

Livonia's Hall pressing for starting QB spot

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(BCC)

By C.J. Rissak
staff writer

The comparisons are inevitable. The only quarterback to take the Wolverines all the way to a Rose Bowl victory in Bo Schembechler's regime at University of Michigan was not a hard-running option-style player such as Rick Leach or Dennis Franklin. It was a gimpy-kneed signal caller who didn't possess a particularly strong arm, but who was accurate enough and a strong enough leader to drive the Wolverines to their only Rose Bowl win.

Steve Smith succeeded Wangler and, at the outset 1983 Michigan football season, he is the favorite to start there again.

BUT THIS YEAR things could change. Just maybe. That's because a Wangler-type quarterback nearly rescued Michigan last year in the Rose Bowl. Indeed, this quarterback, whose playing career to that point consisted of 14 passes, came off the bench when Smith was separated from both reality and his shoulder and brought the Wolverines close to victory.

Until that game, few of even the

most diehard Michigan fans had ever heard of Dave Hall. After it, many wondered where he had been all season. Hall, a Livonia Stevenson graduate, hopes that performance was not overlooked by the coaching staff. He believes he deserves a shot at the No. 1 spot.

"I think by playing in the Rose Bowl (Schembechler's confidence in me has risen)," Hall said Saturday during Michigan's press day. "I was told that whoever was playing best at the time will play."

THAT MEANS that Smith, who an-

guished through an up-and-down season a year ago, may not be as secure this time around. There's a solid replacement waiting for a shot.

All this stirs memories of the not-so-distant past, when a quarterback better known for passing than running first made an impression by coming off the bench to rescue the Wolverines.

That's right — Wangler. "I've thought about that a lot," Hall said. Like Wangler, Hall's style is that of a classic drop-back, pocket-passing quarterback. Both have also suffered knee problems. Hall has just recovered from arthroscopic surgery to flush out loose cartilage.

"When we won the Rose Bowl I was a freshman," Hall recalled. "Since then, I've tried to pattern myself after (Wangler)."

"Players respected him. He worked hard coming back from his knee injury in the Gator Bowl. I'd like to do some of the same things, be able to come in and provide a spark."

BUT HALL, a 6-4, 205 pounder in junior season in eligibility, believes he can do much more than come in off the bench. The confidence he displayed in last January's Rose Bowl is a part of his basic makeup. "I'm shootin' for (a starting post)," he said. "I'd be selling myself short if I

didn't. "I really wasn't that surprised that I played well in the Rose Bowl. I was nervous, of course. But I was ready. I went out (to Pasadena) with the attitude that if my chance came I'd be ready to play."

For now, game experience and style are all that separate Smith and Hall. Smith is the better runner, but he's not as big and doesn't throw as well as Hall.

"I thought I improved in spring," Hall estimated. "What I need to develop is how to react in game situations and my footwork. I worked hard on my throwing over the summer."

sport shorts

Suburban covets 'B' metro title

Suburban Softball of Rochester won the Metro Detroit Class B women's state slo-pitch softball championship over the weekend.

Defense was dominant for the Suburban Softball team as it allowed only one run in the double-elimination tournament which was played at the Suburban Softball complex near M-59 and Crooks in Avon Township.

Suburban Softball is now qualified for the national class B tournament that will be played Sept. 3, 4 and 5 in Hamilton, Ohio.

Manager Dee Geogor's team played in the Class B League in Oak Park where it posted a 24-7 overall record.

Suburban Softball also participated in Royal Oak's All-Star week where it defeated the Royal Oak women's all-star team, 10-5.

"Our team is really special," said Kathy Schiede, one of the team's players. "We're proud of our reputation for sportsmanship and we work at maintaining that image right along with practicing softball."

The average age of Suburban Softball is 25 years. A number of team members have been playing together since their days in the Birmingham Covington League seven years ago when they were known as the Toyotas.

Members of the team from the Eccentric coverage area includes: Sally Burger (Franklin); Marilyn Carr (Southfield); Karen Crawfis (Franklin); Mo Dietlers (Rochester); Kris Fortner (Troy); Dee Geogor (Birmingham); Beth Miller (Bloomfield Hills); Moe Murphy (Troy); Rita Snow (Rochester); Lori Weinstein (Southfield).

SOMERSET TENNIS

The Somerset Tennis Club of Troy conducted its Championship Singles Tournament over the weekend at the Somerset Park Apartments.

The tournament, directed by John Laux, included 120 men and women players who competed in eight separate tournaments ranging in playing ability. The highest-caliber players were given a 4.0 rating.

Here are the winners:
MEN'S 4.0 DIVISION: Dave Reed (Royal Oak) defeated Don Pierce (Birmingham), 7-5, 2-6, 2-1 (retired due to injury).
WOMEN'S 4.0 DIVISION: Kathy Milczarski (Detroit) defeated Fely Bassi (Troy).
MEN'S 3.5 DIVISION: Joe Thilman (Troy) defeated Ron Bernstein (Troy), 6-1, 6-7 (10-8), 7-6 (7-4).
WOMEN'S 3.5 DIVISION: Laurel McCain (Royal Oak) defeated Sharon Ulmer (Rochester), 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

MEN'S 3.0 DIVISION: Ken Kucharek (Sterling Heights) defeated George Ashley (Troy), 6-3, 6-2.
WOMEN'S 3.0 DIVISION: Marilyn Danko (Royal Oak) defeated Pam Lim (Warren).

MEN'S 2.5 DIVISION: Andy Hiranandani (Troy) defeated Mark Oles (West Bloomfield), 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5).
WOMEN'S 2.5 DIVISION: Jan Andrews (Rochester) defeated Linda Childs (Royal Oak).

MIDWESTERN BOWLING

"Sam" Okopy of Rochester won her second Midwestern Women's Bowlers title over the weekend in the Ladies Tournament Association's tourney over the weekend at Pioneer Lanes in Utica.

Okopy, third after eight games of qualifying, won the step-ladder finals over Alice Walder, 205-168. Okopy defeated Betty Jones and Julie Zimmerman in her previous matches.

Rochester's Cheri Nill finished fifth in the qualifying matches and lost to Zimmerman, 190-129, in the first of the four step-ladder final matches.

NEW OU COACH

Oakland University athletic director Paul Hartman announced the appointment of Mary Ellen Wydan as head women's swimming coach to succeed Mark Johnston who resigned this past season.

Wydan, 23, who also will have coaching responsibilities with the Oakland Live Yers swimming club, comes to OU from the University of North Carolina where she was assistant coach for the men's and women's teams.

"We're extremely pleased with Mary Ellen's decision to accept our offer to coach in the Oakland University women's swimming program," Hartman said. "We're confident in her ability to maintain and develop the program to an even higher level."

Last season, the Pioneers were fifth in the NCAA Division II standings, and third the year before.

Wydan, a three-time prep all-American in Pennsylvania, swam at Penn State University and the University of Delaware. She graduated from Delaware in 1981.

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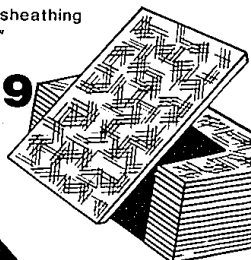
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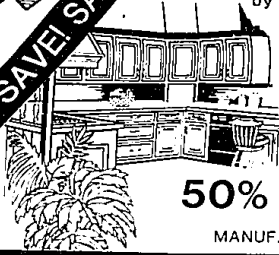
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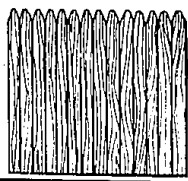
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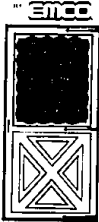
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