

Pankey Finds Moment's 'Safety'

Second of a Series.

The 1971 Missouri football season will long be remembered with other great disasters in the state's history. Indeed, Al Onofrio, the unfortunate who succeeded Dan Devine as head coach, spent much of his time after the 1-10 agony explaining his greatest desire — to forget the season entirely.

Bob Pankey did better than that. He refused to recognize the existence of 1971. As far as he was concerned, time ended on Nov. 21, 1970, in a football game against Kansas and began again on March 16, 1972, the first day of spring practice.

"I just can't get myself to write when I'm down," said Pankey. "That season was one continuing down. I forgot the diary."

WHICH EXPLAINS why no passage describes his switch in the winter of 70-71 from quarterback to safety. After the redshirt season of 1970, when Pankey bridled behind three mediocre quarterbacks, the truth dawned about his football future. The arm had never fully recovered from the car accident, and to complicate matters, three letterman quarterbacks, Mike Farmer, Chuck Roper and John Venturi were eligible for another season.

The switch was easier than Pankey had expected. Defensive backfield coach Clay Cooper approved the switch, and when 1971 spring practice opened, Pankey was studying quarterbacks closer than ever. A good safety watches the quarterback and the receiver at the same time, a trick not mastered easily. Pankey managed, but not before another season had passed, his second as a redshirt, and not before Missouri had compiled its worst record in history.

"I had a kidney infection during spring practice which kept me out," explained Pankey. "If I could have played, it would have given me a good chance at making the traveling squad in the fall. I was redshirted again as a safety behind Pete Buba."

ONE COULD HOLD stranger fates than a redshirt of a 1-10 team. One could be George McGovern's campaign manager. For that matter, one could be Richard Nixon's campaign manager. There certainly are more ignominious fates, but

Bob Pankey would argue his case strongly.

"For two straight years I didn't see any action," said Pankey. "That's really hard on a person, and it happens all the time. People come in with all that glory, self-confidence, publicity and they're real high on themselves."

"They play their freshman year and all of a sudden they're put away for a couple years. It really tears 'em down mentally. It puts 'em at the point where they want to get away from football. They start to think, man, if football's like this, I don't really want it anymore."

"That's why we lose a lot of people."

Recruiting classes tend to dissipate over a four-year period. Some give way to physical disabilities, some to academic failure, but most who give up are reeling under the emotional strain. Put 90 high school stars on the same team, and you end up with 22 satisfied college athletes and 68 unhappy ex-high school jocks. For reasons he still can't pinpoint, other than obvious financial ones, Pankey decided to stick for another season, his fourth.

"March 16, 1972—Two years since I've started this. As everyone knows, a scholarship athlete is in school first as a student then an athlete. I've tried to take advantage of my free education, and am almost ready to graduate. But since I have an extra year because of my redshirt status, I am going to have to fall short of graduation, and take graduate classes. The NCAA rules state that no athlete will be able to participate in college sports if he or she has acquired a Bachelor's degree. So, after my fifth year, I'll have to go back and take the courses that I missed and then I will be able to graduate. At the same time, I'll be well on my way into my graduate field."

"March 26—Tomorrow I'll be going into my third spring practice. I believe they have me at No. 1 safety on the depth chart, but I can't be for sure. All of the past week has been spent in preparing ourselves for this week. Although it is illegal for any coach to supervise winter workouts, the M. U. coaches have been drilling us hard."

"March 30—Our first three days of spring drills were called off because of rain and snow. But today we all got to hit heads. As I walked into the training room, I checked the bulletin board to see how I stood on the depth charts. Faith has finally taken hold, I saw that I was on the No. 1 defensive

unit, which put me on cloud nine. Yes, I'm finally on top again, and it feels great.

"COACH FRALA HAS another recruit for me to take out on the 29th of April, so it looks as though I will really be busy for a while."

"Injuries—none. Very sore on the right hamstring. Also an experiencing severe cramps in my legs. Cramer's Balm was applied."

"April 1—We had snow during practice. Temperatures ranged at about 30 degrees. Some spring."

"I did very poorly during one-on-one workouts. At one point, when I covered Jim Sharp, I completely lost my balance and fell backwards. This, in my estimation, is the worst possible thing that could happen to a defensive back."

"Joe Paulsen and Tom Horton have now quit the team, so there are only about 22 players from the class of '69 left on the team now. It is slowly diminishing."

Pankey finished the '72 spring on his feet. Of all the questionmarks facing Al Onofrio that spring — there were many — the defensive backfield was the biggest. Only one man, Mike Fink, had any experience, that from the 1970 season, and the remaining candidates were rookies. John Moseley, Ken Gregory, and Pankey joined Fink to form the starting secondary at the end of the spring.

"There was no one in serious contention with me then," said Pankey. "Brad Brown was a freshman and it was only his first spring. Coach Cooper had complimented me at various times and one time he called me into his office and said I'd carry the load for him next season. I felt myself fortunate, it was an honor."

Last summer Pankey pushed his body through the muggy Columbia heat, driving hard in daily workouts with teammate Moseley. Only, for some reason, the sweat tasted sweeter than it had for a long time.

"I never worked harder in my life," said Pankey. "Every day Moseley and I worked out and we talked about how great it would be and what our goals were. I felt great because for once in my career, I finally had the coaches on my side."

(Friday: Finally, some action. Pankey plays, the coaches pray.)

Working Overtime with Steve Marantz




Missouri defensive back Bob Pankey (16), looks on as teammate Mike Fink (41), the only experienced Tiger defensive back returning for 1972, intercepts a pass during the game against Colorado. (Missourian Photo)



Flying Spikes

Charlie Spikes of the Cleveland Indians is home free as California Angels' catcher Art Kusnyer waits for the throw from the outfield. Spikes scored from second base on Buddy Bell's single in the second inning of the Indians' 10-3 win at Cleveland Wednesday. (UPI Telephoto)

Secretariat May Face California Derby Winner

Neil Hellman said Wednesday there was a possibility he would enter Linda's Chief in the May 19 Preakness as a challenge to Secretariat's bid for the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Linda's Chief suffered a foot bruise while winning the California Derby, but it is completely healed, Hellman said by phone from Miami.

"It had been our intention to start Linda's Chief next in the May 30 Withers Mile at Belmont, but we could change our plans," said the colt's owner. "We are not 100 per cent out of the Preakness." The Preakness is at a mile and three-sixteenths.

Challenges could come from two Pimlico-based horses who are scheduled to start in Saturday's one and one-sixteenth Preakness prep. How Bon Etage Farm's Ecole Etage and Mrs. Charles D. Morgan's Cup Bearer do in the race will determine their chances of starting in

the Preakness.

Secretariat and Sham, the one-two finishers in last Saturday's Kentucky Derby, are the strong favorites in the \$150,000 Preakness. They got their first feel of the Pimlico track Wednesday.

Trainer Lucien Laurin plans to give Secretariat either a five-eighths of a mile or a half-mile workout Sunday with the colt's regular rider Ron Turcotte in the saddle.

Laurin said he had shipped Angle Light back to New York, causing the Preakness to lose a potential starter. Secretariat's stablemate finished the Kentucky Derby in 10th place after winning the Wood Memorial and Laurin said the horse looked tired.

"He'll be given a good rest after a long, hard campaign," Laurin said.

Isadore Martin, Sham's assistant trainer, said he was satisfied with the colt's once-around gallop, commenting that the Santa Anita Derby winner "looks and acts great."

Savage Hits 197-Plus For Indy Speed Lead

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Swede Savage, who as a rookie last year managed only five laps before mechanical trouble too him out, found out Tuesday he has two good chances to at least qualify for this year's Indianapolis 500-mile Auto Race.

Savage, from Santa Ana, Calif., was the speed leader in "500" practice through Tuesday with a top lap of 197.802 miles per hour. He's one of nine drivers to exceed the 190 plateau.

Tuesday Savage got his backup car above that level with a speed of 190.691, giving him additional insurance for the time trials, which start Saturday for the May 28 race.

Although six cars were above 190 Tuesday, none came close to Savage's best effort in his regular car.

Rookie Bill Simpson lost control of his racer coming out of the No. 2 turn, the first wreck of the practice sessions. His car then traveled 450 feet, struck the inside wall, scraping it for 40 feet, and then rolled backward another 450 feet down the track.

The right rear of the car was damaged extensively, but Simpson complained only of a headache.

The top speed of the day was 191.979 by Gary Bettenhausen. Bettenhausen achieved that speed in his own car after blowing an engine in the machine assigned to Bobby Allison.

Mario Andretti, a former winner, turned a lap at 191.4 while defending "500" king Mark Donohue was clocked at 191.204. Gordon Johncock, who ran 199.4 in tire tests here earlier this year barely missing the elusive 200 m.p.h. barrier, had a top speed Tuesday of 190.961. Mike Mosley clocked 190.2.

In all, 40 cars were on the track Tuesday. Drivers out for the first time included veterans Roger McCluskey and Lloyd Ruby and rookies Graham McRae and Dee Jones.

Tom Sneva and Larry Cannon advanced in their rookie tests and now have just one more phase each to run.

On Female Discrimination

City Fights Little League Rule

YPSILANTI, Mich. (UPI) — City Manager Peter Caputo Wednesday barred the Little League from using any of the city's baseball diamonds until it agrees to allow a 12-year-old girl to play in competition.

The action was a direct challenge to the Little League's National Headquarters in Williamsport, Pa., which threatened to kick Ypsilanti out of the league if the girl was allowed to play.

Caputo issued a memo barring the Ypsilanti Little League from using any of the community's park facilities.

McNeill to Play For K.C.-Omaha

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Larry McNeill, the Marquette University basketball player who gave up his final year of college basketball to be eligible for the hardship draft, said Tuesday night he has signed a contract with the NBA Kansas City-Omaha Kings.

McNeill, a 6-foot-9½ Warrior star, said he signed the contract with the Kings earlier in the week.

"All I want to do is stay in shape and go to camp and just do everything right and see what happens from there," he said.

McNeill did not disclose the terms of his contract. He said he was satisfied, although it wasn't a no-cut contract. There are some money guarantees, however, which were important to McNeill, who is married and has a child.

O.U.'s Brahaney Coaches' Choice

LUBBOCK, Tex. (UPI) — Tom Brahaney, a two-time All-America center from Oklahoma, and Don Strock, a quarterback from Virginia Tech, headed a list of 10 players named Tuesday to play in the 13th Annual Coaches All-America football game.

With Strock on the East squad will be running backs Otis Armstrong of Purdue and Chuck Foreman of Miami and Auburn defensive end Danny Sanspree.

Who's Who

By United Press International
(Night games not included)
Leading Batters
(Based on 45 at bats)
National League

| | G | A | R | H | Pct. |
|-----------------|----|-----|----|----|------|
| Mota, LA | 16 | 36 | 8 | 22 | .393 |
| Maddox, SF | 12 | 29 | 12 | 31 | .392 |
| Fairly, StL | 22 | 57 | 12 | 22 | .386 |
| Wakam, Hou | 31 | 111 | 22 | 31 | .369 |
| Santo, Chi | 26 | 95 | 15 | 34 | .366 |
| Sanguillen, Fil | 21 | 101 | 17 | 35 | .347 |
| Starrett, Pitt | 19 | 78 | 22 | 26 | .342 |
| Concepcion, Cin | 23 | 89 | 17 | 30 | .337 |
| Cardenal, Chi | 28 | 105 | 23 | 35 | .333 |
| Campbell, SD | 20 | 60 | 2 | 20 | .333 |
| Sizemore, St. L | 15 | 54 | 6 | 18 | .333 |

American League

| | G | A | R | H | Pct. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Kelly, Chi | 14 | 50 | 13 | 23 | .460 |
| Kirkpatrick, KC | 20 | 72 | 19 | 28 | .389 |
| Holt, Minn | 18 | 68 | 5 | 22 | .379 |
| Munson, NY | 25 | 90 | 13 | 32 | .356 |
| Horton, Det | 17 | 65 | 11 | 23 | .354 |
| Valentine, Cal | 24 | 97 | 11 | 34 | .351 |
| Frehan, Det | 22 | 87 | 9 | 30 | .345 |
| Johnson, Tex | 22 | 86 | 7 | 29 | .337 |
| Bloomberg, NY | 18 | 67 | 7 | 15 | .326 |
| M. Alou, NY | 18 | 71 | 14 | 23 | .324 |

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until its discriminatory practices are stopped.

The local league decided under pressure Tuesday to take away 12-year-old Carolyn King's uniform. Its vice president, Bob Taylor, said the organization had to kick the girl off the team or forfeit its charter with the Little League.

National officers said Miss King's inclusion on the Ypsilanti team — despite her "exceptional" centerfielding — was in violation of regulation 4, paragraph 1 which states pointedly: "girls are not eligible."

Caputo said no one in the league — girl or boy — would use the community's public baseball diamonds until the national organization finds a

place for girls in the Little League.

"The city of Ypsilanti parks are for the use of all members of the community," Caputo said. "In good conscience, the city of Ypsilanti cannot offer the use of municipal facilities to organizations that practice any form of discrimination."

"Therefore until the matter involving Miss Carolyn King and other female children who wish to take part in local sports activities is resolved, the city of Ypsilanti parks and baseball diamonds are not available to the Little League baseball clubs."

A spokesman from Caputo's office said the memo was not an affront on the local league, but a measure to pressure the

national office into changing regulation 4, paragraph 1. "This is not aimed at the local Little League," the spokesman said. "They've done their best to keep Carolyn on the team."

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