



Brad Emons, Chris McCosky editors/591-2312

Thursday, November 22, 1984 O&E

(F1C)



C.J. Risak

Vote for your favorite sport

I'M TAKING A POLL. Why not? My name might not be Harris or Nielson or ABC, but I can still survey people regarding likes and dislikes.

Don't worry — this has nothing to do with anything as insignificant as politics. I don't want your opinion on Judge Wopner for the Supreme Court.

This is purely a sports poll. Objectivity isn't necessary. Neither is honesty or, for that matter, logic.

All I want is an answer. We'll restrict it to 25 words or less, since that's all the attention the question deserves.

THIS IS serious. Most people can write 25 words on a given subject. And I'm certain the highly intelligent, sophisticated persons who read these weekly (weakly?) columns of mine are capable of at least that.

So get a pencil and start scribbling. Neatness doesn't count. Neither does originality. Residents in Wisconsin, Delaware and Guam are not excluded. More than one entry is allowed, if it is signed under a pseudonym, nickname or number.

All I ask is that I receive at least six replies from non-relatives by Christmas 1985, and that all are readable, printable, and agreeable. Agreeable, that is, with my own personal opinion, which you will discover in the next few paragraphs.

Now for the long-awaited subject:

What is mankind's favorite sport?

I told you it was an easy topic. Come on, public, prove me right. Send in your replies. If you can't afford a stamp, come on by the O&E office and I'll give you one (but bring your answer with you).

THE PARAMETERS are rather broad, and purposefully so. Answers can range from girl-watching (or boy-watching — I'm no sexist, gals) to cow-chip tossing.

I'm betting that football, basketball, baseball and other such traditional sports will be the people's choice. But all answers will be honored, as long as they prove me right.

Right in my assumption that the area's No. 1 sport is not bowling.

That's what a poll revealed to some in the O&E hierarchy. So now they want more bowling news in the sports pages.

Well, I don't believe it. I started out at this paper writing a bowling column, and you can trust me when I say no one complained when I stopped.

BOWLING'S NOT really a sport, anyway. It's a game, like pool or bocce ball. How many athletes — the Greek-god type — have you ever seen bowl?

So send no answers with that word, unless it's used negatively. Like:

- "Sports should be violent and hostile. Bowling is for pansies."
- "Sport should be graceful and beautiful. Bowling's ugly."
- "Sports should be competitive and clever. Bowling's dumb."

Those are just three quick answers that I don't mind having copied — if you can't think of an answer of your own.

WHAT AM I trying to prove? Just that we aren't that out of touch with our readers. That they enjoy our coverage of football, basketball, soccer, hockey, et al. And that just because people bowl doesn't necessarily mean they scrutinize the sports pages looking for pin news.

If that were true, then the opposite would be true as well. Which means that 90 percent of the nation's sports fans play football.

That's what presently dominates the sport pages, yet I firmly believe few people spend their spare evenings throwing crumpling blocks or straight-arming neighbors and friends.

SO MY BET is that, A: Bowling isn't all that popular, or B: Bowlers don't really like reading about bowling.

Others have contributed that bowlers don't read at all. That's fine — then they won't answer this survey.

Contrary to the current impression, I do not possess a pathological hatred of bowling. Deep-rooted, maybe, but not pathological.

If you want to believe I was beaten as a child with a bowling pin, fine.

If you want to believe I don't like people saying I look like I swallowed a bowling ball, that's OK too.

If you want to believe I was mugged by a bunch of beer-filled bowlers last night, great. Believe all three if you like. Just write something and sign a name. Any name.

Send it to: C.J. Risak, Sports Editor, Observer & Eccentric, 36351 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich., 48150.

I need your help to stop this menace. If we fail, our sports pages will be filled with bowling news.

Spare us that — it would be a strike against good journalism, and it undoubtedly would split the nation. Don't pin us down with that. Send it today!

21 straight for Marlins

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy gets a lot of attention for its fine basketball program.

Not so for its swimming program. But the fact remains that the Marlins have won 21 straight Catholic League championships. It's almost embarrassing how little attention this tremendous accomplishment receives across the state.

The Marlins breezed to title No. 21 Saturday, outscoring Birmingham Marian 429-345. Harper Woods Regina (125), Royal Oak Shrine (107), Bishop Foley (85) and Star of the Sea

(40) rounded out the meet.

"I'm honest about it," said Mercy coach De Loris Yager. "We don't have any stars on this team. We have a kind of a strange breed of kid. They seem to understand that you don't get anything without working for it. And they have really worked for what they got this year. I'm very pleased with them."

YAGER'S SWIM teams have not lost a dual meet in 21 years.

In Saturday's league meet at Oakland Community College, Mercy captured seven of the 11 events. Marian took first in the other four events.

Freshman Roberts Orr paced the Marlins, winning two events. She captured the 200-yard individual medley (2:18.13) and the 100 breaststroke (1:13.13).

Marian's Jenny Morton was also a double-event winner. She won both the 200 freestyle (2:02.08) and the 500 freestyle (5:20.54).

The performance of the day came from Marian diver Michelle Lucci. Lucci, the daughter of former Detroit Lion linebacker Mike Lucci, set a Catholic League record amassing 495.45 points.

Marian's other victory came from Anja Jurgas in the 100 backstroke (1:05.05).

THE REST of the winning was done by

Mercy.

Suzie Knipper, Orr, Pat McCarthy, and Maureen Kelly combined on a 1:57.35 to win the 200 medley relay.

Tracy Johnson, McCarthy, Marilee Konecal, and Kelly went 3:48.14 to win the 400 free relay.

Johnson swam a 25.8 to win the 50 free. McCarthy won the 100 butterfly in 1:02.92 and Kelly completed her fine day by capturing the 100 free (55.21).

"These kids aren't the wealthy kids," Yager said. "Most of them work after school. They are hard-working little girls and they worked their tails off for me. I do appreciate them."

Stevenson owns WLAA swim title

By Brad Emons
staff writer

There's only one girls swim meet left to conquer for the Stevenson Spartans, the No. 1 ranked team in Observerland and the state.

After demolishing nine Western Lakes Conference foes last week, the Livonians now turn their attention to the "big one," the Class A championships, Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1, at Michigan State University.

Stevenson showed its swim prowess in the conference meet at Plymouth Salem, racking up 345 points. Salem and Plymouth Canton were a distant second and third with 218 and 166, respectively.

The Spartans also set six league records despite the fact that "I didn't taper-down (decrease practice yardage) my good kids," according to coach Lois McDonald.

McDonald also refused to let her girls "shave down" or wear their

streamlined suits for the meet. That won't come until the state meet.

BUT DON'T READ, McDonald wrong. She calls the league meet "so exciting, even more exciting than the state meet."

"These kids all know each other," she said. "They've gone against each other all season."

Stevenson liked what they saw of the competition, winning nine of 11 events.

The record breakers included the Spartans' 200-yard medley relay squad of Sherric Sudek, Mary Schoenle, Carolyn Schwedt and Sheila Taormina. They were clocked in 1:52.77. The Spartans also shattered the 400 freestyle relay mark as Juli Quinlan, Sudek, Michele McKenzie and Kathy Sullivan were timed in 3:45.72. Poor Salem was second, despite a blistering 3:47.73.

Other record setters included state champ Schoenle in the 200 individual medley (2:09.37) and 100 breaststroke



Diana Raddatz scored points in three events to help Harrison to a fourth place finish in the WLAA swim meet.

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U-D talks of rebirth as CC's Mac signs

By Brad Emons
staff writer

John McIntyre always had it in the back of his mind that he wanted to play basketball for the University of Detroit.

The 6-foot-4 senior guard from Redford Catholic Central made it official Monday afternoon before a gathering of the media and students in the school's library, announcing that he had signed a national letter-of-intent earlier in the day with the Titans.

"The most important thing was to stay close to

home," said McIntyre, who averaged 31 points, 11 rebounds and 8 assists as a junior. "And coach (Don) Sicko was honest and sincere since he started recruiting me as a sophomore."

McIntyre, hailed by some as a "Pioneer," said he narrowed his choices down to Detroit, Marquette and Iowa State. He also considered Michigan and Dayton at one time.

Although Detroit had the inside track all along, McIntyre thought it was best that he inform Marquette coach Rick Majerus of his decision.

"I CALLED coach Majerus last night (Sunday) and he told me he understood," said McIntyre.

But the determining factor may have been that McIntyre became attached to U-D while growing up.

"I always watched Kevin Kaseta play," said McIntyre. "He was one of my heroes."

"It was a big thing when Terry Tyler, John Long and Terry Dueroed played there. I always liked the way they played."

Kaseta is a graduate of Livonia Franklin, where McIntyre's dad, Jim, is the head coach. Kaseta was a starting forward for the Titans during the Dick Vitale heydays in the late 1970s, which featured such stars as Tyler and Long (of the Pistons), Dennis Boyd and Dueroed.

"This is a great moment for the city and the University of Detroit," said CC coach Bernie Holowicki. "I think it will be good for U of D and good for John."

Rated among the top 100 players in the country, McIntyre is the Catholic League's most significant recruit since Dave DeBusschere, who brought national prominence to U-D and later starred in the NBA.

"I NEVER ACTUALLY met Dave DeBusschere, but he sent me some nice telegrams," said McIntyre, who received two to three letters a day from Detroit alumni. "The telegrams said that he never regretted going to the University of Detroit."

The sharp-shooting guard also indicated that CC graduate Greg Wendt "helped out a lot."

Wendt, a 6-foot-6 forward from Livonia, will start for the Titans this season after transferring from Duke University last year.

McIntyre, who reminds some of former LSU All-American "Pistol" Pete Maravich, believes he'll also fit into the Titans' style of play.

The people of Detroit like the way I play and I like the fast-tempo they play," he said. "You don't have to set 80 picks before you can shoot."

"You don't have to have handcuffs."

McIntyre also said he was glad the recruiting season was over and wanted to get on with his senior season at CC.

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John McIntyre, a senior at Catholic Central, will play basketball at U-D next year.

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