

First To Air Tigers, U-M Football And Gold Cup Races

Death Silences Sportscaster Ty Tyson At 80

He never swung a bat in professional baseball. He never charged into the line or caught a pass in a football game. He never spread the meshes with a shot on the basketball court. Neither did he ever sit in a high-powered speedboat during a race.

But E.L. (Ty) Tyson, who passed away Thursday morning at the age of 80, pioneered in the radio broadcasting of all sports, left his name indelibly stamped both in the world of radio and sport.

His pleasant voice was first heard over the air waves of WWJ back in 1924 when radio was a toddling infant and folks used to sit up all night with crystal sets trying to get programs from all sections of the country.

It was Ty who conceived the idea of broadcasting sports

events and some of his exploits of the early days made him a legendary figure long before he retired in 1953.

A NATIVE of Tyngsboro, Pa., and a graduate of Penn State University (it was a college in those days), he came to Detroit late in the fall of 1923, an unknown young fellow with an idea.

Before he retired, however, his name had become indelibly stamped not only on the sports scene in Detroit and Michigan but as the "granddaddy" of all sports announcers he was known wherever sports were played.

As the pioneer in the broadcasting industry he had the following facts:

He aired the first football game from the University of Michigan in 1924.

He was the first to broadcast baseball when he put the Tigers on the air in 1927. That same year he was the first to broadcast a fight—doing it from Olympia.

Along with these firsts, he was the first to station his "mike" on a dock and broadcast the Gold Cup races on the Detroit River when Gar Wood and Horace Dodge were at their peaks.

IN HIS LATER years, Ty often used to tell of the hard time he had convincing the late Fielding (Hurry) Up that putting the football games on the air would be a good time to boost the sport.

"The 'Old Man', he used to say, 'was a fussy guy. Even in those days he had an idea of what was to come and he

permitted me to broadcast the Wisconsin game in 1924 only because it was a sellout."

The late Frank Navin, owner of the Tigers in those days, was as difficult to convince. "He saw the advantage of having the Tiger actions broadcast," Ty would point out, "and he set up a special booth for us to try the experiment."

From these beginnings, Ty's pleasing voice became part of our everyday life. Housewives listened to his report of the Tiger games and the youngsters idolized him as much as they did the players.

He became so much of a hero that there was a storm of protest from all sections when a second station, with the name Harry Heilmann, as the announcer, started broadcasting Tiger games.

TY WAS A jolly fellow, always ready for a good laugh, or to supply one, and many a humorous tale has evolved about him.

Few persons who listened to him regularly realized that he used to order his dinner during the broadcast of a Tiger game.

He'd take time between innings to comment, "Gad, I'm getting hungry. How I'd like to have a bowl of onion soup, a nice thick steak well done, with some French fries, a bit of lettuce and a piece of apple pie."

By the time he got down town after the game the meal he spoke about was waiting for him.

Another of the humorous tales involved some unexpected competition from an unusual source.

In the early '30s a new tabloid made its appearance in Detroit and a tall gent named Jack Sechler who looked more like a minister than a sports writer was hired to write baseball.

EACH DAY the paper hit the street in the late afternoon there was a bylined story by Sechler that included the play by play account of the ball game—yet he never was seen in the press box.

After a bit of subtle investigation on Ty's part, it was learned that Sechler sat in his office and copied the report that Ty was putting on the air and then attempted to beat it. Detroit News on the street with the results.

Then came the rude awakening. One afternoon, as he was

about to announce the opening lineup, Ty called over the air—"Jack, are you ready? Here's the lineup."

The very first day Sechler was in the press box sending his account by wire back to the office.

Ty had handled the case nobly.

Along with his many other affiliations Ty was one of the most popular "Deans" in Fred Mattheis' mythical institution of learning—Linsdale College—that was founded on mirth and joviality.

Ty was a pioneer of the air waves who became a legend long before he passed away. And they'll be telling strange tales about him and his exploits as long as sports events are broadcast.



TY TYSON
Death stills golden voice.
(Photo courtesy Detroit News)

Milkman Bob Hitt Still Spills Pins

Several years ago—at the height of a fantastic bowling career—Bob Hitt, the Livonia milkman, was faced with a difficult decision.

He had to choose between bowling in the all-star leagues at night or give up his milk route that demanded he arise at 4 a.m.

At the time the all-stars had just decided to bowl twice each week—at a fixed site on Tuesdays and traveling on Thursdays, and it became more and more difficult for Bob to keep up the pace.

He had been the "King" of the Metropolitan bowlers (an honor that goes to the bowler with the highest mean average in both sections of the Classic) and there were few more honors to gain.

stay on top.

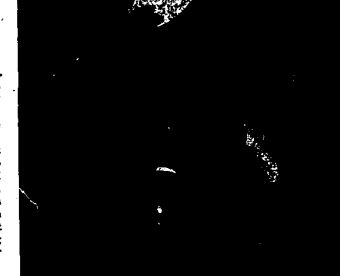
"I'm having more fun now—and I finished 12th in the ABC last year."

From the gleam in his eye one could tell that he was just as proud of that finish for a once-a-week bowler as he was in 1960 when he was the "King"

and the top average man of the entire area.

Now with another ABC approaching, he is dreaming each morning while delivering the milk that he will finish even higher this year.

And don't sell him short. Bob is a determined fellow.



"FOR WEEKS I pondered the question," Bob confides, "I loved bowling and, for a time, I had dreams of making it my livelihood."

"I had seen others doing fairly well in the role of instructors and coaches in many of the major tournaments, I had visions that I could do the same."

"It was tough trying to get along on about three hours sleep two nights each week and I knew I had to make a move."

"Finally, I chose to remain a milkman. It was a tough decision, but I realized that trying to make a decent living out of bowling was a greater gamble."

The former "King" now confines his competition to one night each week. He bowls in the Classic at Livonia Lanes and currently is carrying an average of 193—four points behind Fred Ringrose, the leader with 197.

ASIDE FROM THAT one evening of battling with the stars, Bob devotes two afternoons each week to instructing in the various lanes in Observeland.

Has he regretted the choice? "No, I haven't," Bob answers. "I do miss the competition of the all-star Classic, but it's a rugged grind to try to

BOWLING MILKMAN Bob Hitt only gets to the lanes once or twice a week now but still maintains one of the highest averages in the area. Time was when Bob rolled practically every night and was the top average kegler in metropolitan Detroit. (Observer photo)

DBA To Honor Jet Perrelli For 845 Series

Jet Perrelli, the Farmington bowler who set the all-time Metropolitan Detroit record with an 845 series last year, will be honored for that feat Thursday night at Bel-Aire Lanes.

In ceremonies before he engages in his weekly league bowling, "Jet" will be presented with a trophy by officials of the Detroit Bowling Association.

Down The Lanes

By Eddie Edgar

Fred Hamlin, genial host at Farmington Lanes, has a good reason for the broad smile he's wearing these days. The reason is the showing of his 16-year-old bowling star, Linda Hansen.

During the past week she posted a 278 series, best second of the season at that figure.

By turning in these scores, Fred is confident that he is continuing a trend that started 10 years ago when he developed his first teenage champion, Ann Graham.

Ann was good enough to join a group of junior bowlers sent to the Pacific Coast to compete in the Heart national championships. By her showing, she has become almost a legend in Farmington.

WHEN SHE LEFT the teenage ranks, a fine young bowler, Kevin Anderson, took her place

Plymouth Dunked In Meet

Trouton's powerful swimming team scored an easy 72-33 victory over Plymouth in the Suburban Six League opener for both schools.

The Rocks managed only three winning performances—Len Wendell in the individual medley, Jim Shinn in the diving and Wally Beglinger in the 400-yard free style.

Beglinger also took a second in the 200-yard free style while Wendell was second in the 100-yard free style.

Here's the way the Rocks placed:

Medley relay: 2—Plymouth (Andes, Smith, Jewkes, Norman). Winning time: 1:49.9.

200-yard free style: 2—Beglinger. Winning time: 1:51.8.

50-yard free: 3—Norman. Winning time: 24.5 seconds.

200-yard individual medley: 1—Wendell. Winning time: 2:15.6.

Diving: 1—Jim Shinn.

100-yard butterfly: 3—Jewkes. Winning time: 57.6 seconds.

100-yard free style: 2—Wendell. Winning time: 53.9 seconds.

100-yard backstroke: 3—Andes. Winning time: 57.3 seconds.

400-yard free style: 1—Beglinger. Winning time: 4:17.1.

100-yard breaststroke: 3—Smith. Winning time: 1:09.2.

Free style relay: 2—Plymouth (Clum, Leclair, Maurer, Covington). Winning time: 3:36.1.

Happy Start For Trojan Swimmers

The swimming season opened on a gala note at Clarenceville High.

With Ken Bayles leading the way by winning both the 200-yard free style and the 100-yard butterfly, the Trojans swept past last year, 72-33.

Clarenceville won every event except the diving and the breaststroke.

Here's how the Trojans placed:

Medley relay: 1—Clarenceville (Autrey, Hendricks, Waldman, Mulr). Time: 2:06.5.

200-yard free: 1—Ken Bayles. 2—Mike Ireland. Time: 2:14.7.

50-yard free: 1—Rick Taslake. 2—Ahonen. Time: 26.8 seconds.

200-yard individual medley: 1—Jeff Hecker. 2—Dan Noble. Time: 2:45.

Diving: 3—Tom Sydor.

100-yard butterfly: 1—Bayles. 2—Autrey. Time: 1:03.3.

100-yard free: 1—Bob Muir. 3—Irving Shiffman. Time: 62.8 seconds.

100-yard back: 1—Don Chmiel. 2—John Sydor. Time: 1:14.7.

400-yard free: 1—Carl Sjogran. 2—Waldman. Time: 5:16.8.

Free Throws Squeeze Franklin

It was a cliff-hanger all the way....before Romulus High's basketball team squeezed a 60-58 victory out of Franklin.

But there were no complaints from Coach Bob Visser of

Franklin.

"We played well, and so did they," said Visser. "We were in there right down to the finish."

"It was a kind of a game

where one looked up at the scoreboard when the final buzzer went off to see just who won and who lost."

Romulus led after one quarter, 15-12, but it was Franklin

by a score of 23-25 at the half and 43-42 going into the final period.

With just over a minute to go the teams were tied at 56-56.

Gal Has 172 Average, Bowls Big 701 Count

Bowling in the Ladies Sunday Traveling League at Garden Lanes in Garden City, Dorothy Slumkowski, a 172-average bowler from Detroit's east side, staked out a claim to the season's scoring honors among the 16 women and helped to continue a tradition that Observeland produces the highest scores in the metropolitan area.

She put together games of 212, 246 and 243 for a 701. It is the highest series bowled by a woman this season in the Detroit area and is exceeded in the state only by a 716 posted by Lana Cochran, of Wyoming, several weeks ago.

An Iowa girl is leading the nation with an 818 series.

It was ironic that Dorothy Slumkowski bowled her 701 series at Garden Lanes. This is the establishment where Ann Setlock, veteran women's star, is the instructor and currently had been leading the area with a 678 series.

"I had hoped my score would have lasted a little while," Ann commented, "but that's the way it goes. It just made me smile that my score had to

be beaten in the very place I work."

"It will just give me something to shoot for now," she continued. "We'll have a great battle for top honors before the season ends."

Dorothy's big series didn't help her Gold Crown team very much. It still is in the 15th place in the 16-team circuit, with Garden Lanes setting the pace.

THEN FOUR straight free throws, the final pair by Warren Bonham, lifted Romulus into a commanding lead, which was too much for Franklin to overcome, even when Charles Wiggins notched a pair of chart-topping scores in the closing seconds.

The defeat left Franklin with a 1-1 record as the team embarked on its bid for the fourth-west Suburban League title.

Wiggins with six points, Jim Salter and Brad Lyons each with four and Doug Sutton with two highlighted the second period comeback that enabled Franklin to lead at the half.

Sutton went wild with six baskets in the third period, but in the final period, a 10-point effort by Wiggins wasn't enough to pull Franklin through.

Wiggins finished the evening with 22 points while Sutton had 16. Lyons followed with nine, Salter with eight, Chris Lang with four and Dick McAdams with four.

Only 2 Bouts Go To Franklin

Franklin High's wrestling team produced only two winners while losing a dual meet to Dearborn, 6-8.

Doug Lockyer captured the 133-pound match while Frank Rekieta took the 154-pound event for Franklin.

Farmington Wrestlers Top Bentley

It was Farmington over Bentley, 30-14, in a dual wrestling meet.

The Falcons captured six of the events as Bob Enger in the 103-pound class and Roger Howard at 154 pinned their rivals.

Bentley's Mark Anger, a 165-pounder, also emerged victorious via a pin.

The results:

95 pounds—Mark Anger (B) pinned Bill House.

105—Bob Enger (F) pinned Dave Buckley.

112—Jeff Duban (F) defeated Charles Monroe.

120—Jack O'Connor (F) defeated Dick Mannus.

127—John Krizan (B) defeated Jerry Anderson.

133—Greg Ray (F) defeated Garry Appleblatt.

138—Steve Whisler (B) defeated Mike Parente.

145—John "Pichia" (F) defeated Rick Kurts.

154—Roger Howard (F) pinned Don McIntyre.

165—Tom Koops (F) decided Rick Derlan.

175—Roger Moore (B) decided Bill Curtis.

Heavyweight—Bruce Thayer (F) decided Bill Kolton.

RUTankers Routed By Allen Park

Redford Union High's swimming team failed to win an event in losing to Allen Park, 74-31, in a Suburban Six League meet.

It was RU's first loss after two victories.

Medley relay: 2—Redford Union.

200-yard free: 3—Lepian.

50-yard free: 3—Link.

Individual Medley: 2—Masteron. 3—Alexander.

Diving: deMancor.

Butterfly: 2—Freeman.

100-yard free: 2—Link. 3—Baxter.

Backstroke: 2—McCollum.

400-yard free: 3—Lepian.

Breaststroke: 2—Jankst. 3—Masteron.

Free style relay: 2—Redford Union.

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Livonian Bowls 300 In A Big 746 Series

Clarence (Bud) Probst, 18668 Melvin, Livonia, won a place on the bowlers' Honor Roll Thursday. Bowling in the Classic at Bel-Aire Lanes in Farmington he posted a 300 game and a 746 series.

He opened with a 244 followed with a 202 and then closed with 12 in a row.

It was the second perfect game rolled this season at Bel-Aire.

SPEAKING OF Westland, Rick Capaldi, son of the owner, is in a battle with Tom Kubel for top average honors in the 18-team Classic League at Redford Lanes. Nothing like taking honors in a rival house.

WHO IS THE oldest active bowler in Observeland? The Observer Newspapers would like to find out. If you have a candidate, please notify the Observer sports department at 453-5500.

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