

BAC tops Lochmoor

The Birmingham Athletic Club (BAC) came from behind in the last three events to upset Lochmoor Club 411-404 in the final swim meet of the season for both teams last Sunday.

Trailing 386 to 383, the BAC took the first three places in the boys 50-meter freestyle (15-16), and took the boys 200-meter medley relay to win the meet. The win gave the BAC a 2-4 record for the season.

John Fisher was a triple winner for BAC in the boys 15-16 group, while Brian Keating was a triple

winner in the boys 13-14 group. Robert Bogner and Mary McNulty were double winners for the BAC.

BAC's first home meet for July 23, saw the Detroit Yacht Club jump off to an early lead and defeat BAC 44-358.

Brian Keating scored double wins in the boys 13-14 group, while Carrie Kurz won twice in the girls 15-16 of 155.

Finals for the Michigan Inter-Club Swimming Association will be held this weekend at the Western Golf and Country Club.



TREND Talk

by: Robert A. Sklar

Dawn broke about 6:30 a.m. one morning late in July of last year. I awoke shortly after. My awakening with the early birds launched what would prove a memorable day.

The day marked my premier visit to the annual summer conditioning camp of the National Football League's (NFL's) Detroit Lions at Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills.

What's more, it marked something deeper, more enriching. It marked the birth of my friendship with Orchard Lake's Don McCafferty, then just assuming the reins as the Lions' new head coach.

THE MEMORY of that birth suffered a cruel blow this past Sunday. That's when Mac tragically died from a heart attack while, ironically, working around his home on a rare day off.

Mac was only 53. And he won't be forgotten.

The Cleveland native fit his image as a professional football mentor well. Physically, he looked imposing, standing 6-5 and weighing 250 pounds.

Personally, Mac knew how to interact with people to maximum benefit. He seldom berated his players. Rather, he chose to communicate more affably with them.

MAC CHOSE to coach, not to coach his players. That approach clicked, too.

Lion players say they felt a growing affinity for their team under Mac's stewardship. They say they felt Mac sincerely respected them as men.

Mac attracted his share of critics. Some branded him as aloof. Others derided his fatherly mannerisms. Many saw him shackled helplessly by the Lions' meddling front office.

SADLY, MOST people misunderstood Mac.

Still, Mac never flinched when rendering a pivotal team decision. His allegiance both to the Lions and their fans never wavered. He always flew the Lions' pennant proudly.

Mac's warmest trait? Undoubtedly, his yen to spread the word how a big smile or a pat on the back can reap life's greatest dividends.

"It's about people," Mac once said, reflecting on his perspective of football's foundation.

MAC ARRIVED in the motor city with a lockerroom full of football experience. He grasped the sport's rudiments under legendary Paul Brown at Ohio State University.

Later, a mediocre year in the NFL's ranks with the New York Giants compelled him to reorder his football priorities. He elected to turn to coaching.

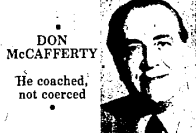
For more than two decades, Mac proceeded to resourcefully handle assistant coaching chores first at Kent State University, then with the NFL's Baltimore Colts.

In Baltimore, Mac served both Weeb Ewbank and Don Shula. He took over Shula's responsibilities in 1970 when Shula moved on to the NFL's upstart Miami Dolphins.

MAC LASTED two and half seasons at the helm of the Colts, leaving in his wake a distinctive trail. He steered the frisky Colts to the Super Bowl crown in 1970 and into the American Conference title game the next year.

He was released unexpectedly midway through the 1972 campaign after refusing to bench Baltimore's aging quarterback, Johnny Unitas.

The Lions then chanced Mac. In



He coached, not coerced.

Detroit, he assembled a fresh complexion on the gridiron. The Lions revamped coaching staff and rejuvenated team spirit exemplify that.

LAST YEAR, Mac's first in Detroit, the Lions could muster just a 6-1 record.

This year, they're scheduled to kick off exhibition play Aug. 16 against the Oakland Raiders at Tiger Stadium in Detroit.

However, a strike by the NFL Players Association, honored by practically all of the Lion veterans, severely slowed down Mac's training timetable toward a more productive campaign.

Despite having only a few veterans on hand, Mac continued to run daily scrimmages on Cranbrook's grounds.

SUCH SCRIMMAGES were designed principally to provide opportunities for promising newcomers to demonstrate their football prowess.

Rookies particularly commended Mac for his diplomatic management of the scrimmages in the face of the prolonged strike.

"Coach McCafferty," mused one aspiring Lion, "made it a point to keep us abreast on our development — or lack of development."

"He tried to let us know exactly how we stacked up in his future playbook."

A MEMORIAL service in Mac's behalf was conducted Monday at William E. Hamilton Funeral Home's Bell Chapel in Birmingham. Mac was buried Wednesday in Towson, Md., a Baltimore suburb.

Among Mac's survivors are his wife, June, and four children. Also among them are those metropolitan Detroiters who recognized the monumental task confronting Mac — shepherding a flock of disgruntled gridders into a winning collective.

August 1, 1974

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

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5-mile run on Tuesday

The third annual Stony Creek Metropark Invitational run will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

There is no entry fee for the event. Registration will take place Tuesday morning at the Oak Grove picnic area.

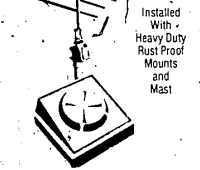
The event will be run over five miles for men, in age categories for 18-and-over and 17-and-under. Women will run 2½ miles, although any woman wishing to run the entire distance may do so.

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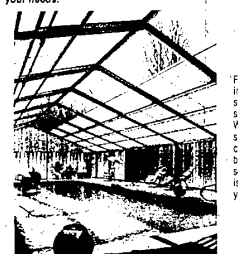


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