

Prep Sports Chiefs Wonder What's In Store For State Association

What's in store for the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the longtime governing body of prep sports in the state?

What's the future of the State Association's Representative Council, currently headed by Jack Cotton, athletic director for Farmington schools?

For more than 45 years, there never was much question the MHSAA dictated the rules over school sports.

THERE NEVER WERE any serious objections raised to various decisions rendered by the association, whether it dealt with a player's eligibility

or how the state basketball tournament was conducted.

Generally speaking, what the association did was appreciated. It was contended that without such an iron hand prep sports in Michigan never would have attained the heights and importance it has.

Of late, there has come an opinion that legally the State

Association could not rule on eligibility cases and that something has to be done.

Steps have been instituted to set up a state director who is responsible to the State Board of Education and could determine on eligibility cases and the like.

The State Prep Association would continue on a stripped-

down basis and would run various tournaments, etc.

Veteran schoolmen are against any change. Some feel that "we're leading to a political football for prep sports."

In Lansing, however, state officials have contended "this is the only way we can beat the law. If we continue to operate

without the change, we'll get knocked around" on every eligibility matter if it winds up in a court.

HEARINGS ON the proposed setup are to be held around the state. One is scheduled Monday night at the offices of the Detroit Board of Education. A second is listed Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Stevenson building, 10100 Grand River in Detroit.

In the meantime, State Senator John Toepp of Cadillac has come forth, demanding that Michigan Attorney General Frank J. Kelley issue a formal ruling by Nov. 1, defining the legal state of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

According to the state board of education, the proposed changes must be made because what the attorney general has decreed.

TOEPP WANTS four questions answered:

1 - The current legal status of the MHSAA.
2 - The authority the MHSAA has over interscholastic athletic activities within the state, from eligibility matters to conducting tournaments.

3 - Will the MHSAA still be able to run state tournaments and rule on eligibility cases if it's determined the State Superintendent of Public Instruction has final authority on such questions and the superintendent delegates the responsibility to the MHSAA?

4 - Whether the attorney general could represent the MHSAA in a court of law.

Area Schools Eye New Loops

A new league comprising Farmington and Livonia schools?

It's been discussed quietly, the Observer newspapers have learned.

Just how soon it would become a reality isn't certain, but what is known is that there is a shuffling of leagues already in the works.

IN THE PAST YEAR:

1 - Northville left the Wayne-Oakland League and joined the new Western Six that now includes Farmington, Harrison and Livonia. Churchill and also will include the new Canton Center High

scheduled to open next fall.

2 - The Suburban Six League with such schools as Livonia Bentley, Plymouth and Redford Union expanded from six to eight schools, adding two Dearborn schools.

3 - Birmingham Groves has announced it will leave the Northwest Suburban League at the close of the present year.

4 - Southfield Lathrup after a short existence in the Inter-Lakes League also is pulling up stakes.

5 - Both Groves and Lathrup are heading for a new Metro-Suburban League which will be comprised of

schools in their immediate areas.

Garden City East will quit the Mid-Wayne League after the current year and join the Northwest Suburban League.

According to a report, North Farmington is one school which would like to find a league attachment that would give the Raiders more schools in their immediate area.

THE RAIDERS ARE in the Northwest Suburban League and with the departure of Birmingham Groves, they have only Oak Park and Livonia Franklin close by. John Glenn, Thurston and Garden City East all are what

might be called "a long ways away."

What about Livonia Bentley, which must go way down to Allen Park and Trenton when there are several schools closer at hand and might produce better rivalries with increases in gate receipts?

Talk remains on the quiet side.

One spokesman said: "Maybe we'll come up with a couple of eight-team leagues in the area. It could be good for all of us."

"After all, the closer your opponents are, the better chance you have of drawing bigger crowds. To have leagues comprised of schools

spread out doesn't make sense now days with so many schools so close to each other."

The same holds true for the three Farmington schools. They're in different leagues.

It's no different in Redford Township, in Birmingham, in Southfield or Garden City.

One of these days, such barriers might be broken.

Southfield Starts Work On Baseball Diamonds

Baseball season may be over but not for those connected with keeping diamonds in Southfield.

A massive renovation program has been started to improve many of the city's 60 diamonds.

City recreation director Larry Schenk is supervising the program which will involve 15-20 diamonds.

"THOSE FIELDS just haven't met recreation standards and we want them to be by the time the 1972 season rolls around," Schenk said. Work will be done on city park and elementary school fields in cooperation with the schools, Schenk said.

The city also is examining unused land on the Civic Center complex to accommodate nine tennis, three hand ball courts and eight shuffleboard boards. All would be lighted, fenced and landscaped.

The Southfield city complex now rates with the finest in the state for sports. Besides many outstanding diamonds for baseball and softball, it includes a hockey arena, a golf course which will be opened next spring and a swimming pool.

Spartans Win Second In League

Stevenson High barriers recorded their second straight Inter-Lakes Conference victory, doubling Farmington, 21-34, in a dual meet in Cass-Benton Park.

The Schoolcraft College invitational champions swept seven of the first 10 places, including first, second and third.

Dave Mathia was the individual winner with a clocking of 12:55 for the two and a half miles.

Pat Opsommer and Bill Walker took second and third for the Spartans before Milan Fedraw became the first Farmington finisher in fourth place.

He was followed by Kevin Ryalpase and Jim Mitchell with Kevin Maly and Paul Walchowski taking seventh and eighth for Stevenson.

Franklin Tops North

Paced by John Dawe, who bettered his own course record in winning, Franklin High rolled to its third straight cross country victory, downing North Farmington, 17-44.

It was the second Northwest Suburban League triumph and found the Patriots taking seven of the first 10 places.

Dawe was timed in 13:01, cracking his own record of 13:02.

Wayne Griffin, of Franklin, was second with Bob Stewart third ahead of Dale Carruthers, first Raider to finish.

Hazel Park Slates Day For Families

Saturday is Family Day at the Hazel Park Race Track. Children under 12 years of age will be admitted free on Saturdays, if accompanied by their parents. They will be admitted at the north gate. The boys and girls will be guests of the track in a special section of the grandstand.

This is a convenience for parents, who would like to enjoy the afternoon at the races but cannot get suitable baby sitters.

Every Thursday is Ladies Day sustaining a long and gracious tradition. Ladies are admitted to the grandstand on

Observerland Schools Rate High In Rankings

Six Observerland teams landed spots in the first Detroit News area high school football ratings.

Three teams each were ranked among the Top Ten in the North and West Divisions.

In the North, Brother Rice was placed second, North Farmington fourth and Southfield Lathrup eighth. Each

Borgess Wins 23d In Row

Bishop Borgess, defending Catholic League champion, is fast showing that it will be the team to beat in the cross country competition again this fall.

Borgess registered a pair of victories during the week to run its string of victories to 23 over a period of three years including four this season, three in league competition.

Borgess measured Aquinas earlier in the week, 15-50, sweeping the first 10 places. Jim Bearden was the individual leader with a time of 12:32.3, beating Dan Madden to the wire by seven seconds.

It was much the same story Thursday when Borgess measured St. Alphonsus, 15-50. The only difference was that it won the first nine places this time.

Madden finished first in 12:11.3, his best time ever, and Bearden was second in 12:19.9, also his fastest clocking.

team had 2-0 records entering the weekend play.

Hazel Park, also 2-0, was placed No. 1 in the North.

IN THE WEST, Fordson was named at the head of the list with Redford Union, Thurston and Plymouth in sixth, seventh and eighth spots, respectively.

The News also ranked Brother Rice seventh and North Farmington 10th in its first statewide ratings.

The Free Press listed North Farmington ninth in its state ratings. North Farmington,

reigned as the state Class A champions in most the polls last year.

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