

Local heroes savor experience

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

The date was Saturday, Oct. 7. The temperature was 57 degrees, a cold wind gusting 15-25 miles per hour and weather forecasters predicted a 40 percent chance of rain as Northwestern University's football team entered Michigan Stadium.

The upstart Wildcats, defeated only once but still doubted by critics, eventually posted a 19-13 upset victory over the No. 7 Michigan. It was Northwestern's first win over Michigan since 1965 and first at Michigan Stadium since 1959 — and six weeks later they completed an unlikely run through the Big Ten Conference.

Four student-athletes with local ties have their names etched on Northwestern's 1995 roster. And they will always remember Oct. 7 as a proud day in the Wildcats' less-than-glamorous football history.

Junior wide receiver Toussaint Waterman, a 1993 Detroit Country Day graduate, played against Michigan and contributed three catches for 48 yards. Freshmen Brian Rubin and Gerald Conway, 1993 Country Day grads and three-year varsity football teammates at DCD, watched and cheered from the sideline, though Conway kept busy tracking defensive statistics. And Buddy Yeager, a walk-on from Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood who hails from Troy, was one of 104,602 spectators in attendance.

Toussaint Waterman, Brian Rubin, Gerald Conway and Buddy Yeager can proudly say they experienced firsthand Northwestern's magical and unforgettable 1995 campaign. The startling win over mighty Michigan proved to be one of just many memorable Wildcat triumphs this season — a season that culminates Monday when the third-ranked Purple (10-1) invade Pasadena, Calif., to face the University of Southern California (8-2-1) in the Rose Bowl.

Yes, Waterman, Conway, Ru-

bin and Yeager will be in Pasadena. And yes, the four have been part of perhaps this year's greatest sports story.

The wide receiver

Northwestern secured its ninth straight victory and recorded the first 10-win season in school history at Purdue Nov. 18. The 23-6 triumph also gave the Wildcats their first ever undefeated Big Ten season, but Toussaint Waterman wasn't exactly in a celebrating mood.

Waterman suffered a lacerated kidney and a broken rib during the first half, unbeknownst to anyone.

"It was near the end of the first half of the Purdue game and I had just taken a hit after catching a pass," Waterman said. "I got up and kept playing, but things got worse as the game went on."

And the situation didn't improve. Waterman would be hospitalized for nine days.

"It was kind of scary for a while, but I'm a lot better," he admitted. "I lost a lot of weight, but basically I just had to take it easy and get some rest. And everything has healed pretty well."

Waterman, who collected six catches for 70 yards and no touchdowns in 11 regular-season games, likely won't see action in the Rose Bowl though he would "love to get in there and do some things." Waterman, 6-foot-1 and 208 pounds, was regarded as a Division I prospect during his days at Country Day. He played the majority of the time at running back on offense and occasionally split out at wide receiver. He was also a mainstay in the Yellow Jackets' defensive secondary.

But Northwestern favored his ability as a wide receiver and Waterman appears to have made the adjustment. This year he complemented leading receiver D'Wayne Bates, Brian Musso and Dave Beazley nicely.

He's also provided a familiar face for Gerald Conway and Brian Rubin.



Waterman



Rubin



Conway

The freshmen

Rubin, Conway and Waterman made up three-quarters of Detroit Country Day's starting secondary in 1992. Waterman was playing his senior season, but the three would be teammates again following Conway's and Rubin's decision also to attend school in Evanston, Ill.

Rubin admitted his friendship with Waterman and Conway played a role in his decision. "It helped in my decision to come here because I was familiar with someone (Waterman) when I made my visit," said Rubin, who excelled at defensive back, running back, wide receiver and punt returner during his senior season at DCD. "The three of us are friends and that's helped me this first year."

Conway, a solid defensive back and one of the best running backs to ever attend DCD, and Rubin didn't see any game action this season and were red-shirted. But a promising career may still be in store for both.

Rubin (5-9, 171) and Conway (6-0, 161) played together on the defensive scout team against Northwestern's starting offense. Conway played left cornerback and Rubin the right corner — and they were the lone freshmen to make the trip and dress for the Michigan game.

Both would have liked to contribute on the field this year, but Rubin is thankful for the time to adjust to college football and college life.

"I had wanted to play, but I was kind of prepared to be red-shirted," he said. "It's a good situation. I will have five years of school, and I needed to grow up a little bit mentally, socially and in every way. I don't know how a freshman can play at this level. It's such a major adjustment."

"It was exciting to watch this

season, but at the same time it was hard for Gerald and I," Rubin added. "We'll pretty much have the same team back next year, but we could get the opportunity to play."

Rubin, who thinks the increased speed is the biggest difference between high school and college football, says the frenzied atmosphere depicted in newspaper articles and captured on television engulfed the campus and even Chicago.

"It was crazy around here during the regular season," he said. Buddy Yeager couldn't have known he would be in Pasadena on Jan. 1 either.

The walk-on

Not many people probably know that Buddy Yeager was a senior captain on one of Cranbrook's best football teams in recent years. Yeager was a center for the Cranes in 1994 when they finished 8-1 and captured the Metro Conference title.

Yeager set his sights on Princeton University after high school, but when that failed to materialize he sought other options. Enter Northwestern.

"Bud was really impressed with Princeton, but they turned him down," said Larry Yeager, Buddy's father. "After that he got accepted at Northwestern and I asked him if he wouldn't mind if I sent the football coaches a tape on him and he said fine."

"So I sent the tape and called the school to follow up. And sure enough they wanted to take a look at him."

That "look" eventually enabled Yeager to walk on as a freshman. Like Rubin and Conway, he was red-shirted this season but had his place on the Dyche Stadium sideline. He served as a reserve long snapper and the scout team's tight guard against the starting defense.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 29
St. Ignace Academy, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Wayne at Elm, Bro. Rice, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday-Friday, Dec. 28-29
Liv. Stevenson at Cleveland, Ohio
Classic Tournament, TBA.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Dec. 28
Liv. Stevenson at Bedford Inv., TBA.
Friday, Dec. 29
Liv. Stevenson, Liv. Churchil.
Bed. Thurston, F.H. Mercy
at UH-Deartown Tourney, 6 a.m.

WEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 29
Scholastic College Classic
East Mead vs. Spring Arbor JV, 8 p.m.
Scholastic vs. Owens Tech, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30
Scholastic Holiday Classic, 1 & 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 28
Scholastic Holiday Classic, 6 & 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29
Concordia at Madonna Univ., 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30
Aquinas at Madonna Univ., 3 p.m.
TBA — times to be announced.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO RELOCATE A BANK OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that Midwest Guaranty Bank, 201 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 125, Troy, MI has made application with the commissioner of the Michigan Financial Institutions Bureau for permission to relocate its business office from 33897 W. Five Mile Rd. to 37091 W. Five Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. The application was accepted for filing on December 19, 1995.

Any person who desires to protest the application must, pursuant to section 30 of the Michigan Banking Code of 1969, as amended, MCLA 487.330; MSA 23.710(30), file a written notice of protest with the commissioner of the financial institutions bureau, P.O. Box 50224, 630 S. Capitol Avenue, Suite A4, Lansing, MI 48909, and with the applicant not later than January 10, 1996.

The application is on file with the commissioner and may be inspected during regular business hours.

This notice is published pursuant to section 30 of the Banking Code of 1969, as amended, being section 487.330 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; as amended by Act No. 524 of the Public Acts of 1978, which sets forth the procedures for processing applications and the manner in which protests of applications may be made.

CLARKE B. MAXSON
President

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Note: OCC will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 2



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January 5 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See official course schedule for further details

Classes begin
Monday, January 8

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