

SPORTS

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C.J. RISAK

Here's an idea not yet on the books but...

Were in the midst of one of the most treasured times on the high school sports calendar.

Three times every school year, state tournaments take over. Joy and sadness mix as each progresses, teams tumbling from play while others advance toward that elusive goal of state champion, a label only four in each sport can wear.

But spring brings more than just statewide tournaments in baseball and softball, boys and girls track, girls golf and soccer, boys tennis and lacrosse. It brings the real world into the realm of prep athletics. It forces kids to understand the ugly truth about American sports:

- No money, no games.

Every year, school boards battle with ways to balance their budgets. The paths they take to that goal are always the same — first try to raise taxes and, if that doesn't work, cut something noticeable.

Like sports and drama and anything else they deem "extracurricular," a term which, when applied so indiscriminately, seems to indicate unnecessary.

A solution

I don't want to argue terminology or educational philosophy here. That won't solve anything. Our educators have been bouncing those back and forth for decades and nothing's been solved.

Instead, let's try and find another solution. I found myself thinking about just this last week, and in the unlikely of places: Las Vegas, the domain of heatlens.

DON'T TUNE THIS IDEA OUT! Not yet, anyway. Sure, it's a bit extraordinary, but so are the times.

Vegas is the gambling capital of the country. It's also rich. I was in a casino's sports book watching a basketball game, in awe. This is the part of the casino where bets are booked on all sorts of sports, from horse racing to basketball. Dozens of television monitors show the different events.

The casino I was in was about the size of a Meijers. The sports book section could seat about 1,000 and was equipped with movie-size TV screens.

Creative fund-raising

So why not? Why not bring betting to high school sports?

If you think this outlandish, think again. Have you ever purchased a \$0.50 ticket to your kid's basketball game? Or a state lottery ticket? Those are meant to finance a school's sports program and education.

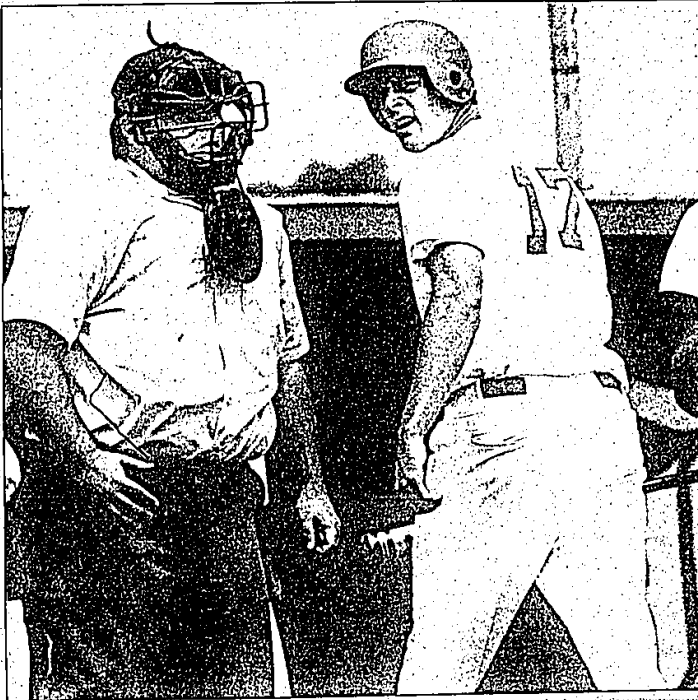
So it really isn't so strange.

Each school could run its own sports book, providing jobs for kids. A certain amount would go to the athletic fund — say 60 percent — with the rest for prize payoffs and administrative costs.

If you're afraid the message of prep sports would get lost in betting on winning and losing, adjust the game. Bet on total score, or spread, or even draw numbers out of a hat.

The point is, it's a way to raise money without having to haggle over it every year with the school board, or face paying some exorbitant amount to your kids' own play.

As for running the message delivered by prep sports — well, this may not be the best solution, but it's better than killing the messenger.



Bitter batter: Bob Kummer of Catholic Central voices his displeasure with the home-plate umpire Saturday after being called out on a third strike to end the sixth inning.

Rockets stun Shamrocks



Westland John Glenn knocked off the state's top-ranked Class A baseball team, Redford Catholic Central, to win the Class A regional title at Temperance Bedford.

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Talk about reversal of fortunes.

It was only late April when Westland John Glenn's baseball team was mired in a slump and off to an uncharacteristic 2-6 start.

But on Saturday the Rockets came full orbit, knocking off No. 1-ranked Redford Catholic Central, 3-4, and Lincoln Park, 2-1, to win the Class A regional title at Temperance Bedford.

Glenn, now 17-7 overall, returns to the state semifinals Friday at Battle Creek's Bailey Park. The Rockets, who have won 13 of their last 14 games, will take on Port Huron regional champ LaPorte West. (Game time is 1 p.m.)

It's Glenn's second trip to the state semifinals. The Rockets were beaten in 1986, semis by Birmingham Brother Rice, 1-0.

"I always thought we had a shot getting here," Glenn coach Norm Hoenes said. "But early in the season we could not pick up a ground ball. Now, when somebody makes an error, it's OK because we're not making five or six."

Hoenes, with the help of sophomore defensive whiz Derek Hosen at shortstop, a late-season call-up from the JV

squad, appears to have all the pieces of the puzzle in place.

The Rockets made only one error on the day in 14 innings.

Defensive turnaround

"It's been fielding and defense, and now we have confidence in each other," said junior right-hander Aaron Scheffer, who beat CC on a four-hitter and ran his personal record to 6-4 after an 0-3 season start.

"We're a lot better defensively now, everyone seems to be hitting the ball, and we're closer as a team," said senior center fielder John Ward, whose two-run homer off CC ace Scott Kaplan in the fifth inning provided the final margin of victory.

Now in his 27th season as Glenn's varsity coach, Hoenes may well savor the semifinal victory over CC for quite some time.

"I remember when we were ranked No. 1 in the state back in '87 and CC came in and knocked us off in the district at Garden City Park," Hoenes said of the 9-8 defeat. "I remember the reverse feeling, so we said to ourselves,

"Why can't we do the same to them this time?" It meant a lot to us because CC is an excellent ballclub and if you beat them it means you're doing OK."

The Shamrocks found themselves down 3-0 after the top of the first when the Eastern Michigan University-bound Kapla, who was drafted Wednesday by the Detroit Tigers (in the 42nd round), got into a jam after walking three of Glenn's first five batters.

With two out, Glenn's Jamie Murphy beat out a routine grounder, scoring Scheffer, and sophomore Mike Birt made CC pay for its mental mistake when he delivered a two-run single.

"It hurts when you're down 3-0, plus I think it gave them (Glenn) some confidence," Catholic Central coach John Salter said. "Kapla was a little wild, but we had the groundout."

"He threw 82 pitches in the first four innings and that's more than normal."

Ward delivers

Kapla did not survive the fifth after Ward's two-run homer. Believer Dan Gusoff came on and blanked Glenn over the final three innings, but the damage had been done.

Scheffer, meanwhile, cruised through the first four innings before suffering a wild spill of his own in the bottom of the fifth.

See BASEBALL, 2C

Adams upsets Chiefs

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

The difference in the game was obvious — painfully obvious, to Plymouth Canton people.

Rochester Adams dominated play in the first half of Saturday's Class A soccer final, played at Northville High School.

Canton controlled the second.

The above-mentioned difference was bluntly pointed out by Chiefs' coach Dan Smith: "We didn't put one home."

Adams did, and made it stand up through nearly 75 minutes of challenges to capture the crown with a 1-0 triumph.

The loss was Canton's first of the season; the Chiefs finish their season with an 18-1-2 record. The Highlanders conclude with a 20-2-1 mark.

"We came out and played hard," summed up Adams coach Tony Williams. "From the get-go, we were really."

No arguing with that. Perhaps the Chiefs weren't expecting that kind of aggressiveness from such a young (only two seniors) opponent. But throughout the first half, the Highlanders provided it.

The game's only goal — the one that would ultimately lead to Canton's defeat — came just 5:25 into the game. It was also, according to Smith, "The only bad goal (keeper Jori Welchans) has given up this season." For that matter, it was just the 10th Welchans has surrendered this year.

Kara Nance started the play, lining a corner kick from the left sideline into the middle of the box. Welchans got her hands on the ball, but lost it. Adams' Joannine Augustin pounced on the loose ball and poked it into the net.

"I think our defenders were caught by surprise when she dropped it," said Smith.

The Chiefs looked to be surprised by the Highlanders throughout the half. Canton, after all, was the state's top-ranked team, the winner of the always-powerful Western Lakes Activities Association (producer of seven of the previous nine state soccer champions).

But with Nance thoroughly dominating the midfield, Adams seemed unbeatable during the first 40 minutes. "They were better than us in the first half," conceded Smith. "They were quicker to the ball."

Indeed, the Chiefs were fortunate to be trailing just 1-0 at the break. Welchans was tested at least twice more, once by Nance after she gained control at midfield and dribbled through Canton's defense to hammer a shot from 20 yards out that the Canton keeper managed to tip over the crossbar.

The next chance came from McKenzie Webster with 13:15 left in the half. Her shot from 10 yards out forced Welchans to make a diving stop. Then, late in the half, Webster had another shot that went just over Welchans' outstretched hands, but missed the net.

"We were winning the air balls," said Williams of his team's first-half performance. "Once you let them bounce, you're in trouble."

"This is a young team, but they step up and take charge."

North Farmington gridders to play in Ivy League, MIAA

North Farmington senior Brad Pawlowski will continue playing football at Princeton University, and teammates Vern Rediff and Brian Lee committed to Adrian and Albion colleges in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, respectively.

Pawlowski (6-6, 245) was a two-way lineman and second-team All-Observer player. He is expected to play offensive tackle for the Tigers.

"I think it's the right school for him, athletically and academically," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "He has the size and the brain power."

He'll thrive in that environment. He has all the tools. He just needs to polish up his skills."

Pawlowski is the No. 1 student in the senior class at North with a 3.97 grade-point average.

Rediff (6-10, 225) was a first-team All-Observer offensive lineman. He played guard and had 70 tackles (nine sacks) on defense. Lee (6-1, 175), a second-team defensive back, was a wide receiver with 26 catches for 354 yards and eight touchdowns. He also had three interceptions.

"I think Vern will do very well and will have a chance to play next year," O'Leary said. "Brian will fit right in there, too. It's the perfect place for him to play. He doesn't have blazing speed but has great hands."

Rediff and Lee are B-plus students with respective GPAs of 3.4 and 3.0.

Herberholz recognized for league service

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Two men from Redford St. Agatha and one from Redford Catholic Central are among 25 new inductees into the Detroit Catholic League Hall of Fame.

Don Silvi, currently an assistant football coach at St. Agatha, and Kevin Rich, a former three-sport star for the Aggies, will join CC Dad's Club member Jack Herberholz at induction ceremonies tonight at the Chateau Restaurant in Warren.

Silvi has 28 years of football coaching experience — all as an assistant. A Livonia resident, Silvi started his coaching career in 1964 at Dearborn Divine Child under head coach Tony Versaci.

The Falcons won several Catholic League titles during Silvi's six-year stay at the school and they played in the final Goodell game in 1968 against the Detroit Public School League champion. Current University of Colorado coach Bill McCartney and current CC coach Bernie Holowicki also were on the DC staff at the time.

Silvi was an assistant at St. Agatha in 1974 and '75 and returned to the school in 1989 to assist head coach Jim Goddard.

Silvi also has had assistant football coaching stints at CC, Dearborn Heights Crestwood and Dearborn Heights-Ann Arbor high schools. Goddard nominated Silvi for the induction.

"Don's had more championships than Carter's had pills," said Goddard, who has shared a pair of division titles in the last three years with Silvi. "I think his induction is fantastic."

A humble Silvi said he learned a lot in his years at DC.

"We were small, but quick," he remembered. "We used some things that the University of Alabama was doing at the time and we were way ahead of what everyone else was doing (in high school football). This (the induction) is quite an honor and surprise. I don't know what I've done to merit it."

Rich graduated in 1987 from St. Agatha where he was an All-Catholic League choice in football, basketball and track. An all-state tight end for the Aggies, Rich also was the Catholic League's high jump champion.

Rich played football at Central Michigan University as an outside linebacker and is graduating with a degree in communications. He started the last three

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Jim Goddard

St. Agatha head football coach

years of his collegiate career and last fall was a second-team All-Mid-American Conference selection for the Chippewas.

Rich is one of 11 former Catholic League athletes elected to the hall.

Herberholz, whose sons graduated from CC, has been a Dad's Club member at the school for more than 20 years. He was inducted into the hall for "distinguished service."

"He's been dedicated to years to Catholic Central High School and is well deserving of the honor," said Dan Wandzel, a CC Dad's Club member from Livonia. "He's a nice guy, always there when you need him."