

# Harrison Loses All-Loop Hughes

The failure of the millage vote in Farmington has had its repercussions at Harrison High School in football.

The team will be in action and should be one of the threats for the Western Six League title.

But when the millage went down, Harrison suddenly found itself minus all-league quarterback Rick Hughes, who also was the team's monster man on defense.

Rick had decided to play his senior year at Harrison despite the fact his dad was transferred to a position in Littleton, Colo.

But when the millage failed and there appeared the possibility that there'd be no

Perennial power Farmington High has lost little of its cross country might.

The Falcons began the 1971 season on a happy note Wednesday by downing Southfield and Walled Lake Western in a triangular meet.

Farmington scored 25 points to 47 for Southfield and 64 for Walled Lake Western.

Individual honors went to Southfield's Dan Henry who was timed in 10:14.6 to beat out a Walled Lake Western entry who was second.

The next six spots all went to

Pagnucco, who played only about 10 minutes on the Harrison varsity last season.

"He'll come along, we're certain," says Harrison, "but for the present it will be a pretty inexperienced quarterback instead of having one who was the best in the league."

The Harrison offensive strategy may change some, too. With Hughes, the team

would have done a lot of passing.

Now, to start with, there may be much more running led by Dave Manos, another veteran who is the best ball carrier on the team.

"Just how far we go with our method of attack will depend pretty much on how fast Pagnucco comes along," declares Harrison.

BUT WHILE Harrison has

lost Hughes, it did pick up in Pat VanDusen, a crack fullback and linebacker who had starred for Our Lady of Sorrows until the Catholic school closed its senior high last spring.

VanDusen has impressed to the point that he appears to have won himself a job both on the offensive and defensive starters.

Dan McConaghy and Bill Herpich are back and will

fight it out for the swingback slot as Harrison readies itself for the season's opener next week against cross-town Farmington, which is expected to have one of its best teams in several years.

"What a way to have to start," says Harrison. "But I feel that we'll have more experience all along the line, we'll be stronger and faster and this could be our year to

blossom out into a real contender.

All League tackle Barry Smetzer leads the line. He'll team with Larry Shaheen at the tackles while Fred Deschoff and Jim Hagen handle the guards and Paul Bey, who's only a tenth grader and already a letterman — he made the varsity as a ninth grader — works the center slot after playing end last season.

TOM YOUNG, 6-3 and 215, will be one end with Art Slag on the other side of the line.

Slagle is a senior who never before has played on the varsity.

"He just came out and in a hurry he has shown us that he's quite a ball player," coach Herrington said.

Tom Erkert also figures prominently in the Harrison. He's a linebacker and Herrington figures that with Van Dusen "they'll give us one of the best one-two punches behind the line in the league."

Erkert rates as the best, litter — that is, tackler — on the team.

Harrison will contest with Churchill, Northville, Waterford Mott and Walled Lake Western for the league prize.

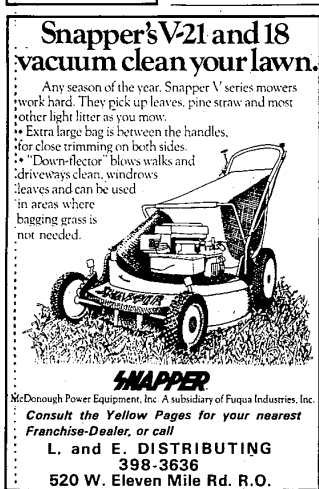


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## Falcon Harriers Back In Stride

Farmington runners — Nick Burton, Marlin Fedow, Kevin Ryalence, Jim Nuttal, Kim Day and Mike McGuire.

Bill Bangers and Bob Corcoran of Southfield were next across while Greg Sako of Farmington came in fifth.

THE 12TH finisher was Bill Rubin of Southfield, Kevin Charnesky of Southfield came in 15th.

Farmington and Southfield were to oppose again Saturday, along with several other schools in the annual West

Bloomfield Invitational.

Southfield will visit Southfield Lathrup next Thursday afternoon before opening its Southeastern League season hosting Ferndale on Sept. 20.

September 16 — at Lathrup, 20 — Ferndale, 23 — Royal Oak Kimball, 28 — Fordson, 30 — at Birmingham Seaholm.

October 5 — Oakland University

Invitational, 9 — Oakland County meet, 12 — Redford Union Invitational, 14 — Berkley, 15 — at Hazel Park, 21 — League meet at Royal Oak Kimball, 30 — Regional.

November 6 — State meet.

## Old And New Steal Show In Grand Circuit Opening

Two drivers, at opposite ends of the ladder one just climbing out top recognition and the other nearing the end of an illustrious career, stole the spotlight in the first two events of the two-week long celebration of the centennial of the Grand Circuit at Wolverine Raceway.

Herman "Sonny" Graham Jr., who actually started his driving career some years back when his father had a stable at Wolverine, and Ralph Baldwin, national champion several times while driving for Castleton Farm in Lexington, Ky., were the winning reinsmen in the Matron three-year-old trot and the Historic Merchants and Manufacturers trot.

Graham won the Matron with Noble Gesture and Baldwin took top honors in the M&M with Circus.

Of the two victories, the most surprising was that of Noble Gesture. Hailed as the nation's top two-year-old, Noble Gesture didn't reach the same form this year and Graham scratched the colt from the Hambletonian after twin defeats in Indianapolis.

But it was practically a review of the Hambletonian in the Matron where Speedy Crown, the winner; second place Savior; third place A.C.'s Orion and fourth place Hoot Speed were among the six entries.

Naturally Speedy Crown, the Hambletonian king, was the favorite and Noble Gesture a longshot.

And for a while it appeared as if Speedy Crown would romp home just as he did in DuQuoin, Ill. He led for three parts of the mile and was still in front at the head of the stretch.

THIRD CAME one of the finest duels ever staged at Wolverine with Speedy Crown and Hoot Speed going at each other in the middle of the track. Meanwhile, Noble Gesture was storming along the rail and just did pass the leaders at the wire to win by a nose over Hoot Speed with Speedy Crown another nose back in third place.

It was sort of a repeat for Noble Gesture who won earlier at Wolverine in 2:00.2 for a new track record since shattered by Grassie Jim. This time he was clocked in 2:00.3.

The colt went to the post at better than 16-1 odds and paid \$33.40.

The stake cost the track \$1,988 in a minus pool when an unidentified bettor wagered \$8,000 on Speedy Crown to show. He just did and payoff was 10 cents on a dollar.

SHOWING the same driving skill and the superb timing that made him one of the nation's best when he was handling the Castleton Farm racing stable, Baldwin, who came out of retirement this year, drove Circus, a three-year-old son of Speedster to victory before a crowd of 5,948.

After finishing fourth in the second of two qualifying heats to determine the 10 finalists, Circus lived up to Baldwin's expectations and took over the lead midway through the stretch to win by a length in 2:00.2.

The cagey veteran kept his trotter within reaching

distance of the leading Nickolodeon and then sped past in the drive to the wire.

The victory was worth \$5,400 to Circus. Nickolodeon was

second and Senior Nix third. LONGSHOTS scored resounding victories in the two elimination heats.

Miss Lyn Scot, a four-year-old Speedy Scot mare owned by Isaac Collins of Lancaster, O., came roaring from sixth at the head of the stretch to win the first dash in 2:03.4.

The big payoff came in the second heat when Pickle Liquor turned on the heat midway through the stretch to win in 2:02.4.

## Observing Sports

By George Maskin

It'll be a different kind of a fall and winter for at least one home in Southfield-Lathrup.

Dad's going to be home much more. There won't be as many of those three and four-day trips. Or trips stretching out to a week.

Dad, too, may have a tough time adjusting to his new role in life, his new work.

When you've done only one thing for 25 years... a transition to something else doesn't come easy.

But Gordie Howe, the greatest hockey player ever, certainly will make that transition, now that it's official that he's through as a Red Wing player after a quarter of a century in compiling a record which undoubtedly will stand for years and decades to come.

The official announcement didn't come as too much of a surprise. Some two weeks before, we had written in this very space that all of us could look forward to that happening before the Red Wings assembled at Port Huron this weekend for their training camp.

GORDIE HAD to quit sooner or later. Like a growing number of sports elite, who have become elder statesmen, he decided to bow out when he still was doing fairly well. He could have waited, perhaps collapsed on the ice, and then said "that's all."

But if you'll look around you'll note names like Sandy Koufax and Mickey Mantle and many in football and basketball (like Bill Russell) who didn't wait until the last ounce of playing skill had evaporated before they signed off to turn their attention to other work, to other professions, to other businesses.

Last impressions, like first impressions, are important. Better to leave 'em with happy memories at the end, than go downhill and finally quit when you're a shade of your old self.

Sometimes, of course, you can't help it. But Gordie Howe could.

THE HOWE hockey story, of course, needs no repetition here. It already has been covered by the experts who have known him the best over the years.

But I remember that winter of '46 when Howe first came up to the Wings. It was a year after I had returned from the service. I was working the night trick at the old Times and Lew Walter, then the hockey writer, came around to remark:

"The Wings have a new kid... Howe's his name. Jack Adams (the old manager-coach) says he'll be something."

What an understatement that turned out to be. Howe started to set records and more records and still more records.

The result is that the National Hockey League record book looks pretty much like a Howe record book. Sure, you'll find some other names — like Phil Esposito, Bobby Hull, Rocket Richard, etc. — but overall none came close to matching what Gordie accomplished.

Nor is it likely that any ever will. Howe more than excelled as a player on the Red Wings. He was the leader, the man just about everybody looked up to.

I REMEMBER an afternoon at Olympia when the Pistons played there. The Wings were assembling to make a trip. Most of the Wings, Howe included, gathered along side the court to watch their basketball brothers perform.

Pretty soon, Howe looked at his watch. He got up and started for the exit. To a man his teammates arose and left. He didn't have to say anything. They

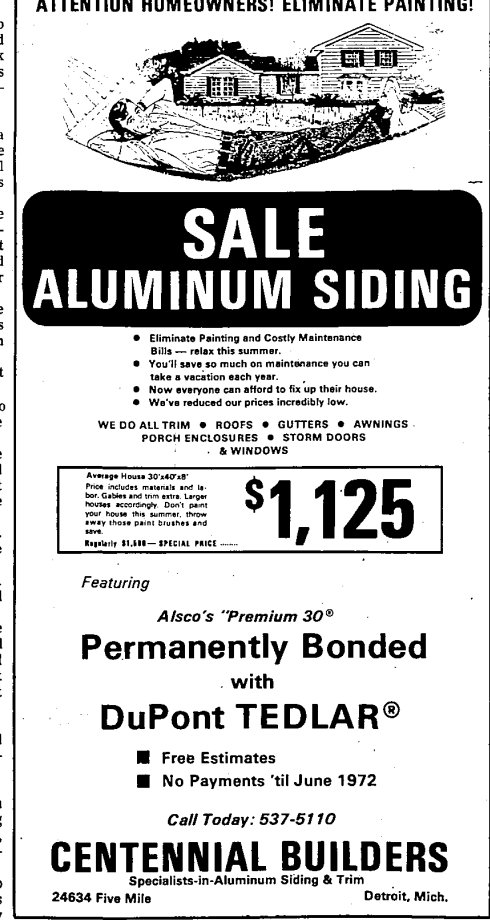
knew that if Gordie felt it was time to go... that was it.

And, so it has gone over those 25 years. Gordie was the backbone of the team.

Gordie always has said he'd like to spend more time with his four children, two of whom attended Lathrup High last year... and one still is there now.

More than likely, he'll be wandering over to Lathrup for some of their games this fall and winter. Too bad, there's no hockey team at the school. What a perfect coach he'd be.

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