

LETTERS TO THE SPORTS EDITOR

Thurston's Harding Wanted A Winner

Sometimes decisions just aren't meant to appear sweet on the outside.

And usually nobody but the person making the decision really knows of the inside.

Thurston High School junior Dave Harding made a decision and now has to stick by it.

THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL made a decision and away went one of the finest athletes in the area.

The 6-2, 200 pound junior who lettered in varsity football, basketball and baseball his sophomore year, and who was voted All-Northwest Suburban linebacker and Lineman of the Year this past season as well as winning All-Observerland honors, is no longer a Thurston student.

The day after football season ended, Harding obtained his transfer to Catholic Central High School, and was in the CC gym the following day in basketball drills for the upcoming season.

Thurston High School really scored one against itself and prep sports this time.

Section Nine in the handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for junior and senior high schools states: "A student who transfers from one high school to another is ineligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest for one full semester in the school to which he transfers."

Now, like any rule, there are exceptions, 12 in this case.

No. 9 says that if a student transfers for educational reasons and if the principal of each of the two schools involved certifies that there was no undue influence for athletic purposes, then the student is eligible to participate immediately.

Such was the case with Dave Harding.

Catholic Central's principal and Thurston's Jack Harms signed the paper stating Dave was transfering only for educational reasons, but try to tell that to any coach in the area.

Dave was a 3.14 student at Thurston, a member of the varsity and in the eyes of Athletic Director Dan Reel, just an outstanding student in every aspect.

The "waiver" was signed and sealed by the two principals, then director Reel was notified and then the football and baseball coach at Thurston, Emil Majeski, not to mention basketball coach Dan Bennett.

"What can I say?" asked Reel. "Disappointment is about the only fitting word."

DISAPPOINTMENT is now the word in almost every sport at Thurston.

An All-State candidate in two sports has now slipped away.

"I thought about this move for a long time," said Harding. "I gave it a try at Thurston but things just didn't work out."

"Catholic Central takes better care of its athletes and has better records," added Harding. "I don't feel any regret about the move."

Catholic Central is a tougher school and my chances of getting a scholarship are better there," added Dave. "Thurston has no winning tradition and more people look at you and see you play at a better school like Catholic Central."

"I didn't feel like sticking it out with a loser," concluded the now Catholic Central basketball player.

"In no way was I recruited," added Harding. "I made the decision on my own with my parents' help."

Just try to convince me that the transfer was for educational reasons.

How Did Your Team Finish?

'71-'72 Cage Results

	OVERALL MARCH	AVG. PER GAME PF PA
REDFORD UNION	17-4	74 64
GC EAST	17-5	78 64
CLARENCEVILLE	13-5	72 68
BENTLEY	15-6	61 56
FRANKLIN	12-6	62 57
CHURCHILL	12-6	61 55
GC WEST	11-6	69 57
JOHN GLENN	10-5	65 59
SOUTHFIELD LATHRUP	10-8	67 63
STEVENSON	10-8	61 57
SOUTHWOOD	9-9	70 71
ST. AGATHA	9-10	56 64
PLYMOUTH	8-11	65 66
N. FARMINGTON	8-11	61 66
HARRISON	7-9	59 60
BISHOP BORGESS	5-11	63 68
FARMINGTON	5-13	61 71
THURSTON	4-13	62 72

Bulldog Caper Still Has Bite

EDITOR:

We are writing to you in regard to your sports article in the Nov. 15 paper. In your article, you wrote on how some Franklin students walked into Bentley High School, supposedly disguised as Bentley students, and lied to the juniors about needing to be in the state and then went out with it.

We say Franklin, go ahead and feel proud for doing this, but ask yourself this question: Does this make you a better high school?

You stated that we students of Bentley didn't even notice the statue was gone, but for your information, we did. And if Franklin thinks they're all wrong, then they're all wrong; but they should be thinking.

We might ask where you got your information from? How would you know anything about what the Bentley students did or had to say about the statue being taken when you're not there to see it?

We might be mistaken, but we thought when people write up articles like that on school activities, you're supposed to be neutral and not side with one school.

Feel as you like about Bentley, because we students of Bentley know Bentley High School will always be the greatest of all senior high schools.

Go Bentley!
Concerned Bentley Students
SHARI SOHDE
LORI MYERS

West Defends Halftime Show

EDITOR:

Regarding your article about the Garden City East-West football game in the Nov. 15 Observer: I feel that the

entire article was extremely one-sided, prejudiced, and opinionated.

So West High School couldn't put on a good half-time show.

You watched the second half of the halftime show with your eyes closed and your ears plugged. I know that you did this because of the following reasons:

1. West's show was original and had much hard work put into it.

2. Our band is a marching band, not a walking band like East's, and we looked 100 percent better than East's band for that reason.

3. Our sound output just sounded better than East's.

4. Our show was performed with more spirit.

The majorettes aren't the whole show, and just because one dropped a football, that doesn't automatically make the other band better than us. Aren't majorettes supposed to be more proficient in handling batons than footballs?

We might not have had the best football team out there on the field (no one would doubt that after the treatment you gave our team in your article), but we surely had the best marching band. If you don't believe me, then you should go to the rest of the West band? If that still isn't enough, East High members agree with us.

Do us all a favor in the future, and leave the music criticism to your music critics. That's what they are paid for, and learn to do your job better.

SUE WELDON and
82 other West Students

Go, West, Go! A Pox On East

EDITOR:

In regard to your article covering the Garden City East-West football game, as a part of a West High player, I would say it was indeed a disaster. It is a shame that there has to be two schools in Garden City, one treated like "True Champions" since the beginning of the season and the other treated like "Poor Cousins." Your coverage during this season and in the

past has been anything but equal and fair.

I think the West team should be commended for keeping their loss as gentleman.

Has anyone mentioned the condition of the school buses used to transport the "True Champions" home after this game? A rather expensive trip, I'd say.

I think your reporting of the game was very petty and if you were not properly entertained I don't think you have too much to complain about since you didn't purchase a ticket.

If you feel you are being humanized when you chose to criticize Miss Linda Wolf for her performance during halftime, then you have a very warped sense of humor. The mistakes of us can make the best of us find it within yourself. I feel you owe at least Miss Wolf a public apology.

I personally will no longer have your Observer delivered to my home. Your kind of reporting is not needed in high school sports.

MRS. NORMAN BOSTON

Falcons Liked This Attention

EDITOR:

It's very common for a journalist to receive a large quantity of criticism about his work and receive very little praise for it.

Throughout the years that you (Sports Editor) have been a newspaperman, we have taken a close look at the work of you and your colleagues. And, as you probably know, we have not always been happy with the coverage of our (Farmington) athletic teams.

But, the page one, Nov. 15, story was a noticeable exception. For the first time this season, the Falcons were on the front page. But more importantly, the story itself was excellent.

Your alma mater salutes you for a job well done. (We hope that your coverage will be just as good during basketball season).

JIM MASCOW
Blue & White Staff

MSU Memoir-- Duffy Daugherty

EAST LANSING

Legends usually are rooted in solid fact, but passage of time and tricky memory events can make them bigger than life.

So it surely will be with Duffy Daugherty. Ten years from now even Duffy or wife Francie will have trouble sorting out the truth from the sentimental hyperbole about the man and his career.

In such circumstance, the course of reason is to go back to the record. For Duffy, it speaks as loudly and eloquently as the most extravagant album bull session.

Some of the diamond-hard and shining facts are these:

He worked his way from a Pennsylvania coal mine to the pinnacle of national fame as a coach, a wit, a beloved personality and a public relations ambassador for Michigan State.

He suffered a broken neck playing college football at Syracuse but came back to captain his team as a senior.

He went into military service in World War II as a private and came out a major.

He was a broken neck

other big head coaching

post he passed into his lap. He battled the serious business attitude of many of the people associated with him.

He was the first man to be named "Coach of the Year" twice by the Football Writers of America. He has coached in 11 All-Star bowl games, and won a big majority of them. He wrote a column for the Associated Press for three years.

ONCE ASKED whom he

was happiest to return

for a new season, he replied

me:



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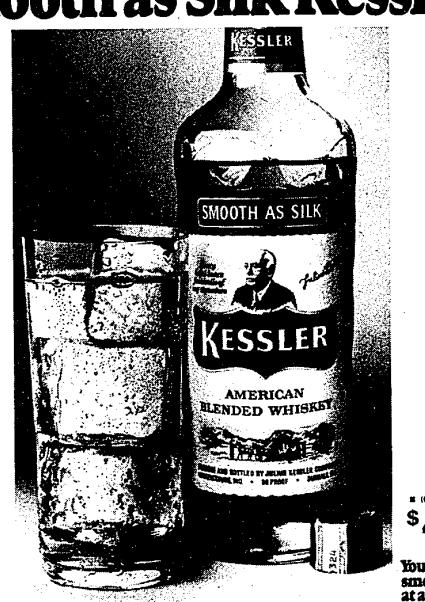
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