

# N. Farmington, Thurston Near Showdown

Look what's going to happen next Saturday.

The World Series begins with the American League winner between Baltimore and Minnesota facing the king between the National League's playoff rivals -- Atlanta and the New York Mets.

On the same day there's a football game of note taking place at Ohio State. The Spartans of Michigan State will be there.

Out in Ann Arbor, a couple of teams by the name of Michigan and Purdue have a date in football.

But ... much closer to home, there'll be a prep football classic on the docket when North Farmington hosts Thurston.

Here's the battle which figures to decide the Northwest Suburban League championship.

NORTH FARMINGTON is rated among the state's Class A powers. Thurston isn't in the elite class, but only, perhaps, because two teams from the same league usually don't make the grade.

But this is a crack Thurston team, too, and North Farmington figures to know that it has an opponent of merit on the field when the kickoff takes place at 2 p.m.

ed running backs in Michigan will be on opposite sides. North Farmington has Mike Gow -- Thurston has Craig Mutch.

Both are destined to gain all-state recognition.

Mutch boasted more than 500 yards and eight touchdowns in Thurston's first three games. Gow wasn't too far behind.

North Farmington has one of the strongest lines in the state. Thurston hasn't done badly,

either, on defense.

IT'S EASILY "the game-of-the-week" in the Detroit area and the experts and college scouts will be there in large doses. They'll want to see the individual duel between Gow and Mutch.

North Farmington has a more diversified attack. The Raiders go in for passing more than Thurston ... but, why should

Thurston have to worry about passing when they have Mutch and Gordon Eszes who can go bulldozing their way for big chunks of yardage every time they carry the ball.

Rival coaches Ronald Holland (North Farmington) and Bill McDonald (Thurston) have had a tough time keeping their charges from looking elsewhere than to the head-on clash next Saturday.

"The kids have realized for quite a while that this could be the biggest game they'll play all season," said Holland, who was bold enough when the season began to predict that North Farmington would enjoy one of its best seasons in the school's history.

... THERE ARE some other "biggies" on the Observerland prep schedule next weekend.

Bentley's invasion of Trenton tops the billing. A victory would put the Livonians in great shape to haul in the Suburban Six League title.

Plymouth crosses through Livonia to play at Redford Union while Farmington and Stevenson, trying to stay in the Inland Lakes Conference, meet Pontiac Northern and Walled Lake Central, respectively.

## Area Preps Trail In Run At Oakland

Observerland schools wound up well back in the fifth Oakland University Class A Invitational cross country meet.

The team honors were decided on the total times of the five best men from each school. Based on this, Notre Dame won with 52:12.5 with Royal Oak Dendro second with 52:45.

Farmington was seventh with 54:34.2, Redford Union ninth 54:41.0 and North Farmington 12th.

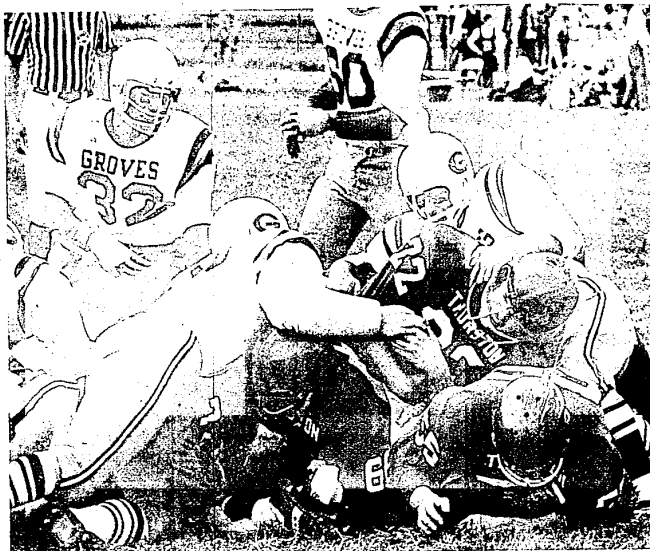
Rick Schott of Grosse Pointe North took individual honors.

## Orchard Ridge, Schoolcraft Lag In Harrier Meets

Orchard Ridge took third in Schoolcraft College fourth in a college cross country meet.

Deita won with 43 points followed by Monroe with 51. Orchard Ridge 63 and Schoolcraft 67.

Doug Derr of Schoolcraft was the individual winner 22:56. Best for Orchard Ridge was Rich O'Connell, who wound up in sixth.



HIGH SCORING CRAIG MUTCH, spectacular Thurston High back, charges into the end zone for one of his touchdowns against Groves.

Mutch is rated as one of the top backs in the area and is a big reason for Thurston's unbeaten record. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Coach, New Philosophy Makes St. Agatha Click

How do you change the thinking of a group of athletes? It takes work ... plenty of work. Just ask Mike Bennane, who is in his first year as football coach at St. Agatha High School.

St. Agatha won only twice last season.

Bennane found it necessary to instill a winning attitude. So he and his assistants went to work and worked and worked.

It has paid off. St. Agatha won two and tied one in its first three games.

"These kids now realize what we were striving for when we hit them with the necessity of changing their attitudes. We had to build up confidence."

BENNANE CHANGED the offense and defense at St. Agatha for starters. He proved to the players that they weren't going back to techniques which didn't pay off in victories for them the year before.

The offense runs out of "I-formation." It's a lot like that used at Bentley High.

The reason is obvious. Bennane assisted Glen Goode at Benedictine last year, and Goode now is the head man at Bentley.

"We throw passes out of fake runs," explained Bennane. "We split out our men. We do a lot of things. It's something you see a lot of in the Catholic League's first division, but not too much yet in our second Division."

ST. AGATHA has its work cut out in the weeks ahead, especially in games with Wayne St. Mary's and St. Frances De Sales.

They'll be big tests for Mike Murphy, who in three games has run up over 500 yards, including more than 224 by himself a week ago.

But it takes more than a

Murphy to win games.

There's Denny Blazek, another excellent runner and a stellar defensive player.

Bill Gartner, who gained All-League and All-State honors last year, ranks as one of the best prep tackles in the state.

Dave Urban a 6-3, 200-pound end, is almost a cinch to make it to college as a standout, says Bennane.

The squad isn't a big one at St. Agatha. There are only 33 out for football, but 29 of them are on the varsity as 15 others play JV.

But St. Agatha proves you don't need numbers. You need heart and desire.

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## Hard Work, With Little Rest Spells Success For Harriers

It was a Sunday, ... and most high school students were home. Some probably were hitting the books, most likely were just taking it easy, ... maybe watching one of the many football games on television.

However, for the Farmington High cross country team, there was no rest.

For other Observerland harriers, it was the same way. Work.

"You can't enjoy many vacations from work, if you're going to run cross country," Coach Jerry Young of Farmington was saying.

"This has to be the most strenuous training a schoolboy goes through ... far tougher than football or basketball, or even track."

And Young knows about track. He coaches the Falcon track and field team in the spring.

From 10 Mile it was east again ... this time to Old Grand River Ave. Then it was on to the high school.

Young ran with his charges. He wasn't going to let the boys pop back.

"Hey, coach, you're lazy."

RUNNING OVER roads is nothing new for cross country athletes. It happens all the time.

Farmington, for example, uses Eight, Nine and 10 Mile Roads regularly. Or you'll find the Falcons on Orchard Lake Road.

Often, the team goes to City Park in Farmington or to Cass Denton Park to run the hills. There are times when they run in golf courses and duck wild swans.

"After all," says Young, "many of the meets are run over hilly courses."

YOUNG LIKES tough competition ... the tougher the better. He has the Falcons enter every major meet in the area ... or at least as many as possible.

All of which keeps his charges busy. By the time each week ends they have put in 50-75 miles of running. And that averages out from seven to 10 miles a day.

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## Prep Schedule

- N. Farmington 52, Glenn 21
- Southgate 38, Garden City West 8
- Thurston 26, Groves 0
- Franklin 26, Oak Park 8
- Annapolis 22, Churchill 14
- Cabrini 26, Bishop Borgess 0
- Garden City East 18, Riverview 7
- W. Bloomfield 32, Clarenceville 28
- Stevenson 30, Waterford 0
- Redford Union 20, Belleville 14
- Farmington 5, Walled Lake Central 6
- Bentley 18, Plymouth 8
- St. Agatha 28, Ann Arbor St. Thomas 7
- Sorrows 16, Our Lady of Lakes 6.

## Tigers Tell Florida Plans

For the ninth straight year the Tigers will field a team in the Florida Instructional League, it was announced today by Don Lund, director of player development.

A 24-man squad will be drawn from the six clubs in the Tiger farm system and will be based in Dadeville, Fla., where it has been for the past six years.

The team of 10 pitchers, six infielders, six outfielders, and two catchers will report to Grant Field in Dadeville Sept. 20 for a week of workouts prior to the Sept. 27 opening. The 45-game schedule will close Nov. 18.

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