

college sports

GATT TOP QB

Mike Gatt, the Redford Catholic Central grad from Livonia, was named to the all-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) football first team last week.

Also named to the GLIAC first team were Darrell Bartkowiak, a Plymouth Canton grad now at Saginaw Valley State, and Steve Tracy, from Livonia Cheneau now at Michigan Tech. Gatt earned first-team honors at quarterback after leading Hillsdale College to the GLIAC championship and into the NAIA playoffs. The senior completed 97 of 154 passes (63 percent) for 1,244 yards and 12 touchdowns, with eight interceptions. His 63 completion percentage and 12 TD passes were both league highs.

Tracy, a 5-8, 170-pound senior at Michigan Tech, was fourth in the league with 25 pass receptions for 313 yards and one TD and first among punt returners with an 11.0 yards per return, one for a touchdown. He also served as the Huskies placekicker. He was named to the all-GLIAC team as specialist.

Bartkowiak, a 5-foot-11, 200-pound senior, started at inside linebacker for SVSC for four seasons. He was named to the all-GLIAC second team were Tracy, as a wide receiver, and Plymouth Salem graduate Jeff Hubert, a senior strong safety for Hillsdale who tied for the league lead in interceptions with four.

SMEDLEY HEADS MIAA

Adrian senior tight end Bob Smedley was honored as co-most valuable offensive football player of the year in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) last week.

Smedley, a 6-3, 238-pound Redford Bishop Borgess student, caught a league-high 23 passes for 313 yards, with one touchdown. He shared offensive honors with running back Lance Brown of Albion.

Also named to the MIAA first team were Ed Ewald, from Redford Catholic Central, a 6-0, 200-pound junior inside linebacker for league champ Albion College. Ewald paced the 7-1 Britons with 115 tackles.

Chosen to the second MIAA team was Charlie Waszanski, a Garden City

grad and an outside linebacker for Albion who registered seven sacks and 15 tackles for loss.

RUNNERS APPLAUDED

Redford Union grads Craig Sickmiller and John Thrash were both chosen to the all-MIAA men's cross country. Sickmiller, a junior at Albion College, placed third in 26:22 at the MIAA championships at Hope College Nov. 9 at Hope College.

Thrash, a senior at Albion, finished fourth at the MIAA meet in 26:37 to earn all-MIAA honors for the third time. Thrash was Albion's top runner in five of their six dual meets, with three individual victories to his credit. His 26:00 clocking against Hope was the best by a Briton this season.

DUBOIS SETS PACE

Ken Dubois finished his cross country season for the University of Detroit with a strong performance at the NCAA District meet at Indiana University Nov. 16.

Dubois, a sophomore from Livonia Stevenson, placed 23rd overall in 32:52 to lead U-D. The Titans placed 18th out of 23 teams. Dubois' finish missed earning him a position in the NCAA finals by five positions.

Junior Tom Zakrzewski, from Redford Catholic Central, was U-D's No. 2 runner, finishing 96th overall in 34:40.1 over the five-mile course.

U-D's women's team was a disappointing last-place finisher at the district meet. Junior co-captain Lisa Bagdady, a Livonia Ladywood grad, was the Titans' best runner, placing 134th in 21:27 over the rain-drenched 5,000-meter course. Freshman Sue Willey of Redford, another Ladywood grad, was 150th (22:21).

SUPER SPIKER

Lori Swanson, a Livonia Bentley graduate, finished her senior volleyball season at Central Michigan University with 17 kills, three solo blocks and a .312 attack percentage against Ohio University Nov. 15 and 12 kills and a .444 attack percentage against Kent State Nov. 16.

Swanson finished the season with 307 kills, 40 block assists, 10 solo blocks and a .280 attack percentage in 108 games for the Chippewas.

WHAT: Class A State Football Championship

WHERE: Pontiac Silverdome

WHEN: 1 p.m. Saturday

WHO: Troy vs. Traverse City

SCHEDULE: Season 1 - Class D (Belle Creek St. Pkwy vs. Deere, 10 a.m.) and Class A (Troy vs. Traverse City, 1 p.m.); Season 2 - Class C (Lansing Catholic Central vs. St. Ignace, 9 p.m.) and Class B (Wyoming Park vs. Dearborn Divine Child, 8 p.m.)

SEATING CAPACITY: 50,000

PARKING: Silverdome lot

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION: Spectator buses will leave the Troy High south parking lot at 9 a.m. for fans wishing to watch the Class D and Class A championship games. Buses will leave the Troy High south parking lot at 9:00 a.m. for the Class A game only. Buses will return at approximately 4:30 p.m. Bus cost is \$2. Fans are encouraged to sign up for the buses at the high school this week.

TICKETS: \$4 for each season. Available at the Silverdome and at all participating high schools.

TEAM RECORDS: Troy (11-1); Traverse City (12-0).

NICKNAMES: Troy (Colts); Traverse City (Trojans).

LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCES: Troy (1985); Traverse City (1985, 1983, 1978 and 1975).

LAST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: Troy (never); Traverse City (1978).

PLAYOFF RECORD: Troy (3-0); Traverse City (8-2).

COACHES: Troy (Jeff Keller); Traverse City (Jim Cooley).

POINTS SCORED: Troy (232); Traverse City (401).

POINTS ALLOWED: Troy (91); Traverse City (110).

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: Troy (Southwestern Michigan Association, 1985); Traverse City (Cherryland Conference, 1985).

ROAD TO THE DOME: Troy defeated Detroit Henry Ford (17-14), Sterling Heights Stevenson (17-6) and Redford Catholic Central (10-0); Traverse City defeated Muskegon (28-14), Grand Blanc (36-20) and Ann Arbor Pioneer (19-10).

JIMMY THE IRISH PICK: Running back John Belmont will go to his usual job. Troy by 7.

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

This is the time of the year for the annual television airing of "Miracle on 34th Street." The updated version, entitled "Miracle on Opdyke Street" performed by the Boys on Liversols, may be seen at a Silverdome near you. Those never-say-die kids from Troy High (a.k.a. the Giant Killers) will try to finish off a miracle season at 1 p.m. Saturday when they take on undefeated Traverse City for the Class A State Championship at the Pontiac Silverdome.

It will probably be the fourth straight playoff game the Colts go in as the underdog, a role they've relished while making those who pick against them eat their words.

The Colts (11-1) are coming off perhaps their most surprising win of the season. The 10-0 shutout over Redford Catholic Central was stunning in that the Shamrocks had not yielded a touchdown in their last four games, and they were not shut out the entire season.

STANDING IN Troy's way is Traverse City, a 10-0 winner last week over defending state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer. The Trojans have outscored their opponents, 401-110, and the defensive secondary has allowed just three touchdowns passes this season, which will make for an interesting matchup since the Colts have reached the end zone 18 times through the air this year.

"They have a strong secondary, and one of the reasons their secondary is so effective is because they send (blitz) the corners and the strong safety a lot," Troy coach Jeff Keller said. "They send their backs a lot. If you come out with a tight end, they come at you right now and they put a lot of pressure on the quarterback."

"It's difficult to beat them deep," Troy will try to beat the Trojans

with the pass. After all, it's worked against Athens, Henry Ford, Sterling Heights Stevenson and Catholic Central. But that doesn't mean Keller is going to put the running game on the shelf.

"We're going to have to move the ball on the ground," he said. "That is crucial. We think we'll be able to run the ball better in the Silverdome. They have a quick defense, but we think we'll be able to run. We have to."

Offensively, Traverse City is led by quarterback Chris Hathaway, halfback Doug Lautner, fullback Tony Olson and receiver Jeff Durocher.

HATHAWAY, A 6-foot, 180-pound senior, has completed 59 of 93 passes for 783 yards and nine touchdowns. He has thrown just one interception this year. Olson (5-11, 200) is the workhorse, picking up 941 yards and 24 touchdowns on 171 carries. Lautner (5-8, 150) is the breakaway back with 1,115 yards and 12 touchdowns on 164 carries.

Although the Trojans do not throw a great deal, they have been effective. Durocher is the leading receiver with 27 catches for 352 yards and five TDs. "They run a power offense," Keller said. "Lautner can break it outside and Olson is a tough runner inside. We have to stop a tandem group of rushers, and that is difficult to do."

"They execute well on offense. They're similar to Athens in that they power the ball at you and they hang onto the thing. I expect a low-scoring game between two real quick defensive teams. I think specialities will play a big role in establishing field position."

Keller is hoping big plays enter into the picture. Big plays have been the key in Troy's recent success. Against Athens, it was Scott Kanala's 44-yard field goal into the wind and quarterback Kurt Schram's 45-yard TD pass to Eric Jenkins.

AGAINST HENRY Ford, it was a Schram-to-John Locker 45-yard touchdown pass and a key fumble recovery by Chris Lin which set up Kanala's winning field goal.

Against Stevenson, it was Jim Mikulski's halfback option pass to Locker, which set up a Bill Hayes touchdown reception. In the CC game, it was the defense, which forced six turnovers, and the offense, which converted two turnovers into 10 points.

"We have to come up with the big plays like we have the past few weeks," Keller said. "Schram and Locker are two of our big-play people. These kids surprise me. It seems every time we need a big play, someone comes up with one."

What's even more surprising to Keller is the team's attitude and low-key approach to the games since the playoffs started. It's even more evident now.

"They may be the most relaxed group of people in the whole school," Keller said with a grin. "The kids surprise me how level-headed they are. We had a team meeting and everybody was pretty straight. They take everything in stride."

"THERE'S NO overconfidence, there's no cockiness, there's no fear and there's no intimidation. It shows how mature they are."

The matchup with Traverse City is the first Troy game at the Silverdome since the 1983 season finale when the Colts played Athens. To prepare for playing indoors, Troy practiced Tuesday and Wednesday inside at Macomb Community College, and Thursday and Friday at the University of Michigan indoor football facility in Ann Arbor.

"The noise level in the Silverdome is phenomenal," Keller said. "That's something we're going to have to get used to. I think our kids know what to expect."

"They won't be surprised."

Troy goes wild over its Colts

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

As the song goes, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and the shopping malls are alive, prof.

Although the Oakland Mall in Troy is a hotbed for holiday shoppers, there's another hot spot in Troy that is doing just fine in sales. You can't miss the place. It's on Livernois just north of Big Beaver. And don't be surprised when the destination you reach is Troy High School.

With the success of the school's football team, Col-mania has struck Troy High, and sales of football paraphernalia have reached a feverish pitch, according to Troy Booster Club President Judy Cohen.

"Adults are buying shirts, sweatshirts and jackets for Christmas for their kids," she said.

THERE WAS a large adult turnout Monday during the school's parent-teacher conference, and the booster club was on hand with a table set up displaying all the Colt memorabilia.

Among the articles for sale are buttons, T-shirts, sweatshirts, seat cushions, Christmas ornaments, sweatshirts and pants and jackets.

The buttons bear a variety of slogans: "No. 1," "On the eighth day, God created the Colts," "On to state," and "Run for cover, the Colts are here."

One of the biggest selling items is a black and white "Troy 85 Giant Killer" baseball cap. The hat was the project of the school's special education students.

"After the (Sterling Heights) Stevenson game at Athens, my husband wanted to do something to show some school spirit, and he came up with the Giant Killer hat," said Mary McDermott, a special education teacher at Troy. "We picked up the Giant Killer from the newspaper, but I'm not sure which one it was."

It was the Eccentric," said Troy principal Al Meloy, referring to a "Giant Killer" headline in the Nov. 7 edition of the Troy Eccentric.

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