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Our mission is to provide Will County with an organized Semi-Professional Football team. It will in turn provide the opportunity for adult athletes to continue their football careers as well as enhance their communities through community service and entertainment.

Our goal is to have a winning organization. We will reach this goal not only by winning games; but, also by showing the value of teamwork and education. We will be very community-oriented and by doing so create new role models for young adults. We want the young adults of the community to realize how important education is by

having all the successful businesses tell us their philosophy and how they became successful.

We hope to use young adults as our field and administrative staff to teach them commitment and team work. We want entertainment organizations to have the chance to perform for their community at our pre-game parties or at half time.

COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY

by Duane A. Rocker

In November of 1997 when the concept of "The Will County Buccaneers" was being formed, one of the most important discussions dealt with community commitment. Everyone in the organization agreed that the team would make a concerted effort to be very visible in the community, to reach out to the young people of Will County, strive to be good role models, and to help out with local charity and fund raising efforts.

On March 6th (before we even had a roster) a group of "would-be-Buccaneers" participated in the "Role Model Cup", a wheelchair hockey game at Main Street USA Roller Rink in Romeoville. The football players looked a little awkward trying to maneuver wheelchairs and hockey sticks but somehow they managed to beat a group of celebrities that included Bob Nardella and Dennis Vial of the Chicago Wolves, Lonny Tyler and Jason Nickle of 96.7 WILL ROCK Radio, "Blue Mike" of B96 Radio, Don West and Mille Stroh of Wish Upon a Star, Shane Ruff of WJGG Radio, and former RHI player and owner of The Natural Sports Bar, Jeff Jablonski. The event raised money for "The Chicago Wheel Chair Wolves" and it raised awareness.



Photo by Brian Brazda
Head Coach Jim Nugent is interviewed for local cable by Don West of Wish Upon A Star at the spaghetti dinner.

On May 13, Wish Upon A Star held its annual spaghetti dinner at the Joliet Moose, and a group of individuals from The Bucs organization was on hand to dish out some tasty homemade spaghetti and meatballs. Head Coach Jim Nugent and Assistant

Head Coach Greg Skowronski are known for their recipes for winning football games, not cooking spaghetti (don't worry, they were not allowed in the kitchen), but they did help dish up the to-go orders.

Monday, July 20th, the Will County Buccaneers took a group of fans, girl scouts, and kids from Big Brothers/Big Sisters on "Cruise with the Bucs" aboard the PRIDE OF THE HEARTLAND.



Photos by Brian Brazda
Above, pirates approach the PRIDE OF THE HEARTLAND. Below, Buccaneer Bob pitches one into the water.



The night featured a rare acoustic performance by the legendary JB Ritchie Power Blues Band; Elvis and Buccaneer Bob were also on hand. While cruising down the DesPlaines River, a pirate ship (NOT-A-TOON), captained by Steve Dzurko with a group unruly pirates, tried to attack the HEARTLAND. (They wanted to steal Elvis's wig.) Buccaneer Bob tossed one of the pirates into the murky river, much to the delight of all of the kids. A good time was had by all — even by Elvis who forgot the words to Jail House Rock!

The next "Cruise With The Bucs" is scheduled for Thursday, September 17. Board the HEARTLAND at Bicentennial Park (west side of the river at Jefferson) by 6:30. Admission is free. Join us if at all possible - you'll have a blast!

We Couldn't Be Doing It Without You

The Will County Buccaneers and Role Model Marketing would like to thank all of the people who have been involved in making our first season a big success. Sometimes the people behind the scenes don't get the recognition they deserve, but we would like to recognize the contributions that they have made.

Thanks to Jim Riggs, owner of Jim's Electronics and Inflatables 'R' Us. He's a mover and a shaker, Jim supplies us with Giant Balloons and banners. He hooked us up with Roger Nelson at Sky Dive Chicago, and when something needs to get done, he's the man to call. Thanks again, Jim.

The media has been phenomenal - thanks to the Herald News, everyone from Sports Editor Dick Goss, Dave Parker, Bill Scheibe, Marcel Kerr (oops... he's a player) and Scott Strazante have been superb. The Herald News, they put a smile on your face for just 35 cents weekdays, and a buc-and-a-half on Sundays. If you subscribe you'll be pleased with the contents, and you'll always be up-to-date on what's happening in the community.

Lonny Tyler and Jason Nickle of 96.7 WILL ROCK, an upbeat couple of crazy guys (actually, Lonny is sane, Jason is crazy), will get you rolling with great rock-and-roll weekdays from 6 to 10 am on 96.7 FM. They've helped us with some charitable promotions and they sang THE NATIONAL ANTHEM at our first home game. They're great guys (SET 96.7 FM ON YOUR CAR STEREO) you'll be thoroughly entertained....Thank You WILL ROCK!

Scott Slocum, Don Ladas, and everyone at WJOL RADIO (1340AM) - thanks for your help. You guys are the best local information station in the suburbs. (SET 1340 ON YOUR AM RADIO) WJOL is the pride of of Will County!!!! Thank You WJOL! Nobody covers local sports like you.



Photos by Brian Brazda
Above, Lonny Tyler interviews Jason Nickle about his daredevil attempt to "score on the Bucs" as part of a WLLI promotion. Below, Jason is about to score a mouthful of delicious Joliet Memorial grass.



THE SPORTS ZONE with Dave Bernhard is the best local sports show in the history of Will County Cable. Dave is entertaining, articulate, and he gives the very best local sports coverage on cable — a special thanks to Dave and all of his staff. By the way... "ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING!!!!"

Heros and Legends...what can we say? GREG IS OUR HERO!!!! He's got the coldest brews, the biggest burgers and the largest heart! Hopefully we'll celebrate a championship at Heros and Legends real soon. Thanks again Greg!

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST, to all of our Fans: God bless each and every one of you! We love you more than you'll ever know. Hopefully, we'll be spending parts of our summers together for years to come. Will County has a rich football tradition, and we're trying to build an organization you'll be proud of.



Coach Skowronski (left) appears on Media One Sports Zone June 6 with Dave Bernhard (and Elvis)

Role Model Marketing, Inc

Our goal is to help businesses and non-profit organizations develop creative campaigns and strategies for the purpose of raising funds, reaching more customers, and increasing community goodwill. Role Model Marketing manages and sponsors the Will County InfoNet (which hosts the Bucs web site). For more information, call (800)736-3496 or visit www.rolemodelmkt.com

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Bring On Dayton

Buccaneers' Bolingbrook connection sparks rout

By Dick Goss
SPORTS EDITOR

JOLIET - This was impressive. Granted, the Indianapolis Panthers are nowhere the toughest team the Will County Buccaneers will face during this Mid-Eastern Football League Season, but a 46-0 victory in the home opener can go a long way in the confidence department.

That was the final Saturday as the Buccaneers, 1-1 in the league and 1-3 overall, picked up their first victory ever and entertained a crowd estimated at 500-600 at Memorial Stadium.

Joliet area fans who remember quarterback Lloyd Kerr and running back Ernest Crank from the late 80s at Bolingbrook High School may want to come out next Saturday night, when the Buccaneers host the Dayton Drive.

Dayton is ranked #18 among the nation's semi-pro teams and demolished Indianapolis 73-0 a week ago. However, Kerr made his first start Saturday, and Crank begins to show his assortment of moves and power.

Yes, the Buccaneers are becoming a team.

"Quarterback is where my heart is; it's my love," said Kerr, who played some quarterback and some wide receiver during his collegiate career at Tennessee.

"I was a little nervous, with this being my first start. But when I got settled in, it was pretty well over."

Kerr played the first half only and completed 8 of 11 passes for 144 yards and three touchdowns. The eight completions went to eight different receivers.

"We've got a real good rotation of four wide receivers," Kerr said. "I like to get everyone a piece of the action. I know from my days as a receiver how important that is."

One of Kerr's TD strikes was a 5-yarder which Crank caught in the flat and took into the end zone on the final play of the first half to give the Bucs a 33-0 lead. That was also one of three touchdowns for Crank, who rushed six times for 83 yards in all.

On the other side of the ball, the Panthers were limited to four first downs and 59 total yards.

"We expect to continue to grow as a team," Kerr said. "We're all grown men. We put our egos aside; we just want to play football. We'll look at this game as a stepping stone."

"A game like this can't hurt anything," said Crank, who played collegiately at Iowa. "A victory right now does a lot for our confidence."

So does having Kerr at the controls. "I feel so comfortable with Lloyd at quarterback," Crank said. "He's such a leader. And when we're hanging out,

we talk football, anyway. So we might as well be playing together again."

Buccaneers' coach Jim Nugent did not hesitate to assess Kerr's contribution.



LIZ WILKINSON ALLEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Will County Buccaneers quarterback Lloyd Kerr (No. 11) attempts to avoid the pass rush Saturday night against the Indianapolis Panthers at Joliet Memorial Stadium. Kerr, an ex-Bolingbrook High School standout, was starting his first game for the Bucs in the Mid-Eastern Football league home opener.

"An awful lot of the credit for tonight goes to Lloyd," he said. "He exhibited such excellent field leadership."

"When you consider he wasn't in uniform for our first two games (because of an ankle injury) and Ernest (Crank) missed our mini-camps, well, he's going to get everything working for him the way we know he can."

The Buccaneers finished with 201 yards passing and 108 rushing. Former University of St. Francis back Anthony Beckman went 4 yards for a score. Toriano Jeffries of Joliet had an 8-yard scoring run and Matthew Lincoln caught two 44-yard scoring tosses, one from Kerr in the first half and one from former starting quarterback T.J. Bednarke in the second half.

Defensive coordinator Greg Skowronski cited the play of the defensive front, which includes Tony Kurbis and tackle Lenny Matsevic of Joliet, strong side linebackers Keith Borum and Desmond Grove and secondary members Troy Dolbee, Patrick Clacks and Gene Mushrush.

He said execution was the key for his unit. "We used multiple fronts and were able to execute some blitzes," Skowronski said. "We were able to use a new front that will be useful against Dayton."

There's good news. "We expect Dayton to be the best team in our league," Nugent said. "That will be a good test."

But the game will be here, and the Buccaneers did everything right Saturday in terms of building a home-field advantage.

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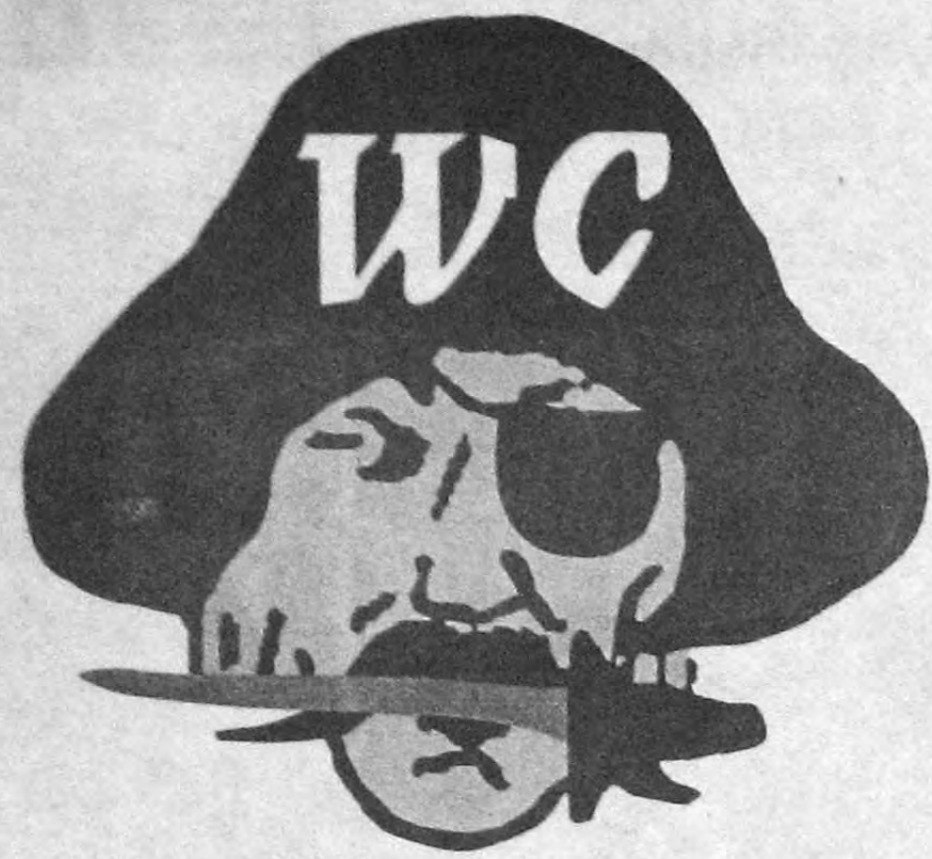
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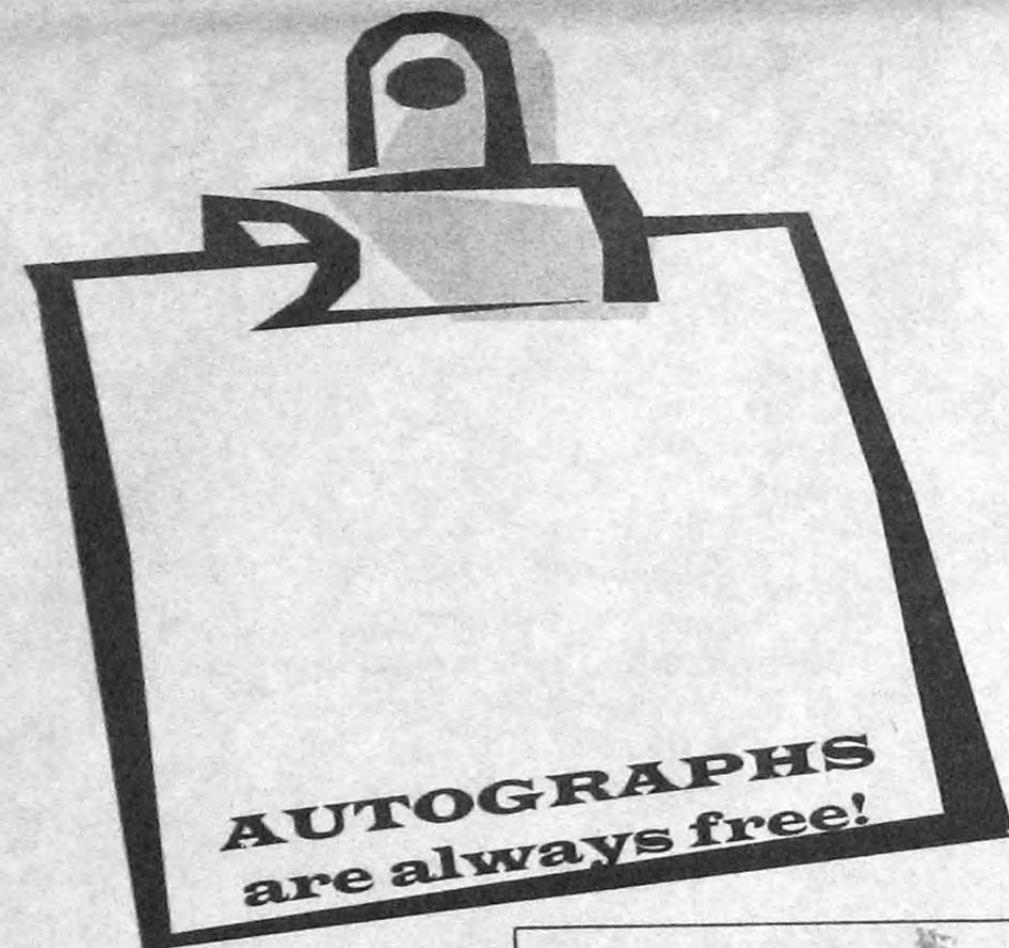


WILL COUNTY BUCCANEERS

1998 Inaugural Season



The scoreboard at Joliet Memorial after the Bucs first home game ever was indeed a treat!



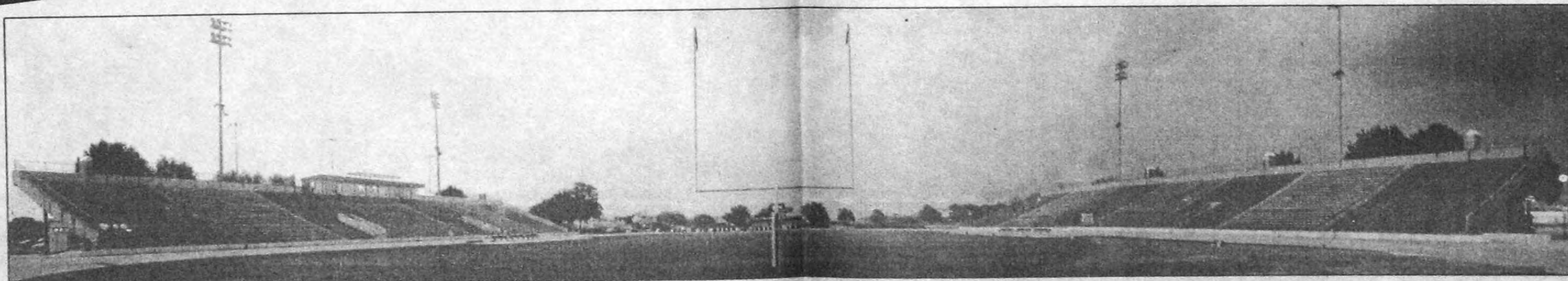
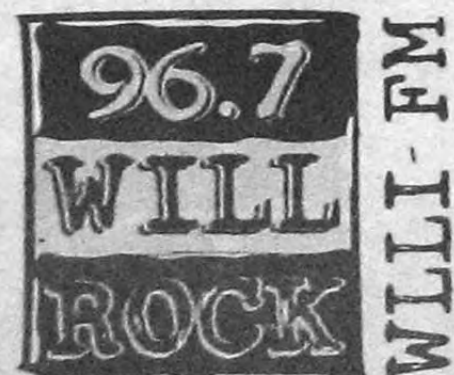
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AUG 22	HOME	INDIANAPOLIS (IN) WARRIORS	7:00 PM
AUG 29	AWAY	LAFAYETTE (IN) LIONS	7:00 PM
SEP 12	AWAY	FLINT (MI) FALCONS	7:00 PM
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Photos by Brian Brazda



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Bucs fever

By Dave Parker
STAFF WRITER

JOLIET -- There's a new game in town.

The Will County Buccaneers semi-professional football team will host the nationally-ranked Dayton (Ohio) Drive at 7 p.m. Saturday in a key Mid-Eastern Football League game at Joliet Memorial Stadium.

A Memorial Stadium crowd pushing the 600 mark seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves last Saturday night during the Buccaneers' first-ever home game.

Although some talented skydivers arrived nearly an hour late -- they landed on the turf at 8 p.m. instead of right before kickoff -- the enthusiastic gathering hooted and hollered throughout the Bucs' 46-0 dominance of the Indianapolis Panthers, who fell 73-0 to Dayton the first week of regular-season play.

"This is pretty good entertainment. I'm enjoying watching the game," said Joliet's Joe Wright at halftime, which saw the Bucs owning a commanding 33-0 lead over the out-manned Indianapolis ballclub. "Will County's passing game looks impressive. The offense moves the ball."

Wright, 44, knows the Joliet-area sports scene quite well, too. You might call him a super fan. If there is a big athletic event happening, i.e. big prep/college game, city softball tournament game, Will County Buccaneers football game, Joe Wright will be there.

"I've been entertained. I like what I see," said Wright, who works for Jewel-Osco. "I will definitely come out to see another Buccaneers game. I'll be back."

Fred Kurtz, wife Christine, son Travis, 3, and 18-month-old twins Bobby and Bruce made a night of it with the Bucs last Saturday.

"We decided to go to the game about an hour before it started. We

New game, fresh entertainment draws crowd at Memorial Stadium

Reprinted by permission from
The Herald News 8/10/98

had heard about the Buccaneers at a recent Wish Upon A Star outing," said Christine Kurtz. "The weather was nice and the kids enjoyed it. I'm glad we decided to attend the game."

So is Fred Kurtz, a respiratory therapist the last four years at Hines Veterans Administration Hospital.

"The Buccaneers are something new and different. It's nice if they keep the prices low, like the Kane County Cougars baseball team does," said Fred. "I've gone to numerous Kane County games the last few summers. It's great fun, family entertainment that you can afford."

"If the Will County team has different promotions and continues to provide fun entertainment, I'm sure we will be back. Maybe not next week because I am off every other weekend, but for the (Aug. 22

against the Indianapolis Warriors) Buccaneers' next home game after the Dayton game."

A band performed before kickoff

and at halftime. Youngsters on mini-bicycles did tricks on a skateboard ramp off to the side. An Elvis Presley impersonator even showed up.

Buccaneers hats and T-shirts were sold. You could even get your fortune told by tarot card readers.

After the rout of the Panthers was complete, the Will County players, who play for the love of the game and don't get paid, gladly signed autographs for the many well-wishers, a throng which included kids and adults alike. And the players actually had genuine smiles on their faces while signing the autographs, too.

"The crowd was enthusiastic tonight. They got behind us. I believe they liked what they saw," said Buccaneers head coach Jim Nugent, a longtime semi-professional person, both as a player and coach. "Dayton is probably the best team we will play this year. (They're ranked 18th nationally.) The fans should be in for an enjoyable game and fun evening."



LIZ WILKINSON ALLEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

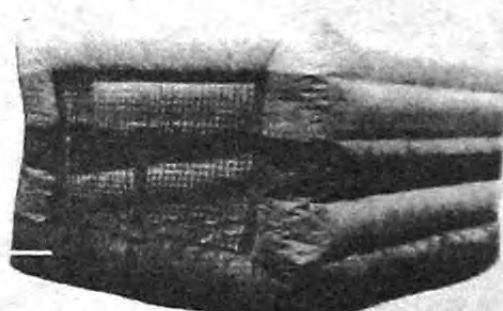
Ken Bacon, center, of Joliet, cheers on some of his co-workers who play for the Will County Buccaneers semi-pro football team, during the team's first home game on Saturday night at Joliet Memorial stadium. They'll play again this Saturday.



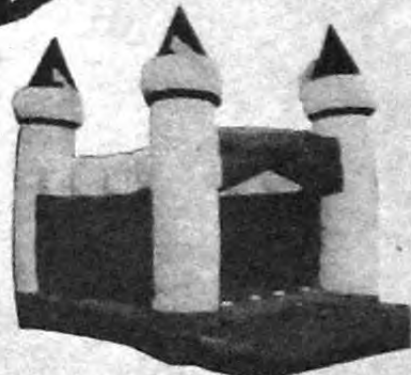
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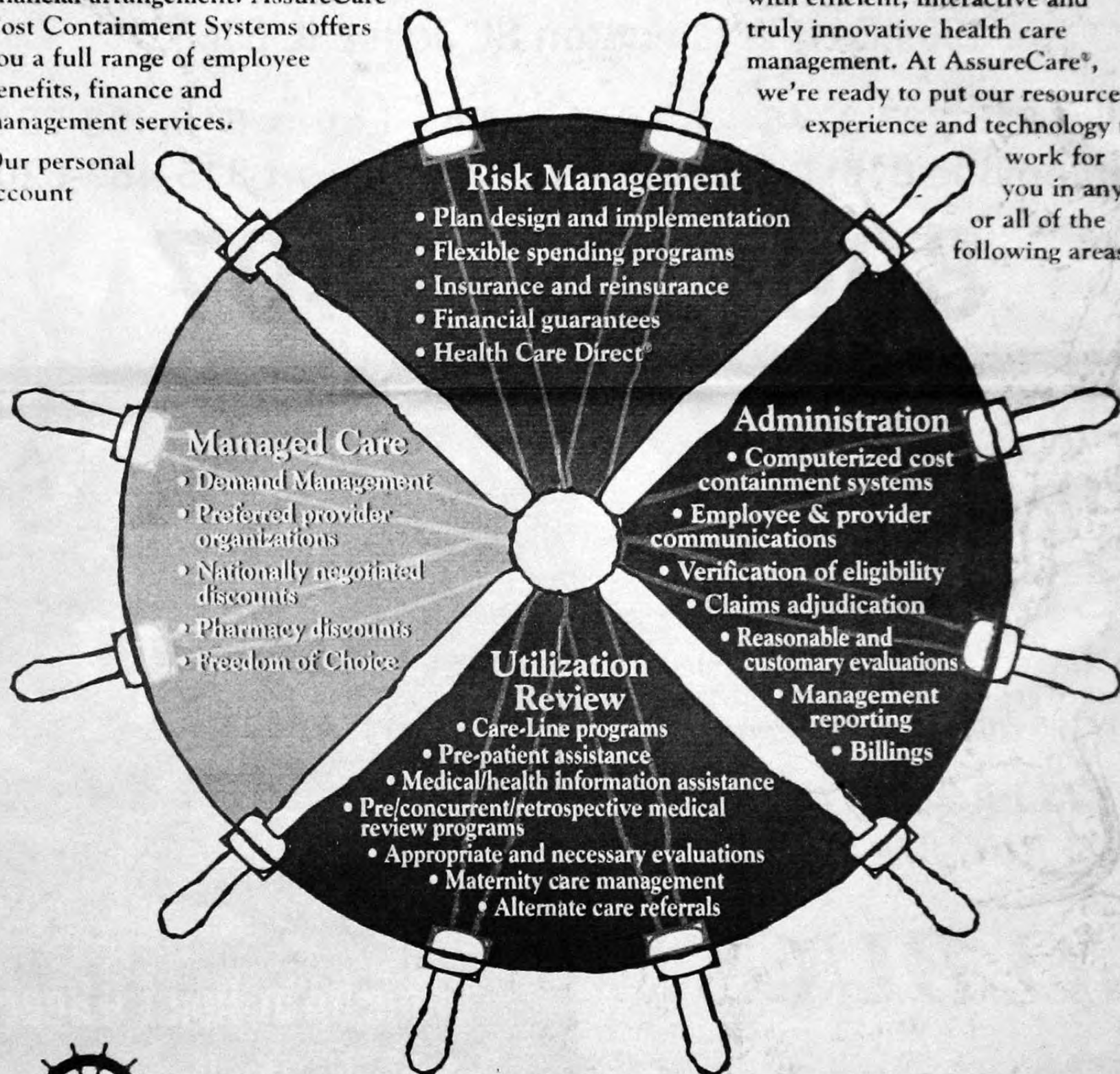
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