



FRIENDLY RIVALS: It has been a season-long battle of Age Versus Youth for the Jockey Championship at the Detroit Race Course. The duel has involved 44-year-old Robert J. Baird, right, and 18-year-old James P. Bowlds. With the DRC most moving into its final week-end the riding title still is up for grabs.

# OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maskin

Time slips past so swiftly. Within a few weeks we'll be marking our fifth anniversary of authoring what appears in this weekly effort and on the sports pages of the Observer News-Papers.

We'd be rich if somehow we could have a penny for every word that has come forth from this typewriter. Never have we bothered to count our weekly output, but it must run into thousands of words when you're called upon to handle 14 high schools, plus other assignments.

This, however, is beside the point. The thought came to mind the other afternoon as we departed from a Northwest Airlines after returning from Philadelphia with the Detroit Pistons.

"What's happened to the hundreds of preps you have written about in the Observer?"

The first batch are seniors in colleges—at least those who entered schools of higher learning. One such young man is Boris Dimitroff, from Livonia Bentley, now a great on Michigan State's Rose Bowl mound Spartans.

Just a sophomore today is Ken Wiebeck at the University of Michigan. Ken prompted us to churn many a column about his swimming exploits at Thurston High where he won no less than six state titles and set as many state records—a feat never before matched by a prep tankster and not likely to be duplicated very soon.

There are many others in colleges and playing on varsity teams. The list is too long to mention.

And what of the other prep heroes of the past few years who made headlines in the Observer?

We dare say several are married; likely fathers by now.

But many more have answered the call to serve our great country. . . In Viet Nam, in Europe, wherever Uncle Sam gives the order.

When you stay at home, you don't quite comprehend the full impact of what is going on, military speaking, unless you have a son, or brother, or a sweetheart who has trooped off.

Those, who travel, can quickly sense the American buildup in troops and armed might.

It makes no difference which airport you're in. It can be Detroit Metro or Willow Run, Chicago's vast O'Hare, New York's great Kennedy, Cleveland's Hopkins, or the smaller fields in Indianapolis or Springfield, Ill.

The scene is repeated every time you enter the terminal, every time you get ready to board a plane, every time you arrive at your destination.

There's mom and dad, and little sister and brother . . . and the cutie pie with tears in their eyes. They have come to see their "boy" off. Just when he'll be back, they don't know . . . often they don't know where his final destination is.

The boys in uniform haven't changed too much from our days in World War II. They do look a lot younger to us, we suppose because we have added some two decades of age, a lot of extra weight around the midsection and some gray hairs.

The kids talk bravely. And they are. But they tell you they're lonely, like the young sailor from North Carolina we met on the way from Chicago to Evanston, Ill., as we rode along in a bus.

This was his first time away from home. He never before had been in a plane. He was nervous. And he had left his heart back in North Carolina.

The tears, of course, aren't reserved just for the moment the servicemen leave. An old guy who is choked up when he steps from an airliner behind a GI or sailor and watches as the young man walks into an armload of smiling and happy folks.

No other word fits such a scene than "touching."

You hike down the hall, finding it difficult to say anything. You're emotionally spent, because you remember that the same things had happened to you on more than one occasion in the early '40's and that now you have two kids of your own who one of these days soon no doubt will have to be hiking off to do their bit for the man with the whiskers . . . and all the rest of us who stay home.

# Three Rich Stakes on Final Program DRC Ends Most Successful Season Saturday

Three outstanding Handicaps will feature the big closing day program of the Detroit Race Course Saturday.

The record-breaking 84-day meeting will be highlighted by the running of the \$75,000 Quick Step Handicap; the \$10,000 Auld Lang Syne Handicap and the \$10,000 Distance Championship on the 10-furlong card.

The Quick Step Handicap will be at two miles. "Long races always hold great appeal for our fans," Racing Secretary Ray Mopson said. "And I'm confident the field we will have for this two mile event will be a top one."

The Auld Lang Syne Handicap is for three-year-olds and at one mile and a sixteenth. It is the Distance Championship which likely will attract the greatest interest among the closing day fans. The event will be at two miles.

Supreme, Haven Wing and Dynomite, Jr.

With only four racing days remaining, the race for riding honors remained a bitterly contested affair between 44-year-old Robert L. Baird, the rugged Technician and 18-year-old James P. Bowlds.

Baird and Bowlds both already have surpassed the winning total with which Glynn Bernis and Danny Gargan tied for 1964 riding honors.

Although he was a late-comer to the DRC scene this season, Jack Van Berg is certain to win the trainer's championship for the second year in a row.

Van Berg did not take over the string of his famed father, Marion H. Van Berg, until September 10, but he then took off in pursuit of all rivals and quickly gained a place among the leaders.

Young Van Berg replaced Dewey Smith as the top man last week Smith, who trains the fine string of Detroit's T. A. Grissom, had led from the outset of the DRC meeting.

Jack's father again is far in front in the owner's race.

## Falcons Swamped on Ground

A devastating Roseville high school ground attack proved too much for Farmington's high school football team last Friday night.

The result was a 31-14 win for Roseville in a non-league battle.

Roseville ran for 436 yards in the game. The team didn't make a single yard passing.

In contrast, Farmington turned up with a respectable 211 yards rushing and added 75 more via passes. Such a total—286 yards—usually is sufficient to win a prep football game.

The one-two punch of Greg Panches and Gene Tattucki carried the freight for Roseville.

Panches rushed for three touchdowns on runs of 61, 48, and 38 yards. For his evening's work he picked 249 yards in 17 carries.

Tattucki placed up 125 yards rushing, plus the first Roseville touchdown.

Panches had put Roseville on the scoreboard early. Ron Cleveland took the kickoff for Farmington and ran 40 yards to the Roseville 45.

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RACING AROUND end for a big gain is Stevenson's Dan Keith (38) as he finds the way clear against the River Rouge reserves. Stevenson romped to a 24-0 victory to assure the school's first football team of a winning season.

## Stevenson Assured A Winning Campaign

A winner right off the bat! Yep, that's the football story at Livonia's new Stevenson High School.

With two games still to go, Stevenson is assured of finishing with better than a .500 record.

The new gridiron made its four wins against one defeat—and all the wins now have come in a row—by beating the River Rouge high reserves, 24-0, last Saturday morning.

"It was an all-around effort," said coach John Reardon. "We had a solid offense, plus a crackerjack defense which brought us our first shutout."

Dave Keith was the scoring hero for Stevenson. He scored three times, all on short runs of 5-7 yards.

Each touchdown elapsed fine marches as Keith, Paul Pender, Dave Ragani and Dave Mastney took turns carrying the ball to the seven from where Johnston slammed across. He added the conversion and Farmington had evened the score at 7-7.

But the tide didn't hold very long. Roseville quickly cashed another TD on a quarterback sneak. Charles LaPorte. He went one yard.

Thereafter Panches went to work. He scampered for 40 yards and then Farmington was out of contention by the time Wayne Johnston climbed an 80-yard march by going across from the two for the Falcons' second touchdown.

Johnston again converted, but it didn't help the cause. Our offense was much improved," said coach Dick Tyler of Farmington. "But that defense of ours . . . It was full of holes."

Farmington has had two games left. The big one comes a week from now against North Farmington. This one is a toughie because it has been a tough season—a happy one.

Boating Classes Scheduled

Free classes on boat boating enthusiasts will be conducted for anyone interested three nights a week.

Classes are scheduled Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Whitford Jr. High, 2850 Ashworth Trail in Livonia, on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Farmington High School, 32000 Shilohwood, also on Wednesdays, at Pearson Junior High School, 19990 Beech-Dale in Redford Township.

Sponsored by the Dearborn Power Squadron, a unit of the U.S. Power Squadrons, the classes include lessons in all phases of safe boat handling, including rules and regulations, taught by experienced boatmen. Courses are free and the public may register any school night. Information is available by calling J. Dallaire, BR 3-7322, and Cdr. P. Rice, GA 3-2388.

Franklin Routes Parker Harriers

Franklin high country team routed Oak Park, 15-0, by taking its first six places. Ted Goetzblat led the Franklin contingent with Reg Nizol, Chuck Lysett, Bill Manion, Bill Krause and Dan Ryan following in order.

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## No 'Kicks' After Loss By East

A dreary football season, record-wise, is nearing the finish for Garden City East.

Coach Bill Wilson could be singing the blues. But he isn't.

Wilson knows how sports barometers change. One year up, the next down.

For the last three seasons, East had been a power. Wilson knew that 1965 would be rough.

Just about everyone graduated.

The main thing, says Wilson, is that his '65 youngsters have been showing improvement.

"That's what counts," added the coach after Taylor Center had downed East, 7-0, last Friday night.

"We weren't embarrassed," declared the coach.

"Why they scored in the first period, and thereafter it was a scoreless struggle."

East had two good chances, twice penetrating as far as the Taylor Center 15.

There the attack stalled.

Mike Sparkman, a 135-pounder, continued to run like a 185-pounder. Two or three times he almost broke away.

Mike is one of the reasons Coach Wilson already is looking eagerly to the 1966 campaign.

Others are End Larry Lyman, tackle Tom Kubus and Ed Skrent and Denis DeBurton.

"Our kids hit hard. They sure tackled well. But we just weren't able to squeeze across a touchdown," the coach added.

## Bentley Rolls

(Cont. from Page 2-B)

A conversion by Elmsner made it 7-0.

Redford Union struck back to tie the game, moving 50 yards in 19 plays. A 10-yard thrust from Jim Johnston to Mike Ross produced the touchdown after some fine running by Terry Shirley.

Johnson hit on the extra point and that made the score 7-7.

Redford Union had the ball for 15 plays to Bentley's seven in the third period. But the Townshipers couldn't cash in.

In the statistical department, Bentley made 212 yards rushing to RU's 144. In the air it was 44 for Bentley to 28 for the hoers.

Material personally gained 85 yards, while Woods churned up 80 more for the victors.

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## Franklin Defeats Thurston at End

Champions last year, runners-up in 1965. So reads the football story at Franklin High School.

In 1964, the south Livonians swept through their Northwest Suburban League schedule—and for that matter everybody they played.

This season, they lost to North Farmington in the conference opener and needed some outside help in order to catch up. Such assistance never was forthcoming.

As a result, Franklin finished with a 4-1 record (North Farmington found 5-0 by beating Thurston, 13-6, last Saturday afternoon).

It took an uphill battle for Franklin to best their rivals from the Township.

Thurston got the jump in the scoring column by driving 70 yards with Paul Santangelo going the final yard to gain a 6-0 lead at halftime. Reg Barranger and Randy Ault shared running honors with Santangelo in Thurston's payoff drive.

Franklin came out on top in a fourth quarter conversion, applied Franklin to knot the count at 6-6 in the third period.

The ball was covered by Franklin on the Thurston 15. Helped along by a five-yard penalty, Franklin got to the six from where Larry Nalfeh slammed for the TD.

The missed conversion left the teams tied until the fourth quarter.

Then Franklin went to work, marched some 50 yards and it was Nalfeh who bucked for the touchdown.

He boomed in from the one to decide the game.

It was a wild game in which both sides had trouble hanging on to the pigskin.

Both teams lost the half five times on fumbles.

Franklin came out on top in the statistical department. Franklin earned eight first downs to six for Thurston.

In yards rushing, the Livonians picked up 145 to their foes' 82. It's to be noted that Franklin was held to only 35 yards on the ground in the first half.

The passing story showed Franklin with 14 yards in the first half and 35 in the second, while Thurston wound up with just two yards net through the air.

Fumbles also were numerous. Thurston was tagged for 80 yards to Franklin's 65.

This week Franklin hopes to

in pursuit of all rivals and quickly gained a place among the leaders.

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Jack's father again is far in front in the owner's race.

cool off unbeaten-untied Bentley while Thurston tackles Redford Union for the Township championship.

Late Score Brings Tie To Glenn

John Glenn high's football team didn't win or lose its season's finale in the Northwest Suburban League last Friday night.

The Wayne gridders wound up in a fumble tie with Birmingham Groves.

It took a comeback for Glenn to pull even with Groves.

Birmingham had jumped in front on touchdowns by Robert Cornelle and Floyd Cohl.

Also with two conversions, the Groves forces looked like they were sitting pretty.

But Glenn stormed back to get a touchdown on a pass from Jim Holland to Don Bell and then with three minutes left in the game, Mike Mahanian drove across to set the stage for Bill Kerr to boot his second conversion and tie the festivities.

The statistics were almost as equal as the final score.

Each side made 12 first downs. In rushing, Glenn made 191 to 178 for Groves.

In the air, Glenn picked up 75 yards on four completions to Groves' 51 on three conversions.

Franklin Wins League Crown

Franklin high school for the third straight year reigns as the Northwest Suburban League's cross country champion.

The Livonians breezed to the title at Hickory Hills, scoring 55 points. North Farmington and Thurston tied for second with 57 points.

Then came Glenn with 106, Groves 115 and Oak Park 165.

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