

Former Tiger Twirler Herbert Hurls The Hockey Pitch Now

BY GEORGE MASKIN
Observer Sports Editor

The visitor was no stranger. You remembered him when he pitched high school baseball in Detroit almost 20 years ago. You knew him when he pitched for the Tigers and elsewhere in the major leagues for almost 15 years.

You have seen him regularly in recent years pitching batting practice to the Tigers at Tiger Stadium.

AND, next summer, hopes to be able to regain his amateur status so he can hurl for one of the Livonia Class A teams at Ford Field.

But here he was...to talk about ice hockey instead of baseball pitching.

As a long-time resident of Livonia, his interest has switched to the sport of ice...especially when it comes to youngsters...boys from four and five years old up to 18.

It'll be registration day for the Livonia Hockey League next Tuesday and, more than 800 boys are expected to visit the hockey arena on Farmington Rd. to try to get their applications in on time.

"It's strictly for Livonia boys," Ray Herbert said, "because even with our two arenas now we just are running out of space and time to accommodate as many boys as we would really like."

His sons, Mark, who's 10, and Matt, who's nine, are the two major reasons Ray Herbert has turned his interests to hockey.

"It's a terrific activity to keep the kids busy during the winter months," Herbert continued.

"We start practice in October, play on into March.

Every team plays 20 games or so.

THE BOYS ARE grouped by ages...starting with four-year-olds.

When the season begins, coaches must abide by a rule in which a boy is on the ice two minutes and off for four. There are no exceptions.

"This way we get no complaints from the boys, the parents, from anybody else," Herbert said. "What's fair for one boy is fair for the other."

Boys who were on teams last year and still meet the age requirements for the new season remain with the same team.

But if a boy has outgrown his class of a year ago and if he's new, he goes into a common draft. The managers pick 'em starting with the team which had the poorest record last year.

"This is an excellent rule," says Herbert. "No coach can gang up and load his team with all the best men."

Of course, there is an all-star, traveling unit picked from each classification which goes against teams from other communities. This makes it possible for the best players to represent Livonia in outside competition.

JUST how has hockey gripped the community?

Herbert notes that the two Livonia arenas are kept busy 24 hours a day.

"It's amazing how teams will come out in the middle of

the night to work out and play," he says.

Herbert is particularly enthused that the four Livonia high schools have adopted hockey on a varsity level.

"It's great," he says. "I'm sure that surrounding communities will have their high school hockey teams pretty soon, too."

In the meantime, the line forms to the left at the Ford Field arena...registration day is coming up Tuesday for all youngsters wishing to play hockey during the coming season.

Veteran Crew Brings Hope To Churchill

Turn-around year for Churchill High of Livonia in football?

Captain Ken Kaestner thinks so and it won't take much for Churchill to surpass last year's record.

Just one win for Churchill would beat a year ago when the record of the Livonia High Schools failed to win in eight football contests.

But one could understand why Churchill didn't win. Everywhere Kaestner went, he drew sympathy.

"His TEAM was biting off a varsity schedule, but he really didn't have a varsity team."

There were no seniors yet at Churchill, but everybody Churchill played had 12th graders.

But now Churchill is in the 12th grade class, too. Churchill has its first group of seniors.

In fact, it's an all veteran team that Churchill will field...all-veteran from the standpoint that everybody is back.

And, of course, there are some newcomers, up from the ninth grade.

In all, the Churchill roster lists 24 lettermen.

"The kids should know each other well," says Kaestner. "They have been playing together as a unit for two years."

But, Churchill will have

some rough going ahead...schedule wise.

Take the opener! It's against Thurston, which didn't lose a game last year and would up ranked No. 1 in Observerland.

THEN comes Grrosse Pointe South, always a power in Detroit area football.

Next it's Inkster Robichaud before Churchill embarks on play in a new league which for the most is comprised of just four schools - Churchill, Westland, Mott, and Walled Lake.

Western and the new Farmington Harrison.

Toss in games with Ecorse and perennially rough Franklin, and one can feel that Churchill will be in for some tough going.

Of the 24 returning lettermen, three are considered outstanding.

One is quarterback Keith Armstrong. Another is monster back Jack Hachigian. The third is end Gary Beisstein.

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OUR MEN ARE THERE - Observerland representatives on Western Michigan's football team (from left, Dale Wendell, Bob Pokorny and Bud Daniels, gather at a practice session with Bronco assistant coach Dick Raklovits. Daniels, a 6-5, 250-pound guard, is one of two top sophomores who have been added to the starting offensive unit. He prepped at Stevenson High and was an all-league choice. Wendell is another Stevenson graduate and caught five passes for 82 yards as a sophomore. He's Western's No. 2 split end. Pokorny attended Redford Union and is the No. 2 guard after starting at tackle with the 1969 Bronco freshman team.

He's Invited

ANN ARBOR Michigan's top and 1971 co-captain Rick McCurdy is one of 22 gymnasts who have been invited to a special training camp prior to the World Team Trials on Aug. 14 and 15.

Gene's Tops

Former Michigan State football All-American and Gene Washington averaged 18.2 yards per pass reception in his Spartan career - an all-time NCAA record.

Linebackers Make U-M Tough

ANN ARBOR When the football topic is linebacking, Michigan's assistant coach Jim Young finds nothing of more value for a winning team.

"The linebacker," insists the crew-cut defensive coordinator of the Wolverines, "is every bit as important to the defense as the quarterback is to the offense."

If Young's evaluation is correct, and there's much evidence to support him, then Michigan football has one of the essentials of winning in its corner. Michigan's linebacking contains equal portions of experience, talent and depth.

"If you look at our team, you have to be impressed with the linebacking," says Young with a noticeable sense of pride.

There's little doubt that defense will be the heart of the 1970 Michigan team and the key to that unit is linebacking.

regular from Toledo, Ohio, is the anchor. He'll receive superb support from juniors Mike Taylor and Ed Moore and sophomore Tom Kee. The only weakness in this group is, according to Young, "We just play two backers and not four in our defense."

Michigan's five-man front with two backers does place a premium on quickness and durability. Huff has both as the 225-pounder quickly demonstrated as a sophomore by intercepting a pass and running 33 yards for a touchdown. Last year he stole three passes off the arm of Purdue's Mike Phipps and earlier against Vanderbilt picked off a blocked punt out of the air and ran for the touchdown.

The 5-11, 224, senior was a standout all season long and led the year's defensive line in total tackles with 88 (55 solo). Hill attends Michigan on an academic scholarship.

Pete Newell, right defensive

tackle from Park Ridge, Ill., is a 6-4, 225, senior noted for his quickness. Newell, a student representative on the Athletic Council of the field, was in on 79 tackles last season. (49 solo)

From Grand Rapids, right defensive end Mike Keller had an outstanding sophomore season last year. At 6-4, 206, he is the smallest member of the Wolverine defensive line but also one of its most devastating hitters. With 82 total tackles (50 solo), only Henry Hill had more on the line. It was Keller who took over for the injured Phil Seymour last season.

There is plenty of depth, too. Alden "Butch" Carpenter, a 6-2, 210, junior from Flint, filled in last season at defensive end when Cecil Pryor was hurt and contributed 40 solo tackles. "His play as a sophomore was excellent last year and he should play often this year also," Young says.

at left tackle by Dick McCoy, 6-4, 240, junior from Alliance, Ohio. Young calls him "The strongest defensive player we have."

Newell's backup at right tackle will be Tom Beckman, from Chesaning. At 6-7, 245, Beckman, a junior, is the tallest

player on the squad. "He may well be pushing for a starting position," Young says.

Sophomore watchers will also see something of Clinton Spearman, a defensive end from Hamilton, Ohio. He is 6-4, 200 pounds, and called "exceptionally strong" by Young.

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Livonia Women Win Golfing Honors

Presentation of trophies and the announcement of the state team highlighted the recent awards luncheon of the Livonia Women's Golf League.

Held at the Hillside in Plymouth, the luncheon culminates a 15-week schedule of the league which is sponsored by the Livonia Parks and Recreation Dept.

Trophy presentations, made by Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara, went to the following:

A Flight - Fay Reinardy, Alice Pickhardt and Alice Gamie.

B Flight - Mary Ellen Katoftas, Patricia Russell and Victoria Shinko.

The tournament is scheduled for Sept. 18.

Sideline to the event was the awards given to the five most improved players during the year and to those carrying the lowest game of the season in each flight.

"Most improved A fighter was Laura Baumhart who started the year with a 22 handicap and wound up with 13. In B flight, Irma Bolling dropped to 16 after a 22-handicap start. In C flight, Sue McCarthy closed out with a 23 after starting with 35. Sue also moved up a flight, starting the year in D flight.

Betty Hoy - the unofficial winner of the league's "Mrs. Congeniality award" - shaved 12 strokes off her game, winding up with a 32. Kay Thompson dropped 18 strokes from her game during the year, giving her a final handicap of 35 in E flight competition.

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