

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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(F1D)

# Football fame

## Coaches honor Harrison's Sutter

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Being the head coach, John Herrington gets most of the credit for Farmington Hills Harrison's amazing success in football.

But he's always ready to share the acclaim with his coaching staff, and he believes longtime assistant Bob Sutter has finally received his due in that regard.

Sutter, who serves as defensive coordinator and line coach, has been voted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He will be honored at a banquet in April at the University of Michigan.

"Bob is like another head coach," Herrington said. "He's had many chances to be a head coach but wanted to stay with our program. So I think it's great these honors are coming his way."

The 47-year-old Sutter, a Livonia resident, coached the JV football team from 1970 to 1972 and joined Herrington on the varsity the next year, taking responsibility for the defense in 1977.

"It's something everybody is going to get eventually if they've been in the coaches association long enough," said Sutter, not one to seek out the spotlight, "but nevertheless I'm still excited about it."

SUTTER HAS carved out his own reputation in coaching circles for his work with the Harrison defense, which has created a tradition for excellence and has been outstanding the last two years. Sutter's 5-3 defense, with all of its stunts and variations, was instrumental in the Hawks winning consecutive Class B championships.

"It's a great year for him to go in — after we won the state championship," Herrington said. "Bob is known all over the state for what he

*"I'm not that good at organizational detail and all the other things that go along with being a head coach. I had a couple opportunities but decided to stay at Harrison. We were having too much fun over there."*

— Bob Sutter  
Hall of Fame inductee



does, and we get a lot of requests from coaches who want to come to Harrison and talk about the defense we play.

"The offense has gotten a lot of publicity the last few years, but it was the defense that kept us in the big games."

Herrington cited the 1981 state final in which the Hawks shut out (7-0) favored Muskegon Catholic Central, a team averaging 40 points a game, to win their first state title.

Sutter ranks that game as a career highlight, as well as the double-overtime win over Dearborn Fordson in the '82 Class A title game and the last two championship seasons.

In his day-to-day duties, Sutter, like a true assistant who labors in anonymity, thoroughly enjoys coaching the linemen, the "faceless entities" of every football team.

"WE CALL them the grubbers, because they're down in the dirt, digging in the trenches," he said. "They're the non-heroes. I enjoy having them work hard and develop."

Despite his coaching ability, Sutter has chosen to stay at Harrison rather than become a head coach somewhere else. Many point to the controversy in the Harrison staff — Herrington, Sutter and another long-time assistant, Bob Sallow — for the team's repeated success. Herrington is 166-10-1 in 20 years as the school's only head coach, and the Hawks were 106-9 in the 1980s.

"I'm not that good at organizational detail and all the other things that go along with being a head coach," Sutter said. "I had a couple opportunities but decided to stay at Harrison. We were having too much fun over there."

Another reason for the Harrison program's ability to stay on top for so long is the mesh of personalities among the coaches. Herrington, according to Sutter, is the organizer and offensive coach, Sallow keeps the others on an even keel and Sutter is the one who tends to get carried away.

"That's part of the chemistry on our staff," he said. "We're not only

friends, but we fill different roles."

Sutter, who models himself after Prentice Ryan, his former coach at Royal Oak Kimball High School, is known as the motivator, a complement to Herrington's easy-going demeanor.

ONE OF his motivational techniques — attacking the blackboard in Herrington's classroom with his forehead — came about by accident during a team meeting and has become another Harrison tradition.

"He was talking to the players in my room and saying how much he'd like to play — and he bumped his head," Herrington said. "The kids reacted to it so much it became a tradition. They look forward to him doing it."

Prior to the playoff game with Marysville in 1987, Sutter broke the blackboard. Actually, it was a forearm smash that crumpled it, but it appeared Sutter broke it with his forehead. A dazed Sutter then walked out of the room amidst cheers.

"He broke it into a million pieces, and the kids went nuts," Herrington said. "The kids picked up the pieces as souvenirs, and I bet they still have these in their bedrooms as mementos."

"It took me months to get a new blackboard," he added.

Having grown weary of delivering Coco Butts, Sutter said it's a tradition that has possibly seen its last.

"SOMEBODY had put a symbol of the other team on the board," said Sutter, recalling the start of the tradition. "I turned around and gave it a butt, and the kids got pumped."

"Now the cheerleaders write Sutter's Spot on the board."

Sutter has another spot reserved for him, too — in the Coaches Hall of Fame.

# Wish list has Mill

## in right program

SOME THINGS I WISH would happen in 1990:  
Redford Union upset Woodhaven in boys basketball.

Tom Niemi back coaching high school basketball somewhere.

Keep the Michigan High School Athletic Association football playoffs the same.

A stronger, faster and clean bill of health for Tony Boles.

A winning season for GC football coach Bob Eisminger.

A Tri-River League football crown for Thurston.

Redford Catholic Central sophomore center Bob Kummer grow another three inches.

Give Wally Barrett the space he needs to coach the Livonia Stevenson boys soccer team.

Give Stevenson football coach Jack Reardon some players.

Milli Coleman makes the right choice.

Make John Herrington the successor to George Perles.

Got the Livonia Public Schools committed to interscholastic athletics.

A LESS CONFUSING and more uniform Western Lakes Activities Association.

A talented 6-10 transfer for GC basketball coach Bob Dropp.

John Miller and Tim Walton, a permanent spot on the Lions roster.

Mark Messner, a big fumble recovery against the Giants and a trip in the Super Bowl.

A new hair salon for Bernie Carbo in Winter Haven, Fla.

Carrie Cunningham, a quarterfinal berth in the Australian Open.

Al Iafate, a spot in the NHL All-Star Game.

Mike Modano, Rookie of the Year honors.

Dennis Smith, more than a cup of coffee with the Washington Capitals.



**Brad Emons**

Coach Chuck Gordon, another proficient passer at Glenn Paul Soucy, another Olympic boxing hopeful.

U-M linebacker Alex Marshall, tears of joy after a victory for Gary Mueller against Notre Dame.

Toby Heaton, a starting role on MSU's offensive line.

MISSOURI'S JOHN McINTYRE, the game-winning basket against Oklahoma. Or how about Notre Dame? Churchhill coach Herb Osterland, a WLA Western Division baseball title.

An Observerland Track Hays meet with 70-degree temperatures and not a cloud in the sky.

No more high school football playoff games at Flint Atwood Stadium.

Franklin football coach Armand Vigna, a breakaway running back.

Madonna baseball coach Mike George, a trip to the NAIA playoffs.

Another trip for this writer to Johnstown, Pa.

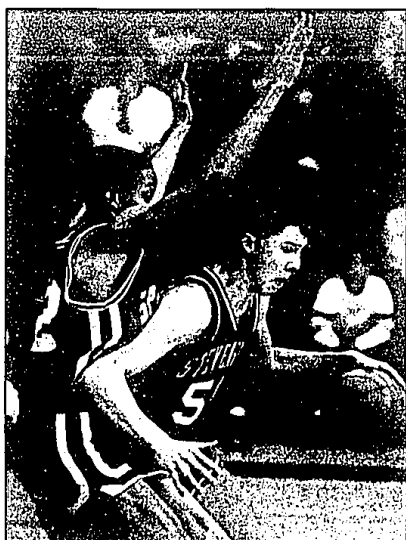
The state basketball finals at the Breslin Center and Crisler Arena instead of the Palace.

An all-weather track for Redford Union High.

A good hockey game between Stevenson and Churchill Jan. 12 at Edgar Arena.

A college coaching job for Mike Fusco.

Another trip to the NCAA basketball tournament with Dave Wagoner.



Steve Leonard (right) of Stevenson works inside against Redford Bishop Borgess. Leonard scored 12 in the win, while Leonard tallied 10 in a losing cause.

# Borgess blitzes cage foe

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Livonia Stevenson went looking for basketball competition outside the Western Lakes Activities Association and got more than it bargained for Tuesday at Redford Bishop Borgess.

The host Spartans, hitting 77 percent from the floor (24 of 31) in the first half, ran away from the visiting Spartans to post a convincing 78-60 victory.

"I'm not pleased with the way we played, but I'm sure the kids will draw from the experience," said Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre, whose team is 4-2 overall. "If a game like this helps us in the long run, then we'll be happy. We needed a game like this to get ready for our division (Lakes) because it's going to be tough."

Borgess coach Mike Fusco had to be pleased with the way his team bounced back from its first defeat of the season, an 81-52 thrashing at the hands of unbeaten Saginaw in the Big Michigan Shoot-Out, Dec. 28 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Please turn to Page 2

# S'craft blows lead in tournament

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team apparently has developed a new patent.

The Owlets invented another way to lose Friday in the consolation game of the Kijori Community College Holiday Tournament in Battle Creek, squandering a six-point lead in the final minute against Henry Ford CC, which pulled out a 76-75 victory on Ed Volbert's desperation three-point hook shot from the corner as time expired.

The loss drops Schoolcraft to 6-11 overall.

Henry Ford, led by a team-high 19 points from Livonia Stevenson product Chris Nazell, upped its record to 4-8.

On a clear-out play in the final seconds, Volbert got off the shot despite heavy pressure from Schoolcraft's Rob Harmon (Redford Bishop Borgess).

"The ball rolled off his (Volbert's) leg and rolled to the corner," explained SC coach Dave Bogataj. "Then he just picked it up and threw it over his right shoulder."

IRONICALLY, it was the only three-point shot Henry Ford connected on in 13 attempts.

"We let them back into the ball game with terrible shot selection," said Bogataj. "We also had 22 turnovers (to Henry Ford's seven) and my bench hurt me. We got stupid with the ball in the last minute."

Although Schoolcraft did not score a field goal in the final five minutes, the Owlets still were in position to put the game away before freshman guard Jeff Elliott (Plymouth Salem) put up an ill-advised 19-footer that missed, followed by a five-second count against Ed Hudson.

Please turn to Page 2

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