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Your OBSERVER contains: SAVINGS-FILLED ADVERTISEMENTS

Area High School Pucksters Are Ready For 'New' Season

By TOM DONOHUE
Sports Editor

Six Observerland high schools are in hockey competition this winter and the coaches agree that this is the year that makes or breaks the Observerland hockey program.

The coaches of Bentley, Mike Dudley, Churchill, Adam Mitchell, Franklin, Ron Heller, Stevenson, Gerald Goode, and Southfield - Art Carinci, met and explained the situation that exists.

Country Day Coach Henry LaPointe could not attend because of a conflict. "This year we are allowed to keep official standings," said Goode. "But there will be no championship game in Livonia, just a league champion."

"THE Livonia schools have been limited to a 17 game schedule by the administration. Churchill, Stevenson, Franklin and Bentley have formed a

Livonia High School League which consists of a nine game league schedule. Each team is allowed to play eight non-league games.

Southfield is in its second year of hockey competition and from the start was given two years to prove itself before it could join a league. "I hope to get in the league with Livonia next year," said Southfield Coach Carinci. "We are not restricted in the number of games we can play and as of now have a 20 game schedule."

Southfield was 2-12-2 overall last year and has five returning starters. The Southfield squad is a combined Southfield High-Southfield Lathrup team but not one from

Lathrup made the squad. SOUTHFIELD plays all of its home games at the Civic Center and Coach Carinci names Southfield Athletic Director Ed Bryant, the real push behind the hockey program.

"He was leery of the hockey situation at first in its interference with basketball," said Carinci. "But the game is really catching on and he is all for the program now."

Country Day is a member of the International High School Hockey League and has a 14 game league schedule in addition to non league games with the Livonia schools and Southfield.

Country Day plays all home matches at the Warren Arena

in Warren on 7001 Chicago Road.

Now the Livonia situation... THE Livonia schools entered varsity competition last year in their initial hockey season but were not allowed to keep standings and were not allowed to form a league.

"This year the schools have formed the Livonia High School Hockey League and will play all home games at the Ford Ice rink."

"The big change is that the schools will be running the games and not the Livonia Parks and Recreation," said Goode.

"We had free ice time last year but had to split the ticket take with the Parks and Recreation because they ran the show."

"This year the home team will handle the ticket taking and provide people for crowd control, but we pay for the ice time," said Goode.

FRANKLIN COACH Heller said, "At the end of last season the four Livonia teams and the Parks and Recreation split the take five ways and the schools came up with \$555 each."

Churchill looks to be the strongest with 11 returning skaters while Stevenson and Franklin have eight and Bentley six.

"THERE WILL BE a good quality of hockey this year in Livonia," said Churchill Coach Mitchell. "It will be good and we will not tolerate fighting."

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HIGH SCHOOL hockey coaches met with Observer sports editor at the Observer offices in a 1971-72 hockey rundown. From left are: Art Carinci, Southfield; Ron Heller, Franklin; Gerald Goode, Stevenson; Adam Mitchell, Churchill; and Mike Dudley, Bentley. (Observer photo)

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'Bo' Praises Thornbladh

By W. W. EDGAR

"We're going to have the best 1-2 punch at the fullback position next season of any college football team in the country."

This was "Bo" Schembecher's way of telling the home folks that there's a bright future for Bob Thornbladh, former Plymouth star as a member of the Michigan gridiron machine.

The Wolverine coach was the main speaker at the recognition banquet tendered the Rocks and other PHS teams, Tuesday night. And he left little doubt that he is counting heavily on the husky, broad-shouldered chap who was the scourge of the Suburban Six Conference only two years ago.

"Bob didn't play too much for us this year," Schembecher stated, "but that was due to a combination of things. But you'll hear from him from now on - and I am happy to tell you Plymouth people that he'll be with us in the Rose Bowl come January 1."

The Wolverine mentor pointed out that, following a great freshman year, when he topped the team in scoring and shone even brighter than Ed Shuttlesworth, Michigan's battering fullback, Bob got away to a slow start in spring practice.

"Then later in the year," Schembecher explained, "he was injured in practice and had to be out of the field. But he's okay now and we'll be glad to have him back with us."

In praising the former Rock star, who gained more than 100 yards for the Wolverines during the past conference season, "Bo" recalled his first meeting with Thornbladh.

"It was two years ago," he said, "after we returned from

Prep Hockey Schedule

BENTLEY Coach Mike Dudley	Feb. 11 - Catholic Central at Ford, 9 p.m. Feb. 16 - Bentley at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 23 - Stevenson at Ford, 8 p.m. Feb. 25 - Bentley at Ford, 7 p.m. Mar. 10 - Stevenson at Ford, 7 p.m.
COUNTRY DAY Coach Henry LaPointe	Dec. 6 - Bloomfield Lahser at Warren, 8 p.m. Dec. 10 - at Trenton, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 - Austin at Warren, 1 p.m. Dec. 15 - at Stevenson, Ford 8 p.m. Dec. 18 - at Ann Arbor Huron, 9 p.m. Dec. 19 - Catholic Central at Warren, 1 p.m. Jan. 5 - at Bentley, Ford 8 p.m. Jan. 9 - Aquinas at Warren, 1 p.m. Jan. 11 - at Cranbrook, 4:15 p.m. Jan. 13 - at Southfield, 4 p.m. Jan. 16 - Cranbrook at Warren, 1 p.m. Jan. 23 - Ecorse at Warren, 1 p.m.
CHURCHILL Coach Adam Mitchell	Dec. 6 - at Southfield, 4 p.m. Dec. 8 - Lake Shore at Ford, 8 p.m. Dec. 10 - Fraser at Ford, 9 p.m. Dec. 17 - Stevenson at Ford, 7 p.m. Jan. 7 - Franklin at Ford, 7 p.m. Jan. 12 - at Austin, 8 p.m. Jan. 14 - Bentley at Ford, 7 p.m. Jan. 19 - Trenton at Ford, 8 p.m. Jan. 21 - Austin at Ford 9 p.m. Jan. 26 - Franklin at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 4 - Franklin at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 9 - at Lakeview, 8 p.m.
FRANKLIN Coach Ron Heller	Dec. 10 - Bentley at Ford, 7 p.m. Dec. 15 - Ann Arbor at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Dec. 17 - Southfield at Ford, 9 p.m. Jan. 7 - Churchill at Ford, 7 p.m. Jan. 12 - Lahser at Ford, 8 p.m. Jan. 14 - Lakeview at Ford, 9 p.m. Jan. 19 - Bentley at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 24 - at Lakeview, 8 p.m. Jan. 26 - Churchill at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 28 - Stevenson at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 4 - Churchill at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 9 - Andover at Ford, 8 p.m. Feb. 18 - Stevenson at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 25 - Stevenson at Ford, 9 p.m. Mar. 3 - Bentley at Ford, 7 p.m. Mar. 8 - Catholic Central at Ford, 1 p.m.
STEVENSON Coach Gerald Goode	Dec. 8 - Bentley at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Dec. 15 - Country Day at Ford, 8 p.m. Dec. 17 - Churchill at Ford, 7 p.m. Jan. 7 - Southfield at Ford, 9 p.m. Jan. 12 - Southfield at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 13 - at Trenton, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 21 - Bentley at Ford, 7 p.m. Jan. 28 - Trenton at Ford, 8 p.m. Jan. 28 - Franklin at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 4 - Benedictine at Ford, 1 p.m. Feb. 11 - Bentley at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 18 - Franklin at Ford, 7 p.m. Feb. 23 - Churchill at Ford, 8 p.m. Feb. 25 - Franklin at Ford, 9 p.m. Mar. 3 - Alumni Game at Ford, 8 p.m. Mar. 8 - Southfield at Ford, 3:30 p.m. Mar. 10 - Churchill at Ford, 7 p.m.
SOUTHFIELD Coach Art Carinci	Dec. 6 - Churchill, 4 p.m. Dec. 9 - Bentley, 4 p.m. Dec. 17 - at Franklin, Ford, 9 p.m. Dec. 20 - Churchill, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 6 - Stevenson, 4 p.m. Jan. 7 - at Stevenson, Ford, 8 p.m. Jan. 12 - at Stevenson, Ford, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 13 - Country Day, 4 p.m. Jan. 20 - Stevenson, 4 p.m. Jan. 26 - at Franklin, Ford, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 27 - Belleville, 4 p.m. Feb. 2 - at Bentley, Ford, 8 p.m. Feb. 9 - at Stevenson, Ford, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 10 - Franklin, 4 p.m. Feb. 17 - Belleville, 4 p.m. Mar. 1 - at Churchill, Ford, 3:30 p.m.

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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Can Thimble, the speedy three year old Henry T. Adios, make it four straight in the late closing racing series due to a combination of things. But you'll hear from him from now on - and I am happy to tell you Plymouth people that he'll be with us in the Rose Bowl come January 1."

The Wolverine mentor pointed out that, following a great freshman year, when he topped the team in scoring and shone even brighter than Ed Shuttlesworth, Michigan's battering fullback, Bob got away to a slow start in spring practice.

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In praising the former Rock star, who gained more than 100 yards for the Wolverines during the past conference season, "Bo" recalled his first meeting with Thornbladh.

"It was two years ago," he said, "after we returned from

hitting the finish line in a quick 2:03.2.

It was the same story a week later over a slow track and once again the filly showed her heels to the field.

BUT LAST Saturday the story was a bit different. Driver "Trainer" Fred Hess was wired in the heavy going along the rail for three parts of the mile before taking to the outside and dueling Prince Knox and Bedford to the wire.

For a time it appeared that Thimble's streak had ended, but when the judges studied the photo finish picture, they gave the nod to Thimble with Prince Knox second and Bedford third.

All three are in Saturday's field in addition to winners of the second division legs of the stakes.

Prince Knox won one, Tricky Dares took the second and Siaway Doctor the third.

Thus the winners of the six heats will collide with \$5,000 purses for the winners of the field are: Michigan Bank, who made a bold bid a week ago; and Erlana's Valley, who has been close in three starts but not a winner.

Just as the past performances, this has to be the best race of the current meeting and probably one of the tops of the entire winter season.

IT SOUNDS rather strange, but while the City of Livonia is fighting for more revenue from the state because of the extended racing season, actually there will be fewer days and nights at the Detroit Race Course in 1972 than in 1971.

This year, the Detroit Racing Association had 120 days and Wolverine Raceway had 76 programs at night.