

Gun sounds on Dike's 40yr. career

By Bob Wilcox
Sports Writer

A glance at the assignment board: Wilcox — wrapup on Beede's career at YSU! Just another assignment in the life of a sportswriter: seventy years of living and almost forty years of coaching to "wrapup." Dwight "Dike" Beede!

In researching the project, one is impressed with a description of Beede's football philosophy found in a Master of Science Thesis, An Historical Study of Football at YSU, Marilyn Jones, Ohio University, June 10, 1956: "The Beede philosophy concerning the primary value of football is that it offers a practice lesson in mixing with people under many conditions, at camp and in travel experiences in addition to game circumstances. Football presents life situations not met in the classroom."

"Beede believes that a valuable psychological happening can take place when playing against superior opponents. Mental barriers may be broken down. There is often a tendency to think of some aspirations as unattainable. Analogous to this is the awe which an attorney is apt to feel toward a judge, mentally placing a shroud of mystery around the attainment of judgeship."

"Football offers a laboratory experience in these human relations, according to Beede. When Youngstown wiped out deficits against highly touted Great Lakes and St. Bonaventure teams to win, this mystical mental shroud of unattainability was subtly, but effectively, removed." (ED.

NOTE: 1954, YSU 34—Great Lakes and St. Bonaventure 14)

"Beede believes in a growing balance between the school and the strength of the football team..."

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Beede's career log

It must be noted that, with regard to the above philosophy, this final just-concluded season for Dike was a study in affirmation, with the Penguins coming from behind to upset such powerhouses as Northern Michigan and Akron, earning a tie with machine-like Central Michigan and just blasting a highly considered Xavier team out of the stadium.

The fact that Indiana University of Pennsylvania spoiled Dike's final game at the helm of YSU's football fortunes, blasting the Birds, 31—14 does in no way tarnish the true-gold glitter of this man's career. It is a career that has, in its arrow-straight pursuit of the finest and purest goals and ambitions, afforded unknown numbers of stalwart young men inspiration and an insight or evaluation of themselves and their lives which could be achieved in no other manner.

Beede is a native Youngstown, having graduated from South High School. The nation's oldest active college coach, he reaches the mandatory state retirement age of 70 this year. He entered this campaign tied for fifth among active college coaches in total victories with 171. Four wins this year bring his victory to 175.

Beede graduated from Car-

negie Tech in 1926 and spent eight years coaching at Westminster and Geneva before returning home to Youngstown. He went into the insurance business and only a chain of circumstances enlisted his services as the part-time coach of the new football team of Youngstown College. His degree was in Engineering.

He has been well recognized for his contributions to football. In 1966, he was named to the Helms Athletic Foundation "College Football Hall of Fame." The Football Writers Association named him the "Small College Coach of the Year" in 1957, on his Silver Anniversary in coaching.

A self-made expert in forestry, Beede was recently appointed to the Ohio Forestry Advisory Council by Governor John Gilligan. His farm and home, near Lisbon, is recognized throughout the state for being exemplary of tree farming and land management.

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Dwight 'Dike' Beede

Beede

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Beede's absolute refusal to compromise his own personal convictions, dedication to the game of football or the game of "life" and his high ideals have certainly afforded many young men an opportunity for the development of their own inner strength, competitive spirit and moral convictions..

Everything considered, records evaluated, friends queried, a 175-146-20 lifetime coaching record (147-118-14 at YSU), a look at his personal life, family, his love of trees and forestry, it must be said of Dwight "Dike" Beede, that he is an honorable man. He has influenced and contributed to the honor of thousands of young men and women. It must be said that as he tread his path of life through the world of football, the academic world, this community and the lives of many youngsters, he left only constructive footprints where he stepped.

This is not meant to lessen respect for many other great men who have contributed to youth, football and Youngstown State University, it is perhaps that Dwight "Dike" Beede elicits just a little greater degree of respect and, even love, from most who have experienced his firm but benevolent training and leadership.

Contrary to modern-day football teams, universities and athletic offices, Dike is easily accessible to the reporter, his players, teachers and coaches, other students and even, we hazard, to any grimy faced youngster off the street that wants to talk football, trees and woods or just to talk a little.

Office door open-no need to knock-a hearty "come on in"-one suspects a smile of welcome but the stern and sun burnt face is so weathered and wrinkled that it is

impossible to tell.

The interview, more like a friendly chat, is lengthy, personal, colorful, straightforward and interesting. Dike is inclined to be extremely pessimistic with regard to upcoming games and very generous concerning teams the Penguins have already played, either in victory or defeat. A reporter could lead every football story, week in and week out, with "Beede says this is the toughest team YSU has faced all year." One suspects that sometimes Dike is a little less than his usual

candid self when asked for predictions about certain upcoming games.

Nevertheless, after interviews with other sports figures and personalities, including coaches, all very busy, pressed for time and too often filled with a sense of their own importance, Dwight "Dike" Beede is a refreshing break in a sometimes mundane and routine occupation. For this, and each must have his own personal reasons, this reporter will sorely miss the interesting presence of Dike Beede and the personal association.