

Franklin Battles Upset Minded Oak Park

Preps Face Big Grid Week

The coming week - a big one on the Observer prep sports scene.

Homecomings, key league games, and rival battles highlight 16 gridiron clashes for Observerland teams.

Franklin High's journey to Oak Park Friday afternoon in what shapes up as the game of the week. Franklin, will be contending with the upset minded Redskins, hot off their 22-12 trouncing of North Farmington.

Bentley plays at Allen Park Friday evening and the hard-luck Bulldogs will have the role of the underdog against last year's Suburban Six League champion.

PLYMOUTH HOSTS longtime rival Redford

FOUR AFTERNOON games are on tap Saturday

U-M Coach Always Planning; Moves Slowly With Thornbladh

By W. W. EDGAR

One of the most interesting things in major college football is the strategy used by the coaches to develop young talent for the eventual replacement of stars.

This is particularly true at the University of Michigan this season where Head Coach Bo Schembechler is looking ahead to next year and the year after and deftly building confidence in young players.

ONE OF THE finest examples is Bob Thornbladh, star of the Plymouth High School team in 1969, who is bidding for the Wolverines fullback job.

Bob is one of five players from Overland who is reported for fall practice and they are meeting with varying success.

The most unfortunate is Craig Mutch, former Thurston High School star, who suffered torn cartilage in his knee during the Virginia game and is lost for the season.

The others all have seen service. Arthur Fediuk, tight end from Divine Child who lives in Livonia saw action in both the Virginia and Navy games as did Michael Day, linebacker from Livonia Bentley.

The star of the group, however, is Thornbladh who has appeared in the first four games and racked up 54 yards in 13 carries. He was stopped only once and that was against UCLA when he

was tossed for a yard loss at the goal line.

The other player--Jon Cederberg, has seen service in the late minutes of the games, but has yet to break out into the open as a wingback.

THORNBLOTH is the lad on whom Schembechler is counting for the years ahead and it is interesting to watch how he is being used--and developed.

During his freshman year in 1971 Bob caused Schembechler to remark: "He's a helluva football player".

At the time Bob was the leading scorer of the freshman squad.

During spring practice he was switched to the middle

guard spot on defense and close followers of the Wolverines wondered if "Bo" had changed his mind.

"Not a bit," the Wolverine boss explained. "We are just experimenting. Bob is the kind of a boy who relishes a challenger and we're giving him a test--filling in the spot vacated by Henry Hill, our All-American."

When fall came around, Bob was back at the fullback post--and being used in the late portions of games. He is picking up fast, according to the coaches, and while he has two good men in front of him--Fritz Seyferth, a senior, and Eugene Shuttleworth, a 6'2" 217 pound sophomore from Cincinnati--Bob is being counted upon to play a major role no later than next season.

At the same time he is being groomed to fill in should injury befall his rivals with a better than four yard average, he's the lad who could be "The Man of the Hour" in the not too distant future.

with two featuring homecoming festivities.

John Glenn invades North Farmington and the Rockets have a homecoming upset on mind. The Raiders, built around the running of Craig Gow, are favored to make the returning graduates happy.

Thurston entertains Birmingham Groves and the Eagles led by Mark Miller are favored to make the homecoming crowd happy. Thurston is in the process of rebounding after last year's disappointing season. The Eagles were unbeaten in 1969.

Farmington Harrison contends with Northville in a Western Six tilt and Harrison behind the running of Dave Manos could be the surprise team of the conference.



GO FRANKLIN GO urges cheerleader Marsha Kosteva as she joins the varsity squad in leading the students to a cheer for their undefeated but tied footballers. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Tops Big 10

Michigan State has won the 1970-71 Big Ten unofficial all-sports championship, winning team titles in five of the 13 sports sanctioned by the conference.

The Spartans were first in cross country, fencing, hockey, wrestling and baseball during the year.

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RARING TO GO. That's Plymouth's Bob Thornbladh, a sophomore fullback on the undefeated Michigan football squad. Top scorer on the freshman team a year ago, Thornbladh is being brought along slowly this season with the thought that he'll be one to watch in another year. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring).

Five North Grads On CMU Squad

Central Michigan University's varsity football team includes five former North Farmington High graduates.

Norm DeCourcy, son of Mr. and Mrs. George DeCourcy of 32770 Briarcrest, Farmington,

is a senior offensive swing back. He is a Business Administration major, a Math minor and an active member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Mike Leiter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Leiter of 28271 Peppermill, Farmington, is a sophomore defensive end. He is majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Biology.

Steve Lee, also a sophomore, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lee of 26117 Hidden Valley Drive, Farmington. He is an offensive guard, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Business Administration.

Brothers, Mike and Dave McCoy are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lee McCoy of 32460 Nottingham, Farmington. Mike is a senior defensive halfback and Dave is a split end in his sophomore year. Mike is the president of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and Dave is an active member.

Both McCoy's major in Business Administration and minor in Economics.

All five players are products of the North football program coached by Ron Holland.

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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Those rumors one has been hearing that Hazel Park was about ready to turn back the final 30 days of its 120 day meeting and call it quits after the usual three months, have been laid to rest.

Knowing the Hazel Park brass, we never believed for a single moment they had any thoughts of not using all of the days allotted by Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley.

The track has spent thousands of dollars winterizing some sections of the plant and it wouldn't cost that much more to make the entire

facility comfortable for winter weather.

As we surmised, Hazel Park officials have made arrangements for the use of snow moving equipment which will be stored at the track throughout the winter.

There is one very popular spot that appears to have been overlooked in the planning--the Roaring Twenties room atop the clubhouse. It probably is as good as any place in the clubhouse to watch a race.

It has permanent seats for perhaps 500 and seats at tables for another 1,000, and all it needs to be enclosed, heated and air conditioned and Hazel Park will have a wagering ring that probably will be as popular as any in the plant.

Attendance and betting are off three to four per cent but officials view this as a good showing in lieu of the business conditions.

Through last Saturday, the mutual handle was averaging \$98,000. This figure undoubtedly will go down in the final seven weeks of the current meeting but it is well in front of a comparable 90-day meeting at the Detroit Race Course in the early spring and summer.

WANT TO conjecture over the racing dates for 1972?

Right now President Leon Slavin, who will direct the Jackson-Northville harness racing meeting beginning Nov. 1, would like to know if there any chance the racing commissioner will relent and extend his dates from Dec. 18 to Dec. 30 and then give him five or six weeks into the new year.

There are those who believe the racing boss has the power to give an extension of no more than 10 days that would take care of the situation.

There are others who are just as certain Commissioner Shirley would open a big keg of worms even though it would mean Michigan racing would go head and head against Windsor Raceway during the entire run across the river.

Scuttlebutt is that Shirley will give Slavin dates in January, perhaps on Jan. 1, to extend through the first week in February at which time Northville Downs will take over for 94 nights.

Wolverine Raceway is looking for 80 nights beginning in early April through June at which time Northville Downs will have a seven week summer program.

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