

Budget Shortage Ends Soccer At Stevenson High

For the lack of \$700, soccer had been dropped as a varsity sport at Livonia Stevenson's High School.

As a result, Larry Christoff became a coach without a team and more than 45 candidates for players had to turn elsewhere for excitement after school or on weekends.

It was Christoff who brought soccer into the prep program at Stevenson last fall.

Its kickoff day Sunday for two of Observer's three Catholic League high school football teams.

Our Lady of Sorrows under Coach Herb Coleman ushered in its campaign playing host to St. Frances de Sales at Farmington High at 2:30 p.m.

Meantime, Coach Jerry Sievert takes his St. Agatha High team to Ecorse to engage St. Francis Xavier.

For Sorrows, the opening contest will be the most important game of the season since St. Francis de Sales has been installed as the team to beat in

He felt that there was a need for another fall sport for boys who didn't wish to play football.

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in the winter most schools have three varsity teams—basketball, swimming and wrestling. A few even now sponsor a ski team.

In the spring, there's baseball, track, tennis and golf.

DESPITE THE fact no other school close by—in Livonia or Redford Township or Plymouth—fielded a soccer team, Christoff arranged a strong schedule in 1967.

The team won five, lost two and tied two, playing established soccer rivals from Cranbrook, Grosse Pointe University School and elsewhere.

The success story at Stevenson prompted other schools to start fielding a soccer team this fall. But apparently none have.

No doubt, the schools, like Stevenson, found themselves caught "in a financial squeeze," "It's really a shame," said Christoff. "We have the equipment, we have the field. We just need \$700 to take care of some small expenses like officials and travel."

"We even had our schedule all set."

Christoff noted that six of his athletes have gone on to Schoolcraft College where they are to play soccer.

"IT'S A COMING sport in the high schools," Christoff said. "It's so inexpensive really, when compared to some

of the other sports."

"Boys like it. And, from what I could see last year, it didn't affect our football team. The boys who played soccer were still going out for football."

"Several of our soccer players were on winter and spring teams at the school and felt that playing soccer gave them an opportunity to stay in top shape and also do something they enjoyed after school hours."

School officials expressed regret at cutting off soccer. Their budget caused other moves they didn't choose to make either, a spokesman said.

At a recent meeting in Livonia where tight budgets have forced school administrators to cut back on sports, booster clubs have been formed to produce the necessary funds to keep prep teams alive.

Collecting \$700 in Livonia wouldn't seem like too much of a chore!



sunday sports

Parochial Teams Start Today

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The return of several veterans has boosted St. Francis'

chances for the crown, although Sorrows and Pontiac Catholic all are given a good chance.

SORROWS WILL have to get some fine efforts out of its young players since there are only eight seniors on the 52-

man squad.

Dave McGrath, up from the JV's, shaped up as the Sorrows' quarterback and he'll have some fine ends at whom to shoot in Greg Main, Desmond Kirkland and Bob Thiesen.

Greg Hurst, a transfer student from St. Agatha, has worked his way up the ladder as a fullback for Sorrows.

Speaking of St. Agatha, the Tomahawkers have visions of a fine season and possibly a title.

Cheerleader will field a line which averages 200 pounds per man and a backfield, tipping the scales at 185.

Quarterback Ron Blackmore is back along with halfbacks Mike Murphy and Dennis Blazek and fullback Paul Riecha.

IN THE LINE, St. Agatha has 216-pounder Dave Churchers, 212-pounder Fred Oyer along with Dave Urban, a crack end; Bill Gardner, Tim Inches, Jerry Schrock, John Gillies, John O'Meara and Chuck Costello.

Sievert's one concern is injuries. The team doesn't have many.

Bishop Borgess, the area's third Catholic eleven, doesn't start until next Saturday when defending divisional champ Cenbrill plays at Thurston.

Borgess would appear to be headed for trouble in this school's first year of varsity football. The team doesn't have a single senior leader yet.

PUBLIC SCHOOL teams in Observerland engage in their second games past weekend with the debut of Livonia's new Churchill High taking the spotlight.

Churchill with only tenth graders will play at North.

Batties, made up of Franklin agents, Redford Union, Dearborn, Dearborn, Stevenson against Glenn and Plymouth against Farmington also are on the Friday schedule.

Bentley goes to Dearborn and Plymouth to Farmington in afternoon games.

That's what the polls say. The national selections favor Purdue, Southern California, Notre Dame, Oklahoma and Texas.

In the Big 10, naturally it's Purdue with teams like Ohio State, Indiana, Minnesota and then possibly Michigan or Michigan State.

Purdue is the loaded team in the conference. There are 22 lettermen back on the team which won eight out of a year ago. The Boilermakers are great in attack and passing. They play solid speed.

There are 22 lettermen back at Ohio State where Coach Woody Hayes has some classy sophomore to go along with his tested veterans.

INDIANA with a much improved passing attack could be higher than last year's Rose Bowl team while Michigan has 22 lettermen back from the team which tied Indiana and Purdue with 6-3 records in Big 10 action a season ago.

As for Michigan—the Wolverines were 3-4 in the conference and 4-6 overall in 1967. Michigan has, perhaps, one of the finest backs in the country. Ron Johnson, the Detractor who gained 1,005 yards last season.

Quarterback Dennis Brown back, too, along with Garrie Shaw at fullback from the Michigan team which won three of its last four games.

The Wolverines also have 22 backs on deck in their defensive backfield.

But depth is a problem at Michigan, plus some problems both the offensive and defensive lines.

As Coach Bump Elliott says: "We're looking to Ron Johnson to lead us. I hate to think what might happen if he gets hurt."

SOME 60-70 miles away at West Lansing, Michigan State and Michigan State's star to bring records for more division after last year's 3-7 season (3-4 in the Big 10). The Michigan State plus are: 1—A good nucleus of experienced players. 2—A stronger defense. 3—Some fine sophomores. 4—Spartan teams always bouncing back strong after poor plays.

Michigan opens up against Illinois at Ann Arbor on Saturday, while State hosts Syracuse in a game to be nationally televised in the midwest.

Regardless of what the outcome might be for both teams, and regardless of what happens

on the field, the game will come no later than next weekend when Michigan State

opens its forces into Washington to meet the Nats in a three-game series.

And, while the two big moments were closing in on the Tigers, their front office set about "disposing" of seats for the three games of the World Series which will be played in Detroit at the major issue is how much parking lots around the stadium will charge made headlines in the papers as well as on television and radio.

THE TIGERS will be the second to play in the series, as the game begins on Oct. 2 in St. Louis.

The guesses are that the clincher will come on Tuesday or Wednesday night when the Tigers host the New York Yankees in what could be the final visits of the great Mickey Mantle to Tiger Stadium.

Mantle has hinted that this will be his last season as a player.

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As the Tigers moved nearer to the pennant, they could also glow with pride over the way their bats have come alive and that there's somebody else pitching magnificently in addition to McLain.

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