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Bentley Aims To End Mistakes... Win Games

"Cut down on mistakes..." That's the aim of Bentley High in football this fall. Coach Glen Goode is basing his optimism for an improvement over last year's 6-1 record on reducing the number of mistakes involving his team.

"We're more experienced in

most departments and because of that we feel the boys will commit fewer errors, and when you make less mental and physical mistakes, you're bound to be a better football team," says Goode after two weeks of practice.

He has 17 letterman back

from a year ago including 11 starters.

GOODE ISN'T TALKING championship yet in the Suburban Eight League with the additions of Dearborn and Dearborn Edsel Ford to what was the Suburban Six League.

Offensively, the returnees are Don Anderson and Ron Reardon at tackles, Bob Couch at guard, Tom Vidmar and Doug Wade both half-backs and Bob Redmond at fullback.

The quarterback situation remains a three-man battle with the opener against Madison Lamphere just a little more than a week away.

Seniors Brian Gates and Ed Leabell are fighting it out with

Junior Bob Deacon for the key spot in the offense. Leabell has been injured, but is expected to be ready to go by the time the opener comes around.

ON THE DEFENSIVE side, the Bentley team will be strongest in the linebacking department where Dave Preston, Tony Romano and Mark Roy all are back.

Tom Warniak, a defensive halfback, also is back for another season.

Sizing up the Bentley situation, Goode says:

1—"We have more depth."

2—"We have more offensive line experience."

3—"Our defensive experience also is much improved."

S-L Harriers Open Against Oak Park

This was opening day for Southfield Lathrup High's cross country team, coached by Dale Petzold. Lathrup was to run against Oak Park on the Parkers' course.

The Inter-Lakes Conference season for Lathrup begins Sept. 23 against Livonia Stevenson.

Other meets:

Sept. 30 — at Walled Lake.

Oct. 4 — at Waterford Mott.

Oct. 7 — at Pontiac Northern

Oct. 12 — at Redford Union at Cass

Benton, Oct. 14 — Farmington,

Oct. 19 — Rochester Adams,

Oct. 21 — at Waterford, Oct. 26

— League meet, Oct. 28 —

Berkley.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

The Grand Circuit, Grant today although it now organized 100 years ago for the express purpose of arranging a continuous program for pacers and trotters at various tracks throughout the summer months, is celebrating its centennial this year.

Wolverine Raceway will have a major role with a series of eight consecutive stakes that will bring the nation's finest doing an excellent job and stopped in Detroit for several days to get the message around that Wolverine was sponsoring two weeks of the Grand Circuit.

IT WASN'T until around the turn of the century that Michigan cities joined in the Buffalo, Cleveland, Utica and Springfield, Mass. conceived the idea of a grand circuit of harness racing.

The thought was to provide summer-long competition. J.L. Hudson Co. was one of the biggest supporters in the pacers and trotters a chance early 1900s. That was in the to see the best. That same days when Michigan sponsorship marks the roaring sored a rich pace and trot that

have become the traditional Motor City Pace and the Merchants and Manufacturers Trot.

There was a period when the late Joseph Campbell served as Grand Circuit president for a period of 40 years.

And that's how the Roaring Grand started. It only touches on the developments in the modern era, developments that have brought the best pacers and trotters in history to the various stops.

It was back in the early '30s that we saw Greyhound, considered the finest trotter ever, and Billy Direct, the fastest then whose bloodlines have produced hundreds of record makers since, race at North Randall near Cleveland.

IT WAS something we'll never forget even though we have since watched such greats as Bret Hanover, Speedy Scot, Most Happy Fella, Columbia George, Good Time, Belle Acton, Adios Harry to name a few, in competition at Wolverine during the past 25 years.

It is interesting to note that once the Grand Circuit confined its programs to standard county and state fairs in the east and midwest. Now it stops at few fairs, such as the Indianapolis and Illinois state fairs, Goshen, N.Y. and perhaps one or two others. The remainder of the programs are staged at the big permanent betting plants.

Matter of fact we would have to say it is the permanent plants that saved the Roaring Grand, they were the only ones able to keep boosting the stake purses to the point where the top stars could afford to race.

Six of the eight early closing events at Wolverine are Matron stakes, many of which are the oldest on the books, and the other two are the ancient M&M trot and the Motor City pace which go back to the latter part of the 19th century.

Those who follow the pacers and trotters had an opportunity to see Speedy Crown, a newly crowned Hambletonian king, perform for the first time since winning the rich three-year-old classic at DuQuoin, Ill.

BUT THE BEST is yet to come, starting Monday of next week. Wolverine will present the \$25,000 M&M tonight (Thursday) and the rich Motor City Friday as one of the features of the annual "Good Ol' Times" program.

That's when the track management will roll back prices to the turn of the century with 50 cents admission to the grandstand, 10 cent hot dogs, a nickel for pop, popcorn and peanuts.

"Good Ol' Times" brought the largest crowd ever to attend a harness racing program in Michigan a year ago when more than 19,150 poured through the wickets.

The management is looking for this year's renewal to break all of the record set in 1970...attendance and the \$850,000 that went through the mutual machines.

They may not all appear but slated for appearances next week are: Albatross, rated as the greatest pacer of all time, who'll compete in the Matron three-year-old pace just a week in advance of the Brown Jug classic in Delaware, O. Albatross has a mark of 1:57.1, has won 14 in a row and shows earnings of \$333,000.

Then there is Strike Out, best of the juvenile pacers, who has been clocked in 1:58 this season. And Song Cam, the unbeaten juvenile trotter with nine in a row.

PERHAPS the keenest competition of all will come in the Matron four-year old pace and trot where many of the best aged performers come from this year.

The two Matrons will have a value of more than \$40,000 each for the one mile dash, making each the richest stake for that class ever presented in Michigan.

Such names as Del Miller, the balding millionaire who is president of the Grand Circuit; Stan and Vernon Dancer; Billy Haughton, Joey O'Brien, Bruce Nickells, Howard Beissinger, George Sholty, Delmer Insko, Jimmy Arthur and Glenn Gurnsey will be in town at various times during the two weeks to handle horses.

It will be a two weeks to remember

By George Maskin observing sports

My admiration for high school athletes continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

Say what you want about the kids these days, but when you survey the sports scene, your heart oozes with warmth.

I stood there reveling about these kids a few days ago. It was just before the Labor Day weekend and a few days before the school bells were to ring and send the students back into the class room.

THIS PARTICULAR scene was Southfield Lathrup High. It might just as well have been Plymouth or Westland-Glenn or Thurston or St. Agatha or Birmingham Groves or Farmington or Oscoda High.

It's been the same for all the prep footballers for two weeks and then some.

Their fellow students were living up, enjoying those final days of vacation. Not much really to worry about for the students, at large.

But, the football players...yes, even the cross country performers and now the golfers who'll be competing in the fall instead of the spring, what did they do but give up a good hunk of their vacation to ready for the new season ahead.

You were told by one young man that practice was scheduled for 3:30 p.m. It was now about 3 o'clock. The footballers began to arrive. Many came on bicycles. A few drove up in the family car.

A gal friend or two dropped off a few players...but moms turned out to be the No. 1 chauffeurs as they usually are in suburbia. Bless them moms.

You stood there marveling. The temperature was up in the 80's...much too warm for all that football gear...and certainly not the kind of a day to go bumping into one another.

But the kids were there, ready to go and Coach Darrel Harper stood there boasting about the attitudes of his charges.

"They certainly come out here to work, to practice and to play," said Harper.

By coincidence, elsewhere Observerland coaches were hailing the attitudes and the desire of their football players.

Harper blew his whistle and the young Lathrup contingent scooted out onto the field. They were last year's Inter-Lakes Conference champs...and as far as they were concerned they'll be the champs until somebody proves otherwise.

But the most important thing about any high school athlete is his willingness to give something extra of himself.

When you see young men like this, well, as I said earlier, your heart warms over.

ALL THE HEART WARMING these days isn't provided by just the prep athletes.

Some older folks in Farmington's school district rate some orchids, too, the way they are going forth to raise the money necessary to keep prep sports and other extra curricular activities alive in the schools.

Sports Editor Joe Falls of the Free Press is typical of what the dads are doing. He's part of the fund raising, and it should be noted that at the moment Joe has no son in high school.

He does have a couple of daughters at North Farmington with another daughter and young Mike to come several years hence.

"The beautiful part of all this," Joe was saying the other afternoon, "is the response we are getting from people who don't have children involved in any of the activities at stake."

"A lot of people who have chipped in already don't have children of school age any more. Others have real small kids, who might say: 'Well, things will be strengthened out by the time our kids get to high school.'"

"They all seem to realize how important this is for the students — our children — and are willing to dig a little deeper into their pocketbooks."

Ironically, perhaps, the donations of some families already have exceeded what the extra tax bill would have been had the millage passed.

What else is there to say: people sure can make you proud.

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