

Structure draws praise

Pontiac Stadium—New Lions den

By TOM SCHRAM
Oakland County's dream palace for Detroit Lion football, the Pontiac Metropolitan Stadium, is drawing rave notices as a classic structure from its creators and builders.
Hailing the edifice as "the most unique structure ever created by man" West Bloomfield architect Constantin Micuda led a host of speakers connected with the Pontiac Metropolitan Stadium at the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce executive breakfast Tuesday.
"There will be no resemblance between this and any other stadium in the country. It will be the largest stadium in the United States if not the world," Micuda said of the stadium presently under construction at M-59 and Opdyke Road.

THE STADIUM, designed by Micuda's Birmingham architectural firm, O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach, Inc., has proposed costs now standing at \$55.7 million.
The project has survived nine

law suits to date and serious problems with concerning access roads to maintain a building schedule which will have it open in time for the 1975 football season next August.

If all goes according to plan, the stadium will boast such impressive features as:
• A 10 1/2 acre suspended plastic roof with three separate methods for removal of snow.
• 80,000 armchair seats
• More than 100 third-level suites equipped with closed circuit color television with instant-replay capabilities

• Concession and rest room facilities surrounding all three levels at all points except exits

THE ROOF, which will rise 200 feet above the playing surface, is still in the planning stages with an additional \$7.1 million needed for final implementation.

"But I think that we can safely say that we will have a roof," Roland Wilkner, executive vice-president of Barton Mallow contractors, the firm awarded the construction contract said.

"We are going on the basis that we will have the funds for the roof at this point. When and if the funds are allocated, we will begin work on the roof, but, at this point, it will not be ready for the 1975 season. The target date right now is January 1, of 1976," he said.

Snow would be removed from the suspended roof by heat from the stadium, by heat from special generators or, in emergency circumstances, by dumping it on the playing surface.

ALL OF THE 80,000 seats will be armchair-type and padded. The capacity does not put the stadium in the 100,000 plus category of Wolverine Stadium in Ann Arbor or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, but, according to Micuda, the Pontiac stadium will be larger than either of those two.

"If we used the same seating arrangement as is used at the University of Michigan, we would have approximately 120,000 seats," he said.

The third level suites which, on the average seat 12, will rent for a total of \$38,500 per suite for a five

year contract. Two of the 102 suites will be permanently rented for county executives and visiting owners.

The concession and rest room facilities are, according to Micada, as good as can be designed.

"THESE WILL BE very modern facilities. Of course, it will be impossible to accommodate everyone simultaneously," he said.

According to Robert Rummel,

executive director of the Pontiac Metropolitan Stadium Authority, a total annual income of \$4.5 million will be necessary to operate the stadium in the black.

"And of that, more than half will come from the Detroit Lions who are presently under a 30 year contract at the highest rent ever paid by a sports team," Rummel said.

Rummel said that the additional necessary revenue will come from

renting the stadium to various groups at other times during the year.

"THE LIONS PAY more than half of the expenses of the stadium, but they will use it only 10 days a year. We expect to make up the other half during the other 355 days during the year," he said.

Rummel explained that there are currently plans for a \$1 million widening of Opdyke Road to Auburn Road.

He also said that he was not concerned with the nine lawsuits which have been brought against the stadium authority in that none have succeeded past the level of the state court of appeals.

"We expected the lawsuits. When Seattle built their stadium, they had 23 brought against them. We haven't lost a day's work over a lawsuit yet," Rummel said.

Lathrup golfers first

At the Metropolitan Suburban Association league meet at Red Run Golf Course in Royal Oak, Southfield Lathrup scored a 403 to head the field.

Royal Oak Dondero and Bloomfield Lahser tied for second with 420 each; Rochester Adams, 427; Birmingham Groves, 428 and Utica Eisenhower, 432.

Medalist honors went to Lathrup's Lincoln Cavalieri who carded a three over par 75. Groves' Mitch Bieznak took second individual honors with 76; Ken Perry, Dondero, 77 and Mike Betts, Lathrup, 78.

Final league standings are com-

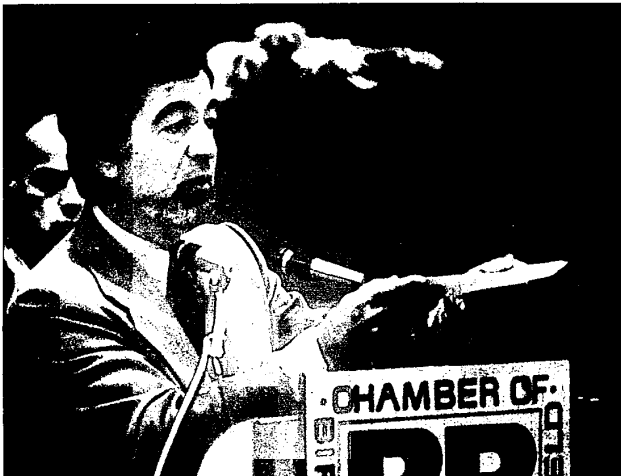
puted by combining the season's dual meets with the league match.

Lahser finished in first place followed by Lathrup, Dondero, Adams, Groves and Eisenhower.

Three locals tour circuit

Three area residents are listed on the 1974 Champion Spark Plug Road Racing Classic roster.

They are: Harry MacDonald, Southfield, with a Lynx car sponsored by Mazuro Motors; Warren Tape, Troy, with a McLaren-Chevrolet sponsored by Gordy Oftedal and J. Marshall Robbins, Troy, with a Mustang and a Corvette, both sponsored by Jim Robbins Co.



West Bloomfield architect Constantin Micuda who designed the Pontiac Metropolitan Stadium, called the structure "the most unique" in history. (Photographed by Douglas Bauman)

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