

# It's Kickoff Weekend For Area Preps

By TOM DONOGHUE  
Sports Editor

Northern and will be shown on Channel 56 at 10 p.m. the same night.

Coch Gary Humphrey and his crew from Garden City East will have to hurry with their Riverside match to watch this one.

East, the newcomer in the Northwest Suburban, will have Garden City West for its home field this season because of the repairs to its stands. The Panthers open with Riverside at West at 8 p.m.

Last year's No. 2 team in the state Southfield Lathrup will be attempting to stretch its unbeaten string to 18 games Friday night at home against tough Birmingham Seaholm.

This was to be a key game in Coach Darrell Harper's assault on the No. 1 ranking but will now be a test to see how the Chargers are going to hold

together after the loss of No. 1 quarterback Barry Brodsky.

PLYMOUTH IS HOSTING Bloomfield Andover and many eyes are expected to be on Coach Tom Moshimer's squad which boasts 25 returning lettermen. This is to be the year for football at Plymouth and a first step in the right direction has to be.

John Glenn is playing under the lights for the first time on its home gridiron with rival Wayne Memorial the prime target for another successful season.

Coch Ed Bryant and his Southfield Blue Jay squad entertains Northwest Suburban escapee Birmingham Groves under the lights Friday in the first test of a "wait and hope and see year."

FARMINGTON SQUARES OFF with rival Farmington Harrison, Garden City West goes against Livonia Franklin, and Redford Union takes on Livonia Stevenson.

The Farmington-Harrison game could very well be tabbed the game of the season in Farmington. Farmington won the first contest last year, 21-13. To see a 200 per cent effort by each team, tune in to Harrison's gridiron at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Franklin smothered Tri-River's Garden City West, 35-0, in last year's football opener and don't think for a minute that West Coach Bob Draheim has forgotten.

West will be making another run at the Tri-River crown while Franklin could be experiencing one of those seasons.

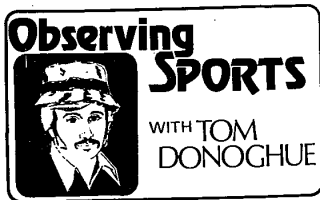
STEVENSON COACH Jack Reardon believes his football season will be told in the opener with Redford Union at Stevenson on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Both area Catholic schools move into competition Sunday with St. Agatha traveling to Holy Cross and Bishop Borgess journeying to St. Ladislav.

It should be a good weekend of football... too bad the ball doesn't bounce in two directions, the losers will have to wait till the following weekend for a shot at victory.

# Varsity Golfers Open '72 Season

For those that think the golf clubs, take another look, winter season is almost upon the fall high school varsity and have already put away golf season is just under way.



Observing SPORTS WITH TOM DONOGHUE

The '72 prep football season is here and with the opening kickoff comes pre-season predictions and what better way to inaugurate a sports column than putting oneself out on a limb.

A one-year cycle of Observer Sports Editorship has just about ended with the worst penalty a tennis racket misconduct with an irate hockey mother.

Now kicking off year No. 2 with... The Suburban Eight football race should be enough for any area prep footballer to handle. Complete overall balance is the key.

Redford Union, Edsel Ford and Allen Park will be as tough but Plymouth High will be a little tougher. This is the season Coach Tom Moshimer has built for and if he doesn't win it this year, well... How can Plymouth possibly not win it?

The Rocks have 25 returning lettermen with varsity experience and have one of the state's top footballers in Ron Egloff.

The Inter-Lakes Conference should sport some good football in Pontiac Northern, Walled Lake Central, Stevenson and Farmington. Too bad the league has only five teams with Southfield Lathrup the escapee.

Northern has the speed, Central the power, Stevenson the enthusiasm, and Farmington a little bit of everything. Who's going to win the conference? Pontiac Northern should tip Farmington in a stretch drive.

The Northwest Suburban Conference is just full of question marks. A Mid-Wayne team in Garden City East has come forth to challenge North Farmington and Franklin.

North Coach Ron Holland has too much going for him to let a little matter of Panther speed stop him from winning another championship but don't knock John Glenn out of contention.

THE WESTERN SIX, more commonly known as the "five," appears to be headed towards another three-way tangle. Waterford Mott is strong and Farmington Harrison is all psyched to defend its first title.

Churchill is just out to play football. That it should do with little problem in bidding for the Western Six crown.

Clarenceville, Birmingham Groves and Southfield should spend the better portion of the season in the bottom half of their respective leagues.

Garden City West lost its best in Kirk Lewis and should be happy with a third place finish in the tough Tri-River race.

Bishop Borgess made a jump to the Catholic Double A Division and Coach Fred Mushnick could play leap frog with a few teams this season. St. Agatha should straddle waves in the Second Division West with Coach Mike Bennane-bringing in a winner.

GARDEN CITY EAST Athletic Director Len Bartlo thought he could erase some problems with the move to the Northwest Suburban Conference.

The eraser didn't figure on these problems: East has been forced to schedule all home games at Garden City West High because of the condemning of the stands.

To make matters worse, Golf Coach Ralph Davis is now without a home course for his East golfers as Birch Hill Golf Course decided not to let East utilize the course, which has always been the Panther home grounds.

And to plop the cherry on the icing, East was annihilated in its first taste of Northwest Suburban action. Thurston High blitzed East, 154-194. That's a 40 stroke difference, an average of 10 strokes per man on a nine hole score.

So much for golf, now if Thurston beats East by 40 points in football, so much for this Sports Editor.

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North Farmington beat Southfield Lathrup in a non-league match, 214-217, with Sept. 20 opener with Milford. The big news has to be the first varsity competition for Garden City East in the Northwest Suburban league. It was good news for Thurston Coach Joe Mrazac and bad news for East Coach Ralph Davis.

ThURSTON DOWNED East on its home course, Western Country Club, 154-194. Thurston's Ray Proben, expected to be one of the area's top golfers, was medalist with a two-under par 34. His brother Bob shot a 36 with Dave Hunter next at 40 and Mark Samp fourth at 44. Garden City scorers were Paul Reed shooting a 46, Paul Warner a 47, Paul Roe a 48 and Dean Norton a 53.

Stevenson, which tied for first in the Inter-Lakes last year with Farmington opens Monday, Sept. 18 with Waterford at Salem Hills. Coach Paul Mack's squad is made up of seniors Dave Gardner, Mark Thomas, Kevin Shelton and Larry Tommasino and juniors Steve Hillman and Tim Robinson.

Golf is back at Clarenceville and over the weekend with the gals playing their 18 holes of medal play on Thursday and the men competing over the 36 hole route Saturday and Sunday.

Parings for the women's section were made Tuesday night and are available at the Whispering Willows clubhouse by calling tournament director and pro Gary Whitener.

Entries for the men's meet will be accepted until 5 p.m. Thursday at the course and pairings will be drawn up Thursday night. All meet events are urged to call the pro shop after 9 a.m. Friday to get their starting times.

WHITENER has received more than 70 entries in the men's section and 30 in the women's. He expects the male meet to have as many as 100 starters before the Thursday deadline.

Prior to this year, the tournaments were limited to Livonia residents. Whitener and Livonia Parks and Recreation Director John DeFuer decided to throw it open to the seven communities in Observerland and the result is shown in blanks being received from

Southfield, Farmington, Plymouth, Westland and Garden City with a great many from Livonia and a few from Redford Township.

"We were delighted with the flood of golfers from Westland and Plymouth," said Whitener. "Our first venture into an area wide tourney is a big success."

The women's play is slated to start early Thursday with the champion to be crowned in early afternoon.

The men will start teeing off early Saturday for the first 18 holes and then come back for the final 18 Sunday. Whitener expects the champ to be crowned around 5 p.m.

Spectators will be welcomed all three days and especially for the final round of the men's play Sunday.

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INEXPERIENCED THURSTON takes the field at Churchill in a non-league opener with Coach Emil Majeski sure to get a real taste of head mentor duties. Churchill Coach Ken Kaestner is waiting for him with a quick powerful Western Six unit.

Other Friday afternoon games include Bentley at Lamphre and Clarenceville at Oak Park which might not get off the ground because of the teacher's strike in Oak Park.

Saturday afternoon features six Observerland teams in head-to-head combat.

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# Tourney Ready For Full Card

With a total entry of more than 100 in the men's and women's divisions, success of the first annual Observerland golf tournament is assured at Livonia's Whispering Willows golf course.

Championships in both divisions will be decided over the weekend with the gals playing their 18 holes of medal play on Thursday and the men competing over the 36 hole route Saturday and Sunday.

Parings for the women's section were made Tuesday night and are available at the Whispering Willows clubhouse by calling tournament director and pro Gary Whitener.

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