



Paul Bobbitt, shown above in his final high-school football game at Southfield-Lathrup, has four more years to play at Michigan State University.

MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

*'Last year was very disappointing for me. At first it was disappointing losing. Then I was disappointed at not playing or even given a chance. But I understood. I was inexperienced and they had to get the season going.'*

Paul Bobbitt  
MSU grid hopeful



## Former Lathrup gridder wears red shirt at MSU

By Jim DuFresne  
staff writer

Color it red . . . Paul Bobbitt's football career at Michigan State University, that is.

Bobbitt, a freshman free safety from Southfield, wrapped up the dismal season without playing a minute and being red-shirted.

The Southfield-Lathrup High School graduate hopes to become an MSU starter next season and end that campaign playing for red roses.

That would be going from one extreme to the other for the former all-star and the rest of the Spartans. But that is exactly what new head coach George Perles is vowing to do.

And that's fine with Bobbitt.

"Last year was very disappointing for me," said the 6-foot-3, 190-pound defensive back. "At first it was disappointing losing. Then I was disappointed at not playing or even given a chance."

"But I understood. I was inexperienced and they had to get the season going."

Bobbitt's season began to turn

around long before the rest of the MSU program did. After the sixth game of the schedule when he still had seen no action, it was decided by the coaches that red shirting the free safety would be the best thing.

BOBBITT WILL begin spring training this April with four years of eligibility left at the Big Ten school. That's a plus for his career.

The other is the new head coach he will play under. The team met George Perles three days after the former Pittsburgh Steeler assistant arrived on campus. Bobbitt's first impression of Perles was a good one.

"At first I was disappointed when they fired Muddy Waters," said Bobbitt. "I liked him. But when we met Perles he came off as a no-fooling-around type of coach."

"He told us that he wanted to get this team back to the way it should be — to a winning tradition. He said he was going to promote the Rose Bowl this year. I like that."

If MSU is thinking in terms of roses

next New Year's Day, the 2-9 team and its new coach have their work cut out for them. So does Bobbitt if he wants to be part of the first unit of the Spartan defense.

Last year there were three free safeties, all of whom started at one time or another, in front of him. Jim Smith graduated but Phil Parker will return as a junior next season, and senior Darryl Dixon will also be back.

"When they decided to red shirt me they said I had the ability to play," said Bobbitt. "But at that point in the season it didn't matter."

"I was glad to be red shirted. I have four more years to make it. I feel I have a real good chance at starting next year."

Only time will tell. Bobbitt will report for the four-week spring training session on April 5. In the second week of August he will return to the East Lansing campus with the rest of the team to begin the final preparations for the season opener against Colorado University Sept. 10 at home.

## 1983

### Peeking at the top (?) stories

Don't you just love those end-of-the-year stories about highlights and lowlights of the previous 12 months? Or how about the list of false prophecies? You know, like Sparky Anderson predicting his Tigers will win 90 games, or Wilfred Bruford saying he'll knock out Thomas Hearns. Of course, if it wasn't for the Los Angeles Rams, Monte Clark would be eating his words, too.

But predictions, no matter how outrageous or insignificant, are what keep otherwise dull events interesting, especially in the world of sports.

How exciting could the world of boxing be if, in a pre-fight press conference, Muhammad Ali would have told those in attendance, "I have one heckuva an opponent confronting me. If I don't watch it, I'm likely to get beat."

NO WAY. We're used to predictions like the one from Mr. T in "Rocky III." Asked what his prediction would be in his second bout with Rocky, Clubber forecasted: "Pain."

So what you have prior to the beginning of each new season or event usually is a bunch of words scientifically tossed together to tell you exactly how things are going to work out — if, of course, words spoke louder than actions.

As a sportswriter, I'm used to hearing predictions. As a fan, I'm more accustomed to reading them in newspapers. Now, it's my turn. Time to look ahead at the some of the top stories — as far as I'm concerned — for 1983.

• Livonia Stevenson graduate David Hall comes off the bench to score 28 points as the University of Michigan basketball team upsets UCLA in the NCAA final. Hall, a reserve player who saw limited action during the course of the regular season, hit seven of 14 shots prior to the championship game with the Bruins. He was called on after starting forward He Person was injured. Person collided with Bruin Ron Rogers and then fell into the basketball support structure where he suffered a separated shoulder.



Jim Hughes

"It's not easy putting a youngster like that in there and telling him to win the NCAA championship for you," a Michigan coach was heard to say afterward. "But that's what we asked and that's what he did."

• Badger Dave Blackmer boots a 53-yard field goal with three seconds left as Wisconsin earns a Rose Bowl berth with a 10-7 victory over Michigan. Blackmer, a graduate of Farmington Harrison High School, was once considering the Ann Arbor university in pursuit of higher education.

"I liked the coaching staff a lot better, though," Blackmer explained of the switch to Wisconsin.

It was a smart move on his part, first-year Badger coach John Herrington said.

• In a related story, Farmington Harrison, which saw its enrollment fall to 512 this year, wins its third straight state football championship as the Hawks defeat dePue, 28-20, in the Class C game.

Junior all-purpose back John Miller rushes for 312 yards, passes for 197 yards, and returns three kicks and five punts for a net total of 304 yards. Miller also punted five times for a 59-yard average.

The win was the Hawks' 35th in a row.

• Livonia heavyweight Craig Payne, tired of politics in the amateur boxing division, turns to the silver screen and shocks the world with a stunning first-round knockout against Rocky Balboa in "Rocky IV."

"Yo, dair ain't gonna be no rematch," Payne decides to defend his title against Balboa's brother-in-law Paulie in the upcoming sequel, "Rocky V."

• Stephen Crane, former softball coach at Birmingham Groves, accepts a similar position at Oakland University as new Athletic Director Mike Ilitch adds the sport to the school's program.

Crane, who opened up a cookie stand outside the softball stadium, opens the season against Michigan State University. The Spartans, sparked by the perfect, no-hit performance of pitcher Colleen McGovern, blanked the Pioneers, 7-0.

• Farmington Mercy, the odds-on favorite to capture its second-straight Class A state girls' basketball championship, falls short after four starters filed for NBA hardship.

Sarah Basford, Annette Ruggieri, Amy DeMatteis and Mary Rosowski took their act to Houston where they play for the division leading Rockets. Houston leads the Midwest Division of the Western Conference with a 30-1 record. Its lone loss was to Divine Child, the NBA's newest expansion team.

• Al Fracassa rejects an offer to coach the Michigan State University football team after George Perles' first year ends after a disastrous 0-11 season.

Fracassa does, however, accept General Manager Monte Clark's offer to coach the United States Football League champion Michigan Panthers. In his first move as coach, Fracassa drafts Dave Yarema, a sophomore quarterback from MSU, and Paul Jokisch, sophomore basketball player from the University of Michigan.

• Derrick Kearney's 75-foot desperation shot at the buzzer finds its mark as Detroit Kettering upends Southfield, 68-67, in the semifinals of the Class A boys' basketball tournament.

• Observer & Eccentric subscribers, who read this and believe it's straight from the hip, flood the O&E switchboards complaining that I haven't got my facts straight.

## The more you have and the more you earn, the more help you need keeping it.

People with substantial assets or income—or both—stand to lose the most to taxes and inflation. Fortunately, the Government permits tax sheltering for those who invest in the development of certain key resources—usually oil and gas or residential and commercial real estate.

The tax advantages can be diverse and attractive, and can exist in interesting combinations. They become possible when you invest in a limited partnership engaged in the appropriate development work. Some come as first year expenses that can be used as deductions. Others are deductions due to depreciation which, depending on financial structure, can be spread out over a period of years. There's the possibility also that investment appreciation can be converted to capital gains. And, in many cases, cash flow generated by the partnership can be partially sheltered.

Obviously, the more compatible a tax shelter can be to your own situation, the greater your opportunity to maximize results. Kidder, Peabody's forte is arranging this matchup. Our requirements in this field are exceptionally high; most tax shelter plans fail to meet our standards. From those that do, we make a painstaking selection for each and every client. For a confidential discussion—with no obligation to you—we use the coupon and we'll telephone at your convenience.

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