

Michigan football coaches jump on 'Paddy'-wagon

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

West Bloomfield High's loss was Orchard Lake St. Mary's gain. Ultimately it became Crivello-Brandon's gain, too.

It was 1972, and West Bloomfield had a new rule for its coaches: only one major sport per coach. Art Paddy was 54 then and an institution at West Bloomfield — after all, he had coached the varsity football team for 16 years, and he taught physics and American history, too. It didn't seem like any big deal to give up coaching the basketball team.

But it was a big deal to Paddy. A proud man, he didn't like the idea of the basketball team being taken away from him.

"I got into some problems with the administration," he says simply, "and I resigned."

He remained to teach another nine years at the school, but he took his coaching talents to St. Mary's, where he won a state football title in his five-year stint, and then to Brandon, where in two years he has turned around an

anemic gridiron program.

Paddy, whose coaching career began in Cass City in 1946, is 65 now. He retired two years ago as a teacher, but as a coach, he is going strong. Brandon finished 7-2 in football in the North Oakland Activities Conference last season, giving him about 180 wins in his career. Not even Paddy knows for sure.

Paddy will be inducted Saturday as one of the first 30 coaches to be selected to the new Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor. Maybe West Bloomfield should have let him be the exception to its rule, after all.

IT IS TYPICAL of Paddy that he tries to downplay his selection. "It's a nice honor," he said from his home near Commerce, "but when you stay in coaching for 20 years or more, it's going to be practically automatic."

"Art's excited about it," explains Don Livedott, the current West Bloomfield football coach who was on the panel that selected Paddy. "But you have to know Art. He doesn't want a lot of attention. It's a big deal, but he

doesn't want everybody acting like it."

The induction for Paddy and the other 29 coaches — you had to coach at least 20 years or have at least 100 wins to be eligible — will be at the first annual Hall of Fame banquet at Crisler April 9.

The guest speaker will be none other than Woody Hayes, the frascible former head coach at Ohio State. Introducing Hayes will be Bo Schembechler, the current U-M coach who played for Hayes, coached under him, then went against him at Michigan in one of sports' great rivalries ever.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be obtained by sending a check made out to Hall of Fame Banquet to Tom Fagan, 3540 Galpin, Ann Arbor, MI, 48105.

Paddy has been a head coach every year since 1946, 37 seasons in all. Only during a five-year stint at Bay City Central was he not a varsity football coach, and then he was head basketball coach and junior varsity gridiron coach.

DESPITE ALL the good teams, despite the big games and tough races

over the years, it takes Paddy just a second to come up with his best football squad — the 1977 St. Mary's team that won the state title — and his favorite game — a 20-19 triumph over Royal Oak. Shrine that kept his '77 squad alive in the state tourney.

In basketball, it's also no contest. Best team? His '69-70 team at West Bloomfield, which went to the semifinals of the state tourney.

Of all his athletes, one stands out. "Jim Paciorek from Orchard Lake," said Paddy of a baseball player who starred for him in football and played some as a defensive back at U-M. "He's now in the Boston Red Sox chain. I never had anyone make it in the majors, or play major college, but I did have a lot who played for Albion, colleges like that."

Though Kathy Crowley, his boss at Brandon, has been athletic director for just a year, she is quick to praise him.

"I haven't worked with him that long, but I think he's a great guy," she said. "We hadn't had a winning football team in a lot of years."

They didn't Paddy's first year, either, but the next? 7-2. The stuff halls of fame are made of.



photo by Deborah Booker

Former Orchard Lake St. Mary's and West Bloomfield high school football coach Art Paddy will be inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame this weekend.

LaFountain sparkles at advanced gym meet

Kristin LaFountain of the Farmington Gymnastics Club finished first all-around in the Junior Division of the recent United States Gymnastics Federation Advanced Level State Meet.

LaFountain finished first on bars, beam and floor exercises, and fourth on the vault for an all-around score of 72.95. Heide Brady of the Bloomfield Hills Acronauts was second all-around with a score of 71.65. Her lone first-place finish was on the vault, where she performed the difficult "Toukara" vault with a full twist.

Other performers in the Junior Division of the meet, hosted by The Gym Company of Grand Rapids, included Acronauts Ruth Aguayo (fifth all-around), Kristin O'Reilly (ninth all-around) and Mary Beth Susek (10th all-around).

In the Senior Division, Acronaut Marie Bandrowski was third all-around. Karen Phillips (Farmington Gymnastics Club), Dini Cook (Acronauts) and Ingrid Raska (FSC) finished sixth, seventh and eighth, respectively.

Dana Dobransky of the Acronauts was second all-around in the Children's Division. She was first in both vault and bars and second on both beam and floor exercises.

All the aforementioned gymnasts are qualified for the United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF) Regional Championships April 16 and 17 in Louisville, Ky.

"This was the best state meet ever. The girls performed highly difficult routines with very few errors," said Acronaut coach Steve Whitlock. "The Michigan qualifiers to the regional championships should represent our state very well."

"I look to see several of the Michigan gymnasts earn the right to the national championships in Colorado Springs at the Olympic Training Center," he said.

● **TIGERS 'N' TUX**
Ernie Harwell, Vince Desmond and other persons and players associated with the Detroit Tigers Baseball Club will make a special appearance April 16 at Tony Roma's in West Bloomfield.

The Tigers 'N' Tux evening starts at 7 p.m. and will run for approximately three hours. There will be an open bar and gourmet buffet.

Cost is \$60 per person, payable to Junior World Series Inc.

For further information, call 562-6810.

● L.I.T. FUN RUN

A 10-kilometer Fun Run will be conducted April 23 in conjunction with the Lawrence Institute of Technology's Open House.

The race, sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at L.I.T. (SCAIC), begins 10:30 a.m. Registration will be from 9-10 a.m. There is a \$6 registration fee. The race starts at the School of Architecture.

sport shorts

Building. It will be a fund-raiser for the SCAIC. There will be five different racing divisions with a plaque awarded to the top finisher in each division.

● OLYMPIC ICE TRYOUTS

Open tryouts for the 1994 United States Olympic Hockey team are slated for April 15-17 at the Berkeley Ice Arena and Community Center.

Players must be pre-registered, at least 17 years old and a United States Citizen. Olympic officials are interested in Division I, II and III college players, and Junior A & B, Elite Midget and high school players.

Tryouts will be from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. April 16 and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 17. Assessment drills will take place the first day and a scrimmage will be held for the players who are called back for the second day.

For further information, call 357-2510 or 358-5597 and ask for Sam Greenblatt.

● JUNIOR OLYMPIC SWIM MEET

More than 750 youngsters participated in the recent Michigan Short Course Swim Championships at the 1983 Junior Olympic Swim Meet held at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The meet, sponsored by McDonald's, is considered one of the state's top events. A total of 107 youngsters are now qualified for the Short Course Championship Meet.

"The meet was a huge success. We accomplished more than we had set out to do," said George Kranz, meet director and member of the Michigan Stargay Swim Association.

"Our turnout of 750 youngsters was twice what we expected," he said. "The atmosphere for the event and the difficult level of competition challenged the swimmers."

● PLATFORM TENNIS

Today is the entry deadline for the second annual American Platform Tennis Association (APTA) Michigan public tournament scheduled for April 16 at the Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex.

The complex offers four platform tennis courts and is one of the three public facilities in the state that feature platform tennis.

The tournament consists of a men's intermediate division event and is open to all regular or limited members of the APTA.

For more tournament information, call 858-4948.

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