

Don't Count Rocks Out Of Swim Title

Although he lost six regulars, including two of the four members of the station championship medley relay team, Plymouth High Swimming Coach Dick Gretzinger is looking forward to the coming campaign with a great deal of anticipation and hope.

Gretzinger, a former PHS swimmer and a member of the 1961 state championship team,

stepped into the head coaching job a year ago when John McFall turned in his resignation effective at the end of the first semester.

It was quite a step for the personable Gretzinger who found himself with the top job in his first year as a teacher and coach. However, he took over without qualms and quietly built the Rocks into a fourth place finish in the Suburban Six League and a ninth place spot in the state championship finals.

In addition, he produced the school's first championship medley relay team from a quartet that included seniors Bill Leonard and Craig Foust and juniors Pat McCord and Chick Porter.

So, he's starting the 1967-68 campaign with two holdovers from the relay team and a group of 16 lettermen that he believes will make Plymouth one of the better outfits in the league this year.

"WE SHOULD BE much better, perhaps as good as second or third with an outside chance of fighting for the championship," mused Gretzinger. "There are two big reasons for this: Plymouth has a much better and stronger team than a year ago and the Suburban Six League will be more evenly balanced than in 1966 when Trenton and Allen Park stood out over the others."

"Plymouth should be a contender if my boys improve as much as I believe they will. However, Redford Union will be a challenger with practically every boy back from a year ago and Trenton and Allen Park still pack a lot of power. One always has to consider Bentley because of the number of swimmers available at that school. As it now stands, I feel that only Bentley will be out of the running."

Two transfers, breaststroker Steve Porter, a senior from Ecorse, and diver Chris Leggett, a sophomore from Missouri, have bolstered Plymouth's hopes. The latter is one of the best looking diving prospects in several years and the former is expected to fit into the relay team plans.

Gretzinger is looking forward to big years from co-captains Bruce Gould and Pat McCord. The former is one of the better freestylers on the squad and the latter ranks as one of the state's outstanding swimmers in the butterfly division.

Returning lettermen and those who figure in Gretzinger's plans include: backstroker Bob Andes; breaststrokers Bob Reinas, Jack Smith and Rob Cottshall; freestylers John Norman, Mark Walsker, Jim Gilbert, Dick Pugsley, Len Wendell, Bruce and Terry Gould in the shorter distances and Wally Beglinger and Craig Notbart in the longer events; backstroker Glenn Beuman; breaststroker Brian Shaw; butterfly, McCord, Terry Gould and Ed Jewkes; and divers Leggett, Jim Shinn and Cliff Rowlands.

The Rocks get their first taste of competition on Nov. 31 when they travel to Wyandotte High. All told, they have six major tests before the Christmas holidays including: home opener against Redford Union on Dec. 7; the annual Suburban Six Relays at Redford Union on Dec. 9; Fordson High at Plymouth on Dec. 12; at Allen Park on Dec. 14; and a home meet against Southfield on Dec. 19.



PLOTTING BIG THINGS in the Suburban Six Leagues winning competition this year are Co-Captains Bruce Gould and Pat McCord and Plymouth High Coach Dick Gretzinger. The Rocks wound up fourth in the final standings a year

ago but the medley relay team became the first in school history to win a state championship. Gretzinger and the two holdovers from last year are looking for a big upsurge in Plymouth High's performances this season.

Big Sports Television Weekend

All three of Detroit's professional sports teams will be on television this weekend.

It'll be the Pistons vs. Chicago on Channel 50 at 9 p.m. Saturday night direct from the Chicago Stadium.

On Sunday afternoon, the Lions tackle the Baltimore Colts at 2 p.m. in Baltimore with Channel 2 the outlet.

Then Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m., the Channel 50 cameras return to Chicago to telecast the Red Wings vs. the Black Hawks.

To add to your sports TV fare, there'll also be UCLA vs. Southern California Saturday afternoon, plus three other pro football games Sunday in addition to the Lions-Colts.

Wayne State University's single-season and career rushing records are held by Elbert Richmond who gained 780 yards in 1961, 2,010 in a three-year career.

By George Maskin
observing sports

It was Sunday night . . . and you're among 14,801 in the Grand River Sports Palace.

Or did you make 14,802 . . . since you were a late arrival?

The game's in the second period. The Wings have just gone out in front, taking a 2-1 lead from the Montreal Canadiens, one of their arch rivals in the National Hockey League.

From the Wings' bench, No. 7 comes over the boards to take his place on the Wings' front line.

No. 7 is Livonia's Norm Ullman, now in his 13th campaign with the Wings. And don't call him an old man because there's Gordie Howe, who has completed two decades with the same team!

The Wings push the puck forward into the Montreal net. Ullman and Bruce MacGregor maneuver the disc around . . . then it's MacGregor off to the right of the Montreal goalie as Ullman slips into the clear to the goalie's left.

MacGregor rips a perfect pass 10 feet in front of the cage . . . Ullman is there and with one swish of his big stick the puck goes flying into the net.

The red light flashes . . . the Wings lead, 3-1, and the capacity audience goes wild.

ULLMAN ACCEPTS the pats on the back from his mates . . . a few bearhugs, too.

In the pressbox, a few seats to our left, Wings Publicist Ron Cantera grabs the microphone used to relay news to the newspapermen, radio and TV fellows.

"That was Ullman's 300th goal of his career with the Wings," says Cantera. "That makes him only the 10th player to achieve the distinction (300 goals) and he's the fourth Red Wing."

The word must have gotten down to the Red Wing bench in a hurry. One of Ullman's mates rushed to the referee and claimed the puck for Normie's growing list of souvenirs.

"Gee, I had forgotten all about it," Ullman told us the next evening before flying out to California with the Wings.

"But, when I realized it, that goal gave me a special thrill. It's really something to be in such select company among National Hockey League scorers."

Just before we called Normie, Cantera was noting:

"The Wings have four 300-goal scorers—and two of them live in Livonia. How do you like those apples?"

The other Livonian, of course, is Alex Delvecchio, the veteran Wings' captain who as of this week had 329 NHL goals to his credit. He lives about a mile from Ullman.

Rounding out the Wings' 300-goal club are Howe and the retired Ted Lindsay.

IT WAS A NATURAL question to ask of Ullman: When did you score No. 1 in the NHL?

He hesitated.

"It was so long ago, but I think it was against Toronto . . . yes, I'm sure now . . . it was the Leafs. I guess I'd been with the Wings for five or six games."

He was 10 when he played in his first game back home in Edmonton, Canada.

In 1954 he got his first crack as a pro, playing for the Edmonton Flyers. The next season he was up with the Wings . . . and he never left the Detroit club.

It's little wonder that Ullman advocates pee-wee hockey for youngsters and is encouraged by the prowess his own son, Gordie, 11, has shown.

Gordie, incidentally, wasn't named for Gordie Howe, as many people think. He was named for Ullman's brother who passed away.

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