

# SHS AD knocks punt, pass and kick

By JOHN BOZZO

Punt Pass & Kick contests reward participants too much for not doing very much, according to the father of Michigan's only area champion.

Fred Goldberg of West Bloomfield is the director of athletics and activities for Southfield's schools. His son, Richard, was the 10-year-old Punt, Pass & Kick champion in his level, zone, district and area.

Winning the area competition, which was held at the Pontiac Silverdome, qualified Goldberg for the NFC championships, Dec. 12 at New Orleans during the halftime of the New Orleans-San Francisco game.

Richard, who traveled to New Orleans with his family, was fourth in the 10-year-old competition. A victory would have meant a trip to the Super Bowl to compete against the AFC champion.

"I'm disappointed of the whole program," Fred said. "I've said this to the Ford people before so it's not just sour grapes because Richard didn't win. They give kids way too much for what they do."

"A young kid," Fred added, "punts,

passes and kicks and they give him a trophy half his size. He comes to school and I give him a banquet and a \$275 trophy. People save up their whole lives for a trip to New Orleans and all of a sudden Ford is picking up the tab."

**PUNT, PASS & KICK** is an annual competition for youths sponsored by the Ford Motor Co. Participants are measured for distance in punting, passing and kicking a football. Distance is deducted for inaccuracy.

Richard is a student at Lone Pine Elementary School. He played quarterback on a team in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Football League as a nine-year-old, but did not play again this season.

Under the guidance of his father, Richard has been throwing the football since he was one year old. Richard plays basketball, baseball and is one of the top local tennis players, according to his father.

He explained that Richard may train for three months for a tennis meet and receive a medal if he wins.

"Some friends of ours took part in it the PPAK," recalled Fred, "and Rich-

ard said he wanted to get involved." They found another competition and Richard began his win streak which earned him four trophies.

Fred explained that his opinions about PPAK are his own and not his son's. Richard's mother, Fran, said that PPAK allowed the family a chance to travel to and meet people from different parts of the country. But Fred still dislikes the program.

"If a kid wins it he's enshrined in the football hall of fame," Fred said. "After it's all over, so what? Has it done anything for the kid except put him on TV and in the newspapers? I'm not sure kids can handle that."

"PEOPLE ASK ME 'Where do you stop?'" Fred added. "Stop in one city. We don't need a super eight-year-old in the whole country."

Fred said it was the system of supply and demand which creates this situation. People want an eight-year-old kicking

champs so they get one. An example, he said, would be a person who throws a baseball 100 miles an hour

can earn \$100,000, while a career researcher may never earn more than \$30,000. He added that high school level athletes who participate in such rewarding non-high school events.

"We lose a lot of hockey players that way," Fred said. "Some teams like eight and 10-year-old kids to Sweden to play hockey. When they're older they play 90-game schedules."

"They come to me when they're 12," he added, "and there's no way we can duplicate these types of things. They see our 50-game schedule and say, 'I'm going to play hockey over there.'"

Next year Fred would rather that his son not participate in PPAK, but Richard will probably want to, and Fred probably give in, his father said.

## At Silverdome this Friday

# Locals play in N-S Shrine game

By JOHN BOZZO

Three local men have been among the crew of people working to stage the North-South Shrine football game, which will be played 4 p.m. Dec. 17.

Brothers Bill and Bob Harkin and Pat Duhoe have been serving as assistant team managers for the all-star contest.

Bill and Bob are the head football coaches at Birmingham's Groves and Seaham High Schools respectively. Duhoe is a swimming coach at North Farmington High School.

They were chosen because they are shrimpers and because they have athletic backgrounds, said Fred Morrison Jr., chairman-director of the North-South game.

"When anyone thinks of shrimpers they think of old men," Morrison added. "We were looking for the younger image so they could relate with these kids in college. These are grown men coming in here. They're next year's pros."

Accepting the assignment has meant 10 days of concentrated work for the three local men. The players arrived in the area Dec. 5 and 6.

"I did not seek the job," Bill Harkin said, before the players arrived. "But I'm looking forward to it. It came as a complete surprise to Bob and me."

"BOTH OF US are very thrilled," Bill added. "It's an opportunity to do something of that nature that I've never done in our life. A lot of high school coaches have never done this and would like to. It may never happen again. Every coach wants to coach the college level athlete."

For the assistant team managers, many duties are routine. They arranged rooms for the players, made sure they got meals. They had to estimate the players' sizes and order uniforms.

One person is always at the players' hotel, Northfield Hilton for the North squad and the Somerset Inn for the South team, in case the players should need anything.

Other duties include making sure the players get their transportation to practices and the other activities involved in playing the Shrine game.

One required activity for the players is a trip to visit the Chicago Hospital for the Crippled Children, which was Dec. 13. The

Shrimpers have 21 such hospitals which benefit from this North-South Shrine game and from the East-West Shrine football games.

"Once you go to the hospital," Bob Harkin said, "there's no amount of work for which you wouldn't make yourself available. Those kids are something else. When you see what your help is doing and you know you're part of a big team helping those kids, it's a real rewarding experience."

**BESIDES DOING THE** routine chores the Harkin brothers were asked to assist the coaches during the short period of time there is for coaching. Bill was asked by Bob Tyler of Mississippi State to assist with the South defense. Bob was asked by Ben Martin of the Air Force Academy to help with the offensive line. The other coaches are Alex Agase of Purdue with the North defense and Al Umfroy of Missouri with the South offense.

"The size of the kids we got," Bob said, "their agility and speed. I couldn't believe they get bigger every year. I couldn't believe the character of the

young men we got," Bob added. "They're from all areas of the country. We didn't pair them with anyone from the same schools. We tried to pair them with someone who could give them an insight into what it's like in another part of the country."

"It's ironic," Bob continued, "that we put all our football gear collected and inventoried here. Just as soon as we get done here we passed out gear for the North-South game."

It's also ironic that Bob, a native of Detroit, was assigned to the North team while brother Bill, who was born in Maryland, drew the South team. Although born in Maryland, Bill said his family only lived there only three years and he doesn't remember anything about the place.

**BEING ON OPPOSITE** sides is nothing new for the Harkin brothers who are christian missionaries during the high school season.

Their prep teams have faced each other four years and the record is now a 2-2 standstill. Bob's Seaham team won the first two contests and Bill's Groves team grabbed the next two.

Richard Goldberg of West Bloomfield won four Punt, Pass & Kick trophies before losing the National Football Conference championship in New Orleans. Here he holds the area trophy. (Staff photo)



Mercy's K.D. Harte (23) had a little trouble getting the handle on the ball in Class A Final basketball action last weekend in Grand Rapids. The Martins lost in their bid for the state championship against Marquette, 68-41. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

## County trails ready

Cross-country skiing and snowmobile enthusiasts can now enjoy trails in Oakland County.

There are 7 1/2 miles of scenic trails at Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston for cross-country skiing. Independence Oaks will be open from 8 a.m. until dusk daily during the winter months. Admission is \$2 per car. Warmup fires and shelters will be provided at the site. Ice fishing will also be

available at the park when conditions are safe.

Thirteen miles of snowmobile trails are now open from 8 a.m. until dusk each weekend during the winter months at Addison Oaks County Park.

Admission is \$2. The admission includes one snowmobile. Additional snowmobiles are \$1 each.

A concession stand will be open at the park.

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