



Passing the last days of summer with some football are defensive Jim McDonald (far left) who's trying to intercept a pass intended



for offensive receiver Pete Mantyla, Power Junior High student. Meanwhile, (middle) Farmington High School student Brian Bruce



tries to move away from Power Junior High student Joe Hamilton, proving (right) that football isn't just a passing fad.

Summers' demise is fall's rebirth

Perspective determines whether you celebrate or mourn the last day of summer vacation, it seems.

Back to school can mean a breather for Moms, excitement for some students and a return to drudgery for others, and paychecks for some school employees.

Mary Berndt, a bus driver for the Farmington school system, was looking forward to the start of school today, but some of her potential riders had a different slant on the story.

"I can use that regular paycheck," said Mrs. Berndt, who began driving a school bus route in 1965. Of course, the first few days may be the hardest.

"I'll have to get used to the kids again, but they'll have to get used to me, remember," she explained.

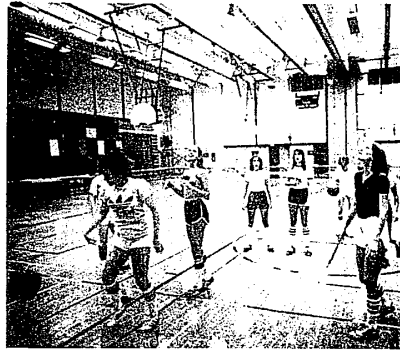
Asked how he felt about the start of school, Farmington High School student Jim McDonald replied "Bum."

He and his friends got in one last game of touch football on the FHS front lawn Tuesday.

Other sons and daughters found themselves in area clothing stores and office supply shops purchasing new school duds and supplies, while some very happy mothers beamed in anticipation of school's start.

SWIMMING, football, cross country, and basketball competitors already were back to school before today's official start in anticipation of the fall season. And cheerleaders were practicing the cheers and shouts they hope will accompany this year's wins.

Farmington teachers enjoyed a final quiet day in their eerily silent buildings as they prepared their classrooms for incoming students, while coaches looked over their squads and got their teams down to work.



Although the guys won't be practicing for a few more weeks, the girls' basketball team practice is already underway as the season starts with the start of school and continues to Dec. 1.

Staff photos by Harry Mauthe



It's a fall line-up out back of the Farmington School Administration building, as buses get ready to roll (top). In spite of that line, a cluster of bikes waits with Mark Fanti, 17, to head back to school.

(above.) Farmington bus driver Mary Berndt (right) checks out spare tires in the bus lot as she picks up her route. Anticipating the fall, North Farmington High cheerleading coach gives her swim, varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads pointers in the art of Pep. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



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