Widenhofer adds wishbone in hopes of waking up Tigers

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Is this the year the sleeping giant finally

It had better be, says a vocal segment of Missouri alumni who are increasingly unhappy with their football program's second-class citizenship and absolutely narrow minded about Woody Widenhofer's 4-18 log as head coach.

A favorite topic of conversation among Missourians this summer, besides the possibility of another Cards-Royals World Series, was how many games Widenhofer must

The coach, professing confidence in his third Missouri team and its newly installed wishbone offense, meets the subject with candor and humor.

"Which starter am I happiest to have back this year? Me," he told Big 8 Skywriters Wednesday. But he insisted he bears no ill will toward any of his critics.

"I don't think my job is in jeopardy right now," he said. "I really believe Missouri should never be worse than No. 3 in the Big 8. We've got good facilities, we've got good location. Once we get back on track, Missouri should never be worse than third."

THE AMIABLE, mustachioed Widenhofer spent most of his career as defensive assistant for the fourtime Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers. Inheriting a talentimpoversished squad from the previous regime, he announced he would rebuild with a pro-style offense featuring a drop-back pas-

Switching to the wishbone is a sign of his new-found wisdom, he frankly admits.

"If you'd told me two years ago that I'd be involved with a wishbone offense, I would have told you you're crazy," he said.

Widenhofer is calling his new offense the "flexbone," because he plans to occasionally split the two halfbacks wide and use them as pass receivers.

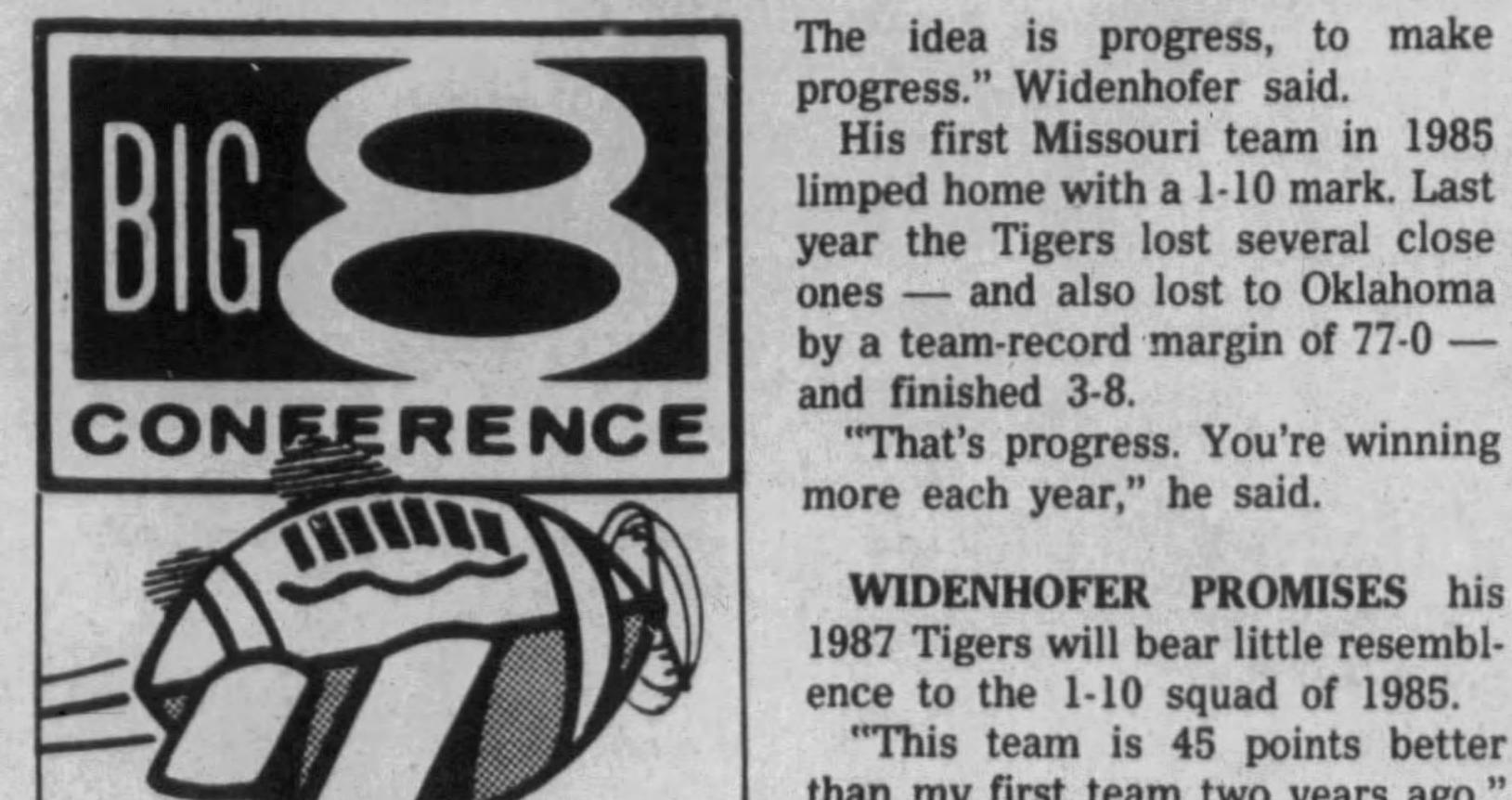
Jerry Roberts

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SKYWRITERS TOUR

ONE MAJOR REASON for going

to the run-oriented bone is junior

quarterback Ronnie Cameron. In

addition, the Tigers seem blessed

with running backs, including Dar-

rell Wallace, who has gained almost

1,900 yards the past two seasons,

senior Robert Delpino and super

Sidelined his first season by a

knee injury, VanZant, the most

highly sought prep runner in the

nation two years ago, is "about 90

secondary will be the strength of

this team," he said. A transfer from

SMU, John Stollenwerck, is chal-

lenging Cameron, Widenhofer said.

Widenhofer admits these past

"It's a lot tougher than I thought

it was going to be," he said. "A lot

tougher. I just didn't know, for one

thing, how many good players you

need to win in college. And I didn't

know how much speed was a factor.

In college football, you're dealing

with people who are still growing,

HOW GOOD will the Tigers be?

"I think we're good enough to win

more games than we lose this year.

lowa vs. Tennessee Sunday at 11:45 a.m.

Gus Schrader

"Color"

two years have been a humbling

"Running back and defensive

freshman Tony VanZant.

percent," Widenhofer said.

learning experience.

still maturing."

TODAY: Missouri

and finished 3-8.

limped home with a 1-10 mark. Last year the Tigers lost several close ones — and also lost to Oklahoma by a team-record margin of 77-0 -

His first Missouri team in 1985

"That's progress. You're winning more each year," he said.

WIDENHOFER PROMISES his 1987 Tigers will bear little resembl-

One is Wallace, the overlooked fireplug who is probably much better than his lack of press clippings would indicate. The compact Kentuckian burst upon the Big 8 in 1985 with 1,120 yards, and was selected as a reserve on the all-

In 1986, he was the Big 8's leading rusher with 872 yards, and again only second team. But there are only eight running backs returning this season with more career

With 303 yards, Wallace will move past James Wilder as Mis-

yarder against Colorado last year set a Big 8 record, needs one threepointer to break the school career record of 32. Whelihan doubles as a bare-footed punter and holds or shares seven Missouri kicking

Cornerback Adrian Jones, starting all 11 games as a freshman, was named the 1986 Big 8 defensive newcomer of the year. The 6-0, 170pounder led Missouri with 49 unassisted tackles and the Big 8 with five

Also back to anchor a strong

ence to the 1-10 squad of 1985.

"This team is 45 points better than my first team two years ago," he said. "It's better because of speed."While he may be uncertain of VanZant and how quickly his players will adjust to their new offense, Widenhofer can be certain of a few key operatives.

conference team.

yards than his 2,055.

souri's all-time leading rusher.

Senior Tom Whelihan, whose 62records.

interceptions.

secondary is Erik McMillan, a threeyear starter and team captain.

Dolphins sign

MIAMI (AP) - Avon Riley, an inside linebacker recently released by the Houston Oilers, was signed Thursday by the injury-plagued

Riley played six seasons with the Oilers.

serious, but it has been slow to heal.

Coach Bob Evans

"Analysis"

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Branstad did his part to bring McGwire to lowa grid program

By Judy Daubenmier Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Gov. Terry Branstad, who spends a lot of time recruiting industry to Iowa, has spent some time recruiting athletes to the state, too.

Sunday, Branstad will get a chance to watch one of "his" recruits when University of Iowa quarterback Dan McGwire makes his first collegiate start.

McGwire, a 6-foot-8 sophomore from Claremont, Calif., was the quarterback at Claremont High School where Branstad's uncle, Ron Meyer, is the vice principal.

In an interview Thursday, Branstad said his uncle called and told him about the star quarterback, who was being sought by other colleges, and suggested Iowa go after him, as well as receiver Travis Watkins.

Branstad, who received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa, said he called Iowa Coach Hayden Fry after hearing about the duo. During Iowa's efforts to recruit McGwire, Branstad also called McGwire's parents.

The governor and his wife Chris will travel to East Rutherford, N.J., to watch McGwire and the other Hawkeyes face Tennessee in the Kickoff Classic Sunday.

Davis will wrestle for gold medal

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France - Barry Davis is going for the gold at the World Freestyle Wrestling Championships.

Davis, a Cedar Rapids native who now coaches at the University of Iowa, will face 1980 Olympic champion Sergei Beloglasov of Russia in the finals at 125.5 pounds.

Davis made the championship round on the strength of three onepoint victories, over wrestlers from Poland, North Korea and Bulgaria. The respective scores were 6-5, 5-4 and 4-3.

Four other Americans are still undefeated in the tournament, including John Smith at 136 pounds, Dave Schultz at 163, Mark Schultz at 180 and Jim Scherr at 198.

NFL postpones supplemental draft

NEW YORK (AP) - Amid intense pressure from upon his repaying \$2,500 in loans he received from the college coaches and athletic directors, the National Football League on Thursday postponed for one week its supplemental draft of Cris Carter and Charles Gladman, to give the NCAA a chance to reinstate the two players' college eligibility.

After meeting with college athletic directors, Commissioner Pete Rozelle cited as the reason for the postponement of today's highly controversial draft the reinstatement Wednesday of another Pitt player, defensive back Teryl Austin.

Like Carter, an All-American wide receiver from Ohio State, Austin had admitted accepting payments from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

Ohio State Athletic Director Rick Bay, who was present at the meeting with Rozelle, said he would be inclined to reverse his previous position and appeal to

the NCAA for Carter's reinstatement. Carter said at a news conference in Indianapolis that

playing for Ohio State would be his first choice. "I'd love to go back but it's just not as easy as that," he said, unaware at the time of his statement of the new developments in the case.

Austin's reinstatement, which includes a suspension for the first two Pitt games this season, is contingent agents and severing any agreement with them.

Gladman has never acknowledged taking money from agents. He was ruled ineligible for refusing to cooperate with an investigation into Walters and Bloom.

"I think everyone felt that the NCAA would not restore the eligibility of the other Pittsburgh player," said Bay, who like other college coaches and administrators was highly critical of the NFL's decision to allow Carter and Gladman to be drafted.

"Now they've taken the position that they will restore the eligibility with some penalty, two games, if the player in question can repay the money and get a release from the agent with whom he signed the

"Given that set of circumstances, which is totally different than what we understood, it is now incumbent upon Pittsburgh and Ohio State to go back and reexamine the cases with the other players."

Lew Cryer, commissioner of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association and chairman of the NCAA Division I Eligibility Committee, said the Carter and Gladman cases, if appealed, would be decided on an individual basis.

"I have no idea where Cris Carter stands," said Cryer.

CITYLINE adding Hawkeyes and weekend sports reports

Hawkeye fans, take note! CITYLINE introduces a new category today that should interest you - The Iowa Hawkeye Football Report. The report can be heard by calling CITYLINE at 363-7000 and then, without hanging up, dialing 3100 on a touch-tone phone. The updates are provided by The Gazette's sports staff and will be

weekend updates for CITYLINE's National Sports Report (Category 3000). The DowPhone Sports Report provided to CITYLINE by Dow Jones & Co. is not produced on weekends.

The updates will be made early Saturday evening, early Sunday morning and early Sunday evening.

linebacker Riley

Miami Dolphins.

The Dolphins lost starting linebacker John Offerdahl and backups Robin Sendlein and Andy Hendel to injuries in recent weeks. Offerdahl was knocked out for 10 weeks with an arm injury and Sendlein is out for the season with an eye problem. Hendel's bone bruise on his leg isn't

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changed every Monday and Thursday. Starting Saturday, The Gazette sports staff will also provide

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