



photos by STEVE RECHT/staff photographer

It can be lonely on the sidelines when your team isn't very deep: Bob Friedman (left) of Canton Township and Shawn Nelson of Wayne watch their Frankie's teammates tackle Gulliver's.

The action is touch and go in this league

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Mike Jolly is Standard's defensive back; he last played for Green Bay, yes, that Green Bay, the Packers, in the days between strikes. Before that, he starred at Michigan.

The No. 1 quarterback, Dave Zelmanski, played baseball at Wayne State. Keith Cockrell, a receiver, played at Columbia (and never mind they have the longest losing streak in college football).

Joe Brauer, the backup quarterback, once pitched briefly for the Detroit Tigers. Mike Wilson, a blocker, was a defensive tackle at U-M (and made news recently when the Tigers named him, a black man, as their comptroller).

Bob Maxwell, their kicker, kicked for Western Michigan in football and blocked shots as a goalie in hockey. Guard Dave Nelson played college hockey. Dan MacClean was a guard at Illinois and now is an assistant coach at Detroit Country Day. Keith Carroll, owner of Canton Sports, pitched in college.

The head coach, Tom Gable, played college football at the University of Detroit. Talk about a tough football team!

STANDARD PAPER has been a powerhouse for 20 years and is 12 games into its season. Climate Control is rightfully nervous.

About all Climate Control coach Steve Clucel can brag about is that his quarterback once was on a fraternity team at Tri-State College, which is in Angola (not the one in Africa, the one in Indiana).

"It should be fun," said Clucel, sounding like a coach. Hey, they put their pants on one at a time, too. Those expensive pants, the nice blue ones with the red and white racing stripes up the side, to match the jerseys, to match the hats, to match the jackets, to match the travel bags.

So what if Climate is in mismatched sweat pants?

"Make sure and get a picture of one of our guys with a tear running down his cheek," says one of Climate's players, ap-

proximating gallows humor.

"Are you here to write the story of how we get creamed?" asks another.

ACTUALLY CLIMATE does OK. Jolly is hurt from the Green Bay tournament; so is the No. 1 QB and the kicker, so Standard fields a weak team. Standard also takes a 28-0 lead at the half and wins 38-6, though Climate plays better than expected.

Standard is a precision drill team, not a football squad. They run a ton of set plays, and their backup quarterback flings the ball 50 yards in the air, on a line, to monster ends who look like World Cup sprinters.

All of it is football — the crisp weather, whistles blowing, the air full of such patter as "huddle up, huddle up!" "they're bunched in the middle," "the flat! the flat in the flat!" "nice D, strong D, way to go D!" "good wheels," and "bend, don't break. C'MON DEE! BEND DON'T BREAK! BEND DON'T BREAK!"

The only thing missing is the smell of burning leaves wafting over the field.

"It gets ingrained in you," said Gable, a defensive rusher taking a break while the offense moved.

"Hell, I'm 41, now, and my wife looks at me hobbling in, and she thinks I'm nuts. 'Is it worth it?' she asks. Sure, I love it."

"Hey, some of us are 43. We wouldn't be out here if we didn't love it."

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Referees Bob Lawson (left) of New Hudson, Mike McCusker of Westland and Bob Allen of Westland discuss a penalty.



Frankie's receiver Daryl Rize of Wayne flags down a pass from his brother, quarterback Bruce Rize.

Divorce a harsh test for friendships

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Jim Westfall, 40, of Plymouth agrees. "Whether (married) friends realize it or not, they look at a single person as a threat to their marriage. They see how easy the divorce appears to be and they're afraid their spouse will get the same idea."

Westfall, who was divorced the first time after 13 years of marriage and a second time after eight months of marriage, said he has led seminars on the loss of friends for Parents Without Partners. He is now president of the Plymouth-Canton chapter.

BURDETTE, who has been counseling married couples for 12 years, said the loss of mutual friends at the time of divorce is not unusual.

She calls these relationships "couple-ships," superficial friendships based upon mutual social interests — couples befriending one another for Friday night bowling, dining out together or even vacationing together.

The blinding factor in coupleships, according to Burdette, is entertainment. "Beyond community togetherness, there is usually not a lot of depth to the friendship. There is not enough to sustain it through a divorce." At the time of divorce, these friends want distance. "They don't want the divorce coming into their marriage. They don't want to

take sides. Oftentimes, they don't know how to deal with the situation. It's much like death. They just don't know how to handle it."

MOST COUPLES sense divorce before it occurs, according to Burdette, and one member of the couple may maneuver loyalties among mutual friends prior to the divorce.

"He or she aligns with the friend and establishes loyalty ahead of time. After the divorce, he or she lays claim to the friend."

Sometimes, she added, friends align themselves with the person in the couple that is perceived as the "victim."

Smith, whose ex-husband married Smith's best friend, retained two mutual friends from her marriage. She remains friendly with them nearly 20 years later.

Friends also align themselves based upon advantage. Eldred's ex-husband, who is a surgeon, retained most of the couple's mutual friends who are involved in medicine.

Winslow, who started flying a year before her second marriage, in 1978, retained friendships developed within the airline.

Burdette calls these relationships "buddyships," the network one establishes in the course of employment. Men, more often than women, fall back on buddyships, relationships that usually weather divorce with

little trouble.

DEEP FRIENDSHIPS, relationships in which people have a genuine regard and care for one another and in which a great deal of effort is invested over a long period of time, also normally weather divorce intact.

"Deeper relationships last from marriage to marriage," Burdette said.

Following Eldred's divorce, which involved a lengthy custody suit, she became close to friends she had brought into the marriage, people she has known most of her life.

She also "went on to new friends because my need in friends had changed. Life had changed."

Westfall has remained close to a best friend from living through both of his divorces. He and the friend first met in grade school.

Winslow rarely sees her second ex-husband but remains close to his parents whom she regularly visits on trips to Phoenix.

"They adore me. I was the daughter they never had," she said of the relationship.

Smith, who married again after her divorce and is now widowed, has the last word on the subject.

"True as it sounds, you find out who your real friends are during a divorce."

