

By George Maskin

observing sports

All was going well... and then Kathy Roberts of the Pistons staff blurted:
"Harry Wismer, the announcer, is dead!"
She wondered if we knew Harry. Few connected with sports didn't.

But to us, Harry Wismer was something special, one of those fellows who helped us to get started in this business.

We met him that day in November 1945, when Eddie Hayes sent us to East Lansing to serve as Michigan State correspondent for the old Times.

At that time we hadn't enrolled at Spartanland. That was to come after Christmas. A spry young man, still in our teens, we trudged out to the football practice field to introduce ourselves to Charlie Bachman, then the Spartans' head football coach.

Bachman welcomed us aboard and quickly turned to do a little introducing himself. One gent in the group was Harry Wismer.

Harry was what they still refer to around universities—a B.M.O.C. That's a big man on campus.

He was sports editor of the college paper. He did sports for the college radio station, and night after night during the fall he'd borrow somebody's car and buzz (40-50 m.p.h.) into Detroit to perform as the Lions' cub reporter on Station WJR.

SINCE WE HAD no college work to worry about, we'd occasionally make the trip into the city with Harry. He was one way to kill time.

Besides, Harry had invited us to write sports for the State paper, even though we hadn't become a student.

In what then was a two to three-hour ride in from East Lansing, Harry would talk about his future.

"I want to be a big time sports announcer on one of the national networks," he'd say. "I aspire to be the owner of a major league sports team."

"And... you know what... I'm going to have my dreams come true."

A lot of people talk that way. But most people never were or are like Harry Wismer.

They lack the determination.

Harry went on to become a big-time sports announcer. He was heard from coast-to-coast, airing the big games in football, basketball and what-have-you.

He had an interest in the Detroit Lions, in the Washington Redskins and then landed the New York Titans as he helped found the American Football League.

GOOD FORTUNE DIDN'T follow Wismer in any of his football dealings. He had to sell the Titans, who were to become the Jets and a million dollar enterprise.

Harry, they say, passed away broke in the pocketbook and no doubt with a broken heart.

The smiles that he flashed in college and for many years thereafter gave way to worried looks. His first marriage failed.

Fame started to elude him. The man, whose voice carried into millions of homes at one time, had quieted down almost to a whisper.

He'd return to Detroit and Michigan to visit his family in Port Huron. You'd see him around the Press Club or maybe one of the newspaper offices. He'd like to call Al Ackerman and chat on Sportsline.

But the other morning he was rushed to a New York hospital. Within two hours, Harry Wismer was no more... just a memory.

To some of us... a wonderful, nice memory.

Pro Standings

Basketball

EASTERN DIVISION		W	L
New York	1	1	1
Houston	1	1	1
San Diego	1	1	1
Buffalo	1	1	1
Washington	1	1	1

WESTERN DIVISION		W	L
Oakland	1	1	1
San Diego	1	1	1
Kansas City	1	1	1
Denver	1	1	1

LAST SUNDAY'S RESULTS		
Denver 21, New York 14		
Houston 13, Buffalo 12		
Oakland 41, San Diego 31		
San Diego 10, Washington 9		

SATURDAY'S GAMES		
Buffalo at Houston		
Kansas City at New York		
Oakland at Miami		
Denver-SFO		

SUNDAY'S GAMES		
San Diego at Los Angeles		
San Diego at St. Louis		
St. Louis at Los Angeles		

Hockey		
EASTERN DIVISION		
Toronto	W	L
Montreal	W	L
Chicago	W	L
Philadelphia	W	L

WESTERN DIVISION		
Philadelphia	W	L
Los Angeles	W	L
San Diego	W	L
San Francisco	W	L

LAST SUNDAY'S RESULTS		
Philadelphia 4, Montreal 1		
San Diego 4, Chicago 1		
Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 1		
San Francisco 4, Los Angeles 1		

SATURDAY'S GAMES		
Philadelphia at Montreal		
San Francisco at Los Angeles		
San Diego at Chicago		
St. Louis at Philadelphia		

SUNDAY'S GAMES		
Philadelphia at Montreal		
San Francisco at Los Angeles		
San Diego at Chicago		
St. Louis at Philadelphia		

THURSDAY'S RESULTS		
Los Angeles 12, Detroit 10		



FAMILY SPAT between Beatrix and Claus at the Chessington Zoo in England brought an awesome display of ivory when pop got too close to the cubs.

G.C. Girl Sets Mark For Swim

Carol Rusta, 10, who swam for the Garden City Parks and Recreation Department in a meet in Pontiac on Nov. 23, established a national record in the 50 yard backstroke with a time of 32.6. She was swimming in the 10 year old and under group.

The existing national backstroke record of 32.8 was set in 1964 for this age group. The girl also bettered the existing state record of 33.8.

The junior swimmer also set state 10 and under records in the 100 yard backstroke--1:13.2 and the 100 yard butterfly--1:14.2.

In the 11 and 12 age group, Sharon Burlingame was second in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:17.0.

Maria Altocco gained a third in the 13 to 14 age group swimming in the 100 yard breaststroke with a time of 1:19.1.

For Lions, Only Pride At Stake

There's little except some self pride at stake as far as the Detroit Lions are concerned Sunday when they invade Yankee Stadium to meet the New York Giants.

The Lions have lost all hopes for finishing with a 500 average and merely are struggling to avoid "beating out" Minnesota for last place in their division. It will be against Minnesota that the Lions end the season on Dec. 17 at Tiger Stadium.

SUNDAY'S GAME, however, means a great deal to New York. The Giants still have a slim chance to top Cleveland for divisional honors.

The Giants rule as a 6 1/2 point choice. Elsewhere in the National Football League, a lone Saturday game finds Los Angeles favored by five points over Green Bay's defending champs.

On Sunday, Cleveland and St. Louis are rated even, Dallas is

picked by nine over Philadelphia, San Francisco by 6 over Atlanta, Washington by 4 over Pittsburgh and Baltimore by 19 over New Orleans.

IN THE AMERICAN League, Boston is a 4-point pick over Buffalo on Saturday while Kansas City is a one-point choice to beat New York, San Diego 11 over Miami and Oakland 7 1/2 over Houston in Sunday action.

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