Just win a few Sept 27, 1972 Inquirer

Phillies fans have modest demands

By HAROLD J. WIEGAND
Contributing Editor

The Philadelphia Phillies have made it a practice, near the close of their home season, to hold what they call a "Fan Appreciation Day."

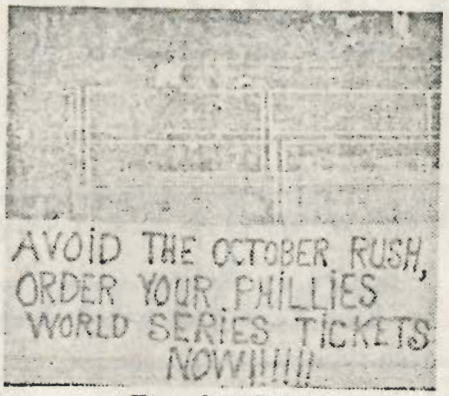
It is a nice gesture to the die-hard fans who have turned out, game after losing game, despite adversity. The customers doubtless appreciate the thought, as well as the prizes, awards, batting helmets, caps, autographed baseballs, bumper stickers and other paraphernalia the management has heaped on them during a succession of losing seasons.

What the fans would really appreciate, however, is a team that can play, at least half the time, winning baseball.

The Phils have not won a pennant in 22 years, which is a long time to sit in the stands and cheer Bob Carpenter for supplying high-wire walkers, free bats, .167 hitters, and other entertainments.

There should be a Fan Appreciation Day every time the Phillies play at home before people who love the game so much that they pay to witness the kind of baseball this team manages, somehow to play.

When the club can amass a season attendance of more than one million while it is busily digging a hole in the cellar,



Eternal optimists
. . . rooting for perennial failures

the iron constitutions of Philadelphia fans and their courage in the face of doom are incontrovertibly confirmed.

Philadelphia sports fans have picked up the reputation, in some circles, as notorious boo-birds.

If this town's fans boo a lot, it is because they have a lot to boo about. There are many occupants of seats in the Vets Stadium who find themselves hoarse before the end of the first inning. When you see an outfielder get hit on the head by an easy catch; when a shortstop forgets to step on the bag for a simple double play; when a player steals a base already fully occupied: what is a fan to do, sing Dixie?

Philadelphia fans have been given a bad rap. Instead of career masochists who go to a ball game for the sheer torture of it, they are warm-hearted human beings whose only fault is that they instinctively know more about baseball than any manager since Connie Mack.

Our fans grow up in the knowledge that the Phillies will probably be 37 games out on Labor Day — in a good season. But they live with unconquerable hope. They remain convinced, despite bumbling managers and blundering players, that a pennant winner will somehow, some day, miraculously emerge at the Vet, in between the handouts of batting helmets and other souvenirs.

If you don't think the Philadelphia boo birds can cheer, you have never seen them when Steve Carlton is pitching. They know class and they respond to it. They are not like the fans in, say, Houston, where they even applaud foul balls.

Give them a decent pitching performance, or a fine fielding play, or a grand slam by a Phillies batter (when did that happen last?), and you won't need fake cannon fire and water spouts to lift them from their seats.

Phillies fans deserve a winner. That would be real Fan Appreciation.

TO MY SIX SCIENTISTS....

Before I left Philadelphia some years ago...I informed Stan Hochman of the Daily News, sports writer...that I would force the Phila. Eagles, the Phila. ~~Kix~~ 76'rs, and the Phillies (pro football; pro basketball; pro baseball teams, respectively) into being losers...year after year. (I also informed all of my regular contacts of this.)

Now, the power I am using...is the same as used by the ancient Egyptians to place a "curse" inside a tomb, to protect the tomb from robbers.

You can see how well my psi-force attack on these three pro teams have worked. As usual, the Phillies are on the very bottom. The Eagles are in about the same shape. Too early this season to measure the 76'rs...but I can tell you that, season in and season out, they have not been winners! They've been losers, all the way since I started on this.

I add this file...just so that you can see the potency of the powers that I use.

Owens
T & PK Man

Monday, Oct. 2, 1972 □ 17 The Philadelphia Inquirer

What! Vet Stadium is PK'd + Eagles are PK'd!!!

Tose Guarantees Win as Eagles Face Giants Tonight

By GORDON FORBES
Of The Inquirer Staff

The Eagles can commit the unforgivable sin tonight at the Vet by embarrassing their boss in front of 30 million television viewers.

Len Tose, their compelling owner, has guaranteed a victory over the New York Giants in perhaps the most unattractive of the highly popular Monday night pro football series on ABC.

"Yep, I'll guarantee a victory over the New York Giants," said the brash Tose earlier in the week. "We'll win because I expect a lot of scoring and us getting to the Giant quarterback whoever he may be."

THE TOSE prediction, which fashioned the walls of the Giant dressing room, may be the only arguable point in a match of two teams groping for their first win.

"I think it's time for the whole team to put it all together," claimed Eagle linebacker Ron Porter. "It's the time of year for us to win a game. It is important because we need a boost to get in the right frame of mind for the rest of the season."

Neither the Eagle offense nor their pass rush — the two Tose particulars — has been

Lineups, Rosters—Page 19

impressive in losses to the Dallas Cowboys and Cleveland Browns.

Rookie quarterback John Reaves produced the only two Eagle touchdowns in an exciting second-half rally last week against the Browns. Coach Ed Khayat leaned towards starting Reaves but is believed to have changed his mind in favor of veteran Pete Liske.

"Pete is going to start," said Reaves. "I knew that all along. He's the first-string. Besides, anybody can have a bad game." Liske is trying to recover from a bruised right shoulder which has impaired his passing.

FORMER EAGLE Norm Snead has won the Giant quarterback job off two impressive though losing performances in which he completed 68.6 percent of his attempts.

There is considerable irony to Snead's appearance. Two years ago, he inspired the Eagles to a 23-20 upset victory over the Giants in the most talked about Monday night game of the season. Moreover, it was Len Tose who accelerated trade talks that sent Snead to the Minnesota Vikings.

In seeking to upgrade their rush, the Eagles will return Richard Harris to left end and switch Ernie Calloway back to right tackle.

"The rush when you look at it in films hasn't been as bad as it seems," said Calloway. "The quarterback has been throwing off balance. We've been just a step away."

GIVEN TIME, as he was in last week's loss to Dallas, Snead can demoralize a zone defense. He flicked scoring passes of 55 and 94 yards to Rich Houston, a fast and dangerous receiver who must be handled by cornerback Al Nelson.

The Eagle defense must also cope with two proven runners, Ron Johnson and Charlie Evans. With that in mind, Khayat has reshuffled his linebackers and will start Steve Zabel despite a knee handicap in the middle and quick, second-year player Bob Creech on the weak side.

Tackle Wade Key has recovered from a twisted knee and will improve the blocking protection for Liske and Reaves. The game plan likely calls for the Eagles to try to get the ball to Harold Jackson, who enters the game with 16 catches for 292 yards, and to both backs, Po James and Larry Watkins. The runners will be working against three inexperienced linebackers.

Playing on national television has twisted the Eagle work schedule into six days of preparation for the Giants and only four this week for the stronger Washington Redskins.

"But even a fool would be conscious of playing on TV," said Calloway before heading for the barber shop Saturday. "It's better than champagne."

njunction Stay Asked By Atlanta

By Virginian-Pilot Staff Writer

The Virginia Squires were in Colorado Springs. The Atlanta Hawks were in Baton Rouge, La. Both pro basketball teams were on the road for exhibition games, but Julius Erving, the middle man in a tug-of-war, was in his Atlanta apartment. Waiting.

Erving, who has jumped the ABA Squires for the NBA Hawks, was idled by a Monday court decision which granted the Squires' plea for a temporary restraining order, preventing Erving from playing for Atlanta or any other NBA team. The NBA has awarded Erving to the Milwaukee Bucks, who drafted the ex-Massachusetts star.

Early Tuesday, the Hawks filed for a stay of the injunction in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. There was no word as to when that decision would be rendered.

Ving.. Pilot 10/4/72

PK Man Ready

CAPE CHARLES—At least one Virginian has an idea of how to get superstar Julius Erving back into a Squire uniform.

Ted Owens, the PK Man, said he would use his powers to "get inside Erving's brain" and make Erving want to play for Virginia again.

Owens uses, he says, mental power called psychokenisis (mind over matter) to make things happen.

Although a federal court ruled Monday that Erving may play with only the Squires, Owens feels the 6-7 forward might not return in the best frame of mind.

"Erving would probably play poorly, hoping the Squires would get rid of him," Owens says. "So I would use my powers to make him want to do well.

"I want to work with Mr. (Earl) Foreman (Squires owner) but so far the Squires have not been very interested. I could save them a lot of money," Owens said.

The Squires have been reluctant to pay Owens, and the PK Man does not work for free.

Eagles Make Owner 'Sick'; Recovery Is Not Guaranteed

(2)

Oct 4 '72

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—Versatile Ron Johnson of the New York Giants runs inside and out, catches passes long and short and makes fools of braggarts like Leonard Tose.

The dapper Tose, who took $16 million from his trucking fortune to buy the lowly Philadelphia Eagles three years ago, went around town all last week "guaranteeing" his club would finally win a football game Monday night before a national television audience. Johnson proved Tose's "guarantee" was as worthless as the warranty on a second-hand truck by scoring four touchdowns in the Giants' first victory of the season, 27-12.

To top everything off, the Giants were under the direction of Norm Snead, a quarterback traded by the Eagles a year after Tose took command.

"I can't believe that bleeping Snead beat this team," Tose said afterward. "I'm sick. I just can't believe we're this bad."

What the Eagles lacked was a sense of opportunism. With rookie quarterback John Reaves starting his first game after two losses under Pete Liske, they moved inside the Giant 30-yard line seven times and had first downs inside the 25 six times. They scored only on a five-yard Reaves pass to Po James in the third quarter and field goals of 27 and 15 yards by Tom Dempsey in the first half. A missed field goal, an interception in the end zone by Spider Lockhart, a fumble recovery by Willie Williams and an interception by Jim Files spoiled the other Eagle chances.

The Eagles' one bright spot was the play of wide receiver Harold Jackson, who maintained his league pass catching lead with nine for 138 yards.

Johnson set a club record with his four touchdowns on Snead passes of 16, 9 and 15 yards and a five-yard run. He carried 36 times for 124 yards and added 60 more on five receptions.

Johnson, at full strength after being idled by leg injuries last year, said his performance "was a big emotional lift because I was playing cautious until now."

Tose, whose boisterous talk contrasts sharply with the silence of head coach Ed Khayat, blamed the loss on a lack of team "character."

"This team played like they don't have any character," Tose said. "I think our players have the ability to win and I don't know why they're not winning. But it is not the fault of the coaching staff or the front office."

Asked whether that let the players to blame, Tose snapped, "You're damn right."

TO MY SIX SCIENTISTS....

Re (2)...

Last Monday afternoon, after reading in the papers that Len Tose had guaranteed that the Eagles would beat the Giants that same evening...I telephoned the Phila. Daily News, the Phila. Inquirer, and the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot...sports depts... and notified all three that that evening I would personally go "one on one" with Len Tose and his team...and beat the Eagles, in a "weird game". Well...at game time, over TV, I did just that. The Eagles should have won...note in the above how many times they were in scoring position. But my psi-force attack kept them from scoring each time...they would drop the ball, fumble, throw an interception, etc. And so they were beaten. And I won, in spite of Len Tose's guarantee. Some critics say, oh, but the Eagles are a bad team. Well, who do you think keeps the Eagles a bad team? I do, that's who. Same as I keep the Phila. Phillies on the bottom, year after year! Think for a moment...how could the Phila. baseball and football teams (pro) both stink, year after year...in spite of changing coaches, changing players, etc? Phila. is a huge city. It spends a fortune on its sports teams. Yet how could the Eagles and Phillies be at the bottom year after year? Because of my psi-force, PK attack, that's how! (And the 76'rs can't get anywhere, either.)

Owens
(x PK Man)



FRANK DOLSON

Can Philly Win One for Ripper?

THE EAGLES GAVE UP 62 POINTS SUNDAY, and it might as well have been 162. Their record is 2-8-1 and falling. The way they are playing Leonard Tose might have trouble talking Jerry Wolman into TAKING them back.

The 76ers have won one and lost 21. A quarter of the way through the schedule they are 17 games off the pace. The only pro basketball teams ever to get off a worse start were the Washington Generals, the Boston Shamrocks and the Atlantic City Seagulls. And THEY were playing the Globetrotters.

The Blazers, with the worst record in the WHA, have lost 16 games, two general managers, and one owner. Inspired by a post-game blast by their remaining owner Friday night, they blew a two-goal lead with four minutes to go against the second-worst team in the league Saturday night.

The Flyers, our town's only "winner," have skidded a game under .500. Their road record is so bad they'd probably be underdogs if they played the Blazers at the Civic Center . . .

Whoops. Hold everything. Stop the sarcasm. Hold the wise cracks. The trouble with Philadelphia sports writers is they're too negative. Always looking for something to knock. "Does Dolson ever say anything nice about anybody?" an anonymous reader wrote recently.

Well, why not? Surely, it was worth a try. What better time for a temporary cease-fire than Thanksgiving weekend?

Right From Horse's Mouth

THINK OF IT. AN ENTIRE WEEKEND devoted to the proposition that there's some good in everything, even in Philadelphia pro sports franchises. Stop knocking, start boosting. Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative. Sure, the Giants scored 62 points Sunday, but the Eagles scored 10, didn't they? That two touchdowns in two weeks. Get the idea?

It was only fitting that our first, annual Be-Kind-to-Philly-Franchises Weekend began at Civic Center Convention Hall, hofe of the Blazers. After all, wasn't it the Blazers' highest-paid player—his name escapes me—who was quoted at great length by a New York sports writers a couple of weeks ago as follows:

"The Philadelphia press is brutal. I'm writing a book with a whole chapter on the (Philly) sportswriters that's really going to do a number on them. How sometimes they're so drunk they can't remember the arena, and where they are and what they're doing. How do they get off criticizing players? Here in Philadelphia they exaggerate the bad things. Like if you lose, you're a Etcetera. Etcetera.

Okay. Let's boost the Blazers. Let's get out there and root, root, root. Sure, they lost a game Friday night, but they rallied from two goals down, didn't they? And they were even late in the third period, weren't they? Well, weren't they, Bernie?

"I thought they played terrible," the owner told The In-

Continued on Page 25, Column 1

FRANK DOLSON

Continued From 1st Sports Page

quirer's John Dell after the game. "I don't think they really tried . . . I told them they should be ashamed of themselves. I

Hmmm. Well, enough of the Blazers. I mean, if the owner feels that way about it . . .

No Players From the Sky

ON TO THE SUECTRUM, home of the 76ers. It's the fourth quarter. They're leading! Five up with 10 minutes to go. Less than 4,000 fans in the place, but they're cheering. "Dammit," Roy Rubin said, "a lousy five-point lead and it sounded like 50,000 people in there . . ."

A beautiful night, right? Well, not exactly. To be honest with you, as Frank Lucchesi used to say, the 76ers got out-

"I called three time outs," Rubin said. "I changed the guards. I tried everything . . . We need help so badly, so desperately in the backcourt. We're getting killed at both ends by our guards—defensively and with horrendous steals. We need a pllaymaking guard, a leader on the floor. After 22 games it's obvious where the weakness is . . . We can't sit on our hands and wait for a miracle to happen. Some little bird isn't going to fall out of the sky and say, 'I'm a player.'

"We're trying. We're trying like hell. I'll look anywhere for a player. In a schoolyard. Anywhere. I'm going to an Eastern League game tonight in Trenton. I don't expect anything, but I'm not leaving any stones unturned. (Pause.) I hope they're playing. With my luck I'll probably get up to Trenton and find out they've got the night off."

Hmmm. Friday night the Blazers play "like school children." Saturday night the 76ers throw away a five-point lead so fast it makes Roy Rubin's head spin. Sunday afternoon the Eagles . . .

But remember, it could have been worse. We did have something to be thankful for this weekend. A labor dispute forced CBS to cancel its telecast of the Eagles-Giants game. In its place, Channel 10 viewers saw the Redskins play the Packers.

Maybe we didn't get any victories this weekend, but at least we discovered the true meaning of the term "strike benefits."

Nov. 27, 1972 TO MY SIX SCIENTISTS....

As you know, as a demonstration of how psi-force can selectively control ALL PRO TEAMS in one large city...I have been "PK'ing" with psi-force all of the pro teams in Philadelphia. On these newsclips...you can see how utterly absolutely and completely successful I have been. If it were not so...then would not at least ONE of these four teams be a big winner? (If not more than one.)
You can see the pattern here...fits the other psi-force pattern demonstrations I have given (as with the aircraft carriers). EVERYTHING goes wrong for the "target", as it is slowly demolished, and deteriorates.

Owens
XPKMan

Nov. 27, 1972 Phila. Inq.

Khayat Says Birds Quit In Club's Worst Defeat

By JOHN FLYNN
Of The Inquirer Staff

NEW YORK. — The Eagles quit Sunday. Oh, there were protests to the contrary in their dressing room afterwards, but the evidence was overwhelmingly against them.

It was in the score — 62-10.

It was in the dozens of missed tackles.

It was in the embarrassment the players tried to hide.

But most of all, it was in the words that Eddie Khayat said to Giant quarterback Randy Johnson as they left the field together.

"We quit," the Eagle coach told Johnson.

JOHNSON HAD come to Khayat to apologize for engineering the final three Giant touchdowns, which turned an embarrassing 41-10 rout into a 52-point blitz which could prove terribly costly to Khayat when Len Tose starts assessing his football team.

But Khayat, in his gentle fashion, had reassured Johnson. "Nothing you could do, our guys quit," said Eddie.

Johnson, who came in for Norman Snead in the third quarter, agreed with Khayat. "There wasn't anything I could do," he declared. "I kept trying to run the simplest plays and we kept breaking them off for long gainers or touchdowns. It got embarrassing for me after awhile."

IT ALSO GOT embarrassing for Giant Coach Alex Webster. In fact, Johnson and Webster argued on the sidelines after Johnson had sneaked for the Giants' final touchdown with a long seven minutes, 35 seconds remaining. Webster told Johnson to stop the flow of touchdowns somehow, and Johnson succeeded although the Giants were on the move again at the Eagle 33 as the final gun ended the fiasco.

"What could I do?" asked Johnson. "I'm not a guy to call the wrong play or to throw the ball over the receiver's head. I just couldn't settle for a giveup play."

Johnson tried to work the safe stuff but it worked too well because the demoralized Eagles would have had trouble bringing down your Aunt Fanny.

ON THE FIRST play of the final period, Johnson threw a sideline pass to Don Herrmann. The play was designed to go five or six yards and pick up a first down. Instead, it went 63 for the Giants' seventh touchdown because the coverage broke down upfield and Bill Bradley missed a tackle and Al Nelson fell down downfield.

Later on during the Giants' last touchdown drive, Johnson threw a harmless looking screen pass which an Eagle tipped into the hands of running back Vince Clements who went 49 yards to the Eagle 29 before he fell on his duff without a hand being laid on him.

From there the Giants moved to the first down on the 12. At that point the Eagles allowed Johnson to crash into the end zone on three quarterback sneaks, proving conclusively that the game had become a non-contact sport for Philadelphia's entry in the NFL.

"I couldn't believe it," said Johnson.

He wasn't alone.

Nov. 27, 1972

TO MY SIX SCIENTISTS...

this incredible, unbelievable event is one of the finest examples of psi-force attacking!
Read this newsclip carefully.
No matter what happened...everything went wrong for the Eagles...and as they became demoralized and confused, the Giants kept scoring.
(The Giants are NOT one of my PK'd teams.)
AND HERE IT GETS SCREAMINGLY FUNNY!
Both the Giant coach and the Giant quarterback tried in every way...TO NOT SCORE! NOT MAKE TOUCHDOWNS!
(This is unheard of on this scale.)
YET IN SPITE OF THEIR EFFORTS, THEY STILL PRODUCED THREE MORE TOUCHDOWNS AGAINST THE EAGLES!
Now think about that a minute.
A professional football team, with both the coach and the quarterback on the field trying to play simple plays and not score...STILL MAKING 21 POINTS! (Note that the Eagles only made 10 points in the entire game.)

Owens
& PK Man

Pro football

Bill Bell of Atlanta was distraught after the Patriots' victory. "I just blew it," he said after missing a 10-yard field goal attempt with 28 seconds to play, a field goal that would have put the Falcons on top.

"I hit it with the inside of my toe and it squirted off to the left. I knew right away it was bad." And Coach Norm Van Brocklin added: "It's a one-in-a-million shot—but it happens."

Trailing 20-7 in the fourth quarter, quarterback Jim Plunkett engineered two New England scoring drives, one ending with a touchdown pass to Randy Vataha, the other climaxed by Carl Garrett' 12-yard scoring run.

Mike Phipps, a third-year quarterback making only his second NFL start, threw for one touchdown and ran nor another to lead the Browns past the Eagles. Don Cockroft booted two field goals and Bo Scott plunged over from one-yard out for the Browns' other scores. Philadelphia's rookie quarterback, John Reaves, also threw for one touchdown and ran for another.

Tight end Jerry Smith caught his first two passes of the season—both for touchdowns—to lead the Redspings past the Cardinals. 9/25/72

TO MY SIX SCIENTISTS...

"It's a one-in-a-million shot," said coach Norm Brocklin.
Now, you and I both know...that that is where PK Man comes in...providing mirraculous one-in-a-million shots. And PK Man was VERY MUCH in this one!

As background...Bill Bell came to me, at my home several years ago in Norfolk and asked me to help him make the Falcon team by using my powers. He seemed sincere...so I did just that. (He'd tried to make the team before, but had failed.)

All right, after he made the Falcon team...he wrote me a nasty letter...said he'd thrown his disc away...and THAT HE HAD WRITTEN A NATIONAL MAGAZINE WHICH WAS CONTEMPLATING DOING AN ARTICLE ON ME, THAT I WAS A "FAKE AND PHONY PERSONALITY".
Now, it was bad enough to double-cross me, so to speak... but when he went to a national magazine to attack my character...he was not only trying to hurt me, but hurt the SI's attempt to get together with humans.

So ever since that time...the Falcons have been my number one PK'd team...to make them losers...and of course, especially Bill Bell the biggest loser of all.

Any team...which employs Bell...I will utterly and thoroughly and completely and methodically wreck.
And the Falcons have him now.

(Of course...when I speak of wrecking...I am speaking of using my psi-force powers...mental powers. Just as I have used them on the Baltimore Colts, Eagles, Baltimore Bullets, Jets, and so forth.)

If there is any validity at all to my psi-force powers...Bill Bell will, in time, become the most frustrated, "distraught" pro football player of all time.

Owens
(PK Man)

PS... Howard Cosell even talked about Bill Bell's losing the game for his team... over national TV.
"You have to feel awfully sorry for that young man," said Cosell. (Never a truer word has ever been spoken!) - Owens



GORDON FORBES
On the Eagles

By GORDON FORBES
Of The Inquirer Staff

THIS WAS THE FINAL WEEK of the exhibition season and the pro football factory was busy counting its healthy bodies. The others, the ones with torn knee ligaments and pulled hamstring muscles from the snap, crackle and pop of the previous five weeks, would be cast onto a waiver list.

In time, the injured would return to flowing health and the process would be repeated. Healthy on the 40-man roster, injured on the discard heap.

Lee Bouggess was one of those beginning a painful rehabilitation program following knee surgery. Wearing a thick, thigh-to-ankle cast over his right knee, Bouggess manipulated himself around the apartment in Sicklerville, N. J., with his wife, Georgeanne, as cheerleader.

On the day after the Eagles had shown their tender affection for the New York Giants, pro football suddenly became meaningless for Lee and Georgeanne Bouggess.

"I was sitting at home feeling very weak," Bouggess was recalling. "I felt this pain in my back but thought it was just from getting up and sitting down. Like a pull.

"But next morning, after I didn't sleep at all," he said, "I woke up and began yawning. I'd take a deep breath and it hurt."

Bouggess turned to his wife and said, "My goodness, I can't breathe."

Soon the young runner was on his way at high speeds to Graduate Hospital where eight days earlier a surgeon had cut into his knee to repair a ligament and some muscles.

BOUGGESS' CONDITION WAS DIAGNOSED as a pulmonary embolism, or blood clot, near the lung area. The embolism is caused by a sequence of chemical and physical reactions that result in a conversion of fluid blood to a coagulated mass.

"I thought I was close to death," Bouggess said. "They were talking about my lungs collapsing. I was halfway out of everything anyway, and the only thing I could do was pray."

After spending three uncertain weeks at Graduate, Bouggess was returned home as a pro football back in disguise. Actually, a 185-pound weakling. He must take a blood-thinning drug for the next two months as a predaution against the development of another embolism.

"Then I'll be safe and free from a blood clot returning," he said. "There are a lot of restrictions. You're like a bleeder, a hemophiliac."



"I thought I was close to death . . . and the only thing I could do was pray.'
—Lee Bougess

Logic tells you that Lee Bouggess will spend the rest of the season in pro football's shadowy fringe. The other side of the frantic Sunday scene.

"It's going to hurt my comeback," he grudgingly conceded. "I can stand on the leg, you know. And on a flat surface I can walk. Maybe later in the year I'll be ready."

BOUGGESS WAS REFLECTING the grim determination that has made pro football players the most remarkable of all professional athletes.

No fewer than 61 Eagle players have undergone surgery in the past five seasons, 43 of the operations involving the susceptible knee joint. This year alone Jim Ward, Ike Kelley, Pat Gibbs, Tom McNeill and Bouggess have submitted to knee reconstruction.

Bouggess, talented running back, beautiful person and keeper of the faith, persists in his belief that he will be exploding with a football in the 12th, or maybe 13th game of the season.

The disturbing fact is that injuries continue to stack up with no foreseeable solution. The hope that synthetic turf would wipe out knee damage has turned out to be a manufacturer's dream. New protective braces for the knee have been developed but seldom if ever used.

The chilling fact of National Football League life is that a mountingly high percentage of players will need knee surgery sometime in their careers.

In the case of Lee Bouggess, complications developed that make you wonder about the steady parade of players into operationg rooms across the country.

There is something special about a player like Bouggess who, having been hospitalized three times in the past two seasons, still wants to return to the huddle.

This season, too.

FRANK DOLSON



Dear Mr. Dolson:

I am writing this letter out of sheer frustration over the performance thus far of the so-called "professional" sports teams here in Philadelphia ... We seem to have the best sports coverage of any city, some of the most loyal and knowledgeable fans anywhere, and to boot we even have a comfortable and fairly accessible place to watch these teams perform. But where do we find our teams at the end of the season? Usually near the bottom of the heap with the players at each other's throats and screaming to management demanding to be traded.

Why, for once, can't one of our teams put it all together and go all the way? I ask myself this time and time again and come to the realization that all our teams lack the basic ingredient that separates the men from the boys, so to speak: PRIDE.

Pride starts with upper management and works its way down through the managers, coaches, players, equipment boys and even the pom-pom girls and, baby, we don't have it here in Philly.

Chris Balzano, Jr.
Clifton Heights, Pa.

Dear Mr. Balzano:

Hmmm. So you've noticed it, too.