

By George Maskin



observing sports

IT'S NICE TO TALK ABOUT—

Livonia's Wayne Walker of the Detroit Lions. He's just back from Vietnam where he has been talking with servicemen and telling them how things went for the Lions and other teams in the National Football League action.

Wayne now is about ready to turn actor with other members of the Lions. They are going down to Florida to film the book "The Paper Lion."

Hopefully, some of the Lions will do a better job acting on the screen than they did on the grid-iron last fall.

THE CONTEST the Olympia Stadium is starting to find a nickname for the new professional lacrosse team it will sponsor.

Naturally, one must rule out the Red Wings, Lions, Pistons, Tigers and Cougars as far as a nickname goes for the new team. Forget, too, the Spartans, Titans and Wolverines. You could consider the Mets, the Jets, the Knicks, the Dodgers, the Twins, the Braves, the Falcons, the Rams, the Giants, the Warriors, 76ers, Celtics, Bruins, Flyers, Blues, Reds and what have you.

How's about the Flippers? (You know, the city of autos!)

THE SHOWINGS made by two Michiganders in the Winter Olympics at Grenoble, France, last week.

There was Terry McDermott placing second in the 500-meter freeskating and Tim Wood in the figure-skating.

No other state came up with two silver medal winners.

Orchids, too, belong to the American Broadcasting Co. for the job it did telecasting the games back to the United States.

Who'd ever think we'd be seeing an event carried live across the ocean into our living rooms—and in color, too?

What next in this world?

THE COACHES in Livonia schools have recommended the adoption of seventh and eighth grade athletic programs.

"It wouldn't be costly and it would help boys at a very vulnerable age," one veteran mentor said.

The same coach noted that sponsoring of such teams also would help Livonia keep pace with other nearby communities in some of which they start organized sports programs in the schools "down as low" as the fourth grade.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a worthy event to support, we suggest the annual Red Wings' oldtimers game at Olympia next Sunday afternoon.

It's not that you'll get a chance to see some pudgy Wings' stars of the past in action.

But your contributions will be going to encourage and help youngsters in Greater Detroit play ice hockey.

THEY'LL MAKE the draw next week for the state high school district tourneys. It's a shame that Bentley and Garden City East have to find themselves tossed together in the district at Franklin!

A FLOCK OF bouquets to Thurston High's wrestling team, the No. 2 rated team in the state and a sure bet to win the Northwest Suburban League championship this week.

Baseball Time In Majors Again

It's Baseball Time again! The various major league baseball teams started to work this week in Florida and Arizona.

The Tigers assemble Thursday and begin sessions Friday at Lakeland, Fla. All hands are expected to be on deck, since there will be no holdouts.

All the Tigers have inked their contracts.

THE DETROIT Cougars won their opening exhibition game, 5-0, in Jamaica.

GEORGE KNUDSON finished with a 71 for 272 to win the Phoenix Open and first prize money of \$20,000. Julius Bueris and Jack Montgomery tied for second at 275, along with Sam Carmichael.

AFTER LOSING 17 straight games to tie a dubious National Basketball Association record, the San Diego Rockets finally won one—beating the 12 on 1—running Philadelphia 76ers, 111-106.

ANDY HAMPTON, driving a

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East Quint One Away From A Perfect Windup

A perfect champion! That's the goal of the Garden City East High basketball team. Now only Taylor Center stands in East's bid to wrap up its Mid-Wayne League season with a 10-0 record.

East already is the undisputed champion having wrapped up the crown 10 days ago.

East also is driving for a 16-1 regular-season record. Besides the Taylor game Friday, East also had a date Tuesday with Garden City West in one of the hottest clashes the city rivalry ever has known.

West was riding a six-game

winning streak going into Tuesday's game. East had another easy time Friday crushing Riverview, 91-64. Not until the last of the East reserves came in was Riverview able to do much in the way of scoring.

THE WINNERS forged out in front, 21-7, after the first period and made it 51-22 at halftime. The lead went up to 79-41 after three periods.

"We just delighted the way our kids play defense," said Billy Young, the East coach. "We have given up 80 points

in only four games this season and twice it happened when we cleared the bench late and the opposition turned loose on us in the final period."

Overall, East has been permitting only 56.2 points per game, while clicking for more than 77 points on its own.

Riverview was held to only three baskets and a free throw in the first period when Charles Sakmar himself had nine for East.

In the second period Mike Maciasz drilled in 11 points and Sakmar added seven to put the game out of reach.

MACIASZ FINISHED with 24 points to up his season's average to 22. Sakmar had 21 points, double his regular average.

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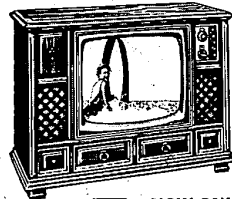
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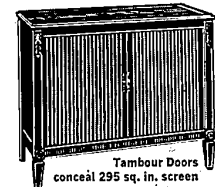
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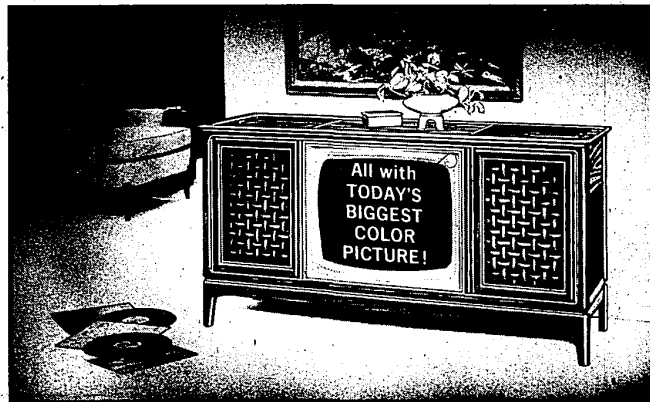
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