

By George Maskin

observing sports

Ours is now a computerized world. If we need a wife, or a husband, the computer will find one for us.

As far as the government is concerned, most of us simply are a number and when they toss the facts and figures into a machine, they know what we have earned, what we have spent, whether we're gay or sad, whether our job does or doesn't fit us.

Now the computer has entered in sports.

Every week there's a computer fight on the radio. The greats are "matched" with the machine deciding the winner.

Football uses the computer in its draft of players by the professionals.

IF THE LIONS need a 260-pound tackle, they press a button and the facts roll out about every 250-pound tackle who might be available.

The machine reels off information about the player, his family, his weight, his this and his that.

Yet, it's still up to the human to determine which 260-pound tackle to take. The machine doesn't always know whether the athlete really has "a heart" or the right attitude.

ONE SUSPECTS that the way things are going, the day may come when we won't have to have the Tigers meet the Yanks, or Bentley play Franklin, or Michigan State go against Michigan in true physical combat.

Each will have a team, but that's where it will end.

Somebody will feed into a machine all the data about the Michigan or Michigan State team. Comments on what the coaches think, the players may have to say, the sportswriters and the sportscasters, etc.

The weights, ages, family lives and what have you of each player will be added to the data souped up by the machine.

When everything is gathered... bingo... the button will quickly ascertain whether it's Michigan over Michigan State or Bentley over Franklin, or what have you.

THE BEST THING the computer can do is to serve as a referee or umpire.

Visualize the dramatic play: There's a long pass and the offensive player-and defensive man bump in the end zone.

Was there offensive or defensive interference? Or nothing?

Well, there'd have to be a pause in the action. Somebody would have to question the two players involved and any other who might have been close by.

Then, too, the coaches would have to get in their says. And why not a few fans... or all the fans who might have been in the close proximity of where the action transpired.

Fifteen minutes later, the machine would have its answer.

To be sure, the ruling wouldn't be any more popular than we now have when a human toots his whistle.

The difference, of course, will be that if you jeer a computer, no personal feelings will be hurt. Or is it possible to upset a computer?

WE EVEN CAN see the day when a coach at Franklin High will have the computer size up who in the school might qualify to swim or play basketball or even play tennis.

What's so funny about this happening?

In most of our schools now, the various class schedules of the students pop out of computers.

They get their grades via computers, although a human first must do the judging.

If the computer breaks down, there are no report cards and what a nerve-wrangling few days that can be around the ol' homestead.

We know. It happened to the Maskin clan in recent weeks.

Wayne State University coed and 1964 Olympics gold medalist winner Cynthia Goyette, set two records in winning the 50 and 100-yard backstroke events at the National Women's Collegiate in December of a year ago.

Wayne State University's all-time basketball high scorer is Charlie Primes who scored 1,290 points in three seasons in the early 1950's. Primes scored 20 points or better 32 times in his varsity career at Wayne.

Bentley Tankmen Upset R. Union

Bentley High's swimming team pulled off a surprise 53-32 victory over Redford Union, but it was Redford Union over Bentley, 31-11, in wrestling on Thursday.

The final relay -- the 200-yard free style -- decided the race.

Tourney Draws Stars

The Michigan Wrestling Club will stage its ninth annual invitational tournament at the White Hall in the State Fair Grounds next Saturday.

Many of the leading college wrestlers, including entries from Michigan State, Michigan and Wayne State will compete. Wrestling will begin at noon with the finals to commence at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for each session.

LOCAL HERO

Lenny Green played for five major league teams before joining the Tigers, his home town team, in 1967.

Bentley was trailing, but thanks to a great anchor leg by Jim Osburn, the Livonians pulled out the race and the meet.

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HERE'S THE WAY the winners went:

Medley relay: Redford Union (Myers, Charles, Favor, Ringel). Time: 1:50.5.

200-yard free style: David Key (B). Time: 1:59.8.

50-yard free style: Bill Palmer (B). Time: 23.6 seconds.

Key's victory over Halton marked the first time the Redford Union star had been beaten in the 400-yard free style this season.

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IN THE WRESTLING meet, Junior Bob Qualls set a Redford Union record by posting his 11th victory of the season when he pinned Garrett of Bentley in the heavyweight match.

Other results:

95 pounds -- Blackwell (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

103 pounds: Thomas (B) d. Blackwell (RU).

112 pounds: Wilson (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

120 pounds: Worley (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

127 pounds: Scott (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

133 pounds: Praznik (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

138 pounds: Rhodes (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

145 pounds: Coates (RU) d. Blackwell (RU).

154 pounds: Berbo (B) d. Blackwell (RU).

165 pounds: Nedervald (B) pinned Kittle.

180 pounds: Shaktinian (RU) winner on forfeit.




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