

RU Star Hailed For Feats; Eagles Perfect On Gridiron

Morrison, Thurston Top '69 Sports

Good bye, 1969!

So long to many great sports feats and memories ... thrills and disappointments ... joyous moments and sad ones ... championships and failures.

As is customary as a 12-month span fades out, the Observer sports staff pauses to look back ... (1) on its own, (2) on the BIG sports stories that boomed through the state of Michigan.

LET'S START, first, with the stories closest to home — the "biggies" of 1969 in Observerland:

1—Redford Union's John Morrison, the premier hurdler in the state of Michigan ... a champion at league, regional and state levels ... a record holder, too. Then to cap his brilliant year, he went on to win in several national junior meets during the summer.



John Morrison

2—Thurston High's all-winning football season. Eight straight victories, a first in the school's history, and a final ranking among the Top Ten among the state's Class A teams.

3—Miss Alice Wonnacott, a coed at Wayne State University, who defies the fact she has been paralyzed from the waist down for many years. Contesting in paraplegic competition in the United States, in Europe and in South America, Miss Wonnacott covered herself not only with personal glory, but brought honors to Livonia, to Michigan and ... to her beloved country, as well.

4—The one-two brother punch that Garden City West produced in basketball during the first part of 1969. Dwayne and Rick Drewitz tormented rival after rival to wind up among



Craig Mutch

the area's finest eagles. Dwayne has departed the prep scene, but as 1969 checks out, Rick has to be the No. 1 player in Observerland and probably in all of the Detroit area, too. A good bet for all-state honors in March!

5—The march of St. Agatha High's football team. After tying in its season's opener, St. Agatha went on to win six straight and capture its divisional title in Catholic League action. Then St. Agatha won in the Second Division semifinals and reached the finals before finally being beaten in the battle for the divisional crown.

6—The comebacks of Garden City East and Redford Union Highs in football. Both lost their first three games, then bounced back to win four straight



Alice Wonnacott

in league play and emerge as co-titlists—Garden City East in the Mid-Wayne League, Redford Union in the Suburban Six League.

7—Thurston's Craig Mutch becoming the first Observerland prep football player in several years to win No. 1 All-State honors and St. Agatha's Mike Murphy winding up on the Class C all-state teams at the season ends.

8—The record-breaking seasons enjoyed first by the trotters and then by the runners at the Detroit Race Course in Livonia.

9—The surge of Livonia Stevenson High in sports ... championship finishes in basketball, baseball and football.

10—Clarenceville High's gymnastics team repeating as the state's champs.

11—Bentley High of Livonia losing its two top coaches in one swoop — George Fettes bowing out in basketball to become the school's athletic director, Larry Joiner ending as football coach to move to the new Churchill High as athletic director.

12—Establishing of a new area high school athletic league which will include Churchill, plus the new high schools being built in Plymouth and Farmington Township.

13—The decision of the Wolverine Raceway to stage trotting races on a mile, instead of a half-mile track effective with the 1970 season at the DRC oval.

14—Our Lady of Sorrows' Barry Walsh, one of the state's best wrestlers. The champ in Class C ranks.

15—Redford Township repealing as the Greater Livonia and State Free Press baseball champs and then doing well in the National All American Boys tournament at Johnstown, Pa.

16—Farmington Township's Sid Abel returning to his former job as coach of the Red Wings, while remaining as the team's general manager.

17—Livonia's Joe Sparma getting his wish and being traded away by the Tigers. He'll pitch next season for Montreal in the National League.

18—Bernie Carbo, another Livonian, who appears about ready to stick with the Cincinnati Reds of the National League next season.

19—Wayne Walker, still another Livonian and a prominent restaurateur and broadcaster, too, finishing a brilliant season for the Lions as a linebacker, although he has become one of the team's senior citizens. Age can't stop a great man, eh, Wayne?

20—The general dominance by Observerland high school teams in the leagues in which they participated ... further testimony to the fine calibre of athletes, coaches and programs in the area.

Unbeaten Raiders Tip Walled Lake In Finals

Take a bow, North Farmington—the 1969 champs of the Northwest Suburban Holiday basketball tournament.

Hardly the perfect hosts, the Raiders swept to three victories, the last two on their home court, and wound up with the title in the 12th annual meet, the oldest in the Detroit area by trouncing Walled Lake Central, 92-59, in Saturday night's finals.

Not only did North Farmington take three in a row in the meet, beating defending champion Southfield in overtime in the opener and then Bentley in the semifinals before clobbering Walled Lake, but the sweep also kept the Raiders unbeaten for the season.

They now have won six in a row as they prepare to swing into the 1970 portion of their schedule next week.

IT WAS strictly no contest, the finale between North Far-

mington and Walled Lake, well, at least after the first quarter.

The Lakers stayed fairly close in the first period, trailing, 18-12, as Drew Mahalik got North Farmington off on top with seven points.

Then the Raiders busted things apart in the second period with 23 points to nine for the Lakers.

Mahalik with 24 points was the top man for the winners while Ken Kilbuck scored 17.

In all, 11 of the 14 men who saw service for Coach Dick Wilson's Raiders broke into the scoring column.

Rick Herpich had 10 along with Mike Goss. Doug Gilmore scored eight, Craig Dube five, Steve White, Jay Talis, Tom Driggs and Dave Peterson four apiece and Scott Raschke two.

The tournament drew an overall record crowd, Director Jack Cotten announced. More

than 1,100 turned out for the championship game.

TWO OBSERVERLAND teams—Redford Union and Stevenson—triumphed while two others—Bentley and Farmington—lost in the other games at North Farmington on the final day of action.

Here's the way it went:

R. Union 86 Farmington 68

Despite a brilliant tournament gained a 41-35 halftime edge over Redford Union, but then Dennis Genge exploded for RU in the third period and the Townshippers took command and held it.

Genge whipped in 32 points, getting 11 in the third period when RU outscored Farmington, 28-13.

Randy Taylor contributed 13 points to the winners' cause. STEVENSON 82, SOUTHFIELD 74.

Balanced scoring with four men striking in double figures along with spectacular rebounding enabled Stevenson to finish strong.

It was Stevenson's second win in three tourney games and boasted the Livonians' overall record to 6-1 for the season.

Stevenson reached the half, clinging only to a 37-36 lead, as Stevenson by only a 58-54 edge at three quarters, but when John Jettich and Paul Van Wagoner led a scoring burst that put things out of reach and tumbled last year's tournament winners.

Rusty Gregg shot in 19 points for the winners, while Ted Exarchos had 17 along with John Jettich. Mike Swift was right behind with 16.

Exarchos and Gregg were just as brilliant in the rebounding department with 18 and 17, respectively.

Scott Miller had 16 for Southfield. BERKLEY 70, BENTLEY 63.

The fourth period told the story. Berkley had the finishing power. Bentley didn't.

Bentley trailed, 36-33, at the half, but shot ahead, 51-48, at the three-quarter mark when Lou Lovett led an uprising with six points.

But Gary Pfeister retaliated with three quick Berkley baskets in the final period and Berkley rolled along to win by seven points.

Individual honors went to Bentley's Tom Goulioupe with 26 points. He flipped in seven baskets and added 12 from the foul line. Lovett followed with 14 points.

Both Bill Placeway and Pfeister had 17 apiece for Berkley.

THE SEMIFINALS

In the semifinal round, it was North Farmington in a walkover by Berkley, 88-57, while Walled Lake Central had too much for Bentley, 75-60.

There never was much doubt about the North Farmington-Berkley game. The Raiders rushed ahead, 30-4, in the first period, capitalizing on 10 turnovers by their opponents.

Continued on Page 28

Schembechler's Success At M Leads '69 List



Bo Schembechler

STATE'S TOP STORIES

1—Bo Schembechler, taking over at the University of Michigan, and leading the Wolverines to a share of the Big Ten title, following the No. 1 upset of the year—a romp over Ohio State. Now the Wolverines are primed to beat Southern California on Thursday in the Rose Bowl.

2—The fall of the Tigers. After winning the American League pennant and the World Series in 1968, the Tigers slid to second in the new Eastern Division in 1969. But, it was a distant second behind Baltimore and long before the season even reached the halfway mark, it was evident the Tigers were out of contention.

3—Spencer Haywood, after a brilliant sophomore season, capping a series of catastrophes for University of Detroit Basketball Association, despite the fact he still had two years left in college play. Meantime, the Titans fired Bob Cainan, their longtime cage coach, and following many difficulties finally came up with Jim Harding as his successor.

4—The upsurge of the Great Lions. From an also-ran the year before, the Lions

emerged as a major threat for conference honors. They won nine games, lost four and tied one ... their best record since 1963 ... and now just about everybody is convinced the Lions will make a big run for the title honors in '70 provided they don't have any two-quarterback problems created by the presence of Bill Munson and Greg Landry.

5—The tragic death of John Bennington following a heart attack after developing Michigan State into a Big Ten basketball powerhouse and after landing Ralph Simpson, one of the great sophomore sensations in the country today.

6—The Michigan Golf Classic, a fiasco. When the tournament was over, there was no money to pay the players. Meantime, sponsors of the annual Buick Open announced they were dropping out of hosting the touring golf pros. All of which means that Michigan appears "dead" as a major golf center for the next few years at least.

7—The success story of auto racing at the new Michigan International Speedway. Despite bad weather for most of the races, crowds from 50,000 up turned out to watch the best in the world speed their way to honors.

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