

Philadelphian Feasts on Sports

By Kenneth Denlinger The Washington Post

If sports were a feast, if the entire county were a table from which a fan could wander freely and pluck from a never ending variety of events, Joe Cassidy would weigh a ton. His is a Ruthian appetite, his name for first offering if ever a Hall of Fame for fans is established.

For 78 straight days, from Jan. 2, 1976, through March 19, Joe Cassidy, 24, of nearly every gym and stadium in Philadelphia, did not miss seeing at least one basketball game in person. He often saw two games a day, but never more than four. In all, he witnessed more than 130 games in that 78-day binge.

Cassidy is not some snooty specialist, though. Like DiMaggio, he can do it all. In 1975, from about the first week in September until the second week in December, he decided to see how many football games it was possible to attend. He could have seen 111; he saw 110.

"One morning I just was to tired to go watch the Delaware state playoffs," he explained. "So I slept in, then went to the Army-Navy game that afternoon."

High school sports are Cassidy's staple, and Philadelphia's variety of college basketball assures a game most nights. Rainouts and postponements helped during his most spectacular basketball and football performances. He will attend an NFL game if little else is available.

"The pros are all so stereotyped," he said. "High schools and colleges are much better and more exciting. You see a wishbone now and then, and the veer, you see teams that run the ball and teams that throw. I enjoy it all."

"I went to the Eagles-Raiders game" this year, and I just sat there and said to myself: 'How the hell can people pay up to \$12.50 to sit through this garbage? For \$1.50, you can go to your local high school game and see something three times as exciting, as far as I'm concerned."

Cassidy is evidence that super fans are partly born, partly made. His father, Niles, is a devoted fan, the sort who recalls not only who won, say, the 1933 state high-school football title, but who the standout player was.

"In grade school, I'd ride my bike around to the high school and college

games in the neighborhood," the younger Cassidy said. "A game Friday afternoon and one Friday night, a game Saturday afternoon and Saturday night. I kept it up in high school and college."

Ironically, Cassidy broke that 78-day streak voluntarily, to attend an umpire clinic. He is now attending umpire school in Florida, a joy in most ways but frustration in others because he cannot keep up his accustomed attendance glut.

His first goal was to become a college basketball coach, but no one seemed interested, even though he views as "utopia" the constant travel most regard as drudgery.

"If anyone would give me 40 straight days on the road, watching games, recruiting, whatever," he said, "I'd come

home the 41st day and say "Where do I go now?" Who needs a day off in that kind of job?"

Still, if basketball and football are his two sport priorities, his affection for Dick Allen dwarfs both. When Allen was with the Dodgers, Cassidy once hitchhiked to Pittsburgh and then Cincinnati to watch his hero.

Cassidy's progress at the Al Somers umpire schools seems steady, although his size, he is 5-7 tall, has been a handicap. Already, he has plotted what he will do the final day of class.

"That'll be the morning of the 12th," he said, "so I'll drive to Durham that night and catch Duke and St. Joe's. Then if I go straight through I'll be home in time for the Catholic League games Sunday afternoon."

Plymouth Awards Top Athletes

PLYMOUTH — Ten young people were given special awards when Plymouth High School held its spring sports banquet.

Named most valuable in their sports were Tim Lewis, Dawn Cobb and Peggy Lewis in track and Darla Kernell in softball. Most improved awards went to Valerie Parkinson and Louie Gomez in track. In baseball, Mike Baker took the defensive and Tom Miller the offensive plaudits, while Bob Davis won the statistical and Jay Haver the scholarship awards in tennis.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS AWARDS BOYS TRACK Special Awards

Most Valuable — Tim Lewis, Most Improved — Louis Gomez, State Participant — Jay Adams, Steve Ruckman Award — Tim Lewis, Bill Sutter, Third Year Awards — Kevin Humbert, Raymond Gullett, Louis Gomez, Second Year Awards — Tim Lewis, Gary Music, Doug Tallman, Mike Weaver, Steve Shaver, Jay Adams, Jim Shaver, Barry Tuttle, Rod Strickler, First Year Awards — Bill Sutter, Ed Noble, Charlie Mack, Mike Whittington, Scott Kennerd Reserve — Jim Shuty, Manager — Mark Lewis, Statistician — Elaine Burton, Timmy Caywood, Lisa Tuttle, Lori Cuppy, Mary Meyers.

GIRLS TRACK Special Awards

Most Improved — Valerie Parkinson, Most Valuable — Dawn Cobb, Peggy Lewis, Second Year Awards — Dawn Cobb, Peggy Lewis, Kelly Dent, First Year Awards — Teresa Wright, Tina Buzzard, Pam Garrett, Barb Kemsinger, Anne Noble, Julie Donnerwirth, Lori Lewis, Valerie Parkinson, Joan Wallace, Reserve — Becky Reynolds, Carrie Will, Managers — Gerald Strong, Cathy Collins, Statistician — Colleen Beard.

BASEBALL Special Awards

Best Defensive — Mike Baker, Best Offensive — Tom Miller, Fourth Year Awards — Mark Fidler, Third Year Awards — Mike Carey, Mike Baker, Wayne Brown, Second Year Awards — Ed Kanney, Tom Miller, First Year Awards — Mike Dick, George Brown, Dave Gillum, Mary McGinnis, Jim Wallace, Ron Schuller, Reserve — Rick Collins, Bob Vermilion, Gary Holt, Mark Lewis, Greg Reno, Scott Baker, Mike Messer, Delino First, Greg Gillum, Dave Martin, Tim Keene.

Harvey Robinson, Mike Branham, Rob Perrigan, Doug Miller.

SOFTBALL Special Awards

Most Valuable — Darla Kernell, First Year Awards — Judy Hatfield, Kathy Brown, Diane Russell, Emily Ebersole, Tina Glorioso, Linda Osborne, Sally Von Stein, Sherri Blankenship, Ram Howard, Darla Kernell, Sandy Tackett Reserve — Justine Lynch, Julie Meisack, Mel Schibley, Sharon Faulbee, Kelly Baker, Joanna Gose, Dazhne Reed, DeeDee Robinson, Karen Russell, Vicia Tackett, Manager — Dawn Stein.

TENNIS Special Awards

Statistical Award — Bob Davis, Scholastic Award — Jay Haver, Fourth Year Awards — Tom Gowitzka, Jerry Hartman, First Year Award — Dennis Cook, Jeff Wheeler, Jeff Ream.

Browns Rookies Please Gregg

CLEVELAND (AP) — After three days of supervising rookie camp, Cleveland Browns coach Forrest Gregg says he's impressed with the overall speed of the newcomers.

"He can really move," Gregg said, for example, of first-round draft pick Robert Jackson. "He gets where he's supposed to be in a hurry."

Gregg said that with Bob Babich and Dick Ambrose already at middle linebacker, "we can afford to bring Jackson along slowly."

He added that the rookies will report to regular training camp July 17 "farther ahead than any group we've had."

"I get itchy this time of the year," the coach said. "I can't stay away too long (from football)."



IN DOROTHY'S FOOTSTEPS — Tracy Doyle, 14, of Port Washington, N. Y., shown here in a mid-air leap, would like to follow Dorothy Hamill and win the 1980 Olympic gold medal

for figure skating. The teenager, holder of several regional titles, maintains a rigid schedule to ensure her success. (UPI Photo)

Young Florida State Swim Coach Tries To Regain Past

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (UPI) — Randy Reese, who began swimming competitively at age 15, started coaching in his senior year at Florida State University when doctors discovered a heart murmur during a routine physical.

Reese, a mediocre swimmer at FSU in the 400-yard individual medley, turned his attention from teaching himself to teaching others and now is considered one of the bright new faces among college swimming coaches.

Now in his first year at the University of Florida, Reese, 30, led the Gators, men's swimming team to its first unbeaten dual-meet season in 14 years, with a 5-0 mark. The women's team, meanwhile, posted a 6-0 record.

The mustachioed Reese, whose brother, Eddie, coaches the Auburn swimming team, began his coaching career in 1968 at Bolles High School in Jacksonville, where in a two-year period he developed 20 high school all-Americans.

In 1970, Reese moved to cross-town rival Episcopal-High School, a team he coached to swimming world magazine's mythical national high school championship last year. In six years at Episcopal, Reese coached 30 all-Americans, among them Billy Forrester, 1976 Olympic bronze medalist in the 200-meter butterfly.

His swim team went to the 1976 amateur athletic union long course championships and placed second in both the men's overall and the girls and boys combined overall competitions.

The University of Florida traditionally has been one of the nation's powers in swimming. The Gators won the SEC championship 13 straight years between 1956 and 1969, but in recent years the Gators had come upon hard times.

"We were losing recruits and having some morale problems," said UF Athletic Director Ray Graves.

When Florida started searching for a new coach last year, Graves said, "We discovered we had one of the best right in our own backyard."

Graves said Reese has given Florida's swimming program "new life and breath."

"I think one area in which swimming is different from other sports," Reese said, "is that most of the coaches are as dedicated as the athletes."

Reese, who believes the U.S. medals in Olympic swimming are helping to popularize what he says used to be considered "a leftover sport," promised at the season's start to be as dedicated as his swimmers — "the only way back to the top is through hard work."

"I believe you can get further along by setting a difficult goal than to set goals that are easy to attain," he said. "Naturally it takes more time and hard work, but the satisfaction is so much greater."

"We started training the first day of school and many swimmers come off heavy training in the summer (when they swim for their AAI clubs)," he said.

The swimmers — men and women — begin in September with weightlifting, cross-country running and stroke drills to improve and make more efficient their strokes. They are in the pool twice a day for a total of about five hours and swim from 10 to 12 miles a day through December to build up stamina.

"When the dual meets start we drop down on the yardage and drop the running altogether," the soft-spoken coach said. "Then we work on quality swimming and speed. We're down to eight to 10 miles of swimming a day."

Reese's swimmers slack off somewhat after the dual meets and just before the SEC and NCAA championship meets, and then they prepare themselves for the summer AAI short course and long course meets. All but 10 of his 40 Florida swimmers swam for AAU teams last year.

Reese, who learned to swim at an early age, believes competitive swimmers should start at ages five and six and he added, "in swimming, you need strength and a background of years of doing it in order to have a feel for the water."

He feels that Florida's new indoor swimming pool, scheduled to be ready late next year, should help attract recruits. At least it should persuade a lot of Florida high school swimmers to stay in the state, he said.

Reese declined to predict when Florida will fulfill his goal of winning the SEC championship, but he did say "the year we do that we should win the nationals, too, since our conference is so tough."

"We are on our way back to where swimming excellence will once again be synonymous with the University of Florida."

Women's Sports Growth Bound To Continue Up

COLUMBUS (UPI) — Women's athletics are growing on the high school and junior high level about as rapidly as on the college level.

"It's been a long time coming," said Dolores Billhardt, assistant commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Assn. in charge of women's athletics. "It took people a long while to see that what was good for the boys is good for the girls."

"Women's athletics was bound to grow," she added, "but perhaps it grew a little more rapidly with the pressure from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and Title IX."

"And I think professional women's sports is also giving more light to the growth of women's athletics at the high school level," she added.

And she said the girls can gain the same benefits as the boys, such as athletic scholarships.

This is relatively new and Billhardt is quick to point out that Ohio State is out front with scholarships because of its size. She also noted that the smaller colleges are not yet able to offer the financial aid to the women.

Billhardt has been with the OHSAA directing girls' athletics for the last five years and has seen girls athletics grow at both the high school and junior high level.

During the 1969-70 academic year, she said Ohio had 436 high schools sponsoring at least one sport for girls, involving 1,433 teams in 14 sports. This year there are 806 high schools with 3,425 teams.

The junior high schools had 295 schools with 741 teams in 1973. Now it is up to 590 schools with 1,551 teams.

Billhardt said that at the high school level, the most popular sport for women is basketball, followed by volleyball, track and field, softball, tennis, gymnastics and swimming.

Popularity changes at the junior high level, where she said track is the most popular, followed by basketball, volleyball, softball, gymnastics and tennis, with very little interest in swimming.

Ontario Hands Out Awards

ONTARIO — Ontario High School honored its five spring sports at the school's annual spring banquet. The boys tennis, track and baseball teams were recognized along with girls track and softball squads.

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL Spring Sports Awards

BASEBALL Varsity Awards: SENIORS — Greg Eblevin, Larry Eckert, Dan Kralsher, Greg Moore, Randy Reed, Jerry Schwall, Jeff Strickler, Don Watson. JUNIORS — Bruce Bryant, Dave Gleason, Jeff Ralph, Roger Rhodes. SOPHOMORES — Chris Earhart, Scott McMillen, John West. Manager — Jerry Sisco.

Reserve Awards: Brent Felger, Brent Rosborough, Scott Smith, Mark Kirk, Erikson, Evan Hallinger, Craig Jones, Steve McDonald, Mark Riley, Jerry Sisco, Howard Zody.

SOFTBALL Varsity Awards: SENIORS — Brian Baumberger, Terry Davidson, Kirk Ehlton, Evan Hallinger, Craig Jones, Steve McDonald, Mark Riley, Jerry Sisco, Howard Zody. JUNIORS — Craig Branson, Curt Gerhart, Dan Grubb, Randy Perry, Dave Rakesstraw, Steve Santmyer.

SOPHOMORES — Tod Duffner, Mike Meadows, Scott Jones, Ray Mowry, Mark Nelson, Dave Bottomley.

Reserve Awards: Gary Ometer, Jerry Walters, Carl Welsh, Tom Bringer, Mike Clinger, Geoff Eaton, Brad Gentile, Randy Lalaby, Mike McDonald, Tim Wendling.

GIRLS TRACK Varsity Awards: SENIOR — Anne Welke. JUNIORS — Lisa Howell, Betsy Lange, Cindi Phalen, Twila Prosser, Val Whisler.

SOPHOMORES — Ruth Austin, Lauric Crawford, Jodie Craze, Karla Kordish, Cindie Miller, Melodie Orawiler, Lynnette Parks, Gretchen Rohm, Beth Sheehy, Tracy Stanton, Dawn Strickler, Chris Schwartz, Molly Wolfe, Jackie Wietand.

FRESHMEN — Jonette Beer, Shella Bise, Diane Brimager, Margie Dankowski, Brad Frast, Linda Horvath, Laura Lint, Jan Urvic, Missy Wendling.

GIRLS SOFTBALL Varsity Awards: SENIORS — Ruth Austin, Lauric Crawford, Jodie Craze, Karla Kordish, Cindie Miller, Melodie Orawiler, Lynnette Parks, Gretchen Rohm, Beth Sheehy, Tracy Stanton, Dawn Strickler, Chris Schwartz, Molly Wolfe, Jackie Wietand.

FRESHMEN — Jonette Beer, Shella Bise, Diane Brimager, Margie Dankowski, Brad Frast, Linda Horvath, Laura Lint, Jan Urvic, Missy Wendling.

TENNIS Varsity Awards: SENIORS — Dave Yausy, Brent Houck, Tom Keane, Gary Weiland, Craig Furlong.

JUNIORS — Gid Davis, Dean Yausy, Steve Kerst, Steve Blocker, Jeff Kerst, Al Linnton, Al Woolver, T.A. Miller, James Henry, Greg Hershner, Drew Howell, Howard Galtot.

GMAC Begins Competition

Eight teams will begin competition in the Greater Mansfield Aquatic Conference June 22.

Representatives of Woodland, Possum Run, Linden, Walnut Hills, Shelley Acres, Clear Fork Hills, Westbrook and Johnny Applesseed will compete in a seven-week schedule. Meets are scheduled Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Coach Hired

PORT CLINTON (UPI) — Paul Homminger, 30, has been appointed football coach at Port Clinton High School and will assume his new post immediately.

The city school board appointed Homminger, currently head coach at Rootstown High School. He replaces Jim Hastings, who resigned to take a job as assistant coach at Morehead College, Ky.

Galion, Tiffin Pace Selection

SHELBY — Galion and Tiffin Columbian High Schools were the leaders on the all-Northern Ohio League baseball selections announced today by the Northern Ohio League head baseball coaches.

Both high schools placed five players each on the first team.

All of the member teams placed players on the team, but Bucyrus High School.

Upper Sandusky, Norwalk and Willard had two each, Shelby and Bellevue each placed one.

The only sophomore making the team was Norwalk's John Christopher, outfielder.

The only other two underclassmen selected were Tiffin Columbian's Joe Stacy and Shelby's Mike Hartz.

The complete selections follow:

NORTHERN OHIO LEAGUE All League Baseball Team 1977

OUTFIELDERS — Dave Bibb, Galion senior; Bruce Guercio, Galion senior (all NOL 1976); John Christopher, Norwalk sophomore; Tom Queltette, Tiffin Columbian senior; Joe Stacy, Tiffin Columbian junior; Randy Reile, Upper Sandusky senior (all NOL 1976); (NM 1975); and Dave Bechtel, Willard senior.

CATCHER — Tom Stacy, Tiffin Columbian senior (HM 1976).

FIRST BASEMAN — Jeff Wildenthal, Galion senior; and Steve Horn, Upper Sandusky senior (all NOL 1976).

SECOND BASEMAN — Bob Henry, Tiffin Columbian senior (all NOL 1976).

THIRD BASEMAN — Ed Nasolli, Bellevue senior (HM 1976).

SHORTSTOP — Mike Nicholls, Galion senior (all NOL 1976).

PITCHERS — Jeff Zeller, Galion senior; Brett Smith, Norwalk senior (all NOL 1975-1976); Mike Hartz, Shelby junior; Andy Shaffer, Tiffin Columbian senior; and Don Danhof, Willard senior.

HONORABLE MENTION

OUTFIELDER — Jerry Lepley, Bellevue; Russ Richter, Shelby; Chuck Roberts, Upper Sandusky.

CATCHER — Max Loudenslager, Bellevue; Randy Roberts, Shelby.

FIRST BASEMAN — Jeff Orwick, Norwalk (all NOL pitcher 1976) (HM 1975).

SECOND BASEMAN — Jim Jackson, Upper Sandusky.

THIRD BASEMAN — Greg Russell, Norwalk; Greg McDowell, Willard.

SHORTSTOP — Jeff Malcolm, Norwalk, (HM 1976).

PITCHER — Steve Croke, Bucyrus, and John Miller, Galion.

Advertisement for Richland Bank featuring a cartoon character with a speech bubble saying "WOW! CHECK THIS RATE!". The ad lists various car loan offers: 9 1/2% SIMPLE INTEREST (ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE) ON 36 MONTH NEW CAR LOANS. NO ADD ONS. NO EXTRAS. YOU PAY INTEREST ONLY ON THE UNPAID BALANCE. USED CAR LOANS. RATES ALSO REDUCED. PAY ONLY SIMPLE INTEREST. APR BASED ON AGE OF CAR AND NUMBER OF MONTHS OF LOAN. SAME RATES FOR EVERYBODY YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PRESENT CUSTOMER TO GET THESE LOW RATES. 42 AND 48 MONTH LOANS AVAILABLE FOR NEW CARS. SEE YOUR NEAREST RICHLAND BANKER FOR DETAILS. WE'LL GIVE YOU A LEATHER KEY RING JUST FOR ASKING ABOUT OUR FANTASTICALLY LOW, SIMPLE INTEREST CAR LOAN RATES. Richland Bank MEMBER FDIC