

Tigers Present 'Old Look' As Training Camp Opens

Special to Observer
LAKELAND, Fla.—The new faces at least with established major league back-grounds — are few and far between in the Detroit Tigers camp.
But the Tigers are a confident group, talking pennant in almost every quarter, as they enter their first weekend of the 1968 training season here at Marschall Stadium.
The Tigers can't forget 1967 when they went down to the final game before they missed out on the flag.
"The experience has to help us," says manager Mayo Smith. But the so-called "crust" experts don't think the experience will help the Tigers.
They see "other" teams, like Minnesota, Baltimore and even Chicago, as more serious contenders for the flag than either the Tigers or the Boston Red Sox, the latter in 100-1 winners in 1967.
THE TIGERS basically are counting on the same faces to

get the job done in '68.
All of which means they still have a problem, although Smith disagrees, at shortstop and in the bullpen.
Ray Oyler is still Smith's man at short, although Oyler was benched in the stretch drive in favor of Dick McAuliffe last season. McAuliffe was moved over from second base where he played most the '67 season and where he's slated to start this year.
Norm Cash still rates the in-

side track at first base, although he had an off year in '67, and Don Wert is the top contender for third base again.
The outfield again shapes as the Tigers' strongest suit with Al Kaline and a healthy Willie Horton (his foot has responded to surgery) available along with Jim Northrup, Gates Brown and Mickey Stanley.
The Tigers in Bill Freehan boast the No. 1 catcher in baseball, but if something happens to Freehan, the Tigers have no capable substitute.
ON PAPER, few teams boast a more solid pitching staff, when it comes to starters. Mickey Lolich, Denny McLain, Wilson and Joe Sparragave Detroit one of the strongest starting staffs in the majors.
The bullpen remains the problem, although the Tigers feel that Dennis Ribaut, a product of the Detroit sandlots who was obtained from Pittsburgh, may plug the gap.
The Tigers have a squad of 40 in camp, although Lolich is expected to be lost for 15 days shortly because of military duties in the national guard.
The Tigers start their exhibition schedule on March 9. A month later the regular-season opens against Boston at Tiger Stadium.

Bad Start Costly For Franklin

Basketball more than any other sport is a game of streaks. Teams have their hot spells and their cold ones.
Franklin High was the victim of a chilly spree Tuesday with the result the Livonians found themselves out of contention early against Fordson and ended up a 77-53 loser.
Despite the fact Franklin missed its first 11 shots, the team stood tied at 8-8 midway in the first quarter.
Then, it happened.
Fordson reeled off the next 13 points in the period and finished the initial eight minutes with an advantage.
From then on, Franklin played Fordson fairly even, but it was too late.

FRANKLIN MANAGED only two baskets in the first period in its poor start.
By halftime the score was 39-22 for Fordson.
Doug Sutton had 10 points for Franklin and was the team's only player to hit double figures. Dennis Hopkins was next with seven.
Brad Lyons, Chris Lang, Charles Wiggins and Dick McAdam each had six. White Mike Slavin and Jim Salter scored five each and Mike Newman two.

Plymouth Swims Past Bentley

Plymouth High's swimming team engineered a 60-44 victory over Bentley in a Suburban Six League swimming meet.
Chuck Porter paced the Rocks by winning the 50-yard free and also the 100-yard free. Dave Key of Bentley won the 200-yard free and then came back to take the 400-yard free. Porter's times were 23.9 and 50.1, Key's 1:07.6 and 4:13.1.
Other winners:
Medley relay: Plymouth (Mothurth, Gotschke, McCord, Norman). Time 1:46.8.
Individual medley: Rlenas (P). Time 2:13.9.
Diving: Auten (B).
Butterfly: McCord (P). Time: 54.2 seconds.
Back stroke: Notebaert (P). Time: 1:02.5.
Breast stroke: Jepson (B). Time: 1:08.6.
Free style relay: Plymouth (Osburn, Ehrenfeld, Tolley, Palmer). Time: 3:39.

Cycling Big In Holland

THE HAGUE—in a flat country like the Netherlands, cycling is more than a hobby; it is a vital part of the transportation system. More than six million bicycles are in use along with a million motorcycles, called mopeds or brommers. More than 100,000 bicycles and 150,000 mopeds were imported last year.

By George Maskin
observing sports

Maybe what the world needs are more Indians and fewer chiefs.
One couldn't help but get that impression during the past week in watching the various events in the Winter Olympics at Grenoble.
In particular, there were the closing ceremonies when Americans marched along side of Russians, Germans with Japanese, etc.
The little guys seem to get along wonderfully well. They battle each other in the true sense of sportsmanship — be it in hockey or skating or skiing — then show a warm friendship when it's all over.
But, it's a different story with the big shots. They seem to be forever squabbling, which, perhaps, explains not only the arguments which marred the Games, but also the more serious troubles our world finds itself in today.

RON CANTERA, the able publicist of the Detroit Red Wings, phrases along some interesting information in connection with the Wings' Oldtimers who'll be staging their annual charity game at Olympia this Sunday (today) at 2 p.m.
Cantara notes that the ex-Wings collected some \$13,600 from last year's game. Of this amount, almost \$10,000 was passed out to various youth hockey programs in the Detroit area.
The Leagues in Farmington, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth and Westland were among the beneficiaries.
The Oldtimers also donated \$2,500 to Children's Hospital to aid crippled children and another \$1,000 to the Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association scholarship fund.

THE HOUR of suspense quickly is approaching for the 700 teams which will vie in this year's State High School Basketball tournament.
Come Tuesday, the draws will take place for the various district tournaments.
There is one major stipulation in the draw—a host school's team can't receive a first-round bye.
This means that teams like North Farmington and Franklin, which will entertain Class A meets, must play in the opening action. It also means that to win the district, such teams usually must play in three games.
Other teams can capture the crown by playing only twice.
However, a change has been made should, say, Franklin make it to the regional scheduled at Franklin. In such a case, Franklin could be lucky enough to draw a bye — if that's the way the slips fall.

ON THE SUBJECT of the districts, we long have contended that the State Association should withhold assigning of teams until the season is well along.
If all this approach were followed, we think there would be less of a chance of one district being "loaded" with strong teams and another jammed with so-called mediocre or weaker sisters.
Take, for example, the district coming up at Franklin.
Why should Bentley and Garden City East both be in the same meet? Both are listed among the state's top 20 in the polls conducted by the Associated Press and United Press International.
Yet there are nearby districts in which not a single rated team appears... nor even a champion.
Oh, well, we've brought this subject up before and never have won.

HAPPY THOUGHT:
With spring training underway in Florida, Arizona and California, warmer weather can't be too far away.
FRIGID THOUGHT:
Will Tiger Stadium be warmed up in time for the season's opener on April 9 with the Boston Red Sox?

Prep Schedule

BASKETBALL			
TUESDAY	North Farmington	at Kettering	
FRIDAY	Kettering	at Farmington	
FRIDAY	Groves at North Farmington		
FRIDAY	Stevenson at Plymouth		
FRIDAY	Stevenson at Plymouth		
FRIDAY	Franklin at Dearborn		
FRIDAY	Franklin at Dearborn		
FRIDAY	Franklin at Dearborn		
FRIDAY	Franklin at Dearborn		

NHL Standings

EASTERN DIVISION			
Team	W	L	T
Montreal	24	15	12
Quebec	24	15	12
Boston	24	15	12
New York	24	15	12
Toronto	24	15	12
Detroit	24	15	12

WESTERN DIVISION			
Team	W	L	T
Philadelphia	21	18	11
Minnesota	21	18	11
Los Angeles	21	18	11
St. Louis	21	18	11
Pittsburgh	21	18	11
Oakland	21	18	11

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS			
Montreal 7, New York 2			
St. Louis 4, Toronto 1			
Minnesota 5, Boston 1			
Chicago 4, Oakland 0			
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 1			
St. Louis 4, Boston 1			
Montreal 7, New York 2			
St. Louis 4, Toronto 1			
Minnesota 5, Boston 1			
Chicago 4, Oakland 0			
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 1			
St. Louis 4, Boston 1			

SATURDAY'S RESULTS			
Montreal 7, New York 2			
St. Louis 4, Toronto 1			
Minnesota 5, Boston 1			
Chicago 4, Oakland 0			
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 1			
St. Louis 4, Boston 1			
Montreal 7, New York 2			
St. Louis 4, Toronto 1			
Minnesota 5, Boston 1			
Chicago 4, Oakland 0			
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 1			
St. Louis 4, Boston 1			

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