

Sports

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(F)10

East stars power-packed

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Joe D'Angelo feels like a guy waiting for the inevitable pinch — the one that will awaken him and force him to face the dreary fact that the dream is over.

D'Angelo, 17, is a football coach. And it's not uncommon for football coaches to fantasize about running backs faster than a speeding bullet, linemen more powerful than a locomotive, defensive backs able to leap over a tall building in a single bound.

Heck, all football coaches have musings like that — asleep or awake.

D'Angelo, though, has a leg up on his coaching cohorts. For the past week, he's had his dream come true.

D'Angelo, who during the regular prep football season heads Detroit Country Day's program, is serving as head coach of the East All-Stars. They'll take on the West stars in the sixth annual Michigan high school all-star football classic at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium.

AS COUNTRY DAY'S coach, D'Angelo has enjoyed outstanding success in recent years, including a trip to the Class C state playoffs in 1985. But coaching this caliber of player has him as excited as ever.

"You really don't appreciate their talent until you get here and actually work with them," he said. "They can do so much in such a short time. Everyone's saying they probably haven't had this much talent here before — especially on the east team."

That comment's an eyebrow-lifter, considering last year's team included guys like John Miller of Farmington Harrison and Andre Rison of Flint Northwestern.

But then take a peek at the east team's lineup.

D'ANGELO MIGHT have had a major dilemma if Allen Jefferson, the Warren DeLaSalle standout, didn't pull a leg muscle in the state track finals in June. The loss of such an outstanding offensive back might devastate other all-star teams. Not this one.

Not with Southfield's Torin Dorn and Westland John Glenn's Tony Boles playing tailback. These two

were good enough to pick their college. Any school in the nation would welcome them. Dorn chose North Carolina; Boles is headed to Michigan.

D'Angelo knew all this before the first all-star practice. And yet... "You know they're fast, but you don't realize how fast until you actually see them," said D'Angelo. "They can pick a hole so well, and yet they make everything look so effortless out there."

Neither will play in the backfield at the same time, D'Angelo vowed, which should draw mixed reactions from the west team. After all, what's worse — trying to contain Boles for a series, then having to handle a rested Dorn the next set of downs, or facing both at once knowing only one can carry the ball?

IT'S A NO-WIN situation, either way. And the rest of the east team won't instill optimism in the west stars. For example:

• At quarterback, D'Angelo can call on either Birmingham Brother Rice's Chris Sullivan or Dearborn Edsel Ford's Dan Enos. "Either one can put the ball right on the money. It's going to be hard for the west to key on the running game with these guys throwing."

• At receiver, there's Brian Smolinski of Farmington Harrison and Ken Koolwick of Bloomfield Hills Lahser. "Brian is the best out here. He not only has great speed but makes excellent cuts. What Boles and Dorn are to the running game, Brian is to the passing game."

• Linemen — "Dan Nash of Redford Catholic Central is an excellent tackle for us. And another kid I'm really impressed with is this Craig Petersmark, from Farmington. I think he was underrated by a lot of colleges. He's the strongest kid we have. In our one-on-one blocking drills he was driving everyone back off the line. He has extremely strong leg drive."

• And on defense there's Birmingham Seaborn's Marc Spencer, a hugely talented linebacker. "What can I say? He moves well laterally and he's strong." There's also Plymouth Salem defensive back Paul Makara, Bloomfield Hills Andover defensive tackle Bruce Work, and

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FILE PHOTO

Brian Smolinski, Farmington Harrison grad bound for Michigan State, has been wowing the coaches during practices for Saturday's Michigan High School All-Star Football Classic at Spartan Stadium.

Surf swims to 10th title

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Mike Rado did not expect such a runnaway.

The first-year Bloomfield Surf Swim Club coach figured competition for the Northwest Suburban Swim League's overall championship would be closer than ever this year.

Well, when the Beach Woods Pool in Southfield finally settled Sunday evening from two days of constant wave action, the Surfers had strolled to their 10th straight league championship.

Just like it was under former coach Mike Lane, Bloomfield Surf dominated the 15-team meet by winning four of the six age groups and scoring 744 points. The real race was for second place.

"The kids swam real well," said Rado, who also coaches the girls and boys high school teams at Lahser. "We were only seeded 76 points up. But the kids did a real nice job."

"Our little kids (8-and-unders) were a big surprise," he said. "They moved up to fourth overall this year. Last year they were ninth."

DARIN ABBASSE, Orchard Valley's first-year swim coach, was one of a number of observers impressed with Surf's showing.

"My roommate Mike Schmidt (Woodside Athletic Club coach) and me knew we didn't have a chance to catch Surf with all the talent they have," said Abbasse.

"Club were the meet's other double winners. The two other teams which will join Bloomfield Surf, Woodside and Orchard Valley in the NSSL 'A' Division next year include Forest Hills and Woodbrooke Swim Club."

The five teams which will compose the 'B' Division next summer will be Beachview Swim Club, Cranbrook Swim Club, Rochester Heart of the Hills Swim Club, Village Athletic Club of Lathrup Village and Farmington Glen Aquatic Club.

The Beach Wood Recreation Association of Troy, Beverly Hills Athletic Club, Pleasant Ridge Community Pool, Redwood Club of Farmington and Livonia C.B. will compose the NSSL's 'C' Division next summer.

"But I didn't expect to score over 500 points. That was quite an accomplishment. I thought we would score around 495 points if we could hold our qualifying spots. But they all improved."

"It was just a good, all-around per-

A complete statistical summary of the Northwest Suburban League swim championships, plus results from the Michigan Interclub Swim Association league meet, can be found on page 3D.

formance by our swimmers," he said.

INCREDIBLY, Bloomfield Surf was paced by just one double winner — Mike Dobrovic in the 11-12 age division. Dobrovic took the 50-meter breaststroke in 33.40 and the 50-meter freestyle in 28.27.

Kathleen Whittedge, Todd Henderson, Matt Pawlick, Jenny Gibson, Ryan Martin, Craig Schneider, Molly Lasker, Derek Walter and Chip Deliver were Surf's other individual winners. Surf also won three of the six relay events.

Nathan Fisher of the Village Athletic Club, Sean Hoppe of the Pleasant Ridge Community Pool, Liz Huckabay and Doug Waffan of Woodside, Katie Knipper of Orchard Valley and Alissa Gowling and Janet Caraher of the Beverly Hills Athletic Club were the meet's other double winners.

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ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Andy Weighill slides safely into third for the South Farmington Pony League team during the state tournament. The team placed second.

S. Farmington takes 2nd

Close but no cigar. South Farmington's Pony League tournament team made a gallant run through the loser's bracket of the state baseball tournament two weeks ago, only to fall one game shy of the title. The tournament is for kids ages 13 and 14.

The team, managed by Larry Rospierski, was sent to the loser's bracket after losing the tourney opener to Redford, 5-2.

South Farmington battled its way to the championship round with victories against Waterford (4-1), Grand

Ledge (10-3) and St. Clair Shores (7-3).

South Farmington needed to beat Redford twice to win the state tournament, but Redford prevailed 7-3.

SOUTH FARMINGTON advanced to the state tournament by winning its district. Chris Schmid (2-0) and Bill Stevenson (1-0) handled the pitching chores while Rick Friedrich, Jeremy Rospierski, Andy Weighill and Jon Schaefer led the offense.

Those six players, along with

starters Eric Miller, Gary Devine and P.J. Green, the core of the team, have been together for three seasons. The same nine helped South Farmington make it to the state finals in Bronze League (ages 11-12).

Also contributing to this season's success were Ajay Bedi, Mike Jozwiak, Les Luark, Dennis Turner, Kevin Van Ord and Bob Weidenhamer.

The team's assistant coaches were Dick Miller and John Stevenson. Close but no cigar? You bet, but 13- and 14-year-old boys don't smoke cigars anyway.

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