

You Don't Fumble And Stay In U-M's Backfield

By FRED DeLANO

You don't fumble and stay in Michigan's starting backfield under Bo Schmechler. At least not in a close ball game such as the Wolverines had Saturday when they turned back Northwestern, 7-0.

On the other hand, consistently outstanding play as a linebacker, including a pass interception and 18-yard runback to set up the game's only touchdown, can make one of Bo's men king of the hill at his position until someone comes along rougher, tougher and nastier.

Observerland had two men in Michigan's starting offensive and defensive lineups as the defending Big 10 champions began their 1972 campaign, Plymouth's

Bob Thornbladh at fullback and Thurston's Craig Mutch at middle linebacker. Thornbladh only hopes he will start again next week at UCLA; Mutch can be sure he will.

THE 224-POUND THORNLADH had beaten last year's No. 1 fullback, Ed Shuttlesworth, out of the starting assignment on the basis of performances in practice, but fumbleitis cost Bob the job on the seventh play of the game.

Carrying the ball on four of those seven plays, and booming first for six yards and then for four and eight more, Thornbladh had a first down in his pocket on his fourth try — until he fumbled and Northwestern recovered. He never got back in the ball game, Shuttlesworth taking over and leading Michigan's production for the day with 75 yards on 17 carries.

"Maybe I was just trying to prove a point," Schmechler commented later in reaffirming his demand for ball handling perfection.

MUTCH, WHO SAT OUT most of last season because of an injury, was one of the mainstays of a Wolverine defense which kept the Wildcats confined to their own territory on all except one series of downs the entire afternoon.

On that one thrust across midfield Northwestern had a first down on the Wolverine 30 and wound up with fourth down and 20 to go three plays later, giving up possession on a punt.

The game's turning point came in the second period when, on second and 12 at his own 38, Quarterback Todd Somers of the Wildcats had a pass picked off by Mutch on the Northwestern 49.

The 203-pound Thurston product lugged it to the 31 and five plays later Michigan had the only touchdown it needed. The score came on a 21-yard pass from Dennis Franklin to Bo Rafter.

"I couldn't believe it," Mutch said. "He threw the ball right at me."

All four of Observerland's other players on the Michigan varsity were in uniform, but none played. These include Jon Cederberg of Plymouth, Art Feduk of Livonia who went to Divine Child, Mike Day from Livonia Bentley and Dave Brandon, a Plymouth boy who attended South Lyon.

The Wolverines now have three non-conference games against UCLA, Tulane and Navy to hone their offense — which obviously needs it — before renewing Big 10 competition Oct. 14 against Michigan State.

The Court Jester

by BILL CAMERON

The time has come, loyal readers, that the Court Jester must bring to an end this column. Several "friends" have suggested I should have entitled it "The Adventures of a Tennis Bum," or "Tennis Ain't My Racket."

One even suggested that I should have let my gorgeous secretary continue writing my column after she filled in for me while I was out of the country "on business."

IN RETROSPECT, it has been an interesting season, at least for me. I managed to visit Wimbledon, the French National Open in Paris, the Canadian Open in Toronto, and the U.S. Open at Forest Hills.

We saw the local tennis courts filled to near capacity. More people taking tennis lessons offered by the Y, Park and Recreation Department and Board of Education. The possibility of four indoor tennis clubs within a 10 mile radius by next fall. A successful women's tennis league which became a great social experience.

It is to this last group that I'd like to direct my remarks. First let me publicly thank

Stevenson Rips 'RU Machine,' 18-7

Stevenson football Coach Jack Reardon knew that the success of the '72 season would depend on the outcome of the opener with Redford Union. Pride and enthusiasm has been lacking at Stevenson and an RU victory appeared to be a necessity to rebuild what has not been.

The Spartans knew what they had to do and they went out and did it, toppling RU in a non-league opener, 18-7.

The scoring was far from being a hit and miss effort. After stopping RU on its first

drive, a bad punt gave the ball to the Spartans on their own 38.

THE FIRST PLAY from scrimmage was a power off tackle play with 6-1, 175 pound tailback Mike Orlicki given the ball. Orlicki kept through the Panther line and scampered the entire 36 yards to paydirt and Stevenson was on the board.

Mike Assemany missed on the conversion but the Spartans were on top to stay. Midway through the second quarter, Orlicki snatched up

an RU fumble on the 40 and dashed the distance again and Stevenson was in command, 12-0. The snap from center was fumbled on the extra point.

RU was again baffled in putting together any semblance of an offensive attack and Stevenson took over on its 27 to begin a 73 yard march, highlighted by a 25 yard pass play from Dale Haberman to Assemany and climaxed by a one-yard plunge by QB Haberman.

Again the conversion failed



McGuire Captures First In 3 Mile Meet

Spartans Win Schoolcraft

Stevenson High has found a good thing in the three mile run.

Paul Holmberg's harriers captured the 23 school Schoolcraft College high school cross country invitational for the second straight year with 91 points.

John Glenn was a distant second with 125 with Bishop

Borgess third at 158 and Livonia Bentley fourth with 165.

Farmington's junior Mike McGuire captured individual honors with a first place finish in course record time at Cass Bennett with a 16:09.

Wayne's Walt Nowak finished second at 16:13 with Stevenson's Dave Mathia in third at 16:33.

JOHN GLENN placed three on the first 10 all-invitational team in Jim Lockwood, fifth at 16:39; Dave Kirst, seventh at 16:52; and Bob Faust, eighth at 16:53.

But the race belonged to the 5-9, 115 pound junior from Farmington High.

McGuire was second with one mile remaining and caught Wayne's Nowak with half a mile left and won the meet with a 20 yard spread.

Stevenson proved again to be the area's top contender with Mathia placing third; Steve White finishing 10th; Rick Galindo finishing 14th; Chuck Mineor clocking in 22nd; and Kevin Maly finishing 42nd.

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Agatha Bombs Holy Cross

St. Agatha exploded in its opening gridiron clash over Haring City Holy Cross, 55-12, with senior Tom Nemes scoring four touchdowns and chalking up 234 yards.

Brown converted and St. Agatha was on the move.

NEMES SCORED his first of four to highlight a 64 yard drive and plunged in from the five after Ron Strazolkowski had recovered a fumble on the Holy Cross 20.

TEAM STANDINGS:

Stevenson	91
John Glenn	125
Bishop Borgess	158
Bentley	165
Wayne Memorial	186
Dearborn	202
Riverview	216
Hank Park	244
Farmington	246
GC West	256
Churchville	277
Fordson	301
Northville	327
Freshville	333
Thurston	351
GC East	359
Southingate	423
Redford Union	436
Cherry Hill	483
East Ford	483
N. Farmington	562
Harrison	574
Crestwood	603

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TOP RUNNERS

1—Mike McGuire, Farmington, 16:09; 2—Walt Nowak, Wayne, 16:13; 3—Dave Mathia, Stevenson, 16:33—Bill

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