

# On Paper: Tigers Strong

**By Dennis O'Grady**  
(Sports Editor)

**Question:** What can the Carroll High School baseball team do this summer that they did a year ago?

**Answer:** They could be just as good or better.

Under the leadership of Coach Ted Edwards, the Tigers captured their first Midwest Conference title, breezing to a perfect 14-0 mark.

Not only that, but Carroll rung up the most victories in the school's history, winning 21 of 25 games.

Also, they whipped city rival Kuemper three times by 8-5, 11-5 and 4-2 scores.

Overall against the Knights in the last couple of years, the Tigers own four straight

victories and five out of six.

Can Carroll continue their mastery of the Knights? Well, that will be answered Wednesday night when the two highly-touted clubs square off at 8 p.m. at Carroll Stadium.

But before that early season clash, the Tigers will take on Lake View-Auburn in a pair of five-inning games here Monday night, starting at 7 p.m.

"We haven't beaten anybody yet. You don't beat people on paper," warned Edwards who is starting his seventh season as head man. "But we do have the nucleus to be a good ball club."

"These kids have played good baseball since Little League and I hope they have

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one more good season," continued Edwards.

Edwards has eight starters back, headed by all-state pitching candidate Todd Pettitt who was a unanimous all-conference pick last year.

Other all-loop choices back are Eric Siemer, Todd Buck and Brad Edwards, first team; and Jim Molitor and Jim Petersen, honorable mention.

Pitching is the team's strongest point, led by Pettitt, who recorded an 11-1 record last summer. The team's earned run average was superb at 1.75.

Pettitt's statistics speak for themselves. In 57 innings, he

gave up only 24 hits, fanned 73 and had an earned run average of .074.

To go with Pettitt, Edwards has lefty Eric Siemer (4-2 last year) and righthanders Tom Reiman (4-0 and .072 earned run average) and Edwards (2-0) to throw.

"Pettitt has to be one of the better pitchers in the state and Siemer is equally effective when he gets support," Edwards commented. "And in Reiman, we have an excellent third man if his arm holds up."

The Tigers also have experience at every position and according to Edwards, "have real good team speed."

As far as weaknesses, "our hitting is inconsistent," Edwards said,

But the Tiger boss does have three out of his top four hitters back.

Siemer is the leader. The big left-handed first baseman led the club in average (.365) hits, (27) and runs batted in (22) a year ago.

Other top hitters returning are Edwards (.309) and centerfielder Buck (.299).

Another weakness, according to Edwards, is attitude. "We need a lot of work on that."

Of the newcomers, senior Dan Wittrock is the best. This is his first year out for the sport since he was the all-star catcher on the Carroll Senior Little League state championship team in 1974.

Others expected to help are junior Jeff DeBower and sophomore Scott Hackett.

As far as a starting line-up, Pettitt will be on the mound with Siemer at first; Reiman at second; Edwards at short and Petersen at third.

The outfield will consist of Molitor in left, Buck in center and Mark Steffes in right.

Hackett, DeBower and Dan Volk will be reserve infielders with Brad Wuertz possibly being in the designated hitter (DH) role.

"If he (Wuertz) keeps hitting, we'll have to find a spot for him as an outfielder or a DH," Edwards said.

The conference race, according to Edwards, shapes up as a battle between his club, Denison (with super pitching) and Perry (with all veterans back except at catcher).

Edwards said his team's toughest opposition will come from Kuemper and another strong county team, St. Bernard of Breda, led by Dale Steinkamp and Tim Nieland.

The Tigers will be in two invitational tournaments, their own and Kuemper's.

**The roster:**  
Seniors — Eric Siemer, Todd Pettitt, Mark Steffes, Tom Reiman, Jim Petersen, Todd Buck and Dan Wittrock.  
Juniors — Jim Molitor, Brad Edwards, Dan Volk, Jeff DeBower and Brad Wuertz.  
Sophomore — Scott Hackett and Manager Stewart Grundmeier.



**Pitching Staff Back —**

Pitching was a big reason for Carroll's 14-0 Midwest Conference record last summer and 21-4 overall mark. Head Coach Ted Edwards has his top four hurlers back once again. From left, Todd Pettitt, Brad Edwards, Tom Reiman and Eric Siemer. The Tigers open their season, hosting Lake View-Auburn at 7 p.m. Monday for two five-inning games.

## Concentration Important in '500'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Crashes in the Indianapolis 500 can be spectacular and deadly, but driving in the world's richest auto race is "just like going to work," says Steve Krisiloff.

Krisiloff, a 30-year-old driver from Parsippany, N.J., will start his seventh Indy race on Sunday after qualifying at 184.691 miles an hour, the slowest in the 33-car field.

He sweated out the final 90 minutes of last Sunday's qualifications while three slower cars were bumped from the field.

The danger is constant, Krisiloff acknowledged, but no driver can really afford to

give it much of a thought. Not if he expects to win, or even survive.

"Concentration is the most important thing," he said, contending actual driving skills and quick reactions to adverse situations don't really matter.

"By the time something happens on the track, it's too late to react," he said.

Statistics show it's safer driving in the Indianapolis 500 than on a normal highway — and it's getting safer all the time.

There have been 61 deaths at the Speedway since it was opened in 1909. Thirty-seven drivers have died either in the race, in practice or in tests at

the Speedway; 13 mechanics, two track workers and nine spectators also have lost their lives.

But there have been no deaths, and very few serious injuries, since 1973.

Following the 1973 race, in which drivers Art Pollard and Swede Savage and crewman Armando Teran were killed, the U.S. Auto Club adopted a number of regulations that — for the time being — cut speeds but also improved safety.

Speeds, which were nearing 200 m.p.h. — Johnny Rutherford set a record of 199.071 during qualifications in 1973 — dropped about 10 miles per hour. And there were no more

deaths.

This year, USAC eased up on its restriction on manifold pressure. And a complete resurfacing of the 2 1/2-mile track, along with great improvements in tires, engines and chassis designs, pushed the speeds upward drastically.

Pole-winner Tom Sneva qualified his McLaren at a record 198.884 m.p.h., almost 10 miles per hour faster than Rutherford ran last year en route to his second Indy victory.

The entire field averaged 189.488, second only to the 192.329 mark in 1973.

## Blazers Must Get Running Game Going to Beat Sixers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — One year ago, Dave Twardzik was playing pro ball in Virginia without knowing whether his next paycheck would be any good, and Johnny Davis was playing college ball in near obscurity at the University of Dayton.

Few fans knew their names, and only the most hard-core basketball addicts could correctly identify them both.

Today they are the spark-plugs of the Portland Trail Blazers' running game. If the Blazers are going to beat Philadelphia tonight and even their National Basketball Association championship series at one victory apiece, Davis and Twardzik will have to provide a bit more spark.

"For us to win, we have to get our running game going — it's that simple," said Portland Coach Jack Ramsay. "I'm not concerned with what the other team does. If we play our game, we can beat anybody."

Ramsay contends that Portland did not play its game in

Sunday's series opener, won by Philadelphia 107-101.

"They won on their ability to run the fast break and our inability to run ours," said Ramsay just before putting his club through a 90-minute workout on Wednesday. "We had poor player movement and poor passing in the backcourt. We don't have the one-on-one strength that Philadelphia has. We have to play our game our way."

The Blazers' way is running — Bill Walton or Maurice Lucas sweeping the boards and firing the outlet pass to Davis or Twardzik, who push it upcourt while Lionel Hollins and Bob Gross fill the lanes on the break.

"Running, that's our style," said Davis, a 6-foot-1 rookie who developed steadily as the season progressed and stepped into the starting lineup in the playoff semifinals after Twardzik sprained an ankle. "We didn't do it Sunday, but we've got to do it to win."

Davis will be in the starting lineup again tonight, even though Twardzik is just about fully recovered. "We won five games with Johnny in there, so I've got to be satisfied,"

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**CARROLL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Summer Baseball 1977**

Date	School	Place
May 30	Lake View-Auburn	H
June 1	Kuemper	H
June 6	Perry	A
June 8	Denison	A
June 9	Kuemper	A
June 10	Lake City	A
June 13	Manning	H
June 15	Jefferson	A
June 17	Sac City	H
June 18	Carroll Invitational Kuemper vs. Jefferson Ogden vs. Audubon Scranton vs. Breda LV-A vs. Carroll	
June 20	Audubon	A
June 22	Perry	H
June 23	Kuemper Invitational	
June 24	Denison	A
June 25-26	Kuemper Invitational	
June 27	Lake City	H
June 29	Manning	A
July 1	Jefferson	H
July 6	Sac City	A
July 8	Audubon	H
July 11-15	Sectional	

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