

# George Maslin observing sports

It's something we haven't done for quite a spell—rate high school football teams.

We used to do it all the time when the old Times existed.

Somewhere around 2 a.m. on Saturday, we'd huddle with a guy named Morris and from that conversation would come the weekly Class A and B ratings.

Then on Monday, another talk or two would yield the suburban ratings.

Something always seemed to happen. We'd promote a team to the top, or way up, and no sooner did they land the lofty perch... and bingo, they'd get knocked off the next time out.

So, we've ignored the ratings... or making ratings on our own.

But we watch with considerable interest as friend Hal Schram decides the Top Ten for the Free Press... how men like Dick Shook determine who's for the United Press International and Larry Paladino follows the same course for the Associated Press.

Shook and UPI have a panel of coaches... Paladino a group of sports writers. Schram does it on what he thinks best.

**THERE ARE MERITS** and demerits for each system. Take the systems whereby you use coaches or writers.

It's pretty difficult to give the Detroit teams proper representation.

One writer or one coach may be in the center of 50 or 80 or even as many as 125 schools.

Now take a coach or writer in the northwestern part of the lower peninsula or up above the Straits. He may vote for the good of only 12 or 15 schools.

Yet the votes usually carry the same value, so the Detroit area teams and kids might come up a little short-handed.

It's far better than it used to be. Time was when the outstate folks wouldn't consider the Detroit area.

The fact the Detroit City League schools wouldn't contest in state competition had something to do with this feeling.

But now that the city schools participate in the tourney... now that the Detroit area boys are starring on every college team in this state and many other states... who can ignore the metropolitan area?

So they don't. At least, not the way they used to.

**BUT LET'S GET BACK** to the subject of ratings.

With the Observerland high school season over save for a game involving Bishop Borgess Sunday, we're going to rise up and present our final ratings for the 1968 season in our area.

1—Livonia Stevenson  
2—Livonia Franklin  
3—Bentley  
4—Thurston  
5—N. Farmington

There can be no questioning Stevenson rating No. 1. The Livonians alone swept through an unbeaten-untied season.

They won eight out of eight... they won the Inter-Lakes League title... they beat all the BIG teams, as well as the lesser lights on their schedule.

**TO US IT'S A tragedy** that the good city fathers in the Livonia school system aren't doing anything about matching their own schools against each other.

What's wrong with Stevenson playing Franklin, Bentley and Churchill each year?

Why can't there be a true city champ, like they have in other growing cities with as many high schools as now exist in Livonia?

We're told that the administrators have come up with a great idea.

Bentley will play Franklin again in 1969 for the seventh straight year. It's been a great rivalry.

But then the rivalry will be suspended because Bentley will pick up Stevenson for a couple years while Franklin plays Churchill.

There's nothing wrong with the system... except that it's not complete.

**BENTLEY IS IN A six-team league.** It plays five league conquests. The same goes for Franklin and Stevenson in their respective leagues, and it'll be the same for Churchill.

This means each team has a minimum of three non-league dates on its schedule.

So, why not fill the dates with rival Livonia teams? They'd make more and draw more people than matching Livonia against "outsiders."

Besides, there's a growing movement among schoolmen to book games closer to home. If this is true, why should Bentley leave Livonia for a non-league date when it can stay right in its own back yard?

And, perhaps, make a few more dollars for the much-needed athletic budget.

The play should come when a city king is decided.

Since there has been no trouble staging games involving Bentley and Franklin, what's to suggest that anything could go wrong with expanded games within the city?

Just a thought, gentlemen.

**Ski Class Sign-up Moved**

Registration for ski classes offered by Farmington adult education department will be held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11 and 12 rather than on the dates previously announced.

Skiers may enroll at the first class session which will meet at Farmington High School. The remaining nine classes will convene on the slopes at Mt. Brighton ski area.

From 7:30 to 9 p.m., Nov. 15, movies of all Farmington teams will be shown in Dumke Junior High, 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake Rds.

Fee for the series of ten lessons will be \$15 per individual, \$25 for a married couple or \$35 for a family.

# Kaline, Sparma Open Redford Office

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

Al Kaline and Joe Sparma, members of the World Champion Detroit Tigers baseball team, are now Redford Township businessmen.

The two stars have set up an office on Six Mile Road where they and their associates will handle free-lance speaking engagements for sports world personalities and marketing of sports world art work.

Yes, the "Old Pro" star of the 1968 World Series, and the pitcher who clinched the pennant for the Tigers will be working at the office.

The Observer-Newspeople get much of the credit for their location in Redford. The firm's attorney, Ed May of Livonia, said he saw the "office space available" classified advertisement in The Observer.

**ANOTHER LIVONIAN**, famed caricature artist Irv Tasco, is an important part of one of the two companies the ballplayers are heading up.

That company is called "Tasco Associates" and markets Tasco's portrayals of sports world personalities.

The other company, "Sports Promotions, Incorporated," serves as a free-lance contact for public appearance dates for professional athletes.

May emphasizes that the company is not an agency for any particular players.

If someone wants an athlete to speak, he can call Sports Promotions, Inc., which will in turn contact the athlete. If the athlete says yes, it's all set. If not, Sports Promotions, Inc. has to seek an alternative, he explains.

Sorry, folks, May said Denny McLain is not available. It seems the maestro of the organ keyboard and stopper on the mound for the Tigers this year is totally committed to a New York agency.

**TIGER CATCHER** Bill Freehan has been the most in demand since the mid-summer beginnings of this company, said May.

He calls Kaline "the real gentleman" of the corps.

May was also able to correct an unfortunate piece of misinformation that even the Tigers public information office perpetuated: Jim Northrup lives in Birmingham, not Redford Township.

But this reporter can vouch

for the presence of Kaline and Sparma. The accompanying picture was taken by the same reporter in their new office.

At the request of the stars, who are hoping to keep the strictly-business aspects of their business free from the hero-worship aspects of it, the office address cannot be reported.

**KALINE**, who has another business in Southfield, recalled how his operation was hampered by mass visits from admiring fans.

Does Kaline the businessman differ from Kaline the veteran rightfielder as portrayed in the newspapers? Not one bit.

When posing Kaline, Sparma and May for a picture, the reporter asked Kaline to sit in the center with the other two flanking him.

"Why have me in the center?" the soft-spoken Kaline asked.

It seems he never will get used to being the headliner.



**DOWN TO BUSINESS** — Detroit Tiger stars Al Kaline (center) and Joe Sparma (right), appraise the marketing possibilities of Livonian Irv Tasco's caricatures of themselves. Another Livonian, Attorney Ed May, gives advice to the two principal owners of companies now located in Redford Township.

## Quail Hunting Good

Some forms of hunting — notably for quail — have picked up, according to the State Conservation Department's regional report.

Quail hunters in Wayne County were bagging a number, and hunters with dogs were doing best.

Rabbit and squirrel populations in the Holly Recreation Area are good, and hunters in the lowlands are finding some woodcock.

Some ruffed grouse are being taken along the edges of swampy areas throughout the southeastern part of the state.

Duck hunters on Lake St. Clair were taking their fishing poles along with them and getting more perch than ducks.

Little activity and no success were reported by bow and arrow deer hunters.

## 2 Games Close Football Season For Area Preps

The curtain was to fall this weekend on the high school football season for area teams.

Farmington invaded North Farmington Saturday while Bishop Borgess will invade Our Lady of Lourdes for a Sunday afternoon clash at 5:30 p.m.

North Farmington was seeking its seventh win in eight cracks against Farmington, a team which hadn't won in eight previous contests this season.

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## Football League Is Busy

The week of Nov. 10 will be a busy one for the Farmington Football Little League.

Climax for the season will be the Missiles-Rockets game at 1 p.m. Nov. 10 at the North Farmington High Athletic Field, 13 Mile and Farmington Rd.

Members of the Dads Club will be introduced during halftime.

The annual Awards Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 12 in Roma Hall. Tickets may be ordered from Mrs. Rita Crandall, 476-1913, or Mrs. Shirley Workman, 476-2059.

Boys are to turn in their uniforms at 4:30 p.m., Nov. 11, the Missiles at the north practice field, the Rockets at the south.

**HOME OWNERS CORNER**

By MARVIN KEMP

Bare wood floors in an entryway? "Impossible" is the ordinary response. Certainly dirt and water tracked across the wood are bound to mar the finish, may gouge the wood, and could ruin the floor. But there is a new wood tile on the market which will not only stand up to severe traffic, but requires no waxing and no refinishing. This quite new wood tile is called Gammapar. The wood is impregnated with a liquid plastic and represents a "marriage" of the best qualities of wood and plastic. Maintenance is quite easy... just clean the floor with it with a nylon pad on an electric floor polisher. That's all!

You will enjoy shopping at AMERICAN HARDWARE AND SUPPLY CO., 31245 Eight Mile Rd., Livonia. 476-6240 or 537-2645, where you will find unusual things for your home, with small store helpfulness. Mon., Wed. — 8 — 6; Thurs. and Fri. — 8 — 9; Sat. — 8 to 5:30; Sun. 10 — 4.

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Each year we hear that "commercialism" is obscuring the true meaning of Christmas.

Yet as Christmas Club savings plans are thoughtfully begun at the first of the year, and children's piggy banks are gradually and eagerly replenished, we see that the spirit of Christmas lives all year through.

An increasing number of shoppers each year ask the merchant to stock Christmas gift merchandise earlier. Layaway gift purchases are made in August and September. These shoppers benefit from early Christmas advertising.

With shopping pressure eased for everyone, the time immediately preceding Christmas may be devoted to the proper observance of the Holiday.

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**CIRCULATION DATA**

Newspaper	Current Print Run	Circulated Audit Corp. (Jan. 1-1968)
The Livonia Observer	29,300	28,010
The Plymouth Mail & Observer	9,500	9,212
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer	14,800	14,259
The Redford Observer	21,000	21,091
The Westland Observer	10,100	9,980
The Garden City Observer	11,400	11,243
Total Wednesday	96,100	93,795
Total Sunday	74,600	72,572

\*published Wednesday only.

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