

'WE CAN WIN the BIG '88'

By Randy Covitz

Warren Powers doesn't believe in playing it coy. In assessing the 1979 Missouri Tigers, the second-year coach lays it right on the line.

"We can win the Big Eight," says Powers. "It won't be a fluke. We won't be a dark-horse contender. We're a bonafide contender.

"Our people think we should be contenders, and, after talking to people in the conference and around the country, they think the University of Missouri could be one of the strong teams in the conference and in the country based on whom we have coming back," added Powers, whose team returns 36 lettermen, 11 of whom were starters.

Powers' optimism is shared by Tiger fans who are buying season's tickets at a rate surpassing last year's record 45,114. And unless the gasoline shortage dictates otherwise, walk-ins will assure Mizzou of another record season in total attendance. Last year's per-game average was 65,745. Reserved seats for home games against Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska (where else this year can there possibly be a better home schedule than at Missouri?) are sold out, and only a smattering of tickets remains for the September 8 opener against San Diego State and October dates with Oklahoma State and Kansas State.

After the season? Most fans are expecting a bowl game. Some already have booked New Year's reservations in Miami.

And with the new ticket policy requiring donations for prime seats now in force, the timing couldn't be better for a banner season.

Missouri's football program carries a heavy financial burden. Anticipated football revenue of \$3.2 million comprises nearly half of the \$6.6 million budget for men's and women's athletics, and no doubt the fan-contributors will expect a reward for their generosity.

Such factors have increased the pressure on Mizzou's football team tremendously, but Powers thinks his Tigers can deliver. So do the pollsters.

Nearly every preseason forecast lists Missouri in the Top 20, with one poll picking the Tigers seventh in the nation. However, that same poll lists Mizzou third in the Big Eight — behind Oklahoma and Ne-

braska. The Tigers finished second in the poll conducted by the Big Eight office.

"Our talent is as good as anybody's," says Powers, who was named national coach of the year by the prestigious Walter Camp Foundation after directing the Tigers to an 8-4 record and Liberty Bowl win over LSU last year. "We've been picked high, and this is good. I'd rather be picked to win them all instead of to lose them all.

"The kids tasted a little bit of the thrill of victory last year, and they realized how hard it was to attain it."

That taste of victory — the 20-16 Liberty Bowl triumph — parallels the experience of the last Missouri team to win the Big Eight and play in the Orange Bowl, the 1969 Tigers. Ten years ago, Missouri came off an 8-3 season — capped by a rousing 35-10 Gator Bowl victory over Alabama — and proceeded to share the league title with Nebraska and earn the Orange Bowl berth opposite Penn State. Not coincidentally, that was the last year Missouri has beaten Oklahoma.

Just as Terry McMillan was the key that turned the tumbler for the '69 team, junior quarterback Phil Bradley is the source for

Roundball

Football isn't the only sport for which big things are expected at Mizzou. The Tiger basketball team probably will be the favorites to win the Big Eight and could be ranked nationally in the pre-season polls. This enthusiasm largely is due to Coach Norm Stewart's recruiting coup in landing superstars Steve Stipanovich, a 6-11 center from St. Louis, and Jon Sundvold, a 6-2 guard from Blue Springs. Also eligible will be Ricky Frazier, who transferred from St. Louis U., where he was the Metro Conference freshman of the year in 1977-78. And Mizzou returns all but two players from the 1978-79 squad that finished second in the league. Stipanovich underwent knee surgery earlier this summer, but is reportedly making an excellent recovery.

not only Orange Bowl talk in '79 but Heisman Trophy honors by next season.

As a sophomore, Bradley led the Big Eight in total offense and passing while directing Mizzou to its second most productive scoring and total offense output of all-time. His passing percentage of 60.2 was the nation's third-best mark. However, Bradley bypassed spring football in favor of baseball, where he hit .314 as Missouri's rightfielder, and there is some concern about what effect this will have, particularly since his three top receivers of a year ago are gone.

"Bradley's missing spring football hurt at times, but he can compensate in the fall," said Powers. "He is a hard-working, dedicated young man who works at his skills. He's a proven quarterback who has been in heated battles. He has won; he has lost. He has faced it all, and he's just a junior."

With Bradley unavailable and last year's understudy, Jay Jeffrey, transferring to Baylor, Powers hoped to use the spring to develop an adequate backup quarterback. But senior Paul Miller suffered a knee injury that required surgery. Sophomore Mike Hyde received most of the spring work, and he, along with Miller and a pair

Coverage

Mizzou Review, a 96-page, leather-bound book covering the 1978-79 seasons for all 16 Tiger sports, men's and women's, is being offered by the athletic department. The book, available for \$10 plus \$5.00 postage, includes full-color action shots, statistics, and team records. To order, send check or money order for full payment to *Mizzou Review*, P.O. Box 675, Columbia, Mo., 65211.

Missouri Network Inc. will handle both the taped TV delay and the live radio broadcasts of all Missouri football games this fall. KSD St. Louis will be the flagship station for the telecasts with Ron Jacober handling the play-by-play and Jim Bakken, the color. KMOX St. Louis will originate the broadcasts with the team of Dan Kelley and Bill Wilkerson again behind the mikes.

A good possibility exists that the Tigers' game with Mississippi on Sept. 22 at Jackson will be telecast by ABC as an NCAA regional contest. If so, the game at Jackson will be moved from nighttime to afternoon.

Gerry Ellis dives for gain against Oklahoma. Photo by Rich Clarkson.

of transfers, Keith Pappas and Dan McDaniel, will battle it out for the role of understudy to Bradley.

The situation is a little reminiscent of the 1977 pre-season when much of the key to a banner season hinged on whether or not Pete Woods stayed healthy. He didn't, going down in the opening game. Inexperienced freshman Bradley was called upon to fill the breach, but the Tigers could never really get it together again. The hope in 1979, of course, is that Bradley will stay as durable as he has been his first two seasons.

If Bradley indeed becomes a legitimate Heisman candidate this year or next, some of his chief competition could come from within his own backfield in the form of 6-2, 215-pound junior James Wilder, who rushed for 873 yards and 12 touchdowns last year and earned the MVP award in the Liberty Bowl.

Wilder will start alongside senior Gerry Ellis with sophomores Bob Meyer and Terry Hill behind them. Because of the wealth

in the Big Eight." The important noseguard post is also being bolstered by switching Jeff Gaylord from linebacker and Jerome Sally from defensive end.

Although linebackers Chris Garlich and Billy Bess have graduated, Eric Berg — the outstanding defensive player in the Liberty Bowl — returns. Lester Dickey is the leading contender for the other spot.

In the secondary, Powers calls left cornerback Jonnie Poe and free safety Eric Wright "as good as I've coached," and they're only juniors. Another junior, Bill Whitaker, will play right cornerback if he is sufficiently recovered from back surgery. Kevin Potter, a red-shirted freshman, will start at strong safety.

Again, Jeff Brockhaus will handle the Tigers' kicking and punting duties although Powers would prefer to find another punter so Brockhaus can concentrate exclusively on place kicking. Last year, the junior from St. Louis hit 41 of 44 extra points, five of 10 field goals and averaged 36.8 yards per punt.

Powers also promised that "all freshmen will get an opportunity" this fall. Among the top newcomers are tackles Randy Jostes, Chuck Crumbacher and Tom Hornof; tight ends Greg Krahl, Andy Giber and James Lockett; defensive backs Steve Crapo, Demetrious Johnson and Jeff Smith; running back Dave Macoubrie; and wide receivers Reco Hawkins and Steve Brown.

Additional help from freshmen may be necessary when tackling the schedule Missouri annually faces. Aside from the obvious biggies of Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska, there are a couple of minefields Missouri will have to treat carefully.

A much-improved Ole Miss team will be dangerous in Jackson as it tries to avenge last year's 45-14 humiliation at the hands of

whenever Missouri goes to Colorado.

"I don't look at the schedule as a whole," says Powers. "You only play one game on Saturday, and you better work on that one. My job is to make sure we're ready to play every week."

This mid-August, the second-year Tiger coach began getting his charges ready for their first Saturday. Awaiting the 90-plus scholarship players and hopeful walk-ons was a new \$1.2 million renovation of and addition to the old dressing room. The improvement is being financed through a private fund-raising campaign.

"It's as nice as any football facility on the college or pro level," says John Daggett, supervisor of athletic equipment and fields.

Located next to the practice fields, the building is divided into two sections. In the north part (the renovated portion) are locker rooms for football and baseball, training and equipment rooms and a spacious shower area. The south section houses the weight room, women's softball locker room and shower, the coaches' locker rooms, and a large multipurpose room that can be partitioned. □

Women

The American Association of University Women has recognized the University for special efforts in the development of its athletic program for women.

Mizzou is one of five institutions that received certificates for outstanding programs and policies to achieve equity for women on their campuses. It was the only school to be cited in the athletics category.

In the past three years, funding of women's athletics has increased from \$80,000 to \$500,000 annually, and athletic scholarships offered to women have increased from \$7,000 in 1975, the first year they were offered, to \$100,000 a year.

of running backs and dearth of experience at wide receiver, David Newman has been moved to flanker. Junior Ken Blair could become Mizzou's big-play threat at wide receiver, and 9.3 speedster Stevie Sly will back up the wide-outs and return kickoffs.

The gaping hole in the Missouri offense is at tight end.

The graduation of All-America tight end Kellen Winslow — a first-round draft choice of San Diego — cannot be minimized. "As a coach, if you have one like him in a career, you feel fortunate," said Powers. Sophomore Tom Anderson, Winslow's backup last year, goes into August drills as the starter. But the coaches hope converted linebacker Tim Hornof adjusts quickly. And you can be sure that the freshman will be evaluated quickly.

The center position, vacated by all-Big Eight performer Pete Allard, will be filled by two-year letterman Jeff Stokowski and converted tackle Brad Edelman. To Powers' delight, the rest of the offensive line, from tackle to tackle, remains intact as tackles Howard Richards and Dave Guender and guards Stan Lechner and Mark Jones were starters last year.

In an effort to bolster a defense which ranked sixth in the conference in 1978, Powers moved senior end Kurt Petersen and sophomore noseguard Bennie Smith to the tackle spots. Those moves will give the Tigers more speed along the line. Norman Goodman will hold down the middle guard position, and the ends will be manned by Tony Green and Wendell (Sting) Ray, whom Powers says "is as good as there is

Analysis

At a luncheon for St. Louis media this summer, quarterback Phil Bradley was asked whether he thought the Tigers would continue their third-quarter conservatism. "I hope not," he replied. "You know, after all those games, coach said the same thing, 'We failed to execute.' He never said, 'I called the wrong plays.'"

Missouri in Columbia. It could be easy for the Tigers to be looking past the Rebs and ahead to the Texas game the following week. And then there's the always-dangerous November 10 trip to Iowa State, tucked between the visits by Nebraska and Oklahoma. And it's never been a picnic

Buffet

Pre-game buffets will be sponsored by the Alumni Association in the Alumni Center on Stadium Boulevard for every home game except Homecoming Oct. 27, when the luncheon will be at Hearnes. The buffets, \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12, will be served at 11 a.m. A cash bar will be available starting at 10 a.m. Advance reservations must be made by the week of the game, 132 Alumni Center, Columbia 65211, phone 882-6611.

Schedule

Sept. 8 San Diego State at Columbia
Sept. 15 Illinois at Champaign
Sept. 22 Mississippi at Jackson
Sept. 29 Texas at Columbia
Oct. 13* Oklahoma State at Columbia
Oct. 20 Colorado at Boulder
Oct. 27* Kansas State at Columbia
Nov. 3 Nebraska at Columbia
Nov. 10 Iowa State at Ames
Nov. 17 Oklahoma at Columbia
Nov. 24 Kansas at Lawrence

*Homecoming **Family Day
Home Kick Off Time 1:30 p.m.

DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE LINE

Left End			
**Anthony Green	6-2	218 Jr.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
*Ray Stephens	6-2	220 Jr.	Glen Carbon, Ill.
Chris Barton	6-4	205 Fr.	Springfield
Left Tackle			
**Kurt Petersen	6-4	240 Sr.	St. Louis
*Scott Harrell	6-3	220 Sr.	Poplar Bluff
Morton Taylor	6-4	250 Fr.	St. Louis
Randy Jostes	6-5	250 Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
Noseguard			
*Norman Goodman	6-3	225 Sr.	Metropolis, Ill.
Tony Bekemeier	6-1	227 Sr.	Arnold
*Jeff Gaylord	6-3	215 Jr.	O'land Pk., Kan.
Jerome Sally	6-3	225 So.	Maywood, Ill.
Rod Skillman	6-3	240 So.	Keytesville
Craig Evans	6-4	230 Fr.	Lebanon
Right Tackle			
*Bennie Smith	6-2½	220 So.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
Dennis Boone	6-5	242 So.	Rolla
**Jim Matthews	6-3	250 Sr.	O'land Pk., Kan.
Todd Miltenberger	6-5	260 Sr.	Monroe, Ohio
Chuck Crumbacher	6-6	225 Fr.	Alton, Ill.
Right End			
**Wendell Ray	6-3½	218 Jr.	St. Louis
David McNeel	6-3	210 So.	Greenfield
Kendall Ponder	6-3	200 So.	Iberia
Rudy Stecich	6-3	215 So.	St. Louis

LINEBACKERS

Strong-side Linebacker

Lester Dickey	6-2½	215 Jr.	Kansas City
*Ken Harlan	6-3	185 So.	Colo. Springs
Elijah Blackwell	6-1½	208 Fr.	St. Louis

Bill Busch	6-1½	210 So.	St. Louis
Jay Wilson	6-3	190 Fr.	Decatur, Ill.
Rex Weiss	6-3½	208 Fr.	St. James

Weak-side Linebacker

**Eric Berg	6-2	212 Sr.	Rolla
Ken Judd	6-2	205 So.	St. Louis
Van Darkow	6-1	195 So.	Columbia
Tom Suntrup	6-3	220 Jr.	St. Louis
Steve Hirlinger	6-3	215 Fr.	Moberly

SECONDARY

Left Corner

*Johnnie Poe	6-1	170 Jr.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
Steve Crapo	6-0	185 Jr.	Lag. Nig., Calif.
Mark Mottaz	6-1½	190 Sr.	Alton, Ill.
Dwight Bouck	5-10	180 So.	St. Louis
(J)Ron Fellows	6-0	170 Jr.	Kan. City, Kan.

Free Safety

*Eric Wright	6-2	170 Jr.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
Raymond Hairston	6-3	175 Fr.	Springfield
Jeff Rigg	5-11	175 So.	Liberty

Strong Safety

Kevin Potter	5-11	180 Fr.	St. Louis
Allan Schelp	6-1	180 Jr.	Lexington
Leo Pelek	6-0	185 So.	Roseton, City, Ill.
Jeff Smith	6-0	185 Fr.	Kan. City, Kan.

Right Corner

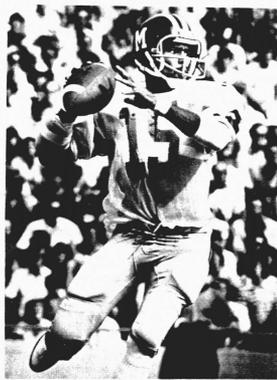
*Chip Powell	5-10	180 Jr.	St. Louis
**Bill Whitaker	6-0	175 Jr.	Kansas City
Demetrius Johnson	6-1	185 Fr.	St. Louis

PUNTER

**Jeff Brockhaus	6-3	195 Jr.	Brentwood
Ron Verrilli	5-8	170 Jr.	Ray, N.Y.



Running Back James Wilder



Quarterback Phil Bradley



Defensive End Wendell Ray



Noseguard Norman Goodman

OFFENSE

OFFENSIVE LINE

Left Tackle

*Dave Guender	6-3	265 Sr.	Berwyn, Pa.
**Wayne Washington	6-5	250 Jr.	Kansas City
Rich Wherie	6-3	230 Jr.	St. Louis
Denis Downey	6-6	260 Fr.	Stewartsville
Jim Pree	6-5	240 Fr.	St. Louis

Left Guard

**Mark Jones	6-2	235 Sr.	Arenzville, Ill.
*Kevin Sadler	6-4	220 Jr.	Joplin
Tom Hornof	6-5	225 Sr.	Creve Coeur

Center

**Jeff Stokowski	6-4	230 Jr.	Peoria, Ill.
*Brad Edelman	6-5½	240 So.	Creve Coeur
*Paul Gadt	6-1	205 Jr.	Higginsville
Tony Bruns	6-3	220 Fr.	Danville, Ill.

Right Guard

*Sian Lechner	6-3	230 Jr.	Aurora
*Chris Keller	6-3	235 Sr.	Jacksonville, Ill.
Bernard Lester	6-2	236 Fr.	Marshall
Michael Presberry	6-3	240 Fr.	St. Louis

Right Tackle

*Howard Richards	6-5	252 Jr.	St. Louis
*Don Carter	6-4	245 Sr.	Fulton
Scott Shockley	6-5	245 Fr.	O'Fallon
Jim Kulich	6-5	260 Fr.	Berwyn, Ill.

Tight Ends

*Tom Anderson	6-4	228 So.	St. Louis
Reid Stephens	6-3	210 So.	Chillicothe
*Tim Hornof	6-3	220 Jr.	Creve Coeur
*Willie Rogers	6-5	205 So.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
James Lokkette	6-5	225 Fr.	St. Louis
Greg Krahl	6-4	220 Fr.	St. Louis
Andy Glibler	6-4	215 Fr.	Grandview

*Indicates number of years lettered

(J) Indicates junior college transfer

Italics indicate freshmen

WIDE RECEIVER

Split Ends

*Ken Blair	6-2	190 Jr.	Oklahoma City
Lee Wagner	6-4	195 Jr.	Colo. Springs
Tom Miller	6-2	175 So.	Omaha, Neb.
Curt Gentile	5-11½	165 Jr.	Ballwin
Steve Brown	6-3	175 Fr.	E. St. Louis, Ill.

Flanker

**David Newman	6-0	175 Sr.	Columbia
Steve Sly	6-0	180 So.	Kansas City
Jeff Chatten	6-0	190 Sr.	Jefferson City
(J)Jeff Lewis	6-2	205 Jr.	Tucson, Ariz.
Pat Duff	6-3	185 Jr.	Washington
Reco Hawkins	6-3	175 Fr.	Kirkwood

RUNNING BACK

**Gerry Ellis	6-2	220 Sr.	Columbia
*Terry Hill	5-9	172 So.	E. St. Louis, Ill.
James Scott	6-1	194 So.	Chicago
Pete Carter	5-11	175 So.	Kansas City

RUNNING BACK

*James Wilder	6-2	215 Jr.	Sikeston
*Bob Meyer	5-10	185 So.	St. Louis
Mike Richards	6-0	178 So.	Jacksonville, Ill.
Gary Forrest	6-1	205 Sr.	Webster Groves
Ron Vaughn	6-1	208 So.	Fulton
Marvin Johnson	6-0	195 Fr.	Potosi
Dave Macoubrie	6-3	200 Fr.	Chillicothe

QUARTERBACK

**Phil Bradley	6-0	170 Jr.	Macomb, Ill.
Paul Miller	6-3	203 Sr.	Farley
Mike Hyde	6-2½	200 So.	St. Louis
Keith Pappas	6-3½	213 Jr.	Chicago
(J)Dan McDaniel	6-1	194 Sr.	Jefferson City
Forrest Harrell	6-0	185 Fr.	Wichita, Kan.

KICKER

**Jeff Brockhaus	6-3	195 Jr.	Brentwood
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