

Soccer school teachers display skills

The staff of the Michigan Soccer School (MSS) met last week to play two exhibition games at the Southfield Civic Center, winning one game and tying the other. On Tuesday MSS defeated the Ann Arbor Heidelberg Lions, 3-1, and then tied the Carleton Kickers, 1-1.

After Round 1, MSS against the Lions, scoring two goals to put his team on top, 3-0 early in the second half. After Heidelberg scored to draw within one late in the game, Birmingham Groves coach Wayne Purman scored on a breakaway to ice the victory.

Round saved MSS on Thursday as he scored their only goal against the perennially tough Kickers, regarded as one of the best teams in the state.

Round dribbled a shot into the net with ten minutes remaining in the second half to achieve a tie. That goal seemed to spare MSS as they put on a hard, exciting minutes. They had several golden scoring opportunities, but their shots seemed to go everywhere but on goal and they had to settle for the tie.

Purman, who serves as director of the MSS, injured his leg in the Heidelberg game. After a few more days, Kaline was able to play part-time against the Kickers. His injury hindered his abilities and he took himself out of the game in the second half.

He said the injury will not affect the soccer school, which is still being held at the Civic Center.



Goalie Steve Unger blocks a shot during a recent practice. (Staff photo by Tom Beer)

Observer & Eccentric

SPORTS

Monday, August 14, 1978 (PFA)

Kaline: Unlikely television announcer

By JOHN BOZD

When Al Kaline returned from professional baseball he never expected to return to the sport as a television broadcaster.

Leaving baseball after the 1974 season, Kaline, who lives in Bloomfield Hills, planned to work as a manufacturer's representative with his own company, Al Kaline Enterprises, Inc.

From his Southfield office in the Thrashers Tower he seeks out accounts for firms like the Joseph Lamb Co., Old Carbone Co., Sun-Clo Pop and Lancia Mercury. He had done the same work on a smaller scale during his playing career.

"Then I got a call and they were asking me if I had any thoughts about trying the (broadcasting)," Kaline recalled. "I said I wouldn't mind it, but I didn't want to be expected to do it all year. We made an agreement to just do the first seven games, mainly to see if I like it, to see if they like what I do, and to see the listener reaction."

An Campbell, Detroit Tiger general manager, was the person who called Kaline. After a few more days, Kaline was asked to join the WJL-TV broadcast team of George Kell, Dan Kruener and Larry Osterman for the opening game in Cleveland.

"I THOUGHT it would be extra hard, extra tough, to sit away from the game and still call the game," Kaline said. "It's difficult to see in some of the stadiums. In Tiger stadium it's not bad because we're real close to the game. In some stadiums we're way away from the game and it's tough to pick out where a pitch was and call it."

"It helps to have played the game 22 years," Kaline said. "There's not too many things which come up that I wouldn't know about. Also, I'm still close to the players. I worked with them during spring training, which helps. I can still get a little inside from them. I know their strengths and their weaknesses."

Everyone was pleased following the first seven telecasts. Kaline liked the job, the stadium and his performance and the viewers responded favorably. It was agreed that Kaline would continue working the home games and away games whenever he could get away from his job.

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HE DOES NOT REGRET leaving baseball and does not miss playing. "I set my goal that I wanted to get 3,000 hits," Kaline said. "The last year I played I needed 120 hits. I made up my mind and told the ball club as soon as I got 120 hits I'd retire."

"I have no regrets and don't miss it at all," he added. "I especially don't miss the travel. It got to be hectic, living in hotels, plane rides, riding buses every day."

"One thing about television is you only do about 46 games a year. It's not like making a three week road trip. You fly in, do the game and fly out. Of the 46 games, almost half of them are at home."

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"THERE WAS NO TRAINING," Kaline said. "I went to Cleveland and had dinner with George Kell and Larry Osterman. I thought maybe they were going to tell me what we were supposed to do. At the end of the dinner I said, 'Hey guys, tell me what I'm supposed to do.'"

"They said, 'Just what we're doing here—have a conversation,' he recalled. "I said, 'That's easy for you to say, you've been doing it all your life.' They explained that I should talk about what happens on the field. People don't want to hear a lot of jokes and old stories, but they do want my comments (commented to do)."

"They really impressed on me that on TV, unlike radio, you don't have to talk all the time," Kaline said. "People can see what's going on. On radio people can't see and you have to tell them what's happening."

Kaline emphasized that the other members of the broadcast team, Kell at all the games, Kruener at the home games, and Osterman at the away games, have made his work easier by asking him to comment about certain aspects of the game.

"Kruener and Osterman ask me about something so I can make a ball player comment on it, an ex-ball player comment. I should say," Kaline said.

KELL, ALSO A FORMER Tiger star third baseman and winner of the American League batting title, had some advice for Kaline.

"I said, 'Hey, I know what you're going through. When I started I made a lot of mistakes. When you get done you think you've said things you shouldn't have said and didn't say things you should have. It's all part of learning.'"

Kaline considers Kell one of the finest announcers he's ever seen and said he feels good just sitting next to someone of Kell's strength.

"I've never thought of myself as a great speaker," Kaline said. "It's my job, viewing I was able to talk about what happened on the field, but I didn't feel comfortable talking about myself."

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Hockey tips

John Bebes of Farmington will have some good goaltending tips to rely on this winter after spending a week at the Michigan Tech Summer Hockey School. John, who will be a sixth grader at Our Lady of Sorrows this fall, gets some tips on skate work from instructor Bill Rowe. He attended the second one-week session of the 10-week school.

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