

Many Senior Stars But Drew Tabbed 'Greatest'

Mahalic Named 'Athlete Of Year'

By GEORGE MASKIN
Sports Editor

To single out one athlete over others never is an easy task. And, it's no different this spring in proclaiming the Observerland's prep sports performer of 1970-71. Once again, there were a host of standout athletes, playing at the 22 high schools served by the Observer newspapers.

There were one-sport standouts, two sport greats and several who excelled in three and even four sports during the past nine months. There were all-stars and all-suburban selections. There were All-Observer, All-County and All-League greats. Typical of every succeeding year, the prep athletes seemed to get better and better, despite cries from some quarters that the

league group is collapsing and slipping around the world. (The Observer honor as "athlete of the year" is reserved only for graduating seniors which naturally shrinks the list of candidates to some degree. BUT IT'S nonetheless a sparkling lineup from which the Observer picks Drew Mahalic of North Farmington as No. 1 for 1970-71 in the area. Mahalic's credentials are numerous: 1 - As the Raiders' quarterback he led North Farmington to a perfect 9-0 season and the state Class A title. 2 - He was picked on everybody's All-State football team.

3 - The Free Press saluted Mahalic as the "football player-of-the-year" in Michigan. 4 - He starred in basketball for the Raiders. 5 - He excelled in the hurdles in track and this past week was named as the No. 1 low hurdler on the 1971 All-Observer area track team. 6 - His brilliance has won him a scholarship to Notre Dame. 7 - He was named with Mike Gow as the winner of a Raider Cup, annually presented to the top senior athlete at North Farmington. This time the honor was split because Gow is all-state in football, a star in basketball and a standout in track.

FOLLOWING MAHALIC on the All-Observerland Athlete of the year honor roll are: Mike Page of Country Day School; All-State in football and basketball and one of the standouts in leading Country Day to the state Class C track title. Mike Gow of North Farmington: As already outlined, three sport great in football, basketball and track. Roger Peterman of Southfield: A star in football, basketball and baseball. Mike West of Franklin: A standout in football and one of Michigan's best in the 440-yard run in track. Ron Hoekstra of Stevenson: A sparkling performer in football, basketball and tennis.

Jim Craig of Franklin: All-State in football at tackle and one of the area's best shot-putters. Darryl Demaray of John Glenn: Three sport standout in football, basketball and track. In acclaiming top athletes, special bouquets also should go to a pair of Redford Union performers - Randy Ferguson and Roger Blanchard. Ferguson boasted 14 pitching victories - believed to be tops in the state - going into Saturday's regionals. Blanchard won the state Class A pole vault title and although missing out on the state record, he earlier had cleared 14 feet, 8 inches, the second highest vault ever by a Michigan prep.



DREW MAHALIC

SUMMER CAMPING SPECIALS



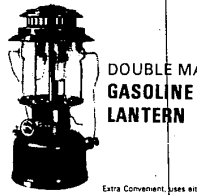
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It'll be "Play Ball" on the sandlots of Greater Livonia starting Sunday. The strong Adray League from which has come Michigan's perennial outstate champion in Redford Township will swing into action Sunday with six of seven teams in action. Then on Tuesday, the lid springs up in the Connie Mack League with a record number of 21 teams from virtually every Observerland community. The Mack circuit for the first time is being split into three divisions of seven teams each because of the entry.

IN ESSENCE, the Mack circuit also is a summer high school league for Ob-

serverland teams, many of which will play intact with the lineups they used during the recent spring prep campaign. "If we had a spot, we could have added two or three more Connie Mack teams," said Bob Schwartz of the Livonia Recreation Department which runs the entire program. Schwartz was asked: "How come the Livonia Mack and Adray League have spread out to include all nearby communities?" "It's this way," he explained. "Originally, a group of communities discussed how they could get started with these programs. It was felt that Livonia alone or Redford Township alone couldn't field a decent league. "The best solution was to band together. And the communities agreed. Since then we have just grown and grown and now we have reached a point where we can't add any more teams. "But we do feel that we have one of the best programs going in the entire state. "We have teams from adjacent areas and with boys who are able to carry on their high school rivalries into

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summer baseball. This is good for everybody, the boys, their parents, their followers, and mostly the communities involved. Again, this season appliance dealer Mike Adray of Dearborn is behind the Adray League program throughout Michigan. The Livonia League is one of four Adray is sponsoring. SEVEN TEAMS will contest for honors topped by Redford Township which not only has won the league crown year after year, but also has carried off the state title and played in the All America Boys tournament in Johnstown and Altoona, Pa.

Redford will have a new manager this year in Pat Sheridan replacing Bob Atkins, who has guided Redford to its great seasons in the past. Atkins gave up the Adray team, but will remain with his Warholk Connie Mack team. The other six teams in the Adray League are Livonia's Hubert Realty; Westland, managed by Ernie Lyons; Plymouth Bidwell, managed by Duane Becker; North Farmington, managed by Ray Carr; Garden City, bossed by George Lerchen, who once played for the Detroit Tigers and Northville. Teams in the Adray League

will play on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. SUNDAY'S OPENERS match Redford against Westland at 1:30 p.m.; Northville vs. North Farmington at 6 p.m. and Hubert vs. Bidwell at 8:30 p.m. All the games will be played at the Ford Field in Livonia. On Wednesday, Northville meets Westland, Hubert Realty at Thurston and Plymouth Bidwell goes to Garden City for 6 p.m.

Livonia's Crown Royals, made up of members of the Bentley High varsity, will return to defend its championship in the National Division, going against Plymouth Gates Realty; Redford Warholk; Garden City East, Franklin High; JVs, North Farmington and Tom's Service (Stevenson High's JVs). In the American Division, Plymouth Holman Postale; National Pride (the Livonia Church Hill varsity); Garden City West, West Bloomfield, the Livonia Optimists (Bentley's JVs); Northville and Little Caesars of Farmington (Farmington High) will contest for laurels. The International Division, will be comprised of Thurston; Plymouth Elks; Farmington Harrison, Novi B and V; Livonia Patriots (Franklin varsity); Hubert Realty (Stevenson varsity) and Redford Tooling (Church Hill JVs).

GAMES IN THE Mack League will be played on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Only Monday will be an off day for Adray and Mack teams, but it will be available to make up any rainouts. Each of the Mack League champs will qualify for a district playoff.

Sad Days For Sorrows As High School Closes

By GEORGE MASKIN
Sports Editor

Bob Kelley looked across the athletic field at Our Lady of Sorrows High School. Life had just run its course for Sorrows as a high school and for the various athletic teams which have represented the Farmington school for 14 years. There was still Saturday's regional baseball tournament at Capac and, hopefully, maybe going on to win the state championship in Class C next Saturday. But with the final clang of the school bells, Sorrows is closing down as a senior high. A change in the school's format will eliminate grades 10-12. The other grades will remain. "This is like a human expiring," Kelley declared as he stared at the football and baseball fields where the Sorrows athletes have performed so well and back at the gym, the indoor hub of Sorrows' sports since the school was opened in 1958. "We had been looking forward to a great football season next fall when the news came that we were closing as a high school. "We had 16 boys back from last year's league champion which won its first seven games. And 11 of those boys had played football at least two seasons for us. "And, now, well, I guess our loss will be the gain of other high schools. Seven of the boys will go to Farmington High. The others have been selected Stevenson, Harrison, Divine Child and Southfield, depending on where they live.

KELLEY HAS SHOWN over the years with his success story in football and baseball that he rates a job elsewhere in coaching. But these are trying times for the schools. Many schools are in the process of cutting back instead of hiring replacements or new coaches. Kelley walked around, near home plate on the baseball field. He kicked up a little dust. He rambled over to the adjacent football field. "A guy wants to cry," he said. HE TALKED ABOUT the golden days Sorrows has enjoyed in sports. "I guess our biggest achievement was winning the state Class C wrestling title a year ago. And then our baseball team which went 17-3 in 1970 and won the Division title. "We have had some league winners in golf and football and tennis. And we've had some very fine individual athletes." He recalled Mike Bars, a 6-6 football player who went from Sorrows to Notre Dame only to have his career ruined by a leg fracture. Frank Walsh, an all-Catholic football tackle a few years back, will be the football captain next fall at Brown University. Greg Main, the finest pitcher the school ever has had and the holder of the Sorrows'

So is Tommy Webster, a four-year Sorrows catcher. Tim Doyle, Barry Walsh, Stan Secosky, Paul Osen-toski... just a few other names which would have to be enshrined in a Sorrows' Hall of Fame. And, other additions could be Newt Hurst and Tom Centers of this year's baseball team. Hurst has set a school career record for hits and runs. Centers a school mark with 10 pitching victories. Kelley started walking back toward the school. The youngsters were flocking from their classes, and Kelley sized some of the young men up: "There's no question there are some star athletes in this crop, boys who could have started here for us in high school. But it isn't to be..."



BOB KELLEY

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