No satisfaction Stebbins' big season not enough

By Brad Emons

Bob Stebbins had a good football cason, but it wasn't quite up to Bob tebbins standards.

Stebbins standards.
There is much more to accomplish for the 6-foot-4, 225-pound tight end from Central Michigan University.
The Livonia native field teammate John Deboor for the team lead in receptions, catching 20 passes for 344 yeards (13.2 per grab) and one touchdown.

"I was really pleased with the sea-son," said the Franklin High School grad. "But I would have had 30 catches if I hadn't missed the last

catches if I hadn't missed the last game."

Stebbins underwent aurgery for a broken right thumb, suffered in practice four days prior to the season finale with Northern Illinois.

A broken left thumb caused the tight end to miss most of his freshman year, but the fujury turned out to be a Blessing in disguise because it enables to see a blessing in disguise because it enables of the beautiful to the blessing of the forthern Illinois game, however, may have cost the CMU tight end a spot on the All-Mid-American Conference team.

"THERE WERE an awful lot of good light ends in the league and sometimes they just go on stats," said CMU assistant coach Mike Poff. "Said Bob caught the ball well and he's an

exceptional blocker. He's very smart.
"And don't forget he's young. He's
got two more years left."
Central Michigan finished with a 73 record, but according to Stebbins,
that wasn't good enough.

"I'm looking forward to next year," he said. "We were three plays away from winning the title this year. We lost three games by a total of 13 points.

points.
"We were decimated by injuries and went 7-3. We lost five or six key players and that's what hurt."

Deboer, a senior split end rated highly by the pros, was among the casualties, missing the final three games with a knee injury.

"We lost All-MAC and All-Ameri-can type players," said Stebblas. "I'm sure Deboer would flave ended up with a lot more catches than 26."

WITH MAC CHAMP Bowling Green losing a number of big-name players to graduation, CMU could be the league's top contender next year along with Miami of Ohlo. Both teams lose very little to graduation.

"We have the talent and we're al-ays in the game," Stebbins said. ways in the game," Stebbins said.
"But we're not delivering in the clutch. We hope to make it happen next year.

"I'll be disappointed if we don't win it (the MAC) in my five years. It was

frustrating as a team this year. Four or five years in a row we've been coming close. We should have won it last year, and that was our year. (To-ledo took the title).

"Nobody wants second or third. You get sick and tired of it."
CMU could have big plans next year for Stebbins.

"I really hope to have a lot of catches and I hope to be a key part of the offense," he said. "I hope to work on my strength over the winter and summer so I can dominate people.

"NOT TO USE the old army slogen, but I want to be the best I can be. I'm going to work in the weight room and gain about 10 pounds."

sam about 10 pounds.

Stebblar's biggest concern at the the
moment, however, is getting through
final exams. Sporting a 3.8 grade
point average in business-finance,
stebblars was recently placed on the
national ballot for the College Sports
Information Directors of America
Academic All-American team. That
news came after he made the GTE
District IV squad.

"It's kind of tough when you can't write," Stebbins said. "Exams are going to be tough. I can type, but I can't even do that."

Stebbins will manage despite the handicap. His self-imposed standards won't let him slack off.

Observerland Sports People

Unheralded Ron Wendt making his name known

By Chris McCosky staff writer

The shadow that has engulfed Ron Wendt for the better part of his athletic

Ron Wendt, 1982 Redford Catholic Central graduate, is the least visible member of a very visible athletic fami-

member of a very visible athletic family.

The elder Wendt, Art, was a standout baseball player in the semipro ranks. Art Wendt Jr. played basketball and baseball at Livonia Stevenson. Greg Wendt, the most visible of all the Wendts, is a beadliner with the University of Detroit basketball team.

Even the youngest Wendt, C.J., a senior at CC, has gotten considerable acclaim for his prowess on the soccer field.

THEN THERE'S Ron Wendt. At 6-5, coaches and friends at Catholic Central took for granted that Ron would follow in brother Greg's footsteps and play baskethail.

"Everyone kind of expected me to play baskethall, but at that time, my coordination hadn't caught up with my stee," he said.

size, he said.

He was cut from the team as a sophomore, cut again as a senior. I thought I was good enough to make the team my senior year, but you know how that goes, he said.

Ron Wendt set out to make a name for himself in football. By the time he was a senior at CC his weight had topped the 200-pound mark and, like all the Wendts, his physique was muscular.

But Wendt was a seldom-used player.

But Wendt was a seldom-used player a high school. To this day, he doesn't uily understand why.

games I didn't play at all. I didn't think I was that bad."

IT IS his staunch belief in his own ability that has allowed Wendt to persevere through the ardous times.

"It has gone in phases," he said. In high school a lot of people thought I'd be a good prospect, and I kind of didn't live up to expectations. And all through high school, all I heard was 'you're brother this, you're brother that. Now I love to hear about my brother. It's kind of a joke now. Whenever I get my name in the paper it says, 'Ron Wendt, the younger brother of Greg Wendt.' It doesn't bother me at all.'

Ron Wendt has indeed otched out his own athletic identity. He is a major college football player, a good one, at Eastern Michigan University.

He wasn't recruited out of high school. He walked on and earned his scholarship — a feat few achieve at the Division I level.

'I contacted coach Bob LaPointe over the summer, and he told me to come out.' Wendt said.' I was a preferred walk-on. I went into the practice sall gested-up, ready to work as hard as I could. I just tried to catch the coaches 'eye as often as possible.'

A week into camp, Wendt way offered a scholarship. From that day on, he has stcadily chipped away at that peaky shadow.

AFTER SITTING out his first year at Eastern as a red-shirted defensive lineman, he saw limited duty as an of-fensive lineman the next two years. He began this season us a second-

"I played some on double tight end situations," he said. There were some games I didn't play at all. I didn't think that has allowed Wendt to produce the said.

IT IS his staunch belief in his own ability that has allowed Wendt to prevere through the arduous times.

It has gone in phases," he said. "In high school a lot of people thought I'd wo weeks later, Wendt was the starting tight end.

"I like tight end a lot more," Wends said. "But, playing tackle wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, either. I'll play, wherever they need me."

Wendt's response to his tight-end assignment was this: He caught 14 passes for 116 yards and two touchdowns (one in each of the last two games) and was a punishing blocker.

"My lirst couple games they didn't throw to me," he said. Then against Central (Michigan University) I caught four. That got my confidence up. I knew I could catch the ball. Before, I was pretty nervous."

GUESS WHO Ron Wendt's No. 1 fan was during the season? Greg Wendt. 'He came to everyone of my home games except one.' Ron Wendt sald. 'We're really tight. We call each other all the time to find out how each other did. When I caught that first touchdown he was pretty excited.'

ac was pretty excited.

It's iroule that Wendt's development thas paralleled the team's development.

EMU won just four football games in Wendt's first three seasons. The team's won four games this season alone.

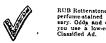
Wendt is hoping that next season, his senior season, is the year the shadow.

disappears completely -the EMU team and himself.

the week ahead

e. Lakeland et Red. Thurston, 7:30 p.m. arencewie et Taylor Baptat, 7:30 p.m. Ian et Bishop Borgess, 7:30 p.m. afficie: Cent. at Clarkston, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Wadnesday, Dec. 4
Catholic Cent. at Grosse Pts. South, 7:30 p
Liv. Franklin at Wyandotte (Yack), 8 p m
Liv. Stevenson vs. Southfield-Lathrup,
Liv. Churchill vs. Boomfield Hall / adover



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 2. 18,200 Lt. of 38" rabbat Creek Channel Improvements

 3. Construction of fire (5) storm water retontion facilities

 4. Construction of three (5) confront structures

 5. Construction of three (5) new colverts and extension of five (5) existing curverts
- ss, junction chambers, culverts, headwalls, rip-rap, grading, seeding iching, tree removal, pedestrian bridge construction, connection,

and matching, tree removals, processing construction, construction, processing constructions, and apparent enconstructions, and apparentaneous.

Proposals will be received up to 2:30 P.M. R.A.T. on the date set forth bornin, at which time all block will be publicly opened and read.

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GEORGE W. EUHN, Chairman Drainage Board for the Caddell Drain, Phase H

at Errona's Edgar Arona, 6 and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.
Liv. Churcha vs. Livona Frankin at Livona's Edgar Arona, 8 p.m. Salurday, Dec. 7.
Calhoic Canl. vs. Frasor (Redford), 8 p.m. Liv. Churchall at Malford Lakeland, 7 p.m.

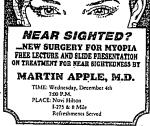
COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 5 Gien Oaks at Schoolcraft (men), 6 p.m.





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