

# U-M's Coaching Heroes Honored While They Live

By W. W. EDGAR

Unlike many institutions of higher learning that wait until their celebrated educators and athletes pass to the great beyond before recognizing them, the University of Michigan has embarked on a "Flowers for the Living" program of paying tribute.

The new trend was given its first real impetus last fall when the Special Events Building, hand built by the stadium, was re-named Crisler Arena in honor of the retired football coach and athletic director Fritz Crisler who has kept the Wolverines at the top of the athletic lists for years.

Then, several months ago, the baseball field where several major league stars got their start was re-named Fisher Stadium in honor of Ray Fisher, the famed baseball tutor who guided the Wolverines to 38 seasons of the top of the "coach emeritus" any time the baseball squad is at practice.

Prior to the naming of these

two athletic sites the Michigan Campus housed the famed Yost Field House, which is being used, and the Matt Mann pool where the swimming team holds forth.

NO OTHER institution boasts so many tributes to outstanding coaches as does Michigan and the re-naming of Crisler Arena and Fisher Stadium comes at a time when the famed coaches can enjoy the honor.

Naming that stadium for more, Coach Fisher remarked the other day, "is the happiest thing that ever has happened to me. You know that playing field was actually my home for 37 years. And now to think that it will carry my name is just about the greatest thing that could happen."

It is proud for many reasons, not the least is the fact that he helped design it and it came under his term as athletic director. But, like the father of a gifted young woman he is showing off. Fritz becomes enthusiastically emotional as he talks about the hard wood basketball court in the offices and the VIP room set aside for the college officials when holding special meetings.

"Just imagine," he said with considerable pride, "when the building was finished the contractor gave me the keys. And now the building will carry my name - it's just wonderful."

WHEN THE building was in the process of construction and during its first days of occupancy, many of the basketball fans referred to the building as "Cassie's Castle," figuring that Cassie Russell, the famed Wolverine basketball star, had drawn a sufficient number of followers during his career to build the outstanding facility.

But Fritz came through. He not only kept Michigan at the top athletically, but he became a bulwark of the game itself.

Fritz stunned the football world during the war years when he developed the "platoon system" that still is part of the game today. Fritz is said to be the strong Army team of 1945 almost on even terms.

He also was chairman of the Rules Committee for years and still is looked upon as an outstanding authority.

It was Fritz who developed the great Tom Harmon in the late 30s and part of his success was a shrewd maneuver.

Noting that Harmon was bought down from behind, Fritz didn't change any assignments for his team. Instead, he changed the type of material used for the football jerseys.

HE SAW TO IT that Harmon always wore the cheapest kind of jersey that could be had and for a good reason. When players grabbed him from behind the jersey ripped and the would-be tackler was left holding a piece of jersey while Harmon streaked on for more yardage.

Of such things as that, Crisler built an enviable record as a coach and developer of football teams - and men.

Truly, he is deserving of the honor in the re-naming of the Crisler Building for him.

It is another case of "Flowers for the Living."

The same holds true with Ray Fisher, who was a starting pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds in the now famous 1919 World Series with the Chicago White Sox. Ray was beaten in his lifetime, and had no part in the city that led to the suspension of the Chicago players and forever tagged them as the Black Sox.

If most coaches who came to Michigan in Yost's days, Fisher not only was the baseball coach, but doubled as an assistant coach of the football team.

Not only was a stickler for kicking and returning punts, Ray recalled, "so, besides I was a pretty fair punter, he had me punt for hours at a time. I used to punt until I felt my leg was about to fall off. But we always had fellows who could return punts."

When a major league pitcher from 1910 through 1920 Ray won 102 games and lost 98. He pitched 752 innings for New York in the American League.

Three recent Michigan State athletic stars have received NCAA postgraduate scholarships-football players Al Brenner and Don Baird and gymnast Rich Murahata.

Conditioning drills will begin Friday, Aug. 29, and continue Saturday and Monday. Sunday will be a day of rest.

Pad-cracking begins Tuesday, Sept. 1.

"Blott, too, could have made it as a catcher," Ray chuckled, "but his wife didn't think pro baseball was the right type of career for her husband. So, he didn't follow the game."

Ray recalled that Charlie Gehring, rated as the greatest second baseman who ever lived, played his freshman year at Michigan. He then accepted an offer from the pro ranks and went on from there.

ACCORDING TO the veteran coach, Dick Wakelield was one of the most notable players he ever coached.

"He was a great one," Fisher smiled, "and after we got to know each other, we got along fine."

"Dick's only trouble was that he was easily spooked-and that's what happened to him in the major," Ray recalled, "so he never reached his potential."

Bill Freehan, the present Tiger catcher, came along after Fisher retired as the regular coach, but Ray still had an "unofficial" hand in his development.

Now, 22 years old, Ray Fisher can look back on a great record and the Wolverine baseball stadium forever will stand as a symbol of his greatness.

And Ray can enjoy it for the remainder of his life-surely he is deserving of honor in the new Michigan trend of "Flowers for the Living."



HIS MONUMENT - Fritz Crisler dreams of his great days as football coach and athletic director of the University of Michigan as he relaxes in front of the fieldhouse that now carries his name. (Observer photo by Vince Witke)

## Farmington Legion Has No Baseball Complaints

There were no baseball complaints by Farmington's American Legion team.

Two weekend games - and a pair of victories - first over Troy, 5-4, in 10 innings, then an 11-0 romp over Auburn Heights.

It took Farmington 10 innings - three extra frames to down Troy when Paul Kupferschmidt singled, Bruce Economou walked, Russ Gameaux moved them up on a long fly and then Ray Ponke dropped a perfect bunt single to send in Kupferschmidt.

MIKE HART KNOCKED in the first Farmington run, then three came home to tie the game in the sixth on three walks and a hit by Dave Shays, along with an error.

Dennis Hagen hurled five scoreless innings of relief. He allowed only three hits.

Against Auburn Heights, Stan Kouris scattered three hits, fanned 10 and walked one.

2 Tournaments, 7 New Foes For U-D Cagers

An appearance in the Volunteer League, the 19th annual Motor City Tournament and seven new opponents highlight the 1970-71 University of Detroit basketball schedule announced by Director of Athletics Robert J. Callahan.

The 28-game state includes 16 games at the U-D Memorial Building and 10 on the road.

Key home attractions will be third ranked St. Bonaventure, NIT Champion Marquette, powerful Dayton, Loyola (Ill.), Canisius and Xavier.

The Titans will also renew series with Bowling Green, St. Francis of Penna., St. John's of Minn. and Hillsdale College.

New opponents Cleveland State, King's College, Chicago State and Spring Hill round out the home card with the University of Delaware, Loyola (La.) and newcomer Arizona State joining U-D in the Motor City.

## Sandlot Schedule

WEDNESDAY - Garden City, Livonia, Hubbard, Ford, 6 p.m.; Soper's Clark vs. Northwest, Ford, 8:30; Redford Winderland Lanes vs. ITM, Piquette, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY - ITM vs. Hubbard, Ford, 6 p.m.; Northwest vs. Garden City, Ford, 8:30; Soper's Clark vs. Redford Winderland Lanes vs. ITM, Ford, 6 p.m.; Winderland Lanes vs. Northwest, Ford, 8:30; Soper's Clark vs. Hubbard, Haggerty, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY - Plymouth vs. Redford, Redford Union; Hubbard vs. Holcomb, Bentley; Northville vs. Darin, Northville; Garden City vs. Darin, Garden City Park. All games at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY - Westland vs. Hubbard, Bentley; Plymouth vs. Northville Reef, Northville; Holcomb vs. Darin, Garden City Park. All games at 1:30 p.m.

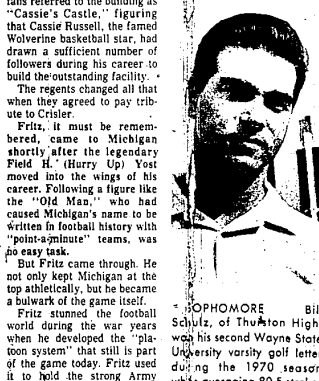
SUNDAY - Westland vs. Hubbard, Bentley; Plymouth vs. Northville Reef, Northville; Holcomb vs. Darin, Garden City Park. All games at 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY - Redford Warholak Tire vs. American Stry, Stevenson; Tom's Service vs. B and V, Northville; Franklin vs. Plymouth Elks; Franklin Games at 6 p.m.; Northville vs. Crowe's Royals, Ford, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY - Warholak vs. Franklin, Franklin; Royals vs. Plymouth Elks, Plymouth; Northville vs. B and V, Northville. Games at 8 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE THURSDAY - Raigan vs. Churchill, Ford; Birmingham Chesley vs. DiPonio, Plymouth; Livonia Hubert vs. Thurston, Thurston; Livonia Optimist vs. Gates, Gates; Bentley; Coleman and Moss vs. Garden City West, North Farmington. All games 6 p.m.

SATURDAY - Livonia Optimist vs. Chesley, Ford; Gates vs. Thurston, Thurston; Coleman and Moss vs. Hubert, North Farmington; Raigan vs. Garden City West; Churchill vs. DiPonio, Bentley. All games 6 p.m.



Bill Schulz, of Thurston High, won his second Wayne State University varsity golf letter during the 1970 season while averaging 80.5 strokes per round and playing in all 12 LSU golf outings.

Appearing in the third, fourth and fifth spots in Coach Joel Major's lineup, Schulz had the team's best round of the year over a regulation course with a 72.

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## Grid Scene Fast At MSU

EAST LANSING Six days of preliminaries will lead up to start of contact work Sept. 1 in Michigan State's football camp.

Varsity candidates will be asked to report back to campus on Wednesday, Aug. 26, for lodging assignments, physical exams, equipment checkout and other chores.

Thursday, Aug. 27, will be Press Day. Duffy will meet with newsmen at lunch and then squad members will don game regalia and cavort for photographers in Spartan Stadium.

Conditioning drills will begin Friday, Aug. 29, and continue Saturday and Monday. Sunday will be a day of rest.

Pad-cracking begins Tuesday, Sept. 1.

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