

# Writers in race for pot o' gold

By Dan O'Meara  
and Brad Emmons  
staff writers

**T**HERE WILL BE a race to determine the Observer football prediction champion after all.

With three weeks to go, the contest is even up between prep prognosticators Brad Emmons and Dan O'Meara.

Both have 73-17 records. A one-game advantage slipped away from O'Meara last week when he was 13-1 and Emmons a sterling 14-0.

Vacation was good to O'Meara, who returned from two weeks in Ireland to find he had made up for a poor start and become a contender.

Sure, and 'tis the luck o' the Irish. This is no blarney, says O'Meara, brimming with confidence once again.

In fact, O'Meara wondered if he shouldn't stay on vacation for the next three weeks, too. After all, he did better predicting winners out of the country than when he was in the office.

But would the boss go along with that line of reasoning? Doubtful.

So the season enters Week No. 7 with renewed interest in who will become the king of football forecasting.

Emmons, with his great insight and sixth sense for making the right pick, says he is ready to stand his ground during the stretch run.

O'Meara bumbled with the leprechauns of Ireland, tapping into their gridiron knowledge, and is prepared to charm his way to victory if necessary. He has seen the rainbow and now hopes to grab the pot of gold.

## grid predictions

FRIDAY'S GAMES  
(all games at 7:30 p.m.)

Liv. Franklin at Liv. Churchill: The Patriots (1-5) are coming off a 35-0 loss to Western Division champ Farmington Hills Harrison, but they still have an edge over Churchill, which has yet to win a game. Picks: Franklin drops Churchill to 0-7, says O'Meara, but Emmons says Churchill gains its first win.

Liv. Stevenson at Westland Glenn: The Rockets (6-0) have clinched a berth in the WLLA championship game, but they can win the Lakes Division title outright by beating Stevenson and finishing 5-0. The Spartans (3-3) are scoreless in their last three games after a solid start. Picks: Glenn sends Stevenson into orbit.

Northville at Ply. Canton: Second place in the Western Division and an outside shot at a championship is at stake in this game, which also has playoff implications. The winner's chances for post-season play will be increased, the loser's diminished. Both teams are 3-1 in the division and 5-1 overall, each one losing to Harrison. Picks: Canton's offense carries the day.

Farmington at W.L. Central: The Vikings (1-5) have played good football lately, holding Plymouth Salem to a field goal in a 3-0 loss last week. Farmington (0-8) stands a better chance of getting its first victory than it did last week when it played John Glenn and lost 29-6. Picks: The Vikings is favored to Central.

Liv. Clarenceville at Avondale: The Trojans (4-2) are having a good season but trail league-leading Avondale by two games in the Metro Conference with a 3-2

record. The Rhinos (0-9) have been the dominant team in this series and are coming off a 64-7 rout of previously unbeaten Lutheran North. Picks: Avondale stays unbeaten.

Dearborn at Garden City: Dearborn (5-1) can clinch the Northern Suburban League championship with a victory over the Cougars. The Panthers lead the league at 3-0. Garden City is 1-2 in the NSL and 3-3 overall. Picks: Dearborn will have some celebrating to do.

Redford Union at Woodhaven: The Panthers (2-4) have a one-game lead over Woodhaven (3-3) in the NSL. Redford Union is second only to Dearborn at 2-1. The Warriors are 1-2. Picks: Woodhaven sneaks past RU.

Southgate at Wayne Memorial: The Zebras (5-1) suffered their first loss last Saturday when Dearborn Fordson stopped their win streak with a 10-0 score. Wayne is part of a three-way tie with Trosion and Wyandotte for first place in the Wolverine A Conference with 4-1 records. Southgate is 2-3 and 2-4. Picks: The Zebras rebound with a victory.

SATURDAY'S GAMES  
(all games at 1 p.m. unless noted)

W.L. Western at Farm. Harrison, 12:30 p.m.: The Hawks (5-1) have clinched a spot in the WLLA title game next week, but Western is the last hurdle they must clear to win the Western Division outright with a 5-0 record. The Warriors are 1-5 overall. Picks: Harrison hammers out another win.

Ply. Salem at N. Farmington: Second place in the Lakes Division is the likely reward for the winner in this game, but

both are 4-2 and hope to remain in playoff contention. The winner still has an outside chance; the loser will certainly be eliminated. Picks: The Raiders will reign.

Allan Park at Red. Thurston: Allan Park leads the Tri-River League with a 5-0 record and is 6-0 overall. The state-ranked Jaguars need headed for another playoff appearance in Class BB. Thurston is 2-3 and 2-4. Picks: Allan Park won't be stopped this week, either.

Waldron at Lutheran Westland: Lutheran Westland's 4-2 record is somewhat misleading. The Warriors have lost twice to state-ranked teams — Muskegon Catholic Central in No. 1 in Class C and Grace Pointe Leggett No. 6. Waldron is 1-5 after losing 29-0 to Pittsford. Picks: Lutheran Westland gets back on the winning track.

Bishop Borgess vs. Seguin Nowak at Garden City Junior High: The Spartans (5-1) have been mighty impressive so far and lost the Tri-River League title with a 3-0 record. But the real test comes this week when Borgess meets second-place Nowak (2-1 and 4-1). A win could propel either team into the state playoffs. Picks: O'Meara says the Spartans remain pointed in that direction, but Emmons casts his vote for the Panthers.

Redford CC vs. U-D Jesuit at Liv. Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.: The Shamrocks (4-2) look out some frustration Sunday on Birmingham Brother Rice by beating the Warriors 30-0 in the annual Boys Bowl. If CC can do so, it can imagine what it can do to the Cubs (1-4). Picks: CC rolls to a big victory.

### SUNDAY'S GAME

Red. St. Agatha at C.L. St. Clement, 2:30 p.m.: The Aggies, despite their 1-5 record, were holding their heads high Sunday, having taken unbeaten Waterloo Our Lady into double overtime before losing 20-21. The Crusaders, also 1-5, were beaten 34-11 by Allan Park Central. Picks: A hunch says St. Agatha.

## sports shorts

### • HOLE-IN-ONE

Joe Rueter of Farmington Hills shot a hole-in-one Sunday, Sept. 23, at Kensington Golf Course. The 36-year-old golfer used a 3 iron on the 146-yard eighth hole. He shot 59 for the round.

### • SOCCER TRYOUTS

Boys born in 1976 are invited to try out for the Northville Sting pre-season team, 4-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20-21, at the Training Center No. 1 Field, located off Sheldon between Five and Six Mile roads.

For more information, call Harvey Rossing (348-6828) or Jack Burnett (326-5173).

### • WOLVES GO 3-0-1

The 1977 Michigan Wolves boys soccer team, sponsored by the Livonia Y, won three matches, including a 4-1 win over East Regional champion the Bethesda (Md.) Wizards, during round-robin action last weekend in Columbus, Ohio.

Playing against nationally-ranked competition, the '77 Wolves' only blemish on their record was a 2-2 tie against the COSA Raiders, Southern Ohio champions.

The '77 Wolves are comprised of players from Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Brighton and Clawson.

### • SOCCER CORRECTION

For the record, Kendra Buraw and Kristin Samuel, both of Brighton, were members of the Michigan Hawks '80 — an under-13 girls soccer team sponsored by the Livonia Family YMCA and affiliated with the Little Caesars Premier Soccer League — that finished runner-up in the Marriott Soccer Classic held last month at Oakland University.

The Michigan Hawks, coached by Mario Galindo, reached the finals after dominating the Northville Sting in a shootout. The Hawks — playing the Pointe Girls Soccer Association Mustangs '79, the PHS All-Stars from Canada and the TCSA Travelers from Sterling Heights — gained the semifinals after two ties and a forfeit win.

### • COACHES HOOP CLINIC

The 1990 Titan Basketball Coaches Clinic, featuring Detroit Pistons Assistant Brendan Malone, will begin at 8:30 a.m. (registration) at the University of Detroit's Callahan Hall.

The \$25 pre-registration clinic fee includes coaches notebook, lunch and post-clinic party beginning at 3:45 p.m. Registration is \$50 at the door.

For more information, call the Titan Basketball Office at 927-1752.

## Hawks blank Raiders

Farmington Hills Harrison won its third game in its last four tries Monday, 2-0, over visiting North Farmington in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover boys soccer game.

Mark Lebovitz scored his team-high fifth goal of the year for the Hawks, who are 4-5-1 overall. Junior Derek Lenz gave Harrison a 1-0 lead, scoring his first goal of the season on an assist from Ben Pinsky.

Jay Boger assisted on Lebovitz's goal. Chris Schrowe recorded the shutout in goal for Harrison.

# Shamrocks steamroll Rice, 32-0

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Since this might have been Birmingham Brother Rice's last Boys Bowl appearance, Redford Catholic Central fullback Jon Barbara wanted to leave a lasting impression on the Warriors.

Did he ever.

Barbara scored three touchdowns and gained 67 yards on 13 carries as CC pounded Rice, 32-0 Sunday in the 46th annual Boys Bowl played at Pontiac's Warner Stadium.

Sources say this might be Rice's last Boys Bowl appearance against CC, because of lack of financial support from Rice. If so, the two teams would still play each other every year but CC would have to find another opponent for the Boys Bowl.

"This might be the last one, so we wanted to put them out on a good note," Barbara said. "The line just blew everyone out."

CC has played in every Boys Bowl since 1944 and the Shamrocks-Warriors series began in 1968. Rice athletic director Mike Popson would like the Boys Bowl series to continue, but there's a chance it won't. The 108-page Boys Bowl program is filled with advertising from CC and none from Brother Rice.

"We decided not to continue with ads because of

financial reasons," Popson said. "To my knowledge this isn't our last Boys Bowl, but CC is in charge of the invitations. We've always been a pretty good gate (attendance). They don't get a better game with anyone else."

Said CC AD Bob Santello: "It's a possibility, but I would be surprised if Rice is not part of the Boys Bowl. The committee will look at the total picture, ask them if they want to be in it, or don't want to be in it, or be part of the program, and then come to some sort of conclusion."

CC, which has won five of the last six Boys Bowl games, outgained Rice, 273-126, in total yardage, and forced five Rice turnovers.

Reserve defensive back Brett Walter preserved the shutout with 16 seconds left, intercepting a Rice pass near CC's 10-yard line.

CC improved to 4-2 overall and is alone atop the Central Division at 2-0. Rice has an identical 4-2 overall record, but fell to 1-1 in the division.

Barbara got help in the backfield from Arshon Stewart (18 carries, 72 yards) and Mike Thomas (14-68). The CC defense, led by defensive ends Dave Dominic and Brian Chaney, smothered Rice's offense and intercepted three of quarterback Steve Merchant's passes. Jon Burtraw had

60 yards on 13 carries for Rice, which played without Sean Johnson (knee).

"CC played hard and it's their victory," Rice coach Al Fracassa said. "It's always tough to lose, especially when there's a zero on the scoreboard."

Barbara caught a screen pass from quarterback Jason Carr and rambled 11 yards for CC's first score with 4:29 left in the first quarter. The turning point came late in the first quarter when CC strong safety John Brand picked off a Rice pass and returned it 44 yards to give CC a 12-0 lead.

"I really didn't know I had it until I saw the ball in my hands," said Brand. "And then I ran for my life. I just can't describe the feeling. This was the biggest game of my life."

Rice fumbled away its next two possessions and both led to CC scores. Barbara gave CC an 18-0 lead with 8:07 left in the half, capping a six-play, 31-yard drive with a 12-yard run. After Rice fumbled away the next kickoff at its own 28, Barbara scored on a 1-yard drive. The extra point by Brent Jenkins gave CC a 25-0 halftime lead.

CC finished the scoring in the third quarter when Carr, who completed five-of-seven passes for 60 yards, went over from the one.

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