

By George Maslin observing sports

It was a shindig we would have liked to have attended.

The scene was New York City's Americana Hotel the other evening, and most of the old gang from the Stars and Stripes turned out.

We'd have gone, except that duties dictated otherwise, so we could only have joined those in spirit who did make it to New York in saluting the 25th anniversary of the S. and S.

Those in our audience who served in World War II in the ETO, or elsewhere beyond the borders of the U.S., must remember the Stars and Stripes, the most compact little newspaper ever published in the world.

In four tabloid-sized pages, the S. and S. crammed the entire world's news... from what was happening on all the war battle fronts to the scores and highlights of major sports attractions here in the U.S.

We jumped aboard the S. and S. bandwagon about 18 months after the World War II editions were inaugurated. The first sergeant of our company up at an air base in northwest England had told us there was no chance of landing on the S. and S.

But we took the chance... rode a train down to London, ducked a few bombs... and made it to the offices of the paper's headman.

YOU OLD LONDONERS will certainly remember Hyde Park and the U.S. Embassy. That's where GIs had a picnic, because you had to salute every officer, and you could really drive the men with the brass on their shoulders batty.

Anyway, we went looking for a Major Liwelyn. We found him, but at the hour he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

He was in good spirits... literally and figuratively. Sure, he told us, he needed some new help. After all, the paper was to expand, as soon as the Americans went to France.

"You'll hear from us," he declared. "This has to go through channels, you know."

Sure enough, his letter eventually got around to where we were stationed and the captain called us and told us to scram.

So it was on to London and that dark, dreary office in a corner of the London Times, a block or so from historical St. Paul's Cathedral.

The S. and S. staffers were a select crew. They had some sharpies from New York and elsewhere, but the only one we knew was the late Bob Wood, of Redford Township, who had worked on the Free Press before he was drafted.

The bulk of most military groups, the S. and S. guys grumbled, especially on Fridays when the colonel ordered them to assemble and march through Hyde Park for exercise.

"You're soldiers first," he'd say. "Always remember that."

AT FIRST YOU LIVED through the planes that bombed London... then the V-1's and finally the V-2's. The staffers had no said barracks. We got paid to find our own housing.

So each day we'd check in and count noses. There was always the painful thought that somebody might have caught it during the night. After all, you knew bombs had dropped. You saw 'em, you heard 'em, you later looked at the wreckage.

Virtually everything you wrote had to be checked by the censors. Sometimes fellows like Bob Hutton would scream. The censors generally won.

None of us ate too well. We had to do it on British rations which we purchased from the regular stores like any native Londoner.

Fortunately, there were those packages from home, a lovely can in Nottingham who'd bring down eggs and cheese, and kind mess sergeants at various installations who were kind to S. and S. staffers.

Our duties with the S. and S. carried us to Belfast, North Ireland, for an edition there; later back briefly to London, and then back to boss the New York bureau where each day you were amazed as you sat down and headed your copy: "File to Stars Stripes, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Rome, Honolulu and Tokyo."

From time to time we have run across some of the old gang. Most of us have fattened up considerably. There are a few, like Bob Wood, who are starting somewhere else in the land where no doubt there always is peace.

You must admit that if you had to be in the Army, you couldn't have landed a better assignment.

Those two years on the S. and S. have helped you tremendously in your days since.

Russell, Knicks Battle Pistons

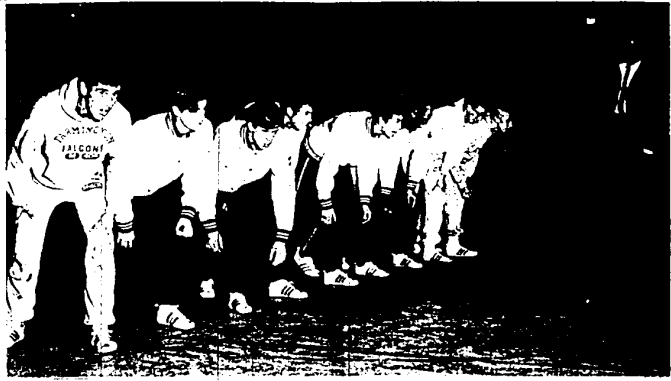
Cazlie Russell comes back to Detroit Wednesday night when the New York Knicks play the Detroit Pistons at Cobo Arena. Russell has been switched to forward by the Knicks and is scoring extremely well.

The Pistons also have a Friday night home date, meeting the blazing St. Louis Hawks who won ten of their first 11 games.

Ski Show Ends Sunday Evening

The annual Detroit Ski Show runs through Sunday evening at the Light Guard Armory on East Eight Mile Road.

The latest in equipment and techniques will be presented and discussed at the show.



LONG-DISTANCE SPEEDERS—Farmington High School Coach Jerry Young gets ready to fire a starting gun for these members of the hot Falcons cross-country team. From left: John Kempf, Dave Pardo, Dick O'Connell, Larry Williams, Gary Williams, Dwight Holm, Tim Stoddard, Mike Atchison and Dave Clifford.

A 2-Man Record For 2 Miles

Maybe it was to be expected. A new varsity cross country record went into the books at Farmington High this past week. But it doesn't belong to one man. It belongs to two—the Williams' twins, Larry and Gary.

Brother chased brother all the way as Farmington ended a spotless dual-meet season by downing North Farmington, 25-31.

When the finish to the two-mile race approached, the Williams' boys were roaring along neck and neck. They were still that way when they broke the tape.

THE JUDGES Huddled for several moments. So did the twins.

The verdict was the same—the boys had run a **HEADHEAT**. What's more each was timed in 9:54.2, a new school and course record. The old Farmington mark of 9:56.8 was set four years ago by Dennis Hunt.

"The tie's no question, the twins are the best cross country runners in this area," said coach Bill Young of Farmington. Just three days before, they had run 1-2 in the state Class A regional at Farmington and both were rated a good chance to finish among the first 10 in Saturday's state championships at Ypsilanti.

The victory gave Farmington a 9-0 record in dual meet action. As far as the twins were concerned, the tie was nothing new. They have hit the wire together three times this year.

"I NEVER SAW a fight like the boys put on against North Farmington," Young said. "Each was determined to win. Neither was willing to concede anything."

Dick Randle of North Farmington placed third with teammates Dick Korulis and Robin Murphy right behind in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Dick O'Connell and Dwight Hulm, both of Farmington, were the next two over. Then came North Farmington's Wilson, Farmington's Tim Stoddard and North Farmington's Dave Pardo to round out the top 10 and the pointmakers.

Randle also was among the area qualifiers for the state meet at Ypsilanti.

Foes Face Head-On

The North Farmington-Farmington High football game next Saturday headlines the final week of action for area grid teams.

Actually, it's a slimmest-down schedule since the Livonia schools wrapped up their elites this weekend, except for Clarenceville.

Welcome!

The Detroit Red Wings hosts the new Los Angeles Kings for the first time Sunday night at Olympia. Terry Sawchuk, former Red Wing great who makes his home in Union Lake, Mich., is in goal for the Kings.

Soccer 'Smash' At Stevenson

The first season of soccer ends for Stevenson High School Monday with Cranbrook the opponent.

In the words of coach Larry Christoff "It's been a smash success—our first year."

One of the first Detroit area public schools to go for soccer, Stevenson plans to continue to sponsor a team in the years ahead.

"JUST WHAT KIND of a schedule we'll have next season will depend on what some of the other schools close to us do," said Christoff.

"We would like nothing better than to have a new public school league with teams from Bentley, Franklin, Plymouth and maybe nearby Farmington," declared the coach.

"But if they elect not to go in for soccer just yet, we can continue to arrange games with private schools like Cranbrook and the Grosse Pointe University School."

Christoff said it was surprising just "how many schools have called and wanted to play us." Some of the calls have come as far away as Ohio," Christoff noted.

Officials at Stevenson have found that soccer in no way has competed with football or cross country, the two long established fall sports in the high schools.

"All we have done is to make a sports outlet available to the boys who don't want to play football or run on the cross country team," said Christoff.

Gordon Preston, the publicist for the Detroit Cougars professional team, has visited Stevenson and declared the team would help in any way possible.

The Stevenson team suffered only its second loss Tuesday when blanked by the Grosse Pointe University School, 1-0.

The setback put the Stevenson record at four wins, two ties and two defeats.

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