

BLACK & GOLD NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY CONNECTION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

WINTER, 1999-2000

Member News

December Birthdays: Terri Cain (12/1); Cheryl Wright (12/2); Barry Wenzig (12/6); Rick Boyle (12/12); Thomas Merlot (12/15); Lindsey Lawrence (12/17); Rick Chess (12/20); Art Lentz (12/22); Rich Castanet (12/24); Pat Dixon (12/25); Zack Webber (12/25); Debbie Napoli (12/27); Dale Jordan (12/30); Mary Mismas (12/31).

January Birthdays: Bob Reedy (1/2); James Beard (1/6); Bob Smith (1/6); Marc Bourdin (1/7); Elvis Presley (1/8); Andrew Chess (1/11); Kendra Morrissey (1/11); Bryan Stevenson (1/18); Douglas Zahniser (1/18); Joe Lawrence (1/22); Jim Proctor (1/23); J.R. Verostic (1/27); Leah Hauser (1/28); Elaine Cypers (1/29).

February Birthdays: Bernie Leven (2/1); Daniel Isbell (2/2); David Rothrock, Jr. (2/2); Patrick Dixon (2/3); Peggy Helfer (2/3); Dawn Frobe (2/4); Jeff Riley (2/4); Jon Hasselmann (2/4); Cathy Wright (2/6); Chris Wright (2/10); Kristi Harmon (2/12); Joseph Merlot (2/20); John Santarelli (2/28).

Happy Holidays: We were all going in different directions over the busy Holidays. The staff of Steel City Connection would like to take this opportunity to say we hope your's were joyful and that the excitement of a new century and a new millennium will continue inspirationally in your lives.

We also want to thank all of you for your participation in club-sponsored activities throughout the past year. We hope we did right in making the activities interesting and that they are something you will continue to look forward to.

Officer Elections: The three-year 1997-98-99 terms for the current elected officers of The Steel City Connection came to a close in December and officer elections for 2000-01-02 terms were held December 5th during the Steelers/Bengals game at Mulligan's. Congratulations to those elected:

President	Paul Mary
Vice President	Todd McCandless
Secretary	Carole Mitas
Treasurer	Rosemary Mary
Merchandising	Angie McCandless
Marketing/Advertising	Michele Andolina
Game Officials (3)	Dale Jordan
	Katherine Woodside
	Jim Proctor

Best wishes go to our old friends Bill and Cathy Houser, who just relocated to Pensacola, Fla. We will miss you!

Good Luck to Paul and Rosemary Mary, who will serve as chaperones for 35 Senate Pages during part of the current session of the Virginia General Assembly. They will live downtown with the Pages between Feb. 20th and March 11th.

Children's Hospital Update

The "Pass-the-Jug" contribution to Children's Hospital for the 1999 Steelers' season at Mulligan's totaled \$1,200.00. While this has not measured up to previous years, we were still pleased with the amount. The Steelers' schedule this past season wasn't really conducive to large viewing crowds and, at the end of the season, when the Steelers were falling apart, the large number of no-shows at Three Rivers was sort of reflective to the no-shows at Mulligan's.

In October, our golf tournament netted a \$7,250 donation, bringing our total 1999 donation to the kids to \$8,450 and our total donations, since the inception of the program some years ago, to just under \$30,000.00. For all of this, we are very pleased and we'd like to thank all of you for turning out at club activities and for being so generous in supporting the Steel City Connection/Children's Hospital program. We will be getting together soon with Ashley Ermer of Children's Hospital to present her with the \$1,200.00 check.

The 5th Annual Children's Hospital Casino Evening and Band Party will take place on Saturday, January 29th from 7:00 P.M. until 1:00 A.M. at the Omni Richmond Hotel. Cost is \$45 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. This is an opportunity to help the kids and shake off the winter blues with BS&M, eats, drinks, prizes and plenty of casino betting. There's also a chance to win \$5,000 by making a 50-foot putt. Dress is semi formal and a portion of the ticket price is tax deductible. Call **228-5826** for more details.

Mulligan's

We'd like again to thank Mark and Matt Hurley and all the staff at Mulligan's, including Michael, Dave and Larry and most especially our waitress, Deana, for all the hospitality and good service extended to us during this past year. They have again knocked themselves out to make sure our group is accommodated and that our Steeler games are the top viewing priority every Sunday. We think Mark and Matt clearly demonstrated that last November 14th with their "Pittsburgh Appreciation Day" knockwurst and barbeque buffet, free to all Steeler fans.

We at Steel City Connection look forward to returning to Mulligan's for the 2000 Steeler season and to continuing our long partnership with Mark and Matt.

If you have the opportunity to visit Mulligan's **Main Street** location and visit with our old friend **John Sweeney**, you ought to do so. When we saw him last, John was in the final stages of an expansion project and now has a great-looking dining room adjoining the main bar. The project should be complete by now, so stop by and pay him a visit.

The Steel City Connection

CELEBRATING OUR ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

OFFICERS

Paul Mary	President, Newsletter Editor
Todd McCandless	Vice President
Carole Mitas	Secretary
Rosemary Mary	Treasurer
Angie McCandless	Merchandising
Michele Andolina	Marketing and Advertising
Dale Jordan	Game Official
Jim Proctor	Game Official
Katherine Woodside	Game Official

MAILING ADDRESS AND INFORMATION

Steel City Connection
8300 Recreation Road
Richmond, Virginia 23231
Phone: (804)
Fax: (804)

VISIT OUR WEB SITE VIA THIS URL:

pc-wagner.syrres.com/s155.htm

VIEWING LOCATION

Mulligan's Sports Grille
8006 W. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia
Phone: (804) 346-8686
Contact: Matt Hurley

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 & Gold News*, place an ad or make an announcement for the general interest of the membership. To do so, mail or fax your editorial, announcement, letter or ad to Paul Mary at the above mailing address or send him an e-mail at PaulPirate@AOL.com.

The Steel City Connection is a member of:

The Pittsburgh Steelers Fan Club
300 Stadium Circle
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212
(800) 334-4005

The Steel City Connection is a non-profit organization of Pittsburgh Steeler, Pirate and Penguin fans living in the Richmond area. We gather for game telecasts and sponsor bus trips for fun and fellowship. In addition, we make annual donations to:

Richmond Children's Hospital
2924 Brook Road
Richmond, Virginia 23220
(804) 228-5826 Contact: Ashley Ermer

News and Views

Trivia question: *What are the only two days of the year on which there are no NFL, NBA, NHL or MLB games scheduled?* Answer below. The demolition of Pitt Stadium began December 1st. An interesting note is that the old concrete will be ground up and left on the site to help form the foundation of the new Petersen Events Center..... The Oakland Raiders have been blacked out in their local TV market for 24 straight regular season games..... The Steelers had over 50,000 no-shows for their last four 1999 home games against Cincinnati, Baltimore, Carolina and Tennessee..... **RAY SHERMAN** is the offensive coordinator for the Minnesota Vikings, the team that finished the regular season with the #1 passing attack in the NFL. Could this, by chance, be the same Ray Sherman who was chased out of Pittsburgh last year?..... Ridiculous: the Chicago Cubs have given ex-Pirate **JON LIEBER** a 3-year, \$15 million contract extension..... The Steelers haven't scored a touchdown against Jacksonville in their last three meetings..... Last November, a Cleveland TV station used a truck scale to weigh **JOHN "Big Dawg" THOMPSON**, the fat guy in the dog mask at Browns' home games. Thompson tipped in at 501 pounds..... Vikings' PK **GARY ANDERSON**, now 40, had the worst season of his 18-year NFL career..... In their Dec. 12th win against the Steelers, the Baltimore Ravens averaged 35 yards per reception..... The Pirates have been busy so far in the off-season. They offered salary arbitration to only one of their four free agents, IF **DALE SVEUM**. The three not offered arbitration are C **JOE OLIVER**, 3B **ED SPRAGUE** and IF **DOUG STRANGE**. They also sold the contract of P **GREG HANSELL** to the Hanshin Tigers of the Japanese League and then made a couple of trades. First they sent P **BRAD CLONTZ** to Arizona for a player to be named, then traded OF **BRANT BROWN** to Florida for OF **BRUCE AVEN**. Then, they signed free agent **WILL CORDERO** to a three-year deal. Finally, they signed LHP **JOHN SMILEY** to a minor league contract. Smiley, now 35, pitched for the Bucs from 1986 to 1991..... Broncos' QB **BUBBY BRISTER** says he lost almost \$1.5 million in salary this year because he was on the bench with a contract loaded with incentives..... It takes the equivalent of 3,000 cows to make enough leather for footballs for one NFL season..... The Orioles have named Ex-Pirate GM **SYD THRIFT** Vice President of Baseball Operations..... For the first time in 50 years, no Steelers' player has been named to the Pro Bowl team. Five ex-Steelers were: **CHAD BROWN** (Seattle); **HARDY NICKERSON** (Tampa Bay); **CARNELL LAKE** and **LEON SEARCY** (Jacksonville); and **ROD WOODSON** (Baltimore)..... The Pirates have extended broadcaster **LANNY FRATTARE**'s contract for three more years. Hard to believe Lanny's been there for 25 years..... The average life span of a major league baseball is seven pitches..... **BILL COWHER** wants to hire **TUNCH ILKIN** as assistant offensive line coach..... After all the hullabaloo, instead of signing a veteran QB to compete with **KORDELL STEWART**, the Steelers reportedly are leaning toward resigning **MIKE TOMCZAK**..... TE **MITCH LYONS**, who tore up his knee, is out for the 2000 season..... Trivia answer: *The day before and the day after the Major League Baseball All-Star Game.*

Paul Mary

The New Cowher Power

It used to be that the term "Cowher Power" was associated with good old-fashioned Steeler football. Hard-nosed. Run the ball down your throat. Great defense. A big play just when the team needed it. Innovative and timely play calling. A get-in-your-face, fiery coach. The results spoke for themselves. Six straight playoff appearances. Three AFC Championship Games. A Super Bowl. For the past two years, of course, Cowher Power has fizzled, along with the Steelers' fortunes. The Boyz have gone from being the hunter to being the hunted. We Steeler fans have also felt the pinch. For the last two years, we have awaited the NFL season with great anticipation only to see each one come to a merciful end. It's been like thinking you have a date with Catherine Zeta Jones and then winding up with Tootsie. Or wanting Ben and Jerry's and getting served Sam's Choice.

As the '99 Steelers' season dragged along and as the Boyz stumbled their way to a 6-10 finish, I truly thought Coach Cowher was finished in Pittsburgh. The wheels had totally come off the Steelers' wagon. Vicious rumors were flying everywhere regarding Cowher's personal life. True or not, they were still flying. The media was having a field day. *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* was crucifying everyone from Dan Rooney to the ball boy on a daily basis. Rooney himself made an uncharacteristic, post-game visit to the locker room, complete with uncharacteristic remarks. Top personnel man Tom Donahoe seemed to be totally aligned with Rooney and together they seemed to draw a line in the sand. With some of his own remarks and actions, such as turning his back on his former prima donna Kordell Stewart, Cowher seemed to have drawn his own line in the sand and a clash seemed imminent at the end of the season. Each week, as the Steelers lost seven of their last eight games, Cowher seemed to be standing on the bow of *The Titanic*, arms outstretched and yelling, "I am king of the world!" Only he didn't go down with the ship. Donahoe did.

In two stunning developments after their much-anticipated meeting, first Rooney announced that Cowher and the entire coaching staff would return for the 2000 season. The next day, Donahoe announced his "resignation." The Cowher/Donahoe feud came to a dramatic climax. Bill Cowher had pulled off an organizational power play. Of course, the fact that Rooney owes Cowher \$6 million for the next three years had *something* to do with it but, nonetheless, there you have it: The new Cowher Power. In the past, Cowher had *input* on all personnel decisions. The new Cowher Power means that he now has the *final say* on them. Oh sure, he says he wants no additional power within the organization. On paper that's true and Dan Rooney will hire someone to replace Donahoe. Tom Modrak, now with the Eagles, has been mentioned as a possibility. But in reality, the new guy will be there in name only and won't be able cross the street without Cowher's OK.

Personnel wise, the past few years haven't been very kind to the Steelers. Huge free agent losses. Inadequate free agent additions. The Stewart contract. The Ray Sherman debacle. Questionable drafts. Who's at fault? Everybody, including Rooney. He *does* sign the checks. The fall guy? Donahoe. The savior? Cowher. Welcome to the new millennium.

Humor

Why It's Great To Be A Guy

1. We know useful stuff about tanks and airplanes.
2. We can kill our own food.
3. We get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
4. We see the humor in "Terms of Endearment."
5. Where and when we use the bathroom doesn't effect our emotional well-being.
6. We can sit quietly and enjoy a car ride from the passenger seat.
7. Same work. More pay.
8. We don't need to pretend we're "freshening up" to use the bathroom. We can go to the bathroom alone.
9. If we retain water, it's in a canteen.
10. We don't pass on dessert then mooch off someone else's.
11. If someone forgets to invite us to something, they can still be our friend.
12. Car mechanics tell us the truth.
13. One mood, all the time.
14. We can watch a game in silence for hours without our buddy thinking, "He must be mad at me."
15. Our last name stays put.

10 Things A Redneck Would Never Say

1. "I'll take Shakespeare for a thousand, Alex."
2. "Oh, I just couldn't. Heck, she's only sixteen."
3. "Honey, did you mail that donation to Greenpeace?"
4. "I just couldn't find a thing at WalMart today."
5. The tires on that truck are too big."
6. "I've got two cases of Zima for the Super Bowl."
7. "Checkmate."
8. "Nope. No more for me. I'm driving tonight."
9. "Those short ought to be a little longer, dear."
10. "I'll have the arugula and radicchio salad."

Real Mothers

- * Real mothers don't eat quiche. They don't have time to make it.
- Real mothers know that their kitchen utensils are probably in the sandbox.
- Real mothers often have sticky floors, filthy ovens and happy kids.
- Real mothers know that dried Playdough doesn't come out of shag carpets.
- Real mothers don't want to know what the vacuum cleaner just sucked up.
- Real mothers sometimes ask "Why me?" and get their answer when a little voice says, "Because I love you best."
- Real mothers know that a child's growth is not measured by height or years or grade. It's marked by the progression of Mama to Mommy to Mom.

The President's Pigs

The President got off the helicopter in front of the White House with a baby pig under each arm. The Marine guard snapped to attention, saluted and said, "Nice pigs, sir." The President replied, "These are not pigs. These are authentic Arkansas Razorback Hogs. I got one for Hillary and I got one for Chelsea." The Marine again snapped to attention, saluted and replied, "Nice trade, sir."

'99 Steelers Week-by-Week

<u>Steelers</u>		<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
43	9/12 at Cleveland	0	73,138
23	9/19 at Baltimore	20	68,965
10	9/26 Seattle	29	57,881
3	10/3 Jacksonville	17	57,308
21	10/10 at Buffalo	24	71,038
17	10/17 at Cincinnati	3	59,669
13	10/25 Atlanta	9	58,141
	10/31 OPEN		
27	11/7 at San Francisco	6	68,657
15	11/15 Cleveland	15	58,213
10	11/22 at Tennessee	16	66,619
20	11/28 Cincinnati	27	50,907
6	12/2 at Jacksonville	20	68,806
24	12/12 Baltimore	31	46,715
19	12/18 at Kansas City	35	78,697
30	12/26 Carolina	20	39,428
36	1/2 Tennessee	47	48,025

<u>1999 Season Attendance</u>		<u>Avg./Game</u>
Three Rivers	416,618	52,077
Away	555,589	69,449

Final '99 Steeler Stats

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opponents	100	102	59	59	0	320
Steelers	102	72	60	83	0	317

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

<u>Name</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Points</u>
Brown	0	25	30	105
Huntley	8	0	0	48
Ward	7	0	0	44
Bettis	6	0	0	42
Edwards	5	0	0	30
Shaw	3	0	0	18
Stewart	3	0	0	18
Davis	1	0	0	6
Porter	1	0	0	6

RUSHING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Bettis	299	1,091	3.6	35	7
Huntley	93	567	6.1	52	5
Stewart	56	258	4.6	21	2
Zereoue	18	48	2.7	8	0
Tomczak	16	19	1.2	17	0
Witman	6	18	3.0	7	0
Fuamatu-Ma'afala	1	4	4.0	4	0
Ward	2	-2	-1.0	3	0
Gonzalez	2	-3	-1.5	-1	0
Miller	1	-9	-9.0	-9	0

PUNTING

<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>In20</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>Blocked</u>
Miller	84	45.2	27	75	0

RECEIVING

<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Edwards	61	714	11.7	41	5
Ward	61	638	10.5	42	7
Hawkins	30	285	9.5	23	0
Shaw	28	387	13.8	49	3
Huntley	27	253	9.4	25	3
Bettis	21	110	5.2	17	0
Blackwell	20	185	9.3	26	0
Bruener	18	176	9.8	29	0
Witman	12	106	8.8	38	0
Stewart	9	113	12.6	28	1
Lyons	8	81	10.1	25	0
Cline	4	45	11.3	30	0
Cushing	2	29	14.5	22	0
Johnson	2	23	11.5	18	0
Zereoue	2	17	8.5	14	0

PASSING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Att</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Int</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Tomczak	258	139	53.9	1,625	12	8	75.8
Stewart	275	160	58.2	1,464	6	10	64.9
Bettis	1	1	100.0	21	1	0	158.3
Gonzalez	1	1	100.0	8	0	0	100.0

SACKS

Gildon 8½; Emmons 6; Flowers 5; Roye 4½; Steed 3; Oldham 3; Vrabel 2; Kirkland 2; Porter 2; Shields 1; Henry 1; Brown 1

FIELD GOALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>1-19</u>	<u>20-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40-49</u>	<u>50+</u>
Brown	2/2	5/5	9/10	8/11	1/1

KICKOFF RETURNS

<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Huntley	15	336	22.4	41	0
Blackwell	14	282	20.1	37	0
Edwards	13	234	18.0	44	0
Zereoue	7	169	24.1	35	0
Lyons	3	42	14.0	17	0
Cline	2	8	4.0	8	0
Ward	1	24	24.0	24	0
Fuamatu-Ma'af.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Vrabel	1	6	6.0	6	0

PUNT RETURNS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ret.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Edwards	25	234	9.4	48	0
Hawkins	11	49	4.5	14	0
Shaw	4	53	13.3	17	0
Blackwell	1	39	39.0	39	0
Ward	1	2	2.0	2	0

INTERCEPTIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>TD</u>
Shields	4	75	18.8	25	0
Washington	4	1	.3	1	0
Kirkland	1	23	23.0	23	0
Emmons	1	22	22.0	22	0
Scott	1	16	16.0	16	0
Oldham	1	9	9.0	9	0
Roye	1	2	2.0	2	0
Davis	1	1	1.0	1	0