

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

The invaders from California, who checked into the plant less than 10 nights ago, are making their presence known at Wolverine Raceway.

Especially the pacers and trotters in the stables of Doug Ackerman and Bobby Williams. Judging from the way they have performed thus far, one can expect that Tom Wilburn will be making his way into the winner's circle shortly.

Doug had a driving double Saturday, including a victory in the \$10,000 Invitational race with Bramble Hall. He also scored in the final race of the evening with Skipper Time.

Bobby turned the first start at Wolverine for Windy Way into a length triumph in the \$6,500 preferred pace and appears on his way.

The win by Bramble Hall didn't come as any surprise to the bettors and the horsemen. It will be recalled that the eight year old was the first pacer to better 2:00 in 1972. That came during a race at Hollywood Park in California.

IT TOOK some clever work by Doug to get the job done this time since Bramble Hall was sixth at the three-quarter pole and fourth as the field turned into the stretch.

That's when he showed his speed by passing leading Shaiway Lad with a sixteenth

to go and finally hit the wire a half-length ahead of Shaiway Lad in 2:01.4.

It was such a tight finish that the timer caught the first four horses in the same 2:01.4. Tricky Dale, owned by Bob Kalish of Southfield, was third and Ray Forsythe's Local Time fourth.

Despite the fact that few of the horses have been able to better 2:00 thus far, the clockings Saturday clearly showed that the big mile track is in excellent condition.

During the course of the 10 race program, there were such times as 2:00.1, 2:01.1, 2:01.2, 2:01.4, and the slowest mile of the evening was 2:03.2.

BUSINESS continues its boom at Wolverine with the weekend handle the second highest in history with a total of \$1,677,332. That boosted the nightly average handle for 56 nights to \$590,955 as the track moves merily along towards the desired average of \$600,000 for the season.

Strange enough, and officials are still seeking an answer, Saturday's crowd of 12,144 was the largest of the season and the second largest in history for a Saturday and yet the handle was far short of a million and didn't even reach \$900,000.

It was \$870,065, which would

have been considered an excellent evening a few years back, but now Wolverine is gunning for the state's first million dollar night and anything short of that on a Saturday makes management wonder what's wrong.

As it was, Wolverine handled \$807,435 with a crowd of 9,661 on hand Friday and then had almost 3,000 more on Saturday and betting only went up \$63,000.

IT APPEARS now that Wolverine's chance to pass the million mark will have to be on the coming Saturday (start of the long weekend holiday) or on Friday, June 16 when Albattross comes to town to assist in the "Good Old Times" celebration.

There isn't any question but that Wolverine has the finest horses in the barn area it has ever had. Wagering has been gradually climbing ... that is until last weekend ... and Vice President and General Manager Dick Wilson hopes that isn't a trend.

Racing Secretary Ron Giehl, filling in for ailing Bill Connors, is making plans for the finest program of the meeting on Saturday with a \$10,000 invitational as the top attraction and two and perhaps three \$6,500 preferred paces to add to the attractiveness of the card.

New Grid Coach At Thurston

By TOM DONOHUE
Sports Editor

There will be a new man behind the main whistle this summer when Thurston High opens football practice.

Emil Majeski has been appointed varsity football coach for the 1972 season. He succeeds eight year veteran Bill McDonald who will be attending Eastern Michigan University on a sabbatical.

Coaching at Thurston is nothing new for Majeski. The new grid mentor is in his seventh year as head baseball coach and has been backfield coach under McDonald for eight years.

"I think it is always natural for the assistants to want the head job," said Majeski. "I think this is a real break for me to get what I have always wanted."

The vacancy for the varsity assignment was made known in January and a number somewhere around 70 applied for the position.

"I wasn't sure of my chances of getting the job," added Majeski. "Some top coaches around Detroit wanted the assignment."

But last week erased any doubts that Majeski might have had as he was called into Thurston's Principal's office where Jack Harms extended his hand and congratulated the new football coach.

"I was really surprised and I now have what I always wanted," added Majeski.

But there is one drawback in this new job. Majeski may be forced to give up the varsity baseball position ... a spot he has held for seven years.

MAJESKI took over the baseball reins in 1966 and proceeded to direct his Eagles to an 18-2 championship. Thurston since then has fought to a co-championship in the Northwest Suburban conference in '69 and '70 and is currently in a battle with Birmingham Groves for the '72 title.

Majeski boasts an overall mark of 88-46 in the seven years and will be anything but happy about having to give up his baseball position.

"I think I can handle both assignments," Majeski said. "It's being done successfully in other area schools."

Majeski is far from new in the grid scene. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1963 with three years of varsity ball under his belt at the defensive back position.

"My biggest kick was always when I intercepted a pass," said Majeski.

His high school days were at North Huron High where he played varsity ball as middle linebacker ... at 5-7 and 154 pounds.

He started teaching at the Willow Run High in '63 and obtained his master at Eastern Michigan in educational administration in 1968.

The '72 season isn't going to be an easy one for Majeski. "We are going to have a very inexperienced club," Majeski said. "We were a senior club last year and have only two returning starters."

"Gary Chappell and Dave Harding constitute the backbone and we sure have a lot of work to do."

This year's squad will be much smaller than the previous Thurston teams. We have been noted for our size but such is not the case this season.

"We are going to have to switch to the 'T' or 'Wing T' and I can see a change developing in the winter and summer weight training and agility programs," added Majeski.

Majeski will be filling the shoes of a 39-23-4 record by MacDonald in the past eight years. He is looking for a good start and hopes he can find the right size without breaking any of the shoe strings.



Bentley Crushes NF Raiders, 10-1

The '72 baseball season at Livonia Bentley has been far from impressive. The Bulldogs committed six errors and lost to Allen Park 12-4, to stand at 4-6 in Suburban Eight action and boast only a 7-9 overall record.

The Bulldogs crushed North Farmington in a pre-district battle, 10-1, and move into the second round of the state tournament against Southfield Lathrup Saturday on the Bentley field at 10 a.m.

Bentley gets its last shot in Suburban Eight play the following Tuesday at Plymouth and Coach Marty Klezik is hoping to close the season with at least an even mark.

First the bad news.

ALLEN PARK scored twice in the fourth, four times in the fifth, and six times in the sixth to blitz Bentley.

Coach Klezik sent five hurlers to the Bulldog mound but couldn't find the stopper.

Relief pitcher Brent Boegler, Dan Verina, Steve Marlow and Alex Carayannopoulos.

Jeff Maddox went the distance for Allen Park with a five hitter.

Of the 12 runs Allen Park scored, only five were earned as the Bulldogs chalked up six miscues.

NOW THE GOOD news ... that is as far as Bentley is concerned and definitely not in the eyes of North Farmington Coach Tom Wallis.

It was a 1-0 game going into the top of the fifth with Bentley holding the edge. The Raiders tied it at one all in the fifth but the roof fell in for North as Bentley tallied nine times on seven hits to charge ahead, 10-1, and that's how it finished.

Bentley scored in the first inning on a double by Pat Perino and a single by Bob Westlewski.

NORTH came back in the fifth on a walk to John Cassidy and singles by Doug Moher and Chuck Wolfe, to knot the score. It appeared that a pitchers' battle was on between North's Moher and Bentley's Joe Kearney.

The battle quickly turned into a one-sided affair in the bottom of the fifth.

With one out, Tom Worniak singled and Kearney was safe on an error. Perino was hit by a pitch and Bob Deacon singled to score one run. Worniak singled to score two more and Paul Sevonty and Boegler followed with consecutive base hits followed by an error and hits by Worniak and Kearney. By the time the dust had cleared, 13 Bulldogs had made the trip to the plate and Coach Wallis was caught wondering where the stopper had vanished.

CHANGING SPORTS? Thurston baseball Coach Emil Majeski may have to give up his position with the varsity baseball team to coach the football squad. Right or wrong, Ump? (Observer photo)

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THURSDAY
CFC East at Inkster
Lathrup at Southfield

FRIDAY
Country Day at Lutheran East
Thurston at Southfield

TENNIS

WEDNESDAY
Farmington vs Stevenson at Ford, 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY
Bentley at Plymouth
BU at Schell Ford

TRACK

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Harrison at W. Bloomfield

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Tigers To Hold Night For Polish

It will be baseball with a Polish accent when the Tigers face the Oakland A's for the first time this season at Tiger Stadium Friday, June 9.

That will be the second annual Polish-American Night at the stadium, with polka music, Polish dancers and special honors for players of Polish descent.

Pre-game ceremonies, starting at 7:30 p.m., will feature the polka bands, dancers and salute to the players, plus a flag raising by the color guard of the Polish Legion of American Veterans with choral background. The polka musicians also will play during the game while strolling through the grandstand.

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