

Carmen Lex has two lives: mathematics & Marauders

BY BILL OVERLY

With his helmet and shoulder pads safely stashed away, Carmen Lex snuggles into a padded chair at Bucks House. Though casually attired, his composure is that of an experienced athlete.

The private Carmen Lex is remarkably personable. The Marauder quarterback displays not the slightest hint of "hubris." Behind that poised and confident exterior exists a man quaintly soft-spoken and congenial.

Lex keeps a keen perspective on himself. He has no illusions about a "football hero" image. "I am only as good as my line. I try the best I can."

In fact, one can sense a close camaraderie between Lex and his fellow Marauders. He expresses fraternal affection particularly for the seniors on the team with whom he has been associated during the past four years. According to Lex, together he and his teammates constitute a "close group" who have learned to "keep order."

Lex's home is in suburban Chester, Pa. During the summer months, he frequently assists in the family business. His father, a constructional electrician, is owner and proprietor of Lex Electric in nearby Media.

Carmen Lex has two brothers, one older and one younger than he, and two sisters aged six and four. His eldest brother, who has also played football, recently earned a degree in electrical engineering from Delaware Community College.

Guided by Butch Ryan, Carmen Lex began his football career inauspiciously in seventh grade and gradually progressed to become one of Sun Valley High School's finest quarterbacks. Recruited by the Marauder's Coach Kane, Lex came to MSC because "I thought I had a good opportunity."

He has no regrets about his selection. "I love it here," Lex states pointedly, and then adds, "Coach Carpenter is a super guy."

Though he loves football, Lex

is a serious student. A liberal arts undergraduate majoring in mathematics, he readily concedes to finding his course of study "very tough."

How does Lex cope with the pressures and tension of being both a student and an athlete?

"It's actually better during the playing season," he reflects. He goes on to explain that most of the preparation for the game begins well in advance of the regular season. The reason is simple. "Football takes a lot of time."

How about the dangers involved in the bone-crushing world of the grid-iron? Have there been many incidents where he was injured?

"Yep. I've been in quite a few," he responds with Gary Cooper directness. He is presently nursing an ankle injury from the Westminster game. "When I get hit hard, the first thing I do is get up."

This explanation is neither an attempt at humor nor heroics. A quarterback must be perceptive of his opposition. Thus, Lex emphasizes the psychological importance of not acknowledging pain in the presence of the opposing team, lest they infer weakness.

As to any prospects for a career in the professional leagues, Lex would "love it." He is already the recipient of several "letters" and was recently named "Pennsylvania Conference Player of the Week." However, he is a realist. His medium size, while perfectly respectable, could be a disadvantage in professional football

where the concentration is on men of massive proportions. For this reason, Lex is cautiously skeptical about a football "draft." Yet, he would like the chance to prove himself. "I think my arm is good enough to play pro," he says confidently. His personal hero is Fran Tarkenton.

But if Carmen Lex isn't inducted into the "pros," he won't be unduly concerned. "It doesn't matter to me," he says. A man of considerable vision, he is quite prepared to return to his father's business as an apprentice electrician. He claims he can find contentment in an electrical engineering career.

Lex's one major regret about MSC football is that so few of the games are televised. "I would like to see more local coverage." He resents the fact that, though numerous students from the Delaware County area are playing ball for MSC, they seldom are seen in their home region. Lex expressed particular disappointment that his parents, who can not attend all of the games, have no opportunity to view them on television.

As to his assessment of Marauder prospects for the present year, Lex says, "It has to be a team effort. If my lines are blocking for me, there is no way to beat our offense."

When asked if he had any closing comments Lex said, with a huge grin, "Hi, Mom and Dad."

It's all part of the personality of the Marauders' number 12 — Carmen Lex.