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READY FOR RED — Otterbein line coach Bud Yoest (right) uses former Columbus West athlete Dick Berlo as a demonstrator for a line problem during practice. The other four veteran linemen are (left to right) end Ron Jones (Bremen), center Bill Davis (Cambridge), end Gary Nebinger (West) and end Bob Heiser (Linden). Berlo is a senior tackle. Otterbein hosts Denison Saturday night at Westerville. — (Dispatch Photo)

Otterbein Tougher But So's Schedule

By CHARLIE FRUSH, Dispatch Sports Writer

If, as Albert Einstein said, everything is relative, then Otterbein coach Bob (Mo) Agler won't know for several weeks if his Cardinals will be chirping the same merry tune they sang in 1957.

For, like many another Ohio Conference coach, Agler believes his 1958 team is stronger than his 1957 one, but that too many opponents are also thus blessed.

In plain English, Agler says he has a better team than the one that won five, lost three in 1957 . . . but that the Cards might not win as many games.

IF THIS IS gobbledygook, then a lot of coaches are guilty of it. Muskingum, they say, is better. So is Heidelberg, Marietta, Findlay, Kenyon, Hiram, Ashland . . .

In fact, said Agler:

"We have a much tougher schedule than we did in 1957."

Mo is not worried about his offense, despite the fact the Otters were held to a 0-0 tie at Findlay last week in their opener. With powerful conference co-champion Denison coming to Westerville Saturday night in the first ever game under the lights there for the Cards, Agler has been drilling on defense all week.

"WE'RE NOT WORRIED about our ability to score," Mo cracked.

The Cards had a bitter experience in 1957. Although they won their first five, the team took a physical beating from squads a lot longer in manpower. After just so much of that meatgrinder, the pieces fell apart and so did the season.

Agler, therefore, is going to get as much mileage as possible in '58.

He knows Otterbein will face a lot of "three yards and a cloud of dust" offenses that chew up his squad. Since he has to take it on defense, he'll try to avoid it on offense.

WHILE MOST teams try the middle two or three times to sucker the defense for a wide shot, the Cards will go outside most of the time, or overhead, trying for the long one, trying to preserve their health. When they do go inside the tackles, the defense won't be so stacked.

The Cards have a good quarterback in Larry Cline, 6-1, 175-pound sophomore from Danville. Cline started every game but the opener last season and has the head and the arm for Agler's prototype offense—spreads, slot back and what not.

"A lot of times, he calls the play I'm thinking of," chuckled Agler, proving there is some reward in coaching.

THE CARDS HAVE about 17 football players, in the sense that Woody Hayes uses the term, but only half a dozen are upper classmen.

"We'll make a lot of mistakes," Mo admits.

Fair size, fair speed and, Agler hopes, aggressiveness, will characterize this fourth edition of his Otterbein football efforts.

If he had 11 like Cline and freshman guard Jack Peitila, there'd be no problems.

PEITILA, who won all-Ohio prep honors last season at Warren, is the team's fastest lineman and the best tackler. His pursuit is a thing of wonder and he makes tackles even when the play is going away from his linebacking position.

Bob Heiser (190-pound Linden grad), Gary Nebinger (West, 200), and Ron Jones (Bremen, 185) are at the ends. At tackle are Dick Berlo (West, 190) Don Eppert (West, 215) and Leland Prince (Louisville, Ohio, 195).

It's Roy Ross (Linden, 185), Aidt (Bucyrus, 180), Tom Rutt (Waynesburg, 180) and Peitila at the guards, and Bill Davis (Cambridge, 192) is the center.

HALFBACKS Bill Heltz (Mifflin, 195), Jack Spicer (Linden, 175) and Jim Earnest (Santa Fe, N. M., 172), and fullback Gary Allen (North, 195) complete the backfield.

Otterbein officials figure a full house of 2500 fans is a distinct possibility for Saturday's home opener.

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