

Lippencott sparks SRU offense

By BILL FOLEY
Special to the Rocket

Two weeks ago, Herb Lippencott was a wide receiver for the Slippery Rock University football team.

Last season, Herb Lippencott was a wide receiver for the SRU team.

Through three years of varsity scholastic football, Lippencott was a wide receiver and a halfback for the Monessen Pa. High School football team.

And where did Lippencott play Saturday in the Western Pennsylvania Conference opener against Edinboro? Quarterback.

"The coaches were talking about putting in a quarterback to run the option," said Lippencott, a 5-foot-10, 175-pound sophomore. "With our quarterbacks Eric Denton and Steve Statnick hurt, I told coach George Mihalik I'd give it a shot."

Lippencott had four days to practice his new position before the Edinboro game. He had to learn in those four days what "most times it takes a quarterback a year to learn," said Mihalik, the running back coach.

A wide-receiver-turned-quarterback, a position he has not played since junior high school. Unorthodox?

"You better believe it," Mihalik said. "We were thinking, 'are we doing the right thing?' 'Five weeks down the road, we'd know. But before the game, we were nervous. It could have backfired.'"

But it didn't. Though Slippery Rock lost the game to the Scots 24-14, the coaching staff found that Lippencott could run the Wishbone offense.

"What impressed us most was how he picked up the concept of the Wishbone," Mihalik said. "Basically, it's a reaction-type offense. Nothing is set. When the defense does a certain thing, the quarterback reacts differently. Other offenses are pre-determined, like handing off to the halfback. But he has great athletic ability, and that made the decision all the more easy."

Lippencott admits it wasn't an error-less transition.

"I was nervous, and I had trouble getting the snaps and pulling away from center," he said. "But I had some pretty good runs," adding, "Edinboro took the pitch away, and their corners took out our backs."

In the process, he gained 133 yards on 26 carries, including a 54 yard touchdown run off left tackle. As a result, Slippery Rock's offense has improved. Six

different backs carried the ball, and the team amassed a season high 253 ground yards. It also snapped a string of 11 straight quarters without scoring a point, when Greg Paterra scored on a 27 yard run early in the first quarter.

"That was the best our offense has looked so far," said head coach Don Ault. "Our offense is now scoring points, and that gives our kids confidence, and deservedly so. Against Clarion we'll probably go with Lippencott, he deserves to start."

"With one game experience, he shouldn't have to worry about the snaps," Mihalik said. "That should be automatic." "Last week we worked on his just getting the ball, this week we'll go over the finer points," he added.

Those finer points will be put on display Saturday at 2 p.m. at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium, when Slippery Rock, 0-4 overall and 0-1 in the PC-W, hosts Clarion 1-2, 0-1.

Lippencott is looking forward to the challenge of start No. 2. "You have more control over the game at quarterback," he said. "No one can move until you call for the snap."

ROCK IM

The IM Department would like to congratulate Mike Deubel and Kelly Kooser on being crowned men's and women's IM tennis champions, respectively. Deubel defeated P.A. Malstrom in the championship, while Kooser decisoned Sonya Tangert for the IM mug.

Flag football, soccer, and broomball have completed their second week of action. Flag football games are played Monday through Thursday from 4-6 p.m. on the intramural fields. Any questions concerning rainouts, please call or stop by the IM office at 2:30 (794-7392).

Entries for the bocce tournament are due Oct. 15. An organizational meeting will be held on Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. in the Field House, room 119. Play will begin Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. There is a limit of two people per team. Play will take place in the grass area in front of the library.

Entries for Ultimate Frisbee and men's and women's volleyball are due on Oct. 16. An organizational meeting for volleyball will be held on Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. in room 119 of the Field House. Play begins Oct. 21.

From the home office in Milwaukee
The David Letterman/IM Top Ten

1. Icemen
2. Theta Chi "A"
3. Elks Club Local 116
4. Phi Sigs "A"
5. Kappa Kelta Rho "A"
6. Jerry's Kids
7. One Vision
8. Alpha Sigs "A"
9. Fast Lane
10. Who Cares

JEFF		Football Picks		MIKE	
	ED				
SRU 14	Clarion 17	SRU 24	Clarion 14	SRU 7	Clarion 20

New Paradise

Athlete of the Week

This week's recipient of the Athlete of the Week is sophomore gridder Herb Lippencott.

Lippencott led the Rockets in their greatest offensive effort to date.

The Monessen, Pa., native gained 133 yards on 26 carries, including a 54 yard touchdown run.



Lippencott

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