

# Eagles emphasize skills

by Steve Borgis

Over 100 players greeted Head Coach Fred Martinelli and his staff when football practice opened this August. Unfortunately, Ashland can put only 11 of those players on the field at one time.

Inexperience could be the teams major problem this year. Less than half of last season's starters return this fall. The team also lacks overall size and is questionable in speed and quickness.

Martinelli feels the team has worked themselves into better condition than they were at this time last year. The morale of the team and their response to coaching is another plus factor.

Offensively, Ashland needs to control the line of scrimmage, show a more balanced attack, and move the ball more consistently than last year.

Right tackle and three-year letterman Bill Hoffman leads the offensive line. Phil Laux plays the other tackle. Bob Nemecek and Gary Thiebaud handle the guard posts and Jim Chiampo, a two-year letterman, returns at center.

Injuries allowed 16 men to play in the backfield last year for Ashland. Because of this, the Eagles now have a wealth of running backs.

Steve Ross and Dave Burnison play the fullback position. Burnison led the team in rushing last year with 483 yards. Ross switched from quarterback to full back in the middle of last year. His first game was nothing short of spectacular as he reeled of 170 plus yards.

Mike Irby has come on strong this fall and will start at tailback. Dan Schultz, last season's second leading rusher, will back him up.

Steve Komara has been switched from fullback to the starting flanker position. Jamie Martin backs him up and also backs up the speedy split end, Bob Spano. Jeff Groza has a grip on the tight end slot.

Quarterback problems last year left the offense without a "take charge guy." Kevin Upton led the team in its last two victories last season and has the edge over former starter Bill Gorman.

Jeff Groza seems to have improved his kicking game due to improvement by the center and the holder. Groza holds many scoring records at Ashland and has a chance to set some more during his final season.

Martinelli feels the offense must gain four or more yards on first down. He hopes to throw between 15 and 25 times a game. Runningwise, the coach will try to establish his inside game before the outside.

Five starters return from last years solid defense. Martinelli feels the defense must improve its pursuit speed and movement to the football this year.

Pete Vasilakos goes after his third letter at AC. The stellar tackle's running mate is Joe Somrak. Ashland may have a solution to the middle guard problem in Joe Collins. The freshman's eagerness and excellent quickness have propelled him into the starting role.

Defensive end is one of the big question marks in Ashland defense. Tyrone Owens and Mike Ruetty will be in their first year as starters on the varsity.

Mike Blauman and Jerry Draga return at the safety spots. These two combined for 13 interceptions last year. Blauman also returns punts.

Calvin Kennedy, a strong pass defender, will open at one corner. Hard-hitting Doug Seibert has the other corner, and will cover the wide side of the field. Both are new starters.

All-American Dick Miller returns for his senior year at linebacker. Miller led the team in tackles last year with 130. Over the last two years he has averaged 13 tackles a game. Jim Straka plays the other linebacker. He will be chal-

lenged by Ron Brown, who missed a week of practice due to studies at Harvard.

Martinelli has 94 victories in his career and everyone at Ashland is looking forward to number 100. His able coaching staff includes John Valentine, Defensive Coordinator; Gary Prahst, Offensive Coordinator; Gary Moose, Defensive line Coach; and Bill Bresford, Defensive back and offensive end Coach.

Ashland faces its toughest schedule since Martinelli took over as head coach. Only one of its ten opponents finished the season with a losing record. National champion Wittenberg and Eastern Kentucky highlight the schedule.

## AC track stars return

Four All-Americans will run this Fall for Ashland College's National championship Cross Country team.

Bill Welsh, Mark Hogue, Jack McQuown and Bob Gutjahr should keep coach Paul Armor happy again this season.

The fifth spot remains open and Bob Linn, a Track All-American, should contest for the spot with Barry King, National champ in the 880-yard run last year. Three freshmen could make important contributions to the program. They are Dale Mitiska from Amherst, Denny Hammond of Reynoldsburg and Bob Burton from Old Greenwich, Conn.

Armor said, "Since we have four All-Americans returning, we should have a good chance to be strong on the national level again." He is concerned about whether the team will work hard enough to reach their potential.

The teams goals have been set high in order to give the runners some incentive. They hope to repeat as All-Ohio Champions and also repeat as National Champs.



## Sports Roundup

Most Ashland College students went home after exams in May last Spring, but the year did not finish for some AC athletes until the middle of June.

The track team captured the NCAA Division 3 national championship in late May. Six Eagle runners combined to win 12 different All-American honors.

Jim Baum, Steve Foster, and Barry King all won national championships. Baum scored 16 individual points in the meet and won the decathlon. Foster captured the mile and King took the 880-yard run crown.

Foster then ended his brilliant career by placing eighth in the NCAA University division Track and Field Nationals. The Eagle senior ran a time of 4:03.7, which was an outstanding run, considering the slow opening pace the field of 12

runners set. Foster reached the finals by running 4:04.8 in the preliminaries.

Ashland College's golf team captured 13th place in the NCAA College-Division Nationals last week in Tampa, Fla., after suffering through a shakey first two days of the four-day tournament.

The Eagles were cooling their heels in 24th place after two days of action. "I never dreamed we would be up that high after our lousy start," said Eagle Coach Bill Jones of AC's 13th place with 1,265 strokes.

Ashland slumped its way to 332 and 318 scores the first two days. Then the alligators and snakes along the course stopped getting in Ashland's way. The Eagles fired a 309 on the 3rd day for the sixth best score of the day among the 31 teams (continued on page 11)



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#### CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Sept. 13, Canoe-Cross Country Championships  
Sept. 22, at Springbank International  
Sept. 24, at CCC West-JV Invitational  
Sept. 28, at Malone Invitational  
Oct. 5, Ashland Distance Classic  
Oct. 9, at Mt. Union  
Oct. 19, at All-Ohio Championships  
Oct. 23, Baldwin-Wallace, Cleveland St.  
Oct. 26, at Penn-Ohio Championships  
Nov. 2, at Central State  
Nov. 9, at NCAA Championships

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