

## talk

As for Manual, it has lost seven of eight games, including its last six. "We haven't even won a toss of the coin in eight games," Meihaus quipped. "Oh, maybe we've won one, but not many."

The season's over for Corky Prater, and a good one it was. The 5-foot-11, 170-pound junior completed 98 of 201 passes in 11 games for 1,651 yards and 21 touchdowns.

That brings his three-year varsity total to 52 TD passes and 4,759 yards gained through the air, according to his coach at Lewis County High, Bill Robinson.

"Corky threw 13 touchdown passes as a freshman and 18 as a sophomore," Robinson said. "Since he's been our quarter-

back, we've averaged 30 points a game and have never been shut out."

Lacking sure-fingered ends to throw to, Prater found 6-3, 185-pound junior Dale Hacker a favorite target on the tackle-eligible play.

"Hacker caught six passes and five went for touchdowns," Robinson said. "Why, he averaged 50 yards per catch."

One of the four losses Lewis County experienced in its 7-4-0 season was a 49-6 defeat at the hands of Louisa, which hosts Shelbyville Friday night in the Class A, Third Region playoff.

"Louisa has a great quarterback in Drexel Short," Robinson said. "He's the best we've seen all season. He's got more speed and is a little bigger (185) than Corky. He's also very intelligent and can throw the ball deep, and throw it accurately."

When Bill Gray of Elkhorn City kicked his 10th field goal of the season Saturday night to beat Bageland 20 and give

## Corky Through 1973



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## Viewing The State's Top Prep Play ers

# Lindsey, Prater, Bradley: The Flashy Quart

By MIKE JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The quarterback, University of Kentucky coach Fran Curci once placed him on the same pedestal as the baseball pitcher. He's 75 per cent of the game. The heart and soul of his team.

Across Kentucky this fall some 300 high school quarterbacks will be flinging pigskins and barking signals. This is a story about three of the best.

Mention Gregg Lindsey's name to Franklin County coach Jack Cline and prepare for an endless onslaught of words. He is the coach's favorite topic of conversation.

"I could talk all day about the kid," Cline admits. "He's not only a

super athlete but he's a super person. He might well wind up as valedictorian of his senior class."

Lindsey has been the starting quarterback for three years. Last season he passed for 1,428 yards and 16 touchdowns. His coach can recite those figures without even checking the records because the college coaches have asked for them enough.

A lready schools like Kentucky, Alabama and Arkansas have been around to take a look at Lindsey.

**'Impressed With Poise'**

"They are most impressed with his poise on the field and his ability to throw the football," Cline says. "He can consistently throw the ball 60 yards and hit the receiver right on the numbers."

But Lindsey has more than just an arm.

"Gregg is a complete quarterback," Cline insists. "He's a coach's dream. He's intelligent and an exceptional leader on the field. He can pick a defense apart, too."

Before a fellow by the name of Corky Prater came along, Lewis County had never had a winning football season.

Last year, Lewis County won seven of 11 games. Corky Prater passed for 22 touchdowns, 13 extra points and 1,648 yards. His problem is geography.

Lewis County High is located in Vanceburg. Not exactly the most accessible point of interest in the Commonwealth.

**'So Talented . . .'**

"I'll tell you if Corky played in Lexington or Louisville everybody would know about him," insists Lewis County coach Bill Robinson. "He's so talented they don't even necessarily associate him with football around here. He's been all district in basketball and the catcher on the baseball team. He plays golf, too."

But the thing Prater does best is throw a football. In three seasons he has passed for 4,747 yards and 53 touchdowns. He's been responsible for 478 points. Once he passed for 800 yards in one game. Four times he has been over 400 yards.

"He can find any receiver," Robinson says. "He's a strong kid, too. I've seen him hit, knocked back and almost down but recover and scramble around to get the pass off."

"He can roll out or drop back to pass. He's a leader on the field. He controls everything. I almost feel like a spectator at practice," Robinson laughs.

to the Class AA state title before departing for the University of Kentucky.

Bradley has Elizabethtown thinking about the playoffs again.

**Same Threat**

"He's a little bigger and a little faster than Lewis," Hancock points out, and he's the same type of passing threat that Ernie was. Whether he can reach the same kind of records Ernie did remains to be seen but the colleges are sure interested."

Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Tennessee have already dropped by to take a look at the fleet-footed signal caller.

Last year Bradley rifled 15 touchdown passes and covered 1,400 yards with aerials. He also rushed for more than 600 yards.

"Mark's just an outstanding quarterback," Hancock says. "He can run any offense you put in front of him. He can run with the ball and we think he is an excellent passer. So do many of the colleges."

**ENDS**

**Class of the Class —** AAA-Hermen Brooks, Central; AA-Tony Ingram, Bryan Station; A-Craig Beard, Campbellsville.

**Others to Watch —** Richard Crumble, Paris; Ray Smith, Paris; Mike Mach, Southern; Steve O'Connor, Morgan Co.; Darrell Spillman, Garrard Co.; Larry Irwin, Mansel; Carl Estell, Butler; Henry Lewis, Seneca; Dennis Bolton, St. Xavier; Kevin Chabellier, Paducah Tilghman; Mark Gregory, Afton; James Greer, Paducah Tilghman; Morris Greenfield, Owensboro; Kelly Carter, Tompkinsville; Jim Troutman, Bullitt Central; Dennis Walker, Hendersonburg; Lonnie Hardin, Oldham Co.; Tim Mack, Bryan Station; Willie Thomas, Ashland; Jack Fife, Mullins; Mike Simpson, Cumberland; Ernie Buell, Middletown; Phil Todd, Russellville; Trey Dix, Frankfort; Rob Haller, Clark Co.

**TACKLES**

**Class of the Class —** AAA-Len Shaden, Bishop David; AA-David Neal, Lafayette; A-James Price, Lynch.

**Others to Watch —** Ron Amburger, Frankfort; Bill Afters, Beechwood; Jack Robertson, Harrodsburg; James Grubb, Marion Co.; Bruce Scales, Trimble; Joe McNeely, Lafayette.

lands; Jerry Roberts, Daviess County.

**GUARDS**

**Class of the Class —** AAA-Marty Bowling, Trinity; AA-George Vannington, Henry Clay; A-Brad Hood, Beechwood.

**Others to Watch —** Terry Ballard, Lafayette; Bill Bussell, Paris; Dennis English, Valley; Mike Orlut, Madisonville; Bill Waggoner, Frankfort; Jeff Bras, Ballard; Mike Bell, Westport; Jimmy Carter, Westport; Mike Holmquist, Waggoner; Bobby Hayes, Bowling Green; Terry Morgan, Elkhorn City; Barry Maormann, Owensboro; Mike Edwards, Russell.

**CENTERS**

**Class of the Class —** AAA-Matt Alvey, Doss; AA-Greg Hugard, Dixie Heights; A-Frank Skinner, Webster Co.

**Others to Watch —** Steve Moreland, Oldham Co.; Wes Gily, Bath Co.; Steve Lilly, Tates Creek; Sam Walker, Johns Creek; Doug Walker, Mayfield; Joe Deaton, Montgomery Co.; John Brown, Danville.

**QUARTERBACKS**

**Class of the Class —** AAA-Dan Hubbard, Trinity; AA-Greg Lindsey, Franklin Co.; A-Corky Prater, Lewis County.

**Others to Watch —** David McAtee, Danville; Mark Bradley, Elizabethtown; Mike Murray, Beechwood; Hank Allan, Morgan Co.; Rick Hudson, Paris; James Tucker, Henry Clay; Randy Belcher, Elkhorn City; Ken Newcome, Barren Co.; Frenchie Croyle, Bailey; David Bostick, Hopkinsville; Rick Riney, Owensboro; Bryant; Dennis Jackson, Doss; Greg Rice, Piasa Ridge Park; Kevin Kennedy, Thomas Jefferson; Steve Larimore, Bullitt Central; Chris O'Bryan, St. Xavier; John Quas, Covington Catholic; Mike Deaton, Green Co.; Billy Knight, Tates Creek; Mike Russell, Anderson Co.; Greg Hill, Mayfield; Max Messamore, Somerset; Greg Gallaher, Clark Co.

**HALFBACKS**

**Class of the Class —** AAA-Bob Barrows, Doss; AA-Horman Leitcher, Danville; A-Robert Hawkins, Mt. Sterling.

**Others to Watch —** Terry Keelin, Boyd Co.; Willie Wilson, Paducah Tilghman; Jim Dullis, St. Xavier; Jacques Williams, Owensboro Catholic; Oola Tada, Henderson Co.; Victor Grubbs, Tripp Co.; Troy

## Composite Lexington

Aug. 30 — Campbell Co. at Bryan Station, Henry Clay at Woodford Co.

Sept. 4 — Boyd Co. at Lafayette, Bryan Station at Henry Clay, Laurel Co. at Tates Creek, Sore at Mercer Co.

Sept. 18 — Knoxville Central at Lafayette, Middletown at Bryan Station, Sayre at Indianapolis Park, Tudor, Tates Creek at Jel-

## Class AA, Region I

# Paducah Tough

By MIKE JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Okay, fans, let's get that pencil, paper and calculator out. By the time the race for the championship in Region I of Class AA is over you're going to need them.

This region, of course, is the home of state champion Paducah Tilghman. The other coaches around the area will tell you that Dan Haley's Tornado has all kinds of talent back and to win here the first thing you've got to do is beat Tilghman.

Haley will tell you that's not entirely true.

"We think we've got as good a chance as anybody," he concedes. "But from what I hear Christian County is gonna be a strong contender and Mayfield had

Paducah Tilghman don't play each other which means that the District One winner might well be decided by the complicated Dickinson Rating System where teams get so many points for beating teams with good or bad records.

Meanwhile over in District Two, it looks like a scramble between four or five teams. The traditional powers like Madisonville and Owensboro should be right in the race along with newcomers Henderson County and Owensboro Catholic.

"The way I understand it they don't have any super teams in that district like the last couple of years," Haley points out, "but they've got a lot of pretty good football teams that are capable of beating just about anybody."

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# 1974 Preseason Corky Prater Lexington Herald



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titlist St. Xavier.

Also headed for Eastern is Lewis County quarterback Corky Prater, who threw 72 touchdown passes during his four-year career, 20 of them as a senior.

Murray coach Bill Furgerson signed 12

## Corky signing day ECU



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Sun, Oct 31, 2021

## Corky Prater Leads Resurgent Lewis Co.

By STUART WARNER  
Of The Herald Staff

Lewis County isn't exactly a football hotbed yet — the team still has to share its playing arena with local horse shows and the homecoming queen got front page headlines in the newspaper while the game was relegated to a much more inconspicuous spot — but enthusiasm in the gridiron sport is slowly seeping through to the folks there.

"Our whole community never was much interested in football," said coach Bill Robinson, "but they got to reading a little bit that we were in the running for this thing (the Class A, Region III, District Two title) and they started coming out to the games."

"None of our students know much about football except maybe a little they got from TV, but I've never seen them more excited than they were after we beat Fleming County last week," he added.

And the fellow who has done the most to put Lewis County on the football map is quarterback Corky Prater, who has led the Lions to a 6-1 record this season — 5-0 in the district — coming into tonight's 8 o'clock game at Henry Clay.

Prater has been a starter at Lewis County for four seasons and in those years — with several games and possibly the playoffs to go — he has built a statistical mountain with his wondrous passing arm.

Sometime tonight we will probably surpass 6,000-yard career mark in passing (he has over 5,900 now), he has thrown 63 times for touchdowns once he passed for 600 yards in a single game which is lower than the national high school record of 588 listed in this month's issue of Letterman magazine.

This season, the 5-foot-11 senior has already accounted for over 1,100 yards and 13 touchdowns through the air

and is currently riding a hot streak, completing 45 of 60 passes in his last three starts.

And he plays defense. "Of course, we worry about him getting hurt — if we lost Corky it would kill us," Robinson said. "But he's such a good athlete, I don't know what we'd do without him on a safety."

"They've promised to build us a new football stadium," the Lewis County coach continued. "That just goes to show you how much Cork's done for football around here."

Morgan added that the Lions have added more punch on the ground this season with senior Terry Lumpkins and Bill McCray supporting the passing game with their running ability while Lumpkins, who may not play against Henry Clay, and ends James Bloomfield and Mort Bertrand are Prater's primary receivers. Bertrand has caught 21 passes in the last three games and hauled in eight TDs for the season.

Against Henry Clay, which is 4-1 and ranked No. 3 in Class AA, Robinson said he is particularly concerned with the Blue Devils' fearsome pass rush led by All-State George Washington.

"I know there are going to be some college coaches at the game," he said, "but they really are not scouting Corky in the right way, because if our line can't stop Washington, Corky will never get a chance to show what he can do."

"If we beat Henry Clay, it would be like David beating Goliath," Robinson went on to say. "We just haven't played any teams in their class. I just hope we can get by without getting anybody hurt — if we do, it should be a good experience for us — because we've still got one district game to play (Nov. 4 against Morgan County) and we can't afford to lose that one."

And projecting into the future a little bit, Robinson

was asked if the football tradition that is beginning to grow a Lewis County will be lost when Corky Prater graduates.

"I don't think so," he replied. And even through the conversation was via telephone, you could tell Robinson was smiling. "Corky's first cousin, Toni McGlone, is our back-up quarterback right now. He's just a sophomore and he's already been starting two years for us on defense. He could pick up right where Cork leaves off."



## Corky Prater feature Lexington Herald



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