

Even U-M Coach Was A Bit Surprised

By W.W. EDGAR

While messages of congratulation and demands for his personal appearance continued to pour in, "Bo" Schembechler, who master-minded the Wolverines to their stunning victory over Ohio State, confided to friends that the season, as a whole, has been a real surprise to him.

As he entered his office Monday morning to start preparations for the trip to Pasadena and the Rose Bowl, he was greeted with --

"CONGRATULATIONS COACH -- for winning a share of the Big Ten Championship."

With a broad smile he accepted the congratulations and remarked -- "It was just wonderful -- but I was surprised that we won it so soon."

No mention had been made of the victory over Ohio State -- just the fact that the Wolverines were going to the Rose Bowl as co-champions and not the "second best" team in the conference.

"Bo" intimated that he had visions of winning a Big Ten championship for Michigan, but not in his

first year on the job. Only once before -- when Murray Warmath took the Minnesota Gophers to the top, had a first year coach won the top prize -- the title and the Rose Bowl.

"It sure came a lot quicker than I expected," "Bo" repeated, "but it certainly is a fine feeling."

ASKED WHAT HE thought was the high point of the victory over Ohio State, the Michigan coach was quick to answer --

"The entire game was a high point." Then, pressed for an answer he stated -- "When you see your plans and strategy working on the field, there is no one play -- or series -- that can be placed above the other and I thought all our boys played just grand."

He spoke with the air of a father who was proud of his son's achievements, when he added -- "They proved themselves and won the right to a share of the title and the Rose Bowl trip."

Last week -- before the Ohio game -- when Michigan was given little chance of winning, "Bo" remarked that he would rather not go to the coast, if he

had to go as "the second place team."

It was this remark that helped spur the team to the heights Saturday when the Wolverines ended the Buckeyes' 22-game winning streak. With some of the old Michigan tradition riding with them the Wolverines left no doubt about the outcome. There was no fluke to the victory. Even Woody Hayes, the Ohio coach, admitted his team was "outplayed and outcoached."

"YOUR BOYS DID a masterful job of containing Rex Kern," "Bo" was reminded Monday morning. He just winked and asked --

"Did you see the great finish Southern California put on Saturday to beat UCLA and earn the right to meet us?"

"That team will be tough, too." The Wolverine boss would make no prediction of the outcome -- other than to smile his broadest smile and say -- "We'll be ready."

Judging by the way he had the team prepared to combat the Buckeyes Saturday, that statement was sufficient to warrant the belief that Michigan's record of never having been defeated in the Rose Bowl will be kept intact on New Year's Day.



LOOKS LIKE Coach Bo Schembechler, of Michigan, is waving goodbye to arch-rival Woody Hayes after the Wolverines' upset victory over Ohio State but it isn't true. Bo was waving to one of his players to move back on defense. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe.)

Green Plymouth Cagers Face Rough Go In Loop

First a year ago...but it likely will be a different story for Plymouth High's basketball team in the Suburban Six League this season.

Catch Dick Bearup's forces rolled to a 14-4 record in 1968-69 and walked off with the league crown.

But graduation has taken 11 of the 15 men who made up the Rocks' varsity a year ago.

Of the returnees, only Captain Pat Cunningham, a senior guard who stands 5-11, played regularly on the championship Plymouth team.

The other three letter winners are Bob Thornbladh (6-2), who is recovering from a foot-ball injury; Jon Cederberg (5-10) and Charles Wolfe (6-3).

THREE FACES up from the reserves -- Howie Schryer (6-3), Scott Taylor (6-3) and Paul Matthews (6-3) -- all appear to have made the varsity which springs into action next Tuesday night against Stevenson in the Plymouth gym.

"We're basically a very young team," says Bearup.

And the statistics show what the coach means. There are 11 juniors and only four seniors on the roster.

Besides lacking experience, the Rocks are short when it comes to height. Nobody on the team stands over 6-3. "We'll have to give away a lot of size to our opponents," declares Bearup.

AT BENTLEY High, Ken Timmons has taken over as the new basketball coach, replacing George Fefles, who yielded the coaching reins after last season.

Bentley has been a perennial power in the Suburban Six League and finds itself this year in almost the same position as Plymouth -- not much experience.

In fact, there is not a returning regular on Timmons' roster.

But he does have some size, topped off by center Craig Rosenthal, a senior, who stands 6-8.

"We have speed on this team and I think we'll have to run a lot to enjoy success," says Timmons. "The team has potential. We could develop into a strong one before the season is over."

THERE ARE two other key seniors on the team -- 5-10 Dave Rice and 6-4 Tom Gullfoyle.

Louie Lovett, 6-3 1/2; Dave

Yeach, 6-4, and Bob Sitkouskas, 6-0, are a trio of juniors who are expected to give considerable service. Lovett is being groomed as a guard, which could make him one of the tallest tacklers in the league.

REDFORD UNION Coach Dave Mattingly doesn't see his team as a contender with Bentley, Belleville or Allen Park for league honors.

Mattingly has a bigger team this year, but not as fast as the one which tied Bentley for the league flag a year ago. But RU should be fairly well balanced, according to Mattingly.

Co-captains Gary Bevington (6-2) and Dennis Gene (5-10) with Gert Zajac (6-2), will head the team, which also will include Randy and Kirk Taylor, Mark Kellman, Mike Robinson and Keith Everett.

BENTLEY STARTS its season a week from Friday against Farmington on the same night that Southfield plays at Redford Union.

The battle for league title honors begins on the following Friday when Redford Union faces Belleville, while Bentley squares off against Plymouth in a game which should determine in a hurry which has the might to figure in the league race.

West, East Rebuilding

This will be a rebuilding year for Garden City West and Garden City East in basketball. They had great seasons last year when West won 17 out of 20 to capture the Tri Rivers League title.

East, meantime, placed sec-

ond in the Mid-Wayne League with an overall 13-5 mark. Each team has been hard hit by graduation losses.

West lost six of its first seven men, but has one returning starter and four other lettermen.

WEST COACH Chris Babler does have an encouraging sign: Rick Drewitz, a 6-7 forward

back who ranks as one of the finest players in the state.

He won all-area honors as well as all-league honors last year, and it's around Drewitz that Babler says he'll build his team. "I think we'll be a little slow starting, but as the season progresses, we should become a pretty tough team," declares Babler as he reads West for the opener at John Glenn a week from Friday.

DESPITE DREWITZ, West will be smaller than a year ago when the smallest man on the first team was 6-1.

Dennis Leszczynski (6-3) and Gerald Guzowski (5-2) are fighting it out for the center spot, while sophomore Kirk Lewis (5-2) looks like a good bet at the other forward.

Gary Nustad (5-9) and John Rutter (5-8) shape up as the starters at the guards.

Bob Kobiela (5-10) and Tom Lewis (5-8) are two others who so far have impressed Babler.

OVER AT Garden City East, Coach Billy Joe Young will build around 6-1 Rick Orlan-doni, the only returning letterman.

Standouts among the new faces are Rod Shafer (5-10), Mike Reller (6-2), Ron Chomluk (6-0), Rick Palmer (6-0), Dave Jackson (6-1 1/2) and Jeff Detarte (6-0).

Ken Roe, a senior forward, has been lost to the team because of a football injury.

Despite the fact the team will be inexperienced and small, it will be quick and aggressive, and Young is hopeful this will help win some ball games, starting at Edsel Ford next Tuesday night.



MICHIGAN'S GARVIE CRAW crosses the goal line for a touchdown in this unusual shot. The umpire indicates a score and it appears as if Garvie is under his legs -- actually the official was standing some six or seven feet back.

(Observer photo by Harry Mauthe.)

Sports Briefs

A BABY split prevented George Nastos from attaining the goal of all bowlers -- a 300 game -- in the Wondersland Classic Tournament night.

After stringing 11 in a row he went in a bit high on the final ball and left up the "baby" for a 288 and ended with a 693 series.

DUSTY MAROIS was the high man in the Bel-Aire Classic with 267 in a 650 series. John Koteki was right behind with a 265 game.

Maurice Quinan is still at the top of the averages with 204.

MARY LORD showed the way in the Ladies League at Lionia Lanes with a 200-35-223. Second place went to Lynn Dumont with 189-35-224.

Lois McAllister had high series with 539-63-602.

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Now Oddsmakers Love Wolverines

The hallmark of Michigan gridiron greatness was reborn Saturday in the amazing 24-12 upset of previously unbeaten Ohio State and already oddsmakers have established the Wolverines as favorites in their Rose Bowl match with Southern California.

The early line out of Las Vegas calls Michigan's Big Ten co-champions a four-point choice over USC although the latter has an 8-0-1 record against 6-2 for the Wolverines. Michigan's greatest asset in the startling conquest of the Buckeyes before a record throng of 103,588 was its position. The Wolverines out-muscled and outcharged what until Saturday had been considered the No. 1 team in the nation, but it is equally true that Michigan trailed on the scoreboard twice, first at 6-0 and later at 12-7.

THESE WERE the moments

when 22 successive opponents had cracked at the seams before the vaunted Ohio powerhouses, led by Fullback Jim Oatis and Quarterback Rex Kern, in 1961, to win a Rose Bowl bid in his first year. It will be Michigan's fifth trip to Pasadena after previous visits over Stanford, Southern California, California and Oregon State.

The victory gave Bo Schembechler the distinction of becoming the first coach in the Big Ten since Yost himself, in 1901, to win a Rose Bowl bid in his first year. It will be Michigan's fifth trip to Pasadena after previous visits over Stanford, Southern California, California and Oregon State.

The plot of Michigan's greatest victory in years was the junior quarterback Don Moor-

head who ran his attack with consistent effectiveness, keeping the Buckeyes "loose" with his own keepers between turning time and again to the power running of Fullback Garvie Crawl and Tailback Bill Taylor.

No less impressive was the work of Michigan's defensive corps, spearheaded along the front by Henry Hill, Pete Newell and Barry Huff as Tom Curtis and Marty Peterson led in patrolling the secondary.

THE PORTENT of things to come was evidenced when Michigan stopped Ohio's drive from the opening kickoff on its own 10 yard line, a yard short of a first down. It was on a charge into the middle of the line by the bulldozer Oatis, and Hill met him head on.

Oatis did give the Buckeyes a 6-0 margin a few minutes later, after Hill's attempt to back to march the distance with Crawl going over from the two.

A conversion by Frank Tins put Ohio State behind for the first time this year.

Kern's pass to Jan White restored Ohio's lead, but the Wolverines did not crack. Moorhead piloted them 67 yards in nine plays to go ahead for keeps, Crawl again bailing over for the touchdown and Tins converting. A brilliant 27-yard run by Taylor, and two Moorhead to Jim Mandich passes were the big plays.

Michigan scored twice more in the first half, a diving touchdown by Moorhead and a field goal by Tim Kiliann making the count 24-12 at the intermission and that's where it stayed.

Ohio State crossed the midline only twice in the second half, not seriously threatening either time. Michigan, meanwhile, got close enough to Ohio's goal for Kiliann to attempt four more field goals, but he missed their all.