

Maravich Still Leads But Tigers Droop

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When Bill Mazeroski of the Pittsburgh Pirates led the major leagues in assists at second base last year, he set a major league record. It was his ninth time as leader in assists.

By BILL NEIKIRK
BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Pistol Pete Maravich, college basketball's leading scorer, is hobbling with a knee injury and Louisiana State is limping along with an 11-12 record.

The 6-foot-5 All-American has taken a great deal of punishment in the rugged Southeastern Conference.

But Tiger Coach Press Maravich, Pete's dad, makes no alibis for LSU's record.

"I've got to use my talent,"

Press says. "If you've got O. J. Simpson, you've got to run him 40 or 45 times a game. My talent now is Pete it may be John Smith in the future. So I've got to build my offense around him."

In his father's mind, young Pete is "the greatest player I've seen. I don't care what anybody says. There's nobody in America who can touch him."

Maravich brought his team into the season with hopes of bettering LSU's 14-12 record of a year ago and possibly a post-season

tournament bid. But that is hardly the case. LSU is struggling to match its 1968 mark—and the Maraviches are not at all happy with the way things have turned out.

"Pete is sick about it," his father said. "He would trade all those points he has made for five or six more victories."

Last year the Tigers ran up a 7-2 record and captured the All-College Tournament with an upset over Duquesne. LSU was regarded as a Cinderella team. But

when SEC play started, the Tigers went into a tailspin.

Why? The bread and butter of basketball—defense and rebounding—said Coach Maravich.

Pete, meantime, kept up the fantastic scoring clip that he said before the season didn't concern him. He averaged a 44 per cent from the field, less than a percentage point higher than his present average.


Maravich is still smarting over allegations made in a poll of SEC officials that it was his "parental

concern" for Pete that led him to lose his cool during the season. "I'm no worse than anybody else in the league," he said. "I don't think our school is worse than anybody else. I'm not tecting Pete? That's a baloney. I've got movies to my point."

Coach Eddie Crowder of the Colorado State Rams, who was drafted by the Denver Broncos.

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