

North Opens State Title Defense Against Pontiac

King Football Ascends To Throne Friday

It's kickoff time for the area's high school football. Well, just about. After almost four weeks of practice, the lid goes up with the opening games Friday night. Others will be played Saturday and a few on Sunday to round out the first week's schedule.

For nine weekends, football will reign at Observerland High Schools.

THE SPOTLIGHT will focus instantly at North Farmington, which swept through a perfect 10 season last season and wound up ruling as the state's Class A champs. Graduation has cut sharply into the Raiders, who have lost, among others, quarterback Drew Mahalic, voted the prep player of the year in Michigan in 1970. He's now at Notre Dame.

North Farmington will rate watching again, starting with its opener Saturday afternoon

against Pontiac Northern at North Farmington where the Raiders will shoot for what they hope will be a school record — 12 straight victories. The area had its other powerhouse and champ last year, Garden City East won in the Mid-Wayne League, Southfield Lathrup in the Inter-Lakes League and Our Lady of Sorrows went down to the finish before falling in the Catholic League and then passing from the scene when its high school doors were shut last spring.

In all, there will be 21 football teams in action on the varsity level starting Friday. For the first time, there's not a new coach on the scene. All are optimistic.

THE SEASON BEGINS with some league changes. The Suburban Six League is no longer. It's now Suburban Eight with Dear-

born High and Dearborn Edsel Ford joining Bentley, Redford Union, Plymouth, Allen Park, Trenton and Belleville. Northville left the Wayne-Oakland League, which had eight teams, including Clarenceville, to join the Western Six with Farmington Harrison, Livonia Churchill, Southfield Lake Western and Waterford Mott. The Wayne-Oakland League now is down to six schools.

The Mid-Wayne League, in which Garden City East is the defending champ, has grown from six to seven teams by adding Wayne High.

Changes also have taken place in the Catholic League and will affect Bishop Borgess and St. Agatha.

BY LEAGUES here's a rundown on what one might expect for Observerland Schools this fall:

SUBURBAN EIGHT Figures to be stronger than

ever with the new additions. Allen Park has won the title three of the last four seasons and has a good chance to go all the way again.

Redford Union with 18 lettermen returning and many members of the powerful RU defense that posted four shutouts and allowed only 54 points all season, could be the team to beat, says Coach Bob Atkins.

Plymouth is looking for an improved season, but the shortage of veterans may hold down Bentley which slipped to the second division in the league a year ago.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN Even without the likes of Drew Mahalic and Mike Gow, there's no discounting the chances of North Farmington. There are 17 seniors back on Coach Ron Holland's team and as he admits: "We have the winning spirit around here."

Returners are on the short side at both John Glenn and Birmingham Groves.

Glenn Coach Bob Lusk lost 22 lettermen and has only 11 among his 50 man squad back.

Wayne, the new team in the league, may take it all as it moves into the Mid-Wayne

Center Greg Gursky and guard Bill DeVeir, both hit the scales at 205 pounds, and should anchor a strong line.

At Groves, there are 10 veterans on Coach George Zainea's team. The group includes fullback Andy Chapakis, and halfbacks Bill Mitzelfeld and Bob Zotos.

MID-WAYNE There'll be a new look to Garden City East, outright champs last season and co-king the year before.

Only six lettermen and two starters — back Alex Patterson and tackle Dave Persichini are back, but Coach Gary Humphrey is optimistic.

"We have many juniors who played some last year and I think we'll be in the race again," says Humphrey.

Wayne, the new team in the league, may take it all as it moves into the Mid-Wayne

after posting a 7-2 mark in 1970.

INTER-LAKES Another battle between Southfield Lathrup and Pontiac Northern, with Farmington the underdog? That's what the experts are saying. Lathrup won the title a year ago and will be strong this season with such returners as Bruce Ruhl, a brilliant runner, and the Weinberg twins, Larry and Gary.

But Northern has 24 lettermen back and hasn't forgotten how Lathrup beat it last season on a play as time ran out when Gary Weinberg picked off a loose ball — when the Pontiac quarterback tossed it into the air to celebrate victory, or so he thought — and ran half the length of the field to win for Lathrup.

Lathrup wound up 4-0 in the league to take the title in its second year of operation. Farmington is stocked with 20 lettermen led by Andy Abid, Lee Blodgett, Brian Chesley, Rick Coffey, Charles Cook, Dan Dewar, Nat Durham, Mike Eveleth, Dave McDonald, Lenny Perkins and Dennis Lee.

Coach Hal Beardsley is starting his second season as the head man of the Falcons. At Livonia Stevenson, the Spartans will be on the young side, but Coach Jack Reardon feels "we will be right in there someplace." There are only six seniors returning with juniors due to dominate the 1971 squad.

WESTERN SIX Second year Farmington Harrison under Coach John Herrington is rated by many the team to beat.

There are 19 seniors on the Harrison team, but the loss of quarterback Rick Hughes, who moved to Colorado, has left a major hole.

Herrington feels he has enough other strengths to offset Hughes departure.

Defending champion Waterford Mott will be in the race again, but likely not as

strong as last year with only six lettermen back.

Livonia Churchill is on the short side of depth offensively, but may have the defense to improve on last year's 2-5 record.

TRI-RIVERS LEAGUE They say it'll be Melvindale, Southgate and Taylor Kennedy for this year's title, but Garden City West could fool them all.

West won only two of seven games in the league a year ago, but Coach Bob Drabheim has 16 lettermen back led by Steve Jacunski and Jim Simms, two standout runners, and Kirk Lewis, the team's captain-end, who scales 225 pounds.

SOUTHEASTERN Southfield will have its work cut out with some major losses, including all-time running leader John Solberg. There are 16 lettermen back to challenge Royal Oak Kimball and Ferndale for the league flag.

Coach Ed Bryant looks for Southfield to make a strong run with Jim Hartman directing the team from the quarterback slot and Bill Sage and Pat Watts, both experienced running backs.

Linebackers Duane Petrillo and Mark Ditchfield will give the Blue Jays considerable defensive strength.

WAYNE-OAKLAND Football interest is up at Clarenceville with more than 60 candidates out, 25 more than a year ago.

The Trojans are short on veterans and should have problems trying to overhaul Bloomfield Andover and West Bloomfield, both perennial powerhouses.

CATHOLIC LEAGUE Watch out for Brother Rice in the All Boys or Central Division. Coach Al Fracassa has veterans all over the place.

Bishop Borgess and St. Agatha also have enough to be strong contenders in their respective divisions.

Kay Coppola, Dick Lind Golf Champs

Dick Lind, a student at the University of Michigan, succeeded Bud Stevens as 1971 Livonia city golf champion with a three stroke victory in the third annual championship tournament at Whispering Willows golf course. Stevens did not defend his crown.

Lind, who was tied with Mike Staggles, at the end of the first round with a 73, tied a 75 on the second round Sunday for a 148. Staggles had 76 for 150.

Dick Walter's wound up third in the championship flight with 76-75-151.

MRS. KAY COPPOLA, president of the Women's League sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation, had a five stroke lead over defending champion Jackie Archer in the 16-hole play on Friday to win the 1971 title.

Mrs. Coppola recorded a 47-45-94 to Mrs. Archer's 53-45-97. Jackie Stokes was third with 49-52-101.

Irma Boling won the first flight honors with 50-47-97 followed by Elaine Blenzinski's 48-53-101 and Emily Durham's 49-52-101.

Second flight honors went to Mary Gilbertson with 51-56-10 per cent.

BOB CARNEY romped in the first flight of the men's competition, finishing 15 strokes ahead of runnerup Bill Marshall.

Pro Gary Whitener announced after the end of the second round that the tournament will be thrown open to all golfers in Observerland in 1972. This means players from Livonia, Garden City, Westland, Southfield, Farmington, Redford Township and Plymouth will be eligible.

The complete scores:

MEN'S DIVISION (Championship)	
Dick Lind	73-76-148
Mike Staggles	75-78-151
Bill Lockman	76-76-151
Bill Klemm	76-76-151
Jim Hartman	78-79-158
Tom Shelden	79-80-160
Mark Zeiner	79-82-160
Bill Gray, Jr.	81-79-160
Pat Rooney	79-82-161
Don Horner	82-80-162
Doug Parsons	81-84-165
Ted Vane	82-86-169
Bill Booth	82-89-170
Tom Stewart	82-82-174
Ed Gray	87-85-178
Ed Reilout	88-101-189
D.J. Archer	96-94-189

(First Flight)	
Bob Carney	74-76-150
Bill Marshall	83-82-155
Jim Pierpale	82-84-156
Bob Bell	83-82-156
Larry Feeney	84-84-158
Paul Worley	88-81-169
Terry O'Brien	83-87-170
Bill Bartolomeo	87-84-171
Bob Baucht	86-87-171
Bob Pollock	90-87-171
Nelson Baldwin	87-85-172
Bill Hartford	88-88-172
Wayne Mowbray	86-87-177
Harold Sigwalt	90-86-180
Mark Lane	88-84-180
Hank Ellis	90-82-182
Brian Gates	92-86-188
Gary Oliver	89-91-189

(Second Flight)	
Rudy Bedack	80-85-173
Charles English	80-85-176
Frank Hand	89-89-178
Gary Howe	81-88-179
Dave Lind	83-87-184
Em Coppola	92-87-189
Fred Gata	95-85-190
Frank Biding	95-86-191
Paul Rundo	97-95-192
Dwight Rutter	92-90-192
George Teshan	94-100-194
John Crawford	110-97-207
Mary Kennedy	108-108-218

WOMEN Championship Flight	
Kay Coppola	47-45-92
Jackie Archer	53-45-97
Jackie Stokes	49-52-101
Joan Carney	56-50-106
Joan Peterson	57-52-109
Lucille Moore	53-57-110

(First Flight)	
Irma Boling	50-47-97
Elaine Blenzinski	48-53-101
Emily Durham	49-52-101
Elaine Blenzinski	47-45-92
Alie Plickhart	58-54-110

(Second Flight)	
Mary Gilbertson	51-56-107
Joan Antonucci	56-57-112

Area Harriers Trail In Meet

Observerland schools finished well back in the Double A Division of the annual West Bloomfield Invitational cross country meet. Ann Arbor Pioneer took the title with 26 points while Kalamazoo Norrix was second with 89.

Birmingham Seaholm was third with 122, followed by Adrian 126, Royal Oak Kimball, 186, Grosse Pointe North 191 and Farmington 221. Birmingham Groves placed

11th with 234 points and Southfield 15th with 346.

Kevin Rylance, placing 28th overall, led Farmington entries.

In the Class A division, Brother Rice was third in the team race as St. Joseph won with 76 points, followed by West Bloomfield with 73. Rice had 102 points.

Farmington Harrison and North Farmington trailed far back with 403 and 472 points, respectively.



Keith Wright: John Gores, a WSU senior who graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia; and Julius Aiello. Standing, from left, are: Dick Swanson, the team's coach; Geoff Lane, a WSU junior and Bentley graduate; Ray Evanoff; Rich Sands; and Rick Page.

Borgess Has Home Contests But No Place To Call Home

Home? What's that has to be the question being asked these days by the football team at Bishop Borgess High.

Also by the fans.

Borgess has eight games on its 1971 schedule and no two will be played on the same field.

Because the school lacks its own football stadium, it shifts around, using one that is close to home as possible and one that might be available.

One home game has been set for Hammerberg Field in Detroit at Wyoming and West Chicago. Another will be held at Redford High. Still another at Thurston High.

Certainly, if there is such a thing as a home field advantage in any sport, Borgess won't enjoy it this fall in football.

But as Coach Fred Mushinski says: "It's better that we play, and move around, than not to play at all."

Murray Rifkin at tackle and Gary Zoop are other two-year returnees along with Hoyer. Gary plays halfback.

CENTER Brian Wassman, who tips the beams at 210 pounds, is the team's star. Hoyer scales less than 150 pounds, but he has two years of varsity experience under his belt.

Bob Fennimore at guard,

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