

Albright Gains Northern Division Title

Gridiron Team Has Best Log Since 1937

At the end of this long and glorious football season for Albright College in which the Lions have earned their best football record in many a year and have made their best performance under the present coach, John Potskian, it would be good to pause and review the entire season. From the first drastic encounter against East Carolina up to the Pretzel Bowl show of Saturday, November 21, the Potskianmen demonstrated a good portion of thrills, chills, and spills.

For the first game the Lions made their way to Greenville, North Carolina, only to encounter the strong Pirate squad of East Carolina and end up on the very short end of a 45-0 score. Glenn Bass and Sonny Basinger led the Pirates in notching two TDs apiece.

This Was the Beginning

In the first home battle the Lions devoured the Dragons of Drexel, 23-12. Mike Varano started the scoring for the Lions in an auspicious manner by tearing down the right sideline for a 72-yard punt return without a Dragon claw touching him, due to several fine blocks.

Tom Olivo hauled in a 37-yard pass for Albright's second TD after Lynch had booted a field goal, the first Lion three-pointer in ages. Tony LoSapio pounced on fullback Bob Nagle's fumble in the Drexel end zone to complete Albright's scoring.

Next the Potskianmen traveled to Lebanon to ground the Flying Dutchmen of Lebanon Valley, 18-0. It was the worst defeat suffered by LV all year as the hosts were unable to penetrate beyond Albright's 30-yard line. Varano, Olivo, and Lynch each scored a six-pointer as Albright notched a total of 318 yards.

Fullback Bricker earned two TDs and Olivo gained one, while Lynch added a single conversion point, to account for the Lions' point production against the Lycoming Warriors in a 19-0 debacle. Varano gained 116 yards in 20 carries in this second home encounter.

Although the Lions did better according to the statistics at Gettysburg, the Bullets fought to a 12-6 victory and ended a three-game winning streak for Albright. In Albright's homecoming fracas the Scranton Royals took advantage of several Lion miscues to rally for a 19-6 win. The importance of a 6-0 first half lead, due to a 44-yard Chapman-to-Olivo pass play, was erased as the Royals stormed back.

Against Moravian the Lions unleashed a tremendous offense in scoring all 33 points in the first half to win easily, 33-12. Olivo and Bricker each scored two TDs and Chapman ran seven yards for another. The magnificent Albright line held the Greyhounds to six yards rushing. The Lions were way ahead in yardage gained against Muhlenberg, but were forced to score in the last minute on a Chapman to Gary Sheeler pass in order to take home the victory, 27-22.

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1959 MASC Northern Division Champions



Front row (left to right)—Tom Olivo, Tony LoSapio, Gerry Bricker (co-captain), Jim Doremus (co-captain), Harold Miller, and Bob Nagle. Second row—Claude Lynch, Mike Varano, Gary Chapman, Mike Matto, Bob Meyer, Mike Weinhold, and Gary Sheeler. Third row—Dennis Deady, Dick Crouse, George Seighman, Edward Brunner, Eugene Alfiero, and Bruce Widerspiel. Fourth row—Steve Vahovich, Sam Richardson, Clark Hughes, Pete Chomnuk, Harold Buck, and Mike Morano. Fifth row—Don Rietscha, Charles Komparado, Ben Overly, Bob Eddows, Jim Huie, and Norm Ballentine. Sixth row—Dick Hess, Wayne Walters, Stan Huyett, Larry Woods, Ron Swider, Rod Duckworth, and George Muraski. Back row—Coach John Potskian, Assistant Coach Will Renken, Bill Ballentine (student manager), and Jim Ream (trainer).

Lions' Coaching Staff Concludes Fifth Year

Head coach John Potskian and assistant coach Will Renken have completed their fifth consecutive season as Albright football coaches in their present capacity. Potskian ascended from the position of assistant coach under Eddie Gullian in 1955 and was first assisted in the same year by Renken. Richard Koch, a former Albright football standout, is in his third year as assistant coach on Albright's staff.

Things Have Changed

Prior to the beginning of the 1959 term, Potskian's charges had earned only seven wins, and one tie while dropping 27 games in four years. The coach was criticized in some corners for not producing a winner. Now that he has raised Albright from the football doldrums, he must be given the deserved praise and credit that had been heretofore lacking.

Perhaps he finally found the high quality necessary to produce a winning team last year. However, not even hustle and the desire to win were sufficient without team depth to make a winner. This year the lacking factor was supplied and a real winner was born. If coach Potskian and his staff were to be criticized for losing, then they certainly deserve a big share of the credit for winning.

Most Wins Since 1937

This was Albright's finest year since Gullian's forces won six and lost three in 1952. The finest record produced in Albright gridiron history was accomplished in 1937 under the regime of William "Lone Star" Dietz. The Lions gained seven victories, one draw, and no losses. Dietz had a six-year mark of 31-23-2. He was preceded by Clarence "Biggie" Munn who compiled 13 wins,

two defeats, and one tie in a two-year tenure.

When Albright established a full season schedule in 1912, Charles "Pop" Kelchner, started a seven-year coaching reign. He tutored the Lions to a 12-41-5 log and was succeeded by his most outstanding player, Harry A. "Haps" Benfer, in 1919. Benfer gained 20 victories, 25 defeats, and one draw in six years. Among the other coaches were James Bond, Jr., Harry Weller, John S. Smith, Frank White, Jay Martin, Kelchner, David Strong, Leveson Smith, and Al "Doggie" Janan. Julian compiled an excellent record of 14-3-1.

In closing, hats off to the Albright football coaching staff that rejuvenated the Lions of football in 1959!

Lion Gridders Are Honored

Albright's stalwart center, Tony LoSapio, has again been honored as the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference center of the week of November 14 for his superb play against Juniata. Quarterback Gary Chapman was named the college player of the week by the Maxwell Football Club of Philadelphia for his outstanding performance in the Juniata battle.

Guard Jim Doremus is reported to have accepted an invitation to play in the Gem City Bowl game in Erie, Pennsylvania, Thursday, November 26. Fullback Gerry Bricker was given an honorable mention in the selection for the ECAC fullback of the week.

Red And White Mauls F&M In 48-14 Tilt

Mighty Albright College turned on the scoring power to defeat rival Franklin and Marshall, 48-14, and won the championship of the Middle Atlantic Conference Northern College Division in the Pretzel Bowl last Saturday afternoon.

In earning the right to possess the trophy, the Lions ended the season with a sparkling overall record of seven victories and three defeats. The last Red and White team to win seven games in one season was the undefeated squad of 1937. Touchdowns were contributed by Gerry Bricker and Tom Olivo, two each, and single scores were made by Gary Chapman, Bob Eddows, and Bob Nagle.

MVP Bricker

Led by Bricker, who also gained 128 yards rushing, the Lions outrushed, outpassed, and outplayed the visiting Diplomats. The Reading native was awarded a trophy as the outstanding player of his team.

Chapman, sophomore quarterback, completed five of eight passes for 110 yards. Included were two scoring aerials, both to halfback Olivo, who finished as Albright's leading

MASC FINAL STANDINGS

| | Northern Division | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---|---|-----|
| | W | L | T | PTS |
| ALBRIGHT | 6 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| Juniata | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Wagner | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| *Scranton | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Lebanon Valley | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Susquehanna | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Moravian | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Wilkes | 2 | 5 | 0 | 4 |
| Lycoming | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| *Hofstra | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*A Scranton-Hofstra game remains, but the results will not affect the standing of either team.

point-maker with 66 counters to his credit. Albright's battling line again proved its mettle by holding F & M to 117 net yards rushing, forcing the Dips to resort to the air waves; they covered 98 yards in the eight completions of the twenty-one tried.

Durable Doremus

A mainstay in the Lion line was co-captain Jim Doremus, who recovered an F & M fumble and kicked three conversions. A senior, he played his last game in a Red and White uniform. Albright scooted off to a two-touchdown lead. After F & M kicked off, the Lions moved from their own 45 to paydirt in nine plays. Chapman pushed over from the five for the initial score. Doremus added the point.

Shortly thereafter, Chapman intercepted on the F & M 21. Bricker went from the 15 to the two, and then over for the TD.

Early in the second quarter Albright found itself on its own five. In two plays they got to the eighteen, when Bricker broke into the secondary and went all the way—82 yards. This was the turning point of the game.

Olivo scored on a three-yard toss from Chapman later in the quarter.

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From left to right—Assistant coach Will Renken, Springfield, '47; head coach John Potskian, Penn State, '48; and assistant coach Richard Koch, Albright, '50. Potskian has completed his fifth year as head Lion football mentor, while Renken has been his assistant football coach for five years, also. Koch finished his third season of duty as assistant coach.

Albright Basketball Varsity Seeks To Improve Last Season's 11-15 Record

Renken Enters Fifth Year As Court Mentor

The Albright Lions of basketball fame will raise the curtain on the 1959-60 court season, Wednesday, December 2, as they take on the Bullets of Gettysburg College in the Albright fieldhouse. Coach Will Renken will start his fifth term, officially, as head basketball coach, when the opening whistle is sounded in this game. George Conrad, a former Albright court standout whose name is written all over the record books, will begin his first season as mentor of the junior varsity.

Veteran Courtmen

Among the varsity veterans are Charlie Smith, Dick Greene, Ken VanDine, Sam Preston, and Bill Ruoff. Norm Ruttenberg has come up from the J.V. ranks and will be joined by newcomers Stan Saul, Ray Somerstad, Tom Pearsall, Jim McNeil, Ted Evans, and Bob Holstinger.

Only four seniors have been lost from the 1958-59 squad which compiled a mark of eleven wins and fifteen losses. These players were Fred Dietzel—fourth highest scorer in Albright history, Merrill Eckhart, Paul Marella, and Dick Kelly, Stan Kaminski, the second highest scorer of the past two seasons, is presently ineligible.

Members of the junior varsity include Dick Moylan, Phil Scheidt, Grant Krow, John Derr, Tom Wolfe, Don Heeb, Bob Kroehler, Jerry Field, Wilson Kratz, Fred Riccio, and Wilber Pryor.

Last year's varsity fared quite well before the home crowd as it ran up seven victories in eleven outings, but certainly didn't fare well in the strange surroundings of their opponents as they notched only four wins in fifteen attempts. The Lions averaged 66.4 points per game, while giving up 68.8 tallies per game.

Matmen Begin Fourth Term Under Barger

Wrestling will begin its fourth season of activity at Albright College since the inception of the sport in 1956 when the Lion matmen trade grunts and groans with Moravian, Saturday, December 5. Wrestling coach, Gerald Barger, begins his fourth season at the helm.

In Barger's first year at Albright, starting from scratch, the grapplers failed to taste victory, but nalled down five wins in ten matches the following year. To top off these successes, he was fortunate to have a Middle Atlantic champion in the 130-pound division with Ron Green.

Last Season's Action

Last year the contingent dropped to a 2-8 record with the lone wins coming over Elizabethtown and Lebanon Valley. This year Bob Melnick, Jim Matthews, Mike Marino, and Frank Chavez are all available for duty in the 123-pound class; John Poulos and Ralph Armstrong in the 130 division; Ron Green and Hank Bailey in the 137 section; Ken Kistler and Dave Witherbee in the 147 class; Jack Roessner and Tom Mollioux in the 157 group; Bill Vogt in the 167 class; Wayne Walters in the 177-pound division; and John Walsh in the unlimited section.



By Craig Leffler, Sports Editor

September, 1959

This could be it! This could be the year! This could be the year Albright football fans have been waiting for. This could be the opportunity that has long been due for coach Potsklan. Why all the excitement? Why the optimism?

In the last issue of the *Albrightian* in May this reporter stated that he hoped the Lions could gain much more depth on the gridiron in 1959. Last year's squad was sadly deficient in numbers, but seemed to acquire the important factors of desire and good spirit. However, desire wasn't enough to last the entire season because the Lions won two games and tied one, while dropping six encounters. Even though they frequently gained more yardage and outplayed their opponents the Lions took physical beatings because of long playing time and frequent injuries.

There are several good reasons why Albright may pack a solid punch this year. 1. The squad consisted of 41 members on the opening day of practice, slightly less than twice as many that reported last year. 2. A solid nucleus of 12 lettermen has returned; in fact, only two members of the 1958 squad have since graduated. 3. The team spirit is reported to be one of reserved optimism. 4. For the second consecutive year the Lions have not been scheduled to battle such gridiron titans as Bucknell and Lehigh, although a schedule that includes Gettysburg, Muhlenberg, and Juniata could never be labeled easy. 5. This year the Lions play an expanded 10-game schedule, going as far as North Carolina to wage its opener, thus indicating strong administrative approval and support for the gridiron sport.

Hold on now! There are some serious detrimental factors concerning the entire situation. 1. Coach Potsklan must find replacements in the tackle slots for the injured Bill Ballentine and George Reagan, who has departed from the Albright scene. 2. The added depth of 23 freshman aspirants does not necessarily solve this problem. Potsklan needs very good men for more strength at the end posts and in the signal calling slot. 3. The school spirit at football games remains on the doubtful list.

November, 1959

This was it! This was the year! This was the year Albright football fans had been waiting for. This was the opportunity that had long been due for coach Potsklan.

There are several good reasons why Albright packed a solid punch this year. 1. The squad consisted of 41 members on the opening day of practice. 2. A solid nucleus of 12 lettermen gave coach Potsklan a good start. 3. The team spirit was one of reserved optimism, to say the least. 4. The Lions played such grid titans as Gettysburg, Muhlenberg, and Juniata, more than holding their own. 5. The trip to East Carolina proved drastic in a statistical sense, but served as a means for all members of the team to become well acquainted with each other, an important measure in forming a cohesive unit.

Some serious early season problems were overcome. 1. George Seighman and Larry Woods were quite competent at the tackle slots. Freshmen Don Rietscha and Dick Hess performed very ably at the end posts when Claude Lynch and Gary Sheeler needed well-earned relief. 3. The school spirit culminated in a rousing and appreciative manner in the Juniata and F & M encounters.

That which seemed good to say in September remains appropriate in November! However, some token of humble appreciation remains to be said now, which could not have been uttered previously. Congratulations to the coaching staff for its diligence in forming a strong grid unit after several lean years. Thanks to the five seniors who played consistently and doggedly at all times. Thanks to co-captains Jim Doremus and Gerry Bricker for their unswerving leadership. Thanks to quarterback Gary Chapman for his remarkable ability in leading the potent Lion attack.

Finally, special thanks to the entire team for its unrelenting hustle, for its winning combination of a crushing line force and a rapid, deadly backfield, for bringing the championship to Albright College and simply for being one of the greatest gridiron teams in Albright's history!

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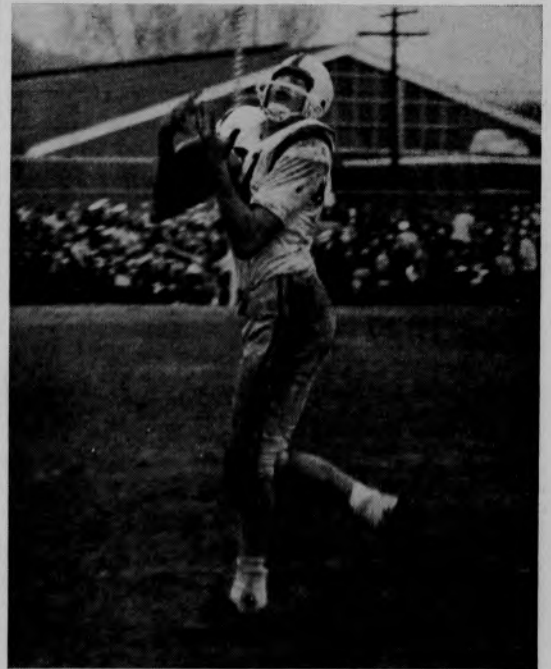
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Sheeler's All Alone



Sophomore end Gary Sheeler was snapped as he was making another one of his picturesque catches of a Gary Chapman aerial against F & M. Sheeler turned this one into a 49-yard play in setting up one of Albright's touchdowns in second half Pretzel Bowl action last Saturday.

Gridiron Team

(Continued from Page One)

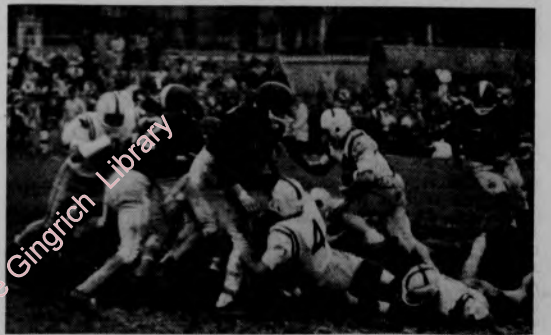
All Lion fans clearly remember what happened, Saturday, November 14, as the inspired Albright team simply overwhelmed the Juniata Indians in a 14-0 history-making game.

F & M

(Continued from Page One)

A 49-yard pass to Gary Sheeler put the Lions in scoring position. Ed-downs' three-yard plunge in the third frame, a 32-yard Chapman-Olivo pass, and Bob Nagle's six-pointer completed the Lion scoring.

Bricker's Crowded, But



Fullback and co-captain Gerry Bricker is shown just before he dashes through a hole in the F & M line on his way to a magnificent 82-yard TD gallop. Bricker scored two touchdowns as the Lions walloped the Diplomats, 48-14.



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