

Manual labor helped them to championship

Continued from Page 3

ers considered it to be "out in the sticks" in 1944.

"Back then there were no stands, no restrooms, no concessions," said Knight.

"We used to go out and sit in the cornfields for a rest during a game," he said with a laugh.

Even though the field may have been primitive compared to the football stadiums of today, the players were just as enthusiastic and the fans just as loyal as now.

"We had a pretty good crowd show up for our games back then, about 100 people," said Don Gramer, who played left guard for the team.

"We just had a bunch of good fellows. We put our hearts together and did it (won games)," Gramer said.

Maattala says the plays used in today's games are more intricate and harder to execute.

"I think he (head coach Bob Hutton), only had five or six different plays for us back then," said Gramer.

Even though the plays may have been simpler and easier to remember, the team still had to work at playing together, and for the 1944 team, cooperation went hand in hand with victory.

"In team sports you gotta make them (players) work together," Maattala said.

"When a team truly works together it's

a beautiful thing to see all the plays develop," he said.

Size of individual players was also debated by the high school football veterans. Today's players are much larger due to weightlifting and training techniques, they say.

"Anyone much over six feet was big in those days," said ex-left guard Cyril Schniers.

"The average weight on our (front) line was about 175 pounds. Today they average about 250 pounds," Schniers said.

"I don't think any of us could even be a water boy on today's teams," said Knight.

In 1944, before the age of electrical power tools and home care implements, manual labor was a way of life.

"These guys were big because they did all manual work — cutting the grass with a push mower, sawing trees and wood with a hand saw. Boys were broad-shouldered and had very muscular legs from doing chores," said Maattala.

Teams the Farmington squad played during the 1944 season included Rochester, Fordson, Henry Ford, River Rouge, Cranbrook, Birmingham, Redford Union and the dreaded Keego Harbor team.

"Keego Harbor, geez those guys were rough," remembered team manager Norman Goers.

"The toughest and best game I ever played was versus Redford Union," recalled Knight.

"The score kept going back and forth, once in our favor, once in theirs. We finally pulled it off though," he said.

The team from Rochester was by far the biggest as far as individual player size, according to Maattala.

"They were like big square blocks," he remembered. "They were mostly farmers and so they were muscular from working in the fields."

Now "only" 57 and 58 years of age, all the team members have grown children and even grandchildren who they enjoy and encourage to participate in sports.

"It's nice to watch your own kids handle their kids," said Knight.

"My wife and I did a pretty good job (raising their children)," he said proudly.

After all is said and done, the players all agree that the most outstanding memory of their high school football careers was the opportunity to play and work together as a team.

"We played a lot of football together," Knight said, looking fondly at his old teammates. "There was never a jealous member on the team."

"We all had a lot of fun," Goers said, summing up the feelings of all the players.

MERLE NORMAN Cosmetics
and Boutique of Farmington
Sunshine Shades of Summer

DOULEVADD Brights

Complete Nail Service by Betty

Featuring Chantelle Bras from Paris

Summer Fashions up to 50% Off

MERLE NORMAN
Personalized Skin Care and Makeup
Downtown Farmington Center
23348 Farmington Rd.
477-3033

LOST OUR LEASE!

CLOSING FOREVER!

After 23 years in this location, we are forced to vacate the premises. **Save like never before** on hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of top quality, name-brand and designer merchandise during this **OUR FINAL AND BIGGEST SALE**

SALE IN PROGRESS!

SAVE 30-75%!!

Featuring all top quality name brands like: Cici's, Jordan, Puritan, Calvin Klein, Cole, Huggo, Champion, John Alexander, Silver, Arrow, Jockey, Jost, Zappella, Benetton, Reebok, Converse, L'eggs, Gene O'Leary, Miley Harlow, London Town, Jantzen, Slacks, Intimates, After Six, Paul Howard, Loren Scott, Leaght.

TOWNE TOGGERY

- All Sales Final
- Alterations At Cost
- Visa, MasterCard, AM EX, Diner's Only Charges Accepted During Sale

23300 Farmington Road
Downtown Farmington Center
Farmington, Michigan 48074
474-8000

DISCOVER

THE TOTAL YOU

FARMINGTON'S FIRST AND ONLY PERSONAL APPEARANCE ENHANCEMENT CENTER!
FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

BODYTON THE INCH LOSS PROGRAM
PURCHASE 3 SESSIONS, GET 1 FREE!

For bikini season
Permanently remove unwanted hair with electrolysis
Complimentary Consultation with Dotti!

All Hair and Skin Products
10% to 60% Discount
Thurs., Fri., Sat. Only

20% OFF OUR REGULAR PRICE PERMANENTS

THE TOTAL YOU

HAIRCUT AND BLOW-DRY
Regular \$16.00
Now \$12.00

PURCHASE A DELUXE FACIAL FOR YOURSELF - A FRIEND WILL RECEIVE A FREE MINI-FACIAL

CELLOPHANES
The Transparent Hair Color
Regular \$25.00
Now \$17.00

Acquaint a Friend to a Therapeutic Massage. Purchase an Hour and Your Friend Receives 1/2 HOUR FREE

**23344 Farmington Rd.
Farmington
471-4868**

All specials expire August 15, 1985