Columbia Lions Head Football Coach Bob Shoop looks to Create a New Team Identity

BY COLIN MORGES

In a year of new administration, overhauls and promise, Columbia Lions Head Football Coach Bob Shoop sees the big picture. "A good piece of advice some- one gave me was to learn the com- pleteness of things," explains Shoop. Flanked by new state-of-the-art, NFL quality video equipment, the new coach prefers sitting and speaking in the middle of the office, far from the confines of his corner desk. Outside his room, the football field sits behind him, offices being physically overhauled. Shuffling back and forth among the construction are new faces around the facility. These changes mark Shoop's goal for Columbia football: a new identity.

Before accepting his new posi- tion, Shoop was the defensive coordinator for Boston College's football program. As a defensive powerhouse in the Big East Con- ference, BC enjoyed the most suc- cessful run their history with Shoop, going to four straight bowls. During the last three seasons, BC was holding down a regular spot in the top 25. "I don't know that we had a powerhouse in the Big East Con- ference, Shoop was the defensive coordinator," said Shoop. "I think that's really what I want this team to be," Shoop explains. "That's what I want this team to be." Shoop says. "I want us to have an identity where people can say that Columbia Lions football.

Shoop will attempt to expand on what he already sees as a solid Columbia defense. "I want our guys to be opportunistic and to play fast," the coach explains. "The success of our defense is based on keeping it simple. It's not rocket science, but I think we're really good with defense." The Yale alumni's straightforward appraoch is embodied by his three rules for the game: passion, toughness and togetherness. He has been applying these ethics to his new squad in practice and training since his appointment last winter. "The players have done everything we've asked of them over winter and spring," Shoop explains. "There are a lot of seniors who have played a lot of football in close games—six of our nine losses last year were by seven points or less. So I had several games in the fourth quarter.

As a new coach, Shoop stresses that the completeness of Colum- bia's identity includes life off the field as well. "We demanded a tremendous amount of time and energy from our student athletes, and a lot of people say it doesn't work that way in the Ivy-league, but 40 of our '70 players who participated in the winter program achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better," Shoop says. "I think that's really impressive.

"We challenged all our athletes to become a big league football team, and we sure got better. I don't think we compromised their their achievement in the classroom," Shoop explains. "They're passion- ate, they're unique, and they'll be successful in everything they pur- sue. It's amazing what some of these guys are doing. There's a Columbia football player in a posi- tion of leadership in any field one might chose to pursue, and they take care of and look out for each other. It's tight like a close-knit group of individuals I've ever been around."

The new Lions administration looks to continue that trend through revamping the program's recruiting scheme. Shoop describes having one month last winter to recruit the class for the coming year—a feat that traditionally takes up to three months. Yet the new campaign was successful. "We beat out every Ivy-league school in at least one head to head, except for Harvard," Shoop explains. "We beat out some division I-AA scholarship pro- grams head to head, so I think that was very positive."

Shoop has been very pleased with the support he's received from Columbia. "The administration has provided me with all the help I asked for, in a new practice facility going up, new state-of-the-art playing sur- face, new office construction, NFL-quality video equipment, even new uniforms," Shoop explained. "They've cooperated with us in every way possible, and the University certainly shares Shoop's vision of completeness." For more information on Columbia Football, go to [link here].

Howard Levene

BY DOOD KALICHARAN

Howard Levene, who made a number of important contribu- tions to statistics and genetics and was a professor of mathematical statistics at Columbia University for many years, died on July 24, 2003, in New York City at the age of 89.

Levene received his Ph.D. in mathematical statistics from Columbia in 1947 and then became a faculty member at the University, holding a joint appointment in statistics and biology. He began a long period of collaboration with the distin- guished geneticists Theodosius Dobzhansky and Leslie Dunn at Columbia. His best-known work with Dobzhansky involved the genetics of the fruit fly (Drosophi- la), which has been used in experi- mental studies of heredity because of its short life cycle and great reproductive ability. He worked with Dunn on population dynam- ics and the effects of mutations on developments in mammals. He wrote a chapter on statistical infer- ence in genetics in Principles of Genetics by Dunn, Dobzhansky and Simont, which became an important reference on the subject after its publication in 1958.

It was an exciting period in genetics and evolutionary biology at Columbia, and among Levene's prominent students during that period were Richard Charles Lewontin and the late Stephen Jay Gould, who were biology profes- sor at Harvard.

In the field of statistics, Levene developed run tests of randomness, techniques for assessing the effec- tiveness of quality control charts, and the Levene test for the equal- ity of two population variances. He served as chairman of the Depart- ment of Mathematical Statistics at Columbia for many years, includ- ing an uninterrupted period from 1975 to his retirement in 1982.

Levene was born on Jan 7, 1914, in New York City. He received his undergraduate education at New York University, graduating with a B.A. degree (Summa Cum Laude) in 1941. During World War II he worked at Columbia University in the Statistical Research Group and

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James Patrick Shenton, CC'49, a noted scholar of Amer- ican history who taught at Columbia for more than 50 years, died on Friday, July 25, in Paterson, N.J. Shenton had recently undergone heart surgery and was being tended at St. Joseph's Hospital in Pater- son. He was 78.

Shenton was a Columbia institution, and a Columbia leg- end, for half a century—a devoted, and charismatic teacher, warm and caring mentor to gen- erations of students, and a beloved colleague of those of us in the history department," said University Provost Alan Brink- ley. "His death closes an impor-

tant and brilliant chapter in the University's history.

Shenton was a highly regarded historian of 19th- and 20th-cen- tury America, with special exper-

tise in the Civil War and Recon- struction, the history of radical movements, ethnicity and immi- gration, and World War II. He was a mainstay of the College's Contemporary Civilization pro- gram and directed the history department's summer session for many years. He also led summer seminars sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities for college and sec- ondary school teachers.

At Columbia, Shenton received virtually every award possible for a teacher and alum- nus, including the Mark Van Doren Award (1971), the Great Teacher Award (1976), the John Jay Award for Distinguished Pro- fessional Achievement (1995), the Presidential Award for Out- standing Teaching (1996) and the Alexander Hamilton Medal (1999). In addition, the American Historical Association and the Society for History Education awarded him the Eugene Auner Distin- guished Teaching Award in 1995.

Born on March 17, 1925, in Paterson, N.J., Shenton was the oldest of four children. He attended public schools in New Jersey and served as a medic with the U.S. Army in the European theater during World War II. In 1946, Shenton received a degree from Colum- bia College as a 21-year-old freshman on the G.I. Bill. After returning to Columbia he earned his Ph.D. in history in three years, he earned his M.A. in 1950 and his Ph. D. in 1954 from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He began teaching in the history department in 1951 and became a full professor in 1967.


For more information regard- ing the memorial service on campus on Oct 2, please go to [link here].