

# Military service matures Sinclair

T'S ONLY FITTING that an Army veteran like Jim Sinc-lair has done an about-face. Today, the 6-foot, 229-pound fullback/limbacker is a second-year wall-on with the University of Michigan football team, pursuing a degree in business and scheduled to graduate this year. Unimately he may wind up in one of U-M's graduate programs, preferably pre-law.

#### football

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his high school days at Plymouth Salear may find that hard to swallow.
"People may not believe how 'rehanged," sald Sinclair, "Sac kthen I
had a lot of problems."

The 1983 graduate was a good allaround athlete, but couldn't avoid
trouble in school. He was constantly
at odds with coaches and teachers.

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fullback, but was overshadowed by
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high school, Sinciair built himself up during his stint in the army. "I was a persistent lifter and that gave me confidence I could play," he

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U-M defensive coordinator Lloyd Carr calls Sinclair "one tough nut."
"He's done a nice job for us." Carr said. "He's not a raid to slick his mose in there."
His teammates refer to him as the "Sarge."
"The other day Bo (Schembechler) was calling me "the Colonel" and I got a big kitck out of that," Sinclair asid. "He diol't know I was in the service until somebody had told had been as the service until somebody had told the said of the service until somebody had told the service until somebody had to service until somebody had told the service until somebody had told the service until somebod

of the ball using 5-30 2. Game.

"When I won Rookie of the Week that helped me out a lot," he said.
"Right now I'm just going to go out with a good altitude and do whatever I can for the team."

SINCLAIR admitted that playing in a game is a longshot, but he's not ruling out the possibility.
"Tm like the turtle," he said. "I'm always there, popping my head out

Observerland will be well represented on the gridiron this season at the University of Michigan. Among the area players suiting up (clockwise, top left) are All-American nose guard Mark Messner (Redford Catholic Central High), outside linebacker Alex Marshall (Redford

Bishop Borgess), taliback Tony Botes (West-land John Glenn), middle guard Erik Knuth (Plymouth and Redford CC) and walk-on full-back/linebacker Jim Sinclair (Plymouth Sa-lem). Michigan opens its season Saturday, Sepl. 10 at Notre Dame. See related stories.

to see what's going on."

And If it wasn't for the Army,
Sinclair admits things may have

turned out differently,
"It was the best thing I ever did," reince. It taught me a lot of disci-

# Boles a new man, eyes starting position

HAT A DIFFERENCE a year makes, Tony Boles can attest to that.

Ilme a cloud of uncertainty hung over the promising tailback from the University of Michigan.

Boles was struggling academically and fell into disfavor with Bo Schembechier, who refused to let him practice until he got things straightened out with a Latin class, straightened out with a Latin class, result, he played sparingly in 1817.

"It was kind of depressing," and Boles, "I wished I could have played more."

more."
But the former Westland John Glenn High All-Stater has become a new man, a more mature player who is on the verge of succeeding Jamie

Morris as the starting tailback.
The vacancy left by the All-American created plenty of competition at tailback with the return of two other rominisin gredshirt juniors, including Warren DeLaSalle product Allen Delferson and Tracy Williams of Sarasola; Fla.
But Schembechler told a press gathering Friday that all three will play a role in the Wolverines' 1988 scason.

"WHEN THEY have the ball under their arms they all can do the
job," sald Schembechler. "There's no
question about their running ability,
but what each has to do is develop
into an all-around running back like
Morris was. They have to do the
other things like blocking, faking and
picking up blitzes in the backfield."



**Brad Emons** 

Boles will tell you that the adjust-ment to playing football at U-M was never a problem, but feeling com-fortable in the classroom was a dif-

forms to the classroom was a dif-ferent story.

"I knew the system, but school-wise everything had to fall into place," he said. "My attitude toward school has now changed. I'm getting the grades and I'm better situated than I was last year.

"I'm studying more often and not stiding off like I did. I'm not thinking about my social life too much."

Boles said that Morris proved to be a good example — on and off the field.

field.
"His attitude is something you no-tice right away," Boles said. "I learned that he was a tough little guy who gave everything he had. The coaches are looking to fill Jamie's

WHILE BOLES was turning the corner academically, he also made the grade during the 1938 Spring Game when he rushed for 135 yards and two touchdowns, his longest run being a 63-yarder. The performance put him in position to challenge for playing time. And it didn't but that Boles reportedly clocked a sizzling 4.2 in the 40-yard dash.

His speed may be unmatched on a football team loaded with "burners." But it takes more than running fast to gain PT (playing time) at Michigan.

"You have to know how to block

Michigan.
"You have to know how to block and if you can't block, you can't play," Boles said. "You have to get What a diff

liams.
"If I'm No. 1 — fine. But if not, that's fine, too," he said. "It doesn't matter if I start, it's how I play the game. I'd be happy just to play a little key role. If all three backs played, that's OK with me. That way it'll keep everybody fresh."

DURING HIS freshman year, a hand injury kept Boles out most of the season. But this year he feels completely healthy and is 'very excited' about U-M's season opener Sturrday, Sept. 10 at Notre Dame. "This fail things are going very well." he said.

What a difference a year makes.

### Area gridders buoy GLIAC

Northern Michigan's first football Northern Michigan's first football season in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference was an auspicious one. The Wildcats went unbeaten in four conference games, posted a 10-2 overall record and reached the NCAA Division II semifinals where they lost 13-7 to Portland State.

So what does coach Herb Grenke have planned for an encore? "Our goal," he said at Wednesday's GLI-AC football-volleyball media day, "is to be the most improved team in the country."

Using last year as a yardstlek might make improvement seem like a lofty aspiration. But consider this: NMU returns 16 starters who earned mention on the all-GLIAC team last year.

AMONG THOSE returning is the conference player-of-the-year, senior tailback Steve Avery, who rushed for 1,300 yards and scored 12 touchdowns. Also back are six members of the all-GLIAC first-team defense.

the sit-GLIAC first-team defense. Everything considered, it's little wonder NMU is a heavy favorite to repeat as champion. The Wildcats earned five of six possible first-place votes in the coaches' preseason balloting, Hillsdale was picked to finish second and got the only other first-place vote. Grand Valley State and Saginaw Valley State tied for third, with Ferris State fifth and Wayne' State airth.

THE CARDINALS will need the strong blocking provided by Mac, sophomore Don McAnelly (6-2, 26), from Troy Athens, who returns at center, and sophomore Rick Forsythe (6-2, 242), from Redford Catholic Chental, who returns at guard, SVSU must break in a new quarterback and replace the third and fourth best rushers in the GLIAC in '87.

There are seven returnees on defense, including part-time starter Mike Korzeki (6-4, 210), a senior densive tackle from Wayne Memorial. Brian Tiller (5-8, 165), a sophorore from Plymouth Salem, is slated as a possible starter at strong safety after filling the cornerback position a year ago.

The kicking game is in the hands of senior Chris Piazza (Westland John Glenn). Plazza connected on 18-of-17 extra points and six-of-12 field goals, scoring 34 points in '87.

WAYNE STATE finished dead last in the GLIAC a year ago, winless in four games. The Tartars plan to improve, with a stronger defense anchored by senior defensive tackle frony Beaume (8-5, 248) of Livonia Stevenson, a second-team all-GLIAC member last year, and senior noseguard Marty Altounian (8-0, 240) of Livonia Bentley, booorable mention all-league in 27.

"Re's a great talent." said WRII

will carry the defense. The lineback-ing was weak a year ago and might not be much better. Whelb means senior cornerback Craig Pasini (Ro-chester) will see plenty of action. Pa-sini is filling his third position in three years; ke's also played strong and free safety.

"PASINI'S A potential all-confer-ence player," said Horn. "Corner-back should be his best position. He can cover."

On offense, WSU has its quarter-back, junior Mike Grennier, return-ing funilke four of the six other GLI-AC teams). One of his main targets will be diminute senior wide re-ceiver David Lee (5-7, 140), of Gar-den City, who caught 23 passes for 314 yards and two TDs last season.

"He's a microdot," said Horn, "and probably weighs 140 pounds soaking wet. But he's got to be watched, He's a tremendous compet-

Also back is juntor tight end John Jessing (6-5, 230), from Troy Athens, who had nine cathers for 100 yards and a touchdown in '87, and juntor Chuck Crespi (6-2, 230), from Livonia and Redford Catholic Central, who moves from starting guard to center.

AT GRAND VALLEY, the defensive leader will be undersized (4-1, 223), overachieving senior defensive end Scott Taylor of Birmingham Groves. Taylor was a second-seam chotec last year and was named GLIAC defensive player of the week after recording three sector against after recording three sector sizes. second and got the only other firstplace vote. Grand Valley State and
"Re's a great talent," said WSU
Grove. Taylor was a second-team
choice last year and so have some all-GLIAG performers coming back. SVSI's ofterstree line will be anchored by 6-foot,
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things necessary to get the job done."

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In the secondary, senior Mike Slazinski (6-4, 195), of Parmington Hills and Southfield-Lathrup, moves from free to strong safety. In '87, he to-slad 54 tackles, two interceptions and a fumble recovery. Olds. The brother John (6-10, 155), also a senior, will play wide receiver for the Lakers. John caught six passes for 106 yards and a TD last year.

On the divinition blue second form

On the offensive line, second-team all-GLIAC center Tom Mitchell (6-2 40), from Birmingham Brother Rice, returns to solidly the situation. "He's an understated individual, not real strong or big, but he gets the job done," said Beck. "He's very intuitive."

FERRIS STATE had some spark-ling individuals a year ago, but there wasn't much to show for it. The Bull-dogs finished 4-7 overall and 2-3 in the GLIAC under Kelth Otterbein (a Southfield-Lathrup grad). Improve-ment might be difficult; there are several holes to fill.

Senior Brian Schremp (6-1, 260), also from S-L, hopes to fill one position regularly. An assortment of Injuries have sidellined Schremp over the past two years, but Otterbein was counting on him to start on the offensive line this season.

To strengthen the offensive back-field, Otterbein switched sophomore Delbert Littlejohn (1-9, 185), a Ro-chester Adam grad, from defensive back (one interception in '87), Ot-terbein called Littlejohn "a nitry lit-tle runner, not wery big but elamive."

At least placekicking shouldn't be a problem for PSU. Suphemore Tony Strahet, from Westland John Giens, scored 33 points in '87, making all 12 extra-point tries and seven-of-12 field goals.

#### college sports

O&E PLAYERS IN THE GLIAC

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Salem NORTHERN MICHIGAN: Andy Avery feshman delensive lineman, from Hosti Farmington, Euc Stokes, fleetiman wide is criver, non Southfield-fashing. Tom Bashon freshman light leaf-defensive end, from West Land (Wayne Memorial).

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE: Brian Badrak freshman wide receiver, from Livonia Church il. Rox. Forsythe, sophomore guard, from Bedford Catholic Central, Mike Kozzeńk, son or defensive inneman, from Wayne Memorat