

Parochial Champions Get Bonus

Unless you're a champion in Detroit's Catholic League, a team gets short-changed in football.

Take the cases of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Agatha. Their seasons end Sunday, a week earlier than most other prep teams in Michigan. They're restricted to seven games, unless they can pick up an eighth game on a non-league basis after the regular campaign ends, because a division champ needs to have two games for tie play, if necessary.

Each division champ in the Second Division enters a semifinal round with the two winners going on to the finals.

Under state prep rules, no team can play more than nine football games. It makes no difference what the reason -- nine is the maximum.

NEITHER SORROWS nor St. Agatha is in the title race, so football ends for both Sunday when St. Agatha hosts Wayne St. Mary's at Redford Union High while Sorrows goes to Ferndale to take on St. James.

A year ago, Sorrows made the playoffs and went the full distance -- nine games.

"We have no complaints against our league," said Coach Herb Coleman, the Sorrows coach. "We are governed by the state rules and we all are interested in playing for the title."

For most of the other area teams, the season ends next weekend with some outstanding rivalries highlighting the card.

The features will match Thursday at Redford Union and North Farmington at Stevenson Friday while on Saturday Bentley goes to Franklin.

CHAMPIONS FIGURE to be involved in all three games.

Thurston appeared a clinch going into this weekend's action to finish in at least a tie for the crown in the Northwest Suburban League flag.

But when it meets Redford Friday while on Saturday Bentley goes to Franklin.

The form sheet means nothing.

North Farmington's invasion of Stevenson also will match a couple of champs. North Farmington also was a clinch to end in a share of the Northwest crown while Stevenson was certain to wind up no worse than tied for first in the Inter-lakes League.

Stevenson had a 6-0 record when it went against Waterford in an all-out game Friday.

THE BENTLEY-FRANKLIN rivalry in Livonia has been the best in prep football in recent years. The indications were that Bentley would take an unbeaten record against once-conquered Franklin.

It would be the champ (Bentley) of the Suburban Six League against a co-champ (Franklin) in the Northwest loop.

Bentley has been among the ranked teams in the state and can't afford to slip against Franklin in the afternoon encounter scheduled for Franklin.

Some other nearby rivals also are booked for the weekend.

Lions Risk Top Rating Against '49ers

Earl McCulloch of the Detroit Lions the 1968 National Football League rookie of the year?

It would begin to appear that the fleet-footed flanker from Southern California has moved into the No. 1 slot to give the Lions their second straight top freshman in the league.

A year ago it was Larry R. Brown, the brilliant defensive back.

The stock of McCulloch, who

passed up running the hurdles and possibly winning a gold medal in the Olympics, has soared with every Lions' game.

He has become one of the most exciting players to watch with his burning speed and pass-catching ability.

Twice last Sunday he ran away from Packers' defenders to score. Once on a 60-yard pass.

THE RESULT is that McCulloch now ranks among NFL pass receivers with 23 grabs for 501 yards and five touchdowns. He has averaged 21.8 yards on each reception with his longest catch going for 80 yards.

He's one of four Lions prominently displayed in the latest NFL statistics as the Lions prepare to entertain San Francisco at Tiger Stadium Sunday at 1:15 p.m.

Top passer in the league is Bill Munson. The new Lions quarterback has completed 63 out of 96 passes for 65.3 percent, the highest completion total in all of pro football. He has thrown for nine touchdowns and suffered only two interceptions.

What's more his passes have gained an average of 9.62 yards, which also is the top performance by any of the 28 teams in the league.

COACH JOE SCHMIDT, discussing the Lions' current first-place standing in the Central Division, declared: "I'm really not surprised. I felt we had a good chance of having a good football team this year."

"Things depended on how well Munson and McCulloch worked for us on offense. They have

gone along with Mel Farr who is having a banner year and Bill Triplet who really has improved as a runner."

Farr is the leading rusher in the league. He has been called upon 104 times and has gained 490 yards for 4.7 yards. His longest run was for 46 yards. Farr also is sixth in scoring with six touchdowns.

BARNEY'S NAME appears among the leaders in two categories. He has intercepted four passes to rank ninth and kicked 27 extra points with 367 yards in 14 carries for 26.2 yards.

Kicker Jerry Depyster of the Lions ranks 17th in punting with an average of 36.8 yards in 26 punts.

After Sunday's game, the Lions head away for a date with the Los Angeles Rams, the only unbeaten team in the NFL.

LIKE NORTHVILLE at Clearwater, Southfield at Farmington and Walled Lake at Plymouth.

Only the Northville-Clearwater game will be a league game. The others will be non-league.

By George Maskin
observing sports

It was elementary how the United States basketball team fared in the finals of the Olympic Games against Yugoslavia.

Win or lose the Gold Medal, the U.S. already had won before the final siren went off.

You see, this was the U.S. team everybody said would be terrible.

There were cries because players like Lew Alcindor, Westley Unseld and Elvin (the big E) Hayes had refused to play. And there were others.

When they picked the American squad, tears flowed. It was a miserable group of performers who were selected to represent the U.S. at Mexico City.

How could they stand up against teams from Russia, Brazil and elsewhere? Teams which had been operating in fact for three, four and maybe six years?

A relative unknown like Spencer Haywood, a Detroit who this week checks into the University of Detroit to play for Bob Calihan, was among the standouts in the Trials.

Less illustrious names like Jo-Jo White and Mike Sillman, an officer in the army, made the squad.



SUBURBAN SIX LEAGUE champions. That's the new title of the Redford Union cross country team which won the crown a week ago with a record performance. The group includes: (from left) Co-Captains Doug Savich and Bob Junk, Dennis Keeney, Bill Kuhn, Coach Charles Patterson, Athletic Director Howard Kraft, Mike Stolley, Craig LeRoux and Craig Nelson.

Young Churchill Defense Airtight

Talk about superlative defensive play -- and Churchill High's football team must move into the spotlight.

In beating Garden City West's junior varsity, 20-6, Thursday, the Churchill team, comprised of only tenth graders, held West to zero yards rushing.

West made 26 yards in the first half on the ground, then was spilled for 26 in the second half.

Tackles! Bob Meyers and Don Olson teamed up with Jackiewicz, a linebacker, and Dennis Sakovich, an end, to spurn the defense for Churchill, now 2-0, in its first season of action.

WEST JUMPED off to a 7-0 lead with a 54-yard drive in the

first period. A pass from Jerry Olajace to Paul Meeks covered 26 yards and set up the first score -- a one-yard drive by Meeks.

Jack Hachigian booted the extra point.

West countered with its touchdown in the second period and cut the Churchill lead to 7-6 at half-time.

But in the third period, Churchill put together a 35-yard march in which Evan Smith, Olajace and John Cerretani carried the ball, with Smith sweeping in for the final 10 and the touchdown.

The same trio of backs ran as Churchill moved 65 yards for its third touchdown in the fourth period. Smith again went over, this time from six yards out. Churchill ends its season Thursday, meeting Clearwater JV's.

Fans Won't Forget Amazing Kaline



By W. W. EDGAR
Observer-Review Editor

Al Kaline, veteran right-fielder of the Detroit Tigers has given a new meaning to the term, "Old Pro" and because of that he no longer is on the expendable list or considered as outstanding trading material.

Instead, he has taken his place among the all-time greats and World Series heroes in the Tigers Hall of Fame.

No player of recent vintage has made a more dramatic move from the sidelines to stardom than Kaline and in so doing he has written one of the most amazing stories in baseball.

UNTIL A FEW months ago he had been plagued by injuries and the ravages of time (even though he is only 34) to the point where he was relegated to the sidelines.

He didn't seem to fit into the scheme of things any more as Mayo Smith, the Tiger manager, continued building around youth.

Coming to the Tigers direct from high school and never having played minor league baseball, Al carved out a phenomenal career over the better part of 15 seasons.

Over that stretch he had won the American League batting championship, was named the All-Star team on at least a half dozen occasions and attained all-around stardom.

But for the past year or two he was more susceptible to more injuries than ever and was out of the lineup for long periods. Most of his trouble concerned his foot. As a result he couldn't run on the bases, he couldn't roam the outfield like he once did and along with this his batting suffered.

Finally, he was shunted to the sidelines and seemed destined to finish out his career as a pinch-hitter, or, at best, perhaps furnish a bit of relief for Norm Cash at first base.

AL KNEW WHAT was happening. He realized it more than anyone else.

But he still had one great desire -- to play in a world series.

It was a sentimental wish and it was shared by the Tiger officials, too.

With the fans it was another matter.

For a short time in the closing days of the 1967 season, it appeared that Al would get his wish. However, when the Tigers lost out on the final day of the season, Al's dream seemed nothing more than that.

He still had hopes when the 1968 season started, and for a few months it seemed that much of the old spark was back.

Then the old injury jinx stepped in again and Al found himself on the sidelines.

What's more he found that the youth movement on the bench was paying off. Day after day he sat on the bench and watched the kids winning game after game -- sometimes in the most dramatic fashion.

It wasn't easy to sit there and dream without being part of the action. For his role now had become that of the "Old Pro" to whom the younger players came to only for advice -- and little of that.

From time to time he was inserted into the lineup only to find that the team didn't do so well with him in there. There were rumors that his presence in the lineup was only causing dissension among the younger fellows.

So he got to the point in mid-season where even the taxi-drivers -- the men who seem to get inside information at times -- openly discussed the

problem.

"THOSE KIDS won't play with the Old Pro in there," one of the taxi-drivers confided one afternoon on the way into town after a game. "I know, because some of them ride with me."

"The Tigers would be better off if they traded him for another good pitcher or a shortstop..."

Al had reached the point in his career where it was said that he no longer was wanted. But any mention using him in a trade in the dire hunt for a shortstop or more pitching strength only brought the comment from the Tiger officials that Al was entitled to be with a winner and realize his dream of playing in a world series. It was for this sentimental reason that he never was offered in trade.

Meanwhile, the Tigers were heading toward the pennant without him in the lineup and each afternoon Al's dream of playing in a world series seemed further away.

Now and then Manager Mayo Smith inserted him into the lineup and kept silent on his plans.

WITHOUT EVER breaking this silence Manager Mayo Smith inserted Al into the lineup that night late in September.

Continued on Last Sports Page

Sports Briefs

Wayne State University's cross-country teams have posted 27,500 or better seasons in 36 years of conducting the sport since 1929.

Wayne State University freshman football John Regis Monahan is the son of former Detroit Lion guard Regis Monahan of the 1935-38 period.

THE PROFESSIONALS thought so little of the group they only picked three of them -- one Don Dee by the Pistons -- to get a tryout in the play-for-pay ranks.

It sure was a far cry from which U.S. Olympic basketball teams -- teams which included Bill Russell, K. C. Jones, Jerry Lucas, Oscar Robertson, just to name a few.

So how does one explain the success story of the 1968 team?

The question was broached before Bill Van Breda Kolff, one-time Princeton coach and now the head man of the Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's simple," explained Van Breda Kolff. "If kids will work, they'll accomplish something."

Van Breda Kolff digressed for a few moments.

"Work... work... what a short word, but how many of our youngsters seem to run scared when a little work is involved."

Yes, how many, coach?

It also gets back to what Aldo Forte, the former Lions' assistant coach who has a son playing this fall at North Farmington, said on that sunny afternoon in September when the Raiders held their annual photo day.

"A little extra effort pays off," Forte was saying. "Just ask any of these kids."

So our moral for today: Work never killed anybody.

WE'RE STILL HEARING a few remarks about Lions' Coach Joe Schmidt's decision to play for a tie instead of trying to win in the final 27 seconds against the Green Bay Packers last Sunday.

In our book, Schmidt did the RIGHT thing.

First of all, the Lions were not in scoring position: They had more to lose than gain if they tried a long pass. Besides, the Lions had been doing some tumbling earlier in the game. Some risky play at this juncture could have backfired into defeat.

Secondly, and far more important, the tie was as good as victory for the Lions.

It's unfortunate the fans who jeered didn't have their radios with them and tuned in to Bob Reynolds who tried to explain that under the National Football League rules, total points in a two-game series count in the event teams finish tied.

Detroit already had beaten the Packers once. Hence, if the teams end up in a tie for the top, Detroit is the champ -- on the basis of one victory and a tie against Green Bay.

The tie actually hurt the Packers... and badly.

In the last analysis, how can you fault Schmidt, or any coach, when as the result of his thinking his team also winds up in first place?

That's where the Lions are... and hopefully will stay the rest of the season.

OLD PRO COMES THROUGH. It will be a long time before Detroit baseball fans forget the brilliance of veteran Outfielder Al Kaline in the 1968 World Series.

RU Harriers Shatter Suburban Six Marks

Two records went by the boards Wednesday when Redford Union ran away with the Suburban Six League cross country championship.

The Townships posted a team score of 18 points, lowest ever compiled by a winning team, in repeating as champions.

A year ago, RU won with 25. Bob Junk of RU, the individual winner, hit the finish in 10:41 to set a new loop mark. He beat the old standard by a second.

The title was the fourth in six years for Redford Union, who has been coached for the past two seasons by Charles Patterson.

RU winners swept the first four places. After Junk came Dennis Keeney, Bill Kuhn and Doug Savich.

MARK VISKOCHAL of Plymouth was fifth in the overall standings.

Craig LeRoux of RU was the first across for the winners, finishing in ninth spot.

In addition to Viskochal, Plymouth placers were Dick Goep, Doug Deer, Ed McClelland and John Hopkins. The Rocks posted 74 points to place third behind Trenton.

Bentley scored 82, Allen Park 90 and Belleville 103.

Chris Morden, finishing 11, was the best of the Bentley contingent, comprised also of Mike McBride, Gary Spiller, Tom Gulliford and John Cox.

MARK VISKOCHAL of Plymouth was fifth in the overall standings.

Craig LeRoux of RU was the first across for the winners, finishing in ninth spot.

In addition to Viskochal, Plymouth placers were Dick Goep, Doug Deer, Ed McClelland and John Hopkins. The Rocks posted 74 points to place third behind Trenton.

Bentley scored 82, Allen Park 90 and Belleville 103.

MALE & FEMALE
HELP WANTED

Retirees Welcome!

Part or Full Time

Experience not necessary.
Call in person at:
AMERICAN HARDWARE
8 Mile at Merriman
Livonia - 478-6240

NOW...

YOU CAN HAVE
GUARANTEED WORKMANSHIP

on your

- ALUMINUM SIDING & TRIM
- AWNINGS & ENCLOSURES
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- ROOFING-GUTTERS

N & L BUILDERS

ALCOA and REYNOLDS ALUMINUM PRODUCTS

REMEMBER:
GUARANTEED WORKMANSHIP
and MATERIALS

Call
538-4660 538-1730

RECO CAMPING TRAILERS

Pick-Up Companies

TRAVEL TRAILERS

FOLDUP CAMPING TRAILERS

We Service What We Sell

Call **626-5001**

KNIGHT RENTAL & SALES

21300 Northwestern Hwy
Bldg. 100, Detroit, Mich. 48215

TOWN & COUNTRY

DODGE

Grand River at Nine Mile Rd.
474-6750