

NewsBank

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# Defiance Grid Record One of Ohio's Best

DEFIANCE, Ohio — Defiance College football may not rank alongside Wittenberg and Alabama as one of the winningest teams in the past decade, but certainly the Yellow Jackets have cut a niche for themselves in recent years.

Since 1964, Defiance has posted a 47-13 record.

**THE 1970 Yellow Jackets** of Coach Roger Merb put their 6-1 record on the line here Saturday at 2 p.m. against Otterbein College, which has won its last two after an 0-4 start. Game site is Alumni Field.

Until Oct. 17, the Yellow Jackets had enjoyed the longest winning streak in the nation among College Division teams, but it was snapped at 18 straight when Manchester College took a 10-7 decision on a field goal in the final 15 seconds of play.

Interestingly, it was Manchester which pinned the last loss on the Jackets in 1968, winning again on their home sod by the margin of a field goal, 3-0.

Included in the 18-game win skein was a 9-0 season in 1969. The Jackets recovered from the Manchester loss to wrap up their third straight unbeaten Mid-Ohio Conference title with a 26-0 win over Bluffton last week.

**MERB, WHO** quarterbacked Ohio University to the national championship in 1960 as a sophomore, has structured a 28-5 mark in his four years at the helm after replacing Kirk Mee. Mee, after one year as assistant, took over as head coach in 1964 and in three years fashioned an 18-8 record, including a 9-0 mark in 1967.

After spending two years as a graduate assistant at OU, Merb went to Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., as top assistant before coming to Defiance. He posted consecutive 7-2 marks before last season's unblemished record.

Six winning seasons in a row are now assured, interesting because there have been only nine winning seasons in the past 24 years.

**WHAT'S THE** reason for the success?

"Better recruiting — and the caliber of players we're getting is much higher," the personable 29-year-old coach said. "We had only two or three football players drop



Merb



Polzin



Stypinski



Shato



Hittle



Briggs

ri. Polzin doubles as an offensive guard and is co-captain, along with offensive halfback Duane Laux.

Paul Ondrus, Joe Gramling, John Decker and Mike Samstag comprise the secondary. The remainder of the DC defense has Wayne Cooper and Dick Taylor at ends; Tim Smith at one tackle, and Bob Kussmaul at middle guard.

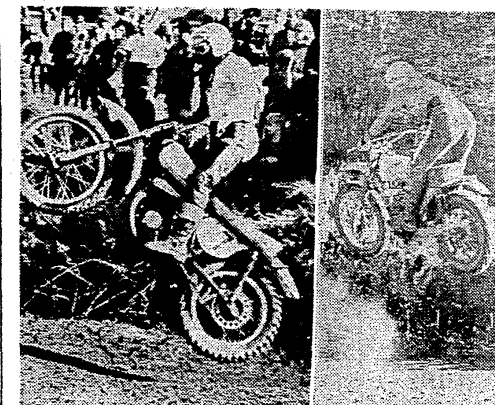
Main cogs in the offensive attack are fullback Jeff Urick, quarterback Mike Wright, end Ed Lapuh and halfbacks Laux and Decker.

Other members of the offensive unit are Ernie Doherty end, Tim Harkness and Gary Blakeman, tackles, Polzin and Al Peugeot, guards and Fred Shato, center.

**SHATO HAILS** from the Columbus area (Franklin Heights) along with substitute quarterback Mike Hittle (North), freshmen Mike Stypinski (South) and Mike Briggs (Pleasant View). Shato, at 6-0, 209, is in his third year as a regular, and first as an offensive center.

Hittle, 6-11, 168-pound sophomore from Columbus North, was pressed into action against Manchester when Wright was sidelined. He gave a good account of himself by rushing for 105 yards and completing three passes for 19 yards.

The Yellow Jackets close their 1970 season here Nov. 7 against Anderson (Ind.) College.



**BIG WHEELS** — All up in the air over recent major motorcycle moto-cross type victories are Joel Robert, left, shown winning the Trans-AMA series race at Deita, Ohio, last Sunday and Ark Johnson of Sweden, right, who finally was declared winner of an Inter-Am race at Honda Hills several days after scoring problems were resolved. — (Rick Kocks Photos)

OUTDOOR REPORT

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