By George Maskin

observing sports

Whoops!

In saluting the perfect season Thurston High fashioned in football this past fall, it was noted on this page that Bill McDonald had directed the Township-pers as boss man for the last 15 years.

How could we have fogotten that Gordie Young was the Thurston head man for several years and that actually McDonald didn't take over as the head until six years ago?

It was Young who started the string of football powers Thurston has enjoyed with McDonald one of his aides.

McDonald has carried on in fine fashion, following an example well set by Young.

* * *

TALK ABOUT YOUR prep football, some type of a special placque should be presented to back Gene Walker of Stevenson High.

Walker not only played for Stevenson three straight years...he started every one of the 24 games that Stevenson played during the three-year span.

Add to the fact he averaged 5.5 yards in his first two years and 5.2 in his senior year ...Walker rates a flock of orchids for a distinguished career in high school football.

* * *

RAN ACROSS an interesting item in an out-of-town paper the other afternoon.

The writer suggests that maybe the day has come when there is television present at a game when there should be re-runs made on close decisions by umpires and referees.

He, in particular, cited the World Series play in which a Met ran inside the first baseline, was struck on the hand by the throw, and while the ball bounced away...the winning run scored.

Baseball rules, of course, say that the runner must run the final 45-feet to first outside the foul line, if a throw is made on him...that if he interferes with the play, he's out and the runners must return to their original bases.

Should there be a rerun for the umpires? Well, horse-racing has it. They do it in track meets to decide who won.

But somehow I think it would spoil football, basketball, baseball and hockey -- if, everytime there was a close call -- whoops, the officials called time out and waited for a rerun, or special films.

Teams have to live with the judgment calls rendered by the officials on the field of combat. They have...and that's the way it should be.

* * *

HERE'S A NOTE to all school basketball coaches in Observerland: The Pistons are reviving their annual clinic for preps this year.

The date is Dec. 20 at Cobo Arena prior to the game with Phoenix.

You can attend the clinic and the game on the same ticket.

Each school can receive 12 complimentary tickets and additional ones at $2 each.

It'll be worth your while just to hear Bill van Breda Kolff, one of the best when it comes to lecturing at clinics.

* * *

AH, YES, AS YOU read these words, we're somewhere out west with the Pistons.

Hard to say where we might be at any precise second when the schedule calls for jumping from Phoenix, to Los Angeles, to San Diego to Seattle and then eastward to Cincinnati within a period of less than a week.

The airlines just "love" to have the professional athletes aboard these days with the modern schedules being what they are...cross country and back again in almost no time flat.

Look at the Pistons, who are in the string of 15 out of 18 games away from Cobo Arena.

If this week's trip is a backbreaker, what about the one starting late this month...From Detroit to Philadelphia to New York to San Francisco...to Los Angeles...to Phoenix...to San Diego...to Seattle...to Detroit...

Who says you have to join the army or navy to see the world?

Play basketball. You'll see things, too.

NF Girls Win Varsity Net Crown

North Farmington High has the distinct honor of becoming the first school in the Northwest Suburban League to win a team championship in the new varsity competition for girls.

The Raider lassies captured the tennis title, first of the four sports programs adopted by the loop on a varsity basis. The three other programs are volleyball, swimming and track and field.

This is the first year for girls varsity teams and has the complete sanction of the athletic boards of the six schools in the league.

The six are: N. Farmington, Birmingham Groves, Redford Thurston, Livonia Franklin, John Glenn of Westland and Oak Park.

The schools compete in all sports for boys but it wasn't until last spring that the athletic boards and principals decided to go into girls sports after receiving considerable pressure from parents and the girls themselves.

PRIOR TO THE move towards varsity sports, girls from the various schools had competed on an intramural basis through Girls Athletic Associations. There had been games between schools on an informal basis but no championships were involved and no official recognition was given to the activities.

A move to start varsity competition for girls has been started among schools in the Suburban Six League which includes Plymouth, Belleville, Livonia Bentley, Trenton, Redford Union and Allen Park.

Whether athletic directors of the schools will be able to work the program into a varsity level deal is something that probably will be decided in the annual spring meeting of the circuit.

Teams from Bentley and Plymouth have met in basketball but only at a GAA level. Each of the six schools has swimming pools and each could sponsor volleyball and track and field teams without a great deal of effort.

* * *

N. FARMINGTON'S GIRLS met and beat each of the other five schools in tennis, compiling a total of 27 points of a possible 30. The Raiders beat Glenn, 5-1; Thurston, 6-0; Groves, 4-2; Oak Park, 6-0; and Franklin, 6-0.

Then the girls won the league championship meet with a total of 38 points followed by Groves, 32; Glenn, 24; Thurston, 21; Oak Park, 10; and Franklin, 6.

Foreign Exchange students Agneta Heinrich and Eva Ahlstrom, both from Sweden, played a major role in the success of the champions. They handled the No. 2 and No. 3 positions in singles.

The squad, coached by Mrs. Nancy Johnson, included Connie Sidder, senior, captain and No. 1 singles; Agneta Heinrich and Eva Ahlstrom, No. 2 and No. 3 respectively in singles; Gail Mall, sophomore, and Carolyn Levin, junior, No. 1 doubles; Linda Jean, senior and Kathleen Lewis, junior, No. 2 doubles; Barbara Pape, junior, and Cynthia Frey, junior, No. 3 doubles, with Susan Lees, junior, and Dawn Kourtjion, senior, as reserves.

LARRY SNYDER, the winningest jockey in the country who broke the all-time riding record at the Detroit Race Course with 132 wins, on his way to the national title, is shown receiving a color television set for his efforts from Paul R. Ryder, Vice-President and General Manager.

Brighter Days Ahead?

The future looks brighter for John Glenn High in football.

The 1969 season ended with Glenn losing its finale to Belleville, 20-6.

The defeat was the sixth in nine starts for Glenn and the poorest mark in six years for the Westlanders.

But as far as Coach Bob Lusk was concerned, there was a bright spot.

"We had most juniors up front and they played reasonably well," said Lusk. "With the experience they gathered during the past season, they should help us tremendously next season when we should come back in fine style."

* * *

GLENN HUNG close to Belleville most the way as each side scored once before the intermission.

A 60-yard dash by Greg Hubbard produced the lone touchdown for Glenn.

Belleville then bounced through with a pair of touchdowns in the second half, with the final marker coming with just three minutes left to go.

Darrall Demeray at quarterback and Bob Feister, a tailback, stood out for Glenn in the finale

Wayne State University 1969 football co-captains quarterback Bill Cortis and tackle Leit Jones once played side-by-side on the Tartar line when Cortis was an end in 1966.

SCANT CHANCE for Glenn's John Ross (42) to snag this pass as Belleville's Dave Remus (41) appears to be jamming his helmet down on his head in an effort to block the ball. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield).

Area Gridders Top NW League Choices

Observerland players dominated the Northwest Suburban League all - star high school football teams, picked by the coaches.

The offensive selections:

ENDS -- Dave McCoy (North Farmington) and Larry Marshall (Thurston).

TACKLES -- Dennis Lang (Franklin) and Joe Daniel (Oak Park).

GUARDS -- Paul Sersen (Thurston) and Jim Craig (Franklin).

CENTER -- George Ross (John Glenn).

QUARTERBACK -- Steve White (North Farmington).

BACKS -- Craig Mutch (Thurston), Dan Thorpe (Franklin) and Garry Schliecher (Glenn).

Named on the defensive team:

ENDS -- Sersen and Bob Hollandsworth (Franklin).

TACKLES -- Dan Smith (Franklin) and Dan Kneller (Thurston).

GUARD -- Greg Forte (North Farmington).

LINEBACKERS -- Mutch and Jay Pease (North Farmington).

BACKS -- Dennis Poppinger (Thurston), Bob Hughes (North Farmington), Gordon Eszes (Thurston) and Schliecher.

The honorable mention list included:

THURSTON -- Jerry Falat, Bill Lenerz, Ron Barringer, Jon Lindh, Jim Johnson and Jim Wiebeck.

NORTH FARMINGTON -- Bob Kessler, Steve Loe, Bruce Bird, Tom Collings, Mike Gow, Rick Herpich, Mike Nestra and Keith Braun.

FRANKLIN -- Dan Ryskamp, Frank Kasperek, Jeff Kind, Mike Jinnet, Don Opland.

GLENN -- George Osterhout.

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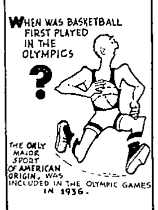

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Suburban Six Honors Stars

Observerland athletes dominated selections on the first offense and defense teams selected by coaches and athletic director of the Suburban Six League.

Footballers from Plymouth, Redford Union and Livonia Bentley were elected for 11 of the 22 posts with RU, gaining three spots on the first offensive team, Plymouth two and Bentley one.

The area captured five positions on the first defensive team, RU landing two, Bentley two and Plymouth one.

Those honored on offense: Guard Chuck Griffith, Center Bob Muncey and End Kirk Taylor of Redford Union; Halfback Bob Thornbladh and Guard Dave Schantz of Plymouth; and Fullback Mike Day of Bentley.

* * *

OBSERVERLAND PICKS on defense are: Halfback Gary Bevington and End Tom Tullock of RU, Halfback Dave Rice and Halfback Bill Wenson of Bentley, and Middle Guard Bob Clayton of Plymouth.

Six area stars won berths on the second offense team and eight were named to the defense combination.

The second team offensive choices included: Quarterback Gary Bevington, Halfback Bill Booker and End Randy Link of RU; Halfback Dave Rice, Center Tom Lucas and Guard Paul Cazabon of Bentley.

Named to the defensive unit were: End George Varilone, Tackle Randy Link and End Kirk Raylor of RU; Tackle Al Covert, End Tom Lucas and Linebacker Mike Day of Bentley; and Halfbacks Eric Haarz and Duane Olds of Plymouth.

GC West Center Wins Star Berth

Center John Benn of Garden City West was named on the first team on the annual Tri-Rivers League's All-Star selection.

Teammate Pat McHugh was named second-team quarterback.

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