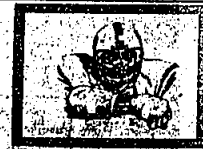


Thursday, September 13, 1984 O&E



(F)C



C.J. Risak

Give no quarter in ticket quest

WHERE'S THAT SENSE of fair play? Truth and justice? Honesty, integrity, dignity?

Don't ask me. I discarded any noble qualities I may have possessed shortly after opening the sports section at breakfast Sunday. On Page 6C, upper left corner, a short story outlined the proper procedure for procuring Detroit Tiger playoff and World Series tickets.

My eyes narrowed, my knuckles turning white as I clutched the paper. Evelyn Wood, speed-readers couldn't have skimmed the story faster.

I WAS determined to commit the details to memory, then destroy the paper.

"Watcha reading?" my wife asked. It seemed an innocent question — or was it? Could I trust her with this vital information?

Reason already was abandoning me. I was feverish — playoff feverish. This was privileged information. No one could be trusted with it, not until I was assured of my proper place in Tiger Stadium.

So I hesitated to tell my own wife. And I certainly didn't want to tell her in the middle of a crowded restaurant.

"There's a story in here . . ." I whispered, leaning close to her.

I GASPED, choking on my coffee and unable to finish. "What's the matter?" she asked, "did you swallow your tongue?"

I couldn't answer, the vision was so terrifying. Finally I leapt up and blurted:

"That man has a newspaper!"

The strange look in my wife's eyes helped restore my scattered senses somewhat. She signaled me to sit down, asking kindly, "Are you on drugs or what?"

"A newspaper — he has a newspaper," I said, wanting her to understand.

"So?" she answered, still doubting my sanity. "But newspapers have sports sections, and sports sections will have this story."

I showed her the Tiger ticket story. "Dear, everyone is going to find out anyway," she said, trying to reach me with reason. "There's nothing you can do about it."

AT THAT point I figured there was no use confiding to her my plan to stop at every newspaper box I could find and remove all the sports sections. No, her logic was unassailable. People would find out.

The question now was, how could I guarantee myself first-rate tickets?

Sure, it was spelled out there in the story, how to send in the money, to whom and where. But they'd be swamped with requests. They even said in the story there were no guarantees.

I needed an angle. By hook or crook I was going to the World Series.

Quick mental calculations — the number of seats in Tiger Stadium divided by the population of Michigan and parts of Windsor and Ohio — and I figured crook was the better strategy.

STRANGE HOW any ethics I might have possessed abandoned me. No crime was too great if it would insure a seat in the stadium, this levery, forgery, extortion, bribery, and some minor violations like lying and cheating.

First things first, I analyzed in plotting my attack.

● Send in your money and see what happens.

● Fill on everybody that you know that might have an "in" and see if they can get tickets.

● Abduct Alan Trammell and hold him hostage.

"Each ticket request limited to four for one game . . . forget that. If I sent in just one request, I'd get no closer to a game than my living room.

Well, I'm sure my wife would like the ticket. I lied to myself. So would my brother — if he were in town. And my sister in California might want to fly in for the game.

I FORGED signatures right-handed, left-handed, then bribed a neighborhood kid to sign another. Get in as many requests as you can afford, I figured. Extras can always be peddled.

But how do I pay for it? What about money? Well, rent could be a little late. And if I didn't eat for a couple of weeks, I could afford the 30 bucks for box seats.

I got some money orders — about six of them? — I asked the teller in the Farmington branch of my bank.

"What are the amounts?" she queried.

"Five for \$55, one for \$43," I answered quietly.

"Oh, Tiger tickets, eh?" she said much too loudly.

"Been making out a lot of money orders for those amounts, I'll bet," I asked, trying to sound innocent.

"Dorcas," she replied.

FIFTEEN MINUTES later I was dropping my requests in the mailbox — at the post office.

I wanted to take nothing for granted. Was there any way I could delay the requests already mailed in? Just for a day or so, until I was certain my request was in first?

No, I thought. Shooting out mail truck tires, or inciting a postal strike, could delay my own requests.

Nope, I reluctantly decided, there was nothing left to do but sit tight and sweat it out. Wait along with the millions of other baseball crazies from Birmingham and Southfield and Troy and Rochester and Redford and Plymouth and Canton and . . .

The back with that. Plain B: Where does Trammell live, anyway?

Blackmer leaves Wisconsin

By Chris McCoosky staff writer

The University of Wisconsin football team will invade Ann Arbor to play the University of Michigan a week from Saturday. It was supposed to be the big homecoming of one of this state's finest prep placidifiers — Dave Blackmer from Farmington Harrison, one of Wisconsin's top recruits two years ago.

Blackmer, however, will not be on the Wisconsin sidelines.

He quit the Wisconsin football team following the Badgers' 27-14 opening day win over Northern Illinois.

"Basically I left, half because I didn't want to switch off my whole career and, if I had to switch off or get beaten out by someone, I wanted to be closer to home," Blackmer said Tuesday from his Farmington Hills home.

BLACKMER WAS red-shirted by the Badgers last season. This year, he and freshman Todd Gregoire (a Wisconsin native who was chosen that state's athlete of the year in 1983) were embroiled in a duel for the kicking chores.

"I thought I did a significant job in the scrimmage to win the job. I did way better than him in the scrimmage," Blackmer said.

But, Wisconsin coach Dave McClain couldn't make up his mind. He had the two kickers switching off against Northern Illinois. Each was to trade off every two extra points — Blackmer kicked the first two successfully against Northern Illinois — and every other field goal. Gregoire kicked a 28-yarder.

Late in the fourth quarter, Wisconsin lined up for a 51-yard field goal attempt. Being his turn, Blackmer trotted onto the field to kick.

football

McClain, however, called him back and sent the freshman out to kick it.

Gregoire nailed the 51-yarder. Blackmer began making his plans to come home.

Blackmer has spent the better part of Monday and Tuesday trying to enroll at Michigan State University.

"THIS GRADES are no problem," Blackmer said. "It's just a question of being too late to register for fall classes. I suspect I'll be able to attend classes this fall."

If he does, Blackmer will be eligible to kick for George Perles' team next fall. He would have three years of eligibility left.

"It's really too bad," Blackmer said. "I'm kicking the ball better now than I ever have."

Back in Wisconsin, McClain, who could not be reached for comment Monday or Tuesday, was quoted in the Madison (Wis.) papers as saying he was disappointed about Blackmer's departure. He said that, until Blackmer left, he still hadn't made up his mind who his kicker was going to be for Saturday's game.

"Basically, I just wasn't happy," Blackmer said. "I didn't have that many friends there. I didn't really go out much, so it was more of a less my fault."

"But, I figured I could give up friends if I was playing. But, not playing, it was lonely."

Blackmer's presence should be most welcomed at Michigan State. The Spartans are losing kicker Ralf Mojzalejko after this season.

Happy Davidson returns to Hawks

By Chris McCoosky staff writer

Kelly Davidson has become the master of intimidation in high school tennis.

The Farmington Harrison senior showed up for a recent match against Livonia Bentley with five of the most expensive Wilson Ultra rackets available tucked impressively under her arm.

On Tuesday against Livonia Churchill, she brought only two Ultra's, but she wore a t-shirt that proudly proclaimed "National Hardcourt Tennis Championships, Burlington, California" — one of her stops this summer.

You see, Kelly Davidson is a nationally-ranked junior amateur tennis player. That fact alone is enough to scare the gumption out of most prep tennis players. Davidson enjoys having a little fun at the expense of her opponents.

But, a year ago, Davidson wouldn't have done such things. She didn't have much fun playing tennis.

"THERE WAS just so much pressure before," said Davidson. "Everyone expected so much out of me, I just got sick of it."

So sick of it, in fact, that Davidson didn't finish the junior tennis circuit this summer. She skipped the fourth and final national championship tournament. She also considered not coming back to high school tennis.

"We really wanted her to play," said Harrison tennis coach Brenda Carmen. "She's an awful lot of fun to have on the team. But, she had some problems this summer. She had a long talk with Joelle (Lokastewicz, former tennis standout at Harrison) and I think she influenced her some."

Whatever happened, Davidson is back and she is having a great time.

"I'm a lot more relaxed on the court now," she said. "Before, it was a chore to walk out here. There's no pressure now. I'm just out there to have fun. I'm out there because I want to be out there. And I think it's helping my game."

There will be no argument on that score from Churchill's No. 1 slugs player, Sue Pachera. Davidson, limping badly because of a jammed toe (she could barely make it from one side of the court to the other), whipped Pachera 6-1, 6-0.

"She just hits so hard, nobody can play with her at this level," Goldstein said.

Davidson's victory started Harrison on its way to a 4-3 win over Churchill. It was the Hawks' third straight victory this season, all by 4-3 scores.

"I'M NOT used to this," said Goldstein, whose teams have dominated the Western Lakes in recent years. "I'm getting grey hair this year."

The deciding game proved to be on the No. 4 singles court. With the match tied 3-3, Harrison's Heidi Reyst outlasted Brenda Carmen, 6-3, 5-6, 6-2.

Harrison also got victories in No. 2 singles from Jill Birsa and in No. 1 doubles from Amy Jacobs and Stacy Haran.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Kelly Davidson was so "kick" of tennis this summer that she thought about not playing high school tennis this fall. She's back, though, and better than ever.

Mercy to repay debt owed Benton Harbor in hoop tournament?

By Chris McCoosky staff writer

Revenge.

The Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy basketball team enters the 1984 campaign with several scores to settle from last year.

One of them is with a lightning fast team from Benton Harbor. Benton Harbor came into the Mercy gymnasium last year and knocked the Marlins out of their own tournament.

The fourth annual Mercy Hoops Classic will be played tonight and Saturday night, and the Marlins are poised for another collision with the Tigers.

"The girls are anxious to settle a score with Benton Harbor," said Mercy coach and tournament director Larry Baker. "I just hope we are able to get another crack at them."

TO DO THAT, both the Marlins and Tigers must survive feisty first-round opponents tonight.

Benton Harbor will play Southgate Aquinas at 6 p.m. Aquinas finished second in the Catholic League AA Division and was bumped from the Catholic League playoffs by Livonia Ladywood a year ago.

Nancy Sasseak, 6-foot junior, was a dominant force last year as a sophomore averaging 11 rebounds and 11 points per game for Aquinas. Sasseak, along with 5-7 junior Beth Dries and 6-9 senior Tricia Armella, will be the mainstays for Aquinas.

Mercy will match up with Brighton at 7:45 p.m. Brighton is a team in transition. They have a talented but inexperienced contingent. Still, they have always managed to be a front-runner in the Kensington Valley Conference.

girls basketball

Jenny Custer, one of the few seniors on the team, is an outstanding point guard. She is court-wise and super quick. She will match up well with Mercy's potential all-star Annette Fuggerio. Laurie Hanber and Kim Nowak are two other key players for Brighton, both juniors.

"The thing I like about both Aquinas and Brighton is that, year in and year out, they have strong programs. The coaches are veterans of the wars and you can bet that their teams will be giving it their all. Both have traditionally strong programs," Baker said.

THE SURVIVORS from Thursday night will meet in the championship game at 7:45 Saturday night. The consolation game will be at 6 p.m.

In all likelihood, Mercy and Benton Harbor will lock horns for the title.

Lisa Harvey, touted as one of the top five players in the state, will again lead the Tigers. The Parade Magazine All-American was the Mercy Hoops Classic MVP last year. She averaged better than 15 points and nine rebounds per game last year from her point guard position.

Veronica Holton, a 5-8 senior, and Treva Sanders, 5-10 senior, nicely complement Harvey's talents.

The Tigers last just twice last year — once to Travlers City and to Grand Rapids.

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