



(F10)

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Jim Hughes

Football addict needs quick fix

HELP. I NEED A fix. It's Jan. 3 in the year of George Orwell. It's the day after 18 hours of college football, and I need more.

I'm sitting in front of my video display terminal just staring at the screen. I'm waiting for Nebraska to successfully perform an on-side kick. I'm waiting for Triando Markay to step out of bounds in time to give kicker Bob Bergeron a chance at winning the Sugar Bowl for Michigan.

All I need is to hear a few more words from Keith Jackson or Dick Enberg, and I'll be fine. Just fine.

There's no consolation in the fact that the NFL Super Bowl playoffs remain. What's the sense watching when we already know there's no stopping the Washington Redskins. I need more games like the Hurricanes-Cornhuskers matchup.

I SHOULD have prepared for this day, because it was inevitable. But it's like saying you're going to start a diet on a certain day, but when that day comes, you're never been more hungry for fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and then a hot fudge sundae.

They say the first step in the quickest road to recovery is to admit you have a problem. OK, I'll admit it. I'm a college football-holic. There. I said it. What the heck, I even wrote it. Still, I don't feel cured. Or even on the right track for that matter.

I had a feeling I was afflicted with this disease last fall. Friends and colleagues were asking me, "What's wrong with you?" when, after working until 2:30 a.m. on a high school football Friday, I'd wake up four hours later with a smile on my face.

"Nothing's wrong," I'd reply. "I just saw a tremendous football game between Rochester and Bloomfield Hills Lahser last night: 21-20, what a game. Went right down to the wire. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got to get over to Farmington in time for the Harrison-Walled Lake Central game."

So off I'd go, radio in hand to hear how Central Michigan, Notre Dame, Michigan State and Michigan teams were doing, while I watched Harrison smoke Central — on my day off.

SHORTLY AFTER the high school season — and I want to take this time to thank Brother Rice for extending the season to 12 weeks — I was worried about my alleged ailment. It was then I was referred to a psychiatrist, Dr. Sue Gar Bowl. Our meeting went something like this:

Dr. Bowl: Mr. Hughes, let's get to the root of your problem. Why do you hate your father?

Me: Hate him? I love him. He taught me how to throw a football. And he explained the T-formation and the 5-2 defense. Heck, I was 16 years old before I stopped calling him coach.

Dr. Bowl: OK then, it must be your mother.

Me: Are you kidding. She was my biggest fan. Still is. She reads all my articles and says they're good. In fact, she talked my dad into getting cable.

Do you realize how many games I've seen on ESPN ...

Dr. Bowl: All right, then, let's trace you're roots. What nationality are you?

Me: Irish. Like the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

Dr. Bowl: Ah-ha. I think I'm seeing a pattern developing. Let's try a few tests. I'm going to show you some ink blots, and you tell me what image you visualize. What do you see here.

Me: That's Dave Yaremsa throwing footballs into the Notre Dame secondary. Boy, did he have a day. Single-handedly beat the Irish with his precision passing ...

Dr. Bowl: OK, enough. How about this one.

Me: Hmmm. Looks like Ricky Rogers busting off tackle. Yeah. That's it. But when you turn it on its side, it looks like an official signaling "Touchdown."

Dr. Bowl: How about a word association test. When I say a word, you about the first thing that comes to your mind. Let's start with some colors.

Blue.

Me: Michigan.

Dr. Bowl: Green.

Me: State.

Dr. Bowl: That's not working. How about animals. Dog.

Me: Georgia. How 'bout then Dawgs?

Dr. Bowl: Cat.

Me: Northwestern.

Dr. Bowl: Let me get your mind off the subject. Party.

Me: Tailgate.

Dr. Bowl: I know I'll get you on this one. Architecture.

Me: Golden Dome.

Dr. Bowl: All right, Mr. Hughes, that'll be all for today. I see we have a lot of work in front of us. I'm really booked through the weekdays, how about 1 p.m. Saturday?

Me: Saturday?

Dr. Bowl: How silly of me. Why don't you call me when you're available.

I haven't been back for my second appointment, but I think it's time. I'll start hurry, though, the Panthers open in a couple months.

Holland running a smooth ship



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

For 24 years, Ron Holland taught his lessons on the football field. Now he wears a suit and tie and makes his points as Farmington's athletic director.

For 24 years, Ron Holland was a head football coach. For 21 of those years, he was the head coach at North Farmington High School, where he compiled a 153-53-3 record. Holland's success earned him the Jim Crowley Award from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association as 1982 coach of the year. The award was a fitting climax to an illustrious coaching career. Last August, Holland resigned from coaching to become the Farmington Public School District athletic director, replacing the retiring Jack Cotton. Holland sat down with Observer sports editor Chris McCosky Tuesday to discuss his new position, the current condition of the sports programs in the Farmington district, and what direction those programs are heading.

Observer: How tough was it to stay off the sidelines last football season?

Holland: I told myself I wasn't going to let it bother me, you know. But, it bothered me a little. After all those years of competition, of working and planning and programming your life around football games, it's difficult.

Observer: Did you find yourself preparing game plans and stuff like that?

Holland: (Laughter) No. I didn't do anything like that. I just tried to observe and watch kids play football. I tried to see what other people were doing on offense and defense, see if there were any new things being done. I tried to evaluate coaches and strategies and just watch the caliber of play. That's something I have never done before because I always have been involved in our own end and doing our own thing — you don't always get the chance to watch kids play.

Observer: Of all the adjustments you've had to make in going from coach to athletic director, which have been the toughest?

Holland: The hardest thing? Probably the telephone. No. 1. (Laughter) I didn't realize the telephone rang so much. The biggest thing, really, is not having a single identity. I discovered that when you are at North Farmington, it was North Farmington football and track and it's Ron Holland, and he's been there for 24 years and I was identified with that school. Now, I don't have any identity with any one school or any one sport. You're sort of involved with everybody at every level, from boys and girls sports to things I've never been involved with before.

Observer: Was it hard for you to block off your allegiances to North Farmington, being that in your new role, you serve all three Farmington high schools?

Holland: I really didn't have to do that because I

'I think we've had a real stable program for the last few years, and I can't foresee any real problems as far as cuts go, reduction in sports, or anything like that. The big problem, of course, is securing coaches. We need quality coaches to maintain the type of programs we've had.'

— Ron Holland
Farmington AD

came in with an open mind. I had known all the coaches and I had known all the problems that I had seen from my one position at North. I think I had an understanding of the total scene.

Observer: Can you assess the job you've done so far as AD?

Holland: Well, there were some things we tried to accomplish real quick, like the middle school football program. We tried to get as many top quality people as we could. We were very lucky and fortunate to get three coaches from Farmington High School to help out with the program, which added some stability and experience there. And we got some help from people outside the district that helped get the program going.

All that I'm trying to do is maintain the things that Jack Cotton had done. He had gotten things rolling for me as far as schedules and things like that. I just tried to get around and meet people and let them know that I was going to try to do the same things or try to do more things that were done before — and pay more attention to them as individuals.

Observer: Have you been successful?

Holland: I think I've been. **Observer:** Have you heard anything negative?

Holland: Nobody has said anything to me. I think it's all been positive. People have been nice to me, you know, I'm the rookie on the block ...

Observer: Other districts have had their athletic

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Free throws knock off CC

basketball

Joe Gregory and Gary Dziekan took care of the scoring, rebounding and passing while teammate Chris Doyle sank two key free throws Tuesday to lift Redford Bishop Borgess to a 56-54 Central Division homecourt basketball win over rival Catholic Central.

Borgess, winning its league opener, is now 4-2 overall. CC slips to 2-4 and 0-1.

Gregory played another fine floor game, finishing with 19 points and nine assists. Gary Dziekan, a 6-foot-4 senior, added 18 points and 12 rebounds.

But it was Doyle's two free throws with 45 seconds remaining which settled things, giving the Spartans a 58-54 lead and the win.

CC's John McIntyre, the game's top scorer with 26 points, then made it a final difference of two with a basket at the 44-second mark. Teammate Ron Wanzel added 18 points in defeat.

"Our offense started working a little bit and we played with a lot of confidence, which was the main thing," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco.

CANTON 83, REDFORD UNION 76: The Chiefs won it with a six-point pin-point shooting at the free throw stripe Tuesday night, making 29-of-38 for 76 percent.

Canton, now 4-1 overall, was led by Gary Thomas' 26 points, including 7-of-8 free throws down the stretch. Teammate Mark Bennett was even more impressive, scoring 27 to go along with 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Mike Jennings contributed nine points, including 7-of-8 from the line in the final period.

"We shot as well as we've ever going to shoot," said RU coach Lee Bjerke. "We fell behind and had to foul to get back into the game. They were spectacular from the free throw line."

RU, winless all of last year and so far this season, got gallant efforts from John Copley, 23 points and 13 rebounds; Dennis Busbirt, 21 points; Keith Ruloff and Richard Williams, 13 each.

Four RU starters fouled out.

"It was as a run-and-gun game all the way," said Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner. "RU played very well. For an 8-5 team (now 6-6) playing in their own gym in the first game of the new year, we were very happy to get out of there with a 'W'."

CC's John McIntyre (shooting) poured in 26 points in a losing effort Tuesday night.

STEVENSON 58, FRANKLIN 45:

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