

An Epitaph

The adjacent story quite obviously was written prior to the tragic air crash which took the lives of an undetermined number of Marshall University football players, coaches, athletic department personnel and fans. To have rewritten the story, to have pretended that the game had never been played, would have been a disservice to those who took part in it. Therefore, it is being presented in its entirety as an epitaph.

Down In Front

Ernie Salvatore

Executive Sports Editor

The Tragedy

What do you write at a time like this?

You believe that it can never really happen to your own people. Others go down in air crashes. Entire teams are wiped out. Individuals with well known names go down in their isolated tragedies and you mourn briefly for their misfortune.

But, never to your own people.

Then, it comes into the news room, silently, swiftly, it comes — a simple report that a chartered airliner carrying the Marshall University football team home from its ninth game of the season has crashed against a soggy West Virginia hillside, two miles short of the runway.

And, the report says, it immediately exploded into flames.

"Ambulances are requested from all points in the area," the police radio crackles.

You can't believe it. Twenty-five years in the newspaper business notwithstanding, you can't believe it. But, soon, the mounting truth of it all forces you to believe it. There is nothing else you can do.

Reports Include Friends Names

The first fragmentary reports include the names of your friends. Coaches, athletic department people, players, just plain loyal friends who went where the Thundering Herd went in all kinds of weather, under all kinds of conditions, win, loss or draw.

Incredible. Less than two months ago a large portion of the Wichita State team was wiped out in a similar tragedy. Now, it's our own beloved Marshall.

Who'll be next? How many more tragedies of this kind are going to occur before a way is found to stop them?

An honest question, asked in grief, and it deserves an honest, straightforward answer. Fatalism has no place in these circumstances; at least that is what you tell yourself.

The Marshall air tragedy is the worst in the history of West Virginia. It is the third college football team within the past decade, the second indirectly involving a Mid-American Conference team. Indirectly because Marshall is no longer a member of that athletic body but was for 15 years. The first involved the California Poly team on a take-off tragedy at the Toledo Airport after it had played Bowling Green, a MAC member.

This is the sum and the substance the crash.

Perhaps The Final Chapter

And, in that blinding explosion, another and perhaps the final chapter in the worst era in Marshall athletics has been written.

It began with the athletic recruiting scandal that hit the campus in 1969. It continued with the suspension from the Mid-American Conference, and the almost total overhaul of the athletic department. Probation from the National Collegiate Athletic Association of one year's duration followed.

Though an application for readmittance to the Mid-American was denied last February, the tides began to shift in Marshall's favor. Money was allocated by the state to remodel Fairfield Stadium, cover it with AstroTurf, and improve other facilities on the campus.

An ambitious fund raising drive was launched, aimed at a goal of \$150,000, the last in the school's history. The coaches were brought in. Schedules were being adjusted. The idea was that if Marshall could not find a family of schools to belong to, it would operate as a full-grown independent.

This year's football team was to take the first step in that direction. Consisting of holdovers from last year's Thundering Herd which, along with the scandals, had to suffer through a winless streak that reached 37 games before ending with a three-game winning streak, it got off to a good start.

But, injuries to the thin forces, never numbering more than 40 players in this age of specialization, took their toll. Nevertheless, except for losses to Toledo and Western Michigan, the Herd was in contention in every game it played.

Won Three Lost Six

When the end came against that hillside Saturday night, it had won three games, and lost six — two by three points, and one by two points. Always against superior forces. Always against the odds. That seemed to be this ball club's luck. That seemed to be Marshall's luck in recent years.

There was a touch of irony in Greenville, N. C., Saturday where Marshall bowed to East Carolina before imploding in its ill-fated flight. Watching his old school for the first time since his graduation in 1935 was one of the greatest football players in Marshall history, John Zontini, "The Sheik of Seth."

Last week Zontini was elected to the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. The entire 1970 Marshall team should be inducted with him next spring in Morgantown along with those who went down with it.

These deaths have to be given some kind of meaning. Perhaps there will be one in this gesture.

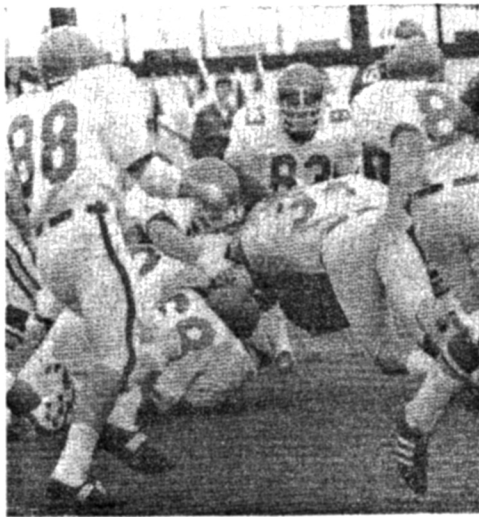
Bobcats' Hess 'Shocked'...

ATHENS, Ohio—It's the most shocking news I've ever heard," said Ohio University football coach Bill Hess. "It's just a terrible, terrible tragedy."

Hess, whose Bobcats were to play Marshall University this weekend, had just heard of the crash.

about the Saturday night plane crash which took the lives of most of the Marshall football players.

When Hess was asked about the Ohio U-Marshall game, he said "The game is insignificant. It's not important. It's not important."



Action From Saturday's Marshall-East Carolina Game Before Tragic Crash Here Last Night
At left: The Herd on defense... Al Saylor (88), Larry Brown (68), Art Shannon (34), Pete Naputano (84), Scottie Reese (83)... at right: Bob Harris (12) prepares to pass as Art Harris (22) blocks (AP)



Controversial Call Ends Chances For Tie

East Carolina Nips Herd 17-14

THE HERALD-ADVERTISER

•SPORTS• —Sunday, Nov. 15, 1970 21

(Editor's Note: Mike Brown, who covered Saturday's ill-fated Marshall-East Carolina game, was not aboard the plane that took the Thundering Herd and its traveling party to its deaths. He motored to Greenville, site of the game, with his wife.)

By MIKE BROWN
Herald-Advertiser Sports Writer
GREENVILLE, N.C. —

East Carolina University place kicker Tony Gano kicked a 24-yard field goal with 12:37 left and that

proved to be the difference as the Pirates shaded Marshall University, 17-14, Saturday afternoon before a turnout of 8,711 at Ficklen Stadium, including ex-Marshall great John Zontini.

Zontini, who was recently inducted in the West Virginia Sports Writers Hall of Fame, was seeing his alma mater play for the first time since his graduation in 1935.

Marshall, which has had its share of tough breaks this season, saw another come its way with 30 seconds remaining in the contest when quarterback Ted Shoebright was called for intentional grounding, a call which left the Thundering Herd and its small group of fans puzzled.

The controversial call all but ended Marshall's hopes for gaining at least a tie on a day in which it turned in what coach Rich Tolley felt was a sub-par performance. Shoebright, who didn't get into the game until the second half, had driven the Herd 63 yards in less than one

minute and was knocking on the door when the call came.

On a third and 10 at the ECU 25, Shoebright faded to pass and was called by the Pirates Jim Guder at the East Carolina 44. Shoebright got off the pass but was called for grounding the ball which carried a five-yard penalty from the spot of the call.

The pass was intended for halfback Art Harris who fielded it on the bounce.

"The ball only hit above five feet from me," explained Harris who shared everyone else's puzzlement about the call.

"We had a nice flight down, but we played like we were still flying," said Tolley, who expressed displeasure with the Herd's overall play.

"We had a number of opportunities to win it," he continued, "but we couldn't capitalize."

"Our offensive execution was not as good as it has been and defensively, we just gave up too many yards on the ground. It appeared to me as though East Carolina wanted it more than we did."

East Carolina, which didn't throw a single pass in the second half, ground out 302 yards rushing with 178 of it coming in the second half. Les Stryhorn picked up 142 yards on 28 carries and Billy Wallace added 132 on 27. Joe Hood was Marshall's leading rusher as he picked up 111 yards on 23 carries.

Quarterback John Casazza added 16 yards for the Pirates, getting six of them on a touchdown run in the second period.

The performance by the East Carolina running backs overshadowed line defensive performances by Marshall linebacker Jerry Stalback and defensive guard Larry Brown. Stalback was in on 22 tackles, nine of them unassisted, and Brown was in on 18, seven unassisted.

The bright spot defensively

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'Great Potential' Gone

By The Associated Press

A team with "excellent potential" led by a gallant, aggressive quarterback. "The 1969 losing record was somewhat misleading," said the Marshall University football brochure.

This was the 1970 prospectus of a team wiped out in the crash of a DC-9 Southern Airways

plane in Kenova, W. Va., Saturday.

The mishap occurred after another losing effort, 17-14 to East Carolina.

The Thundering Herd had expectations of a better season than last, when they won only three games in 10. But highly-touted quarterback Ted Shoebright was unable to get the

team untracked and Marshall had a 3-6 mark with Saturday's loss.

Marshall was not an easy victim but fell to hard-hitting clubs. The Toledo Rockets beat the Thundering Herd 52-3 in the second game of the season. Their worst loss.

Marshall won its opening game against Morehead, lost to

Toledo, then beat Xavier. In succession, came losses to Miami of Ohio, Louisville, Western Michigan, and Bowling Green.

MU then defeated Kent State before bowing to ECU.

Shoebright, a junior from Lynchburg, N. J. had broken several school records as a sophomore. In one season, he tied a career mark for most touchdown passes with 13.

"Ted is an excellent football player," Coach Rich Tolley had said, "and, in general, a real outstanding athlete in every respect."

Two injuries hurt Shoebright, Saturday, his seasonal marks falling off almost 50 per cent in the important categories of complete passes, yardage gained and touchdown passes.

Art Harris, a sophomore from Passaic, N.J., was a bright spot for Tolley. The youngster was the team's leading rusher, pass-catcher and kickoff return specialist.

Other top ground-gainers included Joe Hood, a sophomore from Tuscaloosa, Ala. and senior Kevin Gilmore, from Harrison, N.J. Hood was also used as a target for Shoebright's passes.

Tolley was in his second season as head coach. He had taken over in a "temporary" capacity last year, according to the brochure.

"Tolley faced a monumental task," the prospectus said. "He needed, coaches, players and an overhaul of team morale... he brought his coaching staff up to full strength but he could never get enough players together to cope with the schedule."

"If the team wins just one game, it would have been regarded as a modern miracle."

Mistong Gallops To \$29,500 Win

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Mistong, a 37-10-1 shot copped the \$29,500 Falls City Handicap at Churchill Downs Saturday.

Mistong returned \$78.20, \$15.80 and \$8. The running time for the mile race was 1:39 4/5. Second place finisher, Double Delta, paid \$3.20, and Rube, \$2.20.

Surprised Notre Dame Holds On, 10-7

Irish Edges Tech

By NEIL AMDUR

(C) 1970 by The Associated Press
SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame refused to push the panic button against an aroused Georgia Tech team today and preserved its perfect record with a chilling fourth-quarter comeback and 10-7 victory.

A 65-yard touchdown pass from Eddie McAshan, Georgia Tech's sophomore

quarterback, to Larry Studdard, late in the third quarter, had given the twice-beaten Yellow Jackets a 7-0 lead over the stunned Irish.

With its unbeaten season and No. 1 ranking in jeopardy, Notre Dame traveled 80 yards in seven plays midway through the final quarter for

the decisive touchdown. The play was started the series and ignited the Irish momentum to a 46-yard pass from Joe Theismann to Ed Gulyas, who made a sensational catch sitting on the ground at the Tech 34-yard line.

A two-yard run by Dennis Allen brought the Irish the score with 6 minutes 28 seconds left.

As if the chill of 39-degree weather, 20-mile winds and the determined Tech defense were not sufficient distractions, the partisan sellout crowd of 59,075 had to survive a final score.

A 10-yard Notre Dame punt into the swirling northeasterly gusts gave Tech possession at the Irish 43 with 2:48 left. But on first down, the Jack-

son tried a trick play—a handoff and pitchback to McAshan for a long pass—that resulted in no pass and a 13-yard loss.

Two plays later, Clarence Ellis, the Notre Dame corner back beaten earlier down the sidelines by Studdard, leaped high and intercepted a McAshan pass at the Irish 27-yard line.

The Irish then ran out the clock to insure their eighth straight victory.

Summary
Notre Dame 10
Tech 7

First downs 10-13
Total yards 208-152
Passing yards 108-102
Rushing yards 100-50
Turnovers 1-2
Time of possession 34:10-25:50

Bucks Pressed To Beat Purdue

By MIKE HARRIS

Associated Press Sports Writer
LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)—Fred Schram kicked a 30-yard field goal with 3:04 left in the game to give the third-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes a hard-fought 10-7 victory over Purdue here Saturday.

A sellout throng of 68,157 sat huddled in Ross-Ade Stadium in mid-30 degree weather under a nearly constant mixture of icy rain and snow as the Buckeyes pushed 66 yards in seven plays for the winning tally. The game was regionally telecast.

The victory gave Ohio State an 8-0 season record and a 6-0 Big Ten mark as the Buckeyes head for next week's Conference showdown with unbeaten Michigan.

Purdue's only offensive spark of the game came on a 96-yard kickoff return by senior halfback Stan Brown. Brown's burst came only 12 seconds after the Buckeyes

scored their only touchdown on a 26-yard run by fullback John Brockington.

Four times during the game, Purdue took over the ball deep in Ohio State territory, twice on blocked punts, once on a short punt and once on a fumble by quarterback Rex Kern.

Each time the Buckeye defense rose to the occasion. Purdue's deepest penetration was the eight-yard line early in the fourth period.

Purdue kicker Jeff Jones missed his only field goal attempt, a 34-yarder, on the final play of the first half. Schram was wide on the first two attempts, both in the third quarter.

The Buckeye's continued to hold onto a portion of the Big Ten overall with a 1-5 mark, cellar, Purdue, is 3-6.



WVU BOB GRESHAM (33) PICKS UP FIRST DOWN AGAINST SYRACUSE
Orange middle guard Ted Lachowicz (68) makes the stop. (AP)

WVU Upsets Orange

By DICK CARLELL

MORGANTOWN (AP)—Linebacker Dick Farley intercepted a fourth-quarter Syracuse pass here Saturday and ran it back 45 yards to set up a West Virginia touchdown and ice a 25-9 victory, halting a gallant comeback bid by the Orangemen.

Farley's steal came after three minutes remaining in the game, when it appeared West Virginia's 21-9 third-quarter lead was fading beneath a furious Syracuse onrush.

The West Virginia line snapped a five-game Syracuse victory string, and upset the Mountaineers record to 7-3. It was Syracuse's fourth setback in nine games.

WVU quarterback Mike Sherwood engineered this victory with a pinpoint passing

that accounted for 204 yards and three touchdowns. The senior slawt hit on 18 of 25 attempts.

Sherwood found senior flanker Wayne Porter on five occasions, two of which were good for touchdowns.

West Virginia enjoyed a 14-0 halftime advantage after scoring on drives of 77 and 70 yards, and increased its lead 21-0 midway in the third quarter.

The Orangemen then stormed back, scoring first late in the third quarter on a six-yard run by tailback Roger Praetorius. Syracuse scored again early in the fourth quarter when quarterback Paul Pasolunso tallied on a one-yard keeper.

Pasolunso then cut the West Virginia lead to 21-19 on a four-yard dash to paydirt.

and Syracuse was again on the move when Farley came up with his big play.

Split end Chris Polts counted when he took a 21-yard pass from Sherwood with less than two minutes remaining. A one-yard keeper by Sherwood in the second quarter accounted for the fourth Mountaineer score.

SUMMARY		WVU	Syr
West Virginia	25	9	19
WVU—Farley 45 pass from Sherwood			
Syr—Pasolunso 1 run (Sherwood kick)			
Syr—Farley 7 pass from Sherwood			
Syr—Praetorius 6 run (pass failed)			
Syr—Pasolunso 1 run (pass failed)			
Syr—Pasolunso 1 run (Jackowska block)			
WVU—Polts 1 pass from Sherwood			
(Sherwood kick)			
STATISTICS		WVU	Syr
First downs	21	19	
Passing yards	204	102	
Rushing yards	77	50	
Turnovers	1	2	
Time of possession	34:10	25:50	