

observing sports

IF I HAD MY WAY:

There'd be no schoolboy football game played — be it on the high school varsity level or among grade-schoolers — without a registered doctor in attendance.

The high schools generally see to it that there is a physician present for their big games...when the varsity plays.

But, few schools take such precautions when the JV's or the sophomores play and it's rare when there is a doctor officially assigned for junior high and grade school games.

The need for a doctor at every football game is vital. That goes without saying.

Some schools are fortunate that there is a dad around, who is a doctor, and volunteers his services for the JV and grade school contests.

It strikes us that if it's mandatory that every boy undergo a physical before he can engage in a football or any other game, then steps should be taken to assure that if an emergency arises on the field, somebody who knows what to do is there...and instantly!

IF I HAD MY WAY:

Every high school would assign a student, who has aspirations to become a sports writer, to serve as the school's sports publicity man.

With the expansion of sports, there is a growing need for somebody, other than the coach, to have the responsibility to call the various newspapers, radio stations, etc.

Much of the load now falls on the coach who already is weighed down with a million problems.

Things the coach must do in the course of a day:

- 1-He teaches his share of classes.
- 2-Spends time preparing for the job he'll do when he assembles the team.
- 3-Acts like a second dad to many boys.
- 4-Encourages the boys to watch their school work.

4-Serves as a trainer, doctor, messenger boy and what have you.

6-Worries, worries, worries.

The school coach, like the pro coach and manager, has pressures, too — the pressures that come with winning and losing.

IF I HAD MY WAY:

There'd be no barring of spring football for high schools which choose to run such a program.

Let the kids, who aren't engaged in other sports and activities, come out. If the administrators wish — bar them from wearing pads like they did in the first week of fall practice this past week.

But why in these times when we must find more constructive things for the teenagers, especially, to do...should we stick to the rule — no spring practice in football?

IF I HAD MY WAY:

There'd be special salutes to the various people throughout our area who had anything to do with amateur baseball during the past summer.

It was a great year in every sense of the word. Observerland teams did well, both on a local and national level.

Just to stop to think a moment:

There were the Little Leaguers from South Farmington who swept clean to the national regional finals.

And what about Garden City's Pony Leaguers who soared to within a victory of the Pony World Series.

And Redford Township's Adray League baseball team — one of the top six in the All-Amateur Baseball championships held at Johnston, Pa.

Add the fact teams from Livonia and Plymouth advanced to the finals in the recreation baseball program at Jackson...that Thurston and the Livonia Royals won regional Connie Mack titles...that Southfield's American Legion team came within a whisker of the league crown.

Quite a baseball year it was on our sandlots.

IF I HAD MY WAY:

Folks would stop complaining that "umpires beat us."

Umpires don't beat anybody. We've yet to meet the dishonest official.

He may be lousy, when it comes to calling 'em...but, if he is, he's messing 'em up for both teams.

When teams don't win, it's because there's something wrong with the team itself — its management, its players, etc.

The greatest umpires in the world won't help you win.

If you disagree...glance at the American or National Leagues...teams like Washington and the Chicago White Sox get the same umpires as Baltimore and Minnesota...and the Tigers.

It's the same way in pro football. The same men who officiate the games involving the leaders also work games involving those down at the bottom.

Enough said, I think, about officials.

Szymczak Is Coach At School

Jan Albert Szymczak has been named as new head football coach for Saint Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake. In addition, he will be assistant coach of varsity baseball, instructor of health and physical education, and world history instructor.

Szymczak received the B.S. degree (Bachelor of Science in Education) from Eastern Michigan University, in June, 1968, from Henry Ford Community College.

He previously served as assistant football and baseball coach for two years under Father John Rakoczy, Athletic Director of Saint Mary's.

Juniors Carry Hopes Of GC West

If coach Bob Draheim of Garden City West High's football team sang the blues, one might understand.

A year ago, in his first season at West, Draheim saw his Chargers win only once in nine games.

Now with a new season at hand, he finds himself with a small team — both in numbers and from a physical standpoint.

For example, there are only 12 seniors on the squad and only about seven figure to play very much.

All of which means that Draheim will count pretty much on juniors to carry the load during the season which starts a week from Friday night when West plays host to nearby John Glen.

SIZE-WISE the biggest

man on the team, when it comes to tipping the scales, is lineman Kirk Lewis. He checks in at 185 pounds.

So, despite the fact his West team will be outgunned and outexperienced by most of their rivals, especially in the tough Tri-River league, Draheim is at least the team improving on last year's dismal record.

"I'm not predicting any

championship," said Draheim, "but I do see us up around the .500 mark."

He's heartened that last year's JV team has produced several fine prospects. That was the team which lost only once in eight games...and that one setback was just by a single point.

"They are a fine group."

Depth will be a big problem because of the number of problems on the team.

"We can't afford injuries or illness," said the coach.

"We'll be a passing team," says Draheim. "That's the way our offense figures."

The interior line situation on offense also poses some problems. Only Dave Strzakowski is back and he'll be at guard.

Draheim calls senior half-back Ken Suppya "one of the best in the area" and sees Jim Simms, who was a starting job at halfback as a sophomore last season, highly improved.

It figures to be an interesting season at West. That much is certain.

Livonian Gets Hole-In-One After 10 Years

It took 10 years but the big day finally arrived for George Withey, 18221 Golfview, Livonia, when he fired a five iron on the 181-yard No. 15 hole at the Dearborn Country Club and watched the ball hit on the edge of the green and roll in for an ace.

Withey, 34, was playing in the annual Stag Day event. The hole-in-one finished his game for the day but he did wind up with a 45-45-91, far below his normal game.

The ace didn't help a bit on the second nine—he had a hole-in-one and still wound up one stroke ahead of the front nine.

He was playing in a four-some with Dennis Fitzpatrick, Graham Edwards and Robert Peterson.

The biggest problem confronting Draheim is at quarterback where he must replace Pat McHugh, whom the West coach considered the best quarterback in the area last season.

Greg Fielden, a senior who played halfback a year ago, has been moved over to quarterback where he and Dave Wlasek, the JV team's No. 1 QB are waging a hot battle for the open job.

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PRACTICING HANDOFFS in an offensive maneuver are members of the Plymouth High backfield. That's

Jeff Stringham taking the ball and looking for an opening. (Observer photo)

Plymouth Seeks Better Things But Lacks Backup Replacements

There is no numbers' shortage at Plymouth high as coach Tom Moshimer prepares the Rocks for next Friday night's opening game against Nashville.

But Moshimer is concerned whether he'll have adequate back-ups behind his first team which he says will be "very respectable."

The question centers on how many of the other boys can come through.

"Everybody knows that you can't win without adequate replacements," says Moshimer.

The Rocks split in eight games a year ago and Moshimer feels they can match or surpass the mark in the coming season.

18 Teams Clash In Invitational

The fifth annual Schoolcraft College cross country invitational for high school teams will be held Saturday morning, at 10 a.m.

Eighteen teams including defending co-champions Garden City West and Farmington High have entered.

The challengers are: Bentley, Bishop Borgess, Claremont, Northville, Wayne Memorial, Edsel Ford, Dearborn, John Glenn, Redford Union, Stevenson, Thurston, North Farmington, Plymouth, Churchill, Franklin and Garden City East.

The meet will be contested over a hilly two-mile course in Cass — Benton Park, located along Edward Hines Drive just south of Northville.

CAPTAIN Ed Scott typifies the returning veterans. He's a fullback on offense and a linebacker on defense.

Another two-way performer is Rick Reuther, who operates

Hazel Park Entries

WEDNESDAY

1ST — 4 FURLONGS: Middle of the Road, Green Hill, Barrowan, Star, Star Head, Sway Fellow, White Lady Gray, Fal Pen, Akhe, Trim Lee, Tim Price.

2ND — 4 FURLONGS: Princess Pender, Miss Boutelle, Closing Punch, Critica, Cheri Tribe, Glass Stem, No Gossip, Scandalous, Birthday, Greengrass, Salamander.

3RD — 4 FURLONGS: Bonoude, Mule's Sap, Prince Dimitri, Sony Monday, Armature, De's Blue Spar, Level Again, Via-Lua Star, Far Fish, Cantelero.

4TH — 1 1/4 MILES: Rindy Price, Sweet Eva, What A Wink, Respite, Go Giddy, Jay Dee, Je, Disinclair, Optical Delusion, Eve's Choice.

5TH — 4 FURLONGS: Miss Tym Bomb, Diana's Queen, Flirt De Sole, Preston M, Wavy Line, Tigers Tune, Kanchikade, Tawman, Ho, Pen Sh.

6TH — 6 FURLONGS: Brass Dancer, Gremly, Gay Lisa, Bear Chaser, Game Fighter, Perfect Gobbler, Are Host, Vined, Court II.

7TH — 4 FURLONGS: Prominence, Full Steam Ahead, M.B. Galaxy, Dame Scott, Court Jive, Armed Force, Kennedy Butler, O-Su-Good, Go Millie Go, Fast Ship.

8TH — 4 FURLONGS: Kathy Kely, Bayland, Jam G, Gullybird, Amber Song, Round Pearl.

9TH — ONE MILE: United Prince, AKL'S Jo Jo, Tawman, Paula, Keldancer, Thermo Jac, Everposed, Red Darc, Popalita, Chitpoo.

Wayne State University assistant football coaches Bob Schroeder and Enrico Odorico captained Tartar football teams in 1965 and 1962 respectively.

at tackle on defense. But it's still a toss-up whether he'll play fullback or center on offense.

The return of Charley Wolfe at end gives Plymouth one of the top flankers in the Suburban Six League.

In the halfback department, Plymouth has Dan Chopp and Rob Blackmore. The latter played only defense a year ago as a linebacker, but he has shown in drills this fall that he can carry the ball on offense.

Greg LeMirand is being groomed for the Rocks' quarterback job. Greg played half back a year ago, but has made the transition to the key QB spot in fine shape so far.

Steve Puckett at guard and Steve Williams at tackle are a pair of top notch linemen, while end Dan Schumak has been very impressive among the Plymouth newcomers.

Schumak is not new to prep football. He is a transfer student from L'Anse Creuse High in Mt. Clemens.



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