

Lions New Faces Shine In Loss To Buffalo

BUFFALO—In defeat, there were some glittering moments for the Detroit Lions Monday night as they absorbed a 13-0 loss at the hands of the Buffalo Bills in the opening exhibition game for both teams.

For one thing, the Lions had to be heartened by the showing of rookie quarterback Greg

Barton from Tulsa University. He provided the Lions with their only excitement by twice clicking on 51-yard pass completions and leading the Detroiters to their only touchdown.

Then there was Earl McCullough, the rookie from Southern California who didn't

join the team until Saturday after starting in the College All Star game against Green Bay.

McCullough showed that he has the speed to make it in the pro league. He turned in some dazzling punt returns—one of which led to the Lions field goal.

EXCEPT FOR one lapse, when they yielded a touchdown late in the second quarter, the Lions throttled the Bills and their veteran quarterback Jack Kemp, who played about half the game.

The Lions started quarterback Karl Sweetan, whom they had asked waivers 10 days ago and then pulled them back.

Sweetan was in one four-series of downs and the only cheering note for the Lions was an 18-yard run by Mel Farr.

The Bills themselves did little in the same period until the Lions were penalized back

to their own six by two penalties and Lem Barney was forced to kick from deep in the end zone.

He got the ball only to Detroit's 43.

In four plays, the Bills scored as Kemp tossed a 17-yard pass to Ferguson and then one to Ben Gregory for a first down on the Lions seven.

Overall the Lions made seven out of 28 in the air to Buffalo's 12 out of 22.

The Lions punted six times for 34.7 yards while Paul McGuire booted 10 times for 48.3 yards and constantly kept the Lions in trouble.



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By George Maslkin

observing sports

A phone call in pursuit of information on a sandlot baseball game brought a response on the other end.

"Sorry, he can't talk to you now. He's resting. You see he was practicing football this morning and he'll work out again this afternoon."

If we would have phoned a flock of other homes in the area, no doubt the answer would have been the same.

Yep, it's only the first week in August, but most of the high school football players hereabouts already are at work.

Their daily get-togethers can't qualify as "true practices." Under the state prep rules, no team may appear in football gear, or even use a football until Aug. 26.

But before Charles Forsythe retired as state prep director, he clarified what prep teams can and can't do before the official starting date.

THERE'S NOTHING wrong with holding conditioning drills. Which answers why if you pass Redford Union or one of the Garden City schools, or North Farmington or Franklin or Plymouth these mornings, you'll notice a flock of strong, young men going through a series of exercises.

It's very important that the boys go through these paces," explained Bob Atkins, who takes over as head football coach at Redford Union this fall.

"We pointed out to our boys, before school finished in the spring, how vital it was for them to take part in these conditioning sessions.

"The boys not only have to strengthen their muscles and get their legs ready, but they must get used to being able to scrimmage in hot weather . . . and you know how hot it can be in the first weeks of high school football drills."

IN THE CONDITIONING sessions, the coaches aren't supposed to mention the word football too loud.

Some mentors do, some don't.

There are those who even manage to find a football or two for their charges and "arrange" for their captains to run some offensive plays.

Here and there you'll find boys practicing their kicking . . . and it's no secret that some teams even engage in a little tackling work.

All of which brings up an old issue with this department: why not permit the preps an extra week of fall practice?

If the coaches can assemble their hopefuls on an informal basis commencing with the last week in July, there should be no objections — it would seem — to permit the teams to commence official drills four weeks ahead of their first games.

Now it's three weeks — actually something like 18 days.

EVERY COACH — be he in charge of football or tennis or gymnastics or swimming — will tell you that the toughest job in readying a team comes in football.

For one thing, a coach has more boys to deal with. Usually 60 to 75 report.

He has three distinct units to assemble — (1) offense, (2) defense, (3) kicking.

Fashioning an offensive attack in football requires more time than anything else in sports. A good defense takes almost as much time.

Besides, by adding a week to the practice routine, the football coach wouldn't have to rush in his preparations.

"It's amazing that we accomplish what we do in so short a period of time," one coach declared.

MOST FOOTBALL coaches doubt that their administrations would complain were the practice period extended.

"I'm not hiding anything by holding conditioning workouts," said Atkins. "My athletic director knows at my principal knows it, my superintendent knows it."

Atkins, like other area coaches, can't force boys to participate in the conditioning drills.

But the boys themselves realize the importance and as a result most of them arranged to take their vacations with their parents during July so that they'd be around by the first of August.

"These kids are very sensible," one mentor said. "They can see for themselves that it's to their advantage to get into shape by the time we begin official drills."

"A kid who shows up 'fat' and out of condition for regular practice finds himself in trouble. If he wants to play, he's got to be ready."

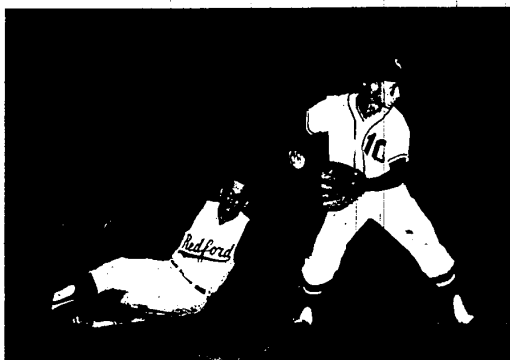
ON THE SUBJECT of football, a new publication dealing with the professional, college and prep scene in Michigan has hit the streets.

It's called Michigan Football and one feature deals with picking the prep winners.

According to the magazine, John Glenn is the team to beat in the Northwest Suburban League with Franklin and North Farmington right behind.

In the Suburban Six, the nod goes to Allen Park with Bentley "a possible surprise." Walled Lake is favored in the Inter Lakes with Stevenson and Farmington trailing.

In the Mid-Wayne League, Garden City East looms as "a darkhorse," while Garden City West is the safer bet. Michigan's third highest, for the state's record-sized band of 55,900 licensed archers.



INTO THIRCD slides Redford's Bill Howe as he tries to beat the relay on a forward. He didn't make it since Third Sacker Johnny Schroeder, of Livonia, already has made the tag and is throwing to first in an attempt for a double play. The action took place in the Free Press League playoffs at Ford Field in Livonia.

Redford Moves Nearer FP Title

For the last two years, Redford Township has won the Greater Livonia League and the state Free Press baseball titles.

It opened Monday night that the Townshipers were on their way to a third loop crown at Waukegan, Illinois Cardinal Decorating, 4-0, in the first



GREG MACY, a former Livonia Bentley High School star, played a big role in the Albion College Britons winning the 1968 MIAA baseball championship this past spring. Macy, a freshman, hit .295 and fielded brilliantly as the Britons' starting first baseman.

Stevenson Sets Uniform Call

The Stevenson high football team will receive uniforms on Aug. 21 and 22. Seniors and juniors are to report from 9 a.m. to noon the first day while sophomores check in the following morning.

Stevenson students, interested in playing football, are urged to participate in the conditioning practices now underway.

Bow And Arrow Deer Kill Up

Hunting in sporting Indian style last year produced a kill of 2,550 deer, Michigan's third highest, for the state's record-sized band of 55,900 licensed archers.

The 1967 kill estimate, drawn from the Conservation Department's regular postcard survey of bowhunters, is up 620 animals from the year before. It is topped only by the 1958 and 1964 archery harvest.

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Brown Jolted In Start

The return of Paul Brown to the professional football was hardly an impressive one.

Brown, who once led the Cleveland Browns to a flock of championships, now is general manager and coach of the new Cincinnati Bengals of the American League.

His team played its first game Saturday night and was whipped by Kansas City, 38-14. There was little for the Cincinnati fans to cheer about after Brennan Sullivan ran 75 yards for a touchdown.

Brown, meantime, announced that ex-Michigan State back Jesse Phillips, on parole from Jackson prison for a forgery charge, had joined the Bengals and impressed, the Bengals had drafted Phillips while he was behind bars.

THE CHICAGO Bears got off to a fast start under new coach, Jim Dooley, by beating the Dallas Cowboys, defending Eastern Division champs, 30-24.

Hookie Cecil Turner ran 88 yards for a touchdown with the opening kickoff and then 74 yards with a pass.

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BARTON KEPT firing away, but wasn't able to connect and finally the ball was intercepted again by the Bills and the game ended with Buffalo hanging on to the pigskin.

The Lions outgained Buffalo, 227-145—85 rushing to the Bills' 70. In passing it was Detroit 142, Buffalo 75.

Barton clicked only four for 20, and had three interceptions.

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