

Falcons whip Athens

QB debuts in Groves' victory

By DAVE JOHNSON

Groves' high-flying Falcons caged Troy Athens, 17-0, Friday night, to remain atop of the Metro Suburban Activities Association.

Two Red Hawk fumbles in the rival's 10-yard line "gave Groves the momentum," according to Athens coach John Walker.

Buddy Puscas, playing linebacker, recovered an Athens fumble at the Falcon five yard line. Prior to the miscue, Athens had gained three consecutive first downs—all by rushing.

Groves turned the mistake into a touchdown by going 95 yards. Senior co-captain Bill Eberhart climaxed the drive by scampering 59 yards for the score with 4:07 left until halftime. The Falcons used only four plays and a face mask infraction to go ahead of the Red Hawks, 7-0, after Eric Naslund's extra point conversion.

At the end of the half, Groves' defensive back Tom Shelly pirated a Doug Cummings pass which set up another scoring opportunity.

A clipping penalty however brought the ball back to the Red Hawk 37-yard line with Groves in possession.

The Falcons moved the ball 15 yards as time was a factor.

Keeping the ball in the center of the field, Naslund entered to try a 30-yard

field goal. The attempt was blocked and Groves held its 7-0 advantage at intermission.

With both teams playing cautious in the first quarter, Athens gained an early turnover when junior Glenn Gutterer recovered a fumble after a 32-yard punt by teammate Tom Rutkowski. Groves however stopped Athens.

Groves added another touchdown in the third period, marching 84 yards after receiving a punt. Fullback Brian Breeden scored from nine yards out at 9:18 and the Falcons went up, 14-0, on the good conversion kick by Naslund.

Bob Chailoux, senior defensive tackle, recovered his second fumble of the night at the Groves 41-yard stripe with five minutes to go in the third quarter.

Quarterback Cummings moved his squad inside the Groves 10-yard line before wingback Jim Molnar turned the ball over to Falcon tackle Stu Hixon. That was the closest Athens was to get in the second half.

The lone score of the fourth period came when Naslund booted a 25-yard field goal in the final minute of play.

The three-point was set up when halfback Gary Hamming rambled 24 yards off a spectacular block from lineman Geoff Hill.

With Groves on the Athens one-yard stripe, quarterback Chris Vogt was unable to get a play off in time. On the following play after the penalty, Vogt was nailed for a seven-yard loss.

Groves coach Bill Rankin inserted Naslund for the field goal try in order to "give him some experience for further games."

Rankin credited the defense with "outstanding play."

"This game was our fourth shutout and only one touchdown has been scored against us," he said.

Junior quarterback Cummings failed to complete any of his nine passes and had two intercepted.

Defensively, Groves gave up 98 yards in total offense. Athens senior tailback Bruce Bentley was held to 51 yards and Cummings gained just 43 yards in five games.

Offensively it was Groves' best effort of the year. Eberhart led the Falcons' total of 372 yards by going 202 yards himself in 24 carries. Breeden logged the ball seven times for 85 yards while Hamming contributed 71 yards in 14 attempts.

First downs were in favor of Groves, 16-8.

Each club was penalized 90 yards.

Rankin said he was happy because "no injuries were suffered."

Groves travels to Southfield-Lathrup, Friday at 8 p.m., in quest of its sixth straight win. Groves has not beaten Lathrup in five years.

Troy Athens plays Saturday afternoon at Rochester Adams.

Champs crowned in Hills tourney

Two new champions were crowned following the second-annual Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department's Men's Golf Tournament Sept. 16-17 at San Marino Golf Course.

Al Zankle, who won the first flight title, began the final day's competition one shot behind Joe Bailey, but scored an actual 93 to charge to the championship with a total of 170. Jack Wyszocki finished second at 172, and Ted Hindman came in third with a 175. Hindman also won the closest-to-the-pin award with a tee shot that came to rest six feet from the hole.

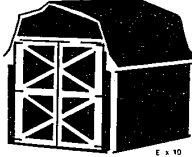
Ed Hankin, the championship flight winner, came from seven shots back of Don Hunt to win by a stroke with a 151 total. Hunt, the medalist of the tournament with rounds of 77 and 79, finished at 152. Jaoh Hauser took third place with a 155.

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Amateur athletes lack funding

By C. J. RISAK

Amateur athletics in the United are so poorly funded that "it's incredible our athlete can compete on an international scale."

According to Dr. Dennis Sprandel, head of the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union (MAAU), the U.S. rates "in the top five in almost any Olympic sport, but probably

around 50th in support of athletes."

"We have 15,000 members of the Michigan AAU in 22 different sports," Sprandel said.

"All of our funding comes from one source: the dues the athletes paid. We run our entire program on \$50,000 last year."

"And we have one of the best programs in the country. The national

cost for the AAU last year was \$1 million. That was all the money we had for the entire nation."

The funding of amateur athletics has been a topic for discussion since the last Olympics. A bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year which gave the U.S. Olympic Committee \$30 million for amateur athletic programs. But

questions on how the money was to be used and how it would affect the athletes' amateur status led to the appropriation being stripped from the bill and its subsequent burying in the Senate agenda.

NEITHER THE AAU nor the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) were vigorous in their support of the bill.

"None of the money would have come to our organization," Sprandel said. "The U.S. Olympic Committee would have given it to the world class athletes only, instead of to programs that develop young athletes."

The AAU is the only national program aimed at developing athletes from children's level to the senior citizen. American athletes participating in almost any international sporting event on the amateur level are members of the AAU.

"The Olympic Committee will raise around \$36 million for the Olympic team and spend it over the two months before the Olympics," Sprandel said. "But what about the other three years and 10 months? Who supports the athletes while he prepares for the Olympics?"

Eastern European countries and the United Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) have state-supported programs for their athletes. They are put on the government's sports funding program and attend classes and train at special sports institutes.

The setup is similar to Americans who receive sports scholarships to attend college.

"Actually, we have something like the Eastern countries' program," Sprandel said. "It's the military. Many of our athletes can join the services and compete on an amateur basis while being government supported. Not too many have taken advantage of it, but some have—Phil Boggs and Micki King are prime examples."

BUT, DESPITE the success of government-funded programs, such as East Germany's in the last Olympics, Sprandel is not in favor of them.

"I'd rather see corporate sponsorship of our sports," he said. "The government could help by passing legislation giving corporations a tax break if they supported amateur athletics."

"We've been trying to get some corporate sponsorship in this state, but so far we've had no luck. In other states there is some sponsorship, but until there's some tax advantage, I don't think it'll ever go over."

One of the best examples of a successfully funded corporate sport is California. The Mission Viejo Real Estate Company supports a swimming program that attracts many of the nation's top athletes.

Dave Burgering is one of those athletes. Formerly a Michigan resident, Burgering, one of the top five divers in the nation, took his talents to the Mission Viejo team. Now, whenever he dives, his expenses are paid.

"You need money to have a sound sports program," Sprandel said. "The kids who qualified for the National AAU championships got \$50 in expense money. That isn't nearly enough."

And yet, Michigan has one of the better AAU programs in the country, Sprandel believes. It has only full-time staff. Other states' AAU works on a part-time basis.

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