

15,000 To Watch Rice U-D Duel In Boys Bowl

It'll be the biggest attendance at a high school game in Michigan!

More than 15,000 will crowd into Detroit's U. of Stadium Sunday afternoon when Brother Rice faces Catholic Central in the annual Boys Bowl game.

More than winning in the Bowl will be at stake, especially for Rice. Rice by winning will take a stranglehold on the title in the Boys Division of the league.

Victory, too, would amount to sweet revenge for Rice, since it's only last season was Catholic Central.

ALTHOUGH the teams finished the year with identical records, Catholic Central went on to play for the title, be-

cause of its win earlier over Rice.

One fan present Sunday will be Mrs. Phyllis Fracassa. She's the wife of Al, the Rice coach.

She's been watching Al in his athletic endeavors since they were together as seventh graders in school.

They went on to high school together in Detroit where Al starred as quarterback ...

then on to Michigan State where Al was second-string QB behind Tom Yewick, and later Earl Morrill, now with the Baltimore Colts.

These came coaching ... in his first two years as an assistant at Rochester ... then nine years as head coach at Shrine in Royal Oak and now Brother Rice for the second year.

"It's wonderful to be with a winner," she said. "It can be

miserable around the house when the team loses."

MRS. FRACASSA knows how much Sunday's game means to her husband.

"I've never been Catholic Central. They beat him one year at Shrine for the Soup Bowl (the championship) and then last year.

"I've been saying from the start that his present group of kids is probably the finest

he's coached. He doesn't have any stars, like he did last year. It's just a complete team ... and the boys have played unselfishly.

"They're not demanding of their coach. They're simply a great bunch."

BROTHER RICE carries an unbeaten record of three wins and a tie into Sunday's game. CC has lost twice.

The tie came against Shrine in the season opener. Since then Rice has improved with each performance.

If the Warriors can get past their coach, they'll be sitting in pretty good shape.

And the Fracassa household will have a big Sunday dinner, for as Mrs. Fracassa said: "It's miserable when you lose."

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5. Drop in any mailbox. The lucky winner will be announced November 10 by newspaper, radio, and carrier pigeon.

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- (Neatly) print your choice for WHF's Stick-it-in-your-ear award.
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- Stick a stamp (6¢) and stick it on the appropriate spot on the envelope.

All entries must be received by November 2nd to be eligible.

WHF/STEREO 94
STICK IT IN YOUR EAR.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

President Leon Slavin and his Jackson-Northville harness racing meeting have won the first confrontation with Windsor Raceway for the American dollars going through the mutual machines.

However, this was just the first head-to-head meeting inasmuch as the Jackson campaign just opened Thursday night and there is a long hard grind ahead before the campaign closes on Nov. 30 in Michigan.

It will be recalled that the Jackson-Northville season opened three weeks after Windsor started a year ago and the Canadian operation took advantage of no competition in the Detroit area for its fastest start in history.

The impetus continued for the entire campaign and Jackson was a major second until the closing nights in late December.

The story is entirely different this time. Windsor took on Wolverine Raceway for eight nights and found the competition a bit more than it could swallow. The handle only reached \$200,000 once in the eight programs.

Now, it's Jackson against Windsor and from the impetus of the opening night at Northville, the Canadian track is in torrid competition for the \$5 all the way.

In Thursday's confrontation, Jackson had 3,152 customers and handled \$232,000 contrasted to 2,152 and \$178,465 on its opening night last fall.

Windsor had 2,837 patrons who wagered \$183,068.

One wonders what will happen at Windsor if the meeting continues at the present level. It is a far cry from the record-making nights of a year ago and the nightly mutual handle has to be less than \$175,000.

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, won the driving championship with a winning percentage of .383. He had 18 wins, 11 seconds and eight thirds in his 70 starts.

Gerry Bookmyer, 29-year-old Okemos, ranked second percentage-wise with .352 and won the trophy for the most victories during the 60 nights with a total of 48. That was just one short of the all-time record established six years back by Joe Marsh Jr. of Findlay, O. Gerry had 48 firsts, 36 seconds and 28 thirds in 220 starts.

Merritt Doherty, 31, of Kalamazoo, wound up in the third position with a .351 average on 41 wins, 32 seconds and 29 thirds in 195 trips to the post.

Wolverine Raceway decided to change from a half-mile strip to the big mile track for 1970 and ended the 60-night meeting with all figures on the plus side including the first 1:58 clocking on the Detroit Race Course oval.

The track record was set by Knox Patch, a Michiganbred son of Knox Hanover, in August and none threatened the clocking although there were seven sub-2:00 miles during the 60 nights.

Final figures show Wolverine had a 26 per cent increase in wagering over 1969 with a nightly average of \$372,793. The total handle was \$24,367,576. Both are all-time highs for Wolverine and second high in Michigan history.

Attendance was at a record high with a nightly average of 7,886-up 55.5 per cent over figures for the same number of nights a year ago. Total attendance was 472,157.

Although the 1971 dates aren't expected from Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley for another month or six weeks, one thing is certain—Wolverine will operate over the big mile track from this point on.

Terry Butler, the 25-year-old driver-trainer from Clinton, Mich., who is a member of the

COLD WEATHER is on the way — and the Hazel Park Race Track is ready.

A central heating system and movable glass walls have been installed to make it possible to completely enclose and heat the lower grandstand in cold weather.

Patrons can be as comfortable now in freezing weather as if they were watching the races from their own living rooms.

The glass panels for the enclosure of the lower grandstand are 22 feet wide and 16 feet high, with panes 2 1/2 by five feet. These panels can be stored overhead in warm weather, the way overhead garage doors are positioned when not in use. The panels are operated electrically.

The cost of the glass alone is over \$100,000. General Manager Frank Stepek puts the cost of the entire installation at more than \$300,000.

A special racing surface, with a limestone base, was installed last year. This surface is ideal for racing in freezing weather.

The lower grandstand has 400 seats. There are four adjacent levels for wagering, cashing, lounging and watching the races on closed-circuit TV. More than 9,000 fans can be accommodated there comfortably, for a total of about 15,000 in addition to the enclosed and heated clubhouse.

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EVERYONE UP and cheer for Stevenson High is the way cheerleader Mary Jo Rigelski is putting it to the Spartan supporters.

She's just one of the pretty lassies that keep the Stevenson students cheering with gusto at all home games. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

U-M's Huff Makes Foes Back Off

ANN ARBOR When the New York Giants were riding high in the world on professional football the cry used to rise every Sunday of "Huff, Huff, Huff." The Giant fans were screaming for their middle linebacker, Sam Huff, big number 70.

Michigan fans can echo that cry with their own middle linebacker, also a big No. 70, Marty Huff. Huff, a 6-2, 231 senior from Toledo, O., and a definite All-America candidate, is one of the bulwarks of the Wolverines defense that has allowed only 22 points in four games.

Just one touchdown is included in those 22 points and that came on the ground. No team has been able to pass into the Michigan end zone and Huff's five interceptions have done much to prevent such an occurrence.

FIVE INTERCEPTIONS for a linebacker would be a great season's work but it is not surprising that Huff has so many already. He has tremendous speed for his size and can stay with the backs he covers.

A fullback in high school, he also has a great pair of hands and the ability to run with the ball after picking it off. Included in his career record are a 70 yard run with an interception against Duke and 33 yard jaunt against Vanderbilt for a touchdown.

Huff doesn't just confine himself to pass defense. He is also an excellent open field tackler and led the Wolverines with 87 solo tackles in 1969. In the current season he has a total of 57 tackles to go with his interceptions.

In addition to everything else, Coach Bo Schembechler respects Huff's knowledge of the game well enough to allow him to call the defensive signals. The results of the defensive team's work this year indicate that Huff handles that job as well as he does receivers and runners.

observing sports

I always had a dream ... Wouldn't it be great to umpire in the major leagues?

How about those nice salaries? What about \$40 a day for living expenses? And a pretty handsome pension when I was all through calling the balls and strikes?

Naturally the dream never materialized. Even when the umps recently struck before the American and National League playoffs, nobody called from either headquarters to ask if I were interested.

BUT, I'M NOT so sure — oh, yea! — that I'd go for umpiring in the majors ... not with the modern techniques of television making life so rough on the guys who render the decisions.

Like that play Saturday in the World Series involving Bernie Carbo, one of the more illustrious of the ObserveLand graduates.

Everybody knows that Ump Ken Burkhart got in Carbo's way ... that there was no way that the Baltimore catcher could make the tag.

But that was just half of it. When it was all over and television reran the play for two or three days, it was generally agreed that the Baltimore catcher tagged the runner with his glove ... and his glove never had the ball. It was in the other hand, quite some distance from the sliding Carbo.

At the same time, the reruns proved conclusively that Burkhart was not in position to call the play. He was down on his hands and knees. He guessed — something no official ever should do.

The reruns, of course, affect officials in ALL sports.

Let there be a questionable verdict in football, or hockey, or basketball ... and the TV puts the play on and on several times.

THE COMMENTATORS always admit: "We're not trying to show the ump or referee up." Of course not!

There's little that any official can do about the reruns. Maybe that phase of TV has made for better officiating.

The man in the blue suit or striped shirt must hustle harder than ever. He can ill afford a hasty call because he says to himself: "Who can dispute what I've done?"

I can sympathize with Burkhart because of the jam he got into when he interfered with Carbo and the Baltimore catcher.

A situation like that has happened to every arbitrator. Usually, more than once.

Some years ago, when U. of D. and Wayne were playing, I was working on the bases. Just two umps! There was a runner on first and the batter bounced one to second. Or maybe it was short. Anyway the play went to second for an easy forecourt and the throw should have easily doubled-up the batter runner.

But the throw never reached first. Instead, it landed plunk in a certain ump's back.

It seemed the ump had made the cardinal mistake of taking his eye off the ball and when the throw was made from second the ump had already positioned himself near first.

Well, so what do you do?

Really, nothing. You can't call interference on the ump under such circumstances. So, the ball just remained in play.

AN ARGUMENT RESULTED ... and about all the ump could say was:

"Sorry, fellows, I got into the play when I should not have. But, I have a sore back now and that's something I don't need."

Then there was another occasion.

I thought the play was over with a runner on third and another on first.

So, I politely bent over to dust off the plate.

Crash, bang, crash. Before I knew it, I was down on the ground. The runner from third had taken off and just bowled me over to reach the plate.

Fortunately, there was no play made on him, so no beef arose over the decision. But I learned a lesson: "Make certain all play has stopped before you ever clean off the plate."

Ump Burkhart probably will never live down what happened Saturday. That's because of the TV reruns.

So, friends, keep me on the sandlots and with the preps. It's more fun there.

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SATURDAY
Farmington Harrison vs. Waterford Mott at Farmington High, 2 p.m.
Birmingham Groves at North Farmington, 2 p.m.
Bishop Borgess vs. Gabriel Richard at River-view, 7:30.

SUNDAY
Our Lady of Sorrows vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's at Farmington, 2:30 p.m.
St. Agatha at Wyandotte Mt. Carmel, 2:30 p.m.