

# Observing Sports

By George Maskin

## Do Raiders Deserve A Higher Rating?

How good was North Farmington High's football team going into Saturday's battle of the undefeated with Thurston?

Depending on which of Michigan's four major ranking systems you considered the best, the Raiders rated anywhere from No. 3 among all of Michigan's Class A teams down to No. 19.

Naturally, the North Farmington supporters would have to "eat up" the Associated Press selections, because the AP poll, compiled by a survey of sports writers from all around Michigan, placed the Raiders third behind Bay City Central and Flint Northwestern.

Based on the AP's point system, North Farmington had 36 points compared to 49 for Bay City Central and Flint Northwestern's 44.

Hal Schram, the ol' Swami of the Free Press, also thought a great deal of the Raiders. He had them in fifth slot behind Bay City Central, Royal Oak Kimball, Warren Fitzgerald, and Midland.

Hal has his own rating system. He goes by what he sees, he thinks, he reads and what he hears. He uses the opinions of members of the Free Press Prep Board and also discusses matters with sports writers around the state.

IF YOU READ The Detroit News or saw the United Press-International ratings this past week, well, North Farmington just wasn't among the elite.

The Raiders were no place in the Top Ten in either poll. The News had North Farmington in its second grouping, while the UPI found a place for North Farmington at No. 19. Nobody rated Bentley or Thurston, which also were unbeaten after four games.

"It's the schedule which hurts North Farmington," said one gent who is connected with the News' ratings. "We don't feel they play any of the stronger teams."

Schram, on the other hand, reported that his information was that "North Farmington can hold its own against almost anybody in the state."

All of which recalls the days when we used to have a part in ratings at the ol' Times and the night when the season ended one year and we were wondering what to do about deciding on who should be the state's Class B champion.

Our character of a friend, Morris Moorawick, was around—as he usually was—and he had a few comments on the subject.

The Times had a beautiful trophy to award to the winning school and Morrie had one thought and we had another. Guess who won. We just decided that Manistee would be a nice place to visit.

What we're trying to say is that nobody can see all the football teams he may rank. You might see several, like one can in Observerland.

BUT, RATINGS STILL are pretty much of a guess, except when it comes to a team like Ohio State in football this fall. Everybody agrees the Buckeyes are the best around. Yet, somebody may come along and knock them off.

In serving on a rating panel, or compiling your own, you attempt to take into consideration

how well a team has done—but you can't "fall" for its running big scores.

A 10-0 victory over a good team certainly means more than a 50-0 scalping of a weak sister.

In Michigan prep circles, one always tends to consider the Saginaw Valley League, which includes Bay City and Flint schools, the best around. The Detroit City League also rates highly. So does the Border Cities League.

However, such leagues as the Suburban Six and the Northwest Suburban have gained more stature every year and Interlakes Conference schools haven't done badly either.

To say whose rating system is the best . . . is something we care not to get involved in.

Each has its strong points . . . and its weak ones. If they put your team up high . . . well, that's the one for you.

## N. Farmington, Franklin To Run For Loop Title

It'll be showdown time Thursday when Franklin and North Farmington engage in a cross country meet which figures to decide the Northwest Suburban League title.



SOPHOMORE LINEBACKER Tom Elias of Plymouth was picked as Western Michigan University's "back of the week" for his performance during a 21-10 loss at Bowling Green. The 5-10, 194-pounder led all Bronco tacklers with 13 stops, one of which resulted in a fumble. He made 10 tackles in the Pacific U. contest and then made nine the following week against Mid-American Conference rival, Miami.

## Stevenson Edges Out Falcons

The winning ways of Farmington High in Interlakes Conference cross country action ended Thursday when Stevenson thumped the Falcons, 27-28, in a thrilling meet.

As a result, Farmington, Stevenson and Pontiac North are dedicated for the league lead with 4-1 records. Pontiac Northern beat Thurston earlier while Farmington turned the tables on Pontiac Northern.

Doug Kurtis took individual honors for Stevenson against Farmington, hitting the wire in 10:15 to beat out Kim Hildebrand and John Donohoe, who ran second and third, respectively, from Farmington.

fourth straight league victory by trimming Thurston, 22-39. Jim Kosteva stepped off a fine time of 10:09 to lead Franklin to victory. He beat Thurston's Russ Meredith by eight seconds. John Dave of Franklin was third with Dave Bosler of Thurston fourth and Dave Bucman of Franklin fifth.

Then came Curt Stelshauer (F), Bob Yuhaz (F), Clint Van-tugle (F), Jim Cutright (F) and Bob Touget of Thurston.

NORTH FARMINGTON chalked up its fourth league victory without a setback and its sixth in seven meets overall by trouncing Oak Park, 21-40.

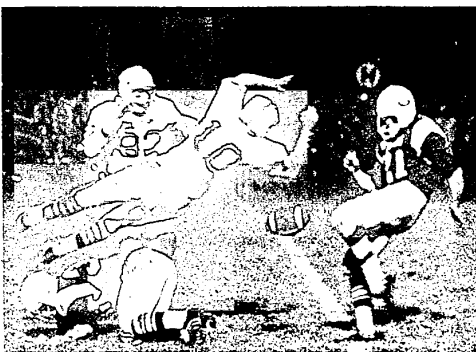
Stu Otto of the Raiders beat out teammate Craig Due for first place honors. Otto was clocked in 10:39, Due in 10:40. Oak Park took the next two spots, but North Farmington grabbed off the next five slots with Gary Stokes, Carl Hebel, Dave Nauman, Stan Kouris and Steve Winterbottom finishing in the order listed.

## Franklin Downs Groves Runners

Bob Reason of Groves captured individual honors with a fine time of 10:01, but Franklin High still won team honors, 20-42, in a Northwest Suburban League cross country meet.

After Reason, the next six finishers were all from Franklin—Jim Kosteva, John Dave, Mickey Belbarb, Arthur Zwick, Dave Buckman and Curt Stelshauer.

The team title went to Pontiac Northern with 93 points. Farmington took second with 106,



TYPICAL ACTION at a North Farmington game is shown here where Bob Hughes (10) drives in on Punter Jack Lamb, of Birmingham Groves, in an attempt to block the kick. Lamb managed to get the ball away in some miraculous fashion. Punters have been pushed all season by the hard charging Raider forward wall. (Photo by Warren Bopp)

## Farmington Places 2nd In RU Harrier Meet

Meet by meet Doug Kurtis of Stevenson keeps proving he's the No. 1 high school cross country performer in Observerland.

Kurtis showed the way Tuesday in the annual Redford Union Invitational, which attracted a standstill field from 19 schools.

He beat out Bob May of Dearborn, who took second in the individual competition.

The team title went to Pontiac Northern with 93 points. Farmington took second with 106,

with Redford Union 127, Hazel Park 146 and Garden City West 162, rounding out the first five.

Then came Stevenson 183, Trenton 214, North Farmington 216, Milford 247, Franklin 251, Bentley 287, Dearborn 302, Edsel Ford 316, Belleville 324, Thurston 358, Churchill 365, Garden City East 367, Plymouth 397, and Wyandotte 556.

MIKE McGlothlin ran sixth, John Donohoe ninth, Jim Hilde-

brand 15th, Nick Burton 35th, and Dave Harzant 41st to enable Farmington to place second in the meet, annually one of the highlights in Michigan cross country circles.

Third, among the individuals in the meet, was Bill Pickens of Pontiac Northern.

Bill Kuhn, of Redford Union, was fourth, Jim Kosteva of Franklin fifth, Mike Clovish of Farmington sixth, Dick Murch-

ish of Edsel Ford seventh, Bill Kurtis of Churchill eighth,



It's official now. The women bowlers who compete throughout Observerland during the season rank with the best in the country. And as a group, they are superior to those of other sections.

These honors were confirmed during the past week when the Women's International Bowling Congress released its scoring rankings for the new season and the national averages for last season.

The WIBC release revealed that only nine women had averaged more than 300 during the 1968-69 season and that two of them were from Michigan.

Mildred Martorella, of

Rochester, N.Y., topped the average lists with 218 for 60 games. It was the first time in three years that she failed to set a record.

But right behind her, in second place, was Elvira Toepfer, Detroit's bowling queen and a favorite in Observerland, with a 205 average. And Michigan gained further honors when Miss Dykstra, of Grand Rapids, landed third with 204.

Michigan and New York were the only states to place more than one person in the top 10 rankings.

The area women haven't stopped this season either.

On opening night, Ann Setlock, instructor at Garden Lanes, rolled a 709 series that ranks as the fifth highest series rolled by a woman this season. Top place is held by Janis Riney, of Daly City, Calif., who posted a 774. Shirley Brown, of Ohio, Calif., with 740; Gerry Buchroeder, of Berkeley, Mo., with 727, and Janis Lambert, of Curtice, Ohio, with 716 hold the next three places ahead of Ann.

MISS SETLOCK's team, which bowls under the banner of Thunderbird Inn, during the last half of the season also ranks high in team scoring. Two weeks ago it posted a 2960 series, the second count above the magic 3200 this season, and the count is good second place nationally.

The standings released by the WIBC list the Barton Pontiac team, of St. Louis, Mo., in top place with a 2992 count.

REV. HALDON FERRIS, assistant pastor at St. Matthew



ANN SETLOCK

United Methodist Church in Livonia, will remember last Monday night for a long time. Bowling in the St. Matthew Mixed League at Merritt-Bowl where he is averaging under 150 he somehow found the range and much to his surprise as well as the other members of the league, he fashioned a 279 game.

He opened with a spare, then had nine strikes in a row before the charm wore off.

The big game, which is the high mark of his career, helped him to 592 series.

TWO OTHER surprising events happened at Merritt-Bowl during the week. Earl Seman, of the Board of Education League, converted the almost impossible 7-10 split and Arnie Wagner, of the Golden Eagle Sportsman Circuit, made the 8-10.

MERV TUCKER with a 267 and Adam Kramer with 694 captured top honors in the Garden Lanes Classic.

## RU Tops Bentley Runners

The power of the Suburban Six League . . . that's Redford Union in cross country. The Townshippers continued their winning ways Thursday with a 15-44 victory over Bentley.

Bill Kuhn raced to a course record at Lola Valley Park when he was timed in 10:15 to break the mark of 10:18 set by Jack Shepard in 1965.

Chris Morden of Bentley took second before six RU men in a row hit the wire. They were Steve Halton, Dennis Kenney, Bob Lark, Mike Stolley, Bill Ray and Craig LeRoux.

Mike McGille of Bentley was ninth, followed by three team-mates, John Boegler, Gary Spuler and George Munday.

Newly-eligible freshmen comprise half of Michigan State's 22-man cross country roster for 1969.

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## Turf Tips, Quips By Doc Minard

There's a strong indication that Windsor Raceway will feel the pinch if it has to go against competition from the Detroit area during the winter months.

This was brought out when the Canadian oval across the river opened Monday with a free gate against competition from Hazel Park Raceway, which concluded the state's most successful harness racing campaign Tuesday night.

All of which meant that Windsor was bucking Hazel Park for the American dollars for two nights.

The Windsor opener attracted a crowd of almost 4,000, according to the turnstile count released by track officials, with

a mutual handle of barely \$300,000. That's a per capita of less than \$40.

On that same night Hazel Park reported an attendance of 4,300 with a handle of \$400,000 . . . almost \$100 per capita. And that's a sure sign that the American dollars weren't at Windsor, and that the glass-enclosed plant had quite a few spectators from Canada who were busy eating peanuts and popcorn and sipping less about the mutual window.

On Hazel Park's closing night the wagering was over the \$400,000 mark again while Windsor dropped off to less than \$200,000.

In another season with every-

thing pointing to winter dates in the Detroit area, one wonders what the effect will be on Windsor.

At the same time it will be interesting to see what happens during the month of December this year when Jackson brings the pacers and trotters to Northville for a winter campaign. It will be head-on against Windsor for the entire meeting.

ALTHOUGH MANY stables already have started to move southward for racing in Kentucky followed by New Orleans and Miami, the DRC continues on its way towards its best meeting in history.

The \$2 million plus handle on Michigan Mile day last Saturday gave the track a big nudge in handle and attendance. At the moment, wagering is up 5.6 per cent over 1968, and it could go even higher in the remaining weeks.

## Prep Schedule

**SUNDAY**

Bishop Borgess at Pontiac Catholic, 2:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

Lathrup at Stevenson, 3:45 p.m.

Allen Park at Plymouth, 8 p.m.

Redford Union at Bentley, 7:30 p.m.

Clarenceville at Milford, 8 p.m.

Farmington at Waterford, 8 p.m.

North Farmington at Oak Park, 4 p.m.

Waterford Mott at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

Franklin at Thurston, 2 p.m.

Bishop Borgess at Sacred Heart, Dearborn, 2:30 p.m.

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