

Most Valuable Player Honor Won By McLain

Nothing escaped Dennis McLain in the way of achievements and honors in 1968.

Well, not very much. He won 31 games during the regular season. He did lose two in the World Series, but in the sixth game, which the Tigers had to win, McLain planned back the ears of the St. Louis Cards in fancy style.

He was named on every all-star team. Then he was picked as a unanimous winner of the Cy Young Award, annually voted to the best pitcher in the American League.

This past week, he was the unanimous pick as the American League's most valuable player, thus becoming the first American Leaguer ever to win the MVP and the Young Award.

Tiger Catcher Bill Freehan was second in the MVP voting while Willie Horton finished fourth.

McLain, incidentally, says he has been discussing his 1969 contract with Tiger C.M. Jim Campbell. It's a good bet he'll collect around \$75,000.

THE LATEST college football rankings showed Michigan No. 7 and Michigan State No. 17. Southern California still is No. 1 in both polls with Ohio State, Kansas, Penn State and Tennessee right behind.

COACH NICK COATTA, whose Wisconsin U football team has lost 17 straight, says he won't quit, that he still has a year to go on his contract and plans to stick on the job. School officials may dictate otherwise.

WHO'S THE HIGHEST paid sports performer? With Chamberlain and Bill Russell reportedly make over \$200,000 a year.

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The Observer Sports B

But Billy Casper, the golfer, now has cleared the \$200,000 in earnings in tournaments this season and if he can pick up \$8,000 in the Hawaii tourney this weekend he'll become the all-time money winner for one year.

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Churchill Ends 1st Season On Winning Note

The first season of football ended on a 50-50 note for Livonia's new Churchill High school.

The team, playing both varsity and reserve opponents, split even in six games.

Next season things should get much tougher.

Churchill will embark on an all-variety schedule, taking on such opponents as River Rouge schools.

There'll be no league competition for Churchill until the new Farmington and Plymouth high schools rise in two or three years.

In its finale, Churchill romped over Clarenceville's JV, 25-0 by piling up 270 yards on the ground and adding 88 more in the air.

THE BIG MAN for Churchill was Jerry Oljace who stepped off a pair of touchdowns -- one on a run which measured 99 yards and almost 2 1/2 feet -- as he totaled 163 yards personally in 18 carries.

DEPENDENT ON which poll now has cleared the \$200,000 in earnings in tournaments this season and if he can pick up \$8,000 in the Hawaii tourney this weekend he'll become the all-time money winner for one year.

Livonia Stevenson, winners of all eight games during 1968, grabbed off 11th spot in the Associated Press listing and was a couple of notches back in the United Press International selections.

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Oljace had capped a 50-yard march with a six-yard run for the first Churchill touchdown.

Then, after Clarenceville had backed Churchill up against its goal line with the ball literally touching the goal line, Oljace shot up the middle, broke into the clear and didn't stop until he raced over the goal line.

IT WAS as close to being an 100-yard run from scrimmage as possible in football and is certain to be a record that will stand for a long time around Churchill.

A 34-yard pass from Keith Armstrong to Joe Watson produced the third touchdown for Churchill, while No. 1 came on an Armstrong pass to Paul Meeks after Churchill had started on its own 20.

Churchill, whose entire roster was comprised of tenth graders, boasted several standouts: including Oljace, Evan Smith, Gary Warner, Mike Webb, Dennis Sakovich, Bob Meyer, Jack Stewart, Mike Gooding and Jack Hachtigian.

DEATH CAME unexpectedly this past week to Vern Stephens, former star with the Boston Red Sox, St. Louis Browns and other American League teams. A heart attack at age 48 proved fatal to Stephens. He led the American League three times in runs batted-in.

TONY CONIGLIARO, whose baseball career with the Boston Red Sox was halted last year when he was hit in the eye by a pitch, has started a comeback as a pitcher. He is hurling for the Red Sox winter team in Sarasota, Fla. Although beaten on by the Phillies, 3-0, in his debut, he made a very impressive showing.

HERE ARE SUNDAY'S pro football picks:

Los Angeles over Atlanta, Chicago over San Francisco, Cleveland over New Orleans, Dallas over New York, Baltimore over Detroit, Green Bay over Minnesota, Washington over Philadelphia, St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

In the American League, it's San Diego over Boston, Buffalo over Miami, Kansas City over Cincinnati, Oklahoma over Denver and New York over Houston.

THERE'S BIG money and profits in selling major league baseball clubs. Five years ago the Washington Senators were sold for around \$5 million. Now the club is to change hands again. The price: \$10,500,000... and when was the last time the Senators were in the first division? The new owners will keep the Nats in the nation's capital.

Can The Lions Hold Morrall?

Not too long ago, the Detroit Lions shipped away Earl Morrall.

They sent him to the New York Giants because it wasn't possible for the Lions to operate with two quarterbacks--Morrall and Milt Plum.

But Morrall, the Lions will come to grips with Morrall and the hopes of the Lions to stay in the Central Division race in the National Football League will depend considerably on how well they can contain Morrall.

Before the season began, the Baltimore Colts picked up Morrall, figuring he'd be a nice guy to have around, just in case something happened to Johnny Unitas.

Well, something did happen to Unitas. An ailment has kept him out most of the season.

But the Colts haven't suffered with the great Johnny Unitas. The fact is that Morrall almost made fans in Baltimore forget about Unitas.

THE COLTS stand 7-1 in their division and tied with Los Angeles, which barely squeezed past Detroit, 10-7, last Sunday.

The big question around the Lions camp as they prepare to host Baltimore at Tiger Stadium Sunday at 1:15 p.m. is whether their offense can regain its early season punch.

For almost three full games the Lions' offense has not produced a touchdown. Quarterback Bill Munson has slumped



MEET THE MEMBERS of the 1968 All-Area cross country team selected by coaches on the basis of performances in competition during the season. The All-Stars include: (standing from left) Dave Collins, Franklin; Larry Williams, Farmington; Gary Williams, Farmington and Bob Junk, Redford Union. (Kneeling from left) Randy Tipton, Thurston; Dennis Keeney, Redford Union; and Rick Randall, North Farmington.

College Grid Schedule

SATURDAY, NOV. 16
Wisconsin at Michigan
Purdue at Michigan State
Northwestern at Illinois
Ohio State at Iowa
Minnesota at Indiana
Wayne State at Eastern Michigan
Ferris at Western Michigan
St. Norbert at Hillsdale
Bilham at Michigan Tech
Western Mich. at Central Mich.

Harrier Stars Hailed On Observer Team

The Williams twins of Farmington High headline the 1968-69 All-Observer cross country team picked by the area's coaches.

Gary and Larry Williams, who have starred for the last three seasons for Farmington, were selected to the first team along with Dave Collins of Franklin, Rick Randall of North Farmington, Bob Junk of Redford Union, Dennis Keeney of Redford Union and Randy Tipton of Thurston.

LARRY WILLIAMS was the star of last week's state meet

at Ypsilanti when he was first across for individual honors in the time of 10 minutes and two seconds.

His brother, Gary, was forced to withdraw from the state meet because of illness. Larry Williams, along with Randall and Junk landed on the official all-state team which is comprised of the first seven finishers in the Michigan Class A championships.

JUNK PLACED third at Ypsilanti while Randall came over fourth.

Three other runners were

accorded honorable mention across for individual honors in the time of 10 minutes and two seconds.

As for the 1968 coach-of-the-year in Observersland, Charles Patterson of Redford Farmington, Bill Kuhn of Redford Union and Doug Kurtyz of Stevenson.

Under Patterson, RU swept unbeaten through its second straight season without a blemish in dual meets. The team also won league and regional honors and wound-up third in the state meet.

Pistons Get Height From Fox

It's been said that what the Detroit Pistons need is one standard center and they'd be set to combat any of their rivals in the National Basketball Association.

The Pistons may not have such a giant who rates on a par with Bill Russell, Nate Thurmond or Bill Russell.

But the early-season developments leave no doubt that the Pistons have two pivots in Jimmy Fox and Otto Moore who can get the job done in more than adequate fashion.

FOX MADE HIS NBA debut with Cincinnati last October and then came to the Pistons in late January in a deal.

Moore came to the Pistons much more heralded as their No. 1 pick in last spring's college draft.

"You can see a difference in him every time he takes the floor," says Coach Dennis Butcher. "He has come along extremely well."

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KEN DELVECCHIO, son of Red Wing hockey star Alex Livonia residents, is a 15-year-old lad of many talents at Catholic Central High School.

In fall, he's a member of the marching band, and in cold weather, he switches to varsity hockey, at center.

CC will open its home schedule Thursday, Nov. 14, at 8:20 p.m., in Livonia's Ford Recreation Center rink at Lyndon and Stark Roads.

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