

Team Spirit Reason For Stevenson's Great Record

Two weeks had gone by since his team made him the coach of a perfect football season. Jack Reardon was enjoying the relating that can come to a man whose charges won all of their eight games as did Stevenson in football during the past season.

The finish had produced all kinds of honors for Stevenson: 1 -- An unbeaten-united year in only the fourth campaign the school has initiated. 2 -- The championship of the

Inter-Lakes conference, none of the experts could foresee for Stevenson.

3 -- The No. 10 slot in the state Class A ratings compiled by the Associated Press, No. 13 in the United Press International poll.

For Reardon there was an extra thrill. His boys have nominated him in The Detroit News competition to select a favorite teacher -- for whom the reward will be a trip to Honolulu with all expenses paid.

"I'M FLATTERED the boys think so much of me," Reardon said.

"But I think I am more thrilled with what they themselves accomplished."

Reardon looked out the window, at the field on which Stevenson faced so well.

"This was a team which was willing to work," Reardon said. "and that went for every kid on the team."

"The boys had tremendous respect for one another. They

didn't think that this was a one-man or two-man or four-man team.

"IT'S CUSTOMARY when a season ends to assemble your players and pick a most valuable player. But these kids came to me and said:

"Coach, must we pick a MVP? We don't think we should, not on this ball club. Everybody was MVP."

"So, I said that there was no rule on the subject and we

didn't select an MVP. It merely emphasized the attitude that these boys had.

"They simply didn't want to pinpoint one boy as being more important than another."

And Stevenson was a "team" aggregation.

REARDON NOTED the statistics of his three running backs -- Dale Danvers, Jerry Dettler and Gene Walker.

"On some teams, one boy might carry the load, run the

ball 60 or 70 or maybe 80 per cent. But we had three fine runners and we used them all.

"Danvers carried the ball 70 times for 491 yards and a 7.7 yard average. . . Walker 77 times for 426 yards and a 5.5 average. . . Dettler 49 times for 359 yards and a 7.3 average.

"It's hard to beat figures like that."

The question was fired at Reardon: Was there a turning point in the season for Stevenson?

"I think that there were three," the coach declared.

before the first game . . . because all the practice didn't help anyway."

"The next important day was when we beat Pontiac Northern, 5-2. We had our backs to the wall most of that game."

"Many figured that Pontiac Northern had a mighty team and that they could win it all. When our boys beat Northern they kind of figured that maybe this was the year Stevenson could go places."

"Our kids felt pretty good... pretty confident . . . but not cocky."

All Use Ice Arena

Anybody for hockey? One can find it from the big league level all the way to the youngsters' action at Livonia's new municipal indoor rink located at Ford Field.

The Red Wings are making use of the arena frequently

for practice when their own Olympia is not available.

At least two high schools, Detroit Catholic Central and Detroit Benedictine, are using the arena for all their home games.



Trio Picked As Best In County Play

Three Farmington High School athletes were honored on the Pontiac Press' 1968 All-Oakland County football selections.

Halfback Paul Adamian of North Farmington was named on the Class A team while Greg Main, and Don Impellizzeri of Our Lady of Sorrows were placed on the C-D team.

Main played tackle and Impellizzeri guard.

THEN CAME the Stevenson victory over Walled Lake.

"When we won that one, well, our kids now were convinced that they could go all the way. They didn't think they would be stopped . . . and they weren't."

Stevenson will lose heavily through graduation. Danvers, Dettler, and players like Nick Exarhos and Mark Hulet will be gone next fall.

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And, more than 600 youngsters, ranging from nine to 17, are playing in the arena in the new Livonia Hockey League.

The Wings call the Livonia arena "the finest" they've seen away from the National League.

"In fact," said one Wing, "the ice surface at Livonia tops what we have in a couple of our NHL rinks."

THANKS TO general manager Stabel and the Wings, the Livonia federation for hockey has had some working capital to supply uniforms for the youngsters playing in its league this season.

The Wings met their Fort Worth farm club at the arena in late September and donated all of the game's \$6,500 in receipts to the city of Livonia for hockey.

In return, all the Wings ask was for a chance to practice at Livonia when the situation demanded.

The gesture ranks as one of the finest in sports.

CHECKING STATISTICS of unbeaten 1968 campaign are Coach Jack Reardon, of Livonia Stevenson High, and two of his stars. They are: Fullback Dale Danvers (center) and Captain Nick Exarhos. The Spartans rolled to eight straight wins.

(Observer photo)

Plymouth High Lists Cage Clinic Tuesday

Basketball players and fans in the Plymouth area will have an opportunity to review the 1969 rules in the annual clinic presented by the Plymouth High varsity.

Coach Dick Bearup will have every member of his varsity and junior varsity squad on hand for the program Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the school gym.

"This clinic is designed to give fans, players and interested officials an insight into the new rules prior to the opening of the high school season," Bearup said.

"We especially invite parents and players in the Plymouth Junior basketball program to attend. There will be a meeting of the youngsters and their parents following the clinic."

FRANK FISHER and Tom Moshimer, of the PHS coaching staff, will call rules' infractions as members of the varsity and junior varsity play.

Athletic Director John Sand-

calls.

The clinic always draws a large crowd and Bearup believes this year's will be one of the best attended thus far.

It also will give fans an opportunity to see the new Plymouth varsity in action for the first time. The season opener is still two weeks away.

THE TIGERS were richer by almost \$11,000 per man as their shares for winning the World Series, Thirty-two members of the Tigers were awarded full cuts, including Livonia's Joe Sparna.

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CATHOLIC CENTRAL and Benedictine are part of a Detroit area prep league which has been sponsoring hockey for several years.

Heretofore, the prep teams have been hard pressed to locate space to play and practice. They concentrated chiefly on Olympia and Gordie Howe's Hockeyland, also on facilities across the border in Windsor and Leamington.

One member of the CC team boasts a familiar name -- Delvecchio.

He's Kenny Delvecchio, whose dad is the veteran center of the Wings who still is going strong in his 18th season with the team.

The Delvecchios reside in Livonia, where the four senior high schools haven't received approval to sponsor hockey teams.

AN EFFORT was made at Franklin during the past year to get an official team started. A spokesman declared:

"We have the equipment, the boys, the coaches, and just about everything that we need except money for officials and to take care of other necessary expenditures."

But the school officials still haven't seen the way to okay hockey for Bentley, Franklin, Stevenson and Churchill.

"We think the approval can't be far away," a veteran coach said. "Considering that we now have some 600 youngsters in the community who are playing hockey, the day has to come when we add the game as an official sport on our program."

Within a few weeks, Livonia's second indoor rink will open adjacent to Franklin High.

Schoolcraft Swimmers, Cagers Open

The basketball season opened for Schoolcraft College Tuesday night when the collegians invaded St. Clair of Windsor. Coach Tom Roscilli has been forced to rebuild with only Nate Lullbrod and Mike Kenyon regulars back from a year ago. Lullbrod formerly starred at Plymouth High.

Schoolcraft also will sponsor swimming for the first time this season. The team will be coached by Jack Washin and opens its season Saturday in the University of Windsor Invitational.

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