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Monday

Dec. 14, 1987

The Parthenon

Vol. 89, No. 52

Marshall University's student newspaper

Huntington, W.Va.

BELIEVE IT!!

Herd one win away from national title

By GREG STONE
Sports Editor

It was amazing the way they did it, taking the black-clad hosts by the throat and not letting up until the final gun.

Marshall just didn't just beat Appalachian State Saturday to earn a trip to this week's NCAA I-AA finals in Pocatello, Idaho against Northeast Louisiana — they owned the Mountaineers, those bruisers from the South, by a 24-10 margin.

The Herd held Appy to a paltry 149

Road to Idaho

James Madison	Weber State
Appy State	N.E. Louisiana

yards in total offense and only 30 yards rushing while intercepting three passes and sacking Mountaineer quarterback Bobby Fuller four times.

The win avenged an earlier 17-10 loss to the Apps in early November that knocked Marshall, now 10-4, out of the Southern Conference race. While Marshall was dispatching Appy, Northeast Louisiana, 12-2, was nipping Northern Iowa in overtime, 44-41. Saturday's championship game will be televised at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN.

"We knew if we played hard, we'd win. It was confidence, not cockiness," said offensive guard John Halford Sunday. "This is the best football we've played all year. I don't think there's anyone better than us in the nation."

"We really didn't change our game plan," said free safety Mark Snyder who has picked off a school-record 10 passes in this banner year. "We held them pretty well in the first game and except for a fluke touchdown (an Appy touchdown pass on third and long) the score would have been the same. The only difference this time was our offense got on track."

Appy got a 32-yard field goal from Swedish-born Bjorn Nittmo to take a 3-0 lead in the first quarter, but it was not without a fight. The Apps received a second chance after Reggie Giles roughed Nittmo on a 50-yard attempt. That gave Appalachian a first down at the 18. Four downs later, Nittmo made good on a 32-yarder.

Marshall took the lead for good when Mike Barber caught a four-yard touch-

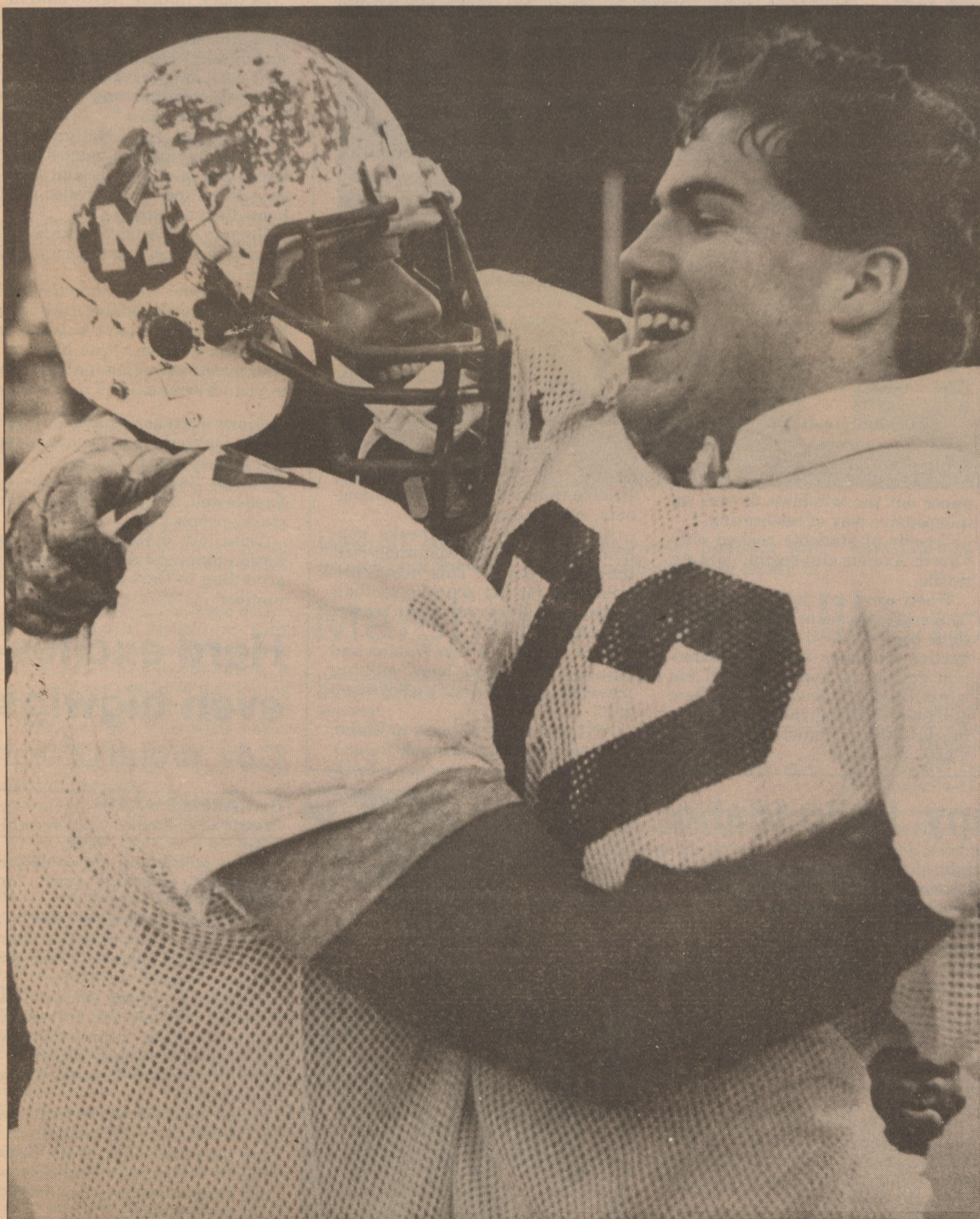


Photo by CHRIS HANCOCK

Linebackers Nick McKnight (left) and John Spellacy (right) celebrate the Herd's 24-10 victory over Appy State Saturday in Boone, N.C. The win avenged a

regular-season loss to the Mountaineers and kept Marshall's national championship hopes alive.

Students went dancin' in the streets



Photo by MARK CZEWSKI

Heading for a Herd celebration Saturday evening, Marshall students race to Fifth Avenue, where they halted traffic and rallied amidst a shower of toilet paper thrown from dormitory windows.

By **BILL FRANCE**
Special Correspondent

You gotta fight for your right to party!

Marshall students who didn't make it to the Division I-AA semi-final game against Appalachian State didn't have to put up much of a fight to celebrate the Herd's victory in Huntington.

By 9 p.m. Saturday, the town was abuzz. The sound swelled into a roar as horns blew, police car sirens blasted and students hung out of car windows yelling and pointing victorious index fingers.

This night, Huntington was giving the football team a royal escort home. The procession was cheered on by residents, who came out of their houses to partake of the celebration from the sidewalk.

Meanwhile, on campus, strands of toilet paper were thrown out of the dorms and draped the trees in front

of Holderby Hall and Twin Towers. This window tossing is a tradition among students — but one heretofore reserved for the basketball team's victories.

Last night — for the first time in 40 years — it was the football team's turn.

Tami Shamblin, Belle sophomore, said the students who live in the dorms went crazy. "We ran in the bathroom and threw all the toilet paper out the windows. It was an inexpensive way of celebrating."

Crowds of students rushed onto Fourth Avenue and began blocking traffic.

When word got to Twin Towers cafeteria of the team's victory a food fight began. Joe George, food production manager, said the commotion got out of hand. "It's all fun when there's a few potatoes here and there but when they start throwing glasses and plates I think that is a little too much."

George said several of the workers had to duck down to keep from getting hit by the glass. Finally, security had to come over and close the dining hall.

The victory came at an inconvenient time for Marshall students, with final exams starting in less than 48 hours. However, for many, the festive atmosphere that permeated the city was too much to resist. The Varsity and Double Dribble, tradition student party hangouts, were packed.

Allen Bosley, Chesapeake sophomore, said students definitely had the right to party. "This victory is a milestone for the school's football program. It gives everyone a reason to celebrate."

Over at Jake's, Porge Watson and Charles Markham were making travel plans. "We gotta go," Watson said.

"If I gotta ride a llama to Idaho, I'm going," Markham said.

Fans: bye, bye Appy, hello Idaho

By **PAT SANDERS**
Staff Correspondent

Not cold weather, not winding mountain roads nor a hostile Appalachian State crowd could dampen the spirits of approximately 3,500 Herd followers at Marshall's 24-10 victory in Boone, N.C.

The smell of alcohol in the air, the green-clad fans filled the visitors side of the field and voiced the same enthusiasm that carried the Herd in its two playoff victories over James Madison University and Weber State.

Although outnumbered by the hometown ASU fans, who threw potatoes at Marshall's players, cheerleaders and band, Herd fans repeatedly dominated the stadium with choruses of "We are Marshall."

"It's the most fantastic game I've ever seen," said Bill Demnler of Huntington, while watching Marshall cling to a 17-10 lead in the fourth. "It's a

tight, good ballgame," said assistant ticket manager Jim Woodrum.

The crowd quieted as Appy State threatened to tie in the fourth, but fans came alive again when officials did not call a penalty against ASU when Darryl Burgess received a late hit. He was carried away with his legs in splints.

The crowd grew more vocal when cornerback Von Woodson intercepted a ASU pass. The herd took advantage of the mistake to score the clinching touchdown.

With a victory in hand and five minutes left, Appy fans filtered out while herd fans began celebrating, including sarcastically waving and singing good-bye to the home crowd.

At the two-minute mark, fans spilled out onto the track around the field, congratulating players and chanting "Here we go to Idaho." With five seconds left, players picked up Coach George Chaump and fans surged onto the field with the team, while other fans left the stadium singing "Amen."



Photo by CHRIS HANCOCK

MU fans celebrate the Herd victory in Boone, N.C.

Players speak:

MU fans No. 1 In USA — Darby

By **ANGELA J. LESTER**
Reporter

A Christmas present sent from Pocatello?

If Jerome Hazard gets to play Santa, that is what Herd fans can expect.

"We don't want to disappoint our fans," Hazard said. "They've done a lot for us. We want to give them a little extra Christmas gift."

"Whenever people come out it's great for us," said John Gregory, who started some last year at quarterback but played a backup role to record-setting signal caller Tony Petersen this season. "It's a big factor in winning."

"Without them (fans) the game would have been pretty difficult," Center Jim Torres said.

Tailback Ronald Darby said he was surprised with the number of fans who made the trip to Boone. "I thought it was unreal," Hazard said. "I've never seen such support. I never knew how much Huntington was involved with Marshall until now."

Left Guard John Halford said, "It was like playing at a home away from home. Our fans were as loud and noisy as ASU's fans. We cancelled out their home field advantage."

Gregory said Appalachian State University did receive good support from their fans.

ASU's fans were obnoxious to the Herd during the game, Halford said. Torres said he didn't pay too much attention to them. "You have to keep your mind on the game and not let it get to you," Torres said.

Some attitudes changed after the game, Halford said. "Someone walked up to me and said, 'You're a good team. Win it all. Represent the Southern Conference well.' They (ASU fans) are pretty classy people."

There are many teams across the nation that receive a lot of support but, according to Darby, Marshall has the number one fans in America.

Herd excites even bigwigs Gov. proud of team

By **KAREN E. KLEIN**
Reporter

Even politicians are excited about Marshall's football quest for the national title.

In a phone interview, Gov. Arch A. Moore said, "I not only felt they were going to win, I knew they were going to roll over them."

He went on to say the win not only reflected well on the university, but also on the state. "I think this confirms we've got a first-class program. It's a good reflection on the state. We're all in this together."

Moore said the win indicates a need for Marshall to be recognized. "It's high time that fellow West Virginians realized we've got a first-class school with a first-class program and gave us first-class facilities."

Speaker of the House Robert C. "Chuck" Chambers (D-Cabell) said he was proud of the Herd. He said he expects the team to win again against Northeast Louisiana, but that it won't be easy. "It will be a tough game and high scoring, but we're going to win."

High-powered Indians last Herd obstacle

By PAT SANDERS
Staff Correspondent

Although Marshall knocked off top-seeded Appalachian State in Saturday's semifinals, the road to the I-AA national championship does not get any easier.

The Herd's final hurdle is the high-powered Indians of Northeast Louisiana, the champions of the Southland Conference. The Indians were ranked third in the final Division I-AA poll and are seeded second in the tournament.

Men, women in headdresses to greet Herd

By KELLY J. HINES
Reporter

Marshall fans making the 1,920-mile trek to Pocatello, Idaho for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Football Championship I-AA will be greeted by over 120 men and women in Indian headdresses.

The city's name comes from the Shoshone-Bannock Indian word for "wild wheat eaters," and the First Citizens Council, called the "Pocatello Chiefs," keep the heritage by wearing the traditional headdresses, said Sherry Hillebrant of the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce.

"The Chiefs will be hosting an NCAA bash called 'A Taste of Idaho,' highlighting all types of classic Idaho dishes," she said. The banquet will be at the Quinn & Pole Inn, building 12, at 8 p.m. Friday.

Fans determined to see the Thundering Herd making Marshall history can purchase a round-trip ticket from Cincinnati to Pocatello, with a short layover in Salt Lake City, for \$654. There will be 500 tickets available to Marshall fans, which will go on sale today at the ticket office. Tickets cost \$12.50 and \$10.

The city of 12,000 has a large manufacturing industry, Hillebrant said, including chemical plants and canning and computer chips manufacturers. A host of hotels are available for visiting fans like the Cottonwood Inn, Little Tree Inn, Holiday Inn, Pocatello Super Eight, Quality Inn, Sundial Inn and the Poca Travel Lodge. Hotels range from \$20-25 per night.

Looking at how far the trip is, it would seem to take about 30 hours driving at 65 miles per hour to get to Pocatello.

The Automobile Association of America recommends the following route:

- Leave Huntington on the 17th Street West Bridge and take U.S. Route 52 to Portsmouth, Ohio.
- Take U.S. Route 23 North to Piketon, then get on Route 32 to Cincinnati, Ohio.
- At Cincinnati, take Interstate 74 to Indianapolis, and stay on I-74 until Davenport, Iowa.
- At Davenport, take I-80 toward Ogden, Utah, then to Route 84. Off Route 84, take I-15.
- I-15 will take you straight into Pocatello.

The game will be played in Idaho State's Mini-Dome. "We haven't verified an official name for the structure yet," Hillebrant said.

The \$2 million-dollar structure is located on the university campus and holds 11,736 people, according to an ISU ticket office cashier.

ament.

The Indians' road to Pocatello, Idaho, has been rocky. After defeating Southland runnerup North Texas State 30-9 in the opening round, they nipped Eastern Kentucky 33-32 before squeezing by Northern Iowa 44-41 in double overtime Saturday.

Northeast Louisiana, 12-2, features a pass-oriented offense which averages 298.9 yards a game, according to Mac Yates, Marshall's sports information director. The offense is directed by quarterback Stan Humphries, who

passed for 238 yards and three touchdowns Saturday.

Like Marshall, this is the first time the Indians have been in the postseason tournament.

"We're excited to have the opportunity to be in the championship game," Northeastern Louisiana Coach Pat Collins said in a telephone interview Sunday. "It's a tremendous honor to be one of the final two teams."

Collins said he was not familiar with Marshall's team.

"We're exchanging game film, but

we're not going to get it until tonight (Sunday)," he said. "But I've kept track of them in the regular season and I've been impressed with the numbers they've put up."

Collins also praised Humphries, calling him "a professional prospect."

The Indian's running game also has been productive, averaging 127 yards a game. Collins said the team uses a one-back offense, which features fullback Tommy Minvielle, and a T-back position, manned by Cisco Richard and Jeff Steele.

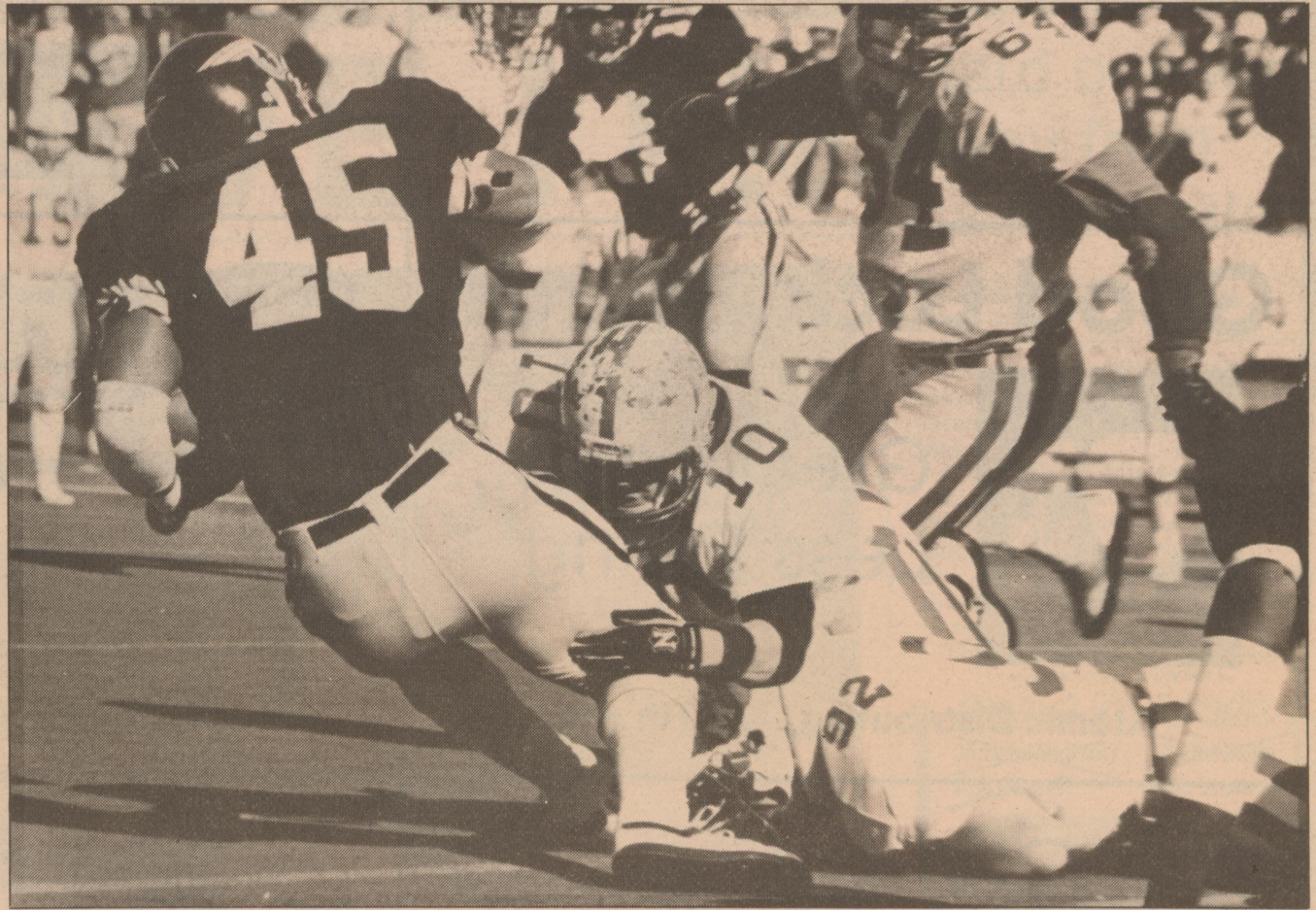


Photo by CHRIS HANCOCK

Marshall's Mark Snyder (10) and John Spellacy (on ground) put the stick to Appalachian's Doug Beaty in

Saturday's 24-10 semifinal win over the Mountaineers.

Marshall's season like rolling ball

By VIRGINIA K. CROWE
Reporter

Once it got rolling, it just didn't stop.

That's one way to describe Marshall's football team this season.

After a start that left them 2-3 after five games, the Herd then went on winning streak that would leave them 10-4 and looking at a national championship game Saturday.

The Herd began its season at home against Morehead State Sept. 5, with a 29-0 shutout. Marshall then traveled to Athens, Ohio, to battle with the Ohio University Bobcats but lost 23-10.

Next, the Herd traveled to Eastern Kentucky University and was again defeated on the road 37-34. The Herd came

back home to play Youngstown State University the next week and scored a 38-12 victory.

However, once again the Herd took to the road to play Furman University and suffered a 42-36 loss. But the road losses would end in Louisville, Ky., as the Herd beat the Cardinals 34-31.

Homecoming for the Herd saw a victory of 27-7 against Eastern Tennessee State University. The next week, although Herd had another easy victory against VMI, 42-7, plagued by turnovers, the Herd managed to hang on to a 28-26 win over Tennessee-Chattanooga University. The last Herd loss occurred in North Carolina when the Herd lost to Appalachian State 17-10.

Wrapping up regular season play, the Herd rolled over Western Carolina University 47-16.

Championship

From Page 1

down pass from Tony Petersen at the 10:08 mark of the second quarter, then added a 42-yard Brian Mitchell field goal and the first of Ron Darby's two touchdowns, a two-yard run, to go up 17-3 at the half.

Darby carried the Herd's ground game on a career-high 34 rushes for 138 yards and set up his scores with runs of 16 and 22 yards, respectively.

The 5'-7", 175-pound tailback, who was voted Southern Conference Fresh-

man of the Year in 1986, went down early in the first half with an ankle injury, but it wasn't serious.

The Apps finally mounted some momentum in the third quarter after blocking a Todd Fugate punt, their ninth on the season. Two plays later, Fuller hit Wardell Jefferson in the right corner of the end zone to pull Appy within a touchdown.

But the Herd defense refused to fold after the score and when Von Woodson, filling in for an injured Darryl Burgess, intercepted Fuller at the ASU

20, Marshall finished Appy off. Darby went over from the six with 5:25 on the clock.

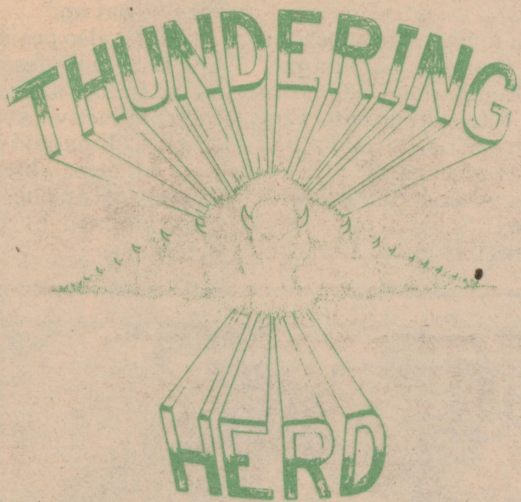
Petersen finished 25-of-37 passes for 261 yards. The senior from Lodi, Calif., now has thrown for 4,430 yards and 31 touchdowns in this record-setting season. But this day, just like the last four games, belonged to the defense.

"The key was the defense," Darby said. "All we needed to do was score the points."

"The defense played a hell of a game," center Jim Torres said. "We (the offense)

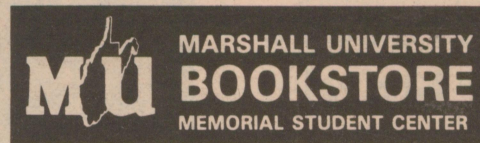
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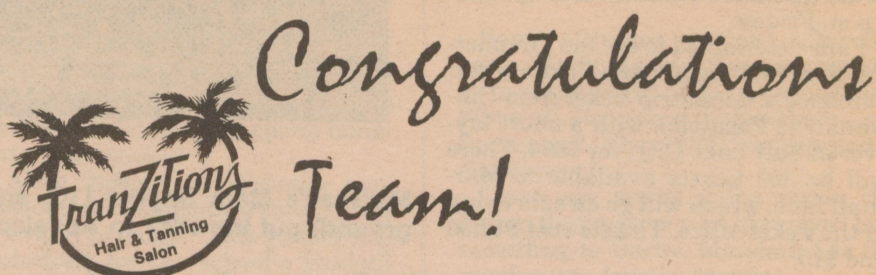
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Herd #1

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the continued road
to Pocatello!*

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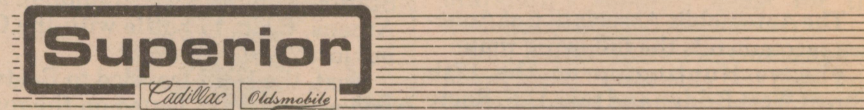
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Good luck in Idaho

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