

PANTHERS COP FOUR CITY TITLES THIS YEAR

KINLEY'S KORNER



By MAX KINLEY

Sitting here trying to think up some copy that will have at least a little interest for the readers is a pretty annoying thing, especially when you can't write worth a plugged nickel.

But, we are going to try and not bore you to death with the same old stuff that we have bored you readers with for the past eight issues. Here we must ask a question. Do we have any readers?

This job of sports editor is about the most annoying thing in the world. We can't see how a good friend of ours does it every day. (The old man, that is.)

It seems that we write about the same thing every time. First we were raving about the baseball team being great. They had a little tough luck but in our opinion, anyway, they are still great.

Then we were sold on the golf team. These boys did swell. Maybe we were all-right in this selection. After that came Rod Fields with his undefeated discus throwing. But what happened? Unfortunately, he didn't qualify for the finals of the state meet. Undaunted heavyweight Charles "Cumbo" Ross came through in the discus for a very good showing. Charles Gill took a fifth in the shot put.

All we do is talk about sports. Why can't we write a gossip column like Pettit and Leeper do? We like to be mean and talk about people too. Heck, we go for the pretty girls. But who gets to mention them? Tupper and Adalaide.

If we ever write on another paper you can make sure that it will be a glamorous feature story job like Protiva's. Just think. Going out with a photographer and taking pictures of beautiful bathing beauties in some "Miss Snook" contest. Brother, that'll be the day.

Just kidding though, we really love it here banging our typewriter—making a fool out of ourselves. Those two "friends" we mentioned in the next to last Korner won't even speak to us anymore. Yep, Levene and Davis don't even have a foul word or two for us like they used to. We're supposed to room with Alan up in Gainesville next year, and you can be sure that we will check the bed every night for a six foot rattler. Not that he would put one in there or anything like that. Nah!

As for Davis, well, he's a pretty fair sized boy. We're pretty sure that if he said "Let's mix it up," we would find a quick exit because we're not of very large stature. Being only a 150 pounder, it wouldn't be too wise to tangle with 108 pound Davis.

Other things that come to mind as we're sitting here griping is the way we are greeted every day by the rest of the staff (?). When most people come in they are greeted with a chorus of, "Hello's" from the gorgeous dames clamoring around the P.O.P. office. Mr. Griffin usually has a nice word or two to put in, but when yours truly makes his grand entrance, about 10 minutes tardy, he yells, "Don't you ever get tired of hanging on that girl of yours." If he weren't married you would think it was a fit of jealousy.

The girls we mentioned previously always turn the cold shoulder like it was some kind of a maniac that just walked in. Honestly, we are getting a complex about it all. Every day I make a journey to the rest room and gaze at myself in the mirror just to make sure that the girls aren't right. Take a gander at the picture that adorns the top of this crazy column and see for yourself if the girls are right in thinking that we look like a complete stooge. Look girls, we've got plenty of money (\$1.28 of life savings to be exact), a nice car (well the buses run don't they?), we're a member of every social club in town (the Back Alley Tigers are in the social register) and above all, what a personality (?). Just because we were the guy in the movie "Purple Heart," that got his tongue cut out is no reason to believe that we can't talk.

This could go on all day couldn't it? The best thing to do is just leave here and go cry over a nice cold Coke. (Fooled you didn't I).

Getting serious for a moment or two anyway it brings us up to the fact that Plant teams have had a very outstanding year in sports. Even the basketball team capped off a so-so season by defeating the Hillsborough Terriers after the Big Red had captured the Class AA regional title.

The track team won the city crown for the first of this sort in ten years. These boys started the season with exactly nothing. With continuous work they took the city.

Boys such as Ross, who used to come over here and work on Sundays caused this great upset. Then there was Fields with his undefeated work. He finished first in every meet except the state meet in Gainesville. Arnold Scudder set a record for the low hurdles when he won his event

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Sports In Shorts

"AWARD DAY"

The Award Day was a big success for the girls as well as the boys. Mrs. Lane presided with Miss Rodriguez assisting her. The outstanding captains were Wanda Baxla and Nanette Kendall, who really have done a fine job. The Lieutenant that did the best work for the year was Betty Sue Sellers. The outstanding athlete from each class is as follows: Sophomore Barbara Barritt and Patsy Elliott; Juniors—Carolyn Antouno; Senior—Betty Klunk; The only two sophomores to receive letters were (once again) Barbara Barritt and Patsy Elliott. The only ones to receive stars were three junior girls, Deanna Halterman, Myrna Robertson and Joann Nunn. The following girls received letters: Nan Kendall, Dee Dee Moody, Carolyn Antouno, Wanda Baxla, Jo Ann Hecker, Goldie Woolf, and Vivian Lewis.

"SPEAKING OF EXAMS"

We're always expecting to get away from those things called exams but it seems we run headlong into them in Phys. Ed. They surely are great, and we always manage to fail them. (Right, Miss Rod?) This one will really fix us up for good because it's over a whole year's work . . . they really will have a time grading them. Sure hope so anyway; would serve them right. (Only kidding, we really love 'em). Are you kidding. . .

WHAT'S GONNA HIT GAINESVILLE??

Miss Rodriguez is planning to go to Gainesville this summer to work on a Masters. We know she'll have a fabulous time with all her homework (hope they really give it to her), then maybe next year she will be more lenient on the poor girls that will be taking phys. ed. It looks like she'd have enough knowledge of sports by now, but no! she has to go learn some more . . .

Oh well, everyone has their idiosyncracies (what a word.) No kidding, we would really like for her to know we wish her all the luck and to have a great time. . .

SUMMER PROGRAM . . .

Mr. Ruggles is to head a summer program this year here at Plant for all those interested in all forms of recreation, shop, craft, and many other interests. Mrs. Lane will be head of the recreation department where she will teach dancing, games, etc. . . We know it will be a great success. . .

"SO LONG, SPORTS"

Glancing at the 1954 sport's records brings back memories of some of the most successful and exciting seasons in the history of the school. The football team gave a hint of the things to come with their fine six wins, three losses, one tie record. Even more remarkable was their Big Ten conference record of five wins, one loss, and one tie. The basketball team started slow but lost some very close games to finish with an eight won, fifteen lost record. The team closed the season with a sweet 63-51 win over Hillsboro. The track team finished the season by taking the city track championship and by having four boys qualify for the state track meet. Coach Gene Biittner's net men had the best record of any other Plant team, as they turned in an outstanding ten win—one loss record! Plant's golf team finished the season with a record of seven wins, six losses and one tie.

Frank Lorenzo's scrappy Panther football team started off the season with one of their best games. The team wanted to beat Jefferson badly and with Rod Fields and Bobby Davis lugging the pigskin, the Panthers dropped Jefferson 12-0. The Plant team was too confident the next game and lost to Sarasota by the same score. The following week the team traveled to Panama City to play Bay High School. When the Panthers returned after their tough 6-0 victory they were wearing victory smiles and corduroy hats. Manatee took a tough 27-12 non-conference game from Plant as the Panthers were preparing for the six such games stretched ahead of them. The scrappy Panthers showed their true-blue color as they came from behind to nip the Boone Braves of Orlando 20-19. St. Pete's Green Devils were goose-egged by the Plant team 14-0. Once again the Panthers had to come from behind when they barely edged Edgewater 20-18 at the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando. This was an especially exciting game because Plant was leading 13-12 when an "Eagle" half-back intercepted a pass and zig-zagged 98 yards for Edgewater's third T.D. Lakeland held Plant to a 13-13 tie, but the following week the Panthers dropped the visiting Landon Lions 14-12. The Hillsboro game was next on the list. It was a big game because a win would give Plant the city championship and a chance at the Big Ten title and then, too, beating Hillsboro has always been a top sport out in Palma Ceia. But it wasn't in the cards as the Terriers were victorious in a hard-fought 13-7 Panther loss.

The basketball team started off on the right foot by whipping Boca Ciega 69-59. High-point man in the first game of the season was Jim Etheridge with 23 points. Roland Bourgeois dropped in 20 points to take the runner-up spot. Jesuit's smooth working offense stopped the Panthers in their second game by the score of 54-68. The Panthers had a tough time in the getting their offense started in the next seven games and the opposition held an impregnable lead by the time the Plant team got going. They lost to St. Pete 53-57, to Boone a heartbreaking 47-49 loss; Jefferson beat Plant 46-50. Clearwater's Kenny Smith and Panther Eddie Contreras had a scoring duel in Plant's next game, but the Tornados rolled out a

46-62 win. Jesuit and Lakeland beat Plant and then Stanley Hobbs scored 37 points for Hillsboro and the Terriers edged Plant 58-61. The following night Plant won their second game of the season in a 71-70 overtime thriller. The Panthers looked good stopping Clearwater 49-43, but Boone and Coral Gables whipped us in succession; 47-48 and 61-67 — two hard fought heartbreakers. Plant dropped the spirited Boca Ciega team 52-49 but were beaten by the smooth-working Landon Lions 50-77. The Panthers lost to Lee 60-6 with Eddie Contreras as the game's high-point man tossing in 2 points.

The Green Devils from St. Petersburg dropped Plant 52-63 but the Panthers beat Lakeland the next day, in a revenge match, 55-48. The Plant five was beaten by KMI 68-74, but gained revenge for an earlier loss by stopping Jefferson 63-58. Once again Contreras was high point man; this time he scored 30 points. Jacksonville Jackson won a 54-57 game from Plant in Jacksonville, but on the following night the Panthers, with Contreras scoring 22 points, whipped Lee 60-52. The Panthers bowled out of the District Tournament in the second round. In their last game of the season, the Panther played one of their most outstanding games as they rolled over the Hillsborough Terriers 63-50. High point men for Plant's final game were center Ed Contreras with 11 points, pint-sized guard Harry Ro-

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