

# Where are the good sports?

**M**AYBE IT'S ONLY MY imagination, but have you noticed a proliferation of incidents of late at high school sporting events?

Two recent prep basketball games were marred by violence and subsequent arrests.

Frankly I was surprised to hear about an alleged racially motivated incident involving the basketball teams at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook and Harper Woods. Like the Cranbrook-Harper Woods game, the Inter-Rochester game also was disrupted by fights.

And those who think it can't happen anywhere else have another thing coming. Just the other day I learned of a donnybrook involving the Livonia Franklin and Livonia Stevenson basketball teams in which players were ejected from the game. The same thing happened last month between the same two schools in hockey.

Without being accused of over-reacting, the recent wave of incidents is very real. They can't be swept under the rug.

**OUTSIDERS** HAVE caused some of the problems.

During last spring's Wayne-Westland John Glenn basketball game, "non-student" types started incidents in the parking lot and at a nearby fast-food restaurant.

"Outsiders" also caused problems at the Bishop Borgess-Cass Tech basketball game earlier this year,



**Brad Emons**

prompting Borgess officials to admit only those students from the participating schools for future games unless accompanied by an adult.

But the problems are not restricted to outside agitators.

Jack Roberts, the new Michigan High School Athletic Association executive director, warned member schools earlier this school year about "negative" cheering. He was not only talking about such chants as "air ball," but put-down cheers which incite rival student bodies.

**BUT IT SEEMS** the root of these problems start with the players. The day and age of sportsmanship has become obsolete.

Certain things we abhorred 20 years ago are now accepted as part of the game.

I've noticed several disturbing trends in the past year or so:

- I recently watched a player make a free throw, then defiantly point at the opposing cheering section, which had been goading the same player all night long.
- In another game, I watched a player slam dunk a ball and then

"talk trash" to his victim as they walked down the floor.

- In a hockey game, I watched players being harassed as they headed toward the penalty box. The player being penalized was usually greeted with an opposing finger or stick being waved in front of his face.

- Dancing in the end zone and flipping the ball in a defender's face after scoring a touchdown. This must be "new wave" celebrating.

- "High fives" have become "high dives." Some of these "new acts" should be saved for the high school drama class.

- Tobacco-chewing high school baseball players. (Just a total lack of discipline.)

- Once I witnessed a gang of soccer players corner and then threaten officials physically after losing a match.

## WHERE DOES IT STOP?

Society is guilty of many of these problems. We often don't teach our kids how to act at an early age, particularly in sports. Losing with dignity is a lost art.

We seem to go along with these antics as long as we win or can back it up.

Of course, we have a different set of role models to choose from these days: Brian Bosworth, Jim McMahon, Antoine Joubert, Scott Skiles, Bob Probert, John McEnroe, the Miami Hurricanes, Buddy Ryan, Dexter Manley, Mark Gastineau and Bobby Knight.

As long as these people are successful, we condone their actions. And it's that kind of attitude, unfortunately, that filters down to the high school ranks.

It appears that we've gone beyond the stage of being flamboyant. The late Pistol Pete Maravich used to put on a show, but he did it with class.

**THE JOB** OF coaching and administering high school sports is very difficult. Some coaches believe they have control over their teams when they really don't.

We're going to have to keep a closer eye on our high school athletes because things are not in balance. And that's why a community newspaper as ours will continue to keep close tabs on developing trends, positive and negative.

When the trouble starts, we won't look the other way or hesitate to identify the instigators. Somebody has to do it.

# 'Attitude' is key to winning, says Fair

By Brad Emons

Staff writer

**A**S A YOUNG ATHLETE in high school, D. Steve Fair experienced both success and failure.

He thought he knew how to handle success, but he found out he didn't know how to deal with failure.

"Sports was the most important thing to me," he said. "During high school in my junior year I was an All-State (in basketball), but I came back as a senior and didn't have a good season. It took years of searching, and all I knew is that the coaches said it was my attitude."

Fair graduated from Southgate

Aquinas High in 1976 and later played for Wayne State.

Twelve years later, including a stint as an insurance salesman for AAA in Texas, Fair has become a budding author where he has devoted nearly all his time and energy. He spent a year doing intensive research for his first writing.

His book, titled "Athletics: A Vehicle to Winning Attitude," is a compact, 100-page text with inspirational and profound thoughts expressed by Fair himself, outstanding athletes, successful scholars and famous leaders.

"I WANTED to find an inspirational thing that athletes put into

words which can lead to a happy and productive life," said Fair, who resides in Garden City. "Most athletes don't have an idea of mental dynamics. I had no regrets about my athletic career, but I wanted an answer so I started reading books.

"When I was growing up I didn't have anything like this. I needed material to relate to as a young athlete."

Fair got inspiration from such sports figures as Bill Bradley and Willie Stargill. He also took ideas from Ross Perot, Socrates, Einstein, Vince Lombardi and Julius Erving. There are many more.

"I wanted to merge good litera-

ture with a positive mental attitude about sports," he said. "The information is geared for the athlete to improve mentally. It's for those who have already succeeded, and for those who are feeling a little low."

Fair stresses a theme throughout the book: balance.

"We need balance because some people approach things so one-dimensional," he said. "I've spent a lot of time studying physics and how it relates to the athlete."

**FAIR'S BOOK** has sold 3,000 copies and is in its second printing. The book has been sold through direct mailing.

"This is for anybody 12 years and up," he said. "I think everybody can get something out of it. I hope some day that it will be found in school libraries."

While Fair was gathering his material, he'd often ask for feedback from young athletes, including players from the Farmington High girls basketball team where his wife, Diana, is the head coach.

This spring, Fair plans to conduct a seminar for student-athletes at North Farmington High.

Fair's topics might range from goal-setting to team play. Here is a sample of Fair's book: "You'll realize how **ATHLETICS** and all other aspects of **LIFE** relate to each other. Learn from the high achievers and you'll develop your **WINNING ATTITUDE**."

After reading the book myself, you would use it like a devotional with the bible. The more you read, the more you'll get out of it.

## gymnastics

(Girls gymnastics rankings will be compiled weekly by The Economic Review. Coaches wishing to update or make additions to these scores should call the sports department at 644-1101.)

TEAM SCORES	
1. Troy Athens	138.75
2. Troy	128.50
3. Birmingham Seaholm	123.65
4. Rochester	117.20
5. Rochester Adams	110.40
6. Birmingham Groves	107.50
7. Bloomfield Hills Lusher	99.60
8. Southfield Lathrop	98.70
9. Southfield	69.70

### VAULT

1. Kerri Berger (Troy)	9.10
2. Melissa Miller (Athens)	9.10
3. Jenny Wilson (Troy)	8.85
4. Janice Greff (Athens)	8.80

5. Natalie Leich (Athens)	8.70
6. Kim Cole (Troy)	8.65
7. Jenny Farmer (Seaholm)	8.65
8. Jenny Fournace (Seaholm)	8.55
9. Lee Hammond (Seaholm)	8.50
10. Clara Trevino (Rochester)	8.40

### UNEVEN BARS

1. Melissa Miller (Athens)	8.95
2. Janice Greff (Athens)	8.75
3. Natalie Leich (Athens)	8.75
4. Amy Chapman (Troy)	8.50
5. Kay Marshall (Rochester)	8.40
6. Michelle Riera (Athens)	8.15
7. Kim Trevino (Rochester)	8.05
8. Karyn Paez (Seaholm)	7.90
9. Deanna Lawson (Athens)	7.85
10. Lee Hammond (Seaholm)	7.60

### BALANCE BEAM

1. Natalie Leich (Athens)	9.10
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2. Michelle Riera (Athens)	8.65
3. Jenny Wilson (Troy)	8.60
4. Kim Trevino (Rochester)	8.60
5. Janice Greff (Athens)	8.50
6. Lee Hammond (Seaholm)	8.50
7. Tiffany Kralia (Athens)	8.40
8. Michelle Miller (Athens)	8.35
9. Clara Trevino (Rochester)	8.10
10. Suzanne Gore (Seaholm)	8.00
10. Deanna Lawson (Athens)	8.00

### FLOOR EXERCISES

1. Michelle Miller (Athens)	9.45
2. Natalie Leich (Athens)	9.40
3. Kim Cole (Troy)	8.90
4. Tiffany Kralia (Athens)	8.90
5. Jenny Wilson (Troy)	8.90
6. Kim Trevino (Rochester)	8.85
7. Janice Greff (Athens)	8.80
8. Monica Bagchi (Seaholm)	8.60
9. Wendy Ziemer (Troy)	8.55
10. Clara Trevino (Rochester)	8.30

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### MASTER'S SWIM

Charlie Blanchard, four-time finisher of the 140.6-mile Hawaii Ironman Triathlon, is coaching a master's swim program at Scammon High School. Sponsored by Birmingham Community Education, the program is open to adults (21 and over) serious about swimming and capable of doing 1,000 yards in 25 minutes.

"It's ideal for motivated adults who are interested in master's competition, triathlons or improving fitness," said Blanchard. "The group is enthusiastic and the workouts are tough, but fun — everybody gets better."

There is a \$65 fee for the program, which runs Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m. through March 30.

For information, call 433-8444 or 647-2835.

### SOFTBALL UMPIRES

The Bloomfield Parks and Recreation is accepting applications from umpiring crews for its 1988 adult softball season which begins in early May. All applicants must be American Softball Association (ASA) certified and be willing to handle a seven-night schedule, a fall league that runs until October plus tournaments through both seasons.

West Bloomfield's adult softball league plays at the West Bloomfield Community Sports Park on Keith Road north of Commerce Road in West Bloomfield Township and at the Abbott Middle School on Commerce Road west of Orchard Lake Road.

The program includes men, men over 35, women and co-recreational. For further information, call Scott Van Meter at the parks and recreation office, 334-5660.

### RED WINGS AUCTION

The seventh annual evening with the Detroit Red Wings for Easter Seals will be held Jan. 27 at Joe Louis Arena.

A cocktail reception at 6 p.m. will be followed by a dinner at 7:15 and an auction afterwards. Included in this year's items are a road trip with the Wings to their Montreal game, Feb. 26-27, condo vacations for two in Florida and Colorado, and hockey equipment and memorabilia for players and coaches throughout the NHL.

Tickets for the event are \$50 for individuals, \$100 for couples and \$500 for a table of 10. All proceeds will benefit the Easter Seals Society,

which can be contacted at 338-9626 for reservations and more details.

### NEW PGA DIRECTOR

The Michigan Section of the Professional Golfers Association of America announced the appointment of Thomas W. Colucci of Farmington as the executive director of the Michigan PGA, effective Jan. 1, 1988.

"I'm really looking forward to the challenges of the job," said Colucci. "I've lived in a number of different parts of the country and without a doubt Michigan is the strongest golf area in the nation, and I'm dedicated to maintaining that lofty position."

### VOLLEYBALL COACH

The athletic department of Oakland Community College (Orchard Ridge campus) is accepting applications for a head women's volleyball coach.

League competition begins in fall of 1988. Inquiries can be sent to Stephen L. Goddard, OCC, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48018.

### BOWLERS CHARITY TOURNAMENT

The Bowling Proprietors Association of Michigan is teaming up with Miller Genuine Draft for the first time to present the 1988 Bowlers Charity Tournament. Competition begins with qualifying rounds Jan. 18 through 31 at local BPA bowling centers throughout Michigan and ends with the finals at Woodlands in Livonia on June 5.

More than \$200,000 will be distributed to the to the winners of the tournament, which is the largest fund-raiser for the annual Bowlers Charities program. The entry fee for the tournament is a \$1 contribution for the right to bowl a three game series at the bowler's neighborhood BPA center.

Entry forms are available at the centers. For more information, contact Dan Attom at 559-5207.

### WHITE PINE STAMPEDE

A registration for the White Pine Stampede, an annual Cross Country Ski race held in Manelona, has already resulted in 500 entrants. And officials expect to top the 1,000 mark by 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 6, when the race will begin.

A portion of the skiers' \$35 entry fee will go to Children's Hospital of Michigan. More information and entry blanks are available by writing to White Pine Stampede, P.O. Box 497, Manelona 49659, or by calling (616) 587-8812.

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