

observing sports

ODDS AND ENDS:

And what do you make of the Redford Union High football story and the coaching job Bob Atkins has turned in?

Remember a few weeks back when RU was 0-3 and Atkins was down in the dumps complaining a little that football interest at the school was "down" a little...how some fine players hadn't turned out this fall...how he had been forced to work with a small squad of under 30 men?

There were some who said maybe Atkins should forget about football...stick to baseball...they said, because it's been in baseball that Atkins has enjoyed the greatest success of any coach in these parts.

But Atkins rallied his football forces. He pulled them out of the woods, as one of his rival coaches declared.

And this past weekend the headlines told the wonderful story of how Redford Union had topped Trenton and gained a share of the Suburban Six League crown.

Little wonder, we keep saying that as long as one keeps up his enthusiasm in sports, he always has a chance...certainly Redford Union has proved it...so has Garden City East.

And, Bob Atkins...well, who else should be crowned as the "coach-of-the-year" in these parts?

TALKING ABOUT nice things, it was a gala weekend for those of us who live in West Bloomfield.

Our most celebrated resident, Miss America came home to visit!

Long live, Pam!

AND, WOULDN'T YOU know it. One of our rival papers has hired Bobby Falls to write about the sports doings of North Farmington High.

Bobby is getting some expert help to combat the brilliant articles appearing in The Observer.

You see, Bobby's dad knows a few things about newspapering, too. He's sports Editor Joe Falls of the Free Press.

We're delighted, though, that Bobby is keeping himself involved in sports by pounding a typewriter.

He's been out for football and track and suffered a series of knee injuries. If he can't play...why not write! This also is fun.

At least, sometimes!

IT'S CERTAINLY BEEN quite a football year around these parts.

In almost any direction you look, you have to be proud of what's happened.

Look at the year they've enjoyed in Redford Township: Thurston, Redford Union and St. Agatha all up there.

It's been a fine year in Livonia with Stevenson and Champ and Bentley and Franklin right behind.

Garden City East has come up with a kingpin and except for two slips, North Farmington would have been flying a flag, too.

So, who can knock football around here?

HOW'S THIS for an all-area backfield: Mike Gow of North Farmington, Craig Mutch of Thurston and Mike Murphy of St. Agatha to go with one of the following trio at quarterback-Gary Bevington of Redford Union, Steve White of North Farmington or Rusty Gregg of Stevenson?

WITH FOOTBALL fading out, it's just about time for basketball coaches to jump into operations along with wrestlers and swimmers.

Churchill Never Quits But Still Minus Triumph

Only Willow Run remains on the schedule before Churchill High closes its first season of football against all variety rivals.

So far, the record for the Livonians hasn't been anything one would write home about. Churchill hasn't won in seven games.

But, in the opinion of Coach Ken Kaestner, Churchill has played much better than a team with an 0-7 mark.

"Take our game with River Rouge (Churchill) lost it, 22-0."

Sports Time

Michigan State assistant football Coach Sherman Lewis has two of the longest rushing plays in Spartan grid history credited to him. He scampered 87 yards for a score against Northwestern and 85 yards for a TD against Notre Dame, both in 1965.

Michigan State football games at Michigan have drawn eight of the 10 largest crowds since official national attendance records have been maintained. Top is the 103,234 total that saw the 1959 game.

Michigan State senior line-backer Don Law of Brownsville, Pa., intercepted a pass against Washington and ran 70 yards for a game-breaking score. It was the fifth-longest interception return in Spartan books.

Eight members of Michigan State's 1969 soccer team call Kingston, Jamaica, their home, and six of the Spartans hail from St. Louis, Mo.

Friday, we did an excellent job on defense," said Kaestner. "They turned two of our fumbles into touchdowns and we kept them well down in rushing -- just 149 yards."

HOWEVER, the Churchill offense failed to click. Just 34 yards was all the Livonians could produce all evening.

Jerry Olajac accounted for 20 of those.

On defense, Evan Smith sparked with two intercepted passes and Joe Watson one. Mickey Gooding and Rod Kryzicki gave Churchill formidable end play on defense while Jack Fischigan and Brian Paul again turned in topflight work when Rouge had the ball.

we're down to the nitty gritty!

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CHEVROLET

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Football reigns supreme at St. Agatha High School this week.

It's understandable if the student body would rather talk about the Agatha gridlers...and the teachers are doing the same, too.

After all, St. Agatha is the champ...the champion of the Catholic League's Southwest Division and now goes forth against St. Clements St. Mary's Sunday at Redford Union High's field at 2:30 p.m. in the semi-

finals of the Second-Division playoffs.

St. Agatha climaxed its title drive in convincing fashion by rallying to beat St. Francis de Sales, 36-16, in a showdown with all the chips at stake.

THE TITANS had identical records of five wins and one tie when the game started. This was T...and when St. Francis de Sales scored in the first period to take up 1-0 lead it might have taken the steam out of the St. Agatha team.

But it didn't.

Back roared St. Agatha, led by their brilliant back, Mike Murphy.

Murphy, the No. 1 ground galley in the Detroit-area prep ranks this season, had another brilliant day.

All he did was score three touchdowns and run for two conversions to account for 20 points himself.

He also chalked up 204 yards

In 30 carries to boost his season's total to 1,343 and now there's a good chance Murphy will hit the 1,500-yard mark before he winds up his final prep season.

IT WAS Murphy who ran six yards and then for the extra point to tie the game at 6-6 at halftime.

It was Bob Blackmore from the 17 and Murphy from the 21 in the third period to put St. Agatha in the lead for keeps.

In the final period it was Murphy on a 16-yard touchdown dash, then a deSales tally...then a 15-yard run by Denny Blazok to see it all up for St. Agatha.

Thus, for the first time since 1965, a title flies over St. Agatha.

And a great deal of credit, of course, must go to Coach Mike Bennane, who turned St. Agatha into a champion in his first season at the school.

EN BEATING deSales, St. Agatha rolled up 425 yards.

Blackmore personally carried for 77 yards in eight carries, while Charles Schrock passed to Dave Urban three times for 70 yards.

The defense again sparkled, coming up with three interceptions -- one each by Jim Krupansky, Blazok and Tim Flam-

bon.

Agatha Rally Sinks Francis, 36-16

What's Doing In Observerland Football

Schedule

FRIDAY

Franklin at Bentley, 7:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Walled Lake Central, 8 p.m.
Garden City East at Oak Park, 8:30 p.m.
Melvindale at Garden City West, 8 p.m.
Taylor Center at Glenn, 8:30 p.m.
Clarenceville at Brighton, 8 p.m.
Farmington at Southfield, 8 p.m.
Willow Run at Churchill, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Stevenson at North Farmington, 2 p.m.
Redford Union at Thurston, 2 p.m.

SUNDAY

St. Agatha vs. Mt. Clemens St. Mary's, Redford Union, 2:30 p.m.

Bishop Borgess at U-D High, 2 p.m.
Sorrors vs. St. Ladislaus, Farmington High, 2:30 p.m.

Maskin's Choices

FRANKLIN-BENTLEY: The form sheet means nothing in games like this. But we'll flip a coin. Bentley.

PLYMOUTH-WALLED LAKE: The Rocks to finish in joyous fashion.

GARDEN CITY EAST-OAK PARK: East rolls along.

MELVINDALE-GARDEN CITY WEST: Sorry, but there's no way West can throttle unbeaten-untied Melvindale.

TAYLOR CENTER-GLENN: If Glenn plays like it did against Thurston, it'll win this one in an upset.

FARMINGTON-SOUTHFIELD: Southfield by two touchdowns.

CLARENCEVILLE-BRIGHTON: The Trojans to bounce back from losing last week.

WILLOW RUN-CHURCHILL: Not Churchill's Stevenson-NORTH FARMINGTON.

Here's another "flip" job, but we'll slide along with North Farmington by two points.

REDFORD UNION-THURSTON: Saving the best for the last. What a natural. It's RU, because Thurston has too many injuries.

Weekend Scores

Thurston 20, Glenn 14
Garden City West 34, Crestwood 0
Bentley 28, Allen Park 12
River Rouge 22, Churchill 0
Garden City East 14, Lutheran West 6
Redford Union 22, Trenton 6
Anderson 36, Clarenceville 22
Plymouth 20, Belleville 12
Franklin 14, North Farmington 8
Stevenson 16, Farmington 12
Aquinas 20, Bishop Borgess 6
St. Agatha 36, St. Francis de Sales 16
Sorrors 62, St. Rita 0.

Stevenson Star Wins Regional Title In Cross Country Meet

Something unusual will happen Saturday in the state high school cross country championships at Ypsilanti.

The Kurtis brothers from Livonia will be running...but in different classes and for different schools.

Doug, representing Stevenson, will compete in Class A, and younger brother Dennis will represent Churchill in Class B.

The opening of Churchill last fall resulted in the two brothers being split...Doug was permitted to finish his prep career at Stevenson where he has emerged as the Observer-Examiner's top runner.

Doug was the individual winner in the regional at Cass.

Stevenson 221, Franklin 230, Bentley 283, Plymouth 356, Garden City East 358, Glenn 425 and Thurston 461.

Grosse Ile won the Class B title with 43, with Churchill seventh with 197 points and Clarenceville 12th with 230 points.

DENNIS KURTIS ran eighth in his class to qualify for the state meet.

Farmington High tied with Royal Oak Kimball, each with 105 points, behind champion Royal Oak Dondoro with 39 points to qualify at the Royal Oak regional.

Mike McGlothlin, Kim Hildebrandt, John Donahoe, Mike Shelly and Dave Harsant will

form the Farmington entry in the state meet.

Only Gary Stokes from North Farmington, which totaled 154 points, qualified for the state meet.

Ann Arbor Huron took the "A" team title collected by Redford Union with 78 and Ann Arbor Pioneer with 11.

The three teams qualify intact for the meet along with Kurtis, Ruby, Anderson, Steve Hutton of Redford Union, Chris Morden of Bentley, Jim Kosteva of Franklin, and three other RU runners: Dennis Keeney, Bob Lark and Mike Stokley.

Redford of Detroit was fourth with 123 points and was followed by Garden City West 146.

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BY GEORGE E. BEALS

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