Stevenson Risks Unbeaten String At Redford Union

Area Prep Grid Rivals Clash In Openers

Hello football — the high school version.

After more than two weeks of workouts, the lower peninsula preps are set to pry off the lid on 1969 schedules this week.

This includes all of the Observerland schools. Three head-on battles, matching Observerland teams, feature the area schedule.

On Friday it'll be Stevenson vs. Redford Union at Redford Union and Garden City West at John Glenn.

On Saturday, Bentley goes to Farmington.

Four other Friday games send Franklin to Romulus, Plymouth to Northville, Riverside to Garden City East and Manchester to Clarenceville.

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THE SATURDAY schedule, in addition to Bentley-Farmington, matches Thurston with Cherry Hill, Pontiac Northern with North Farmington and Churchill with Grosse Pointe North.

The three area Catholic schools get going Sunday when Our Lady of Sorrows hosts Royal Oak St. Marys, while Bishop Borgess goes to Jayne Field and St. Agatha at Ypsilanti St. John.

The start of a new season always leads to a series of predictions. Who's good and who's bad? Who'll finish in between?

* * *

AFTER A SURVEY, the Observer Newspapers comes up with the following ratings for area teams:

TOP FIVE

1 — North Farmington
2 — Bentley
3 — Thurston
4 — Stevenson
5 — Garden City West

Coach Ron Holland of North Farmington makes no bones that he thinks he'll have "a terrific team."

The Raiders are stocked with veteran talent and figure to pick up where they left off last year when they wound up sharing the Northwest Suburban League crown with Franklin and Thurston.

Bentley, making its debut under Coach Glen Goode, should keep pace with previous Bentley powerhouses. The Bentley team has a strong squad with good depth.

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THURSTON WILL MAKE matters hot for North Farmington. The Townshippers have one of the best players in the state in Craig Mutch and are solid at most positions.

Stevenson will be on the hot seat as the season begins. The Livonians went unbeaten in 1968, taking eight straight to win the Inter-Lakes title and also rank among the state's best.

Garden City West rounds out the first five.

All of the games this weekend are non-leaguers, except those for the Catholic League teams which waste no time jumping into league competition.

The public-school teams will have another round of non-leaguers next week, except for Clarenceville.

* * *

THERE'LL BE NO change in the alignment of teams in various leagues.

Bentley, Plymouth and Redford Union are still in the Suburban Six League.

North Farmington, Franklin, Thurston and John Glenn vie in the Northwest loop.

Farmington and Stevenson are in the Inter-Lakes League while Clarenceville is in the Wayne-Oakland, Garden City East in the Mid-Wayne and Garden City West in the Tri Rivers.

* * *

BISHOP BORGESS is a member of the Catholic League's First Division West. Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Agatha are in the Second Division — Sorrows in the Northwest Division and St. Agatha in the Southwest.

Only Churchill will operate as an independent. But Churchill, still minus any 12th graders, is biting off its first all-varsity schedule after playing mostly a reserve schedule in its freshman season in 1968.

Churchill will join a new league within two years — a league which will include the new Farmington and Plymouth High Schools.

Golfers!! Plan Medal Play Tourney For Livonia Title

Livonia golfers will have their first opportunity to crown a men's city champion in a two-day medal play tournament over the 18-hole layout at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

That was the announcement Monday by Supt. John Dufour, of the Livonia Parks and Recreation Department, and Pro Gary Whitener, of Livonia's municipal golf course. Trophies for the winners and runners-up will be presented by the Observer Newspapers, co-sponsor of the event.

The tourney will be a 36-hole medal play affair with championships to be decided in three divisions--championship for scratch to 10 handicap golfers, A class for those in the 11-20 stroke group and B class for 21 handicap and over.

* * *

IT WILL BE played over the Whispering Willows course on Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5. The deadline is Sunday, Sept. 28 and the pairings for the two days will be published in the Observer Newspapers on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

An entry fee of $15 will be charged to take care of the cost of the two rounds with the balance going into the prize fund.

Tournament Director Whitener indicated merchandise prizes will be awarded in each of the three divisions.

Only residents of the City of Livonia are eligible for this first tournament. There is a possibility that the scope will be enlarged to include all golfers in Observerland in another year.

Whitener reported that more than 700 golfers played the 18-hole course over the weekend and expects a total entry of some 250 for the initial citywide tourney.

* * *

"ANY GOLFER residing in Livonia is eligible," he said, "This tournament is not limited to those playing the municipal and the pay-play courses but is open to golfers from the private clubs as well.

"We anticipate an excellent entry in each of the three divisions with competition keen for the championship bracket. We have a number of scratch to 10 handicap players at our course and most have expressed a desire to match strokes with the better players from other area courses."

The tourney has been rescheduled at a time when practically every golfer in Livonia is available for such play. Then, too, in case of rain, it can be delayed until the following week.

An entry blank is published in today's editions of the Observer Newspapers. If planning on entering, fill out the blank, enclose a check for $15 made out to Tournament Director Gary Whitener and send it to the Whispering Willows Golf Club, Newburgh Road in Livonia.

Whitener emphasized that entries must be in his hands on or before the midnight deadline on Sept. 28 and no post entries will be accepted.

Livonia City Championship

Golf Tournament At Whispering Willows GC
36-Holes medal play -- Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5
(Sponsored by Observer Newspapers and Livonia DPR)

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY ..... Fee $15

Please print. Enclose entry fee of $15 payable to Pro Gary Whitener, Tournament Director. Do not send cash.

NAME ..... Handicap .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... PHONE No. .....

Entries close 12 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 28
No post entries will be accepted

Prep Schedule

FRIDAY

Franklin at Romulus, 3 p.m.
Stevenson at Redford Union, 8 p.m.
Plymouth at Northville, 8 p.m.
Riverside at Garden City East, 8 p.m.
Garden City West at John Glenn, 8 p.m.
Manchester at Clarenceville, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Thurston at Cherry Hill, 2 p.m.
Bentley at Farmington, 2 p.m.
Pontiac Northern at N. Farmington, 2 p.m.
Churchill at Grosse Pointe North, 2 p.m.

SUNDAY

Royal Oak St Mary's at Our Lady of Sorrows, 2:30 p.m.
Bishop Borgess vs. Nativity at Jayne Field, 2:30 p.m.
St. Agatha at Ypsilanti St. John, 2 p.m.

HOW MASKIN PICKS 'EM

Franklin vs. Romulus — Although hard hit by graduation, Franklin slight choice

Stevenson vs. Redford Union — Another happy start for Stevenson.

Plymouth vs. Northville — Loss of star back Bob Thornbladh will hurt Plymouth. Northville wins.

Riverside vs. Garden City East — A toughie for East, but they'll win.

Garden City West vs John Glenn — Call this a tossup.

Manchester vs. Clarenceville — Clarenceville starts on a big note.

Thurston vs. Cherry Hill — Easy afternoon for Thurston.

Bentley vs. Farmington — new Bentley Coach Glen Goode gets off to a flying start.

Pontiac Northern-North Farmington — This is North Farmington's year.

Churchill vs. Grosse Pointe North — It's going to be rough for Churchill.

Sorrows vs. Royal Oak St. Mary's — A close duel, but Sorrows.

Bishop Borgess vs. Nativity — A vote for Borgess.

St. Agatha vs. Ypsilanti St. John — Flip a coin: St. John.

A COACHING COMBINATION of 13 years was broken up when Hank 'Scotty' Cannon (left) turned in his resignation as assistant track coach at Livonia Bentley High. He and Coach Ron Fedraw have been buddies ever since their high school and college days. Scotty has decided to devote his time to teaching but he'll be around to handle statistics at the Bentley basketball games, lend a hand at football contests and aid at track even though no longer an assistant. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

'Scotty' Cannon Quits Bentley Track Duties

After 13 years on the coaching staff at Bentley High, Hank Cannon has decided to take things a little easier.

He's bowing out of his affiliation with sports at Bentley and henceforth will serve full-time as a political science teacher.

"I hate to make the move away from sports," said Cannon, "but I feel the load has just been too much -- teaching during the day and then coaching in the late afternoon and frequently on into the evening."

In his coaching career at Bentley, he was head coach in cross country for five years and assistant in track for 11 seasons.

* * *

HIS HARRIERS won two Suburban Six League titles, finished second twice and third once. They also were fifth in the state in 1962.

In track, he helped guide Bentley to five league crowns, plus three seconds and a pair of thirds.

Looking back, he hails Paul Rieker, who ran a 4:25 mile for Bentley and Dave Temple, who a decade ago was clocked in 1:58 in the half and was a cross country standout, as two of the top men he has coached.

JIM MANDICH (left) recently elected 1969 football captain at the University of Michigan, and Mike Hankwitz show they're ready for the season opener against Vanderbilt in two weeks. The two worked in Plymouth during the summer for an area beer distributor. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

Churchill Makes Varsity Debut Saturday

It's a rare position to be in for any coach--nobody lost from the previous year.

That's the happy story Coach Ken Kaestner is enjoying at Livonia Churchill High in football this year.

The reason: Churchill fielded only 10th graders last season in its initial year of operation.

Now Churchill is up to the 11th grade. It'll be another year before the school boasts any seniors.

Notwithstanding the lack of seniors the team's opponents all will be schools with 12th graders performing.

"Unquestionably this will make things rough for us," says Kaestner. "We'll be giving away a great deal of experience.

"But as long as we have kids on our team like Scott Farquhar, I think we'll give our foes plenty of trouble."

* * *

FARQUHAR IS a young man who defies the odds. He stands only 5-4 and weighs just 120 pounds.

Nonetheless, Scott is as tough as they come. Says his coach:

"He's a quarterback on offense and left half on defense. He's a pepper pot who adds quite a lot of enthusiasm and hustle to our team.

"You just don't find players with more desire than Scott has. He'll be in there a lot for us...on our specialty teams... and during other phases of action."

Kaestner is convinced that his boys "will catch some of our foes" this season.

"One thing I'm sure of. We'll get better with each game."

* * *

IT DOESN'T disturb Kaestner that Churchill will face an all-varsity schedule after tackling mostly reserve teams last year.

"I'd rather we play 'em big and tough. It'll mean a lot more to us."

There are 36 juniors and an equal number of sophomores on the Churchill team.

Leading the backfield will be Evan Smith, the top runner a year ago, and quarterback Jerry Olsace, who's a better runner than a passer...but, says Kaestner, "he'll throw as well as most high school quarterbacks."

John Cerretanni is at fullback while Gary Warner likely will round out the starting backfield.

* * *

JACK HACHIGAN, a fullback and halfback, is expected to see considerable service during the season.

Up front, Gary Leirstein and Joe Watson top the ends. At tackle Mickey Gooding and Don Olsen stand out. Mike Webby and Tom Gering top the guards with Tom Isaac in line as the No. 1 center.

Three defensive stars, according to Kaestner, are Keith Armstrong, a back; Dave Hall, a tackle, and Mark Bellanager, a guard.

Churchill starts its schedule Saturday, meeting Grosse Pointe North. The following week comes Grosse Pointe South.

Lee Berar, Land Specialist

developer of Blaney Park

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