

Kickoff Time For Area Prep Grid Teams

BY GEORGE MASKIN
Observer Sports Editor

The preliminaries are over! It's kickoff time this week-end for the high school football teams in Michigan's lower peninsula.

In Observland that means teams from Westland and Garden City to North Farmington and Southfield will begin action.

There'll be games Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon.

THERE'LL BE some big questions answered in the weeks ahead, questions like:

1 — Can Thurston on the heels of its first perfect football season (the team was 8-0 in 1969) continue to dominate?

2 — How's about Stevenson? Can the Livonians make it three straight in the Inter-Lakes Conference?

3 — Is it true that Franklin is loaded and will fight it out with Thurston or North Farmington for the Northwest Suburban League title.

4 — What about Garden City

East? Is this the year the team hauls off the Mid-Wayne League honors?

5 — How about the Catholic League teams... another big year in store for St. Agatha and Our Lady of Sorrows, in particular?

THERE ARE SOME other questions confronting Observland schools, questions like:

1 — Is football interest down at some of the schools? (Turnouts at several big football schools in the past dropped sharply for this year?)

2 — How about the new addition to the prep ranks — Farmington Harrison — a team which must get along without a senior in its ranks?

3 — How well will Livonia Churchill do in this the first year the team has seniors on its roster?

4 — What about the new league which involves Churchill and Farmington Harrison?

5 — Will new Farmington coach Hal Beardsley find coaching in the suburbs much different than coaching in the Detroit Public School Leagues where he served for many years until this season?

6 — What affects will the

extra week of practice enjoyed by the prep football players have on their play this season?

THE EARMARKS are for another big season for the Observland teams.

In 1969, Thurston was the giant with its perfect season. Stevenson lost two games but repeated as the Inter-Lakes champs.

Redford Union staged one of the great comebacks winning its final four games to gain a share of the Suburban Six League title.

In the Catholic League, St. Agatha zoomed to the divisional title, then went on to reach the overall second division crown.

Our Lady of Sorrows won six straight before losing in a showdown with Ferndale St. James.

THE LEAGUE SETUP remains unchanged for the 1970 season.

Plymouth, Redford Union and Bentley again will form half the six-team field in the Suburban Six League with Belleville, Trenton and Allen Park rounding out the opposition.

The Northwest Suburban Six League is pretty much an all-

Observland league with Franklin, Thurston, John Glenn, North Farmington, Birmingham Groves and Oak Park.

Stevenson, Farmington and Southfield Lathrup are in the Inter-Lakes League.

Claremont again is in the Wayne-Called, while Garden City West plays in the Tri Rivers and Garden City East in the Mid-Wayne.

Churchill and Farmington Harrison are in a new league with Waterford Mott and Walled Lake Western and a year from now they'll welcome in the second Plymouth High School.

In the Catholic League, Bishop Borgess remains in the First Division West... Our Lady of Sorrows in the Northwest Second Division... St. Agatha in the Southwest Division.

No team may play more than nine games under state rules. Most will settle for eight.

THE SEASON OPENERS match some area rivals in what for the most part is non-league action.

Only the Catholic League

teams — Borgess, Sorrows and St. Agatha — plunge directly into title action.

The top opener has to be Redford Union vs. Stevenson. As noted earlier, Stevenson won the Inter-Lakes League title while RU shared the Suburban Six loop crown in '69.

Both teams suffered heavily through graduation. Both coaches are rebuilding. Neither figures his team will be as strong as a year ago.

Another major attraction matches neighbors John Glenn and Garden City West. West has mostly new faces, while Glenn could improve on its tough going of a year ago.

The Farmington-Bentley game Friday is another battle of area neighbors. This will be Beardsley's debut as the Farmington coach and he'll have his work cut out against a Bentley team which could surprise, despite the fact the

team is loaded with younger talent.

Elsewhere on opening day, Plymouth goes to Northville, Franklin takes its powerful machine to Centerline, Garden City East entertains Riverside and Clarenceville is host to Cherry Hill.

On Saturday, North Farmington starts against strong Pontiac Northern while Farmington Harrison makes its interscholastic debut against

the JV team from Port Huron High. After the opener, Harrison will play only varsity rivals, despite the absence of seniors.

Our Lady of Sorrows meets St. Rita and St. Agatha is matched against St. Frances de Sales on opening Saturday for them.

Only Bishop Borgess has a Sunday date this week-end — meeting Beneficence at Thurston High.



OVER HILL AND DALE go members of the Plymouth High cross country team in preparation for Saturday's invitational meet in Cass Benton Park. A total of

18 teams are entered with more than 100 individual participants. The meet is sponsored by Schoolcraft College. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Bud Stevens, Mrs. Archer Crowned Champions

Mrs. Jackie Archer and Melvin "Bud" Stevens are the 1970 golf champions of Livonia following play in the first annual championship tournaments over the weekend at Whispering Willows golf course. Stevens had 67-73-74.

Mrs. Archer fired an 87 in the women's handicap division

for the victory. But she had to wait while tournament officials received a ruling on Mrs. Dot Helstein who had an 85 but tied off from the wrong set of markers and was disqualified.

Mrs. Helstein and her partners used the old tees instead of the new markers on the 14th tee. Pro and Tournament

Director Gary Whitener called Warren Orlick, at Tam O'Shanter, the area expert on rules and learned that Mrs. Helstein had disqualified herself by use of the wrong tee.

Mrs. Archer had 42-45-87 and was declared the champion. Kay Cappola was the runner-

up with a pair of 45s for 90.

IN THE FIRST flight, Mrs. Helen Feys, a member of Western Golf Club, posted a 47-50-97 to win by three strokes over Mrs. Laura Baumhart. The latter had to beat Diane Holden for the position in a playoff, winning the first hole.

Both had 104s.

In the second flight, Mrs. Lou Nelson was the winner with a 52-57-109 with Ellie McCutcheon second with 112.

The final round of the men's division was played in a drizzling, cold rain that sent scores soaring with the exception of Stevens who had a two over par 73 for the 18 holes and a two day total of 140.

PERFECT WEATHER on Saturday found golfers enjoying their best rounds of the entire season on a course that all labeled as just about the best in the area.

Stevens, who had just returned from play in the National Amateur in Portland, Ore., had high praise for the condition of the course.

Bud didn't have the championship flight to himself since there were 26 others who thought they had a chance of beating him.

But he posted a competitive course record 87 Saturday to wind up three strokes in front of Bill Himm who had a one under 70. Himm caught Stevens after nine holes but Bud recorded an eagle on the 10th hole and that seemed to take a bit of steam out of his rivals.

Himm had a 73 on Sunday to finish second with his 143 and defending champion Dave Waters had 73-72-145. Jack Bondig wound up in fourth position with 73-75-148 and Pete Owens was next in the ranks with 74-75-159.

Al Murray was the winner of a playoff to take the trophy in the first flight. He and Bob Reid ended with identical 158s. Bill Scruggs was third with 181 followed by Tom Sheldon with 79-84-163.

Bill Pollock was the second flight champion with 79-86-165, followed by Fred Benson, 82-87-167; John Aylen, 85-89-174; and Tony Lambert, 89-87-176.

Emerick Cappola holed a 45-foot putt on the 36th hole to force a playoff for honors in the third flight. He wound up in a tie with Fred Watson and they battled three extra holes before Cappola won.

Both had 196 totals for the two days. Cappola had 101-95 and Watson recorded 95-101.

Fred Gates took third with 98-101-199.

The tournament attracted 90 players in the men's and women's division, most over for a citywide tournament at the course and led Pro Whitener to predict an entry of more than 150 for the second annual event September.

A Nice Drive!

John Clitko, 32445 Rosslyn, Garden City, got the biggest thrill of his 18-year golfing career on Tuesday when he registered a hole-in-one at Bree Burn Golf Club.

Competing in the Hydrant League, he sank his tee shot on the 145-yard third hole, using a No. 7 iron.

He had a 41 for the nine-hole round.



KNOCK 'EM OVER — That's exactly what these North Farmington footballers are doing under the watchful eyes of Coach Ron Holland who gets in a few ticks of his own to show how it's done. (Observer photo by Warren Bopp)

Thurston 'Marked Team' After Unbeaten Season

Under the most ideal circumstances, it's not easy to get a football team ready for the opening of the season.

But when there is a teachers' strike, the problems mount which is the way it was this past week for Coach Bill McDonald at Thurston.

For a few days, there were indications McDonald might not be permitted to hold drills and if that were to transpire, he'd probably would have to cancel Friday's opening game with Churchill.

BUT McDONALD was given an OK to work out and the players had to slip around through the back door of the school to get out on the practice field.

State rules make it mandatory that teams practice on their own grounds, also that teams get in a prescribed number of drills before the first game is played.

Thurston starts the 1970 season Friday as a "marked team."

Little wonder. A year ago, Thurston posted a perfect record. The team was eight with out a blemish. It ruled in the Northwest Suburban League

and wound up No. 1 in the final Observer newspaper ratings.

It was a year, too, when Thurston came up with several outstanding individual standouts, boys who wound up receiving scholarships to colleges.

Topping the list was all-state back Craig Mutch, who was sought by 50 schools.

Match is now at the University of Michigan.

Guard Paul Seren has gone to Tulsa, tackle Dan Kneiler to Iowa State. Four others — Gordon Estes, Jerry Palat, Jim Johnson and Jon Lindh to smaller colleges like Albion and Central Michigan.

"This is what makes a coach extra happy," said McDonald as he gathered with his 1970 charges.

"Sure, it's wonderful to win games and titles. But what a coach derives his greatest thrill from is seeing his boys climb the ladder to greater success, to be wanted by the colleges, like so many of our boys were this past year."

McDONALD CITES this as the most important phase of football and used the argument

last week when there was some effort to curb football drills while the strike kept classrooms closed.

Such losses as Mutch and Seren and Estes and the others are bound to hurt Thurston the new season.

But McDonald has 14 seniors back, plus a fine group of upcoming newcomers.

"I think we'll be okay," he says.

The returnees include Steve Boyak, a regular halfback; Dennis Poppinger, an all-league defensive back; Mark Miller, a 185-pound halfback; and Bob Graustein who'll take over as quarterback in place of the departed Ron Barringer.

Up front, the 240-pound Jim Wiebeck returns to play tackle and guard. Jeff Smrka, 235-pounder, is back, and Dale Mutch, Craig's younger brother, is ready to go along with Larry McMillan and Jack Jominy.

Chuc K Mallon and Larry Krux both are experienced ends, the latter a transfer student from St. Andrews High.

The center battle is between Leonard Glud and Craig Lincoln.

Special Offer!

OIL CHANGE & LUBRICATION

Reg. \$5.50 This week only...

\$3.66

Add \$1 if premium oil is used

Take your car where the experts are!

Our car care experts have the "know how" to make your car run smoother and safer. Don't wait... bring your car in today and take advantage of this low price offer!

BRAKE & ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

Regular \$12.95

This Week Only \$9.95

except on cars with Disc Brakes

Any U.S. auto. Parts extra if needed. Add \$2 for cars with air conditioning

Trained experts will adjust brakes on all four wheels. Add brake fluid if needed and test. Clean, inspect and repack front wheel bearings. Re-align front end. Correct camber, caster and toe-in. Rotate all 4 wheels.

LIVONIA MALL
19424 Middlebelt Road
At Seven Mile
476-0900

LIVONIA
29100 Plymouth Road
At Middlebelt
834-0868

REDFORD
13955 Telegraph Road
At Schoolcraft
631-6460

WESTLAND
3522 West Warren
Across from Hudson's
721-1610

SOUTHFIELD
28481 Telegraph Road
Across from Tel-12 Shopping Center
352-2090