

# Pro soccer to return?

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

In its first attempts to find a foothold in the metro-Detroit area, professional soccer was a dismal failure.

First casualty was the Detroit Cougars. Then the Detroit Express went belly up, although a succession of owners kept searching for different routes to success.

Two indoor, seven-man franchises failed to last more than a year. Well, soccer aficionados, prepare yourselves for another attempt. One local expert is convinced pro soccer will return to Detroit, probably by 1988, and more than likely its home will be the Pontiac Silverdome or the proposed Auburn Hills facility.

"I think it's just a matter of time," said Gordon Preston, who with Roger Faulkner was part-owner of the first Detroit Express franchise. "There's not going to be a team here this fall, but the following year I think so."

What Preston referred to was a franchise in the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL), the 14-team circuit that has been more widely accepted by the American public than the

now-defunct North American Soccer League (NASL) was.

MISL FRANCHISES in Cleveland, San Diego, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Tacoma, Baltimore and New York are all prospering. The Cleveland franchise averaged nearly 15,000 fans per game last season.

Preston and Faulkner both still want a part of a new soccer franchise. But, according to Preston, "Our interest is to get the thing going, whether we're involved or not."

A soccer exhibition matching former Express players against members of Cleveland's indoor team Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome rekindled the former Express owners' interest. Better than 10,000 tickets were sold, despite poor pre-game publicity.

"Our media coverage was only fair," said Preston of the exhibition, which marked the return of former Express star Trevor Francis, "so our walk-up attendance was not as good as we hoped for."

"We went into this to test the market to see if there's an interest. We didn't do as well as we thought, but we think there is an interest."

## soccer

But Preston remained wary. What doomed the Express was a lack of commitment from financial backers. To make an indoor team successful will take a stable group of investors.

OR, AS PRESTON put it, "We've got to have a man with a lot of money."

Starting an MISL franchise will be both hazardous and expensive. "We met with the former (MISL) commissioner several months ago," said Preston. "His estimate was that the team would lose \$1 million in the first year, and if everything went well, another \$500,000 the second year."

"If things went great, it might break even by the third year. Now, that may or may not be the case. A big part of it depends on how much you pay for rent."

Which would make this a good time to bring a franchise to the city. Detroit Piston owners are planning

on leaving the Silverdome after the 1987-88 season for a 20,000-seat arena being built in Auburn Hills.

"I know the Silverdome people are definitely interested (in an indoor team)," said Preston. "I would think, since they are going to lose the Pistons, they would want to sharpen their pencils."

"The Auburn Hills arena would be ideal, but we'd be No. 2 tenants there to basketball. Still, I think we're going to take a look at it."

A DOWNTOWN location is not being considered because the majority of the soccer audience is in the suburbs. Either Auburn Hills or Pontiac would be ideal to attract fans from Troy, Birmingham, Rochester, W. Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington and Livonia, all hotbeds of youth soccer.

Wherever a new franchise takes root, it will require sound financing over a lengthy period.

"There's definitely a market here, no question about it," said Preston. "The question is where the money is coming from. I know I don't have it, but we do have people that are interested. You have to stay with something like this for at least five years."

## Livonia mercy-kills West Bloomfield 9

### baseball

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULES  
Wednesday, July 20  
Toni Hoyer Ford vs. Maple Applance at Ford Field, 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.  
Little Caesars vs. A.A. Wendy's at Ford Field, 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.  
at Pontiac's Capitol Park, 8:30 p.m.  
Liv. Adry vs. Maple Applance at Ford Field, 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.  
Walter's Applance vs. Little Caesars at Ford Field, 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.  
at Ann Arbor Huron High, 8:15 p.m.  
Friday, July 21  
Daily Express vs. United Ford, 6:30 p.m.  
Ood's Cakes vs. W.A.P., 8 p.m.  
Cousins vs. A.A. Wendy's, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, July 22  
Ply. Village vs. W.A.P., 6:30 p.m.  
United Ford vs. Cousin's, 8:30 p.m.

Paul Oster was Caesar's leading hitter, going 2-for-3.  
TONI HOYER, Ford of Northville continued his drive for the fourth and final playoff spot Wednesday, beating host Wendy's of Ann Arbor, 4-1.  
Hoyer is 12-10-1 in league play, while last season Wendy's fell to 1-22.  
Pitcher Greg Ryba hurled a complete game, raising his record to 2-1. The Catholic Central High School product allowed only three hits and struck out five.

Hoyer scored three times in the first inning on a walk to Ken Krill, back-to-back doubles by Eric Engel and Martin Edler, followed by a Wendy's infield error.

Livonia Adray kept Maple Applance (of West Bloomfield) off its back Wednesday in Livonia Collegiate Baseball League race.

Second-place Adray invoked the 10-run mercy rule, scoring an easy 10-0 victory in five innings in a game played at Livonia's Ford Field.

The win increases Livonia's record to 15-8-1 in league play. Maple, meanwhile, slipped to 14-10-1.

Four Adray players collected two hits each, including Derron White, Scott Weller, Bill Ulle and John Poszywak.

Ulle knocked in three runs and White scored three.

Winning pitcher Rick Rozman (4-3) handuffed Maple on two hits and walked only two.

Dan Zang, who was tagged for eight runs in four innings of work, took the loss. He gave way to reliever Bucky Blake, who gave up a pair of runs.

REDFORD LITTLE CAESARS maintained its grip on first place, breaking open a close game with four runs in the sixth inning to beat Walter's Applance, 5-1.

Caesars entered weekend play at 16-6-1, while Walter's, slipping in the playoff race for the fourth and final spot, dropped to 11-13-1.

Todd Mahaney, the league's winningest pitcher, raised his personal record to 6-0 with the three-hit performance. He struck out five and did not walk a batter.

Greg George, who took the loss, gave up a costly two-run single in the sixth to pinch hitter Chris Kloc. He gave way to Greg George, who allowed a sacrifice fly by Bob Capella and was the victim of a passed ball, leading to two more Caesars runs.

## sports shorts

### HARRISON GIRLS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Any Farmington Harrison High School girl (grades 9-12) interested in playing girls basketball next fall should report to the Harrison gym at noon Aug. 11.

Tryouts will be held from 12-2 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 11-15.

For more information, call coach Chris Lessnau at 561-4855.

### FARMINGTON GIRLS SWIM PRACTICE

Ross Bundy is the new girls swim coach at Farmington High. He is inviting all girls interested in swimming with the Falcons to attend a team meeting at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at the Farmington pool.

Bundy was the Farmington boys swim coach last year.

### COACHES SOUGHT

The Farmington Public School District is accepting applications for non-teaching coaching positions for the 1988-1989 school year in the

following sports:

- Girls basketball (junior varsity, middle school and freshman).
- Boys basketball (varsity).
- Football (freshman).
- Wrestling (varsity and assistant).

• Track (assistant and middle school).

Resumes should be sent to athletic director Ron Holland, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington, 48024, or call 471-6337 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

### GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY CAMP

The Brighton Recreation Area will be the site for a girls cross country camp Aug. 3-9.

The fee is \$75. For registration information, call Gary Servais at 547-3572 weekdays after 3 p.m.

### ROCKETS REGISTRATION

Registration for the Farmington Rockets Junior League Football Club will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, July 19 and Aug. 2, at the Farmington High School football field.

## NFWB hosts district

North Farmington-West Bloomfield will play host to the Sandy Koufax (13-14 age group) Travel League district baseball playoffs beginning Thursday, July 24. All games will be played at West Bloomfield High School (Orchard Lake Road north of Walnut Lake).

The district tourney is the first leg on the road to the Koufax national tourney in Puerto Rico.

The host NFWB squad is composed of Paul Anders, Noah Bremen,

Josh Casade, Mike Collins, Eric Dettler, Brian Genterman, Jason Hamill, Craig Johnston, Jon Kraus, Rob Light, John Low, Andrew Margolek, T. Jay Ormann and Howard Ponsky. The team is coached by Joseph Boda, Larry Dettler, Jim Collins and Chet Genterman.

The tourney's first game will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 24. It will conclude Sunday, July 27.

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#### CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Farmington Hills at the Clerk's Office at 31555 Eleven Mile Road until 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 4, 1988, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The project consists of approximately five-tenths of one mile of road widening and paving improvements utilizing:

- Hot Mix Asphalt Base Course 400 Tons
- Hot Mix Asphalt Surface Course 1,400 Tons
- Concrete Curb and Gutter 2,570 L.F.
- Storm Sewer 12-inch and 30-inch 228 L.F.

Plus miscellaneous items necessary for a completed project.

Plans, specifications, and proposal forms may be obtained at the Clerk's Office at the above address on or after Tuesday, July 22, 1988, upon a deposit of \$20.00, which is non-refundable. Proposals must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the City of Farmington Hills. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond by a recognized surety company in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Farmington Hills as surety for acceptance of the Contract.

The City reserves the right to waive any or all proposals, to waive irregularities and/or informalities, and to make the award, that in the opinion of the City Council, is in the best interest and to the advantage of the City of Farmington Hills.

JOAN REYNOLDS  
City Clerk

Published: July 21, 1988

## Women's and Men's golf tournament sponsors: O&E/Whispering Willows

Women's 18-hole medal play: Saturday, Aug. 16. Entry fee is \$18. Handicap maximum is 40.

Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. For starting times, call 476-4493 after 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12. Rain make-up date — Aug. 23.

Men's 36-hole medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13-14. Entry fee is \$32. Handicap maximum is 36.

Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. Shotgun start on Saturday, Sunday mornings. For pairings and starting times, call 476-4493 after noon Thursday, Sept. 11. Rain make-up dates — Sept. 20-21.

name .....  
address .....  
telephone ..... handicap .....

Send entry blank with check (not cash) payable to tournament director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows, 20500 Newburgh, Livonia 48152.

Pairings will be made by the tournament committee. No requests for individual pairings will be taken. No changes will be made.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township. U.S.G.A. handicap or six 18-hole score cards are required.

## Moss store a stroke saver

Continued from Page 1

THERE ARE a wide range of variables, Moss said, from weaker, tall men to strong, short ones and everything in between. But finding the right club is essential, he said. "No one can do that better than we can."

"The club fit is a big part of what we do," he added. "When it comes to club fitting, the shaft is the most important thing. The term 'wide sweet spot' (on a club) that some manufacturers sell is a lie. It doesn't exist."

Moss works with golfers on conditioning, too, riding it into mental and physical. Books, tapes and lessons can help a golfer improve his mental outlook. "We teach them

## golf

course management," said Moss. His golf aids — such as the plastic-winged golf club and weights — help improve physical fitness.

Moss moved his business, which he opened in 1979 in Birmingham, to its present spot three months ago. Since then customer traffic has increased, but Moss steadfastly sticks to his philosophy of supplying a complete golf improvement package, from lessons to club-fitting to physical and mental conditioning.

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