

# 'Kids Don't Need Football!' - Bryant

By W.W. EDGAR

Some years ago one of the most popular songs in the fall ran -- "You've got to be a football hero, if you want to get along with a beautiful girl!"

But those days are gone now -- perhaps forever.

You can take the word of Ed Bryant, recently retired football coach at Southfield High School, for the great change.

"A boy doesn't have to be a football hero any more," Bryant said in looking back over eight years at the helm of the Blue Jays.

"The boys today don't need football. And many of them don't want it. They can attain status as a campus hero without it. They don't need football any more to attain scholarships. Many of them don't need them."

"So, the entire atmosphere of the game has changed in the

eight years since I have been the coach."

Despite the seeming lack of interest of the Blue Jays -- or a majority of them -- who finished the 1972 season without a single victory, Bryant is carrying many fine memories with him as he leaves the gridiron.

He won't be too far away from it, as he will continue as director of athletics at Southfield and plans to spend more time rounding out a full time program.

HIS YEARS as the top man with the Blue Jays haven't all been bad and among his mental souvenirs will be the 1966 and 1967 seasons when his teams won seven of the nine games played and were a finalist in the northwestern suburban areas.

These memories will come the mental pictures of such stars as Ted Simmons, Rocky Rowe, Lance Paschi,

Jerry Abel and Joe Saunders, one of the finest ends ever to step on the Southfield gridiron.

As he looked back over the past season he admitted that he was not surprised at the dismal showing.

"From the start," he explained, "I told everybody we were in trouble. I pointed out that we were slow and inexperienced and rather slow to learn. The proper attitude wasn't there."

"Then," he said, "after the second game, I told my fellow coaches -- and Principal Robert Hall -- that I planned to step aside as coach at the close of the season."

"We had just lost to Waterford Township, 28 to 0," he continued, "and the signals were plain that we were headed for a dismal season."

LATER, HE CONFIDED that he was just too busy with the athletic program to devote the time needed to develop a football team.

"When the Board of Education voted \$12,500 to establish a hockey program, at both Southfield and Southfield Lathrup, I knew I couldn't go on in football, too. There was no rancor in his voice as he spoke, but it was plain that Coach Bryant was riding himself of a heavy

graduate of Olivet College where he won 24 letters in athletics, Bryant came to Southfield in 1955 and coached reserve sports until he was named head football coach in 1965.

Since then his teams have compiled a 34-29-1 record, and Bryant is finishing with a winning average despite the sorry showing of the 1972 combination.

NO SUCCESSOR has been named, but Bryant indicated that the new coach would be selected from the ranks, since they're talking about a cut-back in teachers next year.

Over the years Bryant has seen many changes in the coaching field and many changes in high school sports -- but the biggest one without doubt is the changed attitude of the players who no longer have the burning desire to win or the love of the game that marked many of their predecessors.

"It's too bad," Bryant concluded, "but you no longer need football to be a campus hero."



BOWING OUT after eight years as head football coach at Southfield High School is Ed Bryant, who still will remain as the school's athletic director.

CALLS IT QUITS -- Southfield football Coach Ed Bryant has retired from prep football, saying that football has changed and not all the boys need it or want it any more.

## Sports

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# Churchill Drops 3-2 Opener To Allen Park

Churchill's hockey season didn't exactly start where its football squad left off.

The Charger pucksters, who finished 10-5 last season, dropped their "72-73 season opener to Allen Park, 3-2.

"We were a little green for this one," said Churchill Coach Adam Mitchell. "We had only three practices and were just getting down to the basic fundamentals and we had a game already."

Churchill's next contest is on Dec. 8 in the Suburban Hockey League opener with Bentley at Ford Ice Rink.

"ALLEN PARK came out skating," said Mitchell. "They were all a huge and took ad-

vantage of our inexperience." Churchill sports five sophomores, five juniors and eight seniors.

"We have less experience this year but more desire," added Mitchell. "It's just a matter of time before we start to click."

Allen Park out - shot Churchill, 22 to 14, with senior Mike Parks turning in a fine job in the Charger net.

Allen Park struck first in the 4:50 mark in the first period.

ED KELLY scored his first of two goals assisted by Jack Manard and Perry Peltier. Churchill notched it at only one on a power play with only

39 seconds remaining in the period when Paul Phillips slipped a shot past Allen Park goalie Gary Bryant.

Allen Park moved ahead at 4:05 in the second stanza with each squad playing a man short. Mark Miller scored unassisted.

Churchill rebounded six minutes later on a Jim Gagnon goal assisted by Brian Veasey and Steve Ursitti.

THE CHARGERS had an opportunity to go ahead early in the third period when Kris Kostolansky broke in on the Allen Park all alone. The shot deflected off the goalie's skate and Allen Park's Kelly scored a minute later assisted by Randy Wise.

**ALLEN PARK-CHURCHILL FIRST PERIOD**

Allen Park - Kelly (Manard, Peltier), 4:50  
Churchill - Phillips (Hohl), 19:21  
Penalties: Roth (C), 17:10; Wise (AP), 19:08.

**SECOND PERIOD**

Allen Park - Miller (unassisted), 4:05  
Churchill - Gagnon (Veasey, Ursitti), 10:02  
Penalties: Marson (AP), 1:44; Wise (AP), 3:01; Roth (C), 5:07; Wise (AP), 4:02; Roth (C), 16:00.

**THIRD PERIOD**

Allen Park - Kelly (Wise), 6:59  
Penalties: McCroarty (C), 8:04; Anioch (AP), 8:04; Lloyd (C), 8:48; Piroch (AP), 9:46.

**CHURCHILL** ..... 1 1 0-2  
**ALLEN PARK** ... 1 1 1-3

# Tops On Defense Lathrup's Ruhl No. 1

Choice of the "Defensive Player of the Year" is unanimous in Observerland. Bruce Ruhl, a 6-2, 188 pound senior from Southfield Lathrup, captured the No. 1 billing, and what a prep career he has had.

The defensive and offensive halfback began his momentum at Lathrup in his freshman year and carried it through, getting stronger with each and every game.

Lathrup has a point system on defense: two for a solo tackle; one for an assisted tackle; five for a pass interception; and five for a fumble recovery.

Ruhl collected 19 points as a freshman, 85 as a sophomore, 154 as a junior and 197 his senior year in only six games.

As a ninth grader, Ruhl stood six feet and weighed in at 165 pounds. He was a running back and defensive back on Darrell Harper's squad, rushing for 451 yards in 69 carries, scoring five touchdowns and one extra point and hauling in seven passes for 72 yards.

The Lathrup four-year letterman was All-League his sophomore season as well as honorable mention All-State.

IN THE 10TH GRADE, Ruhl rushed for 576 yards in 114 carries, caught 31 passes for 387 yards, scored 13 touchdowns and eight extra points and intercepted five passes.

The 11th grade saw Ruhl make the All-League team, AP All-State squad and All-Oakland County. The Charger speedster accounted for 739 yards on the ground, 341 in the air and scored 13 points and one point after along with six pass interceptions.

The senior showed the promise of a lifetime.

But three days before the '72 opener, Ruhl sprained his ankle in an intra-squad game and sat on the bench for three games in three of the longest weeks ever for the Lathrup senior.

"It was really depressing," said Ruhl. "Here I was captain of the squad and I couldn't even do my share."

Ruhl finally got back into action for the Ulica Eisenhower game which the Chargers won, 20-0, and it was time for Ruhl to put on his show.

IN THE FINAL six games this season, Ruhl collected 395 yards rushing in 61 carries, caught 14 passes for 195 yards for 10 touchdowns and 11 extra points and intercepted eight passes.

Ruhl was All-Northern Suburban, All-Oakland County, AP All-State again and All-Observer again.

In four years at Southfield Lathrup, Ruhl...  
Rushed for 2,161 yards in 358 carries.

Caught 68 passes for 995 yards.

Scored 41 touchdowns and 21 extra points.

Totaled 267 points himself, and intercepted 19 passes.

Ruhl has received letters of interest from about 25 colleges including Tennessee, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Georgia Tech, Florida and Ohio State.

"I am going to see what they all have to offer before making my choice," said Ruhl. "I don't really want to go where there are freshmen playing now. I would probably like to stick with the Big 10 and play with a team where I can fit in right away."

Ruhl is planning to major in business and is carrying a 3.4 average.

"I have always tried my best to be the best," said Ruhl.

Ruhl's greatest admiration is for the guys who sit on the bench.

"I admire the guys who rack themselves out week after week in practice and watch the game from the sidelines."

According to Bruce, his greatest thrills at Lathrup came in the Waterford 20-0 victory when, as a freshman, he scored two touchdowns and gained over 100 yards and in a

24-0 win over Farmington his sophomore season with two touchdowns and 200 yards to his credit.

RUHL HAS LOOKED UP to and admired his head coach, Harper, who also had Bruce do the punting. A 78 yarder against Royal Oak Dondoro was the longest in his career.

A tip of the hat to Observerland's top defensive athlete of '72.

Bruce Ruhl, a name that is sure to be heard in the ranks of college football.

## Carzon Places 4th In Finals

The '72 golf campaign produced one sparkle at Bishop Burgess High in the person of senior Bob Carzon.

Carzon placed fourth in the Catholic League finals at Rackham Golf Course with an 83, and placed sixth in the state regional with an 82. The Burgess golfer finished with a 41.5 average for nine holes.

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