

Agatha, Sorrows Make First Starts Under New Coaches

Area Catholic Elevens Open Grid Play

Three "firsts" will mark Sunday's opening action for Observerland Catholic High School football teams.

Bishop Burgess, opening at Nativity (Jayne Field), will field its first team with a 12th grader in the lineup.

Meantime, St. Agatha unveils new coach Dick Bennane when the Townships swing into their 1969 schedule at Ypsilanti St. John.

Our Lady of Sorrows ushers

in this season hosting Royal Oak St. Mary when Bob Kelley starts his first year as coach.

All three games are scheduled in the afternoon.

COACH PAT UETZ can't complain when it comes to man-

power. He has everybody back from last year's team which turned in an impressive 5-2-1 record in the First Division-West League despite the fact Burgess was the only team with-

out a senior on the field.

While Nativity is not in the same division with Burgess, under the new Catholic League rules, the game will figure in the overall drive for honors.

"We should have a good team again," says Uetz, "providing we can stay away from injuries."

The coach is happiest when he talks about his defensive line which includes co-captain Bob Sawicki at middle guard,

with Andy Valenti and Ray Bennett at the tackles and Kevin Downey and Jerry Czarny at the ends.

VALENTI AND Bennett scale 225 and 220 pounds, respectively, while Downey is a transfer student from Silesian High.

Lou Hersey, who rates as college timber, is the No. 1 linebacker for Burgess.

Offensively, quarterback Jim

Pomeranski will lead the team again. He was the top rusher a year ago with a 4.2-yard average and also clicked on 50 per cent of his passes.

Dan Burke, Carl Bernhardt and Frank Rosinski round out the first-string backfield with Rich Stubb likely to see considerable action although he suffered a fractured ankle last fall—an injury, which still slows him down.

BENNANE REPLACES Jerry Sievert as St. Agatha coach. He's optimistic over St. Agatha's chances, but he's quick to admit that "there still isn't just how good the boys will be."

He's convinced St. Agatha will do better than a year ago. Players like tailback Mike Murphy and Bill Garton, rated the best linemen in the Southwest Division last year, help to encourage Bennane. Garton scales 200 pounds.

He'll lead the defensive unit which will average around 200 pounds—mighty for a second-division school. Dave Church, George Barbour and Pat O'Hara are three other gladiators operating up front.

Dave Urban at tight end is another stalwart. He stands 6-3, weighs 210. He's a fine pass receiver.

GRADUATION COST Sorrows

10 players, but Coach Kelley still has 14 men returning to challenge in the Northwest Division.

Big Barry Walsh, 225-pounds, at tackle; Don Valenti at guard; flanker Ross Patton, quarterback, Dan McGrath and end Mike Hart fortify the Sorrows' chances.

Hart, 6-3, shapes up as McGrath's favorite receiver this season.



NORTH FARMINGTON'S Craig Wycinsky, a regular and letter winner from last fall rates high in the plans of Coach Duffy Daugherty of Michigan State. Craig is one of the team's top defensive linemen. (Observer photo)

Kickoff Time Nears For Colleges, Pros

R's kickoff time for the college and professional football teams -- in the games that count.

A scattering of college contests including Central Michigan vs. Western Michigan, kicked off the 1969 season Saturday.

Comes Sunday, the American Football League takes off on

its title chase, and by next weekend all of the major colleges will be in action along with the National Football League starting its 50th season.

The college ratings appear to have a familiar look. Woody Hayes and Ohio State are back at the top of the ratings. Then comes Southern California (even without O.J.

Simpson), Penn State, Texas, Georgia, Houston, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.

MICHIGAN STATE is given a good chance to challenge Ohio State in the Big Ten while Michigan, in its debut under coach Bo Schembechler, figures to finish somewhere around the

middle of the standings. The Wolverines host Vanderbilt as Michigan State enters Washington in opens next Saturday.

Michigan State looms as a heavy favorite over Washington, by anywhere from two to three touchdowns. Michigan shapes up as a 10-point pick over Vanderbilt.

The big game in the American Football League's debut action Sunday matches defending champion New York against Buffalo.

This will mean Joe Namath vs. O.J. Simpson.

NEW YORK shouldn't have much trouble in the game to be televised on Channel 4 in the

Detroit area. In other AFL openings, Denver is picked over Boston, Oakland over Houston, Kansas City over San Diego and Cincinnati over Miami.

The Detroit Lions and other NFL teams get going a week from this Sunday (Sept. 21). The Lions start at Pittsburgh with the visitors already established as a touchdown favorite.

ELSEWHERE in the NFL, Green Bay will get the nod over Chicago, Baltimore over Los Angeles, San Francisco over Atlanta, Washington over New Orleans, Dallas over St. Louis, Minnesota over New York and Cleveland over Philadelphia.

The Lions, who turned in their most impressive pre-season showing in several years, loom as the big underdog in the NFL's Central Division.

They are rated No. 2 behind defending champion Minnesota.

Here's the Lion's schedule: Sept. 21 -- at Pittsburgh, Sept. 28 -- New York, Oct. 5 -- at Cleveland, Oct. 12 -- Green Bay, Oct. 19 -- Chicago, Oct. 26 -- at Minnesota, Nov. 2 -- at San Francisco, Nov. 9 -- Atlanta, Nov. 16 -- St. Louis, Nov. 23 -- at Green Bay, Nov. 27 -- Minnesota, Dec. 7 -- at Baltimore, Dec. 14 -- Los Angeles, Dec. 21 -- at Chicago.



HOPES For a winning season at Livonia Franklin High rest with this quartet. It includes Coach George Lovich and three co-captains (from left) Dan Thorpe, Wayne Florida and Jeff Kind. (Observer photo)

Tigers To Pay Tribute To Greatest Players

Living members of the Greatest Tiger Team, selected by the fans in connection with Baseball's Centennial celebration will be saluted at Tiger Stadium Sunday, Sept. 21.

John E. Fetzer, owner-president of the Tigers, has invited the group of seven to be his guests at the Tiger-Red Sox game that day -- to receive the plaques of the crowd in a pre-game ceremony and to receive gifts as tokens of appreciation of their contributions to Tiger history.

Fetzer will personally congratulate the Greatest Players after Ernie Harwell, Tiger play-by-play broadcaster, details their achievements and honors.

THOSE TO BE SALUTED in person are Charley Gehringer, Hank Greenberg, Al Kaline, George Kell, Denny McLain, Hal Bressman and Billy Rogell. Deceased members of the Greatest Tiger Team are Ty Cobb, Mickey Cochrane and Harry Hellman.

To mark the occasion fans attending the game will receive free illustrated Greatest Tiger Team folders, as souvenirs.

Feats of the Greatest Tigers are legend. Gehringer, the Mechanical

Man as the Tiger second baseman 1924-42, had a lifetime batting average of .320; was league batting champion and MVP in 1937; and was elected baseball's Greatest Living second baseman following his

Greatest Tiger selection. He was named Baseball's Greatest All-Time Left-Fielder and Coached the game's Greatest All-Time Catcher in the national voting.

Greenberg, a four-time batting champion, home run king and two-time MVP during his 1930-46 days as Tiger first baseman and outfielder, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1955.

Kell, smooth-fielding Tiger third baseman 1946-52, also was a batting champion and still holds the Tiger fielding record for third sackers.

Newhouse, who holds the Tiger southpaw record for victories and strikeouts in a season and who posted the lowest ERA mark in club history, was twice MVP during his 1939-53 days on the mound for the Tigers.

Rogell, noted for his aggressive play and dangerous bat, was the shortstop on the 1934-35 Tiger championship teams.

Both Kaline, the Tigers' all-

time home run leader, and McLain, last year's 31-game winner, still are active with the Tigers and piling up more records.

Among the three deceased Greatest Tigers, Cobb -- also the Greatest Tiger Ever -- was named Baseball's Greatest All-Time Left-Fielder and Coached the game's Greatest All-Time Catcher in the national voting.

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N. Farmington Tackle Has Big Role At MSU

EAST LANSING "I think athletics is the big equalizer," says Michigan State's senior offensive tackle Craig Wycinsky.

"It doesn't matter who a man is, what he has or anything else when he gets out on the field. The only thing that matters then is what he has within him."

Craig's most admired athlete is Jerry West, the Spartans' All-America offensive tackle in 1965.

"Jerry wasn't afraid of any-

body," Craig says. "They might beat him for a while, but not for long. And once he started beating them, he'd just keep it up."

Craig was a winner in high school at North Farmington, where he led his team to a two-year record of 16-1-1 and earned himself All-Conference honors as a fullback and defensive end.

AFTER HIS SENIOR season Craig was recruited by Michigan

and Indiana as well as by State. "Danny Bosture, (former Spartans' assistant head coach at Eastern Michigan) called me when the team got back from the Rose Bowl," Craig recalls. "I visited the campus and he was really impressed with it. After that my mind was made up."

Craig is one of four former high school fullbacks starting in the Spartan offensive front line. Teamed with fellow tackle Dave VanList, guards Ron Saul and Don Baird and center Tom Board, he helps give the Spartans a mobile veteran line that must rate as one of the team's strongest areas.

The 6-3, 235-pounder is majoring in finance and plans to work in his father's business after graduation. The senior Wycinsky heads the Sky Tack and Case Co. of North and has employed Craig around the shop for several summers.

CRAIG ALSO WRESTLED in his high school days and lettered once in track. Since coming to State, however, it has been all football.

Michigan State football supplied his biggest athletic thrill that 21-17 upset over Notre Dame in 1968.

"I got lit-headed during that last goal line stand," Craig admits, "I had to sit down and cool off. Then when everybody ran out after Al (Brenner), the All-America safety stopped Harpatty, I got knocked over. It was really something."

Craig is a member of State's varsity club and of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He describes himself as a sports car enthusiast and considers a 1967 Corvette his most prized possession.

At present he has one overriding athletic ambition. "I want to play in the Rose Bowl," he admits, "but that's not exactly right. I want State to be No. 1 in the country. That includes the Rose Bowl."

These were three of the area's powers in action at the same time.

In fact, Redford Union and Farmington have ranked one-two in Observerland in cross country during the past few seasons.

They wound up one-two again this time as Redford Union's defending Suburban Six League champs came up with 26 points to 41 for Farmington's defending Inter-Lakes Conference kings. Franklin was third with 53.

VICTORY FOR Redford Union wasn't surprising. The Townships have lost only one of their top five men from last year's team which wound up among the top five in the State Class A meet.

But it was definitely a new look for Farmington.

For the first time since 1965 the Falcons ran without the Williams twins, Gary and Larry. Now at Central Michigan, the Williams made a habit of placing one-two in meet after meet.

But in Tuesday's triangular, Farmington didn't have a man in the first four.

RU's Bill Kuhn won in the excellent early season time of 10:36 for the two-mile event. Dave Kosters of Franklin was second at 10:40, a second better than Bob Lark of RU. Close behind in fourth came Stadium Sunday, Sept. 21.

John E. Fetzer, owner-president of the Tigers, has invited the group of seven to be his guests at the Tiger-Red Sox game that day -- to receive the plaques of the crowd in a pre-game ceremony and to receive gifts as tokens of appreciation of their contributions to Tiger history.

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Prep Schedule

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

FRIDAY
Glenn at Stevenson, 3:45 p.m.
Farmington at Plymouth, 8 p.m.
Thurston at Taylor, 8 p.m.
Clarenceville at Northville, 8 p.m.
North Farmington at Walled Lake, 8 p.m.
Bentley at Dearborn, 3:30 p.m.
Grosse Pointe South at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
Redford Union at Franklin, 2 p.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows at Utica St. Lawrence, 8 p.m.

HOW MASON PICKS 'EM

Sorrows vs. Royal Oak St. Mary's -- A close duel, but Sorrows.
Bishop Burgess vs. Nativity -- A vote for Burgess.
St. Agatha vs. Ypsilanti St. John -- Flip a coin: St. John.

Hurons Pick Football Co-Captains

Seniors Bob Lints and Gary Matsche have been named co-captains of the 1969 Eastern Michigan University football team. Lints, a 6-2 1/2, 234 pound defensive tackle, is considered by many to be the Hurons' best player. Matsche was best for post-season All-American honors. A former all-state football and basketball.

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