Ellis' Role Shifts Rapidly For Nazarene

Just three weeks earlier, Mike Ellis, a 5-foot-8, 150-pound junior trackman. was serving as equipment manager for the Mid-America Nazarene football team.

Ellis thought he had left his football playing days behind on the eight-man fields in Nebraska.

Suddenly, Mid-America had a greater need for quarterbacks than for

somebody to take care of the equipment. As the ranks thinned through injuries, Coach Gordon DeGraffenreid prevailed on Ellis to join the squad as

Saturday night against Missouri Valley College, Ellis became not only Mid-America's starting quarterback, he was the Olathe school's only quarterback.

Ellis wasn't in the best of shape for the assignment. As the only passer in practice, he had thrown so much he couldn't lift his arm above his shoulder the day before the game.

"I don't want to make excuses, but we went into the Missouri Valley game with a fourth-string, sore-armed quarterback," DeGraffenreid said. "One of our quarterbacks had a groin injury, and the doctor said he could play only in an emergency. The other two had badly bruised legs. And we use an option and veer offense.

year. The one we had counted on being our first-stringer hurt his leg playing softball this summer and dropped out of school. We had another who was running first string and tore a knee ligament in our opening scrimmage. Our top freshman recruit was dismissed for disciplinary reasons."

The injury situation compounds the problems of the year-old program at the church-related school of 1,280 students. Mid-America, which is starting 17 freshmen on its two units, is overmatched in experience in almost every game, Losses to William Jewell (31-3) and Nebraska Wesleyan (28-7) preceded a 70-0 drubbing at Missouri Valley.

DeGraffenreid said the Valley game wasn't as chilling on squad morale as a game of experience.

"I told our players Monday that when we got back Saturday night, I just couldn't wait to get back on the practice field," DeGraffenreid said. The players echoed my sentiments, and we had a real good practice Mon-

day. Everybody was enthusiastic."
DeGraffenreid pointed to breakdowns on specialty teams in the first three games. He said that Mid-America had fumbled three punts and had two kicks blocked. Each mistake set up a touchdown for the opposition.

Mid-America is one of two Nazarene schools playing football. The other is Olivet Nazarene of Kankakee, Ill., which is in its fourth year of competi-

The board of trustees at Mid-America approved the plan to accelerate the competitive level rather than play a junior-varsity schedule while developing a nucleus of veteran players.

'We felt we'd be fortunate to win a game with the type of schedule we're playing," DeGraffenreid said. "But we learned a lot playing against William Jewell and Missouri Valley.

"I like this better from a recruiting standpoint. It would be difficult to recruit if we were playing a junior-varsi-ty schedule. Players want to go to a school where they will play against varsity competition.

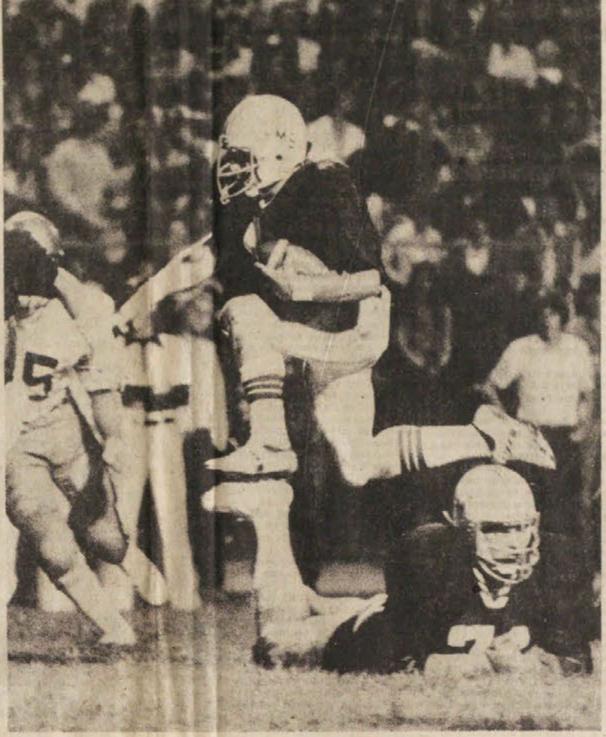
on and veer offense.

"We have an all-state linebacker"
"We've been hurt at quarterback all from Atlanta, Don Diehl, and I doubt if we'd been able to get him if we didn't have a varsity schedule. The same might be true of Jake Blankenship, another linebacker who played on a state 4A championship team in Tex-

> Mid-America will play teams more on its experience level the next two weeks, facing Haskell and Kemper Ju-

"We're not taking anybody lightly," DeGraffenreid said. "Haskell will outweigh us. And our players were impressed by how good Haskell looked in

For a change, DeGraffenreid will go into a game with a healthy quarterback. Not only that, but Mike Ellis has



Mark Daniels of Southwest Mis- first down. Southwest Missouri desouri State hurdled over one of his feated Harding College 10-0, imown blockers Saturday night and proving its record to 3-0. continued down field for a Bear

Sly Shows Progress Now That He Knows MU System

COLUMBIA, Mo .- Steve Sly's two receptions against Ole Miss Saturday doubled his total of catches from last season. But then, he only caught one pass last season.

If the first response to all this is a

simple yawn and a "big deal," don't tell Sly. It's a big deal to him.

"I'm very happy that I got to catch those," said the University of Missouri sophomore. "I didn't think I'd get to get out there that much."

Normally, he wouldn't have. The flanker from East High School in Kansas City has made progress from a rough first year, but not enough to play regularly. There still was something If I get those down, there's nothing

missing from getting quarterback Phil Bradley and Sly together on the field more often. Part of it was experience. Part of it was a lack of pattern knowl-



But after Saturday, Sly hopes those parts are

starting to fit together. "That was breakthrough for me." he said. "I just hope I got those things down so I can do them again next time.

"You see, last year I didn't know the system. But this year I feel a lot better. I know about what's going on a little more. I can do what I do best if I get the chance.

Saturday, almost out of necessity, Sly got that chance-twice. Bradley had completed only 1-of-10 passes be fore he found Sly for a 38-yard completion-Missouri's longest this seasonto the Ole Miss 24 before the first half expired. Then, after Ken Blair's 69yard touchdown pass opened the passing game, Bradley and Sly connected again—this time for a 24-yard pass that Sly took to the Mississippi 9. Two plays later, Bradley scored the final touchdown in Mizzou's 33-7 victory.

statistic around, but for Sly and the slow-to-pass Tigers, it is enough. The Tigers are averaging only six comple-tions a game. Everly little bit helps.

But neither Sly nor anybody else is perturbed with all this. And he thinks

That was only our third game," Sly said. "Everything's going to go all right, we just have new receivers, and eventually they're going to be OK. People talk about the guys we lost from last year, but they have to give us a chance. We can be as good or better, I believe.

"I think I could ease some pressure off the other receivers. "We're having our problems right now, but if I go in tern, and that would open everything for everybody else."

And what about Sly? When are things going to open for him?

"I don't want to start thinking about scoring touchdowns or anything. I just want to get in there and do what's natural." Sly said. "Right now, we're busy thinking about the Orange Bowl.

"I want to catch a few more passes. and get more playing time, then I'll be happy. I'm not saying I'm not happy now, but I just want to contribute

For Sly, Saturday wasn't a bad

Linfield Claims Top Spot In NAIA Division II Poll

tional Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football poll last week, moved into the No. 1 spot in the rankings released Wednesday.

Linfield, 2-0, received eight first-

NAIA **Top Twenty**

Association of Intercolle		
Division II football poll,	with this	1 140
son's records and points:		
1. Linfield (Ore.)	2-0-0	313
2. Findlay (Ohio)	2-0-0	291
3. Gustavus Adolphus	3-0-0	292
4. Bethany (Kan.)	3-0-0	234
5. Cal. Lutheran	2-0-1	22
(tie) Valley City	3-0-0	224
7. St. John's (Minn.)	2-0-0	217
8. Concordia (Minn.)	2-1-0	183
9. Missouri Valley	2-0-1	150
	3-0-0	14
10. Franklin (Ind.)	2-0-0	14
(tie) Jamestown, N.D.	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	
12. N'western (lowa)	3-1-0	114
13. Tarleton (Texas)	2-1-0	10
14. Illinois College	2-0-0	8
15. Doone (Neb.)	3-0-0	74
(tie) William Jewell	3-0-0	70
17. Westminster (Pa.)	1-1-0	7:
18. Illinois Wesleyan	2-0-0	65
19. McMurry (Texas)	3-1-0	6
20. St. Mary's (Calif.)	2-0-0	4
64.331 11.13		- 2

(tie) Hanover (Ind.)

Findlay (Ohio) as the top team. Findlay also is 2-0, but had to struggle past Wilmington (Ohio) 28-26 Satur-Findlay received six first-place

votes and 298 votes.

Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.), 3-0, received the other two first-place votes and remained third with 292 points. Bethany (Kan.), 3-0, remained fourth with 234 points.

Missouri Valley, 2-0-1, climbed into the Top Ten by moving from 15th to ninth, while William Jewell moved from 20th into a tie for 15th.

In the Division I poll, Angelo State (Texas) received all 16 first-place votes and remained No. 1.

Bethke Is Forgotten Jayhawk

Fifth-Year Senior Looks for Chance To Prove Himself

> By Ken Davis KU Sports Correspo

LAWRENCE, Kan.-Just call Brian Bethke the forgotten quarterback.

Chances are, if you've heard anything about a quarterback at the University of Kansas this year, it has been about Kevin Clin-

ton, sophomore from Wichita. The next David Jaynes, according to Coach Don Fambrough of KU. Clinton is KU's hope for the future who is developing during a gloomy pres-Chances are,



you've heard very little about Bethke, the California kid who has been given an extra year of eligibility through a hardship ruling by the Big Eight Conference.

Clinton has had the starting role since spring drills. Bethke has been second in line the entire time. But there has been little competition for the No. 1 position.

Bethke has appeared in both KU games this season. But both appearances have come in the late stages of one-sided losses. And that's quite a different role for Bethke, who started in KU's season opener against Texas A& M in 1978, to accept.

"As for as the playing time I've got," Bethke said, "any opportunity I get to play, I'll take. It's somewhat different to go in at the end of the game and try to do something. But at the same time, it's an opportunity for me to show what I'm capable of doing.

"As far as accepting the role of the reserve quarterback, I don't think I can ever accept it. But it's something you have to live with at the moment. I'm hoping that will change. I'm working hard and trying to play more, but only time will tell."

Since coming to KU in 1977 as a transfer from Mount San Antonio Junior College in California, Bethke has been in and out of the top quarterback position. A broken arm during spring drills the first year delayed Bethke's adjustment to the Jayhawks' offense.

But he was thrust into action in the 1977 season opener when Mark Vicendese, starting quarterback, was injured on the third play of the game. Bethke had a good performance against Texas A&M as the Jayhawks lost 28-14. But he didn't get a firm grip on the starting role until late that sea-

A back injury in the opener against the Aggies last year kept Bethke out for the remainder of the season and led to the hardship ruling from the confer ence office.

The return of Fambrough as KU coach meant the departure of the option offense, which the 5-foot-10, 185pound Bethke ran so well. Many said he was too short to fit into Fambrough's pro-set, pass-oriented of-

"I don't really feel my height is a handicap at all. At times, being taller might help on the drop-back pass. But the passing lanes will open up on the line just like they do in the defensive secondary. That gives you sight. I don't see that as a handicap, even though a lot of people might."

Bethke has done well in his brief stints during KU's first two games. Last week he completed 3-of-4 passés against Michigan. He ranks second in the Big Eight in passing efficiency, having completed 7-of-12 for 58.3 per-cent and 90 yards.

"I think experience has a lot to do with what I can contribute," said Bethke, who was elected offensive captain by his teammates this year. 'Being a fifth-year senior has its positive aspects-I've seen a lot of people, players, teams and games, and that

'As a team captain, a lot of things that I want to do, I can do."

Owen's Year Starting to Look Much Better

Marcus Dixon (right), split end at way to a 43-yard gain late in the

By John Dodderidge K-State Sports Corresponde

Around End

MANHATTAN, Kan .- Sam Owen's year has taken a definite change for the better because of the loss of sophomore Greg Best at right cornerback Being the backup to Best at corner-

back for the first

two games this year was new for Owen. For the last two seasons, he had been the

Kansas State Wildcats' starter at free safety. Saturday against Air Force, he will be starting the first game of his career at cor-OWEN nerback.

"I feel bad that I have to be starting because somebody got hurt, but I feel I was getting accustomed to playing cornerback and ready to be first

string," Owen said. The change to cornerback came last

spring when the coaches moved him two passes, one in each game, and there because they were experimenting with a new defensive alignment. Instead of having a four-man secondary, the coaches decided to go to a three-man system.

Central Missouri State, managed

to elude defensive end Tom Moore of Emporia State Saturday on the

That meant they would have to move Brad Horchem to free safety from strong safety and switch Owen to cornerback because he has better speed (4.6 seconds in the 40-yard dash) than Horchem.

"The switch didn't bother me because I played cornerback when I was a freshman," Owen said. "Plus, the coaches decided to play Brad at free safety instead of me, which I couldn't blame them for doing." The move has paid off for K-State

and Owen because the 1978 Wildcat secondary is intact, even without Best, under the new system, led by seniors Horchem and Owen. Junior Steve Schuster, returning letterman from Topeka, is the third starter in the secondary at left cornerback.

Even in a backup role this year, Owen has played well in the Wildcats' first two games. He has intercepted made seven tackles.

game. Emporia State stopped Cen-

tral Missouri 21-0 to boost its rec-

ord to 2-1. Central Missouri is 0-3.

His best performance came in the victory over Oregon State, making all seven of his tackles and a game-saving interception in the end zone in the fourth quarter. Owen replaced Best, who made an interception and suf-fered a dislocated elbow when he fell

"I didn't even have time to think about Best being hurt," Owen said. "I just went in there and tried to do the best job I could in that situation."

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Owen is from Lee's Summit, where he was an All-Metro running back his senior year in 1975, rushing for 1,480 yards and 19 touchdowns.

"I wasn't recruited by very many schools, and I thought there might be a chance I could play running back at K-State," Owen said. "The coaches said I could try it at running back my freshman year, but that I would get a better shot as a defensive back." Last year, Owen came into his own

at free safety by tying for second in the

Big Eight Conference in Interceptions

with five. He also was named to the All-Big Eight second team, led the Wildcat secondary in total tackles and was K-State's defensive player of the week for his performance against Ne-Owen is five interceptions away

from tying Clarence Scott, now a Cleveland Brown defensive back, for the all-time K-State record of 12. The single-season mark is six, set by Lyle Koontz in 1949 and matched by Hi Fau-"I wouldn't mind going after the in-

terception record, but my goals are to cut my mistakes to a minimum, along with making a lot of tackles and interceptions," Owen said. "I also would like to make All-Big Eight at corner-"Playing cornerback, you have to be

long," Owen said. like John Liebe or Eugene Goodlow

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prepared for any curl patterns or make sure a receiver doesn't beat you "I know that if I can cover someone

(Wildcat teammates) in practice, then

I won't have any problems with any other receivers I'll face."

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