

Monday, August 31, 1981

Enthusiastic WSU grid leader:

'I don't coach losers'

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

"I'm not Confucius, so I can't tell you if we'll go 9-0 or 0-9," said David Farris, Wayne State University head football coach during the school's recent media day at the Pontiac Silverdome.

"We're picked to finish last with Michigan Tech, but I don't coach losers. We'll play as tough and hard as we can and see where the chips fall. The great thing about football is that anything can happen."

That's especially true when you consider that this summer, the freshman coach rang up a \$2,000 phone bill while recruiting the 45 players who this season join only 28 veterans — a mere nine of them seniors. Last year's "Motor City Football" squad was 5-4.

Farris, a Troy resident, isn't quite sure what his team can do in view of its tough schedule. The Tartars open Sept. 12 against Slippery Rock in Michigan Stadium and the following week must confront perennial power Northern Michigan in the Silverdome.

"We respect what they can do, but fear them — no," said Farris, who last year served as WSU defensive coordinator and succeeds former coach Steve Fickert. "Our success will depend on how well the players can blend together. We're working hard."

'No one's expecting us to do well, but we'll surprise a lot of them. We're pumped up.'

—WSU placekicker Roy Morris

Freshman kicker Roy Morris, a 1980 Troy graduate and O&E all-area selection, will vouch for that.

"I've kicked more this week than I did all last year," said the 6-foot-2, 195-pounder who, according to assistant coach and Troy resident John Shannon, will handle kicking duties along with 1980 Troy Athens O&E all-area kicker Mike Kramer. (Kramer, however, currently is nursing a bruised thigh.)

"No one's expecting us to do well, but we'll surprise a lot of them," Morris said. "We're pumped up."

Sophomore Greg Goldstein, the Tartars' total offense leader last year who will start at quarterback, said the team "looks strong this season. Everyone loves a winner, and we'd like to start a winning tradition." Goldstein is a North Farmington grad and West Bloomfield resident.

Senior offensive tackle Bob Van Gorder (a resident of Orchard Lake and a West Bloomfield grad) said there are

a lot of people who are hungry, particularly Parris.

"He's gone way beyond everyone's expectations, working from early morning until late at night to keep football at Wayne," said the 6-2, 247-pound Van Gorder. "We're going to give it everything we've got."

FARRIS OZZES confidence when describing his prospects.

"Goldstein is an exceptionally fine athlete, and his forte is his ability to run," said Farris. "He can throw the football, and he's a winner. Plus he came from a great program at North Farmington, so I can't screw him up too much."

"Kevin Schneider (6-5, 210 pound senior from Livonia Bentley who last year made all GLIAC honorable mention) is a returning tight end who's shown leadership capabilities," said Farris. "He can catch the football and run with it. We're looking for big things from him."

"Van Gorder (honorable mention all-

GLIAC and the Tartars' most experienced lineman) is a two-year starter who bench presses more than 350 pounds and is showing outstanding leadership as a senior.

"Morris is one of the nicest kids I've worked with. The way things are going, he'll be our No. 1 kicker. We bought him a new kicking shoe, and he put 10 yards on."

"Kramer (6-3, 190 freshman) is a talented punter and our No. 2 free safety. He's also got good academic credentials," said Farris.

"Mark Makela (6-0, 172-pound defensive back from Detroit Catholic Central) is returning at short corner. He's a fine student, a fine individual and a pleasure to coach. He comes from one of the finest programs in the state."

"Gary Ritten (5-1, 195-pound senior from West Bloomfield) has the highest grade point on the team. He did a credible job as a receiver last year and should start at split end."

"Jim Spala (5-11, 190-pound senior from Livonia Stevenson) is a hard-nosed football player. He's a tough character and a three-year letterman."

Other local Tartars include linbacker Bill Dye, a 6-3, 210-pound sophomore from Westland John Glenn, flanker Michael Pathe, a 6-4, 196-pound senior from Plymouth High, and offensive guard Kevin Rispica, a 6-1, 205-pound senior from Livonia Clarenceville.



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Greg Goldstein passed for 402 yards and two touchdowns last season at Wayne State.

WSU's football future depends on opening games

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Wayne State University's football future will be decided by the second game of the season.

And it won't matter much whether or not the Tartars win or lose either of their first two contests.

Because the team's destiny is not in the hands of the players or coaches — it's in the firm grasp of fans and alumni.

The numbers Wayne State gridders put on the board against Northern Michigan in their game at the Pontiac Silverdome Sept. 19 won't have as much impact on the school's football future as the numbers in the stands.

Dr. Thomas Bonner, WSU president for another year, proposed earlier this year that the school drop football and concentrate on soccer and men's and women's basketball. Bonner cited budget cuts as the reason to get rid of the sport which, unlike most bigger colleges, is a financial loser at WSU.

Wayne State's Board of Governors

has delayed its decision on whether or not to keep football or to de-emphasize it until December.

Money is clearly the issue. If the Tartars are to remain at their present level of competition, more money is going to have to be generated from sources other than the university's budget.

THAT IS WHAT makes the first two games so important to WSU's football future.

Neither are to be played at Wayne State. The first, and perhaps the most important, game of the year is against Slippery Rock. It will be played at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor.

A good crowd will get WSU coach Dave Farris half of the \$100,000 he is hoping to raise for continuation of the program.

"As far as finances, no question it will be a big game," Farris said Friday during the Tartars' press day at the Silverdome. "It will have an effect on what kind of program Wayne State has in the future."

'I'm going to do what I have to do to maintain this football program, if it means running naked down I-75 at noon.'

—Dave Farris, Wayne football coach

A good turnout will not only provide money for the 1982 program, it could also mean a regular date every year at the mammoth Michigan Stadium.

But a poor turnout for the Slippery Rock game and the contest the following week at the Silverdome versus Northern Michigan could spell disaster for the Tartars.

FARRIS AND his players know it. The second-year coach has spent most of the summer developing fund-raisers for the program and trying to convince the Board of Governors to keep the program intact.

"Up until Aug. 1 I was a promoter

and fund-raiser," Farris said. "From now until Nov. 14 I'll do nothing but coach."

Farris' promotional efforts include a fun run, sponsored by Miller Beer distributors, on Sept. 13; a team concept to fund drive, in which "teams" of players and alumni sell season tickets; and formation of a fund-drive committee, which meets once a month to discuss new tactics.

"I'm going to do what I have to do to maintain this football program, if it means running naked down I-75 at noon," the coach said.

Promoting and selling the program, Farris will admit, is not supposed to be

part of his job. But he does it because he has to — if he doesn't, there will be no program.

"There are two ways to look at this," he explained. "I can sit and cry or I can say, 'Hey, there's going to be a lot of people out here watching to see what happens to us this year. Let's show them something.'"

THE ENERGETIC coach has already won over his first converts — the players. They know they might not have a place to play football in another year or so, but Farris has convinced them that, because of the threat of cancellation, they'll be getting a lot of media attention.

He wants them to make the most of that attention.

"I'll be a damn shame if this program is dropped," said Bob Van Gorder, a 6-foot-2, 247-pound guard from Orchard Lake.

"It's more of an incentive for us. We know this season could make or break football here. It's added pressure. It's hard getting mentally prepared when

you know football may not be here.

"We're taking it on ourselves to get the program going."

Van Gorder is a senior, so he'll complete his collegiate football career. But he plans to keep promoting Tartar football, to try and bring back some alumni to support the team, after his graduation.

Quarterback Greg Goldstein, who graduated from North Farmington two years ago, echoed his coach's approach to the problem.

"THE TEAM can go one of two ways," the sophomore said. "They can get really down, or they can do what we're doing. Everyone's kind of united around it. There's more camaraderie."

"I'm thinking football will be here for my four years. Nobody on the team has even talked about (cancellation)."

But the possibility remains. The university will budget \$100,000 for football, Farris said, the same amount he hopes to raise through his various projects.

Maturity key to OU soccer

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Gary Parsons is Oakland University's fourth soccer coach in as many years.

So, while the first-year coach is inheriting a talented team, he isn't making any wild predictions. Parsons realizes it may take time for the Pioneers to develop some cohesiveness.

"We're making a lot of mistakes right now, and it will take a while for me to evaluate the team and get the right combination on the field," said Parsons last week at the Pioneers' practice location in the valley behind OU's Lepley Sports Center.

"We still may be making adjustments midway through the season. We could be coming into the tail end of the season and just be finding our pattern. Hopefully, we won't blow it between now and then."

Parsons, who was preceded by Klass DeBoer, Wayne Pirrman and John Motzer, admits the turnover of Oakland's soccer mentors hinders the program's development.

"It definitely has hurt the program," said Parsons, who arrived at Oakland from an assistant coaching position at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"Every year, they get a new coach who may have different ideas. I wouldn't want to be a player and have to play under those

circumstances. It hurts continuity. "Now, for me, I have to deal not only with the new players but also the older ones who were with the team last year. It's just a stumbling block the players will have to overcome."

DESPITE THE coaching inconveniences, Oakland has traditionally fielded respectable soccer teams. The Pioneers haven't had a losing season since 1968.

Last year the Pioneers posted a 14-4-2 record — their best season ever. Oakland was the No. 1-ranked team in the Midwest region, and at one time was ranked as the NCAA Division II's ninth-best team.

And, 10 players are returning from that team that barely missed qualifying for a post-season tournament.

Morris Lupence, a 5-foot, 9-inch sophomore forward, led the team last year in shots (83), goals (18) and tied for most assists (seven). Lupence, who managed a three-goal hat trick against rival Wayne State University, was named to the 1980 ISAA All-Midwest roster.

Midfielder Dan Fitzgerald, goalie Mark Hamilton, back Kevin Kelly and forward Martin Little are other key returning players.

Hamilton, a senior who graduated from Rochester High School, played in every game last season after transferring from Macomb County Community College. An All-American at MCC, Hamilton turned into a valuable acquisition as he logged a school-record nine shutouts.

A 160-pound junior, Little, who graduated from Birmingham Seaholm High School, has played both goalie and forward for Oakland. He sat out most of last year with an injury.

FITZGERALD, a sophomore from Illinois, had 31 shots on goal last season — second highest among this year's returning players. Kelly, who switched from forward to defense last fall, is one of OU's most versatile players.

Linsay Hamilton, a sophomore midfielder from Rochester, Cliff Poe, a junior forward from Birmingham, Bob Read, a senior back from Birmingham and Lou Vulej, a junior

back from Farmington are some of OU's other players.

"Last year we had a solid midfield, and I think it will be that way again," said Parsons. "Our strengths are in defense and goalkeeping. Last year a big weakness was a lack of forwards, and we're trying to remedy that."

"We've got to get a good season out of Morris (Lupence) again — at least the assists because more people will be concentrating on him this year. I think we should be one of the top teams in the midwest area, and I think we'll be in the running for a playoff spot."

Oakland has a tough schedule, starting at Cleveland State University Sept. 1.

Previews coming

What local prep football squad has the best chance to make it to the Pontiac Silverdome in November and play for a state championship?

Which teams are favored to win league championships?

Turn to the Observer & Eccentric sports pages in our Sept. 3 and Sept. 7 editions for the answers. Previews on local teams, their strengths and weaknesses and what the coaches think will be the toughest challenges in the upcoming season all will be included.

In Thursday's paper, local teams from the Metro Suburban Activities Association, the North Oakland Activities League, the Catholic League, and private schools will be highlighted.

In the Monday, Sept. 7 edition, the Southeastern Michigan Association, Greater Oakland Activities League and the three Farmington high schools will be examined.

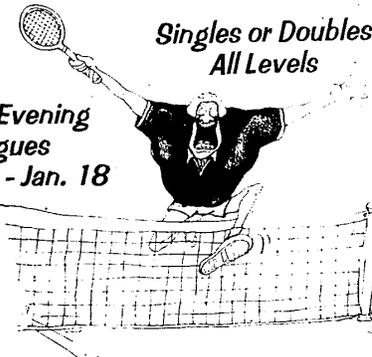
So, prep football fans, don't miss the next two O&E editions for a look at what to expect this season.

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