

Graduation-Riddled Stevenson Rebuilds

A year has made a big difference, football speaking, at Stevenson High in Livonia.

Twelve months ago, the Livonians were stocked with veteran material. The first week of practice was a forerunner to a season in which Stevenson was to win all eight of its games. . . in which Stevenson was to capture the Inter-Lakes League title . . . to rank No. 1 in the final Observer-Area ratings. . . to rank among the top teams in Michigan.

But graduation has left some major holes for Coach Jack

Reardon and his staff to fill. Of the 80-man squad which greeted the Stevenson coaches Monday, there were only four who played as starters last season.

The quartet was comprised of quarterback Rusty Green, tailback Gene Walker and the Swift brothers, Pat and Mike, at the tackles.

GONE FROM Stevenson were such backs as Dale Danver, Jerry Deiter, Dave Loeve and Steve Dickie.

Departed were such linemen as Mark Hule, Bob Hood, Bud Daniels, Nick Exarhos and Ron

O'Hara. "We've got our workout out," said Reardon.

As in the past, Reardon and his staff made some preliminary moves, deciding where they thought a boy might best play. "We've switched moves from the backfield to the line, from the line to the backfield, from interior spots on the line to the outside," the coach said.

"When we did that last year, just about every boy remained put for the season.

"But we'll have to wait and see this time. You really can't tell until we start hitting a little

in practice. But I'd guess we'll have a lot of scrambling to do before we set a lineup, offensively and defensively."

THE TURNOUT at Stevenson was one of the biggest in Observerland.

"There's no question interest in football is high here," explained Reardon. "It's nice to have a winner. The dividends carry over."

Elsewhere in Observerland, turnouts ranged from 30 to 75 men.

Most of the coaches felt like Reardon. "We have a great deal of work to accomplish in a hurry."

Most were hoping, too, that the weather would co-operate.

"Give us another week of early drills like last year when it wasn't too hot or too cool," said Reardon.

"The preps have known early training periods when the thermometer hovered in the 60's and 90's, cramping seriously the efforts of the coaches.

ALL OBSERVERLAND coaches planned two-a-day drills this week and until classes start next week. Next season the preps will have an extra week—or two in all—for workouts before school bells ring.

Each coach also is planning one scrimmage against another school before the season begins.

In some cases, the scrimmage may involve two other schools.

Under State Association rules, just one scrimmage involving an outside team or teams is permitted before a school plays its first game.

Thereafter, there's no limit on outside scrimmages.

All of the Observerland teams will begin their regular schedules on the weekend of Sept. 13-14, the earliest starting day for lower peninsula schools under the state rules this season.

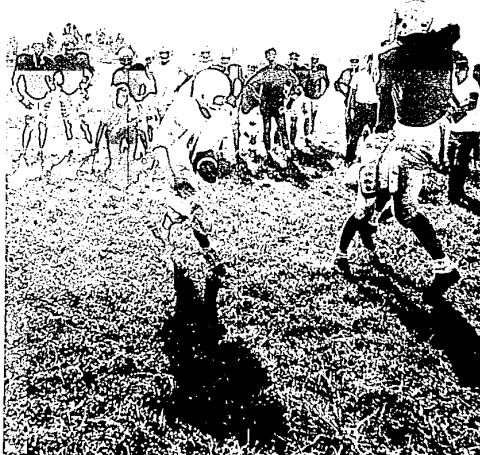
Stevenson is booked at Redford Union where Coach Bob Atkins is looking for better things after a "down season" in 1968.

THE ALIGNMENT of Observerland teams in leagues remains unchanged from last season.

Stevenson and Farmington are in the Inter-Lakes Conference. . . Redford Union, Bentley and Plymouth in the Suburban Six. . . Thurston, Glenn, North Farmington and Franklin in the Northwest Suburban. . . Clareville in the Wayne-Cashland. . . Garden City East in the Mid-Wayne. . . Garden City West in Tri-Rivers. . . Bishop Burgess, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Agatha in the Catholic League's divisional setup.

Livonia's new Churchill High will undertake its first varsity schedule, but for this season, at least, will be competing as an independent.

Churchill eventually will join a new loop which is to include the new Plymouth and Farmington high schools.



STEVENSON HIGH football candidates watch ball carrier Jim Biely as he follows a blocker during the initial workout of the 1969 season. Coach Jack Reardon leads a big rebuilding campaign after losing most of last year's unbeaten squad by graduation. (Observer photo by Harry Maute)



MAN WAS IT HOT! Garden City West graders picture shows the heat burning up through the grass sweltered through their opening practice session. This picture shows the heat burning up through the grass and dust on the practice field. (Observer photo)

Hubert Eliminated In District Meet

The season is over...there'll be no state tournament this weekend for Hubert Realty, the Greater Livonia Class A League baseball champs.

The Hubert hopes to get to Battle Creek and there vie in the state meet, and possibly later in the American Baseball Congress regional and world championships went up in the warm sky at Pontiac Sunday when Hubert dropped a 3-2 decision to Flint.

It was the second loss in the double-elimination district tourney in which Pontiac rounded out the three-team field.

Five innings of shutout pitching by Rich Beryzma of Hubert went for naught. Then after he suffered the recurrence of blisters and had to leave the game in the ninth inning, the loss was tagged on Jay Schwalm.

HUBERT TOOK a 1-0 and a 2-0 lead against Flint.

In the first inning a single by Chip Ross, a stolen base and a single by Bo Ardell produced the first run.

Five innings later, Jeff Peck doubled and romped in on Jay Westcott's single.

But a two-run homer tied the game for Flint in the sixth and two hits and a roller in the ninth and sent Flint, instead of Hubert, on to Battle for the state tourney.

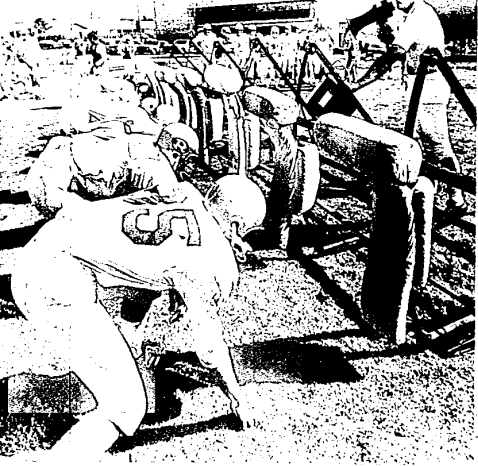
HUBERT MOVED into the district finals with a 4-0 victory that eliminated Pontiac. Rick Krumm, hurling his finest game in several weeks, scattered six hits and fanned eight as he kept Pontiac well in check. No Pontiac runner managed to advance farther than second

base. Hubert was kept silent until the fifth inning when Jeff Peck singled, Roger Frazer walked and then a stolen base by Peck and an error brought in the first run.

Came the seventh, Hubert scored three times to give Krumm a comfortable margin for the balance of the game.

Bo Ardell began the uprising of the seventh when he was hit by a pitch. Terry Rotwell, Frazer, Jack Westcott and Krumm followed with singles to knock in the markers.

Krumm had a big day at the plate in addition to an excellent afternoon on the mound. He singled doubled and walked twice in four appearances.



GO, GO! was the cry at North Farmington High where Coach Ron Holland ordered a stiff session with the blocking sled for the veteran members of his offensive line. (Observer photo by Harry Maute)

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