

# 'Welcome Football' For Observerland Preps

Welcome, high school football. Around Observerland, and throughout the Lower Peninsula, the preps will be kicking off on their 1988 gridiron campaigns this weekend. There'll be a few exceptions, notably the members of the Detroit Public School League which won't get started until a week hence. In Observerland, the opening schedule presents several interesting "area" struggles. Like John Glenn invading Garden City West, or—Like Farmington visiting

Like Northville engaging Plymouth at Plymouth, or—Like Redford Union going to Stevenson. . . . IN ALL, there now are 16 high school football teams in Observerland with the new Livonia Churchill and Redford Township Bishop Borgess the two "ables." Bishop Borgess actually got started last season and played a reserve schedule. But now the school has been tossed into the strong First Division—West in the Catholic League and must go against some

mighty rivals despite the fact Borgess will field a team comprised of ONLY tenth and eleventh graders. There'll be no twelfth graders at Borgess until the fall of 1989. As for Churchill, the school's building still isn't completed. For the present, Churchill students will attend Franklin, but Churchill will be Churchill none the less—its own administration, its own teams, its own uniforms, its own coaches. But Churchill will play home games on the Franklin field. AS A STARTER, Churchill will play both varsity and Junior Varsity teams and at the moment, only a five-game schedule has been arranged. Hopefully, two or three more games will be added. As a starter, too, Churchill will have only tenth graders. By next year, the school will

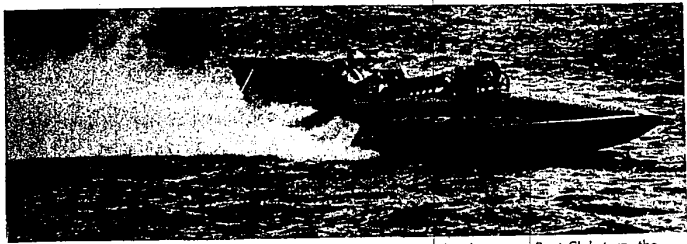
expand to include 11th graders. There'll be no seniors on the team or in the school until September, 1990. The new prep season dawns with new coaches at Churchill, as well as Franklin, Redford Union and Farmington. Ken Kestner has been promoted from the junior high ranks in Livonia to take over at Churchill. At Franklin, George Lovich has been moved up from assistant under Bentley (now Churchill athletic director) to guide the varsity. Similarly, Bob Atkins at Redford Union and Dick Dwyer at Farmington have been promoted from assistants to serve as head coaches.

## Death Claims Third Gold Cup Driver

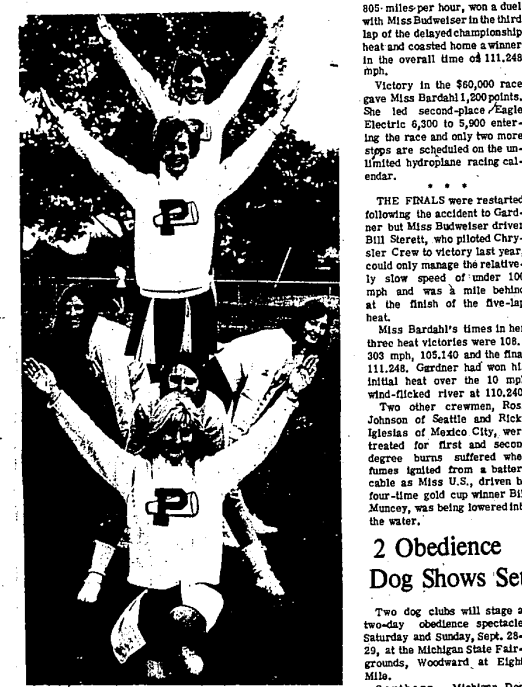
For the third time, death has struck the Gold Cup boat race, on the Detroit River—Col. Warner Gardner, who was critically injured when his craft flipped Sunday, died at 4:10 p.m. Monday. He joined Chuck Thompson (1966) and Bob Hayward (1961) on the list of dead in the nation's top boat race. Gardner was driving Eagle Electric in the fifth elimination heat when the boat spun and flipped. The craft was speeding at more than 185 mph at the time. Two years ago in the Gold Cup boat race on the Detroit River, Chuck Thompson was killed. Another tragedy rode the waters of the Detroit River in Sunday's renewal of the classic event. Lt. Col. Warner Gardner in Eagle Electric, spun and flipped on the fifth elimination heat. His boat broke up and sank and Gardner was flushed out of the water in critical condition. He was rushed to the Detroit General Hospital.



MISS BARDAHL zips across finish line to win championship heat in fatal Gold Cup boat race on Detroit River. The fast-moving hydroplane had lengths to spare on competition in the final lap of the nation's biggest boat race.



MISS EAGLE ELECTRIC, guided by Col. Warner Gardner, was moving along smoothly when snapped by Observer's Vince Wittek on fifth lap. Then after making this turn and while



GO ROCKS GO!! Ready to cheer the Plymouth High footballers to victory in the season opener Friday against Northville are these members of the varsity cheerleading squad. They are: (top to bottom) Judy Allen, Patty Parmenter, Mary Ann Smith, and Marcia Clum; (left) Karleen Fluckey; and (right) Kathy Sibbold.

## OBERVER Sports News

### Advise Tiger Fans To Wait And See

Patience! There's all Mr. or Mrs. Average Fan, who wants to order World Series tickets to watch the Tigers against the St. Louis Cardinals, can do. Some time next week, the Tigers will issue instructions on how to purchase such seats. Until the announcement comes, Mr. and Mrs. Fan just can sit or stand or relax—satisfactorily. "We'll let everybody know as soon as possible," Hal Middleworth, the Tigers' director of public relations said. MEANTIME, the Tigers have issued notices to season ticket holders on how they can get their Series tickets. Each season ticket holder may re-order the seats they have occupied during the season and also get one extra in the reserved seat section for each season ticket they hold. In short, a company with eight season tickets get a total

## This Week's Games

- FRIDAY**  
Redford Union at Stevenson, 4 p.m.  
Whitmore Lake at Clarenceville, 8 p.m.  
Farmington at Bentley, 7:30 p.m.  
Northville at Plymouth, 8 p.m.  
Glenn at Garden City West, 8 p.m.  
North Farmington at Pontiac Northern, 8 p.m.
- SATURDAY**  
Riverside at Garden City East, 8 p.m.  
Clarenceville at Farmington, 2 p.m.  
Cherry Hill at Thurston, 2 p.m.
- SUNDAY**  
St. Agatha at St. Francis Xavier, 2:30 p.m.  
St. Francis de Sales vs. Our Lady of Sorrows at Farmington High, 2:30 p.m.

## Livonia Pilot Winner

Lee Scott of Livonia won the Buckeye 100-mile auto race in Columbus, O., withstanding a series of problems caused by the fact one fifth of the race was run under a yellow flag. Scott's time wasn't recorded. Neither was anybody else's. The official clock broke down. Met Kenyon, the national mid-level auto champ, placed second with Sam Session of Nashville, Mich., third. Eighteen racers started.

## AS THE SEASON begins, most area coaches appear to face the same problems—LACK OF DEPTH. Most schools were hit hard by graduation and unless they can come up with reserves to augment their starters, they could be in trouble should injuries arise.

Swinging around, it would appear that Bentley will be its usual mightily self in the Suburban Six League. Coach Larry Joiner has a fine offense and shouldn't be bad on defense. Thurston looks like the team to beat in the Northwest Suburban League, but there can be no discounting of either Glenn or Franklin, the 1987 co-champs.

Stevenson and Farmington should find Walled Lake too mighty again in the Interlakes Conference, while Garden City East and Garden City West figure to make strong bids, respectively, in the Mid-Wayne and Tri Rivers loops, respectively.

CLARENCEVILLE could leave the basement in the Wayne—Oakland, while St. Agatha may take it all in the Catholic League's Southwest Division. At Sorrows, they're rebounding for the Catholic Northwest race, and when it comes to Bishop Borgess, this will be the year of building character.

In the weekend openers, here's the way the experts figure the outcomes: Stevenson over Redford Union, Clarenceville at Whitmore Lake, Bentley over Farmington, Northville over Plymouth, Glenn over Garden City West, Pontiac Northern over North Farmington, Garden City East over Riverside, Franklin over Romulus, Thurston over Churchill, St. Agatha over St. Francis Xavier and Sorrows over St. Francis de Sales.

## Vikings Set For Chargers

The Ypsilanti Vikings, a semi-pro football team and member of the Midwest Football League, now sponsored by the Willow Run Band and Orchestra Boosters, have four more home games scheduled this season at the Willow Run High Field. Coming up are games with Hamtramck, Saturday, Sept. 21; Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 25, and Pontiac, Oct. 26. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Half-time entertainment Sunday will be a country and western show starring Tommy Ingram's quartet and featuring vocalists Judy and Gwen Leonard. Season tickets are available at the gate for \$6 for remainder of the season (four games). A \$10 season ticket may be purchased and used to bring in guests. Regular ticket price is \$2 per game, student rate is \$1 and children under 12 get in free.

## Bentley Ticket Sale To Close

Fans have until Thursday to purchase season football tickets at Bentley High. Students will pay \$2.50 and adults \$4. The regular price at the gate for all fans will be \$1.50 for each game. The first three passes that Wayne State University end Jim Kooze caught as a varsity sophomore in 1987 went for touchdowns.

## Famed Damascus Chases Off Michigan Mile Opposition

Detroit and Michigan racing fans will have an opportunity to see one of the greatest thoroughbreds in racing history Saturday in the 20th running of the \$300,000 added Michigan Mile at the Detroit Race Course. Actually the stake, for three year olds and up, is over a distance of a mile and an eighth. Damascus, the 1987 Horse of the Year, arrived at the track, located at the intersection of Middle Belt and Schoolcraft Roads in Livonia, Tuesday morning. He will test the mile oval at least twice before Saturday's big test. Although eluded over the prospect of bringing one of the nation's best to the Motor City, DRC officials were a bit dismayed over the thought that the appearance of Damascus will scare off other horses who may have entered had he not entered. Regardless, it is a real feather in the cap of DRC President William McKay and General Manager Frank Liddy to have a horse of such high caliber enter.

DAMASCUS POSTED his sixth victory in nine starts this season in the \$108,200 Aqueduct Stakes on Labor Day, defeating Meadowlark. More Scents by a length and a half while carrying 134 pounds. The brilliant four year old had captured the William DuPont and Brooklyn Handicaps in previous starts, topping his famed rival Dr. Fager in the latter event with an assist from stablemate Hovevar. Damascus has now earned \$1,130,761. However, the appearance of Damascus may hold the field down to as few as six entries since

many of those planning on entering decided to skip the stake rather than face the big handicap star. A. E. Heindhold's imported Maverick III, who was weighed with 118 pounds, is expected to be among those challenging Damascus. The South American invader boasts three victories since coming to the United States last winter. He had winning efforts in the Anniversary and the Mile Trial over the DRC strip. Others listed as probable starters are: More Scents, Yorkville, Abe's Hope and Big Rock Candy. IN THE 20 YEAR history of the state's richest racing stake, few of the big names have entered the winner's circle. Just two years ago, Stanislas, from the Michigan stable of M. H. Kerr, surprised by whipping highly favored Tom Rolfe at big odds. There was an outside chance that Mrs. Kerr would give Stanislas a chance to become the only two-time winner of the rich event—but when Damascus appeared on the scene, Stanislas was among the first considered definitely out of the race.

The Michigan Mile, which traditionally attracts one of the largest crowds of the entire season, is expected to draw as many as 30,000 this time—provided the weatherman smiles that day. The stake will go as the eighth race of the day and even with Damascus in the field, it is expected to have just as much drama as in the past. Post time for Saturday's first race is 2:15 p.m.

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