























Capt. John L. Paladino, (center) thanks his two benefactors, 1st Lt. Wood McArthur, (left) and Capt. Jack R. Miller, for saving his life in a brilliant aerial performance.

Amazing Air-To-Air Rescue Performed By 136th Pilots

136TH FIGHTER-BOMBER WING, KOREA—Nov. 17—Capt. John L. Paladino, 301 Main St., North Little Rock, Ark., is alive today because of an epic performance of precision flying by Far East Air Forces pilots; Capt. Jack R. Miller, RFD #11, Dayton, Ohio, and 1st Lt. Wood S. McArthur, 5804 Country Club (North), Little Rock, Ark.

Miller and McArthur, Friday afternoon achieved an almost unbelievable air-to-air rescue by supporting the

wings of Paladino's plane with the wingtips of their own U.S. Air Force F-84 Thunderjets, after Paladino had become unconscious in his cockpit from lack of oxygen at a high altitude, over enemy territory in Korea, and had lost control of his aircraft.

Gently bouncing Paladino's plane every time it swerved from course the two 136th Fighter Bomber Wing pilots guided it to friendly territory and to a lower altitude where Paladino recovered consciousness and controlled his plane to a successful landing.

High Altitude

The adventure started after Paladino, Miller, McArthur and 1st Lt. William F. Howard, 4170 Barns St., Wichita, Kansas, had completed a Fifth Air Force rail cutting mission near Sinanju.

As they left the target area and were climbing to a high altitude for their return trip, Miller called Paladino on the radio to give him the results of his bombing.

Shortly thereafter Paladino's airplane began maneuvers, zigzagging crazily, first right and then left, diving at near supersonic speed, and then climbing straight up almost to the point of stalling.

The other pilots diagnosed Paladino's trouble as anoxia (lack of oxygen). They called to Paladino over the radio telling him to "snap out of it and throttle back."

Paladino seemed to act subconsciously when they told him to throttle back and his plane started to descend slowly.

McArthur started to pull in front of Paladino in an effort to wake him up with his jet blast, but just then saw him slump forward over his controls, completely unconscious. The jet blast project was abandoned for fear of flipping Paladino's plane completely over.

Wings Touch

Miller told McArthur to fly under Paladino's left wing, and he would fly under the right one, and together they would herd him home.

Each time Paladino's plane started to fall off into a turn McArthur or Miller would pick up his wing with the tips of their own wings and straighten him out.

Gently nudging the plane on the right course, with Howard keeping in constant touch with them, Miller and McArthur brought it within sight of their own base and down to a lower altitude where the oxygen pressure in his sealed cockpit restored Paladino to consciousness. Paladino then regained control of his plane, and flying behind Miller, made a successful landing.

Rescue A Perilous Job

"The last thing I remembered was Jack (Miller) telling me how many rail cuts he had made," Paladino explained later. "Then everything went blank until I woke up north of the base with Jack and Woody (McArthur) yelling at me over the radio."

"I had a death grip on the stick and a helluva headache. I was sure lucky to have them along."

Recalling the perilous flight during which one miscalculation might have wrecked three planes, McArthur said: "I almost tipped him too much one time, and Jack, over on his right wing, had to catch him in a hurry before he turned too far in the opposite direction."

"It was a good thing Johnny's flying training reached through his sub-conscious," said Miller. "If he had not throttled back mechanically when we hollered at him there is no telling what might have happened."



348413

OW57

FS-15

noise













Itazuke Wins in Final Game

CHALK TALK

By Joe Cox

*"That man is great, and he alone,
Who serves a greatness not his own,
For neither praise nor pelf:
Content to know and be unknown:
Whole in himself."*

Owen Meredith (Lord Lytton)

Thus, with a quotation from one of the old master's works, I want to introduce the subject of today's column—Jimmy Napier. We all know "Nape" from the great show he puts on whenever the green wave of Itazuke sallies forth in quest of a grid victory. "Naps" is the guy that moves like greased lightning when called on to carry the mail for our local heroes. Jim is the man who with no effort at all, proves to be the thorn in the side of the opposition when the chips are down. If you have occasion to doubt me, ask the players from any team in the Air Force Japan League, "Just who is the hardest man-to-stop?" They'll be unanimous in what they say, "Napier of Itazuke!"

First Acquaintance

It was on August 6th of this year when I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of one James Napier who had turned out for the base football team. One look at him showed me that he was first class material and a sure bet to be in the starting line-up. Napier had a certain something, a something that you just can't put in words to explain. When he handled the ball, you just weren't sure if he handed it off or if he still had it hidden some place on his person. He was a "T" magician from way back I soon learned. Napier worked out as quarterback for a few nights and had the job pretty well sewn up at that time. With the closing of the baseball season, additional faces started turning out for the squad. Bill Silverthorne, quarter-back from last year's team, made his presence know and a check shake-up in the back field was made. Napier was moved to the left-half spot and Silverthorne into the slot being held down by Itazuke's outstanding ball carrier. The change was one that put an added spark and power in our roaring back field. I have my doubts that you know this, but if the occasion had ever arisen and Silverthorne, Evans and Thomas couldn't make it to the game, Poddig had an ace in the way of a surprise (B. Napier, anytime he chose to use him. But we had a good season and our signal callers didn't get hit too hard, so Napier was content to stay at left-half. Off hand I couldn't give you an accurate tally as to just how much yardage "Nape" has reeled off this season, but it must be in excess of 1200 yards. Not bad for 10 games!

Cornered Napier

Ashiya Loses 6 Point Lead

Itazuke again proved themselves last Thursday night when they pulled out from behind to smother Ashiya, 32-13.

Ashiya kicked off to open the game. Itazuke ground up the field on two running plays before they fumbled and lost the ball to Ashiya. Ashiya started to drive downfield, but were forced to punt. Another Itazuke fumble in their own territory set up the first Ashiya score. A pass play with Augular tossing and Willaru on the receiving end gave Ashiya 6 points. Shortly after the second Ashiya kick-off, another fumble lost the ball for Itazuke. An Ashiya drive was stopped on Itazuke's twenty when Ashiya's pass was intercepted in the end zone for a touchback. Karasek picked up twenty on a ground play as the gun ended the first period. The first frame was marked by considerable fumbling by Itazuke and this was one of the factors which gave Ashiya their 6 point lead in the first fifteen minutes.

Karasek Plunges

Napier started the second period with a 35 yard jaunt over the right side of the line. This brought the ball down to Ashiya's 25, where Napier again took the ball and sliced down to the 5. Two plunge plays by Karasek drove in the score. Collis' kick was good. Score: Itazuke 7, Ashiya 6.

Ashiya received the kick-off and lost the ball on downs. Evans returned the punt to the 40-yard line of Ashiya. Then a drive combining the efforts of Karasek, Silverthorne, and Napier, four Napier plunges over the goal



James Napier — A truly great athlete.

Cornered Napier

Just recently, I cornered the shy and silent Napier in the gym and put forth a few questions which had to do with his life prior to coming to Itazuke. Our conversation went something like this, "Jim, how old are you?" Napier looked up as he laced his shoes and said, "Twenty-five". Still trying to get him to loosen up and give me a story, I asked, "Where were you born?" Tightening up the belt on his pants before answering, he said, "Elizabethton, Tennessee". My next question was asked on the move, as Napier was heading for the football field, "Jim, how am I going to write a story on you, if you won't tell me the facts I need?" "Man," he snapped back, "I got to get out there and work out. You don't want to write about me. Get one of the other boys, they deserve it." Finally I grabbed him and said, "Listen, Mr Poddig said to keep to you in here as long as I wanted to, so loosen up." I guess I won the argument because we both moved into the A&R Office and sat down. This much I got out of Itazuke's galloping, swivel hipped star, Napier is married to his schooldays sweetheart, Sophonia. They have been married for 5 years and have 3 children. Claudette, the oldest of the 3 is 4 years, Mike is 2 years and Napier hopes that when he is big enough to play, he'll be out there giving his all.

Last Look At Napier

The appearance of Jim Napier on the turf of Itazuke Thanksgiving Day night was the last look we'll have of him....for shortly he'll be heading back to the states to see his new arrival, Kenneth, a future All-American, who weighed in at 7 pounds 3 ounces about three months ago. The subject of this column played football in high school for 3 seasons. When Napier was in his senior year, a scholarship to Yale was in the offing. The question of what he should do was left up to his girl friend. Sophonia decided that he should go on to college and get an education. This wasn't what he had figured her answer to be, so he had to convince her they should get married. Not wanting to give up his love for football, he signed up with the local semi-pro team. "The Elizabethton Green Devils played a hard, tough brand of ball, but it was easy compared to the beating you take in service ball," is a point that "Nape" stressed. "One thing I want you to tell the people," Napier added, "is that this is the finest bunch of boys I have ever had the privilege of playing with. There isn't one guy on the squad that doesn't put his all into each game. No matter how tough the going is out there, they say, 'Let's give 'em hell!' I have made many friendships this year, friendships I hate to see broken. But I hope that sometime in very near future I'll get to renew them when we all get home."

So in closing let's say, "Bon voyage and good luck to Jim Napier."

Karasek, Silverthorne, and Napier, saw Napier plunge over the goal. Collis' kick was no good, and the score now read: Itazuke 13, Ashiya 6.

Ashiya's power after the kick-off was to no avail and Itazuke took over the ball on the mid-field stripe. Three more successful drives saw Itazuke deep in enemy territory as the gun ended the first half.

The third quarter saw Itazuke on top all the way. A 67 yard scoring drive by Karasek made the score 19-6. Collis' try for the extra point was good. Score: Itazuke 20, Ashiya 6.

Silverthorn Scores

Later in the quarter, Ashiya was again smothered when a drive starring Napier, Karasek, and Silverthorne was good for the score, with Silverthorne doing the honors. Collis' try for the point was no good. Itazuke 26, Ashiya 6. The third quarter ended with Ashiya fighting desperately to score.

The action in the fourth frame was slow because a number of fumbles were caused by the wet ground and rain. Itazuke's final score was set up when Evans sprinted 20 yards downfield from a punt formation. Another speedy ground play saw Evans drive over to score. The point by Collis was good and the scoreboard read: Itazuke 32, Ashiya 6. The remainder of the quarter was a see-saw battle, until Ashiya connected with a desperation pass to score in the closing minutes of the game. The extra point was good and the final score read: Itazuke 32, Ashiya 13.