

The Mooring Mast

Pacific Lutheran University
Vol. LVII Special Edition
December 12, 1980



SPECIAL

EDITION

Lutes host Quakers in NAIA title contest

By Eric Thomas

PLU head football coach Frosty Westering may have been tempted to drop Ohio State coaching legend Woody Hayes a line in preparation for tomorrow's national championship tilt with Wilmington.

According to Westering, the films the Lutes received Tuesday of the Quakers' 31-17 NAIA semifinal victory over William Jewell last week revealed an offense suspiciously reminiscent of the ground attack utilized so successfully by the Buckeyes.

"They're like an Ohio State team of Woody Hayes' era," said Westering. "They have a big quarterback who'll run with the option and they go inside with their tailback and fullback. They will run it way more than they'll throw it. They try, in theory, to take the opening kickoff and use the whole first quarter to go down and score."

Such strategy sets the stage for PLU's own game plan in the NAIA finale, which Westering admits could be a high-scoring shootout.

"It's a matter of our ability to slow them down and cause them to make some mistakes," he said. "They've scored on everybody and we think we can score, so it may be one of those wild games that's back and forth in scoring."

On the other end of the game film exchange, Quaker head coach Bill Ramseyer was similarly impressed by what he saw. "PLU is a very strong football team," he said. "They have a fine passing attack and a fine running game. They've got good defensive size and quickness, and safety Scott Kessler is very talented as is receiver Scott Westering. They're a very balanced team."



Yell king Dale Thomas

No. 6-ranked Wilmington posted a 7-1-0 regular season record in a league that included last year's national champion, Findlay, also of Ohio. "That Hoosier-Buckeye conference has got to be a dandy when the defending national champion (Findlay which beat PLU 9-0 in the semifinals last year) finishes fourth," said Westering. "It would be kind of like us having to play Linfield every other week."

The Quakers became the East Coast champions after a 56-49 marathon playoff shootout with Hanover that went through four overtimes. Two weeks later they claimed the East-Mideast crown by beating William Jewell 31-17.

"We'd hoped to have an effective combination of passing and running (in the Jewell game) but that's not how it turned out," said Ramseyer. "We didn't pass very well at all."

Instead, Quaker runners Gary Worthy and Russel Williams ground out 361 yards and three TD's to spark Wilmington to a come-from-behind victory. "This certainly is one of the best teams I've coached in terms of its attitude, spirit and togetherness," said Ramseyer of his '80 squad. "We felt we could have a good season."

PLU had similar thoughts when it regrouped after a No. 2 national finish last year, with Westering

"They've scored on everybody and we think we can score so it may be one of those wild games that's back and forth in scoring."- Frosty Westering.

careful to stress consistent performance throughout the season. "I don't think you have control over winning a national championship, but I do think you have control over yourself and playing at a high level," he said. "We believed that the potential of this team could (had enough horsepower) if things could fit together for us, and if we could weather the injuries and the storms we were going to have to play."

The Lutes did manage to weather the storms, all except Hurricane Alan (Schmidlin) down in Linfield, where the Wildcat standout put enough points on the board in the first half to give Linfield a narrow 20-19 victory and displace the Lutes from their No. 1 national perch.

Revenge came quickly, however, as the Lutes gained the West Coast championship by solidly trouncing the Wildcats 35-20 in opening round playoff action at Lincoln Bowl.

Last week the Lutes extended their record to 10-1-0 with a 32-0 home shutout of Valley City, ND, that gave them the West-Midwest crown and set the stage for Tacoma's landing of the national title game with Wilmington.

"Wilmington just doesn't have the facilities to handle the playoffs and they've never had one on the West Coast before," said Westering of the NAIA decision to hold the game at the Lincoln Bowl. "One of the great things we had going for us was Jim Kittilsby. He handles the banquets, the press box and the media so much more professionally than the others do, plus the NAIA thinks our facility is the best in the country for this type of game. It's just a class operation."

NAIA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



PLU blankets Valley C

The snowfall that blanketed Tacoma last weekend must have made the playing conditions for the semifinal playoff game between PLU and Valley City State seem very familiar to the North Dakota visitors.

However, most everything else the undefeated Vikings saw that afternoon from the number four ranked Lutes was painfully unfamiliar to what they were accustomed to in their league back home.

The PLU defense slowed the Valley City offense to a standstill for most of the contest, allowing just 87-yards of total offense while picking off five passes enroute to a 32-0 blanking of the Vikings.

"Although the score looked like a big blowout, I think they were better than that," said PLU head football coach Frosty Westering. "Of course, their conference back there isn't like ours is out here competition-wise. With us, Linfield, Whitworth and Lewis and Clark you've got four really strong ballclubs."

The game started out with PLU winning the toss and opting to kick, and for the first four minutes it looked like the Lutes were headed for a long afternoon as the Vikings hammered 45 yards down to the PLU 25. On the next play however, quarterback Mark Smetana fumbled after being hit by tackle Greg

Rohr and the ball was recovered by defensive end John Feldman to end the threat.

"We think the wind is a great advantage even when there isn't a lot of it, because of its effect when you kick and pass it," said Westering of his decision to kick off. "On their first possession we started out playing them honest to see what they'd do. They were running veer, speed, and counter options and we decided they weren't going to throw. So we stacked up on their running game."

The Lutes mounted two first quarter drives deep into Viking territory only to be hindered both times by illegal procedure penalties that created fourth down situations.

In both instances PLU unsuccessfully went for the touchdown rather than taking the short field goal.

"I suppose if you go straight out of the book it says you kick the field goal in those situations," said Westering. "But playing conservative has never been our style and we felt we could get momentum going if we got the touchdown."

PLU finally got on the board with 2:39 left in the first period, but it came as the result of a defensive effort. Faced with fourth and long deep in Lute territory, a low Viking center snap got by the Valley City punter and was recovered by linebacker Scott McKay in the en-

dzone for a 6-0 lead.

The Lutes hit paydirt twice more to go ahead 18-0 at the half, the first score coming on a 1-yard quarterback keeper by senior Eric Carlson. Five minutes later fullback Mike Westmiller crashed over from the three to cap a 44-yard drive started with safety Scott Kessler's interception.

"We showed such good balance against Valley City and got a sterling defensive performance from the defense," said Westering. "The secondary's improved ability to come up and help out on the run has proved to be very effective."

The second half seemed to follow the script from the first, as the Vikings took the kickoff and moved out to their own 47-yardline before Feldman, who received defensive player of the game honors, sacked Smetana to create a fourth and forty situation to end the drive.

PLU scored once in each of the final two periods, the first coming on a 1-yard Guy Ellison plunge that sewed up the game and allowed many reserves to finish out the action. "I'm sure a lot of guys had no idea that they'd get a chance to play," said Westering. "It's really neat they had a chance to contribute."

Westmiller, who rushed for 86 yards to earn the offensive player of the game award, scored his second TD early in the last quarter to close out the scoring.

Running-mates Chris Utt and Jeff Rohr tallied 89 and 38 yards respectively and quarterback Eric Carlson threw for 91-yards (74 of which were to halfback Guy Ellison) to account for 349 yards of total offense.

Defensively, cornerback Mark Lester picked off two passes, while fellow deepbacks Scott Kessler and Rich Vranjes and linebacker Mike Durett each had one.

The Lutes sustained another blow to its corps of starters when defensive tackle Greg Rhor sustained a knee injury. "We've lost three key players to injuries in the playoffs: Greg from the defen-

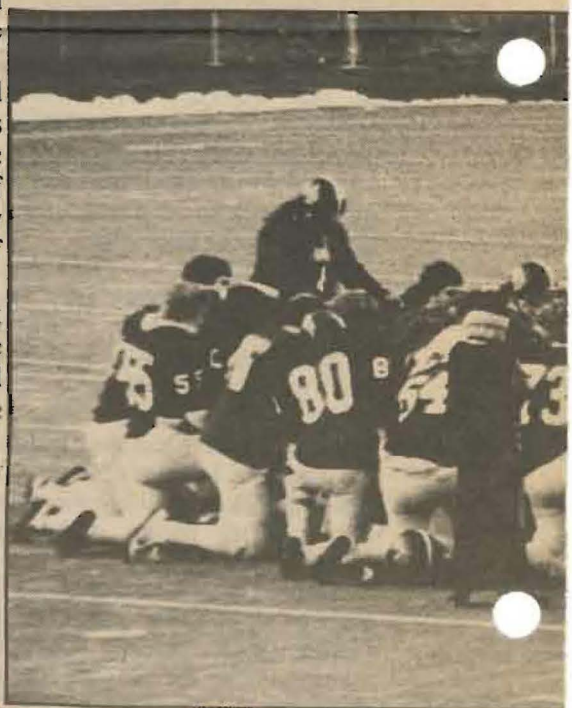
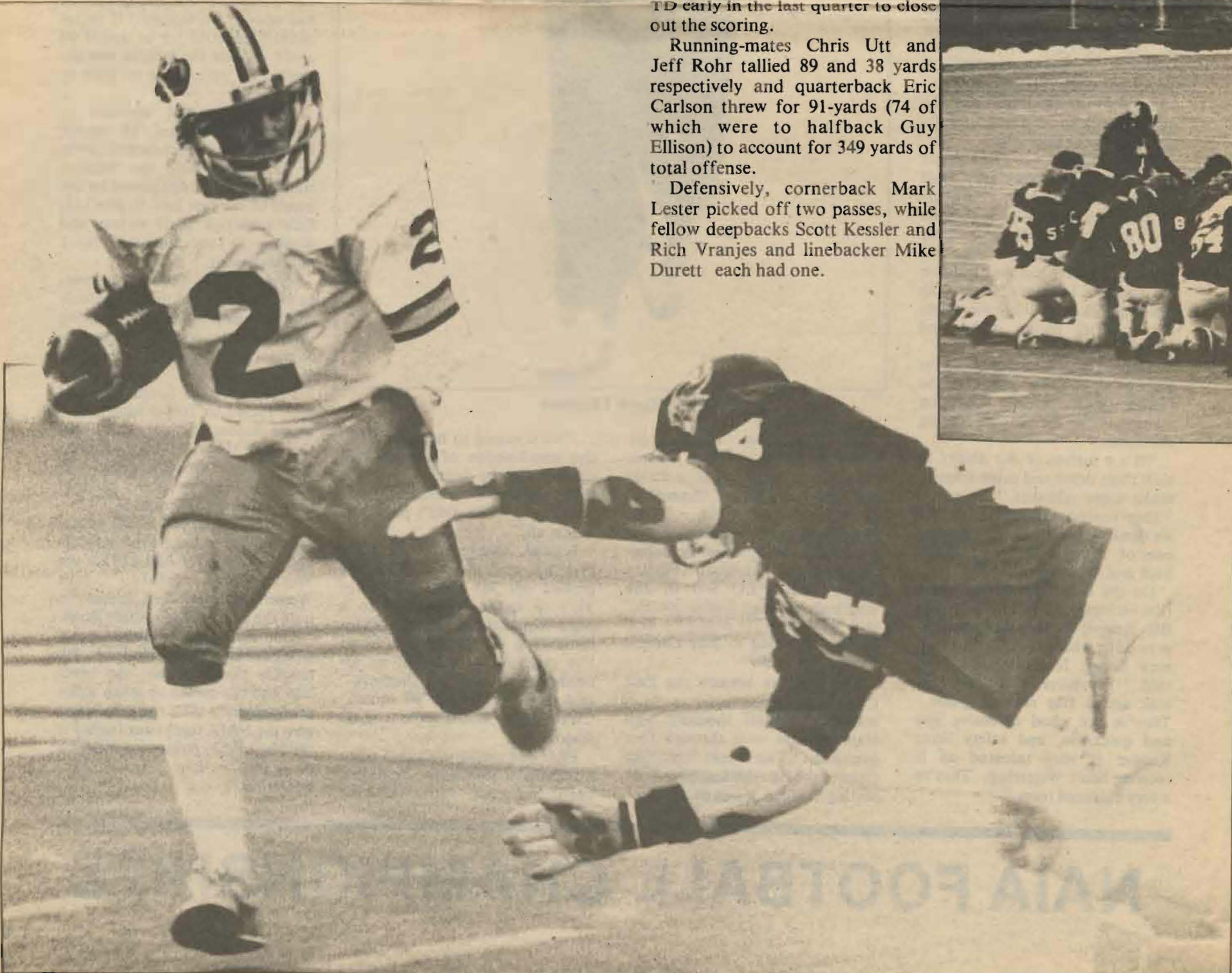
sive Chris Rhor said that read whe

Story by

Eric Thomas

Photos by

Dan Voelpel

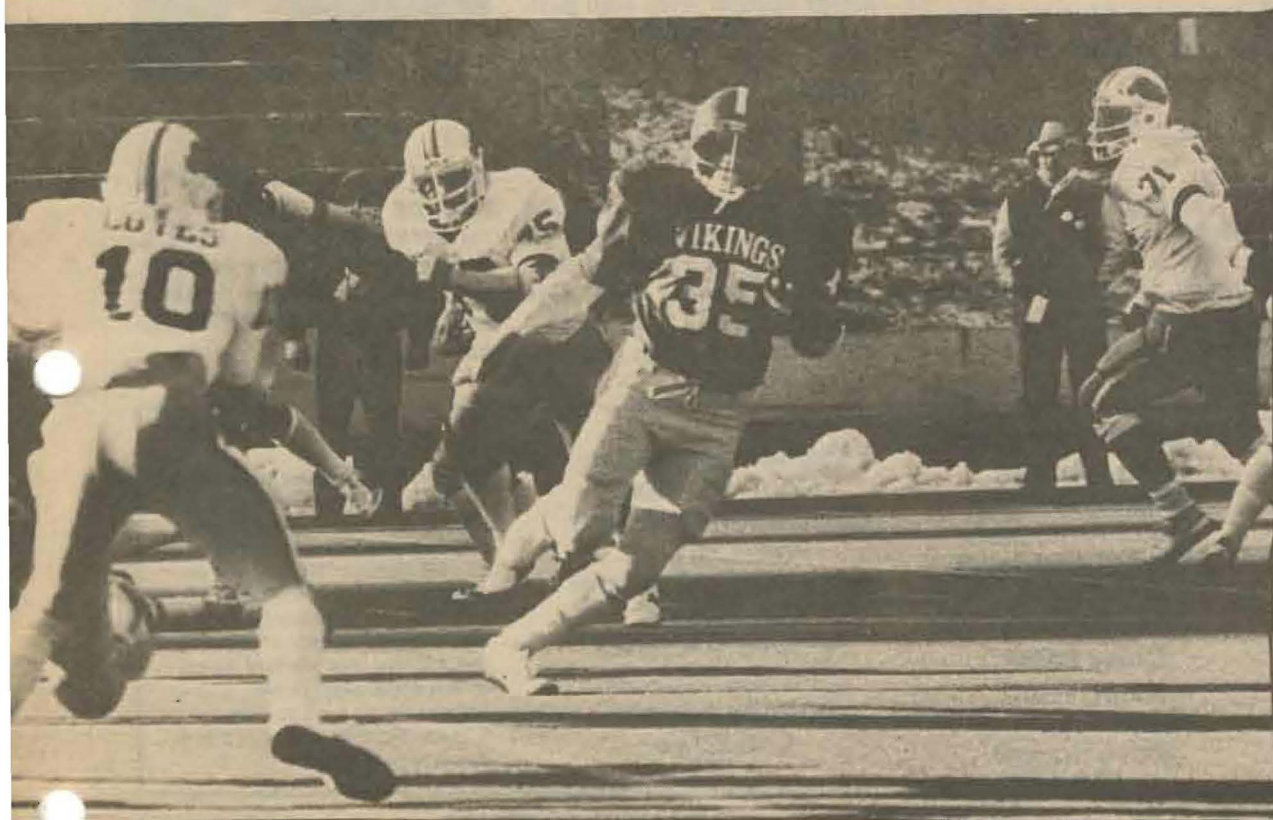


ity St. 32-0

ine, Scott Davis at center and
Miller at defensive back,"
Westering. "But the key is
we've got guys in backup roles
y to come in and do the job
they're called upon."



Clockwise from top: Led by No. 33 Mike Westmiller, PLU enters the field at the beginning of the contest; Head coach Frosty Westering and troops at Post-game awards ceremony; Senior quarterback Eric Carlson awaits the call for the offense; No. 10 Dennis McDonough, No. 75 Steve Kirk, and No. 71 Jay Freisheim converge on a Valley City State player; Lutes and Vikings gather for post-game prayer; Injured Lutes Greg Rohr, Tim Wahl, Chris Miller and Scott Davis watch from the sidelines. Far Left: No. 2 Guy Ellison eludes Viking tackler.



Tomorrow's game will be a first and a last for 1980-81 seniors

By Eric Thomas

To one particular group of PLU football players, tomorrow's contest with Wilmington represents a first and a last.



Scott Kessler

In that game, 16 seniors will get taped, don the familiar black-and-yellow uniform and be introduced to their fans, all for the last time as they begin a four-quarter countdown that culminates in the end of their college football careers.

That countdown, however, also presents the opportunity to play for the NAIA cham-

"I'd love to spend every ounce of energy and be exhausted. The ultimate total release." - Scott Kessler.

pionship of the United States, an achievement dreamed of by many, but done by few.

The seniors were asked what the game meant to them and although the following records only some individual feelings, all mentioned the same commitment to their teammates and to their God.

"This game is the national championship, and to me it's the pinnacle of my career, a dream come true," said end Paul Berghuis. "When I take off the pads this Saturday I will never put them back on again. It's a part of my life that I will be leaving behind and one of the best at that, especially since coming to PLU."

For lineback Mike Durrett the game is a transition.

"I feel it will probably be the biggest game in my life, but not because of the championship," he said. "Sure that's important, but for me it's a transition game between having each week with the guys I love and care for and

not seeing them as much."

Halfback Guy Ellison feels a victory is an important element in the contest.

"A win on the scoreboard would be important for two reasons," he said. "One, Frosty and the staff deserve the recognition, and it would open more doors for him to share the program. More importantly, though, it may open doors for the players to go out and witness for Christ."

Safety Scott Kessler transferred to the program two years ago, and has been a defensive leader since.

"When I walk off Saturday,



Scott Westering

I don't care if we won or lost as long as I can look in the mirror and know I've pleased my God by my attitude and actions," he said. "I'd love to spend every ounce of energy I have on the field and be exhausted—the ultimate total release."

Tight end Scott Westering is probably the only Lute with a

"It gives me an opportunity to share Jesus with people I never would have met otherwise." - Scott Westering.

shot at turning pro, yet he downplays this game's significance.

"I feel God means it to be just another experience for me in my life," he said. "Football is just a silly game with a leather ball. I feel God has blessed me with the talent to play, so I play. It gives me an opportunity to share Jesus with people I never would have met otherwise. The game will be exciting, fulfilling and a great memory, but that's all."

Defensive tackle Rocky Ruddy finds himself in a different role for the championship contest.

"I'll play more than I have in several weeks because Greg (Rohr) is hurt," he said. "It will be very exciting to play, and I'm thankful we've been able to play this long and this hard. But I can't take the glory for what happens Saturday; it's the Lord's."

Another defensive lineman, Jay Freisheim, wants to play the game for his fellow seniors.

"I want to win this game for the seniors because they've been so special to me," he said. "This game is very important to me. It's the game of my life, and it'll be very emotional for all of us."

Center Scott Davis' playing season ended with ligament damage to his knee in the second Linfield contest, but each practice and meeting finds him hobbling about on crutches yelling encouragement.

"The game is just prolonging the trip one more time for one more week," he



Guy Ellison

said. "After this week the special closeness, fellowship and teamwork will only be a memory. Saturday will be the final climax that represents so much more than football. It represents love, tears, and our family pulling together for the last time."

Guard Tom Wahl sees the game as "the" way to end the

"Frosty and the staff deserve the recognition and it would open more doors for him to share the program." - Guy Ellison.

season.

"This game is a dream come true for me," he said. "It's the climax of nine years of football, and I'm sure that win or lose, there isn't a better way to end a career."

Fellow lineman John Bley eyes the game as a way to culminate the use of his God-given talent.

"All of us are endowed with special gifts, but it's up to us how we develop them," he said. "Participating in a national championship is a great opportunity to play to our God-given potential."

For defensive tackle Steve Kirk, the contest offers PLU a chance for exposure and respect.

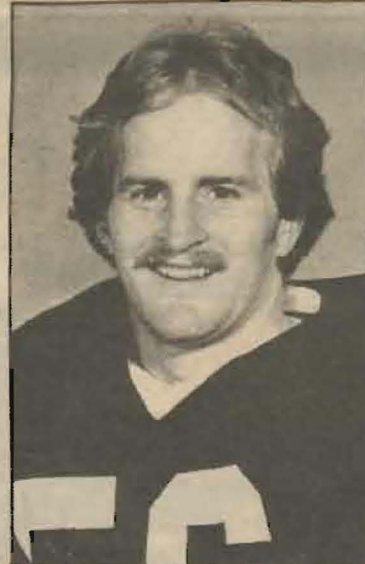
"This game gives us a chance to give PLU national exposure," he said. "Through the way we conduct ourselves,

"I'm hurting deep down because Greg's knee injury means he won't be able to share this game with me." - Glenn Rohr.

we can convey God and presence to people who might not have been exposed to it. I also think that some people believe that PLU is a team that can't win the big ones. Hopefully, we can put that claim to rest."

Offensive-receiver-turned-defensive end this year, Don Gale, finds the Wilmington tilt a fitting end to his four-year Lute career.

"This game is the culmination of four years of perspiration and inspiration,"



Glenn Rohr

he said. "To me it's the best way a senior could ever hope to top off a career. It also means another week with guys I may never see again."

For linebacker Glenn Rohr, Saturday holds extra special meaning because of his brother Greg's injury last week.

"I'm sad that I won't be around for another game to share the great feeling of love and competition with this beautiful team," he said. "My biggest emotion, though,

is that I'm hurting deep down because Greg's knee injury means he won't be able to share this game with me. I'm so proud of him and the chance I had to play ball with

"It's a great way to play to our God-given potential." - John Bley.

him."

Quarterback Eric Carlson looks forward to ending his career with the guys he's grown close to.

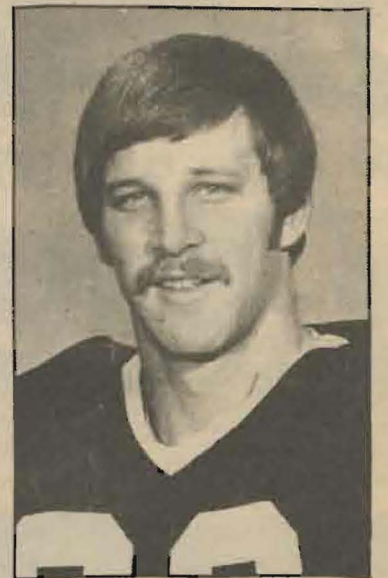
The game means the end of my competitive athletic career, and naturally it would mean a lot to me to end it on a positive note," he said. "But more than that, it would seem a fitting climax to a great season of struggles and triumphs with a group of guys that I've grown close to." He added, "I'd like to tell my kids I played on a national championship team and that their old man was once a player, believe it or not."

Offensive lineman Barry Spomer views his last game as a way to reach out while having fun.

"It's a rare opportunity when a team like PLU's has a chance to identify with Christ and possibly touch hundreds of people," he said. "But most of all, I just want to have a good time finishing off an inspiring four years with a group of men I love a lot."

Tackle Mike Pederson believes the challenge of being a winner continues on after this last game.

"The outcome of the game, on the scoreboard, is not the real goal I have strived to achieve," he said. "The achievement of self-discipline, of being a winner is what I



John Bley

seek. The game will quickly be nothing but an exciting memory, but what I have become due to involvement with Jesus and the football team is something I will always have."

	Editor Kathleen M. Hosfeld	Photography Editor Greg Lehman	Business Manager Corri Minden	The Mooring Mast is published weekly by the students of Pacific Lutheran University under the auspices of the Board of Regents. Opinions expressed in the Mast are not intended to represent those of the regents, the administration, the faculty, the student body, or the Mast staff. Letters to the editor should be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday of the same week of publication.
	News Editor Tom Koehler	Magazine Editor Marci Ameluxen	Circulation Manager Pam Carlson	
	Features Editor Petra Rowe	Editorial Assistants Dan Voelpel	Advertising Manager Cindy Kloth	
	Sports Editor John Wallace	Eric Thomas	Technical Advisor Mike Frederickson	
	Production Editor Margo Student	Copy Editor Karen Wold	Faculty Advisor Cliff Rowe	
	Graphics Editor Steve Hauge			