Bengal's linebacker provides team leadership

October 19. Sunday afternoon in Riverfront Stadium, the Bengals defense captain led his team to a 14-0 victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

For a football player who was not recruited after he graduated from high school, who weighed a mere 165 pounds, who was a bit surprised when he was finally visited by the UMC football coach, Jim LeClair is now the third most senior team member of the Cincinnati Bengals.

A third round NFL draft pick by the Bengals in 1972, just four years after the team was founded, LeClair soon replaced the middle linebacker who was traded in 1974. The following season he preserved a 21-19 victory over Houston by making all four tackles in a goal line stand.

On the football field the linebacker in uniform number 55 is a respected prototype.

“He is someone we all look up to both as a player and as a person,” commented rookie center Blake Moore.

At home he is a typical husband and father. His boys, Jamie, 5, and Andrew, 2, play with Lego blocks on the kitchen floor, while their sister Kelli, 9, is in school. There are dishes on the counter and trash to be carried out of the suburban home they rent during football season in a prime-land suburb of Cincinnati.

Jim and his wife Elizabeth recall seriously considering retiring last year to return to Minnesota where they, along with Jim’s brother, operate a 375-acre, 75-cow dairy farm near McGregor.

The 6′3″, 235 pound linebacker reminisced about his years at UMC and the turns his life has taken since he left UMC.

AS A NATIVE OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME TO NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA . . . TO UMC FOR COLLEGE?

As a high school senior I weighed only 165 pounds and there aren’t many colleges recruiting 165 pound football players. When I came out of high school my grade point average was low, and UMC gave me the opportunity to go on to school, and bring up my GPA. UMC’s athletic director at that time was Herschel Lysacker, and he took an interest in me. He visited my family several times.

(Hersch’s confidence in the recruit was soon justified as Jim led the football team to win the Northern Junior College Conference title that first year. “He always played 100 percent of his ability,” said Hersch. “That really rubbed off on the other kids. He fired everybody up--both players and coaches.”)

Bengal’s middle linebacker Jim LeClair blocks defensive back Foley for a place kick.  

(More on page 4)
Letter from the President

Tom Feiro

The chilly winds and a few snowy days have begun to pop up in Crookston. This signifies several things: we have all survived another homecoming, the harvest is complete in the valley, and winter is just around the corner.

We had a successful homecoming again this year...the largest crowd ever. On Friday night the first annual UMC Alumni Recognition Banquet honored six alumni. The banquet was an excellent addition and a wonderful kick-off to homecoming. Also, we honored two classes this year, 1970 and 1975. These reunions were fun, although some classmates were unable to attend. I wish all of you could have attended.

Our largest membership meeting ever was held on Saturday morning. The alumni board received some very important feedback from other alumni. Your opinions and concerns are such an important part of the success of the association. The governing board of the alumni association cannot make sound decisions about the future without your voice being heard.

The UMC Alumni Association will be facing some challenges in the future. One challenge is to determine which activities (or services) the association should sponsor or provide. Presently, our activities center around social events (homecoming, winter dinners, etc.) and dissemination of information (newsletters, mailings). Are you happy with these or do you have some suggestions? Are there other events, activities, or services that YOU would like the association to sponsor or provide? Drop me a line to express your ideas!

Another challenge is the funding of these alumni activities. The alumni board is presently addressing this problem and various alternatives. With nearly 2,000 alumni to serve, it is quite expensive. Most alumni associations our size have a dues structure of $5 to $6 annually. Let me know your feelings.

The final challenge is the mailing list. Because we are such a mobile group, our alumni addresses are difficult to keep up-to-date. We need to know when you move. Do you know other alumni not receiving our mailings? Please, try to keep us updated!

Many members of the alumni association did not graduate but contributed to the college, and UMC meant a lot to them. These friends will receive mailings if we are notified. If you know of someone in this category, have them send us an address, or you send it in.

If you are a member of the class of 1971 or 1976 and would like to help others organize the reunions for next year, please let us know.

In this letter I asked for your input. Remember, we want to hear from you. YOUR FEEDBACK IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO UMC ALUMNI! Have a wonderful winter and I hope to see you at one of the winter dinners. Think about it!

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Provost's Message

Dr. Stanley D. Sahlstrom

Special greetings to each of you! It has been a very active but pleasant fall at UMC. I encourage you to drop by to see the campus and to visit about changes made since you were here. Just this afternoon I toured the campus with the director of plant services and the head of the grounds crew to review plans for the next step in developing our campus and to explore progress being made in the new gymnasium and the outdoor physical education facilities. We will have magnificent opportunities for intramural and intercollegiate athletic activities with the completion of that project.

Homecoming is just a memory now, but I remember with great pleasure the wonderful occasion that was our first alumni recognition banquet. This issue features stories on our award winners, and we look forward to a continuation of that tradition in the years ahead. I would remind you that in recognizing these outstanding individuals we honor the many, many other alumni who are making outstanding contributions in their fields wherever they are. I am very proud of everyone of you that studied at UMC.

Another graduate making his mark on life in a different way is Jim LeClair. Jim has brought honor to the name of UMC on many occasions through his memorable athletic achievements. We're proud of him as a person as well as an outstanding professional athlete.

Soon another legislative session will be with us. If the opportunity arises, I ask each of you to visit with your legislators about our college, its contribution to higher education in Minnesota, and about its needs for the future. We have our largest enrollment in history this fall --nearly 1200 students -- and it is important that we continue to receive the necessary funding for educational materials necessary to adequately prepare students for tomorrow's world as well as for capital improvements.

Keep in touch with us. We love to hear from you, and do visit us whenever it's possible.

My warmest personal regards to you.

---

Alumni Board

PRESIDENT
Tom Feiro ('75)

VICE PRESIDENT
Grace Stromli ('75)

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Linda Weiss ('79)

DIRECTORS
Linda Bergh ('74)
Evonne Ellingson ('77)
Sherrill O'Gorman ('69)
Krista Proulx ('75)
John Schleicher ('76)
Val Uttermark ('76)
First recognition banquet honors six alumni

GERALD L. MORITZ ('68) OF WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA -- for career accomplishments with the Bureau of Land Management. He is presently working for the United States Department of Interior where he serves as a natural resources specialist. He was the first student body president and later served as the first president of the UMC Alumni Association.

GRACE KORYNTA STROMLI ('78) OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA -- for establishing a scholarship fund in her name at UMC. She is part owner of Pro Sales, Inc., where she works as assistant manager and bookkeeper. She organized the DECA Alumni group and continues to offer support. She was recently elected to serve on the UMC alumni board.

THRAINN H. KRISTJANSSON ('72) OF WINNIPEG, MANITOBA -- for career as successful restauranteur. Thrainn was born in Iceland but now owns and operates several restaurants in the Winnipeg area. He serves as vice-president of the Manitoba Restaurant Foods Association, is a sought after speaker, and has written many articles about his operation.

KENNETH J. PAZDERNIK ('70) OF ADA, MINNESOTA -- for his work as Norman County extension agent with the University of Minnesota. After graduating from UMC Ken continued his studies at North Dakota State University where he received his B.S. degree in agronomy. Ken organized the Norman County Shade Tree Program and is active in several community organizations.

DARRELL G. LARSEN ('72) OF ROYALTON, MINNESOTA -- for his dedication as a member of the all-college advisory committee for the past six years. Darrell works with the Minnesota Farmers Union as director of co-op promotions and is also involved in his farming operation. His key contribution to UMC has been his assistance in placing graduates in agricultural related fields.

WAYNE G. OMUNDSON ('74 and '76) OF FOSSTON, MINNESOTA -- for serving as the first presiding officer of the combined board of UMC and NWSA alumni organization. Wayne is employed as director of food services and dietetic technician for the Fosston Hospital Association. He has been instrumental in working out details for homecoming activities during the past four years.
FOOTBALL PLAYERS ARE OFTEN ACCUSED OF WORKING ONE DAY A WEEK FOR THE FEW MONTHS OF THE SEASON. IS THIS A STEREOTYPE?

Yes. We workout every day. We have regular working hours with one day off a week. The day after a game we are right back at it again, working with weights and discussing the game. We break into groups (the linebackers are together) to watch a film of the game. Then the coach corrects any mistakes, and gives us a chance to justify what we did.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WANTED TO RETIRE FROM PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LAST YEAR?

I was looking. If the right opportunity comes along, I'd take it. I would enjoy coaching because I like working with kids. But I would also consider farming if I could make a living at it. If you enjoy something you should do it. It's important to always keep an avenue open.

WITH THE SALARY OF A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER YOU MUST BE INVOLVED IN SOME INVESTMENTS. WHAT ARE THEY?

Money is a big concern for the rookie professional player. Most players have been struggling through college and then all of a sudden they have more money than they know what to do with. A lot of players blow it all. My main investment is the farm in Minnesota, but I also own part interest in an insurance company in town.

DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE WAY YOU PLAYED?

Defensively we played well. Offensively we played extremely well. Anytime the offensive team can control the ball for nine minutes, it's good. In general, we're playing better football this year. Personally, I didn't make any mental errors, and as a team we didn't have mental errors.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A COLLEGE FRESHMAN INTERESTED IN PLAYING PROFESSIONAL BALL?

Any competitive sport really develops a person. My advice would be to use football as a means to an end, not as an end in itself. It got me where I am today. There was a lot of hard work along the way. Nothing came easy. For many it's hard to make the sacrifice that it takes, but if you want something bad enough it's attainable.

WHY DO YOU TALK ABOUT UMC WITH SUCH FOND MEMORIES?

As I look back those were the two best years of my life. It was at UMC that I grew up. Today I still keep in contact with friends I made a UMC. It was a great growing experience for me.
Sculpture granite arrives, awaiting spring

Nine o'clock Tuesday morning, a yellow crane, red semi-truck, and two pickups block the roadway around the University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC) mall. Eight men move rapidly as more than 16 tons of Minnesota granite are lifted from the truck to the campus ground.

"The sling will never hold that piece of granite," shouted a passerby.

After struggling for 20 minutes to place the sling and cable around the first granite piece, in less than a minute that piece was lifted from the truck and placed on railroad ties for storage until next spring.

The work of Minnesota granite has been designed by sculptor Stanley Johnson, a Crookston native. It will reach 30 feet into the sky from its position in the northwest corner of the campus near the library and Dowell Hall.

Plans for the sculpture have been underway for several years. The work was fabricated out of granite at the Cold Spring Granite Company located outside of St. Cloud. When it is finished the 30-foot sculpture will weigh about 22 tons and will rest on a five-foot square base.

WILL THE SLING HOLD? -- Bill Menzhuber (left), director of Plant Services, steadies the granite while Elwood Hill (right) guides it into place. Sculptor Stanley Johnson (with cap) watches.

When completed, the sculpture will be the only large-scale outdoor sculpture of its type in northwest Minnesota. It is the opinion of many artistically conscious people in the area that a sculpture of this kind will not only beautify the community's college campus, but will also inspire further works and awaken appreciation for visual art in this area.

Preparation for the project began last month when engineered fill was placed in the sculpture excavation. Although cutting of the granite was done at another location, all construction will be done on the campus starting in the spring. Students and the public will have an opportunity to be involved in the actual construction process as much as possible.

Pride campaign -- Repay UMC!

UMC is emerging as a national leader in technical-collegiate education! Most UMC graduates have excellent job placement choices! UMC continues to set enrollment records (fall 1980 over 1175 students). The list could continue on and on but the point is as UMC alumni you are proud of your alma mater.

In early January you will have the opportunity to show your pride in UMC. There will be a mailing seeking your support for any UMC programs you may choose. This mailing will replace the fund-raising activities in the Trojan Torch.

Remember your tuition and fee payments paid for only 40 percent of your UMC experiences -- 60 percent was funded by others (Minnesota taxes, grants, gifts). Please show your pride in UMC and give to the UMC Alumni Annual Fund!

UMC/NWSA Alumni Dinners

The schedule has been set for the traditional UMC/NWSA Alumni Dinners. The evening begins with a social hour from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., dinner from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., followed by a short program from 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. If you cannot join us for the whole evening please feel free to come when you can and visit with old friends -- pass the word on.

Because meals have to be guaranteed in advance, please send in your reservations to the Alumni Relations Office at least two weeks prior to the dinner in which you plan to attend.

Jan. 15, 1981 . . . . . . . Roseau American Legion
Jan. 16, 1981 . . . . . . . Stephen American Legion
Jan. 20, 1981 . . . . . . . Red Lake Falls Sullivan's
Feb. 6, 1981 . . . . . Hawley Norsemen Lounge & Steakhouse
Feb. 12, 1981 . . . . East Grand Forks Legion Club

For further information on the above events, please contact the Alumni Relations Office, 306 Selvig Hall (218) 281-6510 Ext. 443.
Clockwise from left: 1980 King Earl Brown and Queen De Daniels reign over homecoming activities. Football player Mike Kirkpatrick breaks through sign as mascot cheers him on. UMC grads return to help celebrate homecoming. And the Trojan football game ended in a tie.
Class reunions held for '70 and '75

1970

1975

Larson to direct alumni association

Lowell Larson has been appointed director of alumni relations replacing Don Cavalier who held that post since 1976. Larson joined the UMC staff in December of 1979 as director of institutional research and development, a position which he continues to hold.

As the college has increased in students over the past years, Cavalier’s responsibilities in counseling, career planning, and placement have become more demanding. Because of the increased demand on his time the alumni responsibilities were transferred to the Office of Institutional Research and Development.

"It has been a great past four years working with alumni at UMC," said Cavalier. "The experience has provided me with an opportunity to see the association become a viable part of the college."

The new director became interested in UMC alumni while attending several of the alumni events.

"At these events I was impressed by the many wonderful people I met," said Larson. "Dr. Sahlstrom, Don Cavalier and Tom Feiro further stimulated my interest."

Larson grew up on a family farm near Butterfield, Minnesota, and is a graduate of Mankato State University. He has served as executive vice president of the Minnesota Jaycees for three-and-a-half years and previous to that was a math instructor and coach at St. James (Minnesota) Middle School for seven years.
1968

LEE EASTLAND, Albert Lea, MN -- Agriculture real estate loan representative, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company

Peggy (Johnson) Engh, St. Paul, MN -- Secretary, 3M

Dennis Hjelle, Newfolden, MN -- Farming

Nancy (Beresford) Martin, Minneapolis, MN -- Administrator, The Bridge for Runaway Youth, graduated from UM -- Twin Cities in June, 1980

1969

Andrea (Clay) Hotzfield, Hallock, MN -- Homemaker

Cynthia (Dahl) Maloney, Hallock, MN -- Secretary, Extension Service, Hallock

Herbert Spinler, Crookston, MN -- Grain buyer, Crookston Farmers Coop Elevator

1970

Iris Bakken, Hastings, NE -- Press operator, Dravo Corporation

Beverly (Foss) Bernhagen, Fargo, ND -- Right of way Engineer, Northwestern Bell Telephone

Kenneth Borowicz, Stephen, MN -- Farming, assessor, accountant (self employed)

Denis Braukmann, New York Mills, MN -- Dairy farming

Roger Donnay, Glencoe, MN -- Service manager, Glencoe Motors

Gerald Helgeson, Hawley, MN -- Owner, Hawley Farm Supply

Greg Kalinoski, Greenbush, MN -- Farming

Dennis Pausch, Frazee, MN -- Sales and service technician, Midwest Breeder's Coop

Ken Pazdernik, Ada, MN -- County extension agent, Norman County

Nancy Tish, Plymouth, MN -- Technician II, General Mills, Inc.

Rich Wehking, Hector, MN -- Farming

1971

Donald Hollermann, Little Falls, MN -- A. I. technician, Midwest Breeder's Corporation

Evelyn (Boser) Pochardt, Stewartville, MN -- Administrative assistant, American Academy

Steve Tilleras, Bemidji, MN -- VoAg instructor, Bemidji High School, graduated from UM -- Twin Cities with B.A. in 1974

1973

Sister Jeanne Marie Campeau, Crookston, MN -- Child Care

Pat Dolezal, Olivia, MN -- Beet clerk, Southern Minnesota Sugar Coop

Tim Sebenaler, Des Moines, IA -- Food service director, Saga Corporation

Bruce Wennberg, Chisago City, MN -- Building maintenance, Chisago County

Grant Pochardt, Stewartville, MN -- Loan officer, Home Federal Savings

1974

Jeff Anderson, Breckenridge, MN -- Burlington Northern Railroad

Dean Hendrickson, Audubon, MN -- Becker County, Soil and Water Conservation District

Joe Montonye, Elbow Lake, MN -- Grant County, Soil and Water Conservation District

Steve Oehlke, Afton, MN -- Pilot, Northwest Orient Airlines

Wayne Omundson, Fosston, MN -- Director of food services, C.D.T. Fosston Hospital

Keith Slavik, Hastings, MN -- District agent, Prudential Insurance Co.

1975

Curtis Christensen, Thief River Falls, MN -- Farming

Sandy (Hann) Dobmeier, East Grand Forks, MN -- Homemaker

Jim Fournier, Crookston, MN -- Assistant manager, Robertson Lumber Company

Mike Hanson, Goodridge, MN -- Farming

Bruce Nicklay, Stewartville, MN -- Farming

Peggy (Gendron) Oehlke, Afton, MN -- Marketing correspondent, St. Paul Money Fund

Krista (Boen) Proulx, Crookston, MN -- Secretary, UMC

Connie (Nowascki) Roach, Bismarck, ND -- Secretary
JIM TESSMER, Breckenridge, MN -- Soil and Water Conservation District, Wilkin County

JULIAN YERBICH, Hutchinson, MN -- Technical service manager, International Harvester

1976

DOROTHY ECKERT, Falls Church, VA -- Clerk, FBI, Washington, D.C.

CHERYL HAUGER, Badger, MN -- Special education major, Moorhead State University

KAREN (BLOKZYL) HANSON, Crookston, MN -- Teller, Polk County State Bank

AVIS KROULIK, Crookston, MN -- Teacher, Children's Center, UMC

JOHN SCHLEICHER, Crookston, MN -- Stores Clerk, UMC

ROBERT SCHMITZ, Red Lake Falls, MN -- Self-employed, graduated from Moorhead State University in 1980

VAL (HEIRAAS) UTTERMARK, Crookston, MN -- Secretary, UMC

1977

MARY (BRANDT) BERGLAND, Roseau, MN -- Chef, Travel Host

Marilyn (Simonson) BRANSTNER, Erskine, MN -- Clerk, L. B. Hartz Store

JAYNE BRODEN, Viking, MN -- Attending University of North Dakota

CRAIG HOLMQVIST, East Grand Forks, MN -- Insurance consultant, Massachusetts Mutual Life

MARK OSTGARDEN, Hawley, MN -- Manager, J. C. Penney's Restaurant

DOUGLAS RENSVOLD, Fargo, ND -- Sales representative, KVOX Radio

1978

MAURICE BRULE, Thief River Falls, MN -- Manager, ITT

EDWIN ERICKSON, Duluth, MN -- Program analyst, Maurices, Inc.

SISTER BENITA GEROLD, Minneapolis, MN -- Dietary Supervisor, St. Mary's Hospital

TIM HAGL, Red Lake Falls, MN -- Farming

PATRICIA HILL, Crookston, MN -- Medical attendant Villa St. Vincent/Ambulance

MARY KISER, Duluth, MN -- Attending College of St. Scholastica

GREGORY LEBLANC, Crookston, MN -- Farming

KEVIN NIEHOFF, Savage, MN -- Assistant manager, Burger King Corporation

ROSS OPSAHL, Amarillo, TX -- Patrolman, Amarillo Police Department

BRIAN STROM, Crookston, MN -- Research technician, Dahlgren and Co.

GRACE STROMLI, Grand Forks, ND -- Assistant manager and bookkeeper, Pro Sales, Inc.

TOM WALKER, Sauk Centre, MN -- Radio announcer, Country Broadcasting

1979

DEBRA (ROERS) BAUMGARTNER, Sauk Rapids, MN -- Receptionist, Doctor's office

KATHERINE BAZEY, Moorhead, MN -- Attending Moorhead State University

ROBIN BOUTA, Dundee, IL -- Habitat management technician, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation

CHRISTINE BREKKEN, Long Beach, CA -- Merrill Lynch relocation

LYNN ERICKSON, Fargo, ND -- Attending North Dakota State University

CHERYL FELTMAN, Moorhead, MN -- Teller, Fargo National Bank and attending Moorhead State University

DEBBIE GROHOT, Grand Forks, ND -- Office administrator, American National Insurance Company

SUSAN HOWARD, Grand Forks, ND -- Secretary, University of North Dakota and attending same

GARY E. JOHNSON, Larimore, ND -- Machine operator, Baltimore Spice Company, Grand Forks

BOB LARSON, Crookston, MN -- Admissions counselor, UMC

RICHARD LEE, Fargo, ND -- Attending North Dakota State University

BECKY MATHIAS, Moorhead, MN -- Customer Service, First National Bank and attending Moorhead State University

ROSEMARY (GALINSKI) MUNSCH, St. Paul, MN -- Attending UM -- Twin Cities

VICTOR MUNSCH, St. Paul, MN -- Senior stores clerk, UM -- Twin Cities

JIM PETERSON, Moorhead, MN -- Attending Moorhead State University

DEBRA SATRE, Grand Forks, ND -- Lab aide, receptionist, Grand Forks Clinic
JILL (BEAUCHAMP) SCHATZ, Carrington, ND -- Ag research tech II, Carrington Irrigation Station

PERRY SCHERMERHORN, Fargo, ND -- Director of flight schedule, Executive Aviation, Inc.

DOUG SCHMITZ, Red Lake Falls, MN -- Farming

MARK TREGO, Bagley, MN -- Farming

LINDA WEISS, Crookston, MN -- Secretary, UMC

KEITH McADAMS, Park Rapids, MN -- Manager, Northern Coop Services

MARIE FOURNIER, Crookston, MN -- Data processing tech, UMC

SUSAN HAGL, Red Lake Falls, MN -- Red Lake County State Bank

DANIEL HAUBER, Jacksonville, IL -- Food assistant director, McMurray College

GORDON HUTTENEN, Wadena, MN -- Farming

JOYCE KOOPMAN, St. Cloud, MN -- Dietetic technician, St. Cloud Hospital

PHILIP LARSON, Broken Arrow, OK -- Thermal Windows and attending Thema Bible Training Center

ALLEN LUND, St. Paul, MN -- Attending St. Paul Bible College

CANDY NORMANDIN, Crookston, MN -- Secretary, Law office, Crookston

BRUCE QUACKENBUSH, Chokio, MN -- Director, Lazy Q. Farms, Inc.

JUDY RIMPILA, Minneapolis, MN -- Dietary technician, Fairview-Southdale Hospital

TIMOTHY RIOPELLE, Crookston, MN -- Insurance agent, Noah Insurance Service

ANN STOLL, Fargo, ND -- Assistant manager, Beneficial Finance Co.

JEROME TRAPP, New Hope, MN -- Computer operator, Super Value

CORINNE WALSH, Crookston, MN -- Secretary, UMC

DON YUTRZENKA, Argyle, MN -- Farming

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