

12 Men On Our Greatest All-Area Team



DAVE MCCOY -- E
North Farmington



WAYNE FLORIDA -- E
Livonia Franklin



PAT SWIFT -- T
Livonia Stevenson



MIKE SWIFT -- T
Livonia Stevenson



BARRY WALSH -- T
Sorrors



PAUL SERSEN -- G
Thurston



BOB CLAYTON -- G
Plymouth



PAT KEOUGH -- C
Clarencville



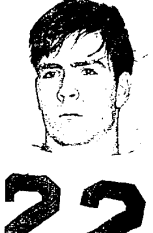
GARY BEVINGTON -- Q
Redford Union



CRAIG MUTCH -- B
Thurston



DANNY THORPE -- B
Livonia Franklin



MIKE MURPHY -- B
St. Agatha

His Rivals Call RU's Bob Atkins 'Coach Of Year'

The highest compliment that can come to any man is from a rival.

And when a coaching foe of Bob Atkins of Redford Union was asked:

"Who would you select as the coach-of-the-year in Observerland?" there was no wasted time in providing an answer.

"The man has to be Bob Atkins. What he did was fantastic..."

Fantastic might be a mild word to spell out the achievements this past football season of the 32-year-old Atkins.

HE'S BEEN at Redford Union for 12 years, but most he was recognized for his efforts in baseball where RU has won four Suburban Six-League titles in the last six years...

Humphreys of Garden City East and to George Lovich of Franklin.

It was a year of masterful coaching in Observerland, but in a squeaker, Atkins emerged at the top.

ATKINS IS the father of three boys and one daughter and with his wife makes the family home in Farmington.

His modesty is hard to beat, just as few can surpass his love for boys... how summer after summer he coughs out his own hard-earned dollars to keep baseball prospering for the young men of Redford Township.

He's one of the few men to turn out champs in two sports.



COACH OF THE YEAR BOB ATKINS

So Many Top Notch Teams, Picking's Tough

By GEORGE MASKIN
Sports Editor

Everybody knows there are 11 men on an American football team.

True, they have 12 on Canadian teams, and there are areas in the U.S. where they field six and eight-man teams. But 11 is the maximum in 99.9% of the cases except on the 1969 All-Observerland high school football team, picked for the Observer Newspapers by the coaches of the area.

The Observer team of stars lists 12 men. The reason is simple—Pat and Mike Swift, identical twins who play tackle at Stevenson High School in Livonia.

Trying to pick between Pat and Mike was virtually an impossibility. Few rivals were able to say which was Mike and which was Pat.

Even Coach Jack Beardon of Stevenson has had his problems telling 'em apart.

WHEN THE MATTER of stars was placed before one rival coach, he said:

"Now, let's see, I like Mike Swift at tackle...but, gee, maybe it was Pat...they both really deserve it. So pick 'em both."

And The Observer has a pair of twins to fill one slot on this truly dream football team.

The 1969 Observer star lineup is, perhaps, the finest the newspaper ever has picked.

That's because there were more outstanding players performing at the same time in Observerland than ever before.

Credit this statement to the college coaches who comb all sections of Michigan and elsewhere for future talent.

"You have some great prospects all over Observerland this season," one prominent Michigan coach said. "If we could get just three or four of the boys, we'd be very happy."

THE UPSWING in area football is reflected in how well the individual teams did. Thurston finished with a perfect 8-0 record and the undisputed Northwest Suburban League title.

Redford Union shared the Suburban Six League crown, it was the same for Garden City East in the Mid-Wayne League.

Stevenson repeated as the Inter-Lakes Kings, and St. Agatha not only won its divisional title in the Catholic League, but reared on to the finals against Ferndale St. James.

Add such strong teams as Bentley and Franklin and North Farmington...it was the year of years as far as Observerland football was concerned.

NOW TO INTRODUCE the 1969 Observer All Stars:

Ends
DAVE MCCOY, North Farmington: Following in the footsteps of his brother, Mike, a former All-Observerland star from North Farmington and now at Central Michigan...DAVE

shared 16 passes, four for touchdowns...He had excellent speed, a fine blocker...returned punts and kickoffs...in the words of Coach Ren Holland: "Dave was a tremendous young man on our football team."

WAYNE FLORIDA, Franklin: He grabbed in 12 passes, three for touchdowns, during the season. The longest grab covered 40 yards...One of the blockers Frankin has boasted in many years, according to Coach George Lovich, who added: "Here's a kid who gave you 200% whether it was in practice or a game." Was used as a cornerback on defense—particularly when the going became rough.

Center
PAT KEOUGH, Clarencville: All Wayne-Oakland League for the last two years...Outstanding blocker on offense...stellar middle guard on defense where he intercepted seven passes. Captain and leader of his team...Hard-nosed football player, says Coach Ralph Weidie.

Quarterback
GARY BEVINGTON, Redford Union: Described by Coach Bob Atkins "as the complete ball player"...He did everything for Redford Union...Not only did he pass for 70 yards and eight touchdowns and score three himself, he was the team's leader and spark. When RU needed the big play, Bevington saw to it that the team got it...Cool under fire...Made a habit of leading comeback drives in closing moments, something like Bobby Layne did for Lions years ago...Topped the RU defensive secondary...No less than 10 times it was Bevington who made the key tackle which prevented a foe from going all the way for a touchdown... "Nobody beat him one on one," says Atkins, who is certain that Bevington will make news in the future in college football.

Tackles
PAT AND MIKE SWIFT, Stevenson: What goes for one Swift, goes for the other, says Coach Beardon. Started every game for Stevenson at tackle...offensively and defensively...for the last two years...Neither missed a game or practice during the period...Their big forte was defense, but offensively they were brilliant with the job they did blocking. Rated as excellent college timber at school like Eastern, Central or Western Michigan.

BARRY WALSH, Our Lady of Sorrows: Voted by the coaches as the best lineman in the Catholic League's Northwest Division...Named Catholic League All-City as junior and senior...Averaged three solo tackles and 10 assists in every game...Operated as an offensive tackle...a middle guard on defense... "They didn't dare come his way," said Coach Bob Kelley of Sorrows...Rated a cinch to make the great in college...Excellent wrestler, who was third in state meet last year.

Guards
PAUL SERSEN, Thurston: one of the toughest, most dedicated athletes Thurston ever has boasted, says Coach Bill McDonald...Was used as an end on defense...and nobody made much headway in his direction...Great potential for stardom in big-time college football...Hits hard, likes contact...Had great desire, attitude and second effort.

BOB CLAYTON, Plymouth: "A... says Rocky Couch Tom Moshammer... A mature young man, was "the finest defensive man I've ever coached," adds Moshammer... True All-Stater...Very aggressive...Doesn't say much, but gets the job done...A typical effort was against Trenton where he figured in 22 tackles and where he made contact with the Trenton ball carrier on 43

of the 63 plays in which Trenton moved the ball...He's quick and strong.

Center
PAT KEOUGH, Clarencville: All Wayne-Oakland League for the last two years...Outstanding blocker on offense...stellar middle guard on defense where he intercepted seven passes. Captain and leader of his team...Hard-nosed football player, says Coach Ralph Weidie.

Quarterback
GARY BEVINGTON, Redford Union: Described by Coach Bob Atkins "as the complete ball player"...He did everything for Redford Union...Not only did he pass for 70 yards and eight touchdowns and score three himself, he was the team's leader and spark. When RU needed the big play, Bevington saw to it that the team got it...Cool under fire...Made a habit of leading comeback drives in closing moments, something like Bobby Layne did for Lions years ago...Topped the RU defensive secondary...No less than 10 times it was Bevington who made the key tackle which prevented a foe from going all the way for a touchdown... "Nobody beat him one on one," says Atkins, who is certain that Bevington will make news in the future in college football.

Tackles
PAT AND MIKE SWIFT, Stevenson: What goes for one Swift, goes for the other, says Coach Beardon. Started every game for Stevenson at tackle...offensively and defensively...for the last two years...Neither missed a game or practice during the period...Their big forte was defense, but offensively they were brilliant with the job they did blocking. Rated as excellent college timber at school like Eastern, Central or Western Michigan.

BARRY WALSH, Our Lady of Sorrows: Voted by the coaches as the best lineman in the Catholic League's Northwest Division...Named Catholic League All-City as junior and senior...Averaged three solo tackles and 10 assists in every game...Operated as an offensive tackle...a middle guard on defense... "They didn't dare come his way," said Coach Bob Kelley of Sorrows...Rated a cinch to make the great in college...Excellent wrestler, who was third in state meet last year.

Guards
PAUL SERSEN, Thurston: one of the toughest, most dedicated athletes Thurston ever has boasted, says Coach Bill McDonald...Was used as an end on defense...and nobody made much headway in his direction...Great potential for stardom in big-time college football...Hits hard, likes contact...Had great desire, attitude and second effort.

BOB CLAYTON, Plymouth: "A... says Rocky Couch Tom Moshammer... A mature young man, was "the finest defensive man I've ever coached," adds Moshammer... True All-Stater...Very aggressive...Doesn't say much, but gets the job done...A typical effort was against Trenton where he figured in 22 tackles and where he made contact with the Trenton ball carrier on 43

rior he missed the 1,000-yard figure by 15, but scored 18 touchdowns... "Finest back I've coached in my six years as head coach here," says McDonald...A modest young man unaffected by the headlines and fame that have come his way... Picked his holes and knew how always to get that extra yard... Operated as linebacker on defense and was so outstanding there, too, he made the all-league team both offensively and defensively.

DANNY THORPE, Franklin: Despite the fact he ran behind an inexperienced line, he carried for 613 yards and a 5.1-yard average...Caught 16 passes for 237 yards and touchdowns... "An all-around boy," says Coach Lovich... "A kid who was at his best in clutch situations... A major reason Franklin surprised the football world by finishing with a 7-1 record... Played linebacker on defense when a critical situation arose.

MIKE MURPHY, St. Agatha: The prep who was as amazing as his statistics. A brilliant runner, who was heralded on the All-Division and All-Catholic teams...The No. 1 reason St. Agatha swept to the divisional title and then into the league title game with St. James...Had tremendous strength, prompting Coach Mike Bennane to say: "He not only gets the extra yard, but two or three as well when it appears he has been stopped... Although he didn't play defense as senior because he started year with a bad hip, he was a standout as linebacker and end in his junior season... Also has passed a few times and impressed college coaches with the way he throws the ball... Finished the year with 1,487 yards and 16 touchdowns.

JIM TACHER paced the field in the Westland Classic with a 680 series on games of 225, 233 and 238. At this figure he gained a five pin margin over Jerry Holt who fashioned 205, 239 and 237 for 80.

The top man in the Senior House League was Jim (Vogie) McComber who linked games of 214, 240 and 211 for 665.

1969 OBSERVER ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM

Position	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.
End	Wayne Florida	Franklin	6-1	180
Tackle	Barry Walsh	Sorrors	6-0	225
Guard	Bob Clayton	Plymouth	5-9	195
Center	Pat Keough	Clarencville	6-1	185
Guard	Paul Sersen	Thurston	6-2	210
Tackle	Pat and Mike Swift	Franklin	6-2	172
End	Dave McCoy	N. Farmington	6-1	180
Quarterback	Gary Bevington	Redford Union	6-3	195
Back	Craig Mutch	Thurston	6-2	210
Back	Mike Murphy	St. Agatha	6-1	180
Back	Dan Thorpe	Franklin	5-9	170

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Player	School
End	Larry Marshall (Thurston)	Thurston
Tackle	Jerry Wright (GC East)	GC East
Guard	Greg Forle (N. Farmington)	N. Farmington
Center	John Benn (GC West)	GC West
Guard	George Bednerek (G)	G
Tackle	Charles Griffith (R. Un...)	R. Un...
End	Kirk Taylor (R. Union)	R. Union
Q-Back	Rusty Gregg (Stevenson)	Stevenson
Back	Mike Gow (N. Farmington)	N. Farmington
Back	Dave Rice (Bentley)	Bentley
Back	Bob Thornbladh (Plymouth)	Plymouth

THIRD TEAM

Player	School
Charles Wolfe (Plymouth)	Plymouth
Bill Gartner (St. Agatha)	St. Agatha
Jim Craig (Franklin)	Franklin
George Ross (Glen)	Glen
Paul Cazabon (Bentley)	Bentley
Dennis Lang (Franklin)	Franklin
Randy Cleveland (Plymouth)	Plymouth
Steve White (N. Farmington)	N. Farmington
Gordon Eszes (Thurston)	Thurston
Bob Ridling (Clarencville)	Clarencville
Gene Walker (Stevenson)	Stevenson

Love (to shop) American Style!

USED LUCKY HORSE SHOES 5c ea.

FIREPLACES

SEE OUR DISPLAY! Michigan's largest fireplace outlet... we have one to fit your home. Try us!

SEE OUR DISPLAY! Michigan's largest fireplace outlet... we have one to fit your home. Try us!

POURING TYPE MINERAL ROCKWOOL INSULATION Wholesale Price! 88c Bag Covers 15 sq. ft., 3" thick

FIREPLACE WOOD Mixed Hardwood • Birch

AMERICAN HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO. your favorite store

Phone 476-6240 537-2645 31245 EIGHT MILE ROAD at MERRIMAN Lots of FREE easy-in, easy-out PARKING

OLD FASHIONED WAGON WHEELS

HOME BREW SUPPLIES (No sales to bootleggers)

We've got it all including Blue Ribbon malt syrup and hop flavored malt in extra, light and dark.

- Root Beer Extract
- Bavarian Beer Recipes
- Sympathetic Feelings

Check our stock and you'll also find bottle caps and caps, hose and authentic beer steins.

SEE OUR DISPLAY! Pennsylvania Dutch

PIE PLATES Beautiful on the table, practical in the range. Make flavor and juice stay in the pie where it belongs.

And where else but American would you find...

- Cheese Boxes
- Burlap Bags
- Nail Kegs
- Barrels, All Sizes
- Bushel Baskets
- Butter Crocks

JUST ARRIVED! Old Fashioned SCHOOL DESKS Complete with initials carved in top and inwells.