Farmington gridders build winning attitude

By C.J. RISAK

Success in football.

Ask any coach what it takes to get there. Many will give the physical skills needed — size, speed, depth, quickness, smarts, luck. But none will

A team can have a good share of all the physical tools, and even a little luck, but without the right attitude, they'll never be a big winner. If a team feels like it's going to lose, chances are



Brian Funni (No. 62) squirms to get free.

their coach, Hal Beardsley. Develop the right attitude. Beardsley might have expected the worst at the start of this season. Last year's team finished 1-8, "The worst record in my 29 years of coaching." Beardsley said. Five of those losses came in the final two minutes of the same.

came in the final two minutes of the game.

After a year like that, it might be expected that a team would begin to doubt its own abilities.

"Not these kids." Beardsley said emphatically. "They created determination, especially the seniors. They've really worked.

"We've been very positive with them. They're attitude has been very good. No, there's nothing negative about these kids."

ONE OF THE big problems with last year's team was lack of speed in the backfields. That will not be a problem this season.

Bob Berge, Rick Curtis, Dave Hall and Jim Nuttall are all slated to see action in the backfield sometime dur-ing the season. All have been timed at 4.8 or 4.9 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

"For us, that's great speed," Beards-

The Falcons won't field a team as physically big as past squads, but they'll still average 195 pounds from end to end.

Benge (5-foot-10, 160 pounds), Curtis (5-9, 160) and Hall (5-8, 155) will split time at the halfback spots on offense, with Nuttall (5-9, 180) and John Kar-pach (5-11, 180) filling in at fullback. All are seniors.

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At quarterback is senior Dave Schultz (6-0, 190), who started all nine games for Farmington last season. Beardsley is counting on Schultz to put some zip in the Farmington passing game, which was almost nonexistant

Schultz will have some big targets to throw to. Seniors Ron Sarcevich (6-1, 205), Doug Parker (6-2, 190) and Greg Finalyson (6-1, 205) will all get some storing time.

playing time.

Sharing time at the tackles on offense will be Jim Whitworth (5-10, 205), Dave Zobel (5-11, 210), Bob Krist (5-10, 190) and Brian Bruce (6-2, 200). Krist and Whitworth are juniors, and Zobel and Bruce are seniors.

AT THE GUARD positions will be Mike Metreyeon (5-9, 185) and Jim Steiner (5-11, 185), with Gregg Leman-ski (6-0, 195) at center. Metreyeon and Lemanski are seniors, Steiner is a jun-

ior.
On defense, Metreyeon will play nose guard, with Zobel and Lemanski as tackles and Bruce and Finlayson as defended. sive ends.
Sarcevich, Schultz and Steiner will

Sarcewich, Schultz and Stenner will all play some linebacker, with Karpach, Parker, Don Dewar (§-10, 169) and Tom Rogers (§-9, 169) in the defensive backfield. "We'll have more team balance than last year." Beardsley said. "And we'll have stronger leadership. I think we're going to be quicker and more mature."

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Beardlesy doesn't plan on relying on any single offensive weapon. Despite several backs that can carry the ball, he also plans to put the ball in the air. "Oh, yeah, we'll be passing more than last year," he claimed. "We'll be decent. It still has to be polished but it's there."

there."
Waterford Township will be the toughest in the Inter Lakes League (ILL), according to Beardsley. Thave two junion right schools that feed into them, and both have had great learns the past few years. Those kids know how to win. They'll have a lot of bodies."

 Beardsley also feels Livonia Stevenson will be in the title race, as usual. They have a great program there, and



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they have their quarterback coming back."

FARMINGTON'S NON-LEAGUE FARMINGTON'S NON-LEAGUE opponents are also a concern to Beardsley. The Falcons open with crosstown rival Farmington Harrison, one of the perennial favorites in the Western Six League. After that comes West Bloomfield, which narrowly missed a share of the Greater Oakland Athletic League title last season, and Southfield, one of the top teams in the Southeastern Michigan Association conference.

If that isn't enough, Farmington fin-sihes with North Farmington, the state Class A runners-up last year. "It's one tough schedule — there are no patsies on it," Beardsley said.

RAINGO

SNAP TOGETHER SYSTEM CAN BE EASILY INSTALLED BY ONE PERSON
 GUARANTEED AGAINST RUST, ROT, AND, CORROSION

NO SOLVENT WELDING NO PAINFUL CUTS

Still, Beardsley feels his team has a shot at the ILL crown. "It's a balanced league, and we're as balanced as any-one on it.

"We have to play four quarters. We have to have consistency of play. We're optimistic. We have to prove to ourselves we can play."

Last year was a disaster for Farm-ington. That alone will provide enough incentive for the Falcons.

SCHEDULE.

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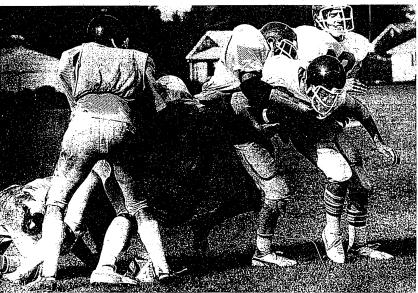
AUTOMATIC

ELECTRIC EYE



Farmington head football coach Hal Beardsley.

\$39⁹⁵



Ball carrier Tom O'Malley is swarmed under by a host of teammates during a Farmington football scrimmage. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

The lighter side of the gridiron

By ED BOLINGER

(Bolinger, an advertising representative with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, helped coordinate our 1979 football tab. He played college football at the University of Kanasa and bad a tryout with the Miami Dolphins).

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Here it is, the fall season is rapidly approaching and with it, young men in high schools and colleges across the country are getting prepared to become the proverbial "gridron gladators." So, with the beginning of the 1979 football season, the editors have asked me to share some of my experiences with you.

To always dreamed of playing college football and possibly even pro ball, but never did I think that I would make it. So here are some of the experiences that I had, some good, some not so good, but mostly the comical things that happened.

Too often we hear about the violence and brutality of football, the drugs, the harsh tactics of some coaches. Not all of football is caught up in a "North Dallas Forty" atmosphere.

Playoffs finish softball season

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Softball League came to a conclusion last week with the crowning of champions in the six different

leagues.

In the Men's Industrial A league,
Dunleavy's Pub and Grub edged Holzer
Ford in the final playoff contest, 4-3, to
claim the title.

I arrived on the campus of the University of Kansas on a warm day in August 1967. I was more excited than an 3-year-old at Disnoyland.

After becoming acquainted with the campus and some of the personne, it was time to get to know the head coach, Pepper Rodgers. (Rodgers currently coaches at Georgia Tech after a stint at UCLA) I was issued, my equipment and the dream had begun.

ly conches at Georgia Tech after a stint at UCLA.) It was issued my equipment and the dream had begun. The weeks went by very slowly, because at times I-fett like I went over Niagara Falis without the harrel. Between the double session workouts, wind sprints, one-on-one drills, tackling dummies and seleds, not to mention the calisthenics and grass drills, every inch of my 6-foot-3, 225-pound body hurt like you know what.

It was rumored that five aspirin companies had bid on my body to make a television commercial.

As the time passed, so did the pain, and yours ruly had made the first team defense as a strong side linebacker. That means I lined up across from the opposing tight end.

One day, we were practicing against the second team offense, which was simulating the same of fensive procedures used by the University of Missouri, our opponent that Saturdot, strong of arm, Just then, a young parter-theck, strong of arm, Just then, a young parter-theck means.

The recults were disastrous — be was buried like an avalanche had thit him. Needless to say, ceach roless to kick of he was going to get kicked right where his intelligence apparently was.

Well, a few series of plays later, the second team offense had driven down to the goal line where it was again fourth down.

Our young quarterback friend, without blinking Our young quarterback friend, without blinking an eye or consulting the bench, calmly dropped back in punt formation and proceeded to boot a beautiful 50-yarder which cleared the top seats in the stadium and the scoreboard.:

It turned out to be one helluva play. Coach Rodgers, who looked liked he had just syallowed his whistle, called off practice for the rest of the day and stormed off the field. Obviously, we were

day and stormed off the field. Obviously, we were heartbroken. Coach Rodgers survived until Saturday afternoon rolled around and we were going to face the Missouri Tigers head on. The game went smoothly until the third quarter. In a crucial situation we were called for clipping, which meant a 15-yard penalty. Unfortunately, the alleged infraction occurred right in front of our bench, and as the efficial started to step of the penalty, coach Rodgers informed the official of what he thought of the call and of him.

the united to wise a second of the control of the control of the control of united the fact that he had a terrible ofor about him. Ref. you stinke ID oyo bear mer You stinke ID. oyo use the control of the printable things Rodgers said.

The official, without any petation, picked up the ball and smiling, marked off another IS yards. As the gave the signal for unsportsamaship conduct, be yelled back at Rodgers, "Hey coach, how do I smell from here?"

Similar stories may be told, but that one actually hannessed.

Similar stories may be told, but that one actually happened. I be believe that if Knute Rockne, Notre Dame's legiodary coach, had a week like Rodgers did, the authorities might have had to rule his accidental death as suicide. I guess in summary, you have to take the good with the bad, the hamor with the pain, and the laughter with the sadness. But what the heck. Eart that what tile in general is all about?

