Virginia Native A Big Star At University Of Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The big gainer at the University of Louisville has some staff members at Ashland's Randolph-Macon College shaking their heads, with regrets.

The cause of all the jubilation at Louisville and the regrets at Randolph-Macon is super-shortie running back Howard Stevens, a former R-M player who changed schools and has won honorable mention in the Associated Press All-America football team.

Stevens, only five feet, five inches tall and 165 pounds, is a Harrisonburg native who has claimed honor after honor in his junior year at Louisville.

Louisville coach Lee Corso is convinced that Stevens is going to make it in pro football despite his size.

"This guy is the greatest college running back in the country, bar none," said Corso. "I've had pro scouts tell me they don't care how small he is, he can cut it as a running back and you know they're not beating the bushes looking for guys his size."

Stevens is the smallest player in NCAA history to compile more than 1,000 yards rushing in one season — a total of 1,429 yards in 10 games.

That total also gives him the Missouri Valley Conference season rushing record, smashing the old mark of 1,372 yards set by Howard Waugh of Tulsa in 1952.

The record was smashed in the season's last game against Cincinnati in which Stevens carried the ball 29 times for 198 yards. Although Louisville lost the game, giving the team a 6-3-1 record, Stevens carried much of the Louisville offensive punch.

Perhaps his best game of the season was the ninth outing against Southern Illinois when he carried 33 times for 260 yards, breaking the old school record for single game and season rushing, formerly held by Lenny Lyles with 1,207 yards. Lyles later went on to star for the Baltimore Colts.

At the end of the Southern Illinois game, Stevens had 1,231 yards for the season and scored two touchdowns in that outing as well as tossing a left-handed pass for a two point conversion.

At the season's end, Stevens had carried 250 times for his 1,429 yards, scored 12 touchdowns and set himself up as a sure bet for Missouri Valley Conference's Most Valuable Player honors.

The All-American honorable mention came as no surprise either, for his total made him fifth in the nation with 142.9 yards per carry for the season.

"His total could be a lot higher now if I hadn't used him as a flanker in our first two games this season," Corso said. "It came to me that we could make much better use of him by being sure he would get the ball on handoffs rather than on passing to him."

And good use was surely made. The three losses in the season were by a total of only nine points. The most satisfying factor was a win over Memphis State, 26-20. Memphis, which won the conference title with a 4-1 record, found Stevens to be their biggest foe.

A little bewildered by the sudden flood of publicity surrounding his exploits, Stevens rejects the notion he is a symbol that the little man still has a place in football.

"I'm just plain old Howard Stevens doing the best I can," he said. "If what I'm doing will encourage boys who are small to get into athletics, that's fine. But I don't like to dwell on my size, one way or another."

Nor is he so certain he could make it as a pro. "I'd like to give it a try, but I wouldn't be brokenhearted if I didn't make it," he said.

Stevens, the oldest son of a laborer who works for the city of Harrisonburg, is majoring in psychology and says he may go on to law school.

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Corso believes Stevens' size may be more of an advantage than a handicap.

"He's so small he doesn't give you much of a target to tackle and he's got such great balance it's awfully hard to knock him off his feet."

"Why, this guy is so short, we don't give him the traditional pat on the rear when he's done well," Corso quipped. "We'd have to reach down too far for that. We just tap him on the helmet to congratulate him."

Morgan's Sykes to be cited in D.C.

John Sykes, establishing a new all-time, single season rushing mark at Morgan State College this past season, has been named the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's Player-of-the-Year by the Pigskin Club of Washington, D. C.

The 5-11, 195-pound senior, who closed out the 1971 football season with 1,077 rushing yards, will be honored at the 34th annual Anniversary Awards Dinner of the D. C. Pigskin Club tonight (Friday) at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Washington.

Sykes will be honored by the Pigskins along with Eddie Robinson of Grambling, selected as NCAA Coach-of-the-Year; Lydell Mitchell of the Nittany Lions of Penn State, the Outstanding Offensive Player-of-the-Year; Richard Glover of the national champion University of Nebraska, the Outstanding Defensive Player-of-the-Year; and Cornell Davis of Winston-Salem State, the CIAA Player-of-the-Year.

In his four-year career at Morgan State, which began in 1968, the former Baltimore City College High School All-American racked up a total of 2,834 yards on the ground, also recognized as an all-time rushing record at Morgan State.

ALL-AMERICAN — Gene Fugett, Cardinal Gibbons graduate now a wide receiver at Amherst, Wednesday was named to the Little All-America football team. Also chosen for the mythical squad from NCAA small colleges was John Sykes, Morgan State College

Duncan awaits return to Colts

Jim Duncan, third year cornerback from what was then Maryland State College, becomes eligible to return to the Colts roster following Saturday's game against the Dolphins.

The flashy kick-return star of the 1970 season was placed on the move list by the Colts just prior to Baltimore's game at the stadium with Buffalo. He was replaced on the roster by Lonnie Hepburn, whom Colts coaches believe has tremendous promise.

Team officials say that Duncan has played far below form this season and may be disturbed by some unidentified personal problems.

Citywide 'lift' contests Sunday

The seventh annual Bureau of Recreation citywide power lift weightlifting meet will be held at Chick Webb Recreation Center, located at 623 N. Eden Street on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Power lifts to be contested will be the Squat lift and the bench press.

Competition will be held in three divisions: — preteen, teen, and young adult.

Trophies will be awarded to weight class, best team, and best lifter winners.

Contestants may obtain entry blanks and further information at their neighborhood recreation centers.

Model runs for Senate in N.Y.

NEW YORK — Why should any woman work for less than $100 a week when she can earn $100 a night?

Mrs. Ophelia DeVore Mitchell posed the question as she announced her candidacy for the State Senate from the 26th District on the East Side.

Mrs. Mitchell, who pioneered the modeling profession here, said one of the problems she will attack in her campaign for the "silk stocking" Senate seat is prostitution.

Other district problems, according to Mrs. Mitchell, include drug abuse and the related high rate of street crime, pollution, discrimination, and an apartment shortage. None of these has been attacked by incumbent Republican Roy N. Goodman, she charges.

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