

## Lions' Skladany finds a way to aid United Way

By M.S. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Detroit Lion punter Tom Skladany gets a genuine kick out of helping others.

He said it all began back in the mid-70s, when he played football under Ohio State University's Woody Hayes — a coach sometimes better remembered for hitting than helping others.

Skladany began frequenting hospitals, attending benefits and donating his time to various charities before being drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the second round in 1977.

Recently, the 28-year-old pledged \$100 for each punt he lands inside the

opposition's 20-yard line during the upcoming football season. The money will go towards a fund Skladany established for multiple sclerosis (MS) research.

The 6-foot, 195-pound Skladany last season booted 21 punts past the 20-yard line.

Last week, Skladany and his wife, Debbie, donated a full day to United Way of America to film a 60-second television spot at the Farmington YMCA and at Detroit's Renaissance Center.

The public service announcement will air throughout the 1982 football season during \$30 million worth of air time donated by the National Football League.

"I started doing a lot of charity work at Ohio State with Woody, and I've let the Lions know that I'm available anytime there's a benefit or when we're asked to do hospital visits," said the affable Skladany during a filming break at the Y.

"It gives me a chance to give something back to the community."

The Pittsburgh native began fundraising efforts for multiple sclerosis three months ago in an effort to do something for a friend afflicted with MS, which affects the central nervous system.

"We don't really have a set goal — I'd like to get \$1 million," Skladany said with a smile. "We've already got

\$12,000 committed, and that came before we really got under way."

"I'll be giving \$100 per punt, and I'm challenging all corporate executives and wealthier people to match me," said the Lion, whose 64 punts last season tallied 2,784 yards.

"I usually make 15 or 20 punts inside the 20 every season, so that's about \$2,000."

To further publicize his crusade, Skladany plans to conduct a statewide mailing, purchase newspaper advertising, and place a clip-out coupon in Pro Magazine, the program sold by the Lions at home games.

"The coupon will have boxes where people can check the amount they're willing to give per punt — so everyone can participate."

"We'll definitely have a box marked other, and maybe someone will be real generous and fill \$200 or \$300 in there," said Skladany, whose wife gave birth to the couple's first-born, daughter Erin Leigh six months ago. "We also want to promote this with banquets and a golf tournament."

**DAY CARE CENTERS** — the topic of the United Way television spot — also deserve strong public support, Skladany said.

"Our baby will be in the TV spot, which will emphasize that children add new responsibilities for active working parents. Day care centers like this (the Farmington Y) can get kids involved in many programs which allow their par-

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Debbie and Tom Skladany get accustomed to the teleprompter while filming a television spot on the need for day care centers at the Farmington Y.



It was a warm morning under the lights for United Way film director Mario Pellegrini who wiped the sweat from his brow more than once during the all-day filming session.



The Skladanys find out why a 60-second TV spot takes all day to film.

## INSIDE ANGLES

**THE LILT OF IRISH** laughter could be heard in Farmington recently as a pair of Belfast-born sisters reunited after 13 years. Although Sara Adley Chalmers of Farmington visited Annie Adley Williams of Londonderry in Ireland little more than a decade ago, the two still are becoming acquainted. Sarah left Northern Ireland in 1919 when Annie was just 10 years old to marry Sam Chalmers at New York's Little Church Around the Corner and settle in Detroit. With a brother, the two are the only survivors of a family of 15.

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS** track team wrapped up a successful 4-1 season by capturing the Catholic Youth Organization city championship at Grosse Pointe South High School recently. The Sorrows squad, first in the school's history to become city champions, outdid competition from 18 other schools. Sorrows shot-putter Dan Parillo outdistanced the opposition with a 44-foot, 3-inch toss. Teammate Lynn Looser won the 800-meter run (2:34.8), while Ann Howard took runner-up honors in the shot put (28.1).

**FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** revs up for its first benefit auction with a call for donations to go up on the auction block Friday, July 16. Already donated are several vacation weekends, a host of dinners at various local restaurants, sports equipment, facials, hair stylings and housecleaning. If you can sing at a wedding, loan out your condo, make a flower arrangement, give some season tickets, the center needs your special talents, services and items for the live auction from the amphitheater on the center grounds.

**TOM SHURTLEFF** sure would like his black briefcase returned. Seems some thieves broke into his automobile and absconded with the case, which contained some firefighting manuals — which are valuable to Tom but of little value to anyone else. If you know anything about these materials or the briefcase, call him at home, 474-7183, or work 851-7255. He doesn't want to make a big deal out of it, he just wants his stuff back.

**TOUGHLOVE**, a group of parents who give moral support to each other during family/adolescent crises, meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington City Hall council chambers on Grand River, just west of Farmington Road.

**MICHIGAN FAMILIES** are needed immediately to host French boys and a few girls who want to spend July experiencing the American life-style. Those interested in participating in this program should call Evelyn and Julian Prince at 626-6541. The couple are area coordinators for the North Atlantic Cultural Exchange League in this area. Families don't have to speak French to be a host family, since the French students have had from four to eight years of English language study. French parents supply their children with pocket money and pay for their transportation and insurances. The program organizers match students with prospective families according to general interests and specific activities they would like to participate in.

**"MACBETH" IS COMING** to the Oakland Community College with curtain being June 18 and running for two weekends. Curtain time will be 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays with a twilight performance Sundays at 6 p.m. The theater is at Seventh and Center in Royal Oak. Starring in this year's production are Don Johannes, playing the title role. Lady Macbeth will be portrayed by Nancy Arnold. Others in the play are Jim Lisacki, Henry McWilliams, Marvin Noehman, Jack Turner, Stephen Skrzycki, Christine Galloway, Gerry Cole and Irene Zagar.

**LET'S HEAR IT FOR Stan Ruby** of Farmington Hills, who was the Division III leader in the recent Leelanau Challenge foot race (25 kilometer). Ruby ran the course in 1:33:19. The Division III is for persons 36 years old and older. Leaves the rest of us without much of an excuse.

**MEMBERS OF the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church** will be having a celebration of the one-of-a-kind variety on June 20. They will gather to burn the land contract mortgage — always a happy occasion for a church. On hand will be the Rev. Stephen Anthony, Holy Cross parish priest. He will be assisted in the burning duties by Chris Rafail, president of the parish council, and Maria Poniros, president of the Holy Cross Ladies Auxiliary. A luncheon hosted by the parish council and the Ladies Auxiliary will follow the event.

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