

All-star game makes for entertaining show

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

Out-of-season all-star games are usually prescribed for insomniacs. Yawns assured before the game's half over, followed by fitful sleep long before the predictably boring conclusion.

But there are always exceptions, which is what Saturday's ninth annual Michigan High School All-Star Football Game proved to be. There was more action than drudgery (in refreshing change from the seventh and eighth "classics"), much of it traceable to surprising sources — local ones at that.

The biggest of the surprises, of course, was the final score: East 31, West 26. The result ended the West's two-game win streak — the West had three victories in the last four meetings — and established new scoring records, for one and two teams (both previous bests came in the West's 25-22 win in 1982).

THAT PART had to please game chairman Tom Moshimer, Plymouth Salem's football coach. After all, as he explained after the East had rolled to a 31-13 halftime lead, "The game is designed that way. The defenses are handcuffed. They can't blitz, so they can't put any pressure on. The game's designed to put points on the board."

Which is why, after West running back Tony Jackson scored on a 7-yard run with 5:02 left in the third quarter, his team got the ball back. To try to keep the game from becoming a runaway, there is a 12-point rule. If a team still trails by 12 points or more after scoring, it gets the ball back.

The rule didn't benefit the West. The closest it got after the first quarter was the final margin, and that came with just 2:11 left when Mike Nadlicek bulled his way into the end zone from 4 yards out.

BUT DENNIS EDWARDS, the defensive back from Rochester Adams, grabbed the West's ensuing onside

football

kick attempt and the East's offense ran out the clock.

What made this game memorable weren't the final moments, however; it was the opening ones, which produced a bevy of trick plays and points.

The West drove 72 yards on nine plays to open the game, including a wingback reverse pass from Ty Hollock to Robert Oginsky to the 1 (Hollock dove over on the next play).

Then the East unloaded a shocker of its own.

Bob Gould, listed as the team's punter, circled around on a flanker reverse and lofted a long pass to end Bryan Wauldron, from Farmington Harrison. All Wauldron had to do was hang on to the ball; no defender was in the vicinity. He did, and when Zoran Djordjevic booted the extra point, the East was ahead 7-6, a lead it never lost.

"THAT PLAY never worked in practice," said Birmingham Brother Rice offensive tackle Marc Milia. "But it fooled them completely today."

Milia and a couple of other observers at Eccentric-area athletic who tolled on the offensive line for the East — Redford St. Agatha's Mike Boyle and Troy's Mike Ostrander — deserved credit for opening holes in the West defense so the running game could produce 172 yards.

And the guy who was most grateful was Bobby Johnson of Southfield. Johnson is listed as 5-foot-8 and 180 pounds, but he doesn't look nearly that big. Still, he was plenty big Saturday in the vicinity. He did, and when Zoran Djordjevic booted the extra point, the East was ahead 31-13.

UNLIKE MANY of his all-star mates, Johnson isn't headed to a big-

time university. "I'm not real big on name schools," he said after his superb performance. "All these guys around here are saying I'm going to Michigan or I'm going to Notre Dame. I didn't want to go someplace where I'll have to depend on a tutor to pass a class for me."

What Johnson wanted in Saturday's all-star game was plain enough: "I just wanted to go out and do my best. I wanted to give 100 percent, like in every other game."

He wasn't alone. Another guy bent on giving his best, a guy who also wasn't highly recruited for football, was Redford Catholic Central nose-guard Lee Krueger, from Plymouth.

KRUEGER WAS both disruptive and effective. He's been called "The West's best" for his play in football, but he'll have to walk on to play football. His athletic grant is for wrestling.

The 6-2, 205-pounder grappled his way to 4½ tackles against the West, including 1 TD run capped the wide-open first half, and ended the East's scoring. It was enough.

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Miller blasts ex-Spartan

By Brad Emens
staff writer

John Miller is hoping to make noise in the Detroit Lions' training camp, but this week he's gained a new notice regarding comments made about former Michigan State teammate Tony Mandarich.

The eccentric Mandarich, a No. 1 draft pick of the Green Bay Packers, has been source of controversy ever since his senior year at MSU.

The mammoth 6-foot-5, 320-pound offensive tackle blasted the NCAA after he was slapped with a three-game suspension for violating rules last season. He also complained about being overlooked for the Outland Trophy, has made a challenge to fight heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, and since moving to a body building haven in Venice Beach, Calif., has taken on a callous attitude toward the Packers.

(Mandarich and the Packers are far apart in contract negotiations.) He was also the subject of an in-depth piece in Sports Illustrated, which caused plenty of reaction, most notably from Miller, who first

football

made his comments over the weekend to a Detroit television station. Miller reiterated his feelings Tuesday during the Lions training camp at Oakland University.

"IT'S FUNNY," he said, "I talked to my girlfriend the other day, and a lot of people in East Lansing are talking about it." Miller said. "I guess the CBS affiliate up there picked up the feed from Detroit."

Miller makes no bones about Mandarich's escapades during the past year. "I won't cut Tony down as a person, but his actions have been embarrassing. The things he's done has affected a lot of people."

"He had been a real role model. There were a lot of little kids who looked up to him, but he's just made a mockery of everything. He's had plenty of opportunity, but he's just for the fast buck."

Miller said he noticed a change

in Mandarich's attitude during the latter stages of the 1988 season.

"We were good friends all season, but the last two or three games he didn't seem to be the same kind of guy," Miller said. "I think he got too big for football. Tony left a lot of friends. He just pecked up and left. He was a big part of the campus."

MILLER ADDED that MSU "did Tony a big favor."

"They gave him a scholarship, they gave him a chance, he went there for free," said the Lions hopeful. "Kirk Gibson always said the he owes the university a big favor, and I feel the same way toward MSU. Tony should not try to embarrass the school in the press."

It may be interesting to see if the two MSU players ever meet on an NFL field.

If Mandarich ends his holdout with Green Bay and Miller makes the Lions squad, the two could literally bump heads Sunday, Oct. 29, in Milwaukee. The first of two meetings between the teams this season.

Miller focuses on special teams

Continued from Page 1

MILLER IS A GOOD bet to stick through next Friday when the Lions open their exhibition season, Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Silverdome against the Cleveland Browns.

The word around training camp is that the Lion coaching staff is willing to give Miller a good look.

"There's not a lot of feedback and sometimes it gets frustrating," said Miller after Tuesday's morning practice at Oakland University. "You just have to keep working your butt off and hope they'll notice."

"You have to keep the attitude and pick yourself up

by the shoulders when you get down, even if you keep having bad practices. But so far I think I've had a productive camp. I think I've been at the right spot at the right time."

Miller's game plan is to make the right decisions and play consistently.

"Frank Ganz (special teams coach) told me the other day that you have to be handy and this game is 70 percent in the head. It's heart and determination," Miller said. "If I do the right things, speed won't hurt me."

But the man Miller must impress above all is head coach Wayne Fontes, who happens to be an MSU grad.

Late surge puts Lakers in first place

The Lakers won their last two regular-season games to grab first place away from the Spartans in the Metro Summer Hockey League's Bakes Conference.

Finishing with a 6-2-3 record, the Lakers edged the Spartans, who were 7-4.

Dan McKay and Tony Guzzo scored two goals apiece Monday as the Lakers beat the Wildcats 9-6 and gained a one-point advantage over the Spartans. Bryan Krygier had three assists for the Wildcats.

Larry Piliut scored both of his goals in the first period Sunday night to help the Lakers gain a 3-1 lead en route to a 7-4 victory over the Falcons. Piliut also had a pair of assists, and Jamie Cieslik had a goal and one assist for the losers.

Alan Carnes scored two third-period goals Monday night to give the

Krygier, Michael Krygier and Joe Ahmet scored two goals apiece Sunday night as the Wildcats posted their first win, a 9-7 victory over the Huskies.

Bryan Krygier also had five assists, Michael Krygier and Ahmet two each. Rob McDonald and Joelson had two goals for the Huskies, and McDonald also assisted on a pair.

In another Sunday encounter, the Bulldogs got two goals apiece from David McIntyre and Brian Deaufalt to beat the Wolverines 9-4. Chris Riffe tallied a goal and one assist for the losers.

The post-season playoffs began Wednesday night and continue tonight with the Eagle Conference games at 7 and 8:30 p.m. in Wayne Arena. The semifinals are 6 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, and the league final is slated for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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Broncos an 8-6 win over the Huskies and a one-game lead over the Falcons in the Eagle Conference.

The Broncos (7-2-1) and the Falcons (6-4-1) played late Tuesday night in the regular season finale to decide first place in the conference.

CARNES, WHO broke a 6-6 tie in the final 2:13, led a third-period comeback that saw the Broncos recover from a 5-3 deficit after two periods, outscoring the Huskies 5-1 in the third.

Carnes finished with three goals and three assists, and teammate Mike Stahley had two goals and two assists. Pete Joelson scored twice for the Huskies.

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