

observing sports

There you stood, umpling a high school game at Catholic Central.

Ken Williams, who hasn't had a chance for over four months to write about the preps in The Detroit News, came by to cheer for his son.

As the inning ended, Williams shouted across the diamond:

"Did you hear about Adams?"

"Adams, who?" we countered.

"Jack . . . Jack Adams," said Ken. "He's dead."

Suddenly your life became empty. One of the finest men you'd ever known in sports was gone.

Only the day before you had seen Jack at the Spirit of Detroit luncheon. He was there to help kick off the drive to raise funds to put on the Gold Cup boat race on the Detroit River on June 30.

It struck us as Jack greeted the audience that he was a little more subdued than usual. But we didn't think much of his "quietness." After all, there were many others on the program and Jack knew it was going to be a long afternoon for those present.

Some of us wondered the next afternoon when he missed the sports broadcasters luncheon at the Detroit Press Club.

Getting there was always a must for Jack. Nobody knew that the reason he wasn't there was that he had suffered a heart attack at his desk a few moments before. And while his pals at the luncheon laughed and feasted, life expired in this man going on 74 years of age.

Jack bowed out giving his all for the city he loved . . . the city that meant so much to him.

He was working away on the Gold Cup race when the fatal jolt struck.

He didn't have to handle the Gold Cup. Nor did he have to serve as the president of the Central Hockey League down in the Southwestern part of the country.

"I couldn't be happy just sitting around," he'd always say. "Besides, Detroit and the community made me and I just feel that I should do a little something for the area in return."

HE LOVED YOUNGSTERS — young hockey players in particular, which explains why he accepted the post as president of the Central League.

More than once Jack got up at luncheons and with the pride of a father would say:

"Two or three more of our kids have made it to the National League."

The sports world remembers Jack Adams chiefly because he was "Mr. Hockey" hereabouts. There's no disputing the fact.

He served the Red Wings as player, as coach, as general manager for 35 years. He turned out 12 league champs and had a hand in producing seven Stanley Cup champions.

He guided Gordie Howe into becoming the greatest player the game ever has known. To list the other all-stars who performed under the Adams regime would require more space than we have at our disposal.

Adams was bold and brash. He made trades that stunned the hockey populace . . . like when he let Ted Lindsay and Red Kelly go in their primes. Just to name a couple.

But Adams obviously knew what he was doing. The Wings never seemed to suffer. In fact, they usually got stronger and stronger.

HOCKEY MAY HAVE BEEN Jack's first love. But he was the greatest booster the Lions, the Tigers, the Pistons, the Cougars, Michigan, Michigan State and the University of Detroit ever had.

He was as happy as anybody that the Tigers were off and rolling. When the Pistons finished the way they did, Jack cornered us and said:

"George . . . it's sure wonderful that after all these years you finally have some moments like this."

And, so went the life of Jack Adams.

We know of no man who had an unkind word for Mr. Hockey. Nobody.

His smile electrified the room in which he sat. Honors came to him in bundles . . . like the national hockey hall of fame, the Michigan hall of fame, hockey all-star honors, coach-of-the-year.

You name it and Jack won it.

They put Jack to rest Saturday . . . but as long as there are sports around Detroit . . . as long as Detroit and the area exist . . . the name of Jack Adams will live.

It's a tragedy men like Jack Adams are so few . . . and far between.

Cougars Eye Feast At Stadium

Will home (Tiger Stadium) continue to be sweet for the Detroit Cougars soccer team?

The Cougars, who have captured both of their starts on the home grounds this season while losing twice on foreign trips, have a chance to fatten up during the next two weeks.

They'll be playing four straight games at Tiger Stadium, meeting Washington Tuesday, Baltimore Friday, Dallas on May 21 and Toronto on May 24.

Game time will be 8 p.m. for each.

So far the Cougars have beaten Vancouver and Toronto in Detroit and lost to Atlanta and Boston on the road.

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Sports--Very Briefly

S.Africa Out, Russia Enters '68 Games

The Russians have made it official. They'll compete in the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City.

As long as there was a chance that South Africa could contest, the Russians hedged on whether they'd be at the Games.

With South Africa now banned, Russia is "in" and virtually all the other countries—some 40 of them—which said they wouldn't go, are expected to follow suit.

A PULLED groin muscle is keeping Jim Bunning, the former Tiger, out of action with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He already has been inactive for more than a week.

A SORE HIP is keeping Arnold Palmer from tying in this weekend's \$100,000 Houston Invitational, the final round of which will be televised Sunday on Channel 7.

JOE LAHOUD, the 20-year-old outfielder who had an impressive start with the Boston Red Sox this season, has been shipped to Louisville. His place on the roster has been taken by Russ Gibson, a catcher who was on the inactive list.

BOBBY ISSAC, top point winner in the NASCAR Grand National championship grid, leads the field Sunday in the Fireball 300 at Weaverville, N.C. He has 884 points to top Clyde Lyne 813, David Pearson 799 and Richard Petty 782.

Petty will be seeking his third straight win in the race.

ON THE SUBJECT of auto racing, the first group of 77 cars entered in this year's Indianapolis 500-Mile race have taken to the famed 2 1/2-mile oval.

It's a diversified field with turbines, turbo-charged Off's and regular Ford racing engines.

A.J. Foyt, the 1967 winner, is back with two new Shelton Thompson Specials in his bid to become the first four-time winner at Indy. Detroit and Michigan will be represented by 12 cars.

Among the 77 entries, there are nine turbines. First qualifying is slated for the weekend of May 18-19. Experts expect all records to be clipped.

LARRY SALCI, a star for the last three years on the University of Detroit basketball team, now is doing a neat job of picking for the Titans in baseball. He beat Bowling Green, 5-4, in his last start.

PITY THE PITCHERS on the Wayne State University team. They have a combined earned run average of under one—but

they're getting almost no support. In the Tartars' first 11 games, the team committed 41 miscues.

THE LATEST boxing ratings by Ring Magazine list Joe Frazier the No. 1 challenger and Jimmy Ellis No. 2. Frazier is recognized as the new heavyweight champion in New York and three other states, while Ellis rules elsewhere around the world.

As far as the magazine is concerned, Cassius Clay still rules as the official world champ.

BOB CONTIBEAR, one-time star at Detroit Southeastern High and Wayne State Univer-

sity, has been named head basketball coach at Bowling Green University. He has been assistant at BG for the last four seasons.

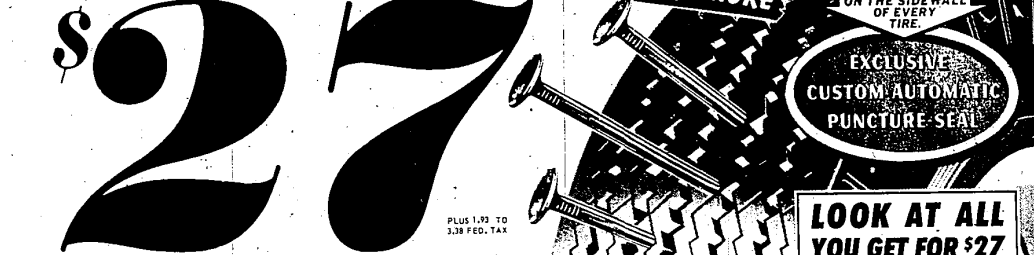
THIS IS THE WEEK the National Basketball Association holds two draft sessions. The new Phoenix and Milwaukee teams will stock their franchises with professional talent Monday, picking three men from each of the current 12 teams.

Then on Wednesday, NBA teams will wrap up their college draft with picks from the second round on. The first round was held three weeks ago. The Detroit Pistons are expected to go after big men to bolster their front line.

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