

observing sports

A new year and new resolutions, like:
I promise not to make one bad decision when I umpire next spring ... and, at the same time, I promise not to shriek one nasty word at any referee or umpire.
I'll say only the most complimentary things about all coaches, even those who don't call in their results.
I'll not condemn mothers and dads who insist their sons should play all the time in Little League programs and thus deprive other boys of a chance to perform, too.
Nor will I yell at those who claim Little League action is the "greatest thing" in the world for the boys. Maybe it is.
I promise always to get my copy into the Observer on time and when possible say more about the girl athletes, who have to be the most forgotten contingent of all on the sports scene in Observerland.

I'll wander around less, but if somebody offers me a plane ticket for New York or Los Angeles or Miami ... brother, here I come! Those stewardesses on planes are nice.

I'll concentrate more at playing bridge, especially when my wife is sitting at the other side of the table. No more bidding her into an impossible situation. No more making the wrong lead ... no more ... (ah, forget it. I'll be as stupid as ever).

YEP, BEFORE THIS newprint is very old it'll be 1970, and, seriously, there's a lot we'd like to see in the way of sports around these parts in the year to come. Maybe we won't, but at least, we can hope.

Like ...
Michigan getting us off to a glorious start in the Rose Bowl Thursday and whipping Southern California. (Our prediction: Michigan 27, USC 14).

The Lions continuing their improvement ... the Tigers bouncing back ... ex-Livonian Alex Delvecchio finding the goal range again ... and the Pistons, well, they deserve something special, Agree?

Better baseball diamonds for the schoolboy teams in Livonia. No reason they have to travel so far from school to play. Or is there a reason?

Good fortune for the new high schools arising in Observerland ... the buildings in Farmington and Plymouth.

Another fall to match the past one as far as prep football was concerned in Observerland. Remember that we had a flock of champions ... Redford Union (co-kings in the Suburban Six), Garden City East (co-champs in the Mid-West), perfect Tverston (king in the North-west Suburban), Stevens (champs in the Inter-Lakes) and St. Agatha (divisional winners and runnersup for the Catholic League Second Division fall).

More teenagers with the courage of Livonia's Alice Wonnacott, who wins sports honors despite the fact she's a paraplegic.

More mothers and dads who support the high school programs.

AS FOR PREDICTIONS in 1970, forget 'em. No sense in our putting the hex on anybody.

But this promises to be another great year in all branches of sports, starting with the Little League kids up to the pros.

We already are assured more sports on television than ever before and that should upset a record number of households around the country.

After all, commencing next fall, we'll have regular Monday night pro football to go along with all the other football we now see on the tube over the weekend.

However, there's no way to argue against the sports boom. More people are turning out to watch games. More are turning out to participate themselves.

All of which is wonderful, especially when you're as fond as we are of sports.
Happy New Year!

Snowmobiles Add To Your Winter Fun

Snowmobiles are opening up new vistas of winter fun for thousands of snowbelt families, adding snow-cruising, hunting, ice fishing and ski-jumping to their list of winter recreational activities.

When snowmobiles were introduced to the United States at the start of this decade, few persons could have forecast the overwhelming public acceptance of these winter fun machines.

Today, snowmobiling has passed every other popular winter outdoor sport, and the snow-mustering vehicles are increasingly regarded as indispensable by many families.

In 1959-60, some 225 snowmobiles were sold by Bombardier, Ltd., which pioneered the field with its Ski-Doo machines. More than 225,000 snowmobiles are expected to be sold this winter, and will swell the total snowmobile population to nearly a million.

Vehicles retailing from \$699 to \$1,495 are available in appeal to young and old, daring and conservative. Bombardier, for example, offers models in four body styles with various engine sizes and an array of features pointed toward improved performance, quieter and safer operation, easier maintenance and more luxury.

The same dealers also sell accessories such as snowshoes, safety helmets, and goggles, which not only make snowmobiling easier and safer, but also are useful to all outdoor recreationists.

Dealers selling Ski-Doo snowmobiles carry a complete wardrobe of indoor and outdoor clothing.

The same dealers also sell accessories such as snowshoes, safety helmets, and goggles, which not only make snowmobiling easier and safer, but also are useful to all outdoor recreationists.

The "last period" blues proved too much for Garden City East and Thurston in the final night's action of the River Rouge Invitational basketball tournament.

Thurston booted away a three-point lead in the final

eight minutes and wound up a 71-66 loser against Inkster Robichaud.

Meanwhile, Garden City East saw Ecorse explode in the final four minutes to gain a 73-61 triumph in the battle for the consolation championship.

Robichaud turned loose a 27-point final period to overtake Thurston. The teams had been tied at 14-14 after one quarter and 30-30 at the half before Thurston went in front, 47-44, at three-quarters.

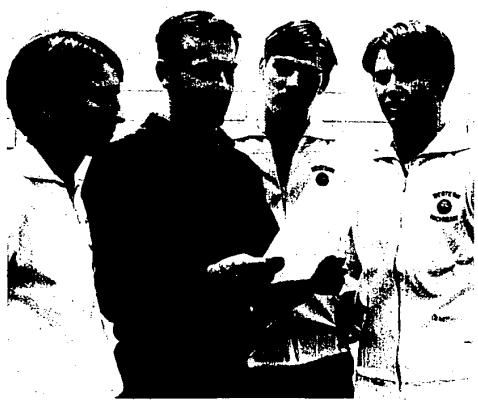
Jim Alverson knocked in 13 of his 19 points in the last period to lead Robichaud.

FOUR THURSTON players finished in double figures as the Townshipers failed to win in three tournament starts. John Keenan had 18 points, Paul Hayes and Gordon Eszes 12 apiece and Jeff Gillen 11.

East and Ecorse were tied at 31-31 after the half, but East pulled away to a 54-49 edge at three-quarters and was leading 57-55 in the last period when four quick Ecorse baskets turned the fortunes of battle against East.

The loss on fouls of Rod Shafer hurt East. He not only was East's top scorer when he departed with 20 points, but he also was the key man in controlling the ball for East.

Jeff DeHartre scored 17 points and Mike Miller 10 for East. Glen Wilkerson led Ecorse with 24.



THREE FORMER North Farmington High gymnasts are members of the Western Michigan University wrestling team. They are (from left) Dennis Spier, Coach Fred Orlafsky, Mark Kujawa and Rick Toohy. Spencer is a sophomore floor exercise specialist, freshman Kujawa works with the side horse and Toohy is a freshman competing in the rings and long horse events.

Cliff Keen Tourist Council In Final M Campaign Says Winter Is For Action

Cliff Keen, one of the giants in college wrestling, will retire after this season, his 45th at the University of Michigan.

Keen, who served on the football coaching staff of Fielding H. Yost, has guided Michigan wrestling teams to a record of 266-11-10. His teams have won 10 Big Ten championships.

Since wrestling became a varsity sport at Michigan in 1922, Keen has been in charge of all but eight of those teams. He was an intercollegiate wrestling champion at Oklahoma and is a member of the Wrestling Hall of Fame. He also was an outstanding high school football coach in Oklahoma before coming to Michigan.

In tribute to Keen, his fellow coaches have awarded the 1969-70 Big Ten wrestling championships to Michigan. They will be held in the Events Bldg., March 6-7.

Michigan could be a factor in those championships. The Wolverines again figure to be strong in the lighter weights with captain and Big Ten champ Lou Hudson (130 pounds), junior Tim Cech (123) coming off a 16-5-1 record, Jesse Rawls (167) who was 16-3-1 and Ty Belknap (126 or 134) who pinned all three foes in winning the freshman title last year.

Two other freshmen champions could help. Theron Harris (177), former Michigan prep champion at Ypsilanti, and football's Preston Henry (190) from Flint add strength to the heavier weights.

Pete Drehmann, a capable heavyweight who was unable to compete last season, is expected back this season, while Art Arbor freshman Rick Bolhouse will back him up.

Freshmen are eligible to compete in the Big Ten this season.

Snowbelt Shops Have Many Items

Many snowmobile dealers have shopping headquarters with winter clothing, outdoor recreational accessories, and other useful winter products on sale in addition to the popular snow machines.

Dealers selling Ski-Doo snowmobiles carry a complete wardrobe of indoor and outdoor clothing.

The same dealers also sell accessories such as snowshoes, safety helmets, and goggles, which not only make snowmobiling easier and safer, but also are useful to all outdoor recreationists.

The Michigan Tourist Council advises that one of the best times for winter vacations and armchair doldrums is to get out in the snow where the action is.

The new December-March Michigan Calendar of Events, now ready for distribution, lists more than one hundred Michigan community events, packing interest for spectators and participants alike.

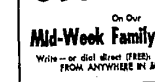
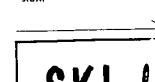
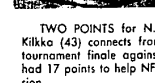
CARNIVALS and festivals are among the many other popular snow-season activities. Tip-Up-Town, U.S.A., Houghton Lake, Jan. 17-18, is a fun-filled tribute to ice fishing and includes contests and fishing competition. The Clare County Winter Sports Carnival, Clare-Harrison-Farwell, Jan. 28-30, boasts a variety of unique activities from square dancing on the ice to winter golf played in the snow.

Other festivals scheduled are the Winterfest, Bessemer, Dec. 26-28; Wacky-Winter-Weekend, Lewistown, Jan. 17-18; the Michigan Tech. Winter Carnival, Houghton-Farwell, Feb. 5-7, and the Spring Carnival, Sugarloaf Village, March 13-15.

For those who look for a respite from outdoor action, the calendar lists a pleasing variety of indoor shows and exhibitions, interspersing the snow sport listings are the Antiques Lecture, Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Dec. 12; the Auto-

rama, Cobo Hall, Detroit, Jan. 20-25; the Greater Michigan Boat Show, Fairport, Jan. 24-Feb. 1; the Boat Show, Grand Rapids, Feb. 16-21, and the International Indoor Open Archery Tournament, Cobo Hall, Detroit, March 20-22.

Copies of the Michigan Calendar of Events, listing community events from December through March, are available without charge from the Michigan Tourist Council, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, 48926.



January Autorama Scheduled

The 18th annual Autorama, world's biggest custom car and hot rod show, will be held in Cobo Hall for three days starting Friday, Jan. 23.

The annual show, co-sponsored by the Michigan Hot Rod Association and Promotions, Inc., attracts custom car builders throughout the nation.

The most imaginative one-of-a-kind creations will fill Halls A, B and C of Cobo Hall. Some 450 entries will set a new record this year.

Autorama offers something for everyone. Custom, rod, motorcycle, bicycle, antique, sports, hand-built, classic, drag, pickup, go-kart, Soap Box Derby and model car competition are among the categories.

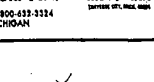
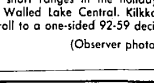
Many leading drag strip personalities, including TV Tommy Ivo and his cars, will be on hand. So will many of the nation's most exotic custom car builders with their latest creations.

A highlight will be the annual "Miss Autorama" contest, open to girls between 18 and 25 years of age. Entries may be made at Promotions, Inc., 1917 East Nine Mile Road, St. Clair Shores.

Top bands will be among the entertainment features. Autorama drew a record 98,203 spectators last year. More than 100,000 are expected this year. The show hours are 5 to 11 p.m. on Friday and from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Autorama is sanctioned by the International Show Car Association as part of the International Championship Auto Show series.

Big Sweep
Wayne State University won all four "Opening Contests" in new facilities on campus during 1968-69, copping the inaugurations in football, baseball, tennis and track.



Ski Heil

By "BILL" CAMERON

Check Bindings

If you are going to ski into 1970 with any degree of confidence and emerge unscathed it is probably because you've taken the time to check your release bindings to make sure they will release when you fall. If they don't, your chances of a broken bone or a bad sprain are increased greatly.

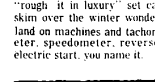
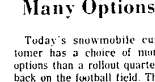
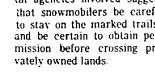
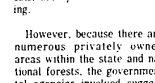
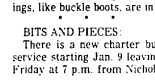
I take my skis and boots to a reputable ski shop at the beginning of each season to have them checked on the Lipé Release Check. This is a device developed by Gordon Lipé, one of the foremost authorities on ski bindings in the world. It is based on an individual's height, weight and skiing ability.

AS A BEGINNER you are going to fall quite often. Most accidents occur to beginners, but when you reach the intermediate stage and traveling at higher rates of speed you want to make darn sure you pop out of those bindings when you fall.

A case in point is Reggie Ray, 14151 Mayfield, Livonia. She called me from Mercy Hospital in Cadillac last week. While skiing at Caberfae, she took a tumble and suffered a double fracture of the left leg. She had been having trouble with her bindings and tightened them when she fell her bindings didn't release!

No binding, repeat, no binding is perfect, though some are better than others. My sons and I have Look Grand Prix heel and Marker toe units. My wife has Salomon bindings and my daughter Gaze. My old skis have cable bindings. There are as many types of bindings on the market as there are skis. Step-in bindings, like buckle boots, are in!

BITS AND PIECES:
There is a new charter bus service starting Jan. 9 leaving Friday at 7 p.m. from Nichols



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SKI TIPS



By Joy Stokan

Almost every ski area has a ski school offering class, semi-private, or private lessons. Class lessons are least expensive and for beginners often preferable to private lessons.

If it's your first time on skis, it's somewhat reassuring to see everyone else around you having exactly the same problems—standing up, stopping, and starting. Once you have learned to start, stop, turn, don't drop out of school. You want more than just to be able to get down a hill in one piece; the joy of skiing is to be able to get down a hill with speed and flair and in complete control. All of that takes lesson, patience, practice, and good equipment. At DJ's Ski Shop we offer the finest in ski equipment both in our rental program and our line of merchandise. Have a Happy New Year of skiing.

Many Options

Today's snowmobile customer has a choice of more options than a rollout quarterback on the football field. The "rough it in luxury" set can skim over the winter wonderland on machines and tachometer, speedometer, reverse, electric start, you name it.

DI's Ski Shop

27438 Joy Road at corner of Inkster GA 1-5163

JOY LUMBER COMPANY

15505 Beech Daly Road, KE 7-4480

STORE HOURS: Mondays - 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays - 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

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