

73rd meeting is Friday

Dover, NP eye cure for season ills

By REA TAICLET
Sports Editor

The Crimson and Gray and the Red and Black have had a black and blue year. They've taken as many lumps as they've dished out.

Nine weeks of watching and waiting leave a lot to the imagination. Arguments of who is better — or worse — are pointless, for the first time in years.

The dual domination of previous Cardinal Conference campaigns got lost in the shuffle weeks ago.

It's over — almost.

THE FINAL ACT of this year's football drama will be staged Friday night in Dover's Crater Stadium, where the Tornadoes meet New Philadelphia for the 73rd time in 82 years.

In view of the earlier proceedings, there can be no "upset." The outcome of Ohio's second-oldest rivalry will be all that's left to talk about of 1977 until this time next year.

The Tornadoes take a 4-4-1 record into the classic. The Quakers are only a shade better, if you throw out ties, at 4-3-1.

"It's been a funny year, sort of," says New Philadelphia Coach Jim Roman, but nobody's laughing.

"Do you realize," Dover boss Tom Redman asks, throwing his arms wide in a vain attempt at humor, "that I am on the verge of the worst season in my coaching career?" He smiles. The assembled newsmen and coaches in the stuffy locker room confines do not.

THE PRESSURE on both sides of the river seems so much more intense than when one or

the other appears to have a distinct advantage.

While the coaches hide their real feelings, for fear of being thought human, the Tornadoes are uncharacteristically noisy . . . the Quakers uncharacteristically quieter.

Both sides insist they will do Friday what they've done all season, but both know that the wrong move at the right time will likely spark an explosion that will bring the house down.

Similarities end with the near-equal records. Beyond those, "we are two entirely different teams," in Redman's words.

Dover has had the offense — Philly, the defense. The Quakers have produced less, but neither have they surrendered much. The Tornadoes, conversely, have higher totals on both sides of the ledger.

OFFENSIVELY, New Philadelphia switched in recent weeks to the old "fullhouse" T-formation, and moves mostly by foot. Dover has tried for more balance between ground and air, but on occasion has withdrawn into the more conservative rushing style.

"It could come down to the kicking game . . . kickoffs, punts, placements," Redman says.

In seven previous seasons at Dover's helm, he is 4-2-1 against New Philadelphia. Redman guided consecutive victories in 1970 and 1971, but after that, the teams traded wins until last year's 7-7 tie.

Roman, in his third year of command, is 0-1-1.

The big blond credits assistant coaches Al Kennedy and Larry Warner with the Quakers' defensive success. "They make up something new for each team. Opponents can't figure out what

we're gonna do . . . it's been a big part of our success for two years," Roman explains.

What about this week? "We won't know until Thursday," Kennedy claims. Isn't that a little late? "We figure if we DON'T know, they CAN'T know," he grins.

Redman doesn't, and that's what's bothering him.

"**THEY CHANGE** people in positions so much," he said, admitting that he offered Roman a deal earlier in the week. ("We'll run a straight '70' defense," was the alleged plea, "if you'll run a straight anything!")

Can the Tornadoes score on Philly's defenses? "We don't plan to lose," Redman states.

Are the Quakers ready to win? "We're confident, but not cocky," Roman counters. "It'll come down to who makes the fewer mistakes . . . it always does.

"Let's not play it yet. We want one more day of timing and mental preparation.

"And one more bottle of Maalox."

In comparison

RUSHES-YARDS

Dover 360-1484, Opponents 328-1116

Phila 367-1233, Opponents 279-890

PASSES: Completions-attempts-interceptions-yards

Dover 54-134-8 — 587, Opponents 47-122-12 — 715

Phila 20-72-6 — 235, Opponents 28-95-13 — 528

TOTAL OFFENSE: Plays-yards- points

Dover 494-2071 — 134, Opponents 450-1831 — 39

Phila 439-1468 — 75, Opponents 307-1418 — 62



**Who will recover from
the "The Blue Season Flu?"
(Dover 4-4-1, Phila 4-3-2)**