



SOUTHFIELD'S Dave Contree (in black) reaches high to block a shot by Redford Union's Jim Walker during a tense moment in RU's season opener. Southfield spoiled the night with a 55-50 victory.

By George Maskin  
observing sports

"Fats" couldn't understand it. Neither could his boss... nor his fellow workers. Nor the more realistic among their supporters.

As No. 2 senior citizen on the Red Wings, Livonia's Alex Delvecchio found himself being jeered by the patrons—some at least—during the early season going at Olympia.

That he is also No. 2 on the club's all-time scoring list, that he's the team captain... that he's been an all-star several times... this didn't influence the fans.

They felt that as long as they paid for hard bucks, they had a right to spout off.

But Delvecchio was at a loss to figure out why. So was Gordie Howe, No. 1 among the Wings... and manager-coach Sid Abel.

"It got for awhile that I wished we could play all our games on the road," Delvecchio was saying the other afternoon. "It was affecting me... and I think our other players. They felt badly for me, because they figured I didn't rate this kind of treatment."

The pro-Delvecchio supporters rushed to his rescue. They put out bumper stickers, and the like.

Delvecchio, the old pro of some 16 National Hockey League seasons, fought harder, perhaps, than ever. He found his old groove and as he improved, so did the Red Wings.

This past week found Delvecchio leading the Wings in scoring and the Wings in the midst of a six-game unbeaten streak.

"Alex never has played better than in the past month," said Abel. "He's our best player."

The fans were cheering "Fats" again.

And at a home in Livonia, there was extra happiness for the family as Christmas pulled closer and closer.

SINCE THERE'S STILL a week of shopping left before Christmas, here are a few suggestions that might help you in your last-minute rush:

FOR THE TIGERS: A 300 hitting shortstop who fields like Ray Oyler; also a relief pitcher who could duplicate the world of Dick Radatz, a few years ago with Boston.

FOR THE LIONS: What else but a Bart Starr or Johnny Unitas?

FOR THE WINGS: An all-star defenseman.

FOR THE PISTONS: A Bill Russell or Willis Reed to play center.

FOR THE COUGARS: More victories and fewer ties.

FOR MICHIGAN AND MICHIGAN STATE: A trip to Pasadena in the near future.

FOR LIVONIA: An indoor arena for ice skating. (Ditto for other communities like Farmington, Redford Township, Plymouth and Garden City.)

FOR MOTHER: A way to get the kids to Little League practice without having to drive and drive.

FOR POP: A gift, which isn't followed by a charge account bill.

FOOTBALL'S TELEVISION parade continues on its merry way. There still are the BIG ones left to keep us glued to the TV and cause the other half of the household to get angry.

Just for openers there's the Rams vs. Baltimore Sunday with a title at stake. And then the divisional playoffs in the NFL, the championships in the NFL and AFL, all the Bowls, the Super Bowl and, last but not least, a game which hardly means anything, the Pro-Bowl.

## Rams-Colts Grid Match To Be For Division Title

The Lions will be playing to avoid last place... but the eyes of pro football fans this weekend will be focused on Channel 2 to see what happens between Los Angeles and Baltimore.

The meeting between the Rams and Colts Sunday at 4 p.m. remains the only final major piece of action in the National Football League.

Green Bay already has captured one divisional title. So have Dallas and Cleveland. But whether it's the Rams or the Colts for the fourth title isn't a spot in the NFL semifinals a week hence hinges on what happens in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

THE COLTS are unbeaten so far in 14 games. Only one tie -- 24-24 with the Rams-- mars the Colt's record.

Los Angeles has an 11-1 record.

A tie or victory puts the Colts in the semifinals. If the Rams win, they're the champs, despite the fact they'd have the same record as Baltimore.

The reason:

### Gets Award

A Livonia athlete has been awarded a varsity letter for participation on the Western Michigan University football team this fall. Junior wideback Sam Antonazzo, a graduate of Franklin, was among 44 Broncos to receive awards. It was the second letter for the second leading pass receiver.

## Pick Livingston To Play In North-South

KALAMAZOO. -- Kicking specialist Dale Livingston of Plymouth has become the first Western Michigan University football player ever to be named to the North squad for the North-South game in Miami on Christmas Day.

## 19th District Democrats Set Dinner

Democrats in the 19th Congressional District have already begun selling tickets to their annual dinner dance. It's scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 4, beginning at 4 p.m. in the 24 Karal Club, Telegraph and Six Mile.

The better seats will be awarded on the basis of date received, says the party's announcement. Thus, the earlier that tickets (\$15 a person, \$25 a couple) are purchased, the better the seating.

Chuck Deamond, 24610 Five Mile, Redford, is dinner committee chairman.

## Sorrows Matmen Winners

Our Lady of Sorrows wrestling team avenged its dual meet record at 2-2, and put its overall record at 3-2, as it stopped Clarencerville 29-14 Tuesday night.

The Lancets squad was paced by two seniors, Ron Shuster and team captain Frank Walsh, who pinned their opponents.

Three points apiece were picked up for Sorrows on decisions over Clarencerville opponents by Paul Osestoski at 95 lbs., Pat Kern at 120, Pat Barret at 133, and Barry Walsh at 180 lbs. Five points apiece were gained for pins by Ron Shuster at 127 and Frank Walsh at heavyweight. Five points were also given to Sorrows on a forfeit by Clarencerville in the 154 lbs. class.

Winners for Clarencerville were Larry Russo at 165 lbs., Brian Levy at 112, Wayne Ballew at 133.

FOOTBALL TOO  
Bill Freehan, Tiger catcher, played end in football at the University of Michigan.

Two points were given to each team on a draw between Jerry Regan of Sorrows and Chuck Wenhoe of Clarencerville at the 103 lb. weight class. ey at 138, and Carl Watkins at 145 lbs. All the Clarencerville victories were on decisions.



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