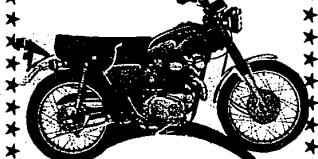


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# Churchill Coach Still Smiling Despite Early Season Headaches



BASEBALL IS IN THE AIR and Churchill Coach Roger Frayer has his hands full with 85 players out for the varsity squad. The Chargers open with Highland Park April 4 so there should be a lot of hustling and hard work around Churchill the next two weeks. (Observer photo)

Churchill baseball Coach Roger Frayer is being hit with the early season headaches but can't help from smiling after an 85 player turnout for the varsity squad.

Frayer has chalked up a minus two in the scoring column before the game really begins. Senior hurler Mike Keller has just undergone emergency appendectomy and will be out for some time and "spring hockey" has captured senior Mark DeRoche.

But Frayer has eight returning lettermen from a 15-5 season last year including a second place finish in the Western Six.

"This year we have to be

optimistic and hope to make a run at the title," said Frayer. "Teams to beat are Waterford, Northville and Farmington Hills."

Churchill lost two players in graduation in Steve Chalko and Gary Sobkowiak who are both playing college ball but Frayer is hopeful of filling the gaps.

Captain Mick Cron is a three year starter with a .288 hitting average at the shortstop position. Brian Sherman is a returning third baseman with league honorable mention acclaim and batted .290 last season.

The hopefuls in Frayer's lineup include Ken Wood (P), Ernie Conini (OF), and Jim Foster (OF).

The Chargers open with Highland Park on April 4 with the first league clash on April 17 with Northville.

## Frost Jr. High Has Clinic For 'Action Golfers'

There'll be plenty of action for golfers in Livonia and surrounding communities Saturday at Frost Junior High when the second "action golf clinic" takes place with morning and afternoon sessions.

Registrations may be made by calling the Livonia Board of Education or one may register prior to the start of the sessions at Frost junior high.

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## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Those close to harness racing are wondering if the owners and trainers of the brilliant Albatross, everyone's choice as horse of the year in 1971, aren't pushing him a bit this year. In two starts, including the Provincial Cup Sunday at Windsor Raceway, the "Bird" has finished second.

That's as many seconds as the speedy pacer had in all of 1971. All of which leads one to wonder if top horses can be pushed into stake competition in mid-March or whether they should have more races under

their belts before tangling with the best.

Ile of Wight, a full brother of Nansemond who whipped the "Bird" in the final heat of the Brown Jug last September, had the most in the stretch at Windsor and nipped Albatross by a length after moving up from fourth in the stretch.

Incidentally Ile of Wight was driven by Herve Filion who was at the reins in the Brown Jug upset. That defeat was the last for the "Bird" in 1971.

Ile of Wight was clocked in 1:59.4, excellent time for this early in the season, and Albatross, a length back, probably hit the wire in 2:00. The winning time was a fifth off the record set by the ill-fated Philip Brian, who carried the colors of the Mijal family of Westland when he paced to the track standard. Then he died suddenly a year ago.

Albatross will appear in the Matron four-year-old pace at Wolverine Raceway during the Grand Circuit week activities in early June.

Driver-trainer Stanley Dancer indicated that Wolverine officials have asked him to bring the horse in for another race a week in advance of the Matron. If acceptable then General Manager Dick Wilson and Racing Secretary Bill Connors are expected to set up a race with a purse suitable for such a field.

The big question is when will the "Bird" reach top form. If he continues to run second or third and doesn't hit the same speed as he did a year ago, there isn't any question but that he will not be the big attraction.

It will be recalled that Albatross was responsible for the biggest mutual handle in Michigan harness racing annals... drawing more than 12,000 fans who wagered \$924,444. That was the first time any Michigan track had passed the \$900,000 total.

Other specials at Wolverine include singles night on Wednesdays when singles will be admitted to the grandstand free during the period from 6 to 7 p.m. Fridays have been designated as family nights and children 12 and under will be admitted free to the grandstand when accompanied by an adult.

The track also has a special rate for senior citizens every night in the grandstand upon presentation of proper credentials.

## Cage Pressure

Michigan State basketball coach Gus Ganakas was decrying to newsmen the pressures on coaches and athletes these days to win or else.

"But what do you do about it?" he has asked. "As a starter," Gus replied, "I'd suggest big raises to losing coaches."

## Indoor Title

Michigan State trackmen won a Big Ten indoor championship for the second time in the school's history as they topped the 1972 conference meet field with 65 points.



**Ski Heil**  
By  
**BILL CAMERON**

Musings from the North... Sunshine and 20 degree temperature at Boyne Mt. on Saturday - snow, all day Sunday at Boyne Highlands - Gov. Milliken skiing at the Mountain Saturday; wife's comment, "He's better looking than his pictures!"

A date to remember, May 17 for fun loving people only, a "Champagne in the Clouds" benefit flight for the handicapped children's program of the Livonia Family Y.

Chimney Corners, Petoskey, now owned and managed by Dick Aull and George Richardson, owners of the Westervane Inn, Charlevoix; now two fine eating places in North country - Hugo Bohm, popular Boyne Mt. ski instructor, proud father of a baby boy - Everett Kircher, the "Baron of Boyne Country" still making plans for expansion - indoor tennis courts now open at Timberline Ski Resort, Traverse City area.

Heard several stories of juvenile behavior of well known Detroit area ski club on a recent trip to Vail, the less said the better - A great time to buy any type of ski equip-

ment and clothing, up to 50 per cent off at most shops.

I have some very knowledgeable contacts that I've called upon for help. My experience has shown that few travel agents can talk intelligently about skiing and ski areas. And some organizations can sell you a bill of goods at bargain prices - remember, you get what you pay for!

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