

For 15 Years, Football Has Been Mrs. Plum's Life

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

What do you think about when you sit at home in Lincolnshire Estates Monday morning and read that your husband is a public hero or a public scoundrel — all depending on the score of a game?

Elaine Plum, wife of Detroit Lions quarterback Milt Plum, says, "As long as the criticism is fair, I can accept it, but it's bound to hurt. I do tend to build up a sort of resentment."

"It got so bad for a while last year, it became rather funny. Milt and I would sit around Sunday evening after the game and try to out-guess Monday's newspaper stories."

Football, as she sees it through the eyes

and actions of her husband, has been Elaine's life for 15 years — and that's just about half her life.

SHE MET PLUM when she was a high school freshman in New Jersey. He was a senior. They went together all through his years at Penn State and were married in 1957 three days after he graduated. She says, "We took just long enough to get the blood tests."

Football may be a fickle game, but Elaine thinks she's been lucky so far. Plum has just made one move in his career, from the Cleveland Browns to Detroit.

During his five years with the Browns, he and Elaine did what they have done here — bought a home and lived a settled life.

Their home in Lincolnshire Estates is

the only one they have had here. They've been in it four years and were the second homeowners in the large subdivision.

Elaine has been lucky in neighbors. On the day of a home game she attends services at Nardin Park Methodist Church with Mr. and Mrs. George Fezzy, comes home to find the baby sitter waiting to care for Karen, 7, Linda, 5, and David, 3, and goes on to the game with the Fezzys.

The Fezzys have never left her alone after a game. Elaine says it never occurred to her that a disgruntled fan might approach her after a losing game, but it evidently has occurred to the Fezzys.

THE PLUMS MAINTAIN a certain momentum after a game, win or lose. They usually dine out and invite guests for cards or conversation to keep up the pre-game equilibrium.

Elaine says, "Milt never sleeps well after any game. If the team has lost, he's liable to feel worse on Monday morning."

Of the three children, Karen is just becoming aware of what her father does for a living. For the first time last year, she watched a game on television—and it was the Baltimore game, in which Plum was injured.

Elaine says the child was nearly hysterical until Plum called her from the airport when he arrived back in town.

Because of the injury, the Plums didn't take their usual skiing vacation this year. Instead they went to Florida where Elaine bought "some beautiful fabric" because she loves to sew.

When she trailed her yard goods back to the hotel room, her husband handed her some more money, saying, "Go out and buy yourself a ready made dress for a change."

The day she was interviewed, she was dressed in an attractive blue shift and blending blue and white sweater she had knitted.

BUT HER HUSBAND must be proud of her handiwork. One corner of his den is given over to her sewing machine.

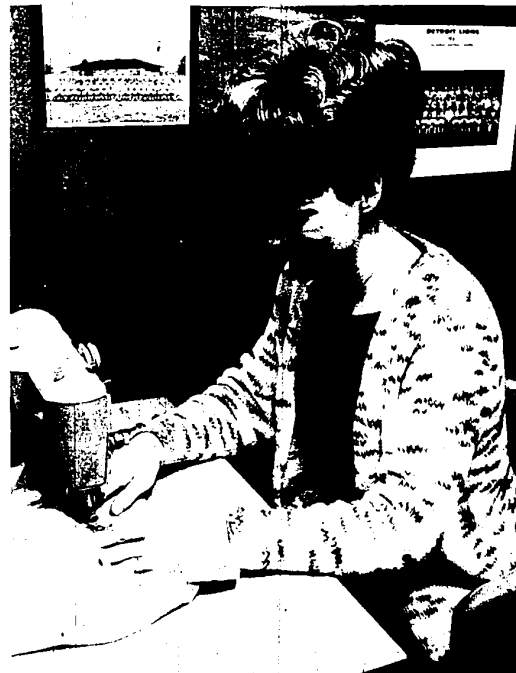
This room is filled with football memorabilia, as is the family room. A seven-foot plaque of a lion leads down the hall to the bedrooms. The only formal rooms in the house are the living room, done in pale pastels, and the dining room.

Most of the furnishings show Plum's touch, according to his wife. She says, "I like everything I see. Milt has decided tastes, and most of the furniture reflects it."

Her husband may be an iron man on the football field, but at home he shares authority with his wife. She comments, however, that she thinks he's better at disciplining the youngsters because he holds a teacher's degree and "is wonderful with children."

Elaine does try her hand at disciplining

Feminine Farmington



MRS. PLUM BUSY AT HER FAVORITE HOBBY, SEWING.

the huge black Labrador retriever, Luke, who makes his home with the family.

Luke, however, has other ideas. When Elaine was out of the room, he marched his way through a plate full of the children's cookies.

He ignored a birthday cake for the father of the family sitting adorned with football images on the kitchen table.

The kitchen was re-designed from the architect's drawings by Plum. Elaine says her husband's design was considered "20 percent more efficient by the builders."

WHETHER SHE WILL have many more years to enjoy her beautiful kitchen and home here is always an uncertainty. Foot-

ball trading talk fills everyday's news. And it's a young man's game. The cake was for Milt's 32nd birthday.

But what of the future?

Elaine notes, "If we knew what Milt would like to do and what he's meant to do besides quarterbacking, we'd have the answer to our biggest problem."

Football has been Milt's life since he was eight.

"But it's the same with all football players. It's so much a part of their lives they can't imagine being physically unable to play."

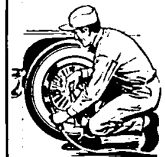
"Football chose Milt, he didn't choose it. We'll just let circumstances guide us."

Staman Acres Women

Pinner will meet Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 9 a.m. at the home of Charlotte Waskoski, 31706 Staman Circle.

Slitethers meet at Cy Lowers, 31955 Rocky Crest, on Monday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.

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League Meeting Set for Jan. 31

The League of Women Voters of Farmington City and Township will meet Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Carl O'Galligan will speak on the Lake Erie Water Basin Study. Mrs. O'Galligan is the author of "Growth of the Dinosaur," an in-depth study of Michigan's water problems; serves on the Lake Erie Basin Study Commission (covering five states); and was appointed by Gov. Romney to the Governors Commission on Water.

The meeting will be held in the First Farmington Savings and Loan Association, 22725 Orchard Lake Road. Any woman interested in attending may contact Mrs. Frank Leblond at 476-3928 for further information.

Hats on View At St. Fabian's Card Party

Hats are more basic than ever this spring for the fashionably complete costume. You are invited to see the newest hats, sponsored by Schiller's, and to play cards at a party at St. Fabian's social hall, 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads, Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$1.50 and may be purchased at the door or through Mary Platnick, GR. 6-1329. To be assured of a table make reservations in advance.

There will be home-baked refreshments, table and door prizes.

Delta Zeta Sets Feb. 1 Meeting

Group I of the Oakland County Alumnae of Delta Zeta Sorority will meet Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. W. Dean Perry, 508 West Lincoln, Birmingham. After brunch and coffee, the group will prepare a box of treats for the college chapter at Northern Michigan University, Marquette.

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