

SPORTS

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Akron U soccer
team is in need
of offense — 5

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Faust's friends help Zips' QB make grades

Cribbing from a guy named Harvey. And now, the rest of the Mike Johnson story:

In previous chapters we learned that a wondrous high school quarterback from Southern California accepted a scholarship to lead the Arizona State University football team to the promised land of the Rose Bowl, but found only unhappiness among the saguaro cacti.

After one season of redshirting and another of inactivity, Johnson transferred next door to Mesa (Ariz.) Community College, where his speedy scrambling and



Steve Love

laser passing transformed a 3-6 team into an 8-2-1 team.

So it was that Johnson once again found himself on the most-wanted lists of Division I-A teams, including the University of Akron, which won his heart

legs and good left arm.

There was just one problem.

Because of the death of his father and a lackluster academic performance, Johnson needed to take and pass 26 credit hours during summer school to graduate from Mesa Community College and gain eligibility at Akron.

He not only succeeded and will start Saturday night against Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., he did it with a 3.7 grade average on a 4-point scale during the second of two summer sessions.

He did not, however, do this

without help. And that is where the rest of the story begins.

Though they might have done as much for any student whose future was on the line, professors Gene Fazio and Menell Martin had extra incentive to care whether Johnson made it.

That incentive was Gerry Faust, Akron U's coach.

When he coached at Notre Dame, Faust became friends with Menell Martin and her husband, but Faust did not recognize Martin's name when he learned she was Johnson's academic adviser.

"It's her professional name,"

Faust said. "Her married name is Belles. I recruited her son, Steve, who's a senior at Notre Dame."

The way Faust had treated the Belles family came back to help, not haunt, him.

"She really pitched in," Faust said.

No one, though, did more than Fazio, an English professor whose life also had been touched by Faust.

"It's ironic," Faust said.

One simple kindness returned to Faust many fold.

"I'm a Notre Dame fan," Fa-

zio said.

"I wrote Gerry a letter when he was there and he wrote back. I couldn't believe it. I never expected a reply, but with this man everybody is a somebody."

Faust shrugs.

"I like people," he said. "If somebody takes the time to write or to call you, it's only common courtesy to write or call back."

When Johnson left a note in Fazio's mailbox asking for his help, Fazio was ready with it.

"I assumed," Fazio said, "that

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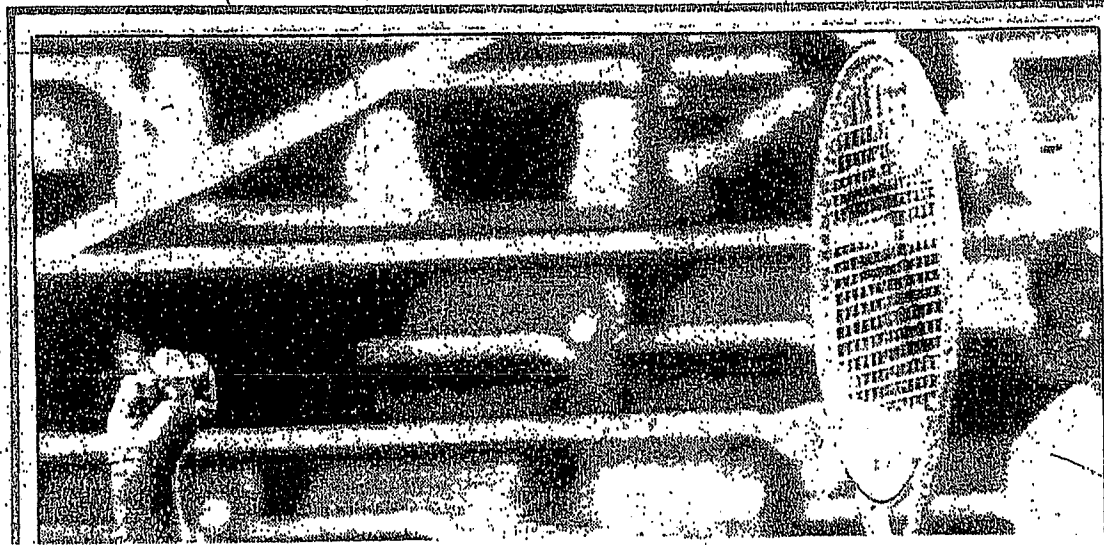
Candiotti wins third in a row

Havens gets save in Tribe victory

By Sheldon Ocker
Beacon Journal staff writer

Kansas City, Mo.

Brad Havens and Paul Zuvella were the unlikely heroes who ensured a 4-1 Indians' victory over Kansas City at



Browns make deal with Colts

Reach limit by trading Griggs

By Ed Meyer
Beacon Journal staff writer

Eddie Johnson went fishing on his day off