

Sportscaster loves job, but . . .

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Detroit radio sportscaster John Bell's love of the airwaves means never working when everyone else works, and never playing when everyone else plays.

To be prepared for his first five-minute-sports show at 5:45 a.m., the 27-year-old Farmington Hills bachelor must rise and shine at 3:30 a.m., while most of us retire and snore.

Bell, who works for WWJ-AM (950), broadcasts sports every half-

'In some ways I feel like a professional athlete — I'm afraid to buy a house because as soon as I do, I could be moving or out of a job.'

hour until 9:15 and prepares a pre-recorded spot for the 12:15 p.m. show.

"My schedule makes for a short night," said the personable Bell in the WWJ studios recently.

"I meet very few people. But it really doesn't bother me.

"It's kind of hard to talk people into partying at 9:30 in the morning, but it's great if you enjoy going to places with lines, like Greenfield Village. You have the place to yourself."

BELL'S EVENING activities usually demand calling it a night at about 11 p.m.

During the hockey season, he announces Red Wings' home games at Joe Louis Arena. During baseball season, he attends Tiger home games and conducts interviews for the next morning's shows.

"It makes for a short night; sometimes I manage about two hours of sleep," said Bell who, when asked

about his social life, replied, "what social life?"

It's not as though the Marine City native barged blindly into the broadcasting business, however.

"My father (John Bell Sr.) worked at WJR for 17 years — the last five or six in sports," said the 1975 Mich-

igan State University graduate. "He used to drive 104 miles round trip to work, and that was before I-94.

"EVER SINCE I was a kid, I knew it was what I wanted to do, too. But my dad didn't think I should go into it.

"He warned me that there's no stability or security; that you live and die with the ratings, and that sports is the first thing that gets changed when ratings go down."

The advice didn't deter Bell.

"Out of high school I got a one-year full ride at St. Clair Communi-

ty College through my job at WSMA, a 1,000-watter. But my dad made me go to college — so after two years at St. Clair, I went to MSU and got a broadcasting degree," said Bell, who lettered in four sports and was senior class president at Marine City High in 1970-71.

Even during his two-year stay at MSU, Bell remained in radio, working as a disc jockey at a Lansing rock station.

After graduation, broadcasting jobs at Fort Huron's WPHM, Detroit's WCAR and WWJ have kept Bell so busy that "I've never been back to MSU — not even to visit my brother Joel — he was smart, he's a senior in business — or for a football game. I work Saturdays, so I keep track of MSU through the wire services," Bell said.

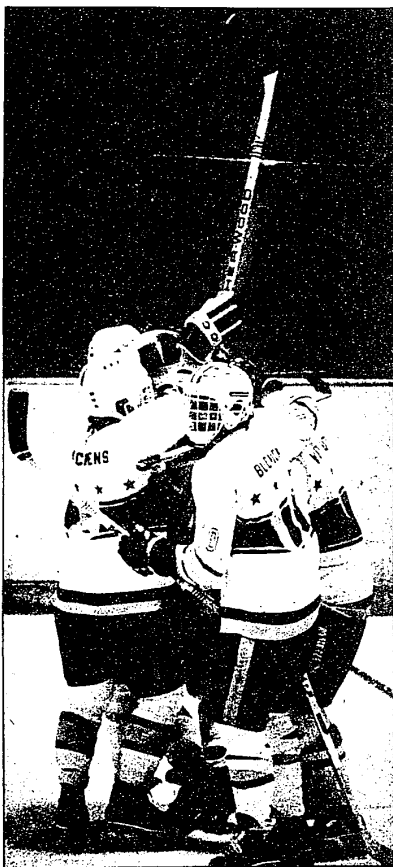
'I meet very few people. But it doesn't really bother me. It's kind of hard to talk people into partying at 9:30 in the morning, but it's great if you enjoy going to places with lines, like Greenfield Village.'



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The words flow as Farmington Hills' John Bell broadcasts sports from WWJ's Detroit studio.

Please turn to Page 2



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Country Day's hockey players whoop it up after winning the Class B state championship in Flint last month.

DCDS's LaPointe Coach has magic touch

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

An old tomato-sauce can made a decent enough hockey trophy back in the days when Harry "Silver Fox" LaPointe was a 7-year-old wing playing in the Upper Peninsula.

Now 61 years and a lifetime of accomplishments later, LaPointe is winning more elaborate prizes.

He was recently honored as Coach-of-the-Year for a fifth time by the Michigan High School Coaches' Association.

The recognition came after his Yellow Jackets captured the Class B state championship, blanking Jackson Lumen Christi, 6-0, in last month's finals.

The French-Canadian coach is as comfortable with hockey success as he once was working with his father in the copper mines, a job he calls "the worst damn experience of his life."

DURING A 12-YEAR coaching stint with the Detroit Recreational Hockey League, LaPointe earned a myriad of league, city, state and national championships. His juvenile division team grabbed four consecutive national titles from 1965-68.

"My job at Country Day is to bring home state championships," said LaPointe, who sees plenty of ice time. (He's usually demonstrating passing, shooting and stickhandling techniques to his players.)

"We were bridesmaids last year and said we'd be back. Winning is the bottom line."

That's obvious from his record at Country Day. Since the robust coach arrived in 1970, Country Day teams have survived until the quarterfinals, semifinals or finals every year.

Considering Country Day's small enrollment, it's no small accomplishment.

"If 16 kids come out who can stand up, you take 'em," said LaPointe, who often puts in 11-hour days as coach/equipment manager.

THE SILVER FOX is a man of few words, but he means the ones he says — or yells.

"Mr. LaPointe is from the old school," said Country Day's All-Suburban Hockey League coach John Wilson. "He's a rough coach, but it's worth it. He makes you play your best."

Please turn to Page 3

If you're not getting
13%-15%
for your money,
someone else is.

Everyone realizes how difficult it is to accumulate capital. Living costs and taxes continue to rise, often time off-setting savings gains. Therefore, prudent investors attempt to maximize the accumulated value of their capital by having it work for them at maximum yield—with minimum risk.

In today's economic climate, cash remains a scarce commodity. Many of America's giant corporations are borrowing capital at near record high rates. Those individuals fortunate enough to have excess cash can place it to work in a variety of ways. Our new four-page brochure currently discusses several high-quality investment alternatives, some of which can provide interest income substantially over 14%.

This informative brochure, yours for the asking, is excellent reading for those interested in considering attractive investments which can help to maximize their interest income. For your free copy, without obligation, use the coupon.

Kidder, Peabody & Co. INCORPORATED
Founded 1865
Members New York and American Stock Exchanges

3290 West Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48064
Tel: (313) 649-5700

— 59 additional offices worldwide —

Kindly send me your study, "If you're not getting 13%-15% for your money, someone else is."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Tel: _____

Member SIPC

BE-4210