

IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

The eyes of the bowling world will be centered on metropolitan Detroit during the coming league season—and for a good reason.

One of the most noble experiments of all time is being sponsored by the Stroh Bowling Co. that has been a leader in the 10-pin sport for almost four decades.

With the resignation of Johnny Ruggerio, who served as captain of the group for 10 seasons, Stroh decided on a new twist. Not only was a replacement found for Ruggerio, but the sponsor decided to return to a six-man squad. And what men?

Taking the top average men in the All-Star Classic for the past season, Stroh is going to attempt a fashioning a winning combination from a group of all stars who, as a whole, are individuals.

TO REPLACE Ruggerio, Stroh regained the services of Bob Bwolek, last year's top average man. With him they also signed Jack Born, a weather-beaten veteran who manages to stick close to the average. Stroh also added two new bowlers for the 1970 season. Both Kwolek and Born bowled with the Ivory team last season.

With this pair will be Bob Crawford, the new captain.

observing sports

Well, here we go -- really, it's the coaches and their athletes -- who are going anplace.

High school football practice starts in these parts -- in fact throughout Michigan -- Monday morning. The varsity teams will be out and so will the Jayvees.

Cross-country teams also will be assembling and starting the chore of preparing for the tough schedules ahead when school bells begin to ring in early September.

Visiting out at Cranbrook School the other afternoon and watching the Lions go through their paces, I thought to myself: "Wouldn't it be something if every high school coach could take his charges out there (to Cranbrook) and watch the pros work?"

Such a trip might enlighten those young men who think that excelling in sports -- or for that matter anything else -- comes easy.

You stand out there at Cranbrook and see some of the great names of pro football -- Lem Barney, Alex Karras, Wayne Walker, Nick Eddy, Steve Owens and all the rest.

These are fellows who have made it up the ladder from grade school to high school to college...and now the pros.

They have enjoyed all kinds of success in their football lives. Most made all-high or all-star in high school.

Several were All-Americans in college. The group includes a Heisman trophy winner like Owens and no higher distinction can come to a college football player.

YET, HERE THE LIONS were, working in their second practice of the day. It was hot and muggy...the temperature boiling around 85.

First in specialty groups; then on a mass team basis. They were going at it...for almost two hours.

And the last thing coach Joe Schmidt made the players do was run back and forth across the field several times...windsprints, they call 'em.

There were some high school football kids in the audience...a few from places like Southfield and nearby Brother Rice.

These kids had to be impressed. Hopefully, they were inspired.

The big pros, the guys who make the big money, weren't loafing. They were doing what their coaches ordered. One and all realizes that without practice you can't succeed in sports.

The Denny McLean story this year should serve as a classic example on the importance of early-season drills.

Denny and the Tigers had an idea that Denny could come back from his half-season suspension merely by working out on his own and then pitching to high school athletes down in Lakeland, Fla.

This kind of preparation didn't work. It's taken Denny several starts now and several poundings to begin to show signs of the great pitcher baseball knew in the past...and the great pitcher he's destined to be again.

LITTLE WONDER, coaches like Southfield's Ed Bryant or Plymouth's Tom Moshimer have urged their football heroes to be ready for Monday's first workout.

It's important to be set both mentally and physically for that first drill.

A good many of the coaches have taken care of the physical aspect by conducting conditioning sessions and calisthenics for the last two or three weeks.

The mental is something else again. Nothing that can be done lifting weights or doing pushups can instill that certain desire, that certain eagerness that certain "drive" that's so important to make an athlete tick.

To succeed in sports you have to think the game you're playing as much as you can. You have to talk yourself into literally a frenzy for the task at hand.

You know this even holds true for game umpires or referees. The best ones aren't necessarily those who know the rules best, or who are the best at administering the game.

Officials, like players, must take the assignment facing them seriously. They must be ready and alert.

So, if there's any suggestion we might offer to the prep footballers on this eve of practice it would have to be:

Take the game seriously. Get into shape and stay in shape. Think football all you can. Lastly, the road to fame, to glory isn't easy.

Just ask any of the Lions. They'll tell you.



PHIL RUBBICCIO
Top Jock At Hazel Park

He Tries Hard -- And He's 1st!

Phil Rubbiccio tries harder. He is sometimes inclined to think that this is why he isn't always No. 1.

In characteristc fashion, he zoomed to the top of the jockey standings at the Hazel Park Race track earlier this month. Then he was set down for five days, and when he got back in the irons he was fifth in the standings. But by Thursday he was back in first place.

"Last year was my first year at Hazel Park," he recalls. "I won 22, but I was set down for 20 days. I went over to the Detroit Race Course, where I won 51, but I was set down for 15 days there. I was the third leading rider at the DRC this year with 78 wins, but it was the same old story. I lost 15 days there on suspensions."

"I just try too hard. I'm trying to improve, to show more patience and restraint but it's tough to do. I know I've got to cut down on the days I lose. They really hurt. At the DRC, for example, I was named on Etony and Salvo in two of their biggest stakes but I was suspended just before the races. And of course, Etony and Salvo both won."

RUBBICCIO is a pleasant, smiling young man whose exuberance and good humor mock the suggestion that he has a hair-trigger temper. He is obviously sincere in his resolutions to avoid avoiding the steward's rebukes in the future. For one thing, he feels he is getting too old for that sort of thing.

"I was 24 years old on August 13," he relates. "Am I superstitious about the number 13? Not at all. I celebrated my 24th birthday on Friday 13th and I had a wonderful time. One of the best birthdays I ever had. Those numbers don't mean a thing. Two years ago I won three at Rockingham on my birthday."

Rubbiccio grew up in East Boston, not far from Suffolk Downs. Nobody else in his family has ever had anything to do with racing, but Phil decided early that he was going to be a jockey. For one thing, there was his size. He is 5 foot 1 and weighs 107 pounds, and

in what other sport is that an asset?

"I've always liked horses, too," he smiles. "Even the merry-go-round horses. As a kid, I loved to ride them."

He was in his early teens when he began walking his and cleaning tack at Suffolk Downs. He graduated to galloping horses, but his mother sternly forbid him to even think about a career as a jockey until after he had graduated from Boston's English High School.

"I would get out to the track at five o'clock, gallop horses, change clothes and get to school by eight o'clock," he remembers. "But I had to finish high school, and I did. Mother meant business."

Robert Van Worp Jr. had first hired him as a hot walker at Suffolk. When Phil was ready to concentrate on racing, Rovon Farm, owned by the senior and junior Van Worp, took his contract. He thinks this is one of the best breaks he ever had.

"THEY GAVE me a big start," he says. "They gave me some running horses to even ride, and I won my share for them. I think it was a good arrangement for both ends."

Phil was almost 20 when he began riding at Tropical Park. In his first race, he finished fourth. The second time out, he took a bad spill and 10 horses ran over me. He sustained two broken ribs and a punctured lung, which kept him on the sidelines for six weeks.

Then he got back in action and won his first mount, Bella Shazzar. He has been coming on strong ever since although sometimes, he admits, he tries too hard.

U-M Defensive Line Hints At Top Season

ANN ARBOR
The glamor in college football may belong to the backfield, but coaches feel most football games are won or lost in the line play. And Michigan's defensive line this season could be one of the best.

It represents 1,100 pounds of championship experience. Only defensive end Cecil Pryor is lost from last year's Rose Bowl front five and his replacement this season, Phil Seymour, was an All Big Ten selection at the position two years ago.

As a defensive unit last year Michigan led the Big Ten in fewest points scored against it (7). The front-line defense was a major factor in holding the opposition to five touchdowns in the last six games.

Crashing through it this season should be just as difficult, possibly more so. "If we have the proper mental attitude our defensive line should be even stronger this season," says Michigan defensive coordinator Jim Young.

6-4, 227, junior, from Ossineke, Taylor, a powerful 210-pounder from Detroit, is called by Young as "perhaps our finest athlete." He shared the other linebacking spot with Moore the first half of the season and then started the rest of the games.

MOORE, a regular as a sophomore, is the swiftest of the 70. The 210-pounder from Youngstown, Ohio, also could be used in the middle of the line and figures to be used extensively on defense.

Keel, a converted fullback from Wheaton, Ill., has considerable talent and could play a great deal. "He's a fine athlete and we certainly want him to play," says Young.

Women's tourney -- Friday, Sept. 11 -- 18 holes.
Men's tourney -- Saturday (Sept. 12) -- 36 holes.

(This tournament is restricted to residents of the City of Livonia. For additional information call Gary Whitener at Whispering Willows golf club, Newburg at Eight Mile Road. Deadline for entries is Friday, Sept. 4.)

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Register Tuesday For Ice Hockey

- Mites -- eight years old and under.
- Squirts -- 10 years old and under.
- Fee Wee -- 12 years old and under.
- Bantam -- 14 years old and under.
- Midjet -- 16 years old and under.
- Juvenile -- 18 years old and under.

It'll be registration day Tuesday for Livonia youngsters wishing to join the Livonia Hockey Assoc.

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come basis at the Ford Ice Arena on Farmington and Lyndon Rds. starting at 7 p.m.

Boys may enroll for any of the following classes:

- The following requirements must be met:
- 1 - Boys must be born during or after 1952.
 - 2 - All boys must be a resident of Livonia.
 - 3 - Each must have a birth certificate and picture.
- Registration fees are:
- \$15 - Boys born between Jan. 1, 1952 - Dec. 31, 1955.
 - \$16 - Boys born between Jan. 1, 1956 - Dec. 31, 1957.
 - \$5 - Boys born after Jan. 1, 1958.
- Boys don't have to have previous hockey experience to play. Information may be obtained by calling 261-1059 after 7 p.m.

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