

Dike Beede Celebrates 40th Football Season

By JUDY GOLDICH

Dike Beede, entering his fortieth football season, has the distinction of being the only Youngstown ever named as "Small College Football Coach of the Year". He is also cited for being second in point of service among the small college coaches in the nation.

Dick Beede and football are synonymous he has directed football since its inception at Youngstown University.

Not many Y. U. students know that the penalty flag was invented by Beede. Previous to this invention, the referees would blow a horn to indicate that there was an infraction of the rules. Mr. Beede was certain that a visual apparatus rather than an audible sound would be more effective.

Dike Beede's wife made the first four penalty flags used in a football game. This method was tried for the first time in 1942, when Oklahoma City University came to play the Penguins.

The penalty flag was then adopted by the "Big 10" schools and used in the Rose Bowl game that year. Today, high schools, colleges, and pro football teams use the penalty flag system invented by Dike.

Dike Beede started his football career at Youngstown South High School where he starred for the Warriors. He played with Carnegie Tech.

When asked how football has changed since the days when he played Mr. Beede replied, "Football has become a bigger and faster game, quite a bit more

intricate and complicated; today it is a much better game!"

Coach Beede went on to elaborate on how becoming a state university would effect athletics at Y. U. "No immediate change will occur; but as the facilities develop and the student body grows, these factors will eventually lead to stronger athletic teams."

Beede chuckled when asked if he found it necessary to give a "pep talk" to the team before a game. "No", he replied, "they are a bunch of hard working boys, with a desire to win; I simply give them their last minute instructions."

The coach stated the reasons why Youngstown University does not play in a conference. "First of all we are in a geographical area that does not have enough schools comparable to our own. We are too strong for the Ohio Conference and play only Baldwin Wallace, the top team in that league. It is impossible for a small, private school such as Y. U. to belong to the Mid-American Conference."

Beede further stated that he refuses to schedule games that are "too easy". He believes in scheduling teams that play on a caliber equal to our own. "I believe in giving the boys a challenge, a big game to shoot for."

