

Green Bay Victory A Must For Lions

The end of a reign? It could happen Sunday afternoon at Tiger Stadium when the Detroit Lions take on the Green Bay Packers.

It very well might be the start of another reign at the same time.

The Packers find themselves in what amounts to a "must" situation when they invade the Lions' home grounds.

Now 2-3 in the Central Division standings, the Packers trail Detroit and Minnesota by a game in their bid to repeat as the division champs.

A loss Sunday would drop the Packers two games off the pace...and that might be too much for even the once mighty men of Packerland to overcome.

IT'S A QUESTION whether Green Bay Quarterback Bart Starr will play in the game. As for the Lions, they pose a question, too -- can they enjoy a second time effort in a row? So far, the Lions have gone along at an "up and down" clip -- a good game, bad game, good game, etc.

It would appear that the team has jelled and should turn in more consistent jobs from here on...consistently good, that is.

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By George Maskin

observing sports

THOUGHTS THAT COME TO MIND:

WISHFUL THINKING: Do you suppose our mother-in-law would spring loose with the cash to shoot us to Las Vegas some 10 days hence so we can take in Denny McLain vs. Mickey Lolich on the entertainment stage?

Can't you see the throngs surging from one hotel to the other to see the pitching stars of the Tigers trying to entertain on the musical beach?

Frankly, from what we have heard of Denny the organist and Mickey the singer, we'll take Dinah Shore or Eddy Gorme any day of the week -- first.

AGELESS WONDER: The one, the only Gordie Howe of the Red Wings.

Every year starts the same way... the experts contending that sooner or later Howe must

show the wear and tear which comes with the rigors of having played two decades plus in the National Hockey League.

Also a man reaching the 40 mark.

But if there's been one bright spot in the first week of play for the Wings, it has been Howe, who goes on and on... and on.

He scored a goal and assist in the Wings' first game to figure in both his team's tallies. The next time out the Wings counted once and you guessed it... Mr. Howe flipped the puck in.

Howe has to be a marvel in the sports world.

The Observer

Sports Section B

A SIGHT TO BEHOLD: The Pistons' Dave Bing. How a man can maneuver on the basketball floor the way Bing does is almost impossible to explain.

And although he stands only 6-3, Bing jumps like a player 6-7 or 6-8.

For youngsters who might be reading this, there's an extra reason for the greatness of Dave Bing.

The other afternoon the Pistons were working out at Cobo Arena. A photographer came to the arena to shoot some special pictures of Bing.

Coach Dennis Butcher walked up to Bing and suggested he drop out of the scrimmage and face the camera. Bing was so involved in the workout, he asked the cameraman if he'd wait, so Bing could continue in the floor-long scrimmage.

The photographer who has snapped just about everybody who is important--from the Pope to the President to ball players--said it was the first time he'd ever seen an athlete reject a chance to take it easy.

I guess that's why Bing is such a star," the cameraman declared as he waited.

WHY NOT--

1--Realize the area's high school leagues so that maybe we could have the four public schools in Livonia in the same league? (It doesn't make much sense to have four schools from the same school district operating in four different circuits.)

2--Steps being taken to provide Overboardland with more lighted baseball and softball diamonds for next spring and summer? (Those who know call the diamond situation hereabouts--and not the kind the girls relish)--second rate to say the least.)

3--Arrange a post-season game between the winner of the Franklin-Livonia battle and Stevenson with the Old Newsboys or some other charitable group as the benefactor? (The funds also might be turned over to the schools to promote seventh and eighth grade football in Livonia.)

4--Take steps to stage such sports as baseball, golf and tennis in the fall? (Considering the weather we've been having, such teams would have less trouble meeting their schedules than in the spring.)

ORCHIDS DEPARTMENT: To the area's fine contingent of cross country performers.

Lost in the excitement of football, the World Series, etc., have been the feats of such excellent runners as the Williams twins of Farmington, Rick Randall of North Farmington, Dave Collins and Jack Clark of Franklin and the Redford Union trio of Dennis Keeney, Bill Kuhn and Bob Junk.

There's a good chance these names will dominate in this week's regionals.

SETTLE BACK AND RELAX: So we all were worried about the Tigers in the expansion draft and how they might lose some of their stars.

Well, they would appear to have suffered little... except for yielding two or three young pitchers.

Certainly the loss of Ray Oyler won't hurt, because in the final two months of the regular season and in the Series, Oyler made only rare appearances in the late stages of games for defensive purposes.

The Tigers still have Dick Tracewski and Tommy Matlock to play short... and there's always Mickey Stanley, although Manager Mayo Smith insists that Stanley will perform in center field next season.

Packers bowed on a final-minute field goal, 16-14.

If Starr is idle again, Zeke Bratkowski must carry the full load.

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SUCCESSFUL ARCHERS. These area hunters, who took advantage of Michigan's bow and arrow deer season, are shown with the two they bagged. Donald Beyrand (left), of 20347 Gaylor, Redford Township, had a six-point, 200-pound buck, and Earl Williamson, 16875 Woodside, Livonia, shows a 120-pound doe. They made kills last week near Oscoda.

McLain Spouts Off Again And Lands In More Hot Water

Denny McLain had to be rescued again--only this time it was not on the mound but on the stage of the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas.

Billed as Denny 31 to call attention to his 31 victories during the past baseball season, Denny flopped in his debut at the organ and was saved only when such longtime favorites of the mecca of dice tables as Comedian Marty Allen and Singer Phyllis McGuire leaped to the stage and helped him out.

But even that didn't keep Denny from putting his foot in his mouth again.

When asked how he felt about having his teammate, Mickey Lolich, the World Series hero, appearing at the hotel, Denny cracked--

"I wouldn't trade one Bob Gibson for 12 Mickey Loliches."

Wonder if he wants to be traded.

Wings Go Wild For First Win

Smile, darn you, smile...and Coach Bill Gadsby of the Red Wings finally is.

Gadsby was billed after his Wings lost their first two games. He charged several players were out of shape.

He ordered some of the toughest practices in the team's history.

It all paid off Thursday night with a 7-2 victory over New York.

Alex Delvecchio, the Livonian, had a big hand in the victory. He scored once and got one assist...as he zipped around more like a player who has been in the league ten years instead of 16.

The Wings started slowly and actually trailed, 2-1, at one stage.

But once they exploded, there was no catching them.

Sunday night the defending Stanley Cup champs come to Olympia to meet the Wings.

Michigan Speedway Signs 10-Year NASCAR Pact

It took almost five days to declare Mario Andretti the official second-place finisher in last Sunday's 250-mile race at the new Michigan International speedway.

Bobby Unser was moved down to third while Larry Dickson was upped from tenth to the eighth and Bud Ingledad and Jigger Broils each dropped a notch in ninth and tenth.

Speaking of the Speedway it has signed a 10-year contract with NASCAR and will stage a series of big races starting next summer with a 500-mile for sports cars on June 15.

FIRST IT was Tiger Manager Mayo Smith who received a new contract.

Now his World Series rival, Red Schoendienst, has been rehired by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Both men will receive around \$55,000 for their services.

LOS ANGELES will make a pitch this week for the 1976 Olympics. The coast city was the last U.S. host to the Games, staging the 1932 Olympics.

The U.S. committee picked

Fine Days Bad For Hunters

Fall's warm weather has been good for sightseers, picnickers and the few fishermen who are still active.

But hunters haven't appreciated it. The State Conservation Dept. district office at Pontiac had generally gloomy reports this week.

Duck hunters were plentiful, but the ducks weren't. Success was rated "poor" to "fair."

Some hunters got ducks every day in the ponds of Greenfield Road and on the backwater of the Bald Mountain Trout Pond.

Prince Lake yielded fair bags.

Hunting was generally poor around the Pontiac Lake, Highland and Holly Recreation areas. Birds were leaving the marshes before sunrise and not returning until after dark. They were too high for good shots.

Geese were plentiful in western Oakland County, but hunter success was light.

Bow and arrow hunting for deer dropped off as the waterfowl season started. A few hunters were spotted in the field, but no success was reported.

The Detroit and Huron rivers were yielding very good catches of small to medium perch.

Grid Schedule

SUNDAY

Ann Arbor St. Thomas at St. Agatha, 2:30 p.m.

Bishop Borgess at St. Alphonsus, 2:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Sorrows at Royal Oak St. Mary's, 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Churchill at Garden City West (JV), 4 p.m.

FRIDAY

Bellevue at Redford Union, 8 p.m.

Clareville at Waterford Kettering, 8 p.m.

Bentley at Plymouth, 8 p.m.

Walled Lake at Farmington, 3:30 p.m.

Waterford at Stevenson, 4 p.m.

North Farmington at John Glenn, 8 p.m.

Thurston at Groves, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Dearborn Sacred Heart at Bishop Borgess (Thurston), 2:30 p.m.

Oak Park at Franklin, 2 p.m.

Churchill Falls On Long Runs

While Livonia's three high school football clubs have good records this season, the "baby" team at Churchill must win its final two starts to wind up with a 50-50 mark. Churchill dropped its third decision in four starts Wednesday when bested by the Waterford JV, 23-13.

However, it should be remembered that there are no eleventh and twelfth graders at Churchill. They just have tenth graders... and this is just the first team in any sport that Churchill has fielded.

It was a game of long scoring runs, started off in a hurry by Mott when on the first play from scrimmage a 55-yard pass was turned into a touchdown.

Then Mott scored on a 32-yard reverse before Churchill broke loose with a fancy effort of its own.

Evan Smith slipped around end for 79 yards and a touchdown.

A BLOKED punt set up the third and final Mott touchdown before Jack Machipian of Churchill won 78 yards with a punt return for the losers' second touchdown.

Churchill didn't have much offense -- either on the ground or in the air.

All totaled the team gained 125 yards rushing -- 79 of them by Smith on his scoring dash. In the air, Churchill was held to 22 yards.

Churchill plays at Garden City West against the JV team Thursday, then finishes the season playing the Clareville JV at Franklin on Nov. 5.

Week Of Decision Nears For Harriers

This is the week of decision for Overboardland high school cross country teams.

The Northwest Suburban League holds its championship meet at Hickory Hills Tuesday.

On Wednesday the Suburban Six League title will be decided in Cass Benton Park.

Then on Saturday come the State regionals with the Class A teams to be involved in meets at Cass Benton and West Bloomfield.

It'll be either North Farmington or Birmingham Groves emerging as the champs in the Northwest League meet on top, though Franklin could be the deciding factor.

The title is contingent on what the teams do in dual meets and also the league run.

BASED ON the dual action, North Farmington was tops with an unbeaten record, Groves lost once and Franklin twice.

A 25-25 loss to Groves Tuesday knocked Franklin out of the overall crown.

But if Franklin should finish first in Tuesday's meet, the title would go to North Farmington.

North Farmington also could clinch the laurels without a dispute by placing first in the team race at Hickory Hills. But should Groves end up on top, the Birmingham school and North Farmington would share the title.

Groves topped Franklin in the dual battle, despite the fact Franklin's Dave Collins and Jack Clark finished one-two.

Collins was timed in 10:04 for a new school record as Franklin as he surpassed the former standard set by Collins of 10:05.

Jim Kosteva was seventh, Kurt Miller ninth and John Pelletier tenth in the overall race for Franklin, which dominated Willow Run, 15-50, in a "side" meet the same afternoon.

REDFORD UNION, unbeaten in duals meets for the third straight year, shapes up as the heavy favorite for the Suburban Six League title.

The Townshippers added to their record Tuesday by downing Detroit Redford, 22-35, as Dennis Kenney won with Bill Kuhn, also of RU, second, Bob Yates of Redford was third.

The other RU finishers were Bob Junk, fourth, Doug Savich,

Twins Pace Farmington To Laurels

Form held up in the annual Interlake League cross-country championship meet.

It held up in two ways:

1 -- Farmington, as expected, captured the team crown with 45 points.

2 -- The Williams twins, Gary and Larry, of Farmington not only dominated the meet but they finished in a deadlock. Each was timed in 10:42.

Waterford finished third with 71 points, followed by Walled Lake with 85, Livonia Stevenson 121 and Southfield Lathrup 189.

Four of the first 10 to finish flashed the colors of Farmington.

John Donahoe ran ninth, Dwight Hulim tenth and Mike Shelly No. 16 for Farmington.

Sports Briefs

THE ESTUDIANTES of Argentina, new World Cup soccer champs, won't go back to England to play any more matches. A brawl during a game with Manchester United of England precipitated the action by the president of Argentina.

MOST AMERICAN League teams felt it got off very well in the expansion draft which staked the new Kansas City and Seattle teams. The Tigers were particularly happy when they lost only Ray Oyler, Jon Warden and Wayne Comer from their 1968 pennant-winning roster.

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