

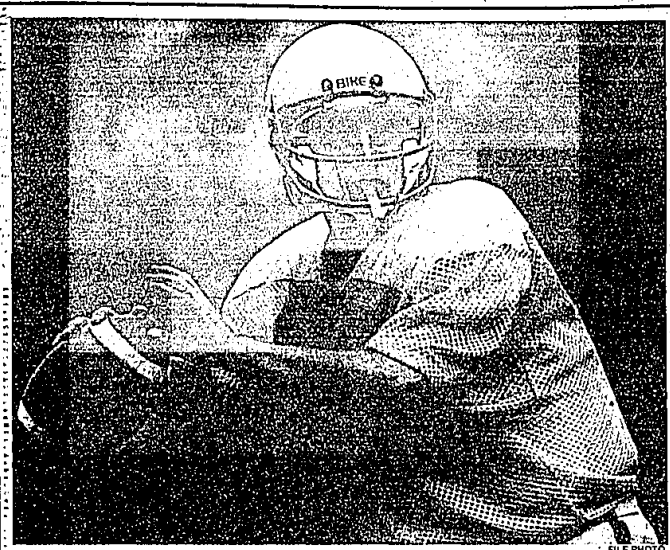
Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312



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Monday, August 20, 1984 O&E



Former Harrison quarterback Ken Kieh is locked in a battle with Rick Goodman of Midland for a starting role on the Albion College team. Kieh won the job last year as a freshman, only to lose it after three games.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

MIAA is balanced with talent, tradition, but lacks recognition

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

RESPECT. Archibald Franklin sang about it in the mid 1970s. It has now become the battle cry of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association as it commences its 96th football season.

America's oldest collegiate conference, founded in 1888, has been looked upon as a weak sister by the nation's other Division III leagues. Only twice in the 11-year history of the NCAA Division III national championship has the MIAA football champion been invited to post-season play.

"This league is on a national level," Adrian College head football coach Ron Labadie said. "We are in by far the toughest region in the country."

Labadie's team won the MIAA last year and gained a berth in the post-season tournament. Though they lost, 22-21, to eventual Division III champs Augustana, Adrian's performance brought long overdue respect to the MIAA.

This year, the MIAA champ should easily win a playoff berth. The NCAA has extended the field from eight to 16 teams.

"There's no way this league will be left out now," Labadie said.

With that, spirits were high among the coaches at the MIAA's annual preseason media day Thursday at the "Three Colleges." That coaches' consensus was that Hope would win the title, followed by Adrian, Albion, Alma, Olivet and Kalamazoo.

Here's a brief composite of the MIAA teams with special attention paid to the players from the Observer.

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& Eccentric area.

HOPE COLLEGE: "I'm very surprised we were picked to win the conference," said 15-year head coach Ray Smith. "Some people obviously don't remember how bad we played last year."

Don't let his modesty fool you. With 18 returning senior starters, the Fighting Dutchmen will be a tough club.

Hope is the only team in the MIAA without an O&E player on its roster.

ADRIAN COLLEGE: The defending champs will give Hope a serious run for the money. The Bulldogs lost only one starter last year, among them Paul Mason from Plymouth, Canton and All-MIAA center, but have plenty of talent returning.

Labadie has recruited the Plymouth area's very well again. He brings in Jim Burrows and Paul Fletcher from Plymouth Canton to join Matt Mattilli from Canton, Ron Calhoun from Plymouth Salem and Dan Collins from Plymouth and Catholic Central.

Other local players include Bruce Crockett (Catholic Central), Dave Dixon (West Bloomfield), Norm Dyer (Troy Athol), Bob Fallon (Brother Rice), Craig Foster (Garden City, Divine Child), Tom Lach (Livonia Churchill), Bob Smalley (Livonia Burgess) and Dan Thacker (Farmington Hills and Brown Military Academy).

ALBION COLLEGE: Pete Schmidt seemed to turn the Albion program around in his first season as head coach last year. This year, the Britons are expected to battle down the wire with the two front runners.

The big battle this year will be for the quarterback job. Ken Kieh of Harrison and Rick Goodman of Midland shared the spot last year. They will do battle again this year.

Other O&E players are Mike Burton (Livonia and Divine Child), Ed Ewald (Catholic Central), Pat Flispharck (Farmington and Catholic Central), Jim Hall (West Bloomfield), Larry Kocourek (Livonia Burgess), Steve Mann (Livonia Burgess), Steve Yager (Farmington Hills), Rick Bove (Birmingham Seaholm), Tom Dempster (Livonia Burgess), Charlie Laurence (Brother Rice), Joe Plankner (Birmingham Seaholm), Dan Quist (Catholic Central), Dan Strick (Livonia Burgess) and Charlie Wassenaar (Garden City).

ALMA COLLEGE: If there are to be any surprises this season in the MIAA, look for the Scots to be belated them. Veteran coach Phil Brooks has an improved team who learned last year what it takes to win. The Scots finished second in the MIAA.

THE O&E contingent: Vince Conzolo (Livonia Burgess), Tom Houghton (Livonia Burgess), Dean Ulrich (Livonia Burgess), Greg Zinkler (Livonia Burgess), Steve Adams (Livonia Burgess), Mike Brown (Livonia Burgess), Bob Scudgill (Livonia Burgess), Bob Ross (Livonia Burgess), Bob Ross (Livonia Burgess), Jeff Anderson (Troy Athol), Dwight Spengler (Livonia Burgess), Jim Nelson (Livonia Burgess) and Jeff Childers (Livonia Burgess).

OLIVET COLLEGE: The Fighting Comets are fighting to rebuild their woeful program, but Olivet-year coach Glen Stevenson seems to be going about it the right way — with patience, dedication and a good sense of humor.

"Basically, we are going into this season the way we always do — petrified," a sample of Stevenson's good-naturedness.

Garden City placekicker Jerry Lico is one of Olivet's top weapons. Last year, as a freshman, Lico hit four of seven field goals and 18 of 17 extra points.

Other O&E players: B.J. Miller (Livonia Burgess), Mike Rice (Livonia Burgess) and Mike Zabel (Livonia Burgess).

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KALAMAZOO COLLEGE: The Hornets have a new coach and a new optimism this year. Bob Keat, longtime assistant at Kalamazoo, replaces Ed Bahr. Keat will have to deal with the loss of 15 starters from a year ago, but has some good young talent waiting to step in.

Among those are Vince Dutilleul from Redford Township who should help stabilize the offensive line, and Matt Broderick from Plymouth Salem and Chris Mack from Garden City will be mainstays in the defensive backfield.

Brothers Brad and Todd Jensen from Livonia Bulldogs are also expected to play key roles for the Hornets.

"I didn't get a lot of recognition for football in high school," he said. "I think I was honorable mention All-Area."

Although he wrestled at Adrian for three years, it took awhile for the Southfield native to make his presence known on the gridiron.

"After my sophomore year I took a semester off and worked on my body," he said. "At the time I was sure about school, but I knew I missed football a lot. I came back last year and I was able to bench press 330 pounds. That helped me."

"Over the last three years I've been living on the weight room. Now I like it a lot."

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According to Kofender, the delegations to beat are Mexico City, Canada, California and Florida.

"We have nine really strong players," Kofender said. "We're definitely strong on offense. I think we have an excellent team. Without seeing the rest of the teams, I can't make a prediction. I think we will give the other teams a run for their money."

Some of the sport's standouts include center-halfback Zack Belm (Farmington Hills), center-forward Josh Hoffman (Farmington Hills), halfback Eugene Green (Southfield), fullback Danny Goldberg (Franklin) and sweeper Eban Frank (Birmingham).

Other members include West Bloomfield's Josh Schwartz, Jason Kofender, David Stone, Dave Kam, Mike Radel, Kevin Sandler, Jeff Levine and Adam Tietman, and Birmingham's Josh Gluskin.

Detroit opens the double-elimination tournament today at Keego Harbor Community Stadium, Ohio.

BOYS BASKETBALL — The Detroit Delegation is one of 24 boys teams scheduled to compete. Coach Howard Cohen had had much time to practice with his squad, but he knows he has some talented players and hopes basic basketball fundamentals will help his team make a run at winning a medal.

"I don't know any of the other teams," Cohen said. "We have some good kids... we have some tall kids... we don't have too much of a set offense because we haven't had many practices. We'll use team basketball with give and goes."

The scoring punch should come from Burton Borky and Phil Olson (West Bloomfield), and Mike Kornorn (Southfield-Lathrup), with Orlan, Joel Krugel (Southfield) and Sam Shanbon (Farmington Hills) handling the bulk of the rebounding.

Other team members include Brad Cohen (Lathrup), David Epstein (West Bloomfield), David Hoffman (Grand Brook), and Howard Krugel (Southfield).

The boys team opens the tournament at 4 p.m. today against New Jersey at Orchard Lake Middle School.

SWIMMING — A team of 12 girls and 13 boys will compete in three different age groups (12, 13-14 and 15-16).

The girls are led by 16-year-old Lynn Kline (West Bloomfield) and Lynn Stern (Livonia), 15-year-old David Goldstein (West Bloomfield) and 12-year-olds Debra Bernstein (Birmingham) and Andrea Bernasconi (East Lansing).

The boys are led by 16-year-old Joe Bernstein (Birmingham) and Dean Weiss (Oak Park), 15-year-old David Goldstein (Livonia), 14-year-olds Bob Bernstein (Birmingham) and Marc Schwartzberg (Farmington Hills) and 13-year-old Eric Marm (Farmington Hills).

"They're all in a variety of events," coach Fern Fine said. "Nobody really specializes in anything."

"I've been told a couple of excellent swimmers are coming from Australia. The Florida and California contingents will be very strong."

"You never know in something like this," Berlin said. "We have some good kids, but hopefully, we'll find some sleepers."

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Poor sports?

Study says coaches' behavior makes poor sports of players

By Rich Swenson
staff writer

Bad behavior by coaches is the biggest obstacle to good sportsmanship in athletic events, according to a recent survey of sports officials.

The survey, conducted by Miller Lite, was given to the 250 members of the National Association of Sports Officials that attended their national convention last month in Las Vegas.

According to the survey, more than 60 percent of the officials polled believe the demeanor of coaches is a major impediment to good sportsmanship. Another 50 percent were "personally disturbed" by the behavior of coaches and other bench personnel.

In fact, most of the officials said the disorderly conduct of coaches is far more negative than athletes fighting with themselves or with officials.

LOCAL COACHES were given a chance to respond to the officials' assessment.

"I hate to be looked at as a negative influence to the kids I work with," said Livonia Bentley girls basketball coach Tom Lang. "We spend many hours preparing our kids for a contest. At times, coaches step beyond their bounds, but so do officials."

"Most of the officials working our games are pretty good, but when they're not, we have to get on them. The only thing that really bothers me is when an official blows a call and won't admit it."

Rochester High's Mike VanDam coaches both baseball and basketball at the varsity level, so he's seen officials in action both on the gridiron and on the diamond.

"Some coaches are outlandish, intense and vocal," he said. "But coach-



ing is more than just a hobby. Coaches and officials look at the game from different perspectives.

"THE GAME IS much more important to coaches. For officials, it's just another game — another two hours on the job."

"Officials can be intimidated by coach's actions if they allow themselves to be the poor official listen too much and doesn't watch enough."

Plymouth Salem's Fred Thomann has coached both boys and girls basketball. His major concern is the mental and physical conditioning of the referee.

"If officials did a better job of preparing themselves for games, there would be much less criticism from coaches," he said. "Sometimes, officials just don't get up for our contests."

"As a coach, I have to challenge officials to make the right calls. If they're not doing the job, you have to let them know."

THOMANN SAID that many basketball officials are out of shape and unable to position themselves properly to make the call. He believes many of them use the girls season to get themselves ready for the boys.

"It's their responsibility to be ready to work all games," he said.

West Bloomfield athletic director and football coach Dominic Livodan used to officiate during his college days, but he agrees with Thomann.

"What is disruptive behavior? I never question the eyes of an official. When I do object to something, it's usually whether an official is in the right position."

He said there's a fine line between what is disruptive behavior by a coach and what he sees as necessary action to make sure an official is doing his job.

"It's my responsibility to make my opinion known," Livodan said. "I have to make sure the official is on the ball. I'm always looking out for the best interests of my kids."

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Let the games begin

By Jim Hughes
and Marty Sudner
staff writers

The opening ceremonies are history, so, to steal a command from the Olympics, "Let the Games begin."

The Maccabi Youth Games, an international gathering for athletic activities akin to the Olympic Games, begin today in West Bloomfield and run through Sunday. Competition in basketball, gymnastics, racquetball, soccer, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and track and field will take place at West Bloomfield High School, the Jewish Community Center, Orchard Lake and Abbott middle schools, Keego Harbor fields, and the Steve Whitlock Gymnasium School.

Delegations from Israel, Australia, Mexico, Canada and Venezuela and 33 American cities are participating. The Games, named after Jewish hero Judas Maccabee, are geared for youths ages 12 to 16.

Today's events include girls basketball (9:30 a.m. until noon) and boys basketball (noon-4 p.m.) at Orchard Lake Middle School; swimming (9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.) at the Jewish Community Center; volleyball (noon-4:30 p.m.) at West Bloomfield High; soccer (9:11-11:30 a.m.) at Keego Harbor fields; track and field (7:30-9:30 p.m.) at West Bloomfield High; racquetball (10 a.m. and noon-2 p.m.) at the Jewish Community Center; and tennis (11:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.) at the Centaur Racquet Club of West Bloomfield.

Gymnastics events begin Tuesday, and table tennis Wednesday.

There's no charge for any events. For a full rundown of the events, call the Jewish Community Center, Maccabi Games office (681-1000).

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Rice grad on path to pro ranks

By Brad Emons
staff writer

If he's not already the best, Birmingham Brother Rice graduate Bob Fallon is certainly one of the top football players in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA).

Fallon was not a heralded player at Rice, but a 4-foot-4, 270-pound offensive tackle from Adrian College is the MIAA's No. 1 pro prospect.

Adrian captured the MIAA title last year and went on to NCAA Division III post-season play, losing 33-31 to eventual champion Augustana (Ill.). They Bulldogs finished with an 8-3 overall record.

Fallon was a major reason for Adrian's success. He successfully completed 85 percent of his blocking assignments, enabling the Bulldogs to average 185 yards rushing per league game last year.

The big tackle was rewarded by making All-League.

"I've had pro scouts talk to me, but I going to play by ear and say a lot of prayers," said Fallon. "It's a big dream for me to play."

Fallon will graduate in December with a degree in marketing and a minor in competitive science. That will come just before the start of the United States Football League (USFL) season.

If, with only five years ago Fallon came to Adrian. He was recruited for wrestling.

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