

# St. Agatha Battles St. James For Title

"They're a great team...but so are we..."

Coach Mike Bennane of St. Agatha was talking on the eve of the St. Agatha High football team against Ferndale St. James at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, at Harper Notre Dame Field.

At stake will be the Second District championship in the Catholic League.

St. James will be shooting for its fifth title in eight years. This is a team dedicated to win again for the late John Slada, the St. James' coach for many years who was stricken with a heart attack and died earlier this season at a game.

St. Agatha never before has won an overall league flag outright.

"SURE WE KNOW that the seniors are voting against us," said Bennane.

"But keep in mind, that when two great teams meet anything can happen. Maybe just a little luck here or there will turn the trick."

"We're going over there to play, and we'll make sure that St. James knows it's been in a football game."

St. James is among the state's highly rated Class C teams. It has won eight straight without a loss this season. One

of the victories came over Our Lady of Sorrows of Farmington in a showdown for the Northwest Division crown.

St. Agatha has a record of seven victories against one tie. The team played a standstill in its opener and since has rebounded to win seven in a row.

An eighth straight triumph means the title, too.

Throughout the season, the big news at St. Agatha has been halfback Mike Murphy, who has rolled up 1,483 yards and 16 touchdowns to rank among the best backs in the state.

But there is more to the St.

Agatha team. Much more, as coach Bennane points out in the following position-by-position rundown.

**ENDS**  
DAVE URBAN--6-3, 200 pounds: Has fine hands and is a good receiver when St. Agatha has to throw. Caught eight out of 12 passes directed his way, one for a TD. Stellar on defense. Nobody dares run his way.

MIKE SWENEY--6-4, 170: Offensive end and safety on defense, where he turned in a tremendous job. One of the fastest prep riders around. He's the same young man who was third in the state Class

C hurdles last spring.

**TACKLES**  
BILL GARTNER, 6-1, 210: Rated one of the best linemen around. Super blocker. Great on defense. "A stalwart," says Bennane.

DAVE CHURCHES, 6-1, 225: Real tough on defense, quick on offense. Very strong.

**GUARDS**  
JERRY SCHROCK, 5-11, 170: As good as they come at pulling out and knocking down would-be tacklers; voted all-league as a linemarker on defense.

TOM WALSH, 6-0, 195: Very good on trap up the middle. Plays some defensive end, too.

**CENTER**  
JOHN GILLIS, 6-2, 190: Came along very well in the latter stages of the season. Just goes on offense because he has overcome two bad knees to perform as much as he has on the gridiron.

**QUARTERBACK**  
CHARLEY SCHROCK, 6-0, 165: Jerry's younger brother. Runs well and has good speed. Excellent at rolling out and then bracing away. Not too bad a passer. Hit on 21 out of 52, and has had only one loss intercepted all season.

**FULLBACK**  
BOB BLACKMORE, 5-10, 170: Blackmore has averaged

better than 90 yards in last five games. This is first year of playing football and has done a good job. Hard runner.

**WING BACKS**  
DENNY BLAZON, 5-11, 170, and JIM KRUPANSKI, 5-10, 155: They've alternated. Krupanski one of the best around as a defensive back. Has had 10 interceptions, including three in one game...Blazon plays end on offense...Blazon's averaged 76 yards per game running, mainly on reverses...As a natural runner, he's not as strong as Murphy, but Bennane thinks he may have more moves and sees Blazon really blossoming next year after Murphy has departed.

**HALFBACK**  
MIKE MURPHY, 6-1, 185: His statistics speak for themselves and as Bennane says of a man who has compiled 1,483 yards and 16 touchdowns: "What else is there to say about him?"

**DEFENSIVE SPECIALISTS**  
TIM FLAMBOE, 6-2, 190: He's a back who has picked off three enemy passes in the last three games.

GEORGE BARBOUR, 6-2, 230, and PAT O'MARA, 6-2, 232: Middleguards who haven't had many tries to run up the middle on them.

## observing sports

### REFLECTING ON A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON NOW HISTORY FOR ST. AGATHA'S BATTLE SUNDAY FOR THE CATHOLIC LEAGUE'S SECOND DIVISION TITLE:

Surprises there were, topped right off the bat by St. Agatha making it in to the championship battle against Ferndale St. James.

Who'd have thought back in St. Agatha that the Townshippers would be serious challengers for the top? But here they are, kingpins of their division and the finalists.

And down the road a piece, how about the surprise performance of Redford Union?

Wish we could be saying: "We picked 'em," but we didn't. Heck, game after game we selected somebody to knock off Redford Union. Granted coach Bob Atkins liked it that way, until we picked RU over Thurston...and you know how Thurston won.

How could anybody figure RU beating out Bentley or Plymouth and then upsetting Thurston to win a share of the Suburban Six League title?

Yep, you're right...there's no figuring out what's going to happen in sports.

It's the uncertainty of what's going to happen that makes the games, regardless of whether it is baseball or football or hockey or basketball or tennis or golf, so intriguing and so exciting.

WE'RE NOT SO SURE it was a surprise, the way Thurston swept unbeaten and untied through its schedule to take the Northwest Suburban League crown, but it sure was a surprise the way things went for North Farmington and Franklin in the same loop.

North Farmington went into the season a heavy favorite to take the league crown. But, you know what happened. The Raiders slipped twice. They not only didn't win the crown, they didn't finish second, either.

As for Franklin, here was truly an unsung team that coach George Lovich put together. Nobody figured Franklin would finish up there, or even close.

But when it was all over...Franklin just missed the loop crown...and then arose to beat Bentley in perhaps the most exciting game of the season in these parts.

Well, one of the most exciting.

This, too, was the year when things got off on the wrong foot for Plymouth. Ace back Bob Thornbladh suffered a foot injury as soon as practice began.

The campaign certainly might have been a lot different for the Rocks if they had Thornbladh all the way.

The changing of the guard, or coaches, at Farmington during the season provided an interesting story. Dick Tyler had to yield his reins to Uke Wiese.

IT WAS QUITE a season for a couple of prep backs, Thurston's Craig Mutch and St. Agatha's Mike Murphy.

There wasn't a week that their efforts weren't recorded in good displays in the big dailies...and justifiably so.

Murphy gained 1,483 yards...Mutch just short of 1,000. Mutch scored 18 touchdowns, Murphy 12.

IT WAS A YEAR, too, that the Free Press in its new feature hailing a "prep of the week" singled out a pair from Observerland.

First there was Bob Clayton, a guard at Plymouth, and then Craig Mutch, the back from Thurston.

If time hadn't run out and if an injury hadn't sidelined him, North Farmington's Mike Gough might have landed in the select gallery, too.

It was also a year when the college coaches flocked into Observerland on a regular weekly basis to take good looks at the talent on display in prep football games.

The best indications are that at least a dozen from the area will wind up at major schools. In fact, Mutch, for example, is destined to go a Big Ten school.

WE DON'T remember a season when coaches talked as much as they did about defense.

The preps obviously have discovered that you don't have to be a ball carrier to win scholarships. The colleges are just as interested, if not more, in men who can perform when the other side has the ball.

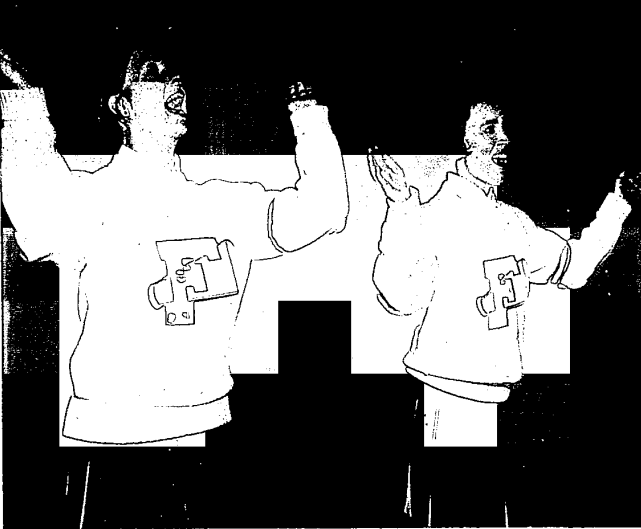
### FOUR TO GO

The Tigers finished the 1969 season with four bachelors on the club: Cesar Gutierrez, Bob Reed, Tom Timmerman and Earl Wilson.

### HOMEGROWN

Three players who performed for the Tigers in 1969 were born in Detroit. They were 'Bill Freehan, Gary Taylor and Tom Tresh.

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ROOTING FOR a victory in their team's final game of the season were Farmington high cheerleaders Jennifer Haloppa (left) and Barb Gagon. The Falcons tangled with North Farmington in the annual Yule Bowl game as a climax to the year's activities.

## Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

With the thoroughbred season ending yesterday at the Detroit Race, those who follow the hangers and the trotters are wondering what comes next.

In Michigan the next step is to open at Northville Downs on Saturday when Jackson Raceway moves in for a session that ends on the final day of the year.

For those who prefer to follow the runners, Toledo opens a short fall meeting Monday with a post of 3 p.m. on weekdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Toledo campaign brings only the cheapest kind of horses to the attention of bettors. Most of the better stables left the DRC midway through the past week, heading for New Orleans and the long Louisiana season and to Florida where the thoroughbreds open in two weeks and continue through the final week in April.

IT HAS BEEN an eventful year for racing in Michigan. All tracks showed increases in wagering with attendance up only slightly on showing a small

meeting.

The allotment of stalls inspected to take place over the weekend and then stables will begin moving for the 30-night campaign. It probably will result in many of these currently training at Northville being forced to seek new quarters.

Whether a meeting of this type will answer the questions is problematical. It is our guess that the meeting will be a bit better than that at Jackson but far below the level of the Northville campaign during the summer.

The answer will come in two weeks and the final answer will come in the statistics at the end of the year. We hope they are all beyond expectations but we aren't optimistic. One can't turn cheap trotters and pacers into standouts overnight and one can't convince bettors that they are going to see something better when they know they are not.

THE DRC MEETING brought one bright spot to the attention of fans - they watched the nation's top jockey move closer and closer to the international championship while walking off with the track's crown.

Larry Snyder, who won more than 130 races to boost his national total well over the 800 mark, led the premises with the knowledge that he had enjoyed the most successful year of any rider in Michigan history.

## Falcons Beats NF

The dual meet and the entire season ended for Farmington on a happy note - cross country speaking.

The Falcons beat North Farmington, 18-41, for their 10th victory in 13 starts.

Many in the middle grade have horses back at Windsor where the purses compare with those in the Detroit area. There is a difference of about eight percent for Americans since all payments are made in Canadian money.

Those who have trouble winning are attracted by Craig Dhu (NF), Kevin Ryalce (F), Stu Otto (NF), Nick Burton (F) and Mike Foster (F).

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## Women Bowlers Fire National High Of 3230

By W.W. EDGAR

The Holiday Magic team, long rated one of the strongest women's bowling combinations in the state, virtually rewrote the record book Wednesday night in the Ladies Major League at Pine Tree Bowl in nearby Dearborn.

With games of 992, 1078, and 1160, the team posted a 3230 series which is an all-time record for Metropolitan Detroit and the highest score registered by a woman's team in the nation this year.

Here is how the record breaking series was put together:

Doris O'Brinski - 679  
Doris Krause - 664  
Elvira Toepfer - 654  
Anita Cantaline - 638  
Carol Schemers - 591

Previous to this record count, the highest score bowled in the nation this season was a 3131 series registered by the Tich's Lounge team of Milwaukee. And, according to officials of the Women's International Bowling Congress, it is one of the highest series ever rolled by a woman's team.

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## Women Bowlers Fire National High Of 3230

RONICALLY, the Holiday Magic team, then bowling as the Alcomco team in the 1965-66 season, set the previous Metropolitan Detroit record with a 3169 series in the Bowlerettes League at Motor Lanes on Detroit's east side.

And the 1160 single game bettered the previous mark of 1141 fired by the Gears by Enterprise team in the Bowlerettes circuit in the 1946-47 season.

The record also supplies another amazing chapter in the career of Elvira Toepfer. Detroit's present bowling Queen.

## RU Coaches To Face Top Pro Quintet

The Redford Union High coaching staff will match its basketball skill against one of the nation's top touring professional quintets with the proceeds going into the school's varsity club fund.

The RU coaches will tangle with the famed Harlem Diplomats on Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. on the high school court and strange enough the coaches believe they have an even chance.

The diplomats feature some of the most talented players in the United States. They open with the "Sweet Georgia Brown" magic circle and wind up with a stiff shuff with one player on another's shoulders.

In addition, the Diplomats throw in a bit of football, baseball and some razzle dazzele acts.

SHE WAS a member of the Gears by Enterprise team when it set the single game record, and also was the top scorer of the Alcomco combination when it set the high series mark. Now, she is a member of the squad that erased all the top names in the record books both in Detroit and the nation.

Sharing some of the honor with her is Anita Cantaline, former national All-Star champion, who was captain of the

record breaking Alcomco team and now is serving in the same role as the leader of the Holiday Magic combination.

**Plymouth LL To Pick New Slate**

Election of officers and plans for 1970 will have the attention of officers, team managers, coaches and parents Tuesday in the annual meeting of the Plymouth Community Junior Baseball and Little League organization.

President Joe Bida has called the meeting at 8 p.m. in the Plymouth Elk Club and stated it may be one of the most important sessions in several years.

"We are inviting all interested in the Little League and junior baseball program in the community to attend," said Bida. "We are faced with the loss of our playing field in the not too distant future, we must decide on what course we will follow in 1970 and the years to come and we must make a decision on many rules that aren't being enforced."

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