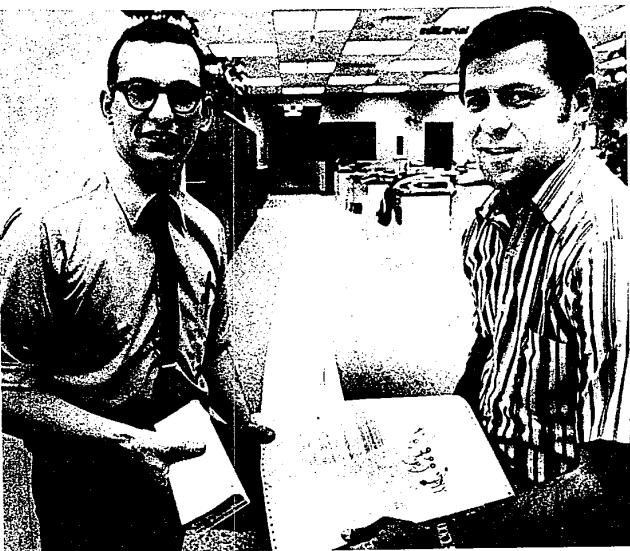


Franklin Football-Gone To The Computers



FOOTBALL SCOUTING VIA COMPUTER -- Franklin High's offensive coach, Armand Vigna (left), holds the computer IBM cards and the

"print out" with Franklin head Coach George Lovich. The print out holds entire game play information on its opponents. (Observer photo)

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

In this age of computer this and computer that, Franklin High's football team has come to fit the times.

Computers have been pushed into operation to tackle the challenge of scouting prep rivals at Franklin, with the man behind the machine being offensive line coach Armand Vigna.

Vigna is a counselor and two year building research director at Franklin in addition to his coaching duties. He also has learned computer program in line with his football knowledge.

The scouting process began to take roots in '68 when George Lovich took over head coaching duties and Vigna the offense.

LOVICH and Vigna got full wind of the "print-out" system from Amherst football coach Bill Thurston.

"Once I saw it, I knew we had to fit it into our system," said Lovich.

What does this system entail? This is how it was described to me by computer-minded Vigna:

In scouting a football game, you diagram each play with the following information: down, yards to go, hash-mark, what yard line, what drive, what quarter, score, last two minutes in first half, and the last two minutes in second half.

THE DIAGRAMS are then ready to be transferred to a code sheet and IBM cards.

Meanwhile Vigna has programmed the computer to analyze football plays breaking them all down into three brackets: running, passing and field position, and then into 17 complete breakdowns such as field position by zone or hash-mark; running play by formation and which hole; and passing into which zone.

The code sheet is then transferred onto the IBM cards.

TEACHER-AID Barbara Kizer aided the Frank-

lin staff with this task. It took about 20 minutes and out would come an IBM card on every offensive play that they were scouting.

That was the procedure taken to break down a game.

Once Franklin had scouted a team three or four times, which could be done from a game film, all the IBM cards from that team could be fed into the computer and out would come a "print-out."

The "print-out" tells Lovich and Vigna anything they want to know about the opposing team in the form of plays they ran.

"A football team, the whole picture is in front of you," said Vigna. "It reveals the team's tendency; you seem so intricate and subtle, that you couldn't catch it."

EVERY PLAY breakdown will appear in the "print-out." A balanced squad will not reveal that much.

"We would build our game plan on defense and the key," said Lovich. "Everything looks great on paper after we finish analyzing, but it all boils down to how well the kids execute their assignments."

Lovich received a "print-out" from Vigna on every team a week prior to his game with that team. That "print-out" became Lovich's bible.

"He would sleep, eat and teach with that in his grasp," said Vigna.

Since Franklin has started using the key, the Patriots have piled up a 32-8-1 mark.

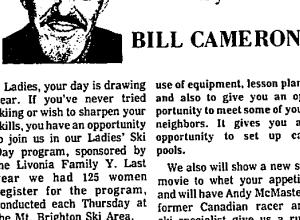
"THE COMPUTER doesn't win a ball game for you," said Lovich. "No matter how much paper work we do, it all boils down to the kids and how well they execute."

"It definitely gives one team a defensive edge over the other," added Lovich.

What's the next step with computers and football? How about electronic referees? Start working, Armand.

C'mon Skiers, Start Shaping Up!

By BILL CAMERON



Ladies, your day is drawing near. If you've never tried skiing or wish to sharpen your skills, you have an opportunity to meet some of your neighbors. It gives you an opportunity to set up can do.

By BILL CAMERON

We also will show a new ski movie to whet your appetite and will have Andy McMaster, former Canadian racer and ski specialist give us a run down on skis, boots, and bindings.

How do injuries occur? The National Ski Patrol tells us they usually happen to three categories: skiing into a chair lift that should develop into the most popular slope in the area. Babysitting services for children two to five years again will be available. For inexpensive skiing and excellent instruction, you shouldn't miss this program.

It is to the last that we want to direct our remarks. The sport of skiing demands strength, flexibility, balance, and endurance. In our everyday living we are seldom called upon for any of these attributes. Serious skiers are aware of the importance of the above and are involved in extra-curricular activities that prepare them physically

for the demanding skills involved.

Will you be a statistic this year? Ski injuries stand out like a sore thumb. Who needs a cast and crutches? The percentage of ski injuries to

number of skiers is very small but we always see some of our

gals sitting around the ledge, beautifully autographed cast, getting all kinds of sympathy from a seemingly endless line of well-wishers.

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And remember, you are

never too old to learn. The

main ingredient is motivation and a sense of humor. Join us

for a cup of coffee and bring a friend and a smile. See you then.

You can register at the "Y"

at any time, but we will

conduct an orientation program on Friday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Livonia Y. This

will be mainly for you novices, explaining the procedure of

registering, explaining the

use of equipment, lesson plans

and also to give you an opportunity to meet some of your

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