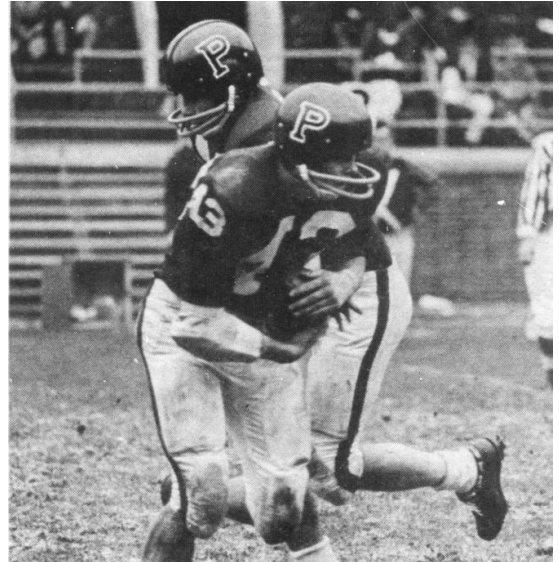


THE PENNORAMA

From the Daily Pennsylvanian
Mr. Creeden's Homecoming

The University of Pennsylvania celebrated its annual Homecoming two weeks ago, as the Red and Blue gridders played Harvard to a 14-14 tie on Franklin Field. But for one member of the team, last Saturday's 31-21 victory over Columbia was a personal homecoming celebration. Bill Creeden chose Penn over a host of other top-notch institutions, not the least of which was the Naval Academy, why stay in Philadelphia when the rest of the country lay wide open before him?



It seems that Creeden didn't want to make football a "business" he understood that there are other things of importance in the world besides passing for touchdowns. As a result, Creeden describes in practice what the Ivy League ideal describes in theory: athletics are important, but so are academics, and neither should be stressed to the exclusion of the other. These are noble ideals, and Creeden deserves a good deal of credit for sticking to his guns in the face of what must have been a great amount of pressure from competing schools. But after a highly successful freshman year, in terms of gridiron antics, Creeden faced the possibility of serving his team and school in little more than the capacity of a telephone operator.

As football practice started at the end of the summer, there were two quarterbacks with game experience: Tom Kennedy, who piloted last year's varsity through its final games, and Creeden, who directed the frosh to an undefeated season. There was a third fellow trying to capture the job, named Pete Wisniewski, but he played behind Creeden as a freshman, and therefore his chances weren't too good. As we all saw in the early part of the season, however, it was Wisniewski who managed to do what neither Creeden nor Kennedy could: move the team for a touchdown. The Whizzer's ability to scramble away from would-be tacklers was something a Penn crowd had not seen for years, and it was indeed a sight for sore eyes.

And he could pass: enough to take some of the pressure off of tailback Bruce Molloy. The honeymoon was short-lived. The Whizzer could scramble, alright, but for some reason the offense didn't move with any consistency. Touchdowns, and even victories, came more as the result of heads-up plays by the defensive unit, which often gave the offense the ball in such favorable field position that even a team made up of waterboys and cripples would have found it difficult not to score. At Dartmouth, it was Creeden, put in in the second half, who engineered what amounted to Penn's first sustained drive of the season. At Princeton, Bill got the starting nod, but without Molloy, could do nothing to get anything going. At Yale, after Wisniewski's attempts faltered, Creeden came in and put the Quakers back in contention.

We still believe that it would have been Penn's game had Creeden played sooner, but that's all history now. Creeden Gets the Nod And so, with the Columbia game rapidly approaching, coach Bob Odell pointed the finger at Creeden. Early season injuries were of little importance now; Creeden was the man who made the Quakers move, and he deserved the chance to show the home folks how it's done. It seemed like a good move, but as the game got under way, the old pessimism returned to Franklin Field. The Lions ran around and through the Red and Blue defense the first two times they got the ball, while Creeden did nothing. And with the score 14-0, Penn took over the appeared to be moving, when Creeden dove over the line to get a first down on the Penn 49, He made the yardage, but by the time he got up, a Columbia halfback named Roger Dennis had taken the ball in the air and raced fifty six yards for the third Columbia score in twelve minutes of play. Odell commented after the game that he doesn't like to switch quarterbacks once the game gets under way. He deserves the credit for sticking with his first choice when the sky looked the blackest -- both literally and figuratively. The Red and Blue did not even get a first down until midway through the second quarter, but once Penn stopped a Lion drive on its own one yard line, the game was as good as won. Along these lines, Odell stated, "When we recovered that fumble, we all knew we'd win the game. We didn't know if we could score enough points, but we knew we'd win." From that point on it was all Penn, as the statistics show. And it was also all Bill Creeden. For his performance, he was selected as Penn's second Ivy Back-of-the-Week, an honor possibly even greater than that of his own personal homecoming triumph.

Creeden is Ivy Back of Week -Owens Third in Pass Receptions.

Bill Creeden, Bob Odell's newest discovery, has been named the Ivy Back of the week. Creeden was named after he led his Quaker squad from a 21-0 deficit to a 31-21 come-from-behind victory over Columbia last Saturday at Franklin field. Creeden, playing in his first varsity start at Franklin Field had the best day of his Red and Blue career. The sophomore signal caller, who came off the bench to lead a great second half rally at the Yale Bowl two weeks ago, seems to be fully recovered from injuries that slowed him earlier this season. Last year he led the unbeaten freshman squad in passing. Quaker soph sensation Rick Owens has moved up to third in pass receiving with 22 receptions for 195 yards.

Bill Creedon, Ivy back of the week, hands off to the league's seventh leading rusher, Bill McGill in Penn's 31-21 conquest of Columbia. McGill carried 29 times, Saturday, gaining a total of 97 yards.