

Dedicated Dales Pay Tribute To Late Coach

Unbeaten St. James Whips Agatha, 20-6

St. Agatha's football team learned a lesson at Notre Dame High Sunday—a lesson which is becoming quite prevalent in Catholic League athletic circles.

The Aggies went up against perennial kingpin Ferndale St. James and fell to the Dales' overall balance, 20-6, for the Second Division title. Even Mike Murphy, who carried St. Agatha to

the final game with superlative efforts each week, was handcuffed with one touchdown to prevent a shutout by the league's No. 1 defensive power. ST. JAMES HAD limited eight previous oppo-

nents to 38 points in running up 12 straight wins, nine this season, and picked up its fifth title since 1962. The Dales were also a dedicated team this year. Seven weeks ago the Dales were stunned when their longtime coach, John Shada, collapsed on the field at halftime and died an hour later in a hospital.

The team pledged the rest of the season as a tribute to Shada and were not to be stopped.

ST. AGATHA HAS little reason for regrets. The Aggies won the Southwest crown with a 6-0-1 mark and ripped Mt. Clemens St. Mary, 31-8, in a semifinal playoff.

Nearly 4,000 fans came out to witness the Second Division battle which was decided by halftime.

St. James scored first on a three-yard drive by Dave Jose to climax a 58-yard drive in 10 plays on its first series.

Tony Ransom, wooed by St. James from Cathedral, gave the Dales a 14-0 edge when he sidestepped the Aggie defense down the sidelines for a 93-yard punt return at 9:46 of the first period.

Murphy got the Aggies back on track with 3:10 remaining in the half on a three-yard burst into the end zone after a 60-yard march, but the Dales answered in less than two minutes.

RANSOM, A THORN in the Aggies side all game, took a handoff, broke two tackles at the line and sprinted 68 yards to close out the game's scoring and secure its title.

The second half was played between the 30's, mostly in St. Agatha territory, but the Aggies defended held.

Murphy's touchdown was his 17th of the season and will probably lead to a well-deserved berth on one or more of the premier All-State teams selected this month.

Outstate Syndicate Seeks Approval of Race Plant

Michigan may have a third thoroughbred and fourth harness racing track if Racing Commissioner Len Shirley looks favorably upon a request from a Flint group.

The syndicate, headed by Bill Kelly, a racehorse breeder and painting contractor from Davison, announced plans for a new racing plant some 10 miles from Flint.

Kelly, who first told of the plans a year ago but didn't receive a favorable nod from

the Racing Commissioner, revealed that an application for a \$10 million track had been presented to Shirley more than two weeks ago.

TWO OTHER groups reportedly interested in building tracks in this area aren't even in the starting gate yet.

From the way Kelly shot away from the gate it looks as if the rival groups may never figure in the race, Commissioner Shirley, however, indicated in Detroit that he will

give them another month to seek the franchise for a Flint track.

For nearly 20 years there has been talk of a race track in the Saginaw Valley area, ranging from Fenton, Grand Blanc, Owosso to Davison. All these projects have failed.

In fact, Kelly Downs is the first track to get as far as the desk of the state racing commissioner.

Detroit attorney John F.

Dodge displayed a duplicate of the five-inch high file submitted to commissioner Shirley when he spoke at a recent press conference in Flint.

Shirley said that he hoped to reach a decision by the end of the year, and Dodge added that he expected a decision by February at the latest so construction could begin and Kelly Downs would be ready to open in 1971.

According to the group's plans, a five-eighths mile track

for both thoroughbred and harness racing will be built on a 173-acre site on M-15, 2 1/2 miles north of Davison and 10 miles from downtown Flint.

THE PLANT will be patterned after Windsor Raceway with a three-level structure completely enclosed. There will be a combination grandstand and clubhouse with seating for 6,000.

Tentative plans call for 150 days of racing at Kelly Downs

--45 days of thoroughbred sport in the early spring, 60 days of night harness racing in the summer and 45 more days of running races in the late fall.

Eventually, Kelly Downs hopes to offer winter thoroughbred racing from December through March.

Under the present date set up in Michigan this means that Kelly Downs will operate largely at the same time as thoroughbred and harness tracks in Detroit.

N. Farmington Blanks Falcons In Finale, 20-0

An era has ended in high school football ... it ended as it began ... North Farmington beating Farmington, this time by a 20-0 score.

Nine times these arch rivals have met with North Farmington winning seven against one tie and a loss.

When next year rolls around, they'll no longer share the entire spotlight as far as Farmington's school district is concerned.

There'll be a third team—a new one representing Harrison High—in the picture, although it won't be until 1971 that Harrison will be meeting North Farmington and Farmington in football.

THE 1969 edition of the North Farmington - Farmington encounter followed the form sheet. North Farmington figured to win and did without much trouble.

The triumph gave the Raiders a final 7-2 record, while Farmington wound up with only one win in its nine starts.

Farmington wasn't able to unleash much of an offense... just 78 yards rushing. The Falcons were galled for 10 yards in running plays, reducing its entire offensive output to 28 yards and never a serious threat.

North Farmington engineered 84 yards on the ground and 70 more passing.

BOB HUGHES was the big gainer for the Raiders with 74 yards in 12 carries. Mike Gow, back in action for the first time in five games, played with a heavily taped ankle and gained 44 yards in 12 carries.

North Farmington drove 80 yards for its first touchdown, mixing the running of Hughes and Rick Fuelling, along with a 23-yard pass from Steve White to Dave McCoy for 23 yards, to set up Hughes who finally went over from the four.

A 55-yard drive led to the second Raiders' touchdown which resulted from a six-yard pass from Steve White to Doug Valassis.

To cap the scoring, Mike Collier intercepted a Farmington pass and had just 12 yards to go to add six more points.

FARMINGTON'S only success came on the passing of Dan Stalio who threw four times to Randy Cleveland, his favorite target, for gains of 14, 6, 11 and 11 yards.

But when Farmington tried to pass, it was a much different story. What happens now to the O'



BLOCKERS OPEN a big hole and St. Agatha's Mike Murphy, leading scorer for the area, speeds through for his team's only touchdown in the loss to undefeated Ferndale St. James in championship finale. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield).

East Sinks West, 20-14; Ends On Happy Note

What had the earmarks of a disastrous season ended in happiness for Garden City East's football team.

Remember back in September?

East lost its first two games. Round three pitted East against Riverview, one of the mighty teams in the Mid-Wayne League.

"But our kids pulled themselves together that night," coach Gary Humphreys recalls, "and from then on ... well, it turned into a wonderful season."

Wonderful, yes.

East rose to gain a share of the Mid-Wayne League title and then Friday ended the campaign with a 20-14 victory over arch foe Garden City West to capture the Garden City championship.

THE VICTORY gave East a mark of 6-3 for the season—two defeats were by two points and the other by four.

The victory also enabled East to take over a 3-20 lead in the city series with West.

While Humphreys expressed pride in the way his charges performed, so did Coach Bob Draheim of West.

It had been a long season for West. Just one victory in eight games prior to the clash with East.

The "experts" said it would be a romp for East, but such a romp never materialized.

Parish Stars List 4 From Observerland

Four players -- two each from St. Agatha and Our Lady of Sorrows -- were selected on the All Catholic League's Second Division team.

Named were Mike Hart of Sorrows at end, Barry Walther of Sorrows at tackle, Jim Gartner of St. Agatha at tackle and Mike Murphy, St. Agatha's stellar back.

Hart and Walsh were named on the All Northwest Division team while Gartner, Murphy and guard Jerry Schrock represented St. Agatha on the All Southwest Division teams.

West had a tough time getting started. In the first half, West managed only around 25 yards in advances.

But then in the second half, West made matters interesting as Pat McHugh began to fire away and finished the season with two more touchdown passes and a total of 1,000 yards in aerial offense.

"OUR KIDS staged a fine comeback," said Draheim.

"There was no question we were up for this one, but they just had a little too much running offense."

In particular, Draheim was referring to back Bob Kleinbrook who wound up by barging away for 140 yards for the season.

White Kleinbrook ran for East, McHugh hit on eight passes, two for scores, and 122 yards to finish the year with a neat

figure of 1,118 with his passes. "He's one of the best school-boy passers around," said Humphreys in his post-game comments about McHugh.

East totaled 274 yards with 61 coming on passes.

WEST SPILT its yardage even -- 98 passing and 98 rushing. In first downs it was 18 to 12 in favor of East.

The teams fought on even terms until just before the first half ended.

Then East began a march from its own 45. With Kleinbrook and Shafer doing the running, East got down to the West 12 where it had a fourth down situation and time enough for just about one play.

Shafer decided to change the strategy. Instead of trying another run, he passed.

He clicked to Kleinbrook for 12 yards and the touchdown that sent East to the dressing room for the halftime intermission with a 6-0 lead.

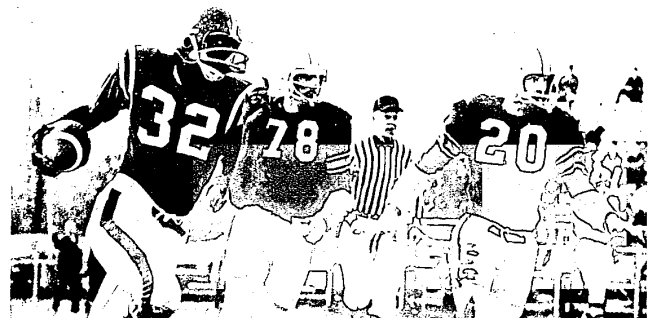
THE SECOND East TD drive covered 40 yards. Kleinbrook and Shafer did some running before Shafer again pegged one

Observer Is Ready To Unveil Stars

Coming next Wednesday--the 1969 Observerland All-Area football team. Meet the standout players who performed on the prep teams in the area.

Learn about them, see their pictures, hear what their coaches have to say. The Observer stars of today will become the college standouts of tomorrow. History dictates as much.

Don't MISS next Wednesday's Observer... for the presentation of the 1969 All-Area football team.



TOUCHDOWN BOUND is Ferndale's Tony Ransom (22) who breaks loose for a long run, one of his two during the championship game against St. Agatha. Two Agatha defenders are chasing him but neither had a chance against the speedster who sparked the Dales; to an unbeaten season. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield).

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