

STEEL CITY CONNECTION

1997 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Membership Benefits

- All Steeler games and many Pirate and Penguin games on large screen TV at **FIVE** locations.
- 8-10 issues of **The Black and Gold News** each year.
- Weekly and monthly raffle prizes during the NFL season.
- Guest appearances by current and former Steeler, Pirate and Penguin players.
- Socialize with other Black and Gold fans.
- Other surprise benefits throughout the year.

Information

East Henrico
West Henrico
TriCities

Five Great Locations

MULLIGAN'S SPORTS GRILLES

Innsbrook - Broad St. & Cox Rd

346-8686

The Fan - 1323 W. Main St.

353-8686

Midlothian - 11146 Hull St. Rd.

744-8686

7073 Mechanicsville Turnpike

730-8686

HOOTERS OF CHESTERFIELD

1211 Huguenot Road

378-9464

Mailing Address

STEEL CITY CONNECTION

8300 RECREATION ROAD

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23231

Annual Membership Fees

New Memberships.....\$30.00

Family Renewals.....\$20.00

Single Member Renewals.....\$15.00

DETACH HERE

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Children's Name(s) _____

Hobbies _____ Hometown _____ Occupation _____

Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Family Membership Renewal ☐ Single Membership Renewal

Birthday(s) _____ Other Special Dates _____

Permission to use this information in Club Directory /Newsletters: _____

BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

AUGUST, 1997

Steelers Set to Start 65th Season in NFL

It's hard to believe that it's been 25 years since the *Immaculate Reception* and 28 years since Joe Greene played his first down with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Want to feel older? It's been 30 years since QB Bill Nelsen was traded to the Cleveland Browns, subjecting us to three years of Kent Nix and Dick Shiner. It's been 34 years since the Steelers' leading receiver, Buddy Dial, was traded to the Dallas Cowboys for the *rights* to negotiate with Scott Appleton in the NFL's bidding war days with the AFL. Want more? It's been 39 years since coach Buddy Parker acquired QB Bobby Layne from the Detroit Lions. It's been 42 years since Coach Walt Kiesling cut Johnny Unitas, stating "He can't learn the plays." It's been 51 years since the Steelers sported and NFL rushing champ (Bill Dudley, 1946). It's been 54 years since the Steelers didn't have enough players to field a team, due to World War II, and combined forces with the Philadelphia Eagles to form an NFL entry called the *Steagles*. And it's been 65 years since Pennsylvania repealed some of its "Blue Laws." What did that have to do with anything? First, it made it legal to play professional sports on Sunday. Second, it prompted a then 32-year old Art Rooney to buy into the National Football League for \$2,500. He took his semi-pro team, the Majestic Radios, renamed them the Pirates, appointed one of his players, Jap Douds, as coach and embarked on what would eventually be one of the most heartwarming stories in the history of professional sports.

The cast of characters in this story seems endless but most certainly enduring. They give us glorious memories as well as stumbling and bumbling that defies all logic. Ghosts of the past that most of us never saw play, like Johnny "Blood" McNally, Byron "Whizzer" White, "Bullet" Bill Dudley, Elbie Nickel, Joe Geri and Jim Finks paved the way for guys that some of us do remember and did watch, like Ernie Staunter, John Henry Johnson, "Big Daddy" Lipscomb, Bobby Layne, Buddy Dial and Lou Michaels who, in turn, paved the way for the superstars of the glory days that we will always carry in our hearts.

The journey has brought us to the exhilarating Bill Cowher era, to a much different N.F.L. Each month, as we proceed through this 65th season of Steeler football, *The Black and Gold News* will be looking into the Steeler past to stir up old memories. In the meantime, *get ready to rumble!* August 31 and our date with the 'Boys is just around the corner!

Baltimore Bus Trip

We were able to work it out, after all! Rosemary Mary would not take "no" for an answer or let Art Modell's greed get her down. She did some detective work and found Great Atlantic Travel of Virginia Beach. These folks are holding 44 tickets to the October 5th Steeler/Baltimore Raven game for us. The cost will be \$90 per person and includes game ticket, round trip transportation and refreshments on the bus. The tickets are on the 10-yard line and we will all sit as a group. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis through Sept. 7th. We expect demand to be high so make your reservation early! Make checks payable to The Steel City Connection and mail to our club treasurer:

Daniel E. Isbell, Jr.

Richmond, Virginia 23228

For additional information, you can call Danny at

Mulligan's Deck Party

The Steeler's open date comes early this year, so mark Sunday, September 14th at 1:00 P.M. on your calendars. That's when Steel City Connection will hold a Deck Party at Mulligan's Fan location, 1323 W. Main St. Mid-September weather in Richmond is great and we're really looking forward to this.

Some details have yet to be ironed out but we do know there will be plenty of football and that we'll be doing block pools and giving away halftime prizes just like we always do at regular Steeler gatherings. We're also going to be working with Matt Hurley on proper preparation of Pittsburghese food and we hope to have a very special guest make an appearance. (No, it won't be Sgt. Santa)

So don't let a Steeler open date dampen your spirits. Bring all your black and gold down to the Fan and let's party!

We've Lost a Special Friend

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of longtime club member Harold (Bud) Webber after a brief illness. Many of you may remember Bud, his wife Alberta and grandson Zack being the first to arrive at any Steeler game so they could have their favorite seats up front. Donations are being accepted at the MCV Foundation, Heart Transplant Fund, P.O. Box 980234, Richmond, VA 23298. We will miss you, Bud, and we know you will still be looking down on "the boys" from your front row seat.

BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER, 1997

Steelers Start Season at 1-1

The open date. Oh, the great NFL open date. Normally it falls later in September for the Steelers but this year it comes early and man do they need it. If there's ever a time for some reassessment, it is now. Preseason is preseason. While nobody had sugar plums dancing in their heads over their glitzy 5-0 record, one thing has to be said: the Steelers *did* look ready to play. The 1996 wounded seemed to have healed. The rookies looked sharp and confidence seemed to be everywhere. Rod who? Chad who? Willie who? What a great way to start the regular season - at Three Rivers against the hated Dallas Cowboys. This writer was certain our guys spent the last few days before the game gnawing at raw meat, destroying anything around that was unfortunate enough to be either blue or silver.

Thud! It's funny how a 37-7 pounding can bring people back down to Earth. That old song "I Can See Clearly Now" sort of plays over and over in your head. Thud! It's one thing to suffer a 30-point loss but, against the Cowboys, it's a XXX-point loss. The Arizona experience will do that to you. Thud! The media buildup of the game didn't help either. That 5-0 preseason had the Steelers getting attention that we always thought they lacked. Kordell's picture was on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, the *USA Today*, even *TV Guide*. The "Madden Cruiser" got it's preseason tuneup. Thud!

Enter the Washington Redskins. Gus Frerotte's homecoming. It wasn't pretty, in fact it was darn ugly. But a win's a win and the Steelers' 14-13 victory was just the medicine the doctor ordered. To those who say they lucked out: maybe they did but Mitchell was out-of-bounds on that kickoff return for the touchdown that temporarily put the Redskins ahead, 13-7. Case closed.

Now, the wonderful, regrouping open date and the Monday night game against Jacksonville. If the Steelers are going to make any kind of a statement, a win against the Jaguars would be a great start. They need three things to get back on track: (1) any kind of passing game, (2) any kind of pass rush, (3) settle down the secondary. Is Kordell Stewart a pocket passer? With the Steelers' power running game and talented receivers, he needs to be. They won't win if they have to rely on him rushing for 70 yards every week. Nor will they win without a pass rush. The Steelers didn't come close to getting to either Aikman or Frerotte. Two games with zero sacks is very un-Steelerlike. Chad Scott will come into his own but time will tell whether or not Donnell Woolford is the answer on the other side. The next few weeks are going to be a barometer for the steepness of the learning curve.

Baltimore Bus Trip

Everything is working out great for the October 5th Steel City Connection bus trip to Baltimore to see the Steeler/Raven game. Ticket sales have been good and we only have 18 remaining to be sold. We bought the block from Great American Travel, Virginia Beach. The tickets had to be completely paid for by September 7th and we met that goal. So, if you're interested in going to the game, you should act fast, as the remaining 18 tickets will go on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost will be \$90 per person and includes game ticket, round trip transportation and refreshments on the bus. The tickets are on the 10-yard line and we will all sit as a group. Demand is high, so don't delay! Make checks payable to The Steel City Connection and mail to our club treasurer:

Daniel E. Isbell, Jr.

Richmond, Virginia 23228

For additional information, you can call Danny at

Mulligan's Deck Party

The Steeler's open date is upon us and we hope you have marked this coming Sunday, September 14th, on your calendars. That's when Steel City Connection will hold a Deck Party at Mulligan's Fan location, 1323 W. Main St., starting at 1:00 P.M. Mid-September weather in Richmond is great and we're really looking forward to this.

The details are just about ironed out and we do know there will be plenty of football and that we'll be doing block pools and giving away halftime prizes just like we always do at regular Steeler gatherings. We're also going to be working with Matt Hurley on proper preparation of Pittsburghese food.

So don't let a Steeler open date dampen your spirits. Bring all your black and gold down to the Fan and let's party!

Steeler TV Schedule

For you diehards who have taken the time to attend Steeler telecasts at any one of the five Steel City Connection locations, don't be disheartened by the light membership attendance. We expected that, with the Steelers opening their season with three nationally televised games against Dallas, Washington and Jacksonville. We're not expecting to see our regular crowds until the game against the Oilers.

Steelers Week-by-Week

<u>Steelers</u>		<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
7	Dallas	37	60,396
14	Washington	13	58,059
Sept. 15	OPEN DATE		
Sept. 22	at Jacksonville		9:00
Sept. 28	Tennessee		1:00
Oct. 5	at Baltimore		1:00
Oct. 12	Indianapolis		8:00
Oct. 19	at Cincinnati		4:00
Oct. 26	Jacksonville		4:00
Nov. 3	at Kansas City		9:00
Nov. 9	Baltimore		8:00
Nov. 16	Cincinnati		1:00
Nov. 23	at Philadelphia		1:00
Nov. 30	at Arizona		4:00
Dec. 7	Denver		1:00
Dec. 13	at New England		4:00
Dec. 21	at Tennessee		1:00

Steeler Stats

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opponents	0	20	24	6	0	50
Steelers	7	0	0	14	0	21

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

<u>Name</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Points</u>
Bruener	1	0	0	6
Stewart	1	0	0	6
Bettis	1	0	0	6
N. Johnson	0	3	0	3

RUSHING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Bettis	42	197	4.7	12	1
Stewart	11	74	6.7	18	1
Jones	7	18	2.6	5	0
Blackwell	1	11	11.0	11	0
Hawkins	1	7	7.0	7	0

RECEIVING

<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
C. Johnson	5	52	10.4	11	0
Hawkins	4	43	10.8	14	0
Thigpen	4	43	10.8	15	0
Jones	2	18	9.0	14	0
Bruener	2	3	1.5	4	1
Witman	1	3	3.0	3	0
Botkin	1	11	11.0	11	0
Bettis	1	9	9.0	9	0
Blackwell	1	4	4.0	4	0

PASSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Int.</u>
Stewart	45	20	44.4	186	1	2

SACKS
None

The Steel City Connection

OFFICERS

Paul Mary	President, Newsletter Editor
Ed Talpas	Vice President
Livingston Rush	Vice President
Carole Mitas	Secretary
Danny Isbell, Jr.	Treasurer
Dale Jordan	Merchandizing
Michele Andolina	Marketing and Advertising

INFORMATION

East Henrico
West Henrico
Tri-Cities

MAILING ADDRESS

Steel City Connection
8300 Recreation Road
Richmond, VA 23231

FIVE GREAT LOCATIONS

Viewing Location

Mulligan's Sports Grille
W. Broad St. & Cox Rd.
346-8686

Steel City Staff

Ed Talpas, Team Captain
Rich Golob, Game Official
Dale Jordan, Game Official
Carol Pesarchick, Game Official

Hooters of Chesterfield
1211 Huguenot Rd.
378-9464

Livingston Rush, Team Captain

Mulligan's Sports Grille
7073 Mechanicsville Tpk.
730-8686

Danny Isbell, Team Captain
Carole Mitas, Game Official
Michele Andolina, Game Official

Mulligan's Sports Grille
11146 Hull Street Rd.
Genito Crossing SC
744-8686

Paul Mary, Team Captain
Rosemary Mary, Game Official
Tom Byrne, Game Official

Mulligan's Sports Grille
1323 West Main St.
353-8686

OPEN

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$30 — New Membership (family or single)
\$20 — Family Membership Renewal
\$15 — Single Membership Renewal

Let Us Hear From You

The Steel City Connection welcomes anyone who wants to write an editorial for *The Black and Gold News* or make an announcement for the general interest of the membership. To do so, mail your editorial/announcement to Paul Mary at the above mailing address; or send him an e-mail to

News & Views

The Steelers are suffering in the secondary after replacing **Willie Williams** and **Rod Woodson** at the corners with **Donnell Woolford** and rookie **Chad Scott**. Scott only played one quarter against Washington before going down with a sprained ankle, forcing **Randy Fuller** and **Chris Oldham** to rotate in as replacements. Scott is going to be a great CB but both **Troy Aikman** and **Gus Frerotte** threw his way a lot. The jury is still out on Woolford. Don't be surprised if **Carnell Lake** doesn't start seeing some playing time there.....Current Redskin (and former Steeler) WR **Leslie Shepherd** had a good game against his ex-mates last Sunday, pulling in five for 87 yards.....Pirate 2B **Tony Womack** stole his 51st base over the weekend. In that series against the Reds, he stole four bases in one game. It was the first time a Pirate has done that since **Omar Moreno**.....The Steelers suffered a blow when starting RG **Brenden Stai** broke his ankle in the Cowboy game. Replacement **Tom Myslinski** did a good job against the Redskins.....I was pulling for the Pirates' **Paul Wagner** to make a strong comeback then I read he's an avid Green Bay Packer fan. The Pirates cut him the other week. Have a nice life, Paul.....In the *I Learned My New Thing For The Day Department*: Some female squirrels are cannibals. I was watching the Discovery Channel the other day and learned that, after giving birth and then nursing their pups, some female squirrels become stressed due to of lack of protein. To satisfy this need, they invade other squirrels' dens and prey on their newborn pups. And I thought they only ate nuts.....How about **Tony Dungy's** Tampa Bay Bucs, out of the gate with a 2-0 start. Maybe it was the uniforms.....Congratulations are certainly in order to ex-Pirate **Denny Neagle**, who is probably the current front-runner for the NL Cy Young Award with his superb 20-3 record and 2.70 ERA.....Pirate starting pitchers **Steve Cooke** and **Francisco Cordova** are showing signs of tiring down the stretch. Cooke has stumbled to a 9-14 record after getting bombed in his last four starts. Cordova did get a win after coming off the DL to raise his record to 10-7.....Pirates' lefty **Chris Peters** hails from Peters Twp. (South Hills), the same as this writer.....Part of the Steelers' woes: zero (count 'em - zero) sacks in the first two games.....The news about **Mario Lemieux** getting a direct ticket into the NHL Hall of Fame, along with **Brian Trottier**, was a thrill for all Penguin fans. I still think he will come out of retirement to play for Montreal.....It'll be interesting to see how **Jaromir Jagr** fares being the Pens' featured player this season.....Think QB **Jim Miller** will see any playing time for Jacksonville when they host the Steelers next Monday night?.....The Pirates had a question mark at shortstop when they traded **Jay Bell** to Kansas City. Now they have another: who will they keep among **Kevin Elster**, **Kevin Polcovich** and **Shawon Dunston**, who's been sensational since coming over from the Cubs.....Learning of **Richie Ashburn's** death brought back a lot of memories of watching him in spacious Forbes Field. We used to love to debate who was better defensively in centerfield: Ashburn or **Bill Virdon**.

Passing Leaders Since 1965

Year	Name	Att	Comp	Yards	TD	Int	Rtg
1965	Bill Nelsen	270	121	1,917	8	17	52.8
1966	Ron Smith	181	79	1,249	8	12	54.4
1967	Kent Nix	268	136	1,587	8	19	49.5
1968	Dick Shiner	304	148	1,856	18	17	64.5
1969	Dick Shiner	209	97	1,422	7	10	60.4
1970	Terry Bradshaw	218	83	1,410	6	24	30.6
1971	Terry Bradshaw	373	203	2,259	13	22	59.8
1972	Terry Bradshaw	308	147	1,887	12	12	64.1
1973	Terry Bradshaw	180	89	1,183	10	15	54.7
1974	Joe Gilliam	212	96	1,274	4	8	55.4
1975	Terry Bradshaw	289	165	2,055	18	9	87.8
1976	Terry Bradshaw	192	92	1,177	10	9	65.3
1977	Terry Bradshaw	314	162	2,523	17	19	71.2
1978	Terry Bradshaw	368	207	2,915	28	20	84.8
1979	Terry Bradshaw	472	259	3,724	26	25	77.0
1980	Terry Bradshaw	424	218	3,339	24	22	75.1
1981	Terry Bradshaw	370	201	2,887	22	14	84.0
1982	Terry Bradshaw	240	127	1,768	17	11	81.4
1983	Cliff Stoudt	381	197	2,553	12	21	60.8
1984	Mark Malone	272	147	2,137	16	17	73.3
1985	Mark Malone	233	117	1,428	13	7	75.6
1986	Mark Malone	425	216	2,444	15	18	62.6
1987	Mark Malone	336	156	1,896	6	19	46.5
1988	Bubby Brister	370	175	2,634	11	14	65.3
1989	Bubby Brister	342	187	2,365	9	10	73.1
1990	Bubby Brister	387	223	2,725	20	14	81.6
1991	Neil O'Donnell	286	156	1,963	11	7	78.8
1992	Neil O'Donnell	313	185	2,283	13	9	83.6
1993	Neil O'Donnell	486	270	3,208	14	7	79.5
1994	Neil O'Donnell	370	212	2,443	13	9	78.9
1995	Neil O'Donnell	416	246	2,970	17	7	87.7
1996	Mike Tomczak	401	222	2,767	15	17	71.8

Some Individual Records

Most seasons	15	Mike Webster (74-88)
Most games (career)	220	Mike Webster (74-88)
Most games (consecutive)	182	Ray Mansfield (64-76)
Yards rushing (Career)	11,950	Franco Harris (72-83)
Yards rushing (season)	1,690	Barry Foster (1992)
Yards rushing (game)	218	John Fuqua (1970)
Yards passing (career)	27,989	Terry Bradshaw (70-83)
Yards passing (season)	3,724	Terry Bradshaw (1979)
Yards passing (game)	409	Bobby Layne (1958)
Most points (career)	1,239	Gary Anderson (82-93)
Most points (season)	141	Norm Johnson (1995)
Most points (game)	24	Ray Mathews (1953)
	24	Roy Jefferson (1968)
Most sacks (career)	73.5	L.C. Greenwood (69-81)
Most sacks (season)	15.0	Mike Merriweather ('84)
Most sacks (game)	5.0	Joe Greene (1972)
Most consecutive field goals	18	Gary Anderson (1985)

BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

OCTOBER, 1997

Great Trip to Baltimore

We saw the bus....we rode the bus....we got to Baltimore and then saw The Bus again. Only the bus we rode up I-95 was comfortable and got us safely to old Memorial Stadium. The Bus we saw in Baltimore wore Steeler uniform #36 and is a real beast that tore through the Ravens' defensive line for 137 yards rushing and taught them how to say "tweet, tweet."

It didn't look good at first. The traffic was a killer through Baltimore and, as we were getting crushed to death at the gate, the crowd's roar told us something was happening and that it probably wasn't good for the Steelers. As we worked our way through the concourse, the crowd roared again. A quick look at the TV monitor showed us a Baltimore defender running back an interception thrown by Kordell Stewart and being downed at the Steeler five. We finally got to our seats with the Ravens up 7-0 but with a first-and-goal. We were barely in our not-so-good seats when Bam Morris' 1-yard run made it 14-0. The bus ride was good until we hit the stadium traffic. The crowds getting into poor old Memorial were horrendous, so thick that they maybe even bordered on being dangerous. It was terribly hot and the seats.....well they were lousy but the best we could get without surrendering to Art Modell's see-the-Steelers-buy-three-game-tickets plan. But terrible towels were everywhere and we settled in for what we hoped would be a turnaround. Pow! Another Stewart interception and a 43-yard return. Two minutes into the second quarter, a 24-yard Testaverde-to-Kinchen TD pass makes it 21-0. Not so many towels now.

Only the Steelers and the Lord know what Bill Cowher said to the team at halftime but, whatever it was, it was magic as the boyz scored 28 unanswered points on their way to a spectacular 42-34 victory. In the end, everyone was happy and no doubt all will agree that we had a great time. The boyz must have thought they were almost home because the media estimated that 20-25,000 Terrible Towels were there to cast their mysterious spell on the Ravens. It was comical listening to the post-game show on the way back because the Ravens' broadcasters were wondering how the team managed to sell so many seats to Steeler fans.

The trip should be a lot better next year because the Ravens will open the season in their new digs, Nevermore Stadium, which is located adjacent to Camden Yards. We won't have to put up with all the nonsense that comes with Memorial. We're sorry we only had room for 45 people but maybe more tickets will be made available in 1998. Then again, after this experience, maybe they won't!

Monthly Drawings

Don't forget to fill out your slips for the monthly drawings when you come to the Steeler telecasts at Mulligan's and Hooters. Congratulations to Mike Callen, who won the drawing for September, a Three Rivers Stadium Turf Plaque. The October prize will be two tickets to the Nov. 16th Steeler/Cincinnati game in Three Rivers. Remember: you must be present at the telecasts to get an entry and you get one entry (two for a family membership) for each game attended.

Thanks to Mulligan's

Many thanks to Mark Hurley of Mulligan's, who donated to Steel City Connection two tickets to the September 7th Steelers/Redskins game at Three Rivers. The tickets were won by Tom Byrne, who attended with his son. Tom reported that he had a great time and that the seats were terrific. Thanks again, Mark!

Steelers Night Games

The Steelers' TV schedule has been a real killer for club activities this year but we are trying to have some representation at the games. Our treasurer, Danny Isbell, will be at Mulligan's Mechanicsville for the Nov. 3rd Monday night game against Kansas City. Danny will be at Mulligan's Genito for the Nov. 9th Sunday night game against Baltimore. Normal club activities will take place on both those occasions.

And remember: no matter if the Steelers' regular Sunday afternoon games are on national TV or not, club activities are in full swing at all four Mulligan's locations and the Hooters location. Don't sit at home alone! Come watch the games *Steeler-style* with other black-and-gold fans!

Children's Hospital

As we approach the half-way mark in the Steeler season, please don't forget the kids at Children's Hospital who, over the years, have learned to count on us for support. We are well on our way to our 1997 goal of \$3,500 and we all want to keep the momentum going. Also, many thanks to Jim and Suzanne Woodside, who were selling UVa tickets at the last game and donated all the money to the kids.

Steelers Week-by-Week

<u>Steelers</u>		<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
7	8/31 Dallas	37	60,396
14	9/7 Washington	13	58,059
	9/15 OPEN DATE		
21	9/22 at Jacksonville	30	73,016
37	9/28 Tennessee	24	57,507
42	10/5 at Baltimore	34	64,421
24	10/12 Indianapolis	22	57,925
26	10/19 at Cincinnati	10	60,020
Oct. 26 - Jacksonville, 4:00			
Nov. 3 - at Kansas City, 9:00			
Nov. 9 - Baltimore, 8:00			
Nov. 16 - Cincinnati, 1:00			
Nov. 23 - at Philadelphia, 1:00			
Nov. 30 - at Arizona, 4:00			
Dec. 7 - Denver, 1:00			
Dec. 13 - at New England, 4:00			
Dec. 21 - at Tennessee, 1:00			

Steeler Stats

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opponents	38	46	36	50	0	170
Steelers	24	58	38	51	0	171

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

<u>Name</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Points</u>
N. Johnson	0	21	6	39
Stewart	6	0	0	36
Bruener	4	0	0	24
Bettis	3	0	0	18
Thigpen	2	0	0	12
C. Johnson	2	0	0	12
Jones	1	0	0	6
Hawkins	1	0	0	6
Lake	1	0	0	6
Gildon	1	0	0	6
Blackwell	1	0	0	6

RUSHING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Bettis	173	821	4.7	34	3
Stewart	37	222	6.0	74	6
Jones	28	89	3.2	18	0

RECEIVING

<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Thigpen	29	491	16.9	66	2
C. Johnson	18	253	14.1	49	2
Hawkins	15	197	13.1	35	1
Jones	7	58	8.3	16	1
Lester	7	35	5.0	14	0
Bruener	3	4	1.3	4	2

PASSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Int.</u>
Stewart	157	87	55.4	1,149	9	8
Tomczak	13	8	61.5	96	1	2

SACKS

Conley 3; Gildon 2; Holmes 2; Kirkland 2; Oldham 2;
Bell 1.5; Fuller 1; Gibson 1; Henry 1; Lake 1; Perry 1
Steed 1; Vrabel 1; Lloyd .5

The Steel City Connection

OFFICERS

Paul Mary	President, Newsletter Editor
Ed Talpas	Vice President
Livingston Rush	Vice President
Carole Mitas	Secretary
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News & Views

Ex-Pirate hero **Bill Mazerowski** recently had a hole-in-one on the par-3, 216-yard 16th hole at the Champion Lakes Golf Club near Ligonier. The course is owned by Maz' one time double-play partner **Dick Groat**.....Prior to the season, the Pirates said they'd need an attendance figure of 1.5 million to break even financially. Thanks to clever marketing and an exciting team, they finished the season with 1,657,022.....I love *Sports Illustrated's* description of the Jets/Patriots matchups: "**The Tuna Bowl**".....Congratulations to Pirate 2B **TONY WOMACK** for leading the National League with 60 stolen bases.....the "new" defense-minded Penguins are averaging two goals per game so far.....the Pirates have given 1B **EDDIE WILLIAMS** his unconditional release.....The other night on **JAY LENO**: "Doctors have discovered that pizza can be a cure for PMS. If you're a Domino's delivery driver, *do not* be more than 30 minutes late!".....The Steelers are leading the NFL in rushing. Who means the most: **JEROME BETTIS** or **TIM LESTER**?.....Looks like it's **NORM** all the way. The Steelers released **CHRIS JACKIE**.....I'm happy that **JIM LEYLAND** finally got into the World Series but I just can't bring myself to pull for the Florida Marlins.....The futures of the Steelers and Pirates are hinging on the ballot box. As election day nears, so do the referendums in the 11-county area surrounding Pittsburgh to raise the general sales tax by ½ percent. An approval would assure new side-by-side stadiums for the two teams and make needed improvements to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The Steelers have pledged \$35 million and the Pirates \$25 toward the projects. A defeat of the sales tax increase will leave the Steelers wondering about their stadium future and will definitely cloud the Pirates' future in Pittsburgh period. My bet is that the referendums will pass and it will be business as usual in the 'Burgh.....Exactly how old is **HERSCHEL WALKER** anyway?.....Has **COREY HOLIDAY** played a down yet this season? C'mon, Coach Cowher! We want to see our hometown hero.....Speaking of heroes, how about our own **DARREN PERRY**. Hasn't he been sensational so far this year?.....When **CARNELL LAKE** chased down the Bengals' Carl Pickens and knocked the ball away, he probably put himself in the Pro Bowl.....The pitcher on the Pirates' staff with the best stuff is **JASON SCHMIDT**.....Paul & Rosemary Mary will be making their annual Spring Training trek to Florida next April. Anyone interested in meeting them in Bradenton for a game or two?.....I think **REBA MCINTYRE** did a wonderful job with the *National Anthem* prior to Game 3 of the Series.....Speaking of the Series, it's silly to be playing night baseball in October in Cleveland. Let's return to a daytime World Series.....Down deep inside, I really don't think the Steelers have the firepower to return to the Super Bowl this year. But, if they can hang onto their free agents and, with a good college draft in the Spring, they could be hell-bent-for leather in 1998.....The Ravens' new stadium in downtown Baltimore looks like it's going to be a showplace.....Does Frenchy Fuqua still have goldfish in his shoes?

Receiving Leaders Since 1941

Year	Name	No.	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
1941	Don Looney	10	186	18.6	66	1
1942	Walt Kichewski	15	189	12.6	26	0
1943	Tony Bova	17	419	24.7	51	5
1944	Ed Rucinski	22	284	12.9	40	1
1945	Tony Bova	15	220	14.7	52	0
1946	Val Jansante	10	136	13.6	34	1
1947	Val Jansante	35	599	17.1	46	5
1948	Val Jansante	39	623	16.0	66	3
1949	Val Jansante	29	445	15.3	47	4
1950	Val Jansante	26	353	13.6	40	0
1951	Hank Minarik	35	459	13.1	37	1
1952	Elbie Nickel	55	884	16.1	54	9
1953	Elbie Nickel	62	743	12.0	40	4
1954	Ray Mathews	44	652	14.8	78	6
1955	Ray Mathews	42	762	18.1	61	6
1956	Ray Mathews	31	540	17.4	64	5
1957	Jack McClaren	46	630	13.7	48	2
1958	Jimmy Orr	33	910	27.6	78	7
1959	Jimmy Orr	35	604	17.3	43	5
1960	Buddy Dial	40	972	24.3	70	9
1961	Buddy Dial	53	1,047	19.8	88	12
1962	Buddy Dial	50	981	19.6	62	6
1963	Buddy Dial	60	1,295	21.6	83	9
1964	Gary Ballman	47	935	19.9	47	7
1965	Gary Ballman	40	859	21.5	88	5
1966	JOHN HILTON	46	603	13.1	32	4
1967	J.R. WILBURN	51	767	15.0	66	5
1968	Roy Jefferson	58	1,074	18.5	62	11
1969	Roy Jefferson	67	1,079	16.1	63	9
1970	Ron Shanklin	30	691	23.0	81	4
1971	Ron Shanklin	49	652	13.3	42	6
	John Fuqua	49	427	8.7	40	1
1972	Ron Shanklin	38	669	17.6	57	3
1973	Ron Shanklin	30	711	23.7	67	10
1974	Frank Lewis	30	365	12.2	31	4
1975	Lynn Swann	49	781	15.9	43	11
1976	Lynn Swann	28	576	20.6	47	3
1977	Lynn Swann	50	789	15.8	47	7
1978	Lynn Swann	61	880	14.4	62	11
1979	John Stallworth	70	1,183	16.9	65	8
1980	Lynn Swann	44	710	16.1	68	7
1981	John Stallworth	63	1,098	17.4	55	5
1982	Franco Harris	31	249	8.0	20	0
1983	Calvin Sweeney	39	577	14.8	42	5
1984	John Stallworth	80	1,395	17.4	51	11
1985	John Stallworth	75	937	12.5	41	5
1986	Walter Abercrombie	47	395	8.4	27	2
1987	John Stallworth	41	521	12.7	45	2
1988	Louis Lipps	50	973	19.5	89	5
	Merril Hoge	50	487	9.7	40	3
1989	Louis Lipps	50	944	18.9	79	5
1990	Louis Lipps	50	682	13.6	37	3
1991	Louis Lipps	55	671	12.2	35	2
1992	Jeff Graham	49	711	14.5	51	1
1993	Eric Green	63	942	15.0	71	5
1994	John L. Williams	51	378	7.4	23	2
1995	Yancey Thigpen	85	1,307	15.4	43	5
1996	Andre Hastings	72	739	10.3	38	6

Steel City Connection

8300 Recreation Road
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BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER, 1997

Viewing - Last Four Games

With the Holidays upon us; with the Steeler schedule down to the last four games; with the amount of exposure the team has had on regular network TV this year; with minimal attendance at Mechanicsville, Genito and the Fan; we will be centralizing club activities for the balance of the Steeler season.

For the Steeler telecast of November 30 (Steelers at Arizona, 4:00 P.M.), club activities will take place only at Mulligan's locations at Innsbrook and Mechanicsville; as well as the Hooters Chesterfield location.

For the final three regular season games (December 7 vs. Denver, 1:00 P.M.; December 13 at New England, 4:00 P.M. and December 21, at Tennessee, 1:00 P.M.), as well as all playoff games, club activities will take place **ONLY** at the Mulligan's Innsbrook location. The Steeler games will, of course, be featured at all five locations but club activities will only take place as outlined above.

Insofar as trying to conduct club activities as we have always done in the past, this has been a most difficult year for the Steel City Connection. Club officers spread themselves very thin over the five viewing locations in the attempt to make it convenient for all members to see the games, no matter where they were in the Richmond area at telecast time. But the TV schedule was a killer for satellite viewing and, at the three new locations, attendance was so thin that we could not have the fun with the members as we always had in the past. Consolidation down to one location will give those new members a chance to participate in the fun of a large crowd. It will also give those club officers a chance to once again see their old friends.

To all club officers who honored a commitment: Many thanks to Ed Talpas, Rich Golob and Dale Jordan, who were "left alone" at Innsbrook with the large crowds and who often couldn't just sit and watch the games. Many thanks to Carole Mitas, Michele Andolina, Paul & Rosemary Mary and to Tom Byrne who all made the weekly trips to the remote locations. Thanks also to Danny Isbell, who not only went to a different location each week, but also rotated locations on the Steeler Sunday night and Monday night games just to be with any attending club members. Thanks to Livingston Rush, who did the best he could to fulfill his commitment at Hooters.

It has been an interesting year to say the least and it will be great to see all the membership once again! We'll see all of you all at Innsbrook.

Children's Hospital Update

At the start of the year, we set a goal to raise \$3,000 in 1997 for the kids at Children's Hospital. While we are proud to say that, so far this year, your participation in club activities has raised \$2,208.98, the original goal may be in jeopardy. Scaling down club activities to only the Mulligan's Innsbrook location for the final three Steeler games should mean the opportunity to watch the games with a super-large crowd. This also means more opportunities to help the kids while having a lot of fun.

None of us has to look very far in order to realize how truly fortunate we are. If you think you have problems, drive over to Brook Road and spend a few hours at Children's Hospital. Last May, Darren Perry did. You will see, as Darren did, that *those kids have problems*.

Thanksgiving Day marks the start of the Christmas holiday season, a wonderful family time. Please remember those kids at Children's Hospital who won't be home for the holidays; who won't be spending time with their families like our kids will. And please remember the many kids who are outpatients there. Even though they may be home, they still must have regular treatments at the hospital.

We genuinely hope *all the membership* will be able to attend the remaining four Steeler telecasts at Mulligan's Innsbrook. We will have a lot of fun as we help the kids. For those of you who may not make the telecasts, we hope you will be able to at least stop by Mulligan's to drop a couple of bucks into the kids' jar. Guaranteed - you feel a lot better!

Super Mario!

Mario Lemieux was busy last week with his induction (along with ex-Pens Glen Sather and Bryan Trottier) into the Hall of Fame on Monday, followed by **Mario Lemieux Night** at the Civic Arena on Wednesday. The Penguins retired his jersey prior to their game against the Boston Bruins, the team Lemieux scored his first goal against. He and his family were honored with several presentations, which included a \$250,000 check from the team owners to the Mario Lemieux Foundation for Cancer Research. The fans responded with several teary standing ovations. His banner, which has "Mario Lemieux" at the top; "66" in the middle; and "1984-1997" at the bottom flanked by the old and new team logos, was raised to the top of the Arena between the American and Canadian flags to Tina Turner's "Simply the Best." He then donned his jersey one last time for a crowd-pleasing honorary goal. What a night! Wish we could've been there!

Steelers Week-by-Week

<u>Steelers</u>		<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
7	8/31 Dallas	37	60,396
14	9/7 Washington	13	58,059
	9/15 OPEN DATE		
21	9/22 at Jacksonville	30	73,016
37	9/28 Tennessee	24	57,507
42	10/5 at Baltimore	34	64,421
24	10/12 Indianapolis	22	57,925
26	10/19 at Cincinnati	10	60,020
23	10/26 Jacksonville	17	57,011
10	11/3 at Kansas City	13	78,301
37	11/9 Baltimore	0	56,669
20	11/16 Cincinnati	3	55,226
20	11/23 at Philadelphia	23	67,166

Nov. 30 - at Arizona, 4:00

Dec. 7 - Denver, 1:00

Dec 13 - at New England, 4:00

Dec. 21 - at Tennessee, 1:00

Steeler Stats

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opponents	52	72	42	60	0	226
Steelers	50	74	69	82	6	281

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

<u>Name</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Points</u>
N. Johnson	0	32	15	77
Stewart	8	0	0	48
Bettis	6	0	0	36
Bruener	5	0	0	30
Thigpen	4	0	0	24
Hawkins	3	0	0	18
C. Johnson	2	0	0	12
Jones	2	0	0	12
Blackwell	2	0	0	12
Gildon	1	0	0	6
Lake	1	0	0	6

RUSHING LEADERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Bettis	287	1,318	4.6	34	4
Stewart	57	323	5.7	74	8
Jones	51	199	3.9	32	1

RECEIVING LEADERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Thigpen	57	1,016	17.8	66	4
Hawkins	36	421	11.7	44	3
C. Johnson	27	381	14.1	49	2
Bruener	10	52	5.2	18	5
Blackwell	9	150	16.7	46	1

PASSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Int.</u>
Stewart	312	168	53.8	2,185	17	13
Tomczak	13	8	61.5	96	1	2

SACKS

Kirkland 4; Lloyd 3 ½; Henry 3; Gildon 3; Holmes 3
Oldham 3; Conley 3; Harrison 3; Bell 1 ½; Fuller 1
Lake 1; Perry 1; Steed 1; Vrabel 1; Royce 1; Gibson 1

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BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

DECEMBER, 1997

Children's Hospital Update

At the start of the year, we set a goal to raise \$3,500 in 1997 for the kids at Children's Hospital. We are proud to say that, due to the generosity of Steel City Connection membership, our 1997 donation to the kids will total \$3,607.97. The plastic jug got passed around a lot and also required your support of the pull-tab drawings in order to hit that number. About a month ago, we thought the \$3,500 goal might be in jeopardy but a lot of fives, tens and twenties began to appear in the jug. That, plus a very generous donation by a club member who wishes to remain anonymous, put us over the top.

A check for the 1997 donation total will be presented to the hospital's Hillary West at half time of the Steelers' January 3rd playoff game against the New England Patriots. This is *your* money and we hope all the membership will be at Mulligan's that day for the presentation.

Heartfelt thanks also go out to Mark Hurley and his managers at the five Mulligan's locations. Last Spring, Mark pledged ten percent of the profits from their blackjack machines as a Children's Hospital donation. This donation is over and above the Steel City Connection's. By the end of November, Mulligan's had donated over \$2,200 year-to-date directly to the hospital. When we print the January newsletter, we'll update you with their 1997 total. Thanks, Mark!

Monthly Drawings

Congratulations go out to Olga Gwyer, who won the monthly drawing for November. Olga won a framed, beautifully done Steeler Hall-of-Fame lithograph. The December monthly drawing will be held at Mulligan's during the Steelers' playoff game against the Patriots on January 3rd. The prize is an official Steeler Fan Club Package, which we purchased from the Steelers and contains lots of goodies.

Happy Holidays

We on the staff of the Steel City Connection would like to take this opportunity to wish all the membership, as well as the hard-working guys and gals at Mulligan's and Hooters, a happy and joyous Holiday season. We genuinely hope that the season is everything you want it to be. And with the coming of the New Year, we also wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 1998. It sure is hard to believe that another year has gone by!

Steelers Start Playoff Drive

Bring 'em on! Bring 'em *all* on! Come to papa! For the sixth year in a row the aroma of the NFL Playoffs is hanging in the air around Three Rivers Stadium. You can smell it now! It's an unmistakable air that gets your nostrils tingling and gets your blood flowing and makes your guts twist. It also makes you see things. You can see Art Rooney receiving those Super Bowl trophies clear as a bell and you can visualize Dan getting one. You can see the Immaculate Reception like it was yesterday. Myron Cope. Terry, Mean Joe, L.C., Franco and all the boys. Bam Morris running up Buffalo's gut two years ago. Harbaugh's failed Hail Mary game-ender that put the boys in Super Bowl XXX. First Noll and then Cowher pacing the sidelines. A packed and rockin' Three Rivers. That polka. Those towels. The cold. The snow. Ahh, just like Old Milwaukee, it doesn't get any better than this! And the funny thing about this air is that you don't have to be in Pittsburgh to smell it. Steeler fans all over the country can feel their noses twitch because the aroma has a distinctive "tang" to it. It will be especially thick and tangy at Mulligan's on January 3rd as the Steel City Connection assembles to cheer for the Steelers as they begin their "second season" against the New England Patriots.

It was just a few weeks ago, December 13th to be exact, that the two teams last met. The Steelers made us crazy as they pulled out a dramatic, come-from-behind 24-21 victory. That win followed a 35-24 thumping of the Broncos the week before and proved that the boys could hang with the elite of the AFC. In fact, it may have proved that the boys *are* the elite of the AFC.

When the season began, no one thought the Steelers would amount to much. They had lost too much to free agency. Maybe 8-8. Tops at 9-7. Most picked Jacksonville to win the AFC Central. But lookee here! Helped by six Pro-Bowl starters who all put together great years; by a rapidly-maturing Kordell Stewart; by 48 QB sacks; by the NFL's best offensive line; by great team chemistry, the Steelers put together an 11-5 year and their fifth AFC Central crown in six years. In fact, if it wasn't for a blotched field goal attempt in Jacksonville and a meaningless game at Tennessee, they just as easily could have finished at 13-3.

We hope all of you will turn out at Mulligan's on January 3rd. The aroma is in the air and it's no fun watching the game alone. It would be great to rock the place and for the bar to be a sea of black and gold! You have all day Sunday to recuperate. By the way, is it a coincidence that, to get to San Diego from Pittsburgh, Kansas City is on the way?

Steelers Week-by-Week

<u>Steelers</u>		<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
7	8/31 Dallas	37	60,396
14	9/7 Washington	13	58,059
	9/15 OPEN DATE		
21	9/22 at Jacksonville	30	73,016
37	9/28 Tennessee	24	57,507
42	10/5 at Baltimore	34	64,421
24	10/12 Indianapolis	22	57,925
26	10/19 at Cincinnati	10	60,020
23	10/26 Jacksonville	17	57,011
10	11/3 at Kansas City	13	78,301
37	11/9 Baltimore	0	56,669
20	11/16 Cincinnati	3	55,226
20	11/23 at Philadelphia	23	67,166
26	11/30 at Arizona	20	66,341
35	12/7 Denver	24	59,739
24	12/13 at New England	21	60,013
6	12/21 at Tennessee	16	50,677

Steeler Stats

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opponents	69	106	62	70	0	307
Steelers	67	98	86	106	15	372

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

<u>Name</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Points</u>
N. Johnson	0	40	22	106
Stewart	11	0	0	66
Bettis	9	0	0	54
Thigpm	7	0	0	42
Bruener	6	0	0	36
Hawkins	3	0	0	18
C. Johnson	2	0	0	12
Jones	2	0	0	12
Blackwell	2	0	0	12
Gildon	1	0	0	6
Lake	1	0	0	6

RUSHING LEADERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Bettis	375	1,665	4.4	34	7
Stewart	88	476	5.4	74	11
Jones	72	235	3.3	32	1
McAfee	13	41	3.2	9	0

RECEIVING LEADERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Thigpen	79	1,398	17.7	69	7
C. Johnson	46	568	12.3	49	2
Hawkins	45	555	12.3	44	3
Bruener	18	117	6.5	18	6
Jones	16	96	6.0	25	1
Blackwell	12	168	14.0	46	1

PASSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Int.</u>
Stewart	440	236	53.6	3,020	21	17
Tomczak	24	16	66.7	185	1	2

SACKS

Lake 6; Kirkland 5; Gildon 5; Henry 4½ Oldham 4;
Harrison 4; Holmes 4; Conley 4; Lloyd 3½; Bell 1½;
Vrabel 1½; Fuller 1; Perry 1; Steed 1; Royce 1; Gibson 1

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Spring Training

Even though the Steelers are winding up a stunning season and the Penguins are getting their Mario-less act together, it's time to think ahead a little. How about Florida and Spring Training? It's only about two months away, you know! The first official workout for pitchers and catchers will be Saturday, February 14th and the first official workout for the entire squad will be Thursday, February 19th. The Pirates open their 30-game Grapefruit League schedule on February 27th against Cleveland. Their schedule is as follows:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Fri	2/27	Cleveland	Bradenton	1:05
Sat	2/28	N.Y. Yankees	Tampa	1:05
Sun	3/1	Toronto	Dunedin	1:05
Mon	3/2	Boston	Fort Myers	1:05
Tue	3/3	Texas	Port Charlotte	1:05
Wed	3/4	Philadelphia	Bradenton	1:05
Thur	3/5	Detroit	Lakeland	1:05
Fri	3/6	Cincinnati	Sarasota	1:05
Sat	3/7	Boston	Fort Myers	1:05
Sun	3/8	Texas	Bradenton	1:05
Sun	3/9	N.Y. Yankees	Bradenton	1:05
Tue	3/10	Minnesota	Bradenton	1:05
Wed	3/11	Cincinnati	Sarasota	1:05
Thur	3/12	Cincinnati	Bradenton	1:05
Fri	3/13	Boston	Bradenton	1:05
Sat	3/14	Detroit	Bradenton	1:05
Sun	3/15	Cincinnati	Bradenton	1:05
Mon	3/16	OFF DAY		
Tue	3/17	Minnesota	Fort Myers	1:05
Wed	3/18	Texas	Bradenton	1:05
Thur	3/19	Toronto	Bradenton	1:05
Fri	3/20	Texas	Port Charlotte	1:05
Sat	3/21	Minnesota	Bradenton	1:05
Sun	3/22	Philadelphia	Clearwater	1:05
Mon	3/23	Cincinnati	Sarasota	7:05
Tue	3/24	Minnesota	Fort Myers	7:05
Wed	3/25	Boston	Bradenton	1:05
Thur	3/26	Philadelphia	Bradenton	1:05
Fri	3/27	Cleveland	Winter Haven	1:05
Sat	3/28	Cincinnati	Bradenton	1:05
Sun	3/29	OFF DAY		
Mon	3/30	Minnesota	Fort Myers	1:05

Ticket prices for all home games at McKechnie Field are only \$8.50 for box seats; \$8.00 reserved and \$5.50 general admission. Season ticket packages are available and individual game tickets will go on sale January 21st. For additional information you can call the Pirates at (941) 748-4610 or (941) 747-3031. Or call Paul and Rosemary Mary at 795-5580, who go every year and will soon be making their 1998 Spring Training plans. McKechnie Field is a neat place to watch a ball game and March is a terrific time to be in Florida. The area around Sarasota, Bradenton and Anna Maria Island is a great place to spend a few days and it's only a Sunshine Skyway ride away from Tampa/St. Pete. Just something to think about as we're all huddled at Mulligan's watching the Steelers slash through the playoffs!

Paul Mary

New Stadium Is A Must

In last month's edition of *The Black & Gold News*, we hit upon voters' rejection of a tax-based plan for stadium financing. Since then, it continues to be a hot topic among Steeler fans. We remain confident that the Rooneys and state and local officials will be able to work something out. We pointed out that, if there is anyone in the NFL who deserves a new stadium, it's Dan Rooney. Three Rivers has been a fun place and holds memories we'll all cherish for a lifetime. But, simply put, now that RFK Stadium is gone, the Steelers have just about the smallest stadium capacity in the NFL. They need to sell out at 70,000, not 57,000. They need the extra revenues that come with corporate super-boxes.

For those who don't think a new stadium is important to the future competitiveness of the Steelers, here's a lesson in basic math. For the Steelers' eight home games this past season, their total attendance was 462,532, or an average of 57,817 per game. For their eight away games, the total attendance was 519,995, an average of 64,994. If we forget that pathetic situation in Memphis and don't count that last game against the Oilers, the total for the other seven away games is 469,318, an average of 67,045. The Steelers attracted stadium-record crowds in Jacksonville and Baltimore; attracted season-high attendances in Cincinnati, Kansas City, New England, Philadelphia and Memphis; second-highest season attendance at Arizona. Phenomenal support nationally. And they call the Crumboys "America's Team." If they can average 67,000 on the road, it's a no-brainer putting 67,000-70,000 into a new home in Pittsburgh. Take those extra 10,000-13,000 filled seats times, say \$55, times eight regular season games. Factor in preseason and playoff games. Factor in luxury boxes. Factor in concession sales. Factor in added financial impact to merchants in the stadium vicinity. You're talking millions. After all this, tell me the extra revenues from a new stadium aren't critical to the future competitiveness of the Steelers.

+ + +

We all know what a truly great job Tom Donahue has done keeping the talent flow coming in the direction of the Steelers. The team has lost a ton of front-line players in recent years but, largely due to his talent assessment, Bill Cowher has produced playoff teams in each of his six years as Coach. Maybe it's me but I like to follow the ex-Steelers in the NFL to see how they're doing. Here's a brief recap:

<u>Player, Team</u>	<u>1997 Capsule</u>
O'Donnell, NYJ	17 TD; 7 Int; 2,796 Yds; 80.3 Rating
Graham, NYJ	42 Rec; 542 Yds; 12.9 Avg; 2 TD
Hastings, N.O.	48 Rec; 722 Yds; 15.0 Avg; 5 TD
Anderson, S.F.	38/38 PAT; 29/36 FG; 125 Pts.
Woodson, S.F.	3 Int; 81 Yds; 1 PR; 1 concussion
K. Greene, S.F.	10½ sacks; 1 TD; 1 contract rebuff
E. Mills, Car.	11 Rec; 127 Yds; 11.5 Avg; 1 TD
Brown, Sea.	6½ sacks; 2 TD; 1 concussion
W. Williams, Sea.	1 Int; 0 Yds.
E. Green, Balt.	65 Rec; 601 Yds; 9.2 Avg; 5 TD
Morris, Balt.	204 Att; 774 Yds; 3.8 Avg; 4 TD
Figures, Jax.	5 Int; 48 Yds.
Shepherd, Wash.	29 REC; 562 Yds; 19.4 Avg; 5 TD

News & Views

"Scruples? Integrity? Principles? What's that? I wanna win some football games." - what I'm sure Dolphin Coach **JIMMY JOHNSON** was thinking when he signed running back **LAWRENCE PHILIPS**.....A source in Green Bay told me the Packers and Steelers are slated to play in Three Rivers in 1998.....The Pirates bolstered their infield with the resigning of their 1997 HR and RBI leader **KEVIN YOUNG** (.300, 18, 74) and then signing free agent IF **DOUG STRANGE** (.257, 12, 47), who played last year with the Montreal Expos.....ex-Steeler (?) kicker **CHRIS JACKIE** signed with the Redskins for 1998I know staph infections are nothing to play with but Steelers LB **GREG LLOYD** must have been one sick puppy, to have been confined to the hospital for two weeks with his. Lloyd is still recovering and will not play in the Jan. 3rd playoff game..... The Penguins have recalled RW **ROBERT DOME** from their Syracuse farm club. The Slovakia native was their #1 pick in the 1997 Entry Draft..... The Pirates' shortstop picture cleared up a bit when **KEVIN ELSTER** signed with the Texas Rangers, the team he played with in 1996. That leaves **SHAWON DUNSTON** as their remaining free agent.....The Oakland Raiders' 12 losses this season is the most for them since 1962.....The Steelers success this season is underscored by their six Pro Bowl selections: **DERMONTI DAWSON, JEROME BETTIS, YANCEY THIGPEN, JOEL STEED, CARNELL LAKE** and **LEVON KIRKLAND**..... On his 82nd birthday, I heard what I always thought was one of the great **FRANK SINATRA** quotes: "Ya' gotta' love life baby, because dyin's a pain in the ass".....The amazing part about **KORDELL STEWART's** success this season is he's only scratched the surface of how good he's going to be..... I'm pretty sick of hearing about **LATRELL SPREWELL** but I have gotten a kick out of talk show host **PAPA JOE CHEVALIER**, who refers to him as **Latrine**.....The Pirates bolstered their pitching staff when they signed **JON LIEBER** for two more years. Lieber (11-14) was their Opening Day pitcher last season and led the team with 160 K's... ..The Pirates also signed free agent lefty **JEFF TABAKA** to a 1-year deal. Last season, Tabaka, 33, was 3-2 with a 2.65 ERA in 58 appearances with the Reds' AAA Indianapolis farm club..... I guess we can say what we want to about the Dallas Cowboys but, when they played the Giants last Sunday in New York, it marked the 129th consecutive time they have played before a sell-out crowd..Rumors out of the 'Burg are that the Penguins and **JAROMIR JAGR** are trying to negotiate a multi-year deal and that Jagr recently rejected their \$50 million offer.....The Pirates concluded their busy December by making a cash trade with Oakland for 21-year-old pitcher **JAVIER MARTINEZ**. To make room on their 40-man roster, they surprisingly released lefty **STEVE COOKE**, who later signed a one-year, \$300,000 deal with a \$1.2 million option for 1999 with Cincinnati. Then they selected another 21-year-old pitcher, **MELVIN BRAZOBAN**, from Texas in the Rule V draft. Both youngsters must remain with the Bucs all next season or be offered back to the A's and Reds. Finally, they resigned switch-hitting OF **TURNER WARD** to a two-year deal. Ward (.353, 7, 33) will get \$750,000 in 1998 and \$850,000 in 1999.

Scoring Leaders Since 1941

Year	Name	TD	PAT	FG	Points
1941	Art Jones	5	0	0	30
1942	Bill Dudley	6	0	0	36
1943	Ernie Steele	6	0	0	36
	Bob Thurbon	6	0	0	36
1944	Bob Thurbon	5	0	0	30
1945	Bill Dudley	3	2	0	20
1946	Bill Dudley	5	12	2	48
1947	Steve Lach	9	0	0	54
1948	Joe Glamp	3	26	4	56
1949	Joe Geri	5	12	1	45
1950	Joe Geri	3	22	8	64
1951	Joe Geri	4	22	7	67
1952	Elbie Nickel	9	0	0	54
1953	Nick Bolkovac	1	27	4	45
1954	Ray Mathews	8	0	0	48
1955	Ray Mathews	7	0	0	42
1956	Elbie Nickel	5	0	0	30
	Lynn Chandnois	5	0	0	30
1957	Earl Girard	4	2	1	29
1958	Tom Miner	0	31	14	73
1959	Bobby Layne	2	32	11	77
1960	Tom Tracy	9	0	3	63
1961	Buddy Dial	12	0	0	72
1962	Lou Michaels	0	32	26	110
1963	Lou Michaels	0	32	21	95
1964	Mike Clark	0	28	13	67
1965	Mike Clark	0	19	11	52
1966	Mike Clark	0	34	21	97
1967	Mike Clark	0	35	12	71
1968	Roy Jefferson	12	0	0	72
1969	Gene Mingo	0	26	12	62
1970	John Fuqua	9	0	0	54
1971	Roy Gerela	0	27	17	78
1972	Roy Gerela	0	35	28	119
1973	Roy Gerela	0	36	29	123
1974	Roy Gerela	0	33	20	93
1975	Roy Gerela	0	44	17	95
1976	Franco Harris	14	0	0	84
1977	Franco Harris	11	0	0	66
1978	Roy Gerela	0	44	17	95
1979	Matt Bahr	0	50	18	104
1980	Matt Bahr	0	39	19	96
1981	Dave Trout	0	38	12	74
1982	Gary Anderson	0	22	10	52
1983	Gary Anderson	0	38	27	119
1984	Gary Anderson	0	45	24	117
1985	Gary Anderson	0	40	33	139
1986	Gary Anderson	0	32	21	95
1987	Gary Anderson	0	21	22	87
1988	Gary Anderson	0	34	28	118
1989	Gary Anderson	0	28	21	91
1990	Gary Anderson	0	32	20	92
1991	Gary Anderson	0	32	23	100
1992	Gary Anderson	0	29	28	113
1993	Gary Anderson	0	32	28	116
1994	Gary Anderson	0	32	24	104
1995	Norm Johnson	0	39	34	141
1996	Norm Johnson	0	37	23	106

**STEELERS
VS.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

**Steelers won 11, lost 4
Home 8-3; Away 3-1**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Steelers</u>	<u>Patriots</u>
1972	Home	33	3
1974	Away	21	17
1976	Home	27	30
1979	Away	16	13 (OT)
1981	Home	27	21 (OT)
1982	Home	37	14
1983	Home	23	28
1986	Home	0	34
1989	Home	28	10
1990	Home	24	3
1991	Home	20	6
1993	Home	17	14
1995	Home	41	27
1996	Away (playoff)	3	28
1997	Away	24	21(OT)

**STEELERS
VS.
DENVER BRONCOS**

**Steelers won 8, lost 12, tied 1
Home 5-5; away 3-7-1**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Steelers</u>	<u>Broncos</u>
1970	Away	13	16
1971	Home	10	22
1973	Home	13	23
1974	Away	35	35 (OT)
1975	Home	20	9
1977	Away	7	21
1977	Away (playoff)	21	34
1978	Away	21	17
1978	Home (playoff)	33	10

<u>Year</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Steelers</u>	<u>Broncos</u>
1979	Home	42	7
1983	Home	10	14
1984	Away (playoff)	24	17
1985	Home	23	31
1986	Home	10	21
1988	Home	39	21
1989	Away	7	34
1989	Away (playoff)	23	24
1990	Away	34	17
1991	Away	13	20
1993	Away	13	37
1997	Home	35	24

**STEELERS
VS.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**

**Steelers won 14, lost 7
Home 7-4; Away 7-3**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Steelers</u>	<u>Chiefs</u>
1970	Home	14	31
1971	Away	16	38
1972	Home	16	7
1974	Away	34	24
1975	Home	28	3
1976	Away	45	0
1978	Home	27	24
1979	Away	30	3
1980	Home	21	16
1981	Home	33	37
1982	Home	35	14
1984	Home	27	37
1985	Away	36	28
1986	Home	19	24
1987	Away	17	16
1988	Home	16	10
1989	Home	23	17
1992	Away	27	3
1993	Away (playoff)	24	27 (OT)
1996	Away	17	7
1997	Away	10	13

Paul Mary

No Bucks For The Bucs

And no bucks for the Steelers. That was the voters' response on election day to the Regional Renaissance Initiative that would have provided partial funding for two new stadiums by way of a 0.5% sales tax increase in 11 western Pennsylvania counties. The plan was on the ballots in each of the 11 counties and was soundly defeated in each, despite the pledges of \$35 million by the Steelers and \$25 million by the Pirates. Although supporters were not optimistic the plan would pass, a source close to home told me success in Allegheny County was all that was needed to at least get the ball rolling. Passage in some or all of the remaining counties would be like a bingo bonus bonanza. Governor Ridge has pledged state money for the project but only on top of local funding. A disappointed Dan Rooney has been fairly quiet so far, basically saying, "The status-quo is unacceptable." Kevin McClatchy, who has said all along a new stadium is vital to the Pirates' future, said he would let local politicians figure out alternative financing. Their suggestions have included seat licenses, baseball-related lotteries and the sale of stadium naming rights. According to Major League Baseball's relocation guidelines, McClatchy now has the right to sell or move the team but likely will wait for a new plan before making any decisions.

So what does all this mean to the futures of the two teams? The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind. And an ill wind it may be. Dan Rooney has maintained that a new stadium is vital to the Steelers remaining competitive in the future. He is, unfortunately, probably correct. Yes, the Steelers and the city of Pittsburgh are welded together as one. Yes, for what the Rooney's have meant to the city; for all the good they've done over the years; if there's *anyone* who deserves a first class facility it's Dan Rooney. Although it's unimaginable to even consider Rooney doing anything drastic, let's face it: pro sports has changed. The NFL has changed. Long gone is the loyalty to "the grand old man." Long in is "show me the money." Just ask the more than two dozen front-line players have fled the team to "greener" pastures the past few years. True, Bill Cowher is on his way to a sixth straight playoff season but how long can he be expected to go to the well before the well starts to come up dry? If he continues to consistently field a winner under these conditions, his election to the NFL Hall of Fame will be an understatement. Canton will only be a cup of coffee stop-over for Cowher as he proceeds on his way to sainthood.

For my beloved Pirates, the answer may be painfully, yet mercifully, straight ahead. This is the third time in 11 years the beleaguered team has been on the ropes and the third strike could be an out. The late Carl Barger bailed them out in 1986 but this time it may be too much for Kevin McClatchy. One only has to look at the NL and AL standings this decade to see the well-financed teams are consistently competitive and life for the under-financed teams is cyclical at best. Develop the kids; produce a winner; lose the matured kids to free agency; hit rock bottom; start the cycle again. 1997 made for a great story; 1998 should be more of the same but, after that, the Pirates' fate lies somewhere between the banks of the Allegheny and northern Virginia.

NFL Realignment

Now that the Major League owners have rethought, at least temporarily, their ruination of baseball, maybe we can turn our attention to something that is truly inevitable. Assuming that NFL franchise free agency has finally run its course, Commissioner Paul Tagliabue will no doubt launch a task force to realign the mess that's been created. Well, he doesn't have to bother because the answer is right here. It's simple, painless and, as most mom's like to rationalize, probably meant to be. We just have to set the stage with a few things:

1. For the sake of *some* tradition, keep the National and American Conferences alive.
2. Via expansion to 32 teams, return NFL teams to the previously-screwed fans in Cleveland and in Los Angeles.
3. Divide the two conferences into four geographical divisions of two teams each.
4. Move Atlanta and Tampa Bay from the NFC to the AFC.
5. Move Tennessee and San Diego from the AFC to the NFC. (The fans in Nashville won't know the difference anyway.)

There! All done. And we've saved Commissioner Tagliabue millions of dollars in consulting fees. We've also saved the owners from being any more mortal enemies than they are right now. A brotherhood of love. Anyway, the finished product would look like this:

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
New England	Pittsburgh
Buffalo	Cleveland
N.Y. Jets	Cincinnati
Baltimore	Indianapolis
<u>Division III</u>	<u>Division IV</u>
Atlanta	Seattle
Jacksonville	Oakland
Miami	Kansas City
Tampa Bay	Denver

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
Philadelphia	New Orleans
N.Y. Giants	Tennessee
Washington	Dallas
Carolina	St. Louis
<u>Division III</u>	<u>Division IV</u>
Green Bay	Los Angeles
Minnesota	San Diego
Chicago	Arizona
Detroit	San Francisco

When all this comes to pass, you can proudly say you saw it first here. Save this edition of *The Black & Gold News*. It may be worth a fortune someday.

News & Views

North Carolina businessman **DONALD BEAVER**, who's trying to swing a deal to move the Minnesota Twins to that state, also has \$5 million invested in the Pirates.....Very-much deserved congratulations go out to Pirates General Manager **CAM BONIFAY** for winning the *Sporting News* Major League Executive-of-the-Year Award for 1997. He is the first Pirate GM to win the award since **JOE L. BROWN** in 1958.....How's this as a battle cry for the '98 Florida Marlins: "Wait 'til last year!".....The Pirates also announced they have outrighted pitchers **JOHN ERICKS** and **MATT RUEBEL** to Calgary (AAA).....I think the temper tantrum thrown by **MICHAEL IRVIN** in the Cowboy's Nov. 2nd game against the 49ers should eliminate all doubt as to what an egotistical idiot he really is.....Where is Penguins' goalie **PATRICK LALIME** these days?.....The Steelers recently signed TE **TROY SADOWSKI** to replace **MITCH LYONS**, who is lost for the season with a blown knee. Sadowski is an eight-year NFL veteran, having formerly played with the Jets and Bengals..The Steelers are also practicing **JON WITMAN** at the TE position.....As rumored, the Pirates dropped their AAA affiliation with Calgary and will begin one with Nashville.....The Colorado Rockies have signed pitcher **DAVE WAINHOUSE** to a minor league contract. Wainhouse spent parts of the last two seasons with the Bucs..... With the 20-3 win over the Bengals, the Steelers haven't given up a rushing touchdown at Three Rivers in 59 quarters.....LB **GREG LLOYD'S** game against the Bengals (5 tackles and a sack) was by far his best of the season.....The Pirates signed pitcher **FRANCISCO CORDOVA** to a new 3-year contract. Cordova topped the Buc starters last season with an 11-8 record.....Talk about efficiency. Steelers' TE **MARK BRUENER** has only caught ten passes this season but five of them have been for TD's.....The Penguins **PETR NEDVED** is still holding out in a contract dispute.....I find Hokie fans to be somewhat irritating and was chuckling when Pitt upended Tech 30-23. By the way, what's a Hokie?.....The Pirates appear to be satisfied with their losses in the expansion draft. They lost pitchers **CLINT SODOWSKY** and **JASON JOHNSON**, neither of which will be missed, and starting 3B **JOE RANDA**, a .302 hitter last season who will be missed. They must feel **FREDDY GARCIA** is set to take over..... The \$34 million contract ex-Buc **JAY BELL** signed with Arizona was a real eye opener.....Will the real **MIKE DITKA** please stand up?Been checking the Penguins' box scores this year? If you do, note the home attendance.....I think the Detroit Lions' **BARRY SANDERS** is flat-out the best running back I have ever seen, any time, any place.....The Pirates had the competition for their vacant third base job reduced by one when free agent **DALE SVEUM** signed a two-year deal with the New York Yankees.....I was really surprised when the Florida Panthers fired Coach **DOUG MacLEAN**.....Future Pirate first baseman **RON WRIGHT** led the Arizona Fall League in home runs with 11.....Did you see **BILL COWHER** after the failed onside kick against the Eagles? How would you like to return to the sideline to that?.....The Penguins and Allegheny Electric, Inc. have struck a deal to rename the Civic Arena the **Allegheny Energy Dome**.

Receiving Leaders Since 1941

Year	Name	Att.	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
1941	Dick Riffle	109	388	3.6	54	1
1942	Bill Dudley	162	696	4.3	42	5
1943	Jack Hinkle	116	571	4.9	--	4
1944	John Grigas	185	610	3.2	--	3
1945	Buist Warren	96	285	3.0	75	2
1946	Bill Dudley	146	604	4.1	42	3
1947	Johnny Clement	129	670	5.2	43	4
1948	Bob Cifers	112	361	3.2	21	1
1949	Jerry Nuzum	139	611	4.4	64	5
1950	Joe Geri	18	705	3.8	45	2
1951	Fran Rogel	109	385	3.5	51	3
1952	Ray Mathews	66	315	4.7	36	0
1953	Fran Rogel	137	527	3.8	58	2
1954	Fran Rogel	111	415	3.8	16	1
1955	Fran Rogel	168	588	3.5	19	2
1956	Fran Rogel	131	476	3.6	40	2
1957	Billy Wells	154	532	3.5	51	0
1958	Tom Tracy	169	714	4.2	64	5
1959	Tom Tracy	199	794	4.0	51	3
1960	Tom Tracy	192	680	3.4	28	5
1961	John Henry Johnson	213	787	3.9	44	6
1962	John Henry Johnson	251	1,141	4.5	40	7
1963	John Henry Johnson	186	775	4.2	48	4
1964	John Henry Johnson	235	1,048	4.7	45	7
1965	Dick Hoak	131	426	3.2	42	5
1966	Bill Asbury	169	544	3.3	45	7
1967	Don Shy	99	341	3.4	33	4
1968	Dick Hoak	175	858	4.9	77	3
1969	Dick Hoak	151	531	3.5	13	2
1970	John Fuqua	138	691	5.0	85	7
1971	John Fuqua	155	625	4.0	30	4
1972	Franco Harris	188	1,055	5.6	75	10
1973	Franco Harris	188	698	3.7	35	3
1974	Franco Harris	208	1,006	4.8	54	5
1975	Franco Harris	289	1,246	4.8	36	10
1976	Franco Harris	289	1,128	3.9	30	14
	Rocky Bleier	220	1,036	4.7	28	5
1977	Franco Harris	300	1,162	3.9	61	11
1978	Franco Harris	310	1,082	3.5	37	8
1979	Franco Harris	261	1,186	4.4	71	11
1980	Franco Harris	208	789	3.8	26	4
1981	Franco Harris	242	987	4.1	50	8
1982	Franco Harris	140	604	4.3	21	2
1983	Franco Harris	279	1,007	3.6	19	5
1984	Frank Pollard	213	851	4.0	52	6
1985	Frank Pollard	233	991	4.3	56	3
1986	Earnest Jackson	216	910	4.2	31	5
1987	Earnest Jackson	180	696	3.9	39	1
1988	Merril Hoge	170	705	4.1	20	3
1989	Tim Worley	195	770	3.9	38	5
1990	Merril Hoge	203	772	3.8	41	7
1991	Merril Hoge	165	610	3.7	24	2
1992	Barry Foster	390	1,690	4.3	69	11
1993	Leroy Thompson	205	763	3.7	36	3
1994	Barry Foster	216	851	3.9	29	5
1995	Erric Pegram	213	813	3.8	38	5
1996	Jerome Bettis	320	1,431	4.5	50	11

BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1998

Stadium Deal Could Be Near

Following the November 4 rejection of "Plan A," a stadium tax referendum in the 11-county area surrounding Pittsburgh which failed miserably, "Plan B" seems to be moving along nicely and with some surprising cooperation among local political factions. If this cooperation continues, sources close to the negotiations say a deal could be announced as early as March. Admittedly, the tax rejection may have created a sense of urgency, with the February deadline for ballpark financing imposed by Pirate owner Kevin McClatchey. Mayor Tom Murphy, Governor Tom Ridge and two of the three Allegheny County commissioners, Michael Dawida and Robert Cranmer, have been working on the plan since the tax increase was voted down.

The plan calls for Three Rivers Stadium to be demolished. (How its \$40 million debt would be paid off is unclear.) It would be replaced with a new 65,000-seat stadium for the Steelers. Adjacent to it would be a 38,000-seat ballpark for the Pirates. The expanded convention center is also considered essential because Pittsburgh apparently loses millions in potential annual revenue and tourist dollars because the convention center is much smaller than those in comparably sized cities.

The coalition is trying to get the \$672 million project funded by selling 20-year bonds, which would be paid off through a hotel/motel tax that would be redirected to the stadiums; a surcharge on Pirates and Steelers tickets that could generate as much as \$3 million annually; and a county sales tax already in place. The sales tax was raised from 6% to 7% in 1994 and generates about \$63 million per year, almost all of which goes to county assets such as Three Rivers. The Steelers and Pirates also would pay annual rent. In addition, Gov. Ridge has pledged to fund 33% (\$140 million) of the new ballparks and 50% of the \$280 million convention center expansion. (Ridge was in Pittsburgh in late January to announce the state would pay 75% (\$38 million) of the new University of Pittsburgh basketball arena.)

But now the buzz is that the price estimates for the project is low; not the original \$672 million but in fact closer to \$760 million. One suggestion now is that local officials could hold down rising costs by renovating, rather than replacing, Three Rivers Stadium. However, Steelers president Dan Rooney said he wants a new stadium before the 2001-02 NFL season, complete with luxury boxes that can be sold at premium prices. Rooney feels that is essential to the future competitiveness of the Steelers. The next few weeks will be interesting and hopefully full of good news.

Steelers Should Repeat

One was a surprise to many, the others a surprise to few. In the surprise, Chan Gailey went to the NFL's scouting combine in Indianapolis as the Steelers offensive coordinator and left as the head coach of the (barf) Dallas Cowboys. Gailey, picked for the job over the Packers' Sherm Lewis, said his hiring was the "beginning of the dream. Then, in a statement this writer feels was fitting for Beavis & Butthead and a few of their playmates, Gailey continued, "The final dream will be that we're champions, with class, dignity and character." A statement that, we're certain, most of them could not even *begin* to comprehend. Anyway, Chan, thanks for the good work and the memories. You have nothing to lose and we hope you stay the entire length of your new five-year contract despite that alley cat you'll be working for.

In arguably a surprise to few, the Tennessee Oilers made Yancey Thigpen the highest paid receiver in the NFL when they signed him to a five-year, \$21 million contract. It's not surprising that OT John Jackson split for the sunshine of San Diego but what is surprising is that he got a six-year, \$26 million deal. That's OK, because we've seen them leave before. Eric Green to Miami; Kevin Greene to Carolina; Chad Brown to Seattle (where we hope his wife is finally eating well); Gary Anderson, Leon Searcy. Neil O'Donnell, et al. All this and the Steelers still have been to the AFC championship game three years out of the last four.

And don't worry, the boys will be back! They stepped to the plate and re-signed top priority Joel Steed, no doubt the heart of the defense. That leaves DB's Myron Bell and Randy Fuller, LB Jason Gildon and G Tom Myslinski as the remaining free agents to be dealt with. Shrewd Tom Donahue will pick and choose who the priorities are. That, plus a good college draft and a season's experience under the belt for Kordell Stewart, Chad Scott, Tom Vrabel and Will Blackwell, have already made the Steelers the early Super Bowl favorite for many. But it could be interesting.

Thigpen will compliment the Oilers' already potent attack anchored by Steve McNair but they lost G Kevin Donnalley to the Dolphins. The Jaguars improved their defense by signing LB Bryce Paup but their offense has been hit hard. Gone are QB Rob Johnson and FB Ty Hallock; probably gone is Natrone Means. We're still trying to figure out what the Ravens accomplished by re-signing Eric Green and acquiring RB Errict Rhett, QB Jim Harbaugh and CB Rod Woodson. **BOTTOM LINE?** (1) The Steelers aren't the only ones with a lot of player moves and they will be fine. (2) Miami is a lot closer to get to than San Diego.

The Steel City Connection

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Livingston Rush	Vice President
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Danny Isbell, Jr.	Treasurer
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FIVE GREAT LOCATIONS

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OPEN

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$30 — New Membership (family or single)
\$20 — Family Membership Renewal
\$15 — Single Membership Renewal

Let Us Hear From You

The Steel City Connection welcomes anyone who wants to write an editorial for *The Black and Gold News*, place an ad or make an announcement for the general interest of the membership. To do so, mail your editorial, announcement, letter or ad to Paul Mary at the above mailing address; or send him an e-mail to

Letters to the Editor

January 13, 1998

Dear Steel City Connection Staff
Carol, Ed, Rich & Dale:

Thank you for all your work organizing and maintaining the club. My first attendance was May '97 when Darren Perry was present.

I grew up in Forest Hills Borough and graduated from Wilkesburg High and also West Penn Hospital School of Nursing and Pitt '63. I came to Virginia in '63 but still think of myself as a Pittsburgher.

I am a proud supporter of the Steelers, Pirates and Penguins and will purchase Pirate stock as soon as it may be publicly offered. My present home is in Caroline County, so it is a good 36-37 mile trip to join the crowd. I may not attend regularly but my heart is with you all. Keep up the good work with the kids at Children's Hospital.

Very Truly Yours,

Louise Cosby
Ruther Glen, Va.

+ + +

January 5, 1998

Dear Steel City Connection:

On behalf of Children's Hospital, thank you very much for the very generous donation of \$3,607.97 made by the Steel City Connection's jug passing during the Steelers' football games. You are an amazing group with so much energy and enthusiasm. I loved being with you on Saturday at Mulligan's and I was so impressed with your commitment to the children of the hospital.

As you know, your gift will be placed in the general funds of the hospital. It will be used to provide uncompensated care to the more than 7,000 children who come through our doors each year. Your donation enables Children's Hospital to continue its mission to provide quality health care to all children regardless of a family's financial status.

Best of luck in your support of the Steelers. I hope you make it to the Super Bowl! I am looking forward to seeing you in the spring to kick off another season. Perhaps we could talk before then to discuss any needs you may have.

Thank you again for your support of Children's Hospital.

Warmest Regards,

Hillary T. West
Director of Special Events

News & Views

Super Bowl MVP **TERRELL DAVIS** landed his first major endorsement and it's for a product he really uses. It's a prescription migraine medication called Migranal.....When the NFL holds its winter meetings in March, the return of instant replay will once again be on the agenda.....two prominent ex-Pirates signed minor league contracts recently. **CARLOS CARCIA** signed with Cleveland and **ORLANDO MERCED** signed with Minnesota.....The Carolina Panthers have released ex-Steelers **ERNIE MILLS** and **RAY SEALS**.....Outbid for NFL TV rights, **TED TURNER** says NBC and his company's TBS superstation may start a rival pro football league, which could go head-to-head with the NFL in 1999.....The Pirates have signed backup catcher **KEITH OSIK** to a three-year deal and starting pitcher **JON LEIBER** to a two year deal..... Think your food bills are high? Try This on for size: After their Super Bowl win, the Broncos hosted a players-only party at a Denver restaurant. From 3:00 P.M. to around Midnight, the Broncos consumed 220 pounds of prime rib, 96 bottles of Dom Perignon, 80 pounds of salmon, 70 pounds of chicken, 50 pounds of shrimp, eight full-sized cakes, six kegs of in-house brewed beer, four cases of exotic cigars and two chocolate replicas of the Lombardi trophy. The restaurant picked up the \$50,000-plus tab.....Penguin goalie **TOM BARRASSO** was named NHL player-of-the-week on Feb. 2nd.....N.Y. Jets QB coach **RON EARHARDT** announced his retirement recently.....Funeral services were held Feb. 4th in Louisville for 73-year-old **ANNA MAY HUTCHISON**, who pitched in the 1940's for the Racine Belles of the All-American Girls' Baseball League and who also appeared in the 1992 movie *A League of Their Own*.....When the '49ers cut ex-Steelers **KEVIN GREENE** and **ROD WOODSON**, they cleared \$5.9 million of salary cap room.....Think ex-Pirate pitching coach **RAY MILLER** will be under the gun as manager of the Baltimore Orioles? Besides having to contend with owner **PETER ANGELOS**, he'll have to make the team's \$72 million payroll pay BIG dividends.....The Steelers have re-signed OL **JIM SWEENEY**.....San Diego city officials worked hard with local merchants so that fans wouldn't face price gouging in the week prior to Super Bowl XXXII. Too bad they didn't also work with Qualcomm Stadium, where fans had to endure \$3.50 for a hot dog; \$7 for a beer; \$3 for bottled water; \$5 for Cracker Jacks; \$3.50 for a waffle cone and \$12 programs.....The Pirates open their season April 1 in Montreal. Their Three Rivers opener isn't until April 7, against the Braves.....The Penguins announced they are reducing season ticket prices to try to regain their season ticket base, which dropped by more than 1,000 after **MARIO LEMIEUX** retired.....**PIRATEFEST '98**, held a couple of weeks ago at the Carnegie Science Center, apparently was a huge success, breaking records in both attendance and ticket sales. 21,846 attended the three-day event and gobbled up 5,300 game tickets and \$31,000 in Pirates merchandise.....It looks like the Pirates' starting pitching staff is just about set. Returning are **JON LEIBER**, **FRANCISCO CORDOVA**, **ESTEBAN LOAIZA** and **JASON SCHMIDT**. It's expected that **JOSE SILVA** and **CHRIS PETERS** will battle it out for the fifth spot.

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	34	10	6	74	158	110
Pittsburgh	29	16	13	71	160	132
Philadelphia	29	17	9	67	160	123
Washington	26	19	11	63	156	143
Montreal	28	21	7	63	168	141
Boston	23	22	11	57	140	138
Ottawa	23	25	10	56	130	140
Buffalo	22	21	12	56	143	138
N.Y. Rangers	17	24	16	50	140	154
Carolina	21	29	7	49	139	161
N.Y. Islanders	20	29	8	48	148	158
Florida	18	27	12	48	138	160
Tampa Bay	10	37	9	29	104	185

PENGUINS STATS - SCORERS

Player	Pts	GP	G	A	+/-	PM	PP
Jagr	65	51	23	42	11	38	5
Francis	57	55	16	41	9	8	4
Barnes	43	52	21	22	13	18	12
Hatcher	32	49	12	20	-6	50	8
Brown	29	55	7	22	1	41	1
Straka	24	48	9	15	-5	12	3
Olausson	21	50	5	16	8	32	1
Olczyk	16	31	10	6	-5	19	4
Morozov	15	51	8	7	-2	4	1
Hicks	15	41	6	9	3	46	0
Johansson	15	42	5	10	3	16	0
Lang	11	36	7	4	2	14	1
Slegr	11	48	4	7	10	70	1
Kasparaitis	11	55	3	8	-1	77	0
Werenka	10	44	2	8	14	24	1
Wright	6	55	3	3	-3	65	1
C. Ferraro	6	36	2	4	-1	37	0
Wilkinson	5	26	2	3	-1	17	1
Moran	4	19	0	4	0	10	0
Tamer	4	52	0	4	0	129	0
Dome	3	15	2	1	1	0	0
Valk	3	32	2	1	-4	29	0

PENGUINS STATS - GOALIES

	GAA	W-L-T	Min	GA	SA	SV%
Skudra	1.79	5-3-1	603	18	237	.924
Barrasso	2.09	23-10-8	2,469	86	1,089	.921
Wregget	2.85	1-3-1	274	13	127	.898

N.H.L. SCORING LEADERS

Player, Team	Pts	G	A	GP	PIM
Selanne, Anaheim	68	41	27	56	24
Jagr, Pittsburgh	67	25	42	54	40
Forsberg, Colorado	66	20	46	55	66
Leclair, Philadelphia	64	38	26	55	22
Lindros, Philadelphia	63	25	38	54	103
Bure, Vancouver	60	34	26	57	30
Francis, Pittsburgh	59	16	43	58	12
Tkachuk, Phoenix	57	35	22	56	135
Sakic, Colorado	57	24	33	58	42
Stumpel, Los Angeles	57	17	40	54	36
Oates, Washington	57	13	44	56	18

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