

Whips N. Farmington For Eighth In Row

Stevenson Rolls To Perfect Season

It's a magnificent word -- PERFECTION. Very few ever attain it ... but Livonia Stevenson High's 1968 football team did.

Under Coach Jack Reardon, Stevenson played eight games this fall -- and won 'em all. First there was Redford Union ... then John Glen ... then Pontiac Northern ... then Walled Lake ... then Southfield Lathrup ... then Farmington ... then Waterford ... and finally North Farmington on Friday.

Each fell to the force of Stevenson, North Farmington becoming the last by a 13-0 score.

Terrific as the odds are against any team winning 'em

all they had to be especially tremendous for Stevenson.

THIS WAS only the fourth year the school has fielded a team. Previous records hardly indicated that Stevenson was ready to explode.

In its first year with only tenth graders, Stevenson won six and lost one -- the lone loss being administered by North Farmington.

With eleventh graders the following year, Stevenson slumped to a 2-6 record against varsity rivals. There was a slight improvement in 1967 -- three victories against five defeats.

And now 8-0.

Not only a perfect season, but Stevenson also reigns as the champ of the Inter Lakes League, beating out such powerhouses as Walled Lake and Waterford and Pontiac Northern.

And, yes, a spot among the top rated Class A teams in Michigan.

STEVENSON STAGED A TYPICAL

The Observer Sports B

ical defensive performance against North Farmington, which went into the game with a 6-1 record and at least an even chance against the Livonians.

North Farmington made one serious march. Aided by three penalties, the Raiders reached the Stevenson six-yard line in the third period.

Two plays later, the Raiders

gave up the ball on the Stevenson 17.

"That's the way our kids played defense this year," a happy Reardon declared.

It was the defense which started the scoring for Stevenson. John Thomas of North Farmington shot a pass ... which came down in the hands of Stevenson's Nick Exarhos at midfield.

He was off to the races ... 50 yards to put Stevenson ahead by a 7-0 score when Gene Walker converted with 2:33 left in the first half.

IN THE THIRD period, Stevenson halted a North Farmington drive on the Livonians' 40. Then came another drive ... all on the ground as Danver, Walker and Rusty Gregg tore away for yardage before Danver finally pushed over for the

six points from the three.

For Reardon this was his second experience with an unbeaten-united team. Back in Illinois 12 years ago he enjoyed the first such thrill when he served as an assistant.

He has been in Livonia for seven seasons -- as an assistant at Bentley for three years and at Stevenson the last four.

Stevenson rushed for 223 yards against North Farmington with Walker gaining 97 in 12 carries, Danver 76 in 13 tries and Doffer 22 in six. The winners tried only 10 passes and clicked only once -- for nine yards.

"I SUPPOSE it sounds corny," said Coach Reardon after his charges had beaten North Farmington, one of three teams which shared the North-

west Suburban League title last year.

"This truly was a team year," added Reardon. "I'd be doing an injustice just to single out a few boys."

"Everybody made a contribution."

Reardon said he could sense back in August that this was going to be a good year for Stevenson.

"When we called the boys out for conditioning, 65 showed up," the coach declared. "Usually not more than 35 or 40 report."

"There was great interest, a desire to get the job done ... and, yes, there was something special about our seniors."

"It makes a big difference how the 12th graders react. Their attitude and how they help and assist ... well, it sure can determine what a team

does."

THEN REARDON ran down the list of seniors. He didn't name the boys in a special order.

Boys like Jerry Dettler, Bob Hood, Mark Hulet, Nick Exarhos, Ron Ochala, Dave Loewe, Steve Diggle, Ray Daniels, Rick Aris, Dale Danver, Al Applebaum, Matt Stachurski, Dennis Guthrie, Marv Ripelle, Gary Flewelling and Bill Blacklock.

They've all played their last football for Stevenson, but they won't easily forget what happened in their senior season.

Yep, 8-0 ... PERFECT. What a marvelous word.

Reardon talked on.

"I guess we can't overlook the job our defense did ... just 18 points, that's all we gave up in eight games."

Franklin Overpowers Bentley In Grid Duel

Six years ... and it's all even between Livonia Bentley and Franklin High Schools in football.

By the margin of a conversion following a touchdown,

Franklin squeezed Bentley, 14-13, Saturday afternoon.

Thus ended Bentley's three-year reign in the series after Franklin had won the first two games.

Thus, too, Franklin ended the season with a record of seven victories and one defeat.

For Bentley, the campaign finished with a 6-2 mark, but Bentley dropped its final two

games after copping six in a row and standing on the threshold of a perfect season.

IT WAS A battle of league winners -- at least partial winners. Bentley had wound up sharing the Suburban Six League flag with Allen Park. Franklin split honors with North Farmington and Thurston in the Northwest loop.

Franklin spotted Bentley a 13-0 lead, then came back to take advantage of bobbles to pull the game out when Dan Thorpe booted two perfect extra points.

There were no alibis on the Bentley side. Coach Larry Joiner called Franklin "opportunistic."

He noted that when Bentley made mistakes, Franklin was there to turn them into scores.

"THAT'S ALWAYS a sign of a good team," declared a disappointed Joiner, who 10 days before could see Bentley possibly closing the year with an 8-0 mark.

Actually, Bentley was an opportunist; team, too. The first Bentley touchdown resulted from a fumble recovery. An intercepted pass led to the second.

In the early moments of the action, Bentley scooped up a Franklin miscue on the Franklin 18.

Bob Cascaden slammed a couple of times and Bob Walden hit Cascaden on a short pass.

Then with the ball on the Franklin one, Leroy Watson carried it over and Moyses Naper converted to put Bentley in front, 7-0.

MINUTES LATER, Bentley was striking again -- this time after a pass interception on the Franklin 35.

It took Bentley only two plays to make it 13-0. Watson ran for six and Cascaden the rest of the way.

Then followed the missed point -- after which was to prove decisive when the afternoon was over.

Franklin's first touchdown march came after Pat Hall covered a Bentley fumble at midfield.

On the running of Pete McLain, Archie Leih, Jerry Sabo and Charles Wiggins, plus an interference call on a penalty, Franklin moved to the Bentley nine from where Gary Sica went over and Dan Thorpe converted to cut the Bentley lead to 13-7.

THE DECIDING touchdown was scored in the third period. Bentley had the ball in its own territory around the 30.

On a jarring tackle, the ball popped loose.

There was Neil again, Johnny-on-the-spot, to recover for Franklin -- on the Bentley 31.

In 12 plays, Franklin had a touchdown as McLain, Thorpe, Sabo and Wiggins took turns bounding into the Bentley line.

Wiggins went the final yard and then Thorpe put his toe to

the state harrier meet.

Randy Tipton of Thurston and Rick Randle of North Farmington finished well back in the race.

"We're going to dedicate this game to Dave," said Humphrey. "He was a great athlete for us."

At Garden City West, Coach Harold Burkholder said that plans were being arranged to make a special tribute to Dave at the game.

"True, he didn't play for us," said Burkholder. "But we knew Dave well."

Dave's dad, Paull, runs the Garden City Sporting Goods store and has been a major figure in Garden City sports for several years.

"Last weekend came the sad word that Dave had been killed in Vietnam."

"For three years, finishing up in 1966, Dave played end for East. After graduation, military duty called."

"For individuals whose teams failed to qualify."

In the individual category, No. 1 was Farmington's Larry Williams with a time of 10:02.

Randle was fourth. Gary Williams was fifth.

Two races were held in Class A ... one involving teams battling for the state crown, the other for individuals whose teams failed to qualify.

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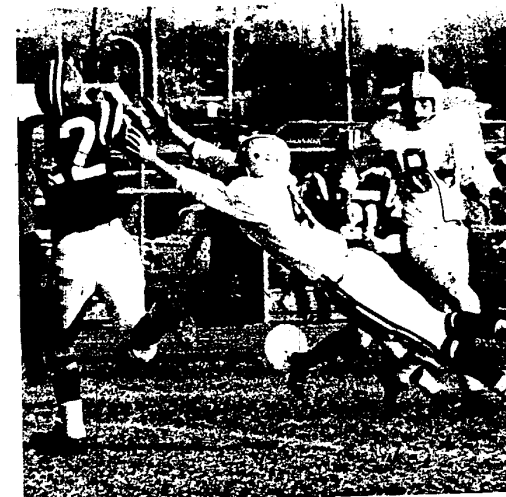
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BENTLEY'S HOPES for a victory were crushed when Franklin High's Bob Santilli (42) intercepted this pass intended for LeRoy Watson (40) who dives for the ball. Looking on is Fred Howell (84) generally a key target for Bentley Quarterback Bob Walden. The Patriots handed their crosstown rivals their second defeat of the season. Franklin wound up with a 7-1 record. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)



NOISY CELEBRATION in the Stevenson High locker room following the 13-0 victory over North Farmington that climaxed the school's first undefeated season. That's Coach Jack Reardon (at right) joining with the joyous footballers. (Observer photo by Doug Johnson)

RU Harriers Finish 3rd In State Meet

High honors came to area high school cross country performers in the State Class A championships at Ypsilanti.

Redford Union turned in its best effort ever in placing third in the team standings with 134 points as Flint Kearsley won with 122 and St. Joseph was second with 130.

In addition, the area produced three men on the official All-State team. They were:

1--Larry Williams of Farmington.

2--Rick Randle of North Farmington.

3--Bob Junk of Redford Union.

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Williams, Larry's twin who stayed on his brother's footsteps all season, had to drop out after illness got to him.

HAD IT NOT been for an accident at the race's start, Coach Charles Patterson of Redford Union is convinced his state team would have carried off the state team crown.

Doug Savich, a RU senior, was badly gashed on the foot just as the race began. His shoe almost was ripped off.

Despite pain, despite the fact blood was flowing, Savich stayed in the race. He hit the line in 49th place and then had to be rushed to the hospital where 18 stitches were required to close the gash.

"This was courage at its greatest," said Coach Patterson. "The boy could hardly walk when the race was over. But he gave it everything

he had and thanks to him we finished where we did."

HOWEVER, Patterson noted that Savich probably would have finished much higher had he not been hurt.

"The accident very well cost us the title," said Patterson. Junk ran third overall in the team race with juniors Bill Kuhn and Dennis Keeney coming in 11th and 14th, respectively, in the Redford Union colors.

Fifth for RU and 57th overall was Craig LeRoux while Mike Stolkey, and Steve Hlatton, two sophomores, came over in 65 and 81st places, respectively.

The fact that three area runners made the All-State was history in itself. Never before had Observers had one so well in the state harrier meet.

Randy Tipton of Thurston and Rick Randle of North Farmington finished well back in the race.

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