grambling in the 10th round Wednesday.

Bonnie Sloan, 6-5 and 282-pounds, was a sensational defensive tackle at Austin Peay despite being a deaf mute and he was picked in the 10th round by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Washington coach George Allen, noted for trading his draft picks, peddled the Redskins' 11th round spot to Los Angeles for fourth-year linebacker John Pergine of Notre Dame.