State News Football Issue

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Co-captain Greg Schaum is one of MSU’s top players. He was an All-Big Ten second team selection last year and is attempting to at least equal that achievement this season. Big number 95 has a knack for finding the ball.

SN photos: Robert Kozloff

GREG IS MSU’S SENIOR TACKLE

By PEGGY GOSSETT
State News Sports Writer

You could say Greg Schaum is having an affair. With football.

The 242-pound defensive tackle does not hustle over to five sweating hours of daily football practice, pore over game films running and re-running his missed tackles to study why they were missed, and keep in shape the other nine months of the year simply as a pleasurable pastime. But neither is football a job to Schaum, a mandatory 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. green and white collar job.

Football to Schaum is a personal involvement.

“It’s my reason for being as of now,” Schaum said. “To be any good at all you’ve got to be involved, you’ve got to believe in yourself.”

“It’s what tackles make on the field, what backs I block that count. I know a lot of people that wish me well but they can’t do anything for me on the field. It’s all up to me. And to be that devoted to the sport you’ve got to be totally involved.”

Undoubtedly. When Schaum hobbled into the University Health Center this summer with a rusty nail freakishly imbedded in his right leg just one month before fall practice began, that personal involvement bolstered Schaum through every practice session. “And it hurt like hell,” the pre-law major said.

“At first I thought it would be no big deal. The doc said ‘You’ve got a nail in there’ so I said OK, then go in and take it out.’ But the next day I was wheeled into the operating room, given pain killers and I was petrified when they made two big cuts in my leg. It looked nasty,” Schaum said.

Though he was laid up for nearly a month, the day the stitches were taken out he was out running and working out. He said he is hardly leary of riding tractors, however, which Schaum was doing as part of his summer job when the nail flew into his right calf.

Schaum is leary of nothing, especially not the NCAA.

Though every player knows in the furthest part of their minds that an investigation is being conducted, Schaum said it never enters his mind and the subject never enters practice small-talk.

“We don’t go to practice with our heads hung. We go with our heads high. The NCAA doesn’t matter. If something happens we still have to play on, and that’s what’s on our mind, the next game,” Schaum, a team captain, stressed.

“The coaches are fantastic guys. They’ve held themselves up through these investigations well, and that’s not an easy thing to do,” he commented. “They’re great.”

“We’re planning on winning the next five games and going to a bowl. A 9-2 record is pretty good, and look who beat us. Two teams in the top ten.”

Schaum said when head football coach Denny Stolz and three Coast coaches were in Denver for NCAA hearings last week, the team worked even harder than they normally would.

“Some might think, well, they can stack off since Denny isn’t there but we didn’t. We did exercises for 30 minutes that usually only take five. We worked a lot harder.”

College ball on the whole is much harder than Schaum’s Polytech High School days in Baltimore, Md. where he was All-State in football, lacrosse and wrestling and All-American in football.

“I was a typical jock back then,” Schaum said. “Keeping busy to keep out of trouble. I was a known get-in-troubler. But athletics was easy. I was not so personally involved then.”

When he was recruited by Daugherty, who lured Schaum away from UCLA, Notre Dame and U-M offers, Schaum was involved in recruiting. He was the reputed recruiting prize at MSU. He played most games his freshman year, and started in all games sophomore, junior seasons and this year.

“I came here because I met some fantastic people. Jim (Bubbles) Taubert showed me around and the people were great,” said Schaum, who went on to All Big Ten second team in back of Taubert at All Big Ten First Team last year.

In Schaum’s credit last year were 48 solo tackles and 40 assists, playing 323 total minutes in the games.

He was switched after his sophomore year, however, from middle guard to defensive tackle.

“Tackle is better because you play against somebody your size. At middle guard you get double-teamed (two offensive linemen on him) and triple-teamed, while at tackle you have only one guy to deal with,” he explained. “It’s the same amount of bumps and black and blue marks, though.”

The worst opponent for him to go against is one who looks Schaum right smack in the eyes, he said.

“That bugs me, and a lot of them do it,” he said. “I prefer to watch the guy’s middle part of the chest, because that’s where I put my head two seconds later when I hit him.”

The real opponent of the game is himself, however, living up to his own expectations.

“It’s my own self that I have to answer to,” Schaum said.
Bruggenthies
Spencer
Pitts
Croxton
Brewton

Halfbacks do not hike the ball

By LARRY MORGAN
State News Sports Writer

Spartan running backs have needed their own scoreboards this season to keep track of who's who on the offensive line. But finally, as the team heads into the second half of the season, the gimpy-legged Spartan line has been put together as MSU coaches envisioned prior to the season.

Tom Cole, who moved over from center to tackle replacing injured Greg Brewton, is the only lineman with an injury severe enough to keep him from playing.

Tony Bruggenthies, who broke his leg the first week of September, and Greg Brewton, who sprained an ankle in the Miami (Ohio) game, have both returned to action.

The completed line now has sophomore Al Pitts at center, Greg Croxton and Ray Spencer at the guards and Bruggenthies and Brewton at tackles.

Greg Croxton and Ray Spencer at the guards and Bruggenthies and Brewton at tackles.

The offensive linemen are those players who fans don't usually notice, but who O.J. Simpson has given an immense amount of credit for his success running with the Buffalo Bills.

Without this group of fellows Levi Jackson would never have had his 88-yard run against OSU and most running backs would be in very serious trouble trying to carry the ball.

MSU has had an unusual amount of trouble keeping its continued on page 8

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A man who counts the inches

By EDWARD L. RONDELS
State News Sports Writer

Because football is a game of inches, Floyd E. "Lefty" Ger¬
desau has managed to nourish his hunger over the last 40 odd
years.

And, as the inches grew into yards and the yards into touch¬
downs, Geraldeau has not only satisfied his appetite but also his
love for football. Especially MSU football.

The dapper Geraldeau’s jour¬
ney to the sidelines of Spartan
Stadium, as a member of the
chain gang, commenced in the
remote Upper Peninsula town of
Gladstone.

After graduating from high
school Geraldeau migrated to
Wabash College in Crawfords¬
ville, Ind. Athletic inclinations
dominated his campus life as he
played varsity football and base¬
ball for four years and basketball for one.

By today’s standards, Wab¬
ash is removed from the "big¬
time" athletic scene. Such wasn’t the case during Ger¬
desau’s tenure, however.

"I have some fond memories of collec¬
tively," he stated. "One in par¬
cular stands out. We were
playing at Illinois in my senior year and it was the final home

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Homecoming: the alumni dream

MSU student, especially this year, when few activities are planned. After all, many people here look at Saturday as just another football game, another kegger on Saturday night.

Current MSU students don't feel sentimental about the banks of the Red Cedar — they walk by them every day. The alumni don't have to sit through lectures in Bessey or Wells — imagine getting teary-eyed over an algebra exam!

No, Homecoming is for former students, parents, and the old jocks that are introduced at half-time. It is one day when they can relive their college days of 10, 20, even 30 years ago.

Perhaps one day we will look back and say, "Remember that North Carolina State game in 1978? Now that was a football team . . ."

Enjoy your weekend, alums.

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It's Homecoming weekend and most students are hard pressed to find anything to get excited about, it's just another football game.

There was plenty of excitement for the Ohio State and U-M games but Illinois ... Somehow it just doesn't seem the same. Maybe that's why they picked this weekend for Homecoming, just to make the game sound more exciting.

Now I don't want to pick on Illinois because they have a pretty good football team, not a great team but a pretty good football team.

I've got some friends who go to school at Illinois and I've made quite a few visits to Champaign-Urbana, so the place is almost like a second home.

In fact, the very first time I sat in the press box was last year when we played the fighting Illini down there on their home turf. I happened to be going down to visit that weekend and the State News sports writer needed a ride so I ended up sitting in the press box.

It was quite a thrill for me. I was really surprised at what a great view you got from up there and you didn't even have to pay to get into the game.

So I sat there watching things in my notebook, trying to look like a regular sports writer and feeling very important.

It was Red Grange Day and they brought out the Galloping Ghost at halftime to say a few inspirational words to the Illini. The game ended in a tie which didn't bother me too much.

My Illini friends and I sat around afterwards talking about how both teams blew a lot of chances to win the game and we were all happy. As it turned out, that tie cost MSU a chance to finish in a first-place tie with Ohio State and U-M for the Big Ten title. Oh well.

Anyway, when I got back to East Lansing, I wrote up my first sports story. It was a short thing about Red Grange Day but Steve Stein, the sports editor, decided he didn't have room for it in the paper. I was heartbroken.

As it worked out, I ended up as Steve's replacement and this year if I decide to write a little feature about Red Grange, I know it will get in the paper. But it would be kind of dumb to do a story about Red this year, such a pity.

Two of my friends from Illinois (Joe Manion and Capper Tram) are coming up here for the game this year and so that makes this game seem a little more important to me.

This year I hope it doesn't end in a tie. It's bad enough that nobody cares about Homecoming and a tie game would make for a real unexciting weekend.

I hope MSU beats the Fighting Illini (not real bad but just enough to show them who's boss). And Denny, when we get a couple of touchdowns ahead, could you let Tyrone Willingham play quarterback. Remember 1978? He deserves one more chance.

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**JOE KIRBY**

**Fighting Illini and memories**

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Don't forget the offensive line

continued from p. 4

line healthy this year, and it has put a strain on the offensive team.

"The injuries hurt us from a personnel standpoint and from a timing standpoint," said Charles Butler, offensive guards and centers coach.

"It's important for the kids to work together. When one kid is hurt it hurts the entire offensive line," Butler said.

Bruggenthies, who was named Spartan of the Week for his play against the Minnesota Gophers, said the lack of work together is harmful to their coordination.

"There's a lot of synchronization between guards and tackles," he said.

Once they all get back into the lineup, it shouldn't take too long to make up for the lost time, because most of them worked together last year, Bruggenthies said.

However, Brewton said he found the Minnesota game frustrating even though the team as a whole did well.

"I never had a chance to reach a peak this year," he said.

"It's like the first game for me, and I have to work to reach a peak all over."

"My ankle still hurt a little during the game, but not enough to hinder my game. The thing that hurt the most, even though we scored 38 points, was my timing," Brewton said.

Although he has practiced with the team for about two weeks, it'll take some game experience before he gets his timing set, Brewton said.

"There's no doubt that we'll go to a bowl," Bruggenthies said. "We've got a great offense and we'll just have to prove it in the next few games by scoring a lot of points."

And the game Saturday has added significance after MSU and Illinois tied last year, knocking the Spartans out of a conference tie with U-M and OSU.

"Illinois kept us from the Rose," Greg Croxton, a senior guard from Highland Park said. "We lost it right there.
Up and down MSU sidelines; taking it one yard at a time

"I can't remember exactly what year I started working Spartan football full time. I worked some games on a part time basis and eventually began full time. I honestly can't remember the year, but I know it was in the early '60s," Gerald deau commented.

Although he maintained the chain gang during the regular season contests, Gerald deau was called upon by Munn and then his successor Duffy Daugherty to officiate the scrimmages.

"We would use those scrimmages as more of a learning experience for our team," Gerald deau continued.
Thank God, it's finished. After some late nights and quite a few headaches this special supplement is completed. After all the work we put into it, I hope you readers appreciate it. I would like to thank Peggy Gossett, Micki Maynard, Larry Morgan and Ed Ronders for their stories. An extra thank-you to Rob Kozloff for the time he put in getting the pictures ready. For their spiritual guidance, I thank my friends... Joe Kirby

Quarterback Tyrone Willingham (right) was a hero in 1973 when he became the MSU starting quarterback. Since then, he has spent his time on the sidelines, waiting for his chance to play. Another familiar sideline sight is Sparty, the MSU mascot, who cheers the team to victory.

SN photos/Dan Shutt

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Biggie, Duffy and Bubba...
Lefty remembers all of them

continued from page 9

experience than a discipline thing with the players," he said. "We tried to point out their mistakes to them."

One such example he alluded to involves former MSU All-American Bubba Smith. "Bubba would get into his defensive stance close to the line of scrimmage. He was so big that when he leaned forward to gain momentum on the snap, he was offside. I explained it to him and suggested (you always suggested things to Bubba, you didn't tell him) that he line up one step back from scrimmage," Geraldau explained. "That tactic worked and one reason was Bubba's quickness."

After working for both Munn and Daugherty, Geraldau characterized the two Spartan fixtures in separate contexts.

"Biggie was a helluva guy. You had to stand up to him. But he always appreciated everything you did for him. Duffy, on the other hand was a different personality. He appreciated your efforts just as much as Biggie, but he didn't show it in Birdie's outward manner. But you knew he cared," he said.

Geraldau had worked more than 100 consecutive Spartan games, prior to missing the North Carolina State clash Sept. 27, due to a death in the family.

During that time he has observed literally hundreds of Spartan players and examined the past, saying, "Duffy's teams of the mid-'60s were excellent squads. But I think that Biggie's outfit in the early 1950s was the best college football team that I've ever seen."

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