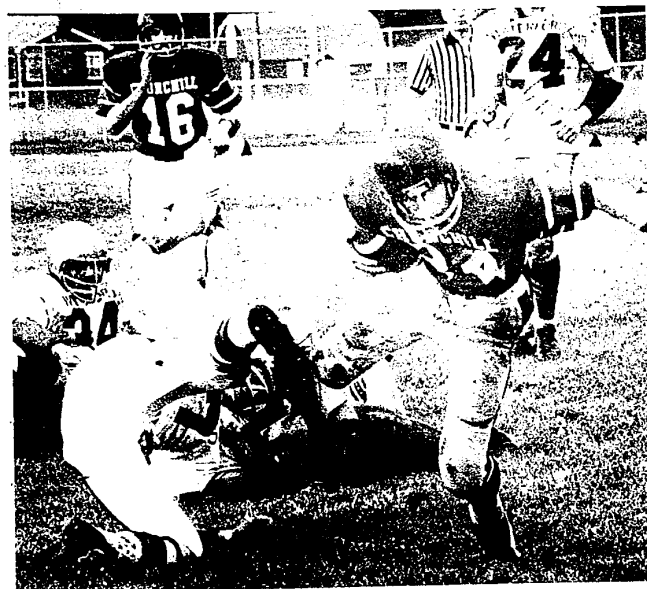


# Churchill Puts Together Longest Streak Ever



CHURCHILL TOUCHDOWN -- Charger Kris Schultz dances across the goal for a score with quarterback Bobby Blais (16) looking on after the handoff. (Observer photo by Harry Maute)

By TOM DONOGHUE  
Sports Editor

The stage is set for the Western Six football showdown.

It will be the 2-1 defending champion Harrison pitted against the 3-0 Churchill Chargers.

Each team's defense has given up only one touchdown in three games, having shutout their opponents in the last two outings.

Churchill edged Thurston, 7-6, in the opener, and shutout John Glenn, 16-0, and Waterford, 23-0. Harrison lost its opener to Farmington, 14-6, but has rebounded over Birmingham Groves, 14-0, and Walled Lake Western, 21-0.

Harrison won the Six last year with a 4-0 record which included a 12-7 win over Churchill. The two teams battled to a 0-0 tie the previous year.

CHURCHILL COACH Ken Kaestner and Harrison Coach John Herrington each got their start at North Farmington. Herrington was head junior varsity mentor and Kaestner his assistant.

Now the two are apart with this Saturday's meeting (Oct. 7) at Harrison sure to be an interesting one.

You couldn't ask for any better defensive teams than Harrison or Churchill. The question of the offensive units clicking or not should decide the game.

It will be the test for Harrison's QB Chris Pagnucco against Churchill's QB Bobby Blais.

into his own with five touchdown passes in three games.

The Waterford Township game was an excellent tuneup for the senior signal caller.

Blais hit on seven of 11 for 148 yards and two touchdowns in the 23-0 win for Churchill's third consecutive triumph, the longest ever for the Chargers. Churchill marched 60 yards early in the first quarter for a score.

BLAIES COMBINED with Kevin Arnold for a 15 yard first down play and concluded the drive on a 43 yard pass to senior end Ron Miller.

Ernie Comini converted and Churchill was up, 7-0, with 3:38 remaining in the quarter.

Waterford came right back and started picking away at the Charger defense on a drive from its own 24. A QB sneak and belly dive netted two first downs and a 15 yard face mask penalty pushed it to the Churchill 25.

Churchill defensive Coach Roger Frayer got his unit straightened out and on a fourth and 10 play on the 25... Waterford fumbled and Mike Slapak recovered for Churchill.

WITH 18 SECONDS gone in

the second quarter, Blais dropped back to pass on the first play from scrimmage. Waterford's Tim Taffe intercepted and it was first and 10 on Churchill's 28.

The Charger defense again came up with the key play, but to no avail.

On the first play, Waterford's Pete Sparling fumbled. Churchill recovered, but a penalty nullified the call and the ball still belonged to Waterford.

Waterford was stopped cold and faced with a fourth and 21 on the Churchill 39, after two straight losses.

ON A DESPERATION PASS play, Churchill's Phil Skender intercepted on the over on it's 43. Kris Schultz sprinted up the middle for a first down, and Phil Damaska scampered 14 yards for another first down.

Blais tossed a 30 yard pass to Arnold down to the eight, and Arnold completed the drive on a one yard plunge, Comini's kick was good and Churchill led, 14-0.

Chargers were off, only to fumble again.

Churchill totaled five fumbles, losing four. Waterford's Tim Kimmel pounced on it and the Churchill defense was set up on its own 35.

The Chargers stopped Waterford and ran out the clock in the first half, leading, 7-0.

The typical Churchill crowd of about 200 and 50 per cent of those parents enjoyed the halftime show of no fumbles and Waterford received the second half kickoff.

They fumbled on the first play but regained possession. Then came the first punt of the game and Churchill took over on it's 43. Kris Schultz sprinted up the middle for a first down, and Phil Damaska scampered 14 yards for another first down.

Blais tossed a 30 yard pass to Arnold down to the eight, and Arnold completed the drive on a one yard plunge, Comini's kick was good and Churchill led, 14-0.

"We got away with five fumbles in the Waterford game," said Kaestner. "But we can't afford this type of loose play against Harrison."

## Donoghue Wins Award

A national award in spot news photography has been added to the growing string of Tom Donoghue, sports editor of Observer Newspapers.

DONOGHUE WON a cer-

tificate of excellence from the Suburban Press Assn., a nationwide organization of weekly, semi-weekly and daily suburban newspapers. He was the only winner from Michigan.

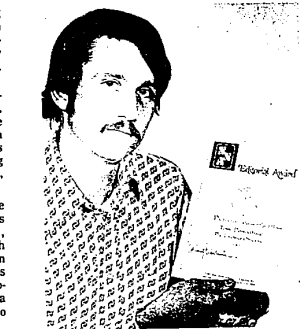
His certificate was one of five awards presented in the annual contest. The awards were presented last week during an editors seminar in Washington.

Donoghue's prize-winning entry was a series of action shots of the Franklin Churchill high school hockey game. It was published, Feb. 9, 1972.

A 1965 graduate of Farmington High School, Donoghue attended the University of Missouri from 1965-67 and served three years in the Marine Corps, seeing duty in California, Cuba, Vietnam and Japan.

In last year's contest of the Michigan Press Photographers Assn., Donoghue won first place with a feature picture and an honorable mention for his color work. He joined Observer Newspapers staff a year ago, giving full time to the area's sports scene.

The award winning picture sequence was taken with a Nikon F motorized camera. Donoghue used Tri-X film rated a 1200 ASA and shot it with a 105 mm Nikon lens wide open at F 2.5 at 250th of a second.



AWARD WINNER -- Sports Editor Tom Donoghue won a Certificate of Excellence for photojournalism from the Suburban Newspapers of America, Inc., with a four picture hockey sequence of a Livonia game at Ford Ice Rink. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

BLAIES has been coming

Livonia Stevenson ran second in the 27 school Pontiac

Northern cross country invitational.

The meet was held on a three race time basis with Pat Davey of Brother Rice the individual winner and Avondale the team champion.

Avondale totaled 77:31 for a five man finish with Stevenson next at 78:06. Rice was third at 78:52.

Four other Observerland schools were in competition.

Westland John Glenn placed sixth at 79:42; Bentley 11th at 81:48.2; Southfield Lathrup 14th at 83:07; and Redford Union 19th at 85:19.

Stevenson had two men in each race. Dave Mathia ran fifth and Steve White 11th in

the first race, Mathia at 15:03 and White at 15:25.

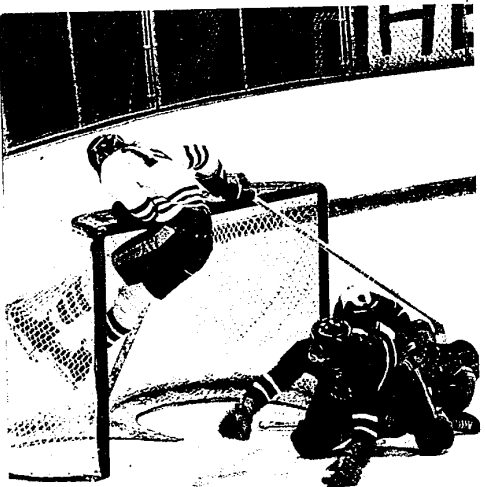
Bill Walker scored a fifth at 15:50 and Rick Galindo eighth at 15:53 in the second race.

Kevin May captured first at 15:54 in the third heat and Chuck Minear second at 16:06.

The winning school Avondale is currently rated No. 1 in the state in Class B.

CLASS A RATINGS

- 1 - Kalamazoo Loy Norrix
- 2 - Flint Kearsley
- 3 - AA Pioneer
- 4 - St. Joseph
- 5 - Portage Northern
- 6 - Grosse Pt. North
- 7 - West Bloomfield
- 8 - Brother Rice
- 9 - Livonia Stevenson
- 10 - Grand Rapids Union



TOP AWARD for pictures appearing in suburban newspapers across the country was won last week by Observer Sports Editor Tom Donoghue. His entry, which included the picture above of a high school hockey game in Livonia, received a certificate of excellence from Suburban Newspapers of America, Inc., the nationwide suburban newspaper trade association. Donoghue joined the Observer staff last year as fulltime Sports Editor.

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