

Farmington-Lathrup Duel Tops Prep Program

The big day comes up for once-beaten Farmington High next Saturday when the Falcons entertain undefeated Southfield Lathrup in a battle that will eliminate one from the list of unbeaten in the Northwest Suburban League standings.

For Farmington it will be a chance to determine by actual combat just how it stacks up with a Charger outfit that has displayed enough power to make it a contender for the

mythical state championship. Each school bowled over its first two opponents in league play. The Chargers bombed Livonia Stevenson and Walled Lake Central. The Falcons dumped Waterford and Livonia Stevenson.

But the big question next Saturday is how Tony Weston and Co. will do against Lathrup's Bruce Ruhl, rated as one of the best ball carriers in the area; Larry and Gerry Weinstein, the devastating

twins; and Quarterback Barry Brodsky.

Since the game if being played on Farmington's home lot, the Falcons will try to show the home folks they are equal or better than the Chargers. Lathrup, on the other hand with a string of 13 wins over two years, must go all the way to gain state recognition.

THIS SHOULD be the game of the league campaign for the

Falcons and naturally they'll be hepped up for their best performance. So will Lathrup...the result should be very, very interesting.

For those graduates who like to get back to their Alma Mater for the one visit during homecoming, there will be colorful programs at Livonia Bentley, Southfield, Garden City West, Livonia Franklin and Livonia Stevenson Friday and Saturday.

Friday's homecomings

include: Berkley at Southfield, 8 p.m.; Dearborn Edsel Ford at Livonia Bentley, 7:30 p.m.; Riverside at Garden City West, 8 p.m. Those carded Saturday are: John Glenn at Livonia Franklin, 2 p.m., and Pontiac Northern at Livonia Stevenson, 2 p.m.

There is nothing more colorful than a high school homecoming with a parade prior to the game, introduction of the queen candidates and then the crowning

of the queen in elaborate halftime ceremonies.

That will be the program at all schools with the exception of Bentley and Stevenson. The former will crown Her Majesty at the traditional homecoming dance after the game and the latter will have its ceremonies at a dance in the evening.

JUST TO make things more interesting, Livonia Stevenson entertains Pontiac Northern,

one of the leading contenders for the Inter-Lakes Conference crown, and Bentley is host to Edsel Ford, a new powerhouse in the Suburban Eight League, in what should be a bitter scrap from the opening kickoff.

Garden City West, making a strong bid for the 1971 Tri-Rivers Conference title, faces a stiff fight from a Riverside team that is always dangerous.

Homecoming attractions aren't the only games that have top billing. North Farmington, 1970 state and Northwest Suburban champion, travels to Birmingham Groves in quest of its third victory. The Raiders had their long winning streak snapped by Oak Park three weeks ago but have roared back since.

Redford Union's powerful Panthers will be looking for another Suburban Eight win when they clash with Dearborn Friday night in Hilbert stadium.

Led by Tom Burk, one of the most spectacular ball toters in RU history, the Panthers have marched over all opposition.

SATURDAY's action is headed by a pair of Northwest Suburban League encounters, two Catholic League contests matching top teams and St. Agatha tangling with St. Hedwig at 8 p.m. on the Redford High field in Detroit.

Oak Park travels to Thurston for an important league meeting and reuniting Franklin has a date with neighboring John Glenn that should be a dandy. Both games are afternoon affairs.

Glenn upset Thurston in a driving rain a week ago and Franklin found the going rough against North Farmington.

Brother Rice, Observer-land's lone representative in the Catholic League's strong Boys Division, meets a rather inept U-D High at 8 on the Birmingham Seaholm field and should win.

Bishop Borgia, which has been making a great deal of noise in the league's Central division, faces St. Francis Cabrini in what should be a real cliff-hanger Saturday at 8 p.m. at St. Francis.



THERE IT GOES. Berj Yepremian, sophomore placekicker for Southfield Lathrup and a brother of Gary, star botter for the Miami Dolphins, shows the form that has made him a valuable member of the undefeated Chargers. He has missed only two conversions thus far this season. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Lathrup Boasts A Yepremian Who Can Boot The Ball

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

A youthful Greek who didn't know what a football was until a few years ago is kicking up a storm at Southfield Lathrup. Yepremian did not know what football was about until his older brother, Gary, paid a visit to the United States.

His brother wrote home to Cypress that a team called the Detroit Lions wanted to pay him to kick something called a football.

Gary kicked for the Lions - even booted six field goals in one game against Minnesota. Now Berj is kicking in the United States and Southfield Lathrup couldn't be happier.

IN THE FIRST four games of the season he has converted 10 of 12 extra point attempts and kicked a 33 yard field goal.

Berj was born in Cypress in 1958. The Yepremian family moved to London in 1960 and to Detroit in 1968, and on to Southfield in 1969.

The young Yepremian has

an older brother, Kirkor, who was soccer captain at Indiana University.

Berj's brothers have coached him in the soccer style of kicking. Gary, who is now with the Miami Dolphins, finds time to help little brother improve. He even saw little brother boot a 55 yarder while practicing at Brother Rice.

DURING the summer, Berj devoted at least an hour every day to boot the pigskin between the uprights.

His parents, Azadoughi and Sarkis Yepremian, come to every Lathrup game. After the game they sit down with their son and talk of how he can improve.

Berj has set a goal in football and that is to kick seven field goals in one game - more than his brother did for the Detroit Lions. He hasn't told his brother yet but he is sure he wouldn't mind. He wishes he had the opportunity to kick more for Lathrup but says that the offense just picks up too many first downs.

Berj recalled a letter he received from his brother after playing with the Lions. "They just told me to go out there and kick the ball and get off the field as fast as possible."

Berj has been kicking the ball for Lathrup but is in no hurry to get off the field. He has two years left at Southfield before joining the college ranks.

Tigers Pick 3 Twins On All-Opponents Team

The Minnesota Twins may have slipped in the standings but not in the eyes of the Twins, who selected three Twins for their 1971 All-Opponents Team.

The Orioles and A's, division title winners, each landed two positions in the late-season poll of 25 Tigers, while the Yankees, Royals and Indians had one piece on the 10 man squad, which included two pitchers.

Outfielder Tony Oliva, the American League batting leader, First Baseman Harmon Killebrew, the RBI leader, and Shortstop Leo Cadenas were the three

Twins honored by the Tigers. Oliva and Killebrew for the second straight year.

Oliva also garnered most votes in the poll, 23 of a possible 25.

OAKLAND SUPPLIED both pitchers for the all-opponent team - right-hander Jim Hunter, who was 2-1 vs. Detroit this year and also batted .636 (7-for-11) with a home run and four RBI, and left-hander Vida Blue, who did not give up an earned run to the Tigers all year in beating them three times without a loss, twice with shutouts.

Third Baseman Brooks Robinson and Outfielder Merv Rettenmund of the Orioles; Second Baseman Cookie Rojas of the Royals; Catcher Ray Fosse of the Indians, a 1-repeter from 1970 and Outfielder Bobby Murcer of the Yankees rounded out the team.

VOTING TOTALS by position: FIRST BASE - Harmon Killebrew (16), Boog Powell (4), George Scott (3), Carlos May (1), Don Mincher (1). SECOND BASE - Cookie Rojas (12), Dave Johnson (8), Rod Carew (5). SHORTSTOP - Leo Cadenas (18), Mark Belanger (3), Luis Aparicio (2), Fred Patek (2).

THIRD BASE - Brooks Robinson (13), Sal Bando (8), Bill Melton (4).

OUTFIELD - Tony Oliva (23), Bobby Murcer (22), Merv Rettenmund (16), Amos Otis (4), Frank Robinson (3), Reggie Jackson (2), Carl Yastrzemski (2), Lou Piniella (1), Reggie Smith (1), Cesar Tovar (1).

CATCHER - Ray Fosse (19), Thurman Munson (2), Dave Duncan (2), Paul Casanova (2).

RIGHTHAND PITCHER - Jim Hunter (13), Jim Palmer (8), Andy Messersmith (3), Sonny Siebert (1). LEFTHAND PITCHER - Vida Blue (20), Dave McNally (2), Wilbur Wood (2), Mike Cuellar (1).

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Ray Fersythe, well-known in sports circle as the business partner of Charley Gehringer, the all-time great Detroit Tiger second baseman, isn't allowing anything to stand between him and a winning harness racing stable.

Although a relative newcomer to the standbreds, Ray is rapidly gaining a reputation in the Lexington, Ky. auction as a man who picks out a horse and then goes the limit to get it.

Ray was one of the syndicate that purchased the Detroit Race Course from E.E. Dale-Shaffer three years ago and it was about that same time he became interested in pacers and trotters and determined to build a powerful stable.

IN HIS FIRST venture into the auctions, he went as much as \$35,000 to land Local Time, a yearling son of the great Good Time. Local Time developed into a top three year old the same year that Albatross came along.

You are well aware of what happened. Albatross went on to become the fastest three year old ever and only lost two races - all season. Unfortunately, one of the defeats was in the finals of the Brown Jug.

Ray returned earlier in the week from the Lexington sales where he bought three

yearlings for a total of almost \$150,000...the first Michiganider in recent years to bid that high.

He paid \$72,000 for Good Time Love, a daughter of Good Time. Then, advised by his trainer-driver Ted Taylor, he went to \$70,000 for Secretive, a Florida colt, and ended his buying spree by paying \$16,000 for Pompano Pride, a daughter of the great tetter Dartmouth.

Incidentally, Ray is an owner who likes to see his horses perform. With that thought in mind, he will race his stable at the Jackson-Northville meeting until after Thanksgiving before shipping to Pompano Park for the winter.

It's too bad that Michigan owners of top horses don't have the same feeling.

From Hazel Park thoroughbred meet come a couple of items that bear a bit of attention.

Probably by the time this article appears, Larry Snyder, who has to be one of the best riders ever to handle horses at the area race meetings, will have recorded his 100th victory for the third straight year. Larry was only one short Friday and appeared almost a sure thing to go over the 100 mark.

That brings back memories of standout jockeys of past years. Probably the most famous as far as racing fans here were concerned was fiery L.C. Cook, who was the king for quite a few years.

Then there's Bobby Baird, who is still busy at the current meeting even though he isn't having his best season at Hazel Park. Time was when Baird stood head and shoulders over any of the riders at the DRC or Hazel Park.

But then time has a way of evening matters and Baird is getting up to the age when he probably is thinking this will be his last season.

REMEMBER Johnny Sellers, Ken Church, Tommy Barrow, Johnny Rota, Charley Ballaz...they all started in Detroit and went on to greater things.

Perhaps Snyder will get the same urge but as of now, he

likes to ride in the Detroit area and enjoys great success.

The other item comes from Hazel Park where Trainer Bob Irwin, longtime associate of the late M.H. Van Berg, has been asked to take over the Redoubt Stable. Whether he will or not depends largely on the health of his ailing wife and whether he can afford to break entirely with the Van Bergs. There'll be more later.

Seems unbelievable but Wolverine Raceway recently passed the 60-night mark in its 76-night meeting with figures ahead of those for the record making campaign of a year ago.

Why a comparison after 60 nights? That was the span of the meeting in 1970 and furnishes the only comparison for this year.

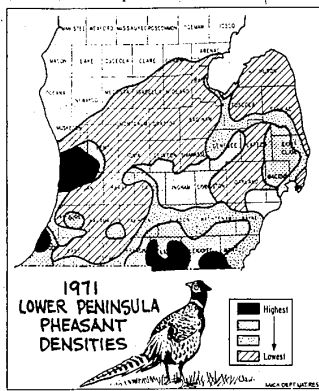
Where other major area tracks showed dips in

wagering and attendance for the same number of days and nights a year ago, Wolverine wound up 60 nights with wagering up one per cent.

The wagering totalled \$33,614,560 against \$33,338,498 and the nightly average was \$559.561 compared to \$574,802 a year ago.

The same isn't true of attendance where the turnstile count dropped 3.9 per cent. The crowds totalled \$444,996 this year against \$459,198. The 1971 nightly average was 7,572 contrasted to 7,917.

All we can say is that Wolverine apparently does things people like and does them more often than any of the other plants. Credit for that belongs to General Manager and Vice President Dick Wilson.



SOUTHERN MICHIGAN'S pheasant numbers are up 10 per cent from last season when hunters took an estimated 480,000 ringnecks. Last summer's brood counts revealed that the birds' populations are substantially higher than a year ago in several areas, including Berrien, Van Buren, St. Joseph and Cass counties. The birds have shown another downturn in the Thumb Area except in Bay County where they have increased over 1970. Elsewhere in southern Michigan ringneck numbers stack up closely with last year's levels.

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Effective this week all coaches and athletic directors making calls to report athletic events are requested to call 261-8600 (the Observer office), between the hours of 10:30 to midnight on Fridays and from 9 to noon Saturday mornings.

Donoghue will take calls concerning Saturday night and Sunday afternoon games at his home...474-7246...Sunday evenings or at the Observer office after 9 a.m. Monday.