



WORK ETHIC

Long hours, intense devotion define Paul Pasqualoni.

Paul Pasqualoni won't hear of it. Somebody in the room—me, actually—has just suggested the notoriously serious head coach of SU football may work harder than the next guy, maybe even the other guys coaching college football.

"My days aren't any different from any other coach right now," he says. "You're in the season. You're very, very busy. Every football coach in America, at this level, is keeping the exact same hours I'm keeping and the guys on the staff keep. Working long hours is not unique to me, and it's not unique to Syracuse University."

I should have seen that coming because not only is Pasqualoni one of the hardest workers in the business (sorry, Coach), but he also knows what kind of program he's running. And it's not a program about individual glory. It's about dedication to learning, personal growth, and doing well because you care.

Pasqualoni has headed SU football for three seasons. The first two were outstanding, the most recent rather disappointing. Through it all, he has demonstrated that intense, almost single-minded dedication—when it is absolutely sincere—is charismatic. There's something exhilarating about how much Pasqualoni cares.

During the season, coach and staff begin at 7:30 a.m. and stay until 9 or 10 at night, sometimes later. The main order of business, Pasqualoni explains, is getting ready for the comparatively few hours coaches actually spend with players. By dictate of the NCAA, the practice week is 20 hours long.

Today's college game is complex.

STEPHEN PARKER



"Paul runs a program that mirrors his personality: perseverance, work ethics, morals," says Syracuse Athletic Director Jake Crouthamel.

The coaches employ sophisticated video editing systems that compile film of the opponent, sorted by situation (goal-line defense, for example). Correlations and trends emerge.

Less effort may have gone into the Cold War. "We have a staff that doesn't want to leave any stone unturned," Pasqualoni says. "We believe very strongly in the mental preparation for the game, for the kids, and for the coaches. That's probably where we spend the most time."

This is Pasqualoni's medium—taking all the good analysis and devising the means to communicate it. "It doesn't do any good for the coaches to know what an opponent will do. The

trick is to get the kids to know. Coaching football requires you to be a good teacher."

Ask average SU fans what they think of Coach P, and the answer is, "I like him," and then a drifting, quizzical look may come over their faces, because they don't know quite what to say next.

Roberta DeLeone, wife of offensive coordinator George DeLeone, took a stab at explaining the Way of P. The DeLeones have known Pasqualoni for 17 years, since he was an assistant coach under George at Southern Connecticut State University. To understand why, in Pasqualoni's case, singleness of purpose is an appealing personality quirk, you should understand it is not a means to an end. It *is* Pasqualoni, and always has been.

His parents ran Pasqualoni Brothers Farms, a produce business. When young, Paul transplanted plants for pocket change. In high school, he picked corn before classes.

Summer meant full-time work in the cabbage patch, on the tractor, at the market. As a high school athlete he earned a reputation for faithful adherence to training rules. He then attended Bordentown Military Institute—he liked the discipline.

He was a linebacker at Penn State, playing little but studying the moves of coach Joe Paterno. He already knew he would coach someday. He started at the high school level, then college, eventually turning a dismal Western Connecticut team into New England Football Conference champions. Stories of Pasqualoni's work ethic blossomed during this period—cots in the office, that sort of thing.

"Unfortunately," says Roberta DeLeone, "a lot of people only see an outing on Saturday afternoon. Most people can't fathom what it takes to make that a successful outing. I think maybe I don't even fathom what it takes. It's just a whole lot of work and a whole lot of hours."

"Coaches *love* their jobs. They *love* what they do. There are guys who get up in the morning and hate their jobs. But the guys who stay in coaching really love it."

There is a lighter side to Pasqualoni, who spends two weeks each summer at his beach home in Rhode Island. He loves clamming, sailing, and other sea-side activities. He also likes cooking for friends. He's close to his family, particularly his 12-year-old niece. He is godfather to the DeLeones' 6-year-old son, Mark. But you won't see these things unless you're close to Pasqualoni. Really close.

"If somebody told me that Coach P was good but really boring, I'd say, 'You don't know Coach P. He can be a lot of fun,'" says Roberta DeLeone. "But what he is, is he's all about football. That's what he does. That's what he loves. It's what he really enjoys."

Back in his office, Coach P gets talking about the job he loves, and I realize Roberta DeLeone is right.

"The opportunity to be together with a group of guys, to face a big challenge, get as prepared as you can possibly be, work as hard as you can possibly work, and play as hard as you can possibly play, and lay it on the line and give it everything you've got—I think there's tremendous satisfaction in that."

The charisma comes to bear. Here is an individual so focused and committed to usefulness that he fills the room.

"The only goal we ever have is to be as prepared as we can be and play as well as we can every Saturday. In the end, if any of that other stuff comes out of it [such as bowl games and high rankings], that's an extra. Just doing well each week is what we want to accomplish."

That was a lot of cliches, but at the end of a conversation with Coach P, you believe them.

—DANA L. COOKE

SPORTS SHORTS



STEVE SAFTORI

- ***SU gets new, high-caliber track.*** The Syracuse University athletic department recently unveiled a new 400-meter state-of-the-art outdoor track. Located next to Manley Field House, the track is one of the nation's better outdoor running surfaces, says track coach Dick Coleman.

The synthetic eight-lane track is SU's first outdoor running surface since Archbold Stadium was razed in 1978, and is similar to the New Orleans track that hosted the 1993 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships and the 1992 United States Olympic Trials.

The track is the centerpiece of a three-year \$9.8 million athletic project. The improvements also include the new football wing added to Manley Field House, the refurbishing of Coyne Field, and improvements to the Lancaster Avenue practice fields east of the new track.

- ***Williamson on Team USA.*** Junior Julie Williamson, a member of the Syracuse University field hockey team, qualified with the United States national field hockey team for a berth in the 1994 World Cup championships in Dublin, Ireland. Williamson is the first Syracuse University field hockey player ever named to the national team.

- ***SU shines in SUnity Tennis Classic.*** The women's tennis team dominated singles play in the 12th annual SUnity Tennis Classic on September 18 and 19. Erica O'Neill, Jana Strnadova, and Sara Dickson won their singles matches in the top three flights. "It was the first time we've ever won one, two, three singles right down the line," says SU head coach Jesse Dwire. "And number four came in second, so I was very pleased."

The doubles teams also did well, finishing third in two flights and second in another. The annual tournament included teams from Brown, Virginia, Boston College, Providence, Dartmouth, and Princeton.