He attends more than 50 games each high school football season. Marry perceptive suburban gridiron fans see this man roaming the side-lines at countless games. He is usually found carrying a stack of large manila envelopes, which become faded as the season wears on. The man with the large black-rimmed glasses and wavey-black hair always follows the chain gang up and down the field. He is simply known as the "stat

chain gang up and down the field.

He is simply known as the "stat man" or as others call him, the "stat man" or as others call him, the "stat man" or as others call him, the "stat man". To aches and sports writers know kim by his real name—Jim Thompson.

He is without a doubt he No. 1 authority, statistically, on high school football in the Detroit area.

Department of the property of the prope

of miliage defeats. Each week Thompson compiles the

results and standings of every team in the area. He also keeps league standings, points scored and points yielded, and average scoring spread. When the season concludes, Thompson rates the strength of all leagues based on interdivision play.

During the season, coaches will call

awision play.

During the season, coaches will call him frequently and by the fifth week of the season. Thompson knows which teams still have a chance for the control of the coaches of t

Thompson became interested in compiling football stats in 1974. "I used to read the Observerland ratings compiled by the former livonia Observer sports editor Tom Donoghue." said Thompson. "I got interested because there is more than just wins and losses," said Thompson. While not compiling statistics, Thompson doubles as a math ture Ha

While not compiling statistics, Thompson doubles as a math tutor. Thompson doubles as a math tutor the attended the University of Michigan and Tulane University (La.).

"In 1974 I kept all the team stats for the 41 west area suburban schools, he wild

the 41 west area suburban schools, he said.

In 1976 Thompson went to work for the News and expanded his coverage to just over 200 schools.

"I still go to as many west area games as possible," said Thompson.
"I'm biased toward that area and it usually, follow the best teams each week."

Thompson plans out his schedule of games each week in advance and

might attend games Friday aftermoon. Friday night. Saturday aftermoon and Saturday night. Thompson admits his favorite team is Wesland John Genn because "they were down for so many years and now they have compiled one of the best of the same property of the sam

Last year, Thompson remembers the Redford Bishop Borgess-Lake

Shore battle in the final regular season game.

"THAT GAME really didn't mean much because Lake Shore already had a playoff berth locked up." recals Thompson.

"It was so intense because Lake Shore hadn't given up a point all year long and wanted to go through the season unscored upon."

"It would have been a record for Lake Shore, but Borgess scored Lake Shore, but Borgess scored had so had a so that they lost the game."

twice." he said. "But they lost the game."

The busiest time of the year for Thompson is the last few games where thompson is the last few games where playoff spots are decided.

"I can't adm and people those last few weeks." he said. Thompson you can trust me," said Thompson referring to his playoff opiciones. In Class A. Thompson says North Farmington and Birmingham Brottler-Rice look very strong in their respec-

tive regions this fall.
"It's hard to pre-speculate on teams because there are always a few sleep-res in each dass." he said.
Thompson said he is looking forward to the first weekend which is highlighted by a doubleheader, Saturday, Sept. 9. at the Pontiac Silverdome.
At 5:30 p.m., Pontiac Northern will face North Farmington and at 8 p.m. Flint Southwestern will take on Pontiac Contral

Fint Southwestern will take on Pon-tiac Central.

"That should really be something." said Thompson.

In the winter. Thompson records basketball results but does not spenderarly as much time because every team qualifies for the state tournament and no point system is required.

Thompson claims his method or forcording is foolproof. He says the official recorder of results at the MHSAA office in Lansing, a computer, makes at least three mistakes a week.

Just call him the "bible" of Detroit area high school football.

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