By George Maskin

observing sports

Let's swing down memory lane with all the nostalgia that goes with it!

The occasion is the annual dinner honoring the new inductees into Michigan's Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall resides in Detroit's Cobo Hall and for those who never have been there, we suggest you make it a stop sometime soon when you visit the big city.

If you have acquired the slightest bit of age, the names of Jack Adams, Ty Cobb, Joe Louis, Walter Hagen, Willie Heston, Fielding Yost and Charles Gehringer must mean something to you.

Ditto for Gar Wood, Mickey Cochrane, George Gipp, Gordie Howe, Gus Dorais, Hank Greenberg, Sam Crawford and Eddie Tolan.

The same for Hugh Jennings, Bennie Oosterban, Ray Fisher, Matt Mann, Dutch Clark, Marion Ladewig, Stan Ketchell, Dr. Allen Stowe; also George Sisler, Dutch Schultz, Lloyd Brazil, Bill Hewitt, Bernie Friedman, Schoolboy Rowe, Branch Rickey, Biggie Munn.

Add on names like Tom Harmon, Hal Newhouser, Al Watrous, Ralph Young, George Mullen, Whizzer White, Tommy Bridges, Kiki Cuyler, Hence Manush, Goose Goslin, Bobby Layne, Sid Abel, Mrs. Jean Hoxie, Doak Walker and Jake Mazur.

They and others make up the Michigan Hall of Fame for Sports which this past week swung open to add three more distinguished names—the late John Kobs of Michigan State, plus Ebbie Goodfellow and Harry Kipke.

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AS YOU STAND in the corridor at Cobo and stare upward at the various plaques heralding the Hall of Famers, your thoughts zip backward to the days when they were the athletic heroes of the state . . . when you had the privilege of knowing so many of them who are now resting in that most peaceful spot to which all of us someday must go, too.

What's even more nostalgic is to behold the plaques and then turn about to see and greet in person men like Crisler and Munn and Howe and Abel and that grand ol' lady of tennis, Hammanck's Mrs. Hoxie.

Mrs. Hoxie appeared to have lost some of her bounce the other evening. What we didn't know is that she had just left the hospital after undergoing major surgery.

What a coach Mrs. Hoxie has been! More than 200 of her charges have won championships of national significance.

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MEMORIES . . MEMORIES . . Memories . . . You looked at the plaques . . . almost side by side, of the late Lloyd Brazil and the still living Ray Fisher who is almost 90 now. And down a ways the plaque saluting John Kobs.

Brazil, Fisher and Kobs . . . and add the late Joe Truske, who never has made it into the Hall—at least, not yet.

Little wonder tears dripped from our eyes.

Here were the four men who gave us our chance to umpire big time . . . on the college baseball scene.

It was Kobs who said "okay" to our coming back to Michigan State, as an alumnus, to work such games as Michigan State-Michigan and Michigan State-Western Michigan. It was John who permitted us three times to handle games in the NCAA playoffs.

Fisher, Truske and Brazil . . . they loaded our schedule with games involving Michigan, Wayne and the University of Detroit—not to forget Michigan State.

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KIPKE AND GOODFELLOW brought other memories. We were too young when "Kip" played at Michigan, but we recall when he was hired and fired as football coach at Michigan State and later he was named to coach at Michigan where he served for nine years and turned out four Big Ten champs in a row.

Goodfellow was Detroit's first Gordie Howe of the hockey wars. Men like Goodfellow, Sid Howe, Larry Aurie and, of course, the late Jack Adams, laid the foundation for making hockey the game it is in the Detroit area today.

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AS ARNIE PALMER, the evening's main speaker, declared: "Memories are the greatest thing one can have."

Palmer also contributed a couple of other significant subjects for us to chew on:

"Sports today are helping to keep our country together . . . and let it not be said that the people who run the various aspects of sports aren't sitting on top of the situation. Otherwise, such rulings as affected Roberto DiVincenzo in the Masters and Dancer's Image in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness might not have happened."

RU, Bentley Nines In Hot Battle

Will there be an outright champ. . .co-champs. . .or four champs?

Only this, the final week of the Suburban Six League baseball chase will decide what's what at the top of the pack.

With time running out, Redford Union holds a slim lead with six victories and three losses and one game left against Trenton.

Bentley stands second at 5-3 and has games to go with Belleville and Trenton. Both Trenton and Plymouth are deadlocked with 4-4 marks and two contests left—Plymouth's are both against Allen Park.

Thus, either RU or Bentley could win the flag outright or share it or wind up in a deadlock with Plymouth and Trenton.

Redford Union moved closer to the title by blanking Belleville, 1-0, Thursday as Plymouth nipped Trenton, 3-2, and Bentley won by a 3-2 count from Allen Park.

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DALE BJERKE allowed four hits and had to work out of a seventh-inning jam when Belleville put the tying and winning runs on third and second with none out. But Bjerke got the side out on a grounder, pop-up and a strikeout.

The winners notched their only run in the sixth inning when Bill Howe, a big hitter all season in the clutches, singled, roared around to third on Kirk Taylor's bunt hit and scored on Jerry Cook's perfect squeeze play.

John Cederberg, called up from the reserves earlier in the day, made his debut a smash hit on the Plymouth varsity, although he needed help from Jeff Gillespie in the seventh inning.

Cederberg, a sophomore, teamed with brother Mike to give Plymouth an all-brother battery.

Trenton scored first on a bloop hit, an error in the second inning, but Plymouth took a 2-1 lead in the fifth when Barry Good was hit by a pitch, Russ Carlson singled and stole second and Walter Lee connected for a two-run single.

In the sixth Mike Cederberg walked and streaked home on Dave Hale's triple with the winning run.

Trenton counted again in the seventh on a walk, fielder's choice and an error before Gillespie arrived to put out the fire.

IT REQUIRED dramatics for Bentley to pull out its victory over Allen Park.

The Livonians trailed, 2-0, when Bentley came to bat in the bottom of the sixth inning. Tim Malone took two bases on a bad throw and scored on a single by Jim Powers.

Still on the short end of a 2-1 count in the last of the seventh, Bentley struck again. John Schroeter walked and went to third on Ken Grates' single. Grates himself took second on the throw.

Bob Cascaden then delivered a fly after which Schroeter scored the tying run. There were two out when Malone broke it up with a single.

Grates toiled the route for Bentley and gave up five hits. His mates helped him out by pulling off three double plays.

Jesse Owens, Dan Gurney Honored Again

Jesse Owens and Dan Gurney, members of the Lincoln-Mercury Sports Panel, have each added another honor to their long list of achievements.

Owens, winner of four gold medals during the 1936 Olympics and holder of a host of world track and field records during an illustrious athletic career, has been chosen co-chairman of the National Sports Committee for Youth Opportunity under the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

Gurney, four-time winner of the Riverside 500 and victor in the 24 hours of LeMans, has been selected by Car and Driver magazine, the number one driver in the United States.

Broncs Name Pair Grid Co-Captains

KALAMAZOO -- Two All-Mid-American Conference players have been elected to lead the 1968 Western Michigan University football team.

Elected by their teammates as co-captains for the upcoming season this fall were defensive end Jerry Collins of Muskegon and fullback Tim Majerle of Cadillac, both seniors-to-be.

Collins, a six-foot, 216-pounder, was named to the all-conference first team on defense last season while Majerle has been a second team selection at fullback for two straight years.

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