

Flax, Teeter are top coaches

By RYAN BUCHANAN
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Decisions, decisions. Two local prep football coaches had contrasting coaching styles, philosophies and circumstances. But they had one major thing in common. They led their respective teams to breakthrough seasons.

That's why Gene Flax from Thomas More Prep-Marian and Kent Teeter from Hays High School finished in a dead heat for the 16th annual Hays Daily News All-Area Coach of the Year honor.

Flax, in his fourth season with the Monarchs, guided TMP-Marian to its first trip to state since 1977 and the first playoff victory in school history.

Teeter, in his first year as Hays High's coach — actually his first head football coaching position, period — led the Indians to their first winning season since 1993 and a win away from the playoffs.

THE FINISHES

One could say that Flax had already orchestrated a turnaround in the program at TMP-Marian before this year. The Monarchs had five straight losing seasons, including a 1-8 finish in 1995.

Enter Flax. After the Monarchs struggled to another 1-8 finish in his first year in 1996, TMP-Marian went 4-

5 the next two seasons. The major hurdle was a competitive Class 4A district that included perennially tough teams in Scott City, Goodland and Colby. And until this year, the Monarchs came up short of a state berth.

However, 1999 was TMP-Marian's turn. The Monarchs finished a perfect 3-0 to win the district and realize that elusive state trip.

Then TMP-Marian (6-5) took it one step further, upsetting No. 4-ranked Pratt 23-12 in the bi-district title game on the Greenbacks' home field before dropping a 16-7 decision at Wellington in regionals.

The win over Pratt was huge, because the Monarchs had lost to the Greenbacks 31-15 earlier in the year and had not beaten Pratt since 1990. Flax said the difference was getting four years with the same players and using that time to teach them how to win.

"It was a big thrill and what made it an even bigger thrill was that this was the group that's been with me for four years," Flax said. "They made a dream come true for themselves and for the school. You hate to say you're going to build a program. You want to just take off and go. But this was a group that fully understood my system and the true meaning of winning."

Teeter came into a somewhat similar situation at Hays High. The third

head coach in as many years, Teeter knew the Indians needed stability. As an assistant, he had seen the team finish with consecutive 2-7 records.

As the head boss, Teeter provided that stability almost instantly. The Indians met with some of the toughest competition in the state and still finished 5-4. They fought their way into a Class 5A district title game, where they lost to eventual state champion Salina Central 33-25.

"We were honest and up front as coaches," Teeter said. "We really didn't know how good we'd be, but we also weren't really concerned about number of wins and losses. We were just concerned about trying to instill a little more discipline in the program and trying to instill a little more consistency."

THE NUMBERS GAME

Both coaches came into this season with concerns about numbers. For TMP-Marian it was a lack of numbers that made many people nervous. The Monarchs suited little more than 20 players in most of their games. It appeared a few injuries might spell their doom. But Flax and his staff — and a little luck — kept the Monarchs healthy.

"We preached conditioning, and we felt that a conditioned body is tougher to injure," Flax said. "Early season we had some injuries, but when we got in



| PLAYER | Ht. | Wt. | CLASS | POS. | SCHOOL |
|------------------|------|-----|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Aaron Bedore | 6-0 | 183 | Jr. | FB | Stockton |
| Aaron Glendening | 6-2 | 245 | Sr. | G-DT | Stockton |
| T.J. Gottschalk | 6-5 | 204 | Sr. | RB-LB | TMP-Marian |
| Jeff Holste | 6-0 | 200 | Sr. | G-LB | Atwood |
| Ian Mebb | 6-0 | 170 | Sr. | WR-DB | Hays High |
| Kevin Partch | 5-10 | 150 | Jr. | RB-S | Bird City-Cheylin |
| Neal Philpot | 6-4 | 228 | Sr. | QB-DE | Norton |
| Tracy Pruden | 5-8 | 160 | Sr. | HB | Smith Center |
| Jay Reid | 6-2 | 205 | Jr. | QB-LB | Brewster |
| Tim Weltmer | 6-2 | 210 | Jr. | FB-LB | Smith Center |
| Jon Zweygardt | 6-3 | 290 | Sr. | T-NG | St. Francis |

COACHES OF THE YEAR — Gene Flax, TMP-Marian and Kent Teeter, Hays High

shape, we stayed healthy longer than a lot of other teams."

Hays High had faced low numbers for a 5A school for the past few years. And that was one of the first things Teeter set out to change. He achieved that goal as he watched the roster grow from about 65 in 1998 to around 80 this season.

"We tried to get some kids out," Teeter said. "That was something we started with from day one, talking to kids, even kids that had gone out before but didn't know if they'd go out this year. The key now is keeping them out after this year, and that can be tough sometimes... This year will help a lot. Winning some games always helps."

WHO WILL BE AT QB?

Another similarity between Flax and Teeter was that both handled potentially sticky quarterback situations to the best end for their teams.

Hays High had a solid returning starting quarterback in senior Matt Insley, but Teeter also had a talented and athletic youngster in sophomore Marcus Watts. Teeter started Insley for the first seven games with Watts coming in in the second quarter. At that point, Insley would move to full-back, where his talents benefited the Indians even more. Watts eventually started the last two games with Insley in the backfield.

Flax had a young QB learn on the job when the starter from last year was dismissed from the team early in the season. Sophomore Jared Schippers, initially intended to be the junior varsity starter, went on to ably lead the Monarch offense.

TALKING DEFENSE, OFFENSE

Hays High's claim to fame this season was its defense, another big change implemented by Teeter.

He decided to switch the Indians

from their traditional 4-3 to a 4-4.

It worked. Excluding a 56-0 loss at Liberal in Week 3, Hays High went on to hold opponents to an average of 8.3 points per game, including three shutouts.

For TMP-Marian, the defense went a little unnoticed.

That might have had something to do with senior halfback T.J. Gottschalk, who rushed for 1,596 yards to break the school's single-season rushing record set by Mark Schmidt in 1977.

Out of a split backfield, the Monarchs found a combination of toss-sweep and trap that few teams could stop. While Gottschalk killed opponents with big gains on the toss, senior Mark Shields kept them honest by drawing attention away on the trap. He rushed for 865 yards himself.

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KU claims 96-71 win

LAWRENCE (AP) — Eric Chenoweth and Nick Collison scored 20 points apiece as No. 5 Kansas beat pesky Division II Pittsburg State 96-71 with a strong second-half effort Saturday night.

Pittsburg guard Brandon Pate had a game-high 29 points against the Jayhawks (7-1), who were coming off a 66-54 loss to No. 4 Michigan State on Tuesday night.

Kansas struggled to take a 13-point halftime lead over the smaller, slower Gorillas, who cut it to 54-44 early in the second half.

Collison's 8-footer ignited a 15-2 run that brought the sellout crowd to its feet and put the game away.

Kansas outrebounded Pittsburg State (5-3) 53-31 in what has become a tradition of playing one Division II team each year from within the state. In their previous seven wins, including a 55-point blowout of the Gorillas in 1995, the Jayhawks' average margin of victory was 34.4 points.

KSU loses big

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) — Frank Williams scored 20 points and Lucas Johnson added 14 as No. 22 Illinois rolled to an 81-48 victory over Kansas State on Saturday night for its third straight win.

For the second straight game, Illinois (5-2) played a school formerly coached by Lon Kruger. Illinois downed Texas Pan-American on Wednesday to give Kruger his 300th victory.

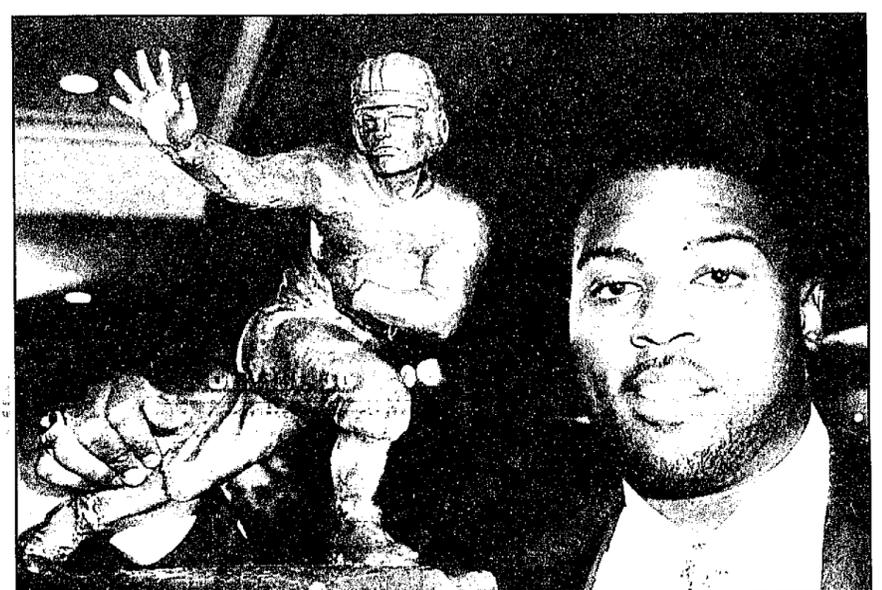
Cory Bradford scored 12 points for Illinois, which shot 52 percent in the second half, hitting 15-of-29 field goal attempts.

Kansas State (5-2) got 11 points from Josh Reid and 10 from Galen Morrison, but the Wildcats struggled with their shots throughout the game at Assembly Hall as their five-game winning streak ended.

The Wildcats made only 9-of-30 shots in the first half and then just 7-of-28 in the second, finishing the game shooting just 28 percent.

Illinois jumped on the Wildcats at the start of the second half, going on a 13-6 run to take a 49-32 lead in the first seven minutes.

Kansas State committed 21 turnovers to only seven for the Illinois.



Wisconsin running back Ron Dayne poses after winning the Heisman Trophy Saturday night in New York.

Great Dayne wins Heisman

NEW YORK (AP) — Ron Dayne turned family troubles into family triumph with a record-setting season at Wisconsin, and then secured his place in college football history Saturday night by winning the Heisman Trophy.

Dayne, who moved in with relatives when he was 15 after divorce and drugs ravaged his family, led the Badgers to the Big Ten Conference title and a second straight Rose Bowl.

The 5-foot-10, 254-pound tailback ran for 1,834 yards and 19 touchdowns and broke '98 Heisman winner Ricky Williams' Division I-A career rushing mark in his final regular-season game. Dayne enters the record books with 6,397 yards, 118 more than Williams.

Wearing a blue pinstriped suit, Dayne was styling at the Downtown Athletic Club, home of the Heisman. When his name was called, he broke into a smile, hugged his coach, Barry Alvarez, and shook hands with the other finalists.

Most of Dayne's family attended the ceremony, including his girlfriend, Alia Lester, and their 2-year-old daughter, Jada. Also in the crowd were Dayne's legal guardians, uncle Rob Reid and Reid's wife, Debbie, along with Dayne's birth mother, Brenda Dayne.

After thanking his coaches and teammates, Dayne looked toward his daughter and uncle, and smiled.

"I'd like to thank my daughter, Jada, for being the biggest inspiration in my life," he said. "I'd like to thank the real Heisman winner, for me, Uncle Rob, who is always there for me and is always someone to talk to and tell jokes with."

Winning the Heisman, college football's most prestigious individual award, capped a whirlwind two weeks for the usually media-shy Dayne. He won nearly every other prize he was nominated for — AP College Player of the Year and the Walter Camp, Maxwell and Doak Walker awards — and hopes to go out in style against Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

Dayne was a landslide winner over Georgia Tech quarterback Joe Hamilton, with Virginia Tech freshman Michael Vick third, Purdue quarterback Drew Brees fourth and Marshall quarterback Chad Pennington fifth.

Florida State wide receiver Peter Warrick, the early Heisman favorite before he ran into legal problems and was suspended for two games, finished sixth in the balloting by the 921 Heisman voters.

Alabama running back Shaun Alexander was seventh, Virginia running back Thomas Jones eighth, Penn State linebacker LaVar Arrington ninth and Louisiana Tech quarterback Tim Rattay 10th.

Dayne collected 586 first-place votes and 2,042 points from the Heisman voters, while Hamilton had 96 first-place votes and 994 points. Hamilton threw for 3,060 yards and 29 touchdowns in leading the Yellow Jackets to an 8-3 season and a Gator Bowl berth.

Vick, the Hokies redshirt freshman who led his team to a perfect season and a shot at the national title in the Sugar Bowl, had 25 first-place votes and 319 points. Brees had three first-place votes and 308 points. Pennington had 21 first-place votes and 247 points.

Metro State rallies past Tigers, 77-75

By NICK SCHWIEN
HAYS DAILY NEWS

DENVER — It was a battle of two heavyweights in NCAA Division II men's basketball.

Fort Hays State University laid claim to one of the best teams in NCAA II history by going 34-0 during the 1995-96 season and winning the national title.

Metropolitan State College of Denver showed it was a basketball powerhouse in the 1990s by finishing second in the Elite Eight last year.

So when the two teams hooked up for a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference game Saturday night at the Auraria Events Center, everyone knew the game could be memorable.

Neither team disappointed. Metro State, the third-ranked team in NCAA II, rallied past Fort Hays 77-75 after trailing 44-33 at halftime.

"There is no question about it that they're a good team," Fort Hays coach Chad Wintz said. "They proved that last year. Everybody knows that Metro is a powerhouse in this league and that's why they're ranked No. 3 in the country. They have players that have been together for a long period of time and they know how to win close games. You have to give them a lot of credit."

"But I was really proud of our players. I thought they stepped up to the challenge after a tough defeat (Friday) night and I was really proud of their effort. I thought for the most part we did the things necessary to stay in the basketball game."

Metro State's win overshadowed a dominating first-half performance by senior point guard Rodney Malloy. Malloy shot 9-for-9 in the first half from behind the 3-point line. He finished with 33 points — all in the first half.

Malloy tied the school record for 3-pointers with his nine in the first half. Geoff Eck also had nine treys against McPherson College during the championship season of 1995-96.

Malloy scored all eight points in an 8-3 run to give Fort Hays (5-3 overall, 0-2 RMAC) an 18-7 advantage with 13:43 to play in the first half.

Malloy would basically have an

• Metro State 77, Fort Hays 75 •

Fort Hays (5-2, 0-1 RMAC): Rodney Malloy 12-18 0-0 33, Tony Thomas 4-7 3-4 11, Michael Jackson 5-7 2-2 12, Simoneau 2-5 0-0 6, Davis 2-6 2-3 6, Richardson 1-2 0-0 3, Fiedler 0-0 0-0 0, Butler 2-7 0-0 4, Kemper 0-1 0-0 0, Parker 0-0 0-0 0, Gwallney 0-2 0-0 0. Totals — 28-56 7-9 75.

Metro State (7-2, 1-0 RMAC): Rodney Malloy 9-9 0-0 33, Tony Thomas 4-7 3-4 11, Michael Jackson 5-7 2-2 12, Simoneau 2-5 0-0 6, Davis 2-6 2-3 6, Richardson 1-2 0-0 3, Fiedler 0-0 0-0 0, Butler 2-7 0-0 4, Kemper 0-1 0-0 0, Parker 0-0 0-0 0, Gwallney 0-2 0-0 0. Totals — 29-59 11-14 77.

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answer for every Metro State basket the entire first half, finishing with the same amount of points as the Roadrunners.

But Metro State (8-2, 2-0) would come back in the second half with the help of senior guard DeMarcos Anzures. Anzures scored 15 points after halftime to finish with a team-high 24 points.

Anzures, who shot 7-of-17 from behind the arc, helped the Roadrunners rally from a 15-point deficit in the second half.

Metro State kept battling back and eventually took its first lead of the game at 59-58 with 10:30 to play.

The two teams would trade baskets the rest of the way until the Roadrunners took a 75-70 lead with 5:04 remaining.

Junior guard Joel Butler cut into lead with a basket and junior guard Wes Simoneau tied the game at 75-75 with a trey with 22 seconds to play.

Senior John Bynum drove the lane and put up an off-balance shot that bounced around before dropping in to give the Roadrunners a 77-75 lead with 1.8 seconds left.

Fort Hays would have one final chance. But an inbound pass from junior Tony Kemper intended for Malloy sailed out of bounds.

Senior center Michael Jackson and junior forward Tony Thomas backed Malloy's 33-point night with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Babe Ruth, Babe Didrikson Zaharias voted top athletes

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two Babes ruled the century.

Larger than life in their own day, their deeds and legends enduring the passage of time, Babe Ruth and his namesake, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, prevailed as the top man and woman in The Associated Press 100 Athletes of the Century poll released Saturday.

Michael Jordan, Jim Thorpe, Muhammad Ali, Wayne Gretzky and Jim Brown filled the next five spots behind Ruth.

Martina Navratilova, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Billie Jean King finished far back of Didrikson, who ranked No. 9 among all athletes.

Children of the first quarter of the century, when ballplayers didn't hit homers and little girls didn't dream of sports careers, the Babes changed the world around them as they trans-

formed themselves into nearly mythic heroes.

George Herman "Babe" Ruth roared louder than all others in the Roaring '20s, living audaciously, a backslapping pal to everyone. He delivered every day at the ballpark, even after boozy nights of debauchery, doffing his camel-hair coat for Yankee pinstripes and swinging from the heels, homering or striking out. Rooters savored his triumphs, enemies reveled in his failures.

"I hit big or I miss big," he once boasted. "I like to live as big as I can."

He started out as an ace pitcher and finished as the Sultan of Swat, the greatest player in the history of America's pastime. Along the way he exuded all the excess of his giddy, glut-toned era, guzzling beer and stuffing his face with hot dogs one moment, hitting the ball farther than anyone

else the next.

Ruth stepped forward like a giant to lift the spirits of Americans trying to forget about World War I. It was the "Golden Age," the days when Jack Dempsey, Red Grange and Big Bill Tilden looked large over the landscape and Lummy Lindy cruised the skies.

None of them was as beloved as the Babe.

"Ruthian" joined the language as an adjective for huge appetites and prodigious feats, and the Babe came to be seen as a kind of a bat-wielding Paul Bunyan, with a touch of Santa Claus bringing kids of all ages the gift of sheer joy.

He was all the more endearing, all the more accessible to the common folk because he wasn't pretty and he didn't look like an athlete. In fact, even at the peak of his career, when he

carried 220 pounds on his pear-shaped, 6-foot-2 frame, he probably looked less like an athlete than everyone else on the top 100 list.

"His barrel always seemed too much for his legs, which tapered into a pair of ankles as slender almost as those of a girl," wrote one of his friends and chroniclers, Paul Gallico. "The great head, perched upon a pair of round and unathletic shoulders, presented a moon of a face, the feature of which was the flaring nostrils of a nose that was rather like a snout. His voice was deep and hoarse, his speech crude and earthy, his ever-ready laughter a great, rumbling gurgle that arose from the caverns of his middle. He had an eye that was abnormally quick, nerves and muscular reactions to match, a supple wrist, a murderous swing, and a gorgeously truculent, competitive spirit."

Despite the power of television and the boom in all sports in the 51 years since his death, nothing has diminished the Babe's stature, not even the records that were broken by Roger Maris, Hank Aaron and Mark McGwire — sluggers with only a fraction of Ruth's charisma.

Flaunting her own bodacious style, Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson pioneered a career as a full-time professional female athlete and emerged as both a star and target in the national debate over the modern working woman.

The pert, wiry Texan never found a game she couldn't play better than anyone else. Baseball, basketball, billiards and golf, she mastered them all. At the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, she announced upon arriving she would beat everyone in sight, brazenly adding, "I can do anything."

She surely could. She qualified for five of the six women's events scheduled, but a sudden, rather strange ruling by the Olympic committee restricted women to only three events.

Of the ones she chose, she won golds in the javelin and hurdles and settled for silver in the high jump despite jumping higher than everyone else. The judges decided her headfirst, Western roll style didn't quite conform to tradition.

The other women on the American team privately cheered when Didrikson lost out on that third gold. They resented her coarse and bombastic style, the flamboyant way she strode into locker rooms and taunted them with shouts of, "The Babe's here, who's going to come in second?"

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