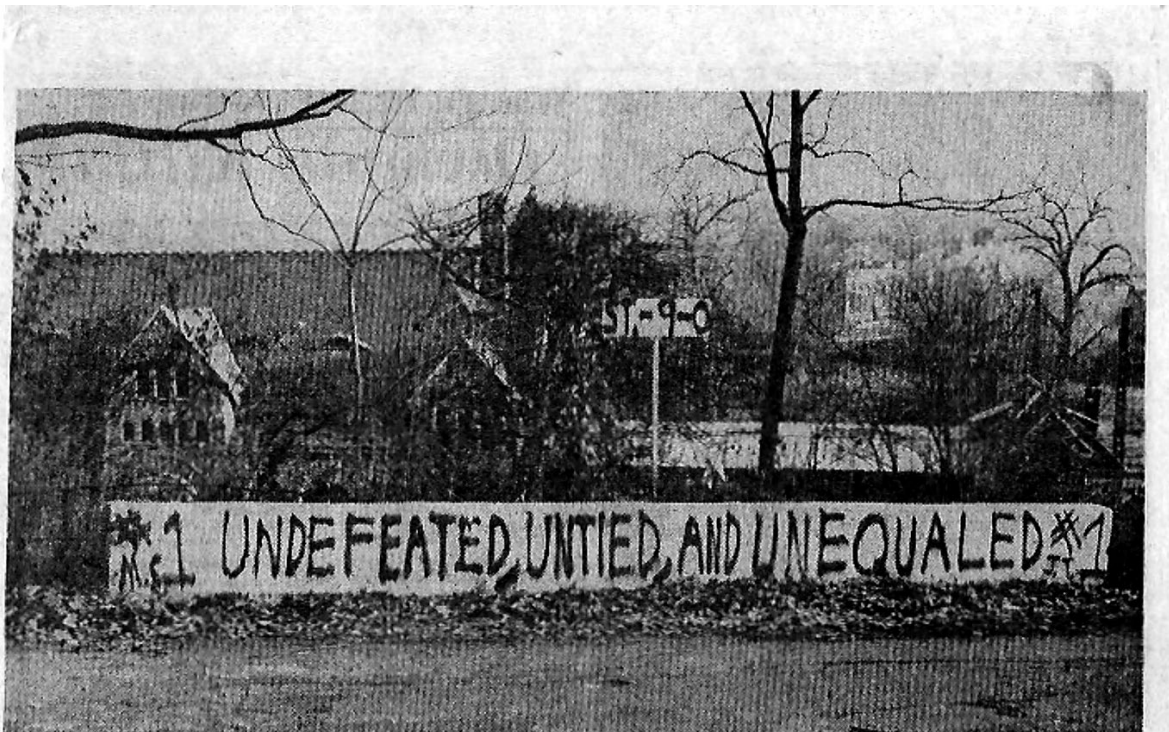


St. Thomas Fighting Irish

50th Anniversary

1976 Football Team

October 2, 2026



News photo by Cecil Lockard

Hail To The Irish

The St. Thomas High School football team completed a perfect season Saturday night by winning their ninth straight game, 14-6 over

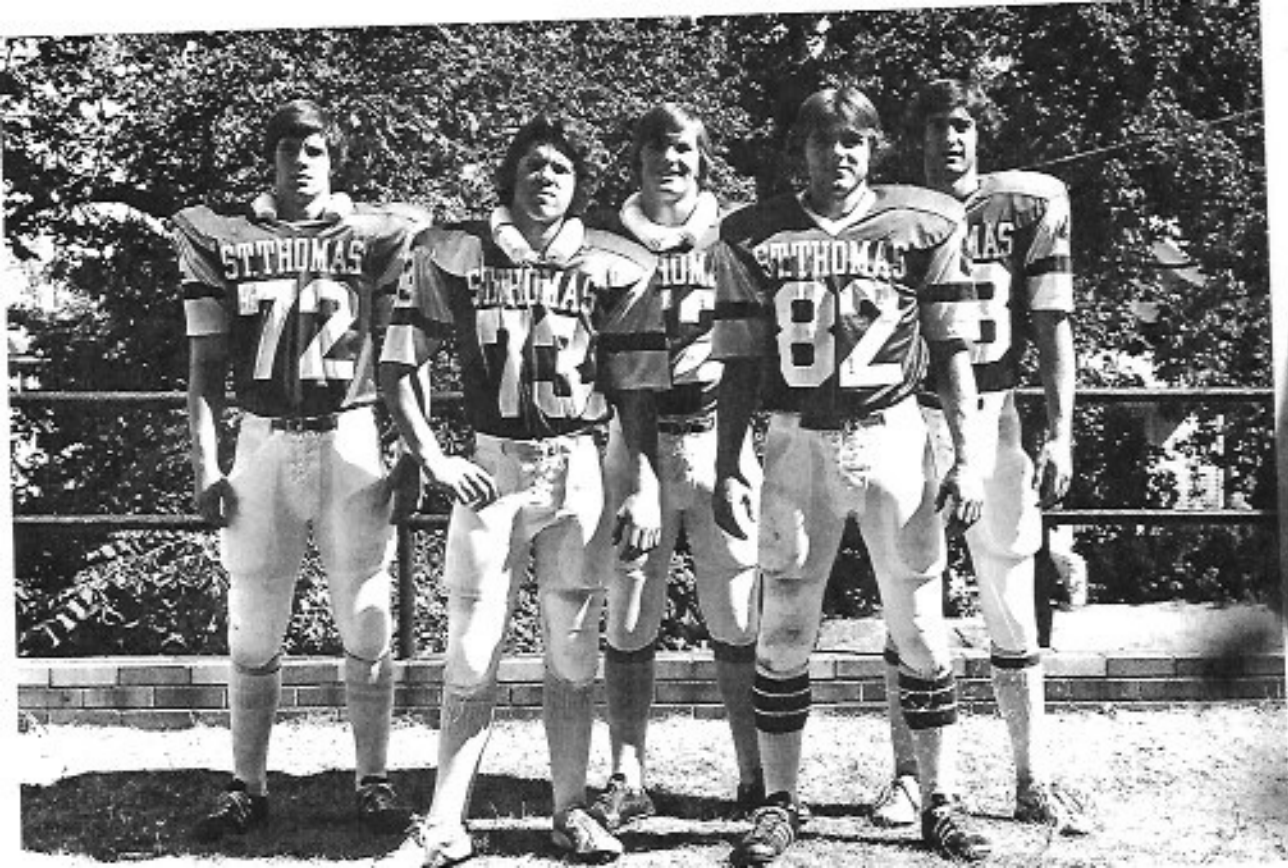
Manchester. The undefeated season is the first for any Ann Arbor team in almost 30 years and Sunday night the painters were out to pay trib-

ute. This wall on High Street at Elizabeth Street near the school got the treatment, indicating the "Number One" status.



Front Row (left to right) - J. Wright, M. Mrozinski, M. Kelley, **Second Row** (left to right) - P. Sherzer, R. Farmiloe, M. O'Neill, G. Creswell, D. O'Brien, P. Rodriguez, **Third Row** (left to right) - M. Fox, J. Lott, K. Trim, M. Richmond, D. Morehouse, P. Dascola, P. Lemmer, **Fourth Row** (left to right) - D. Tice, J. Tremi, J. Rupert, C. Cavanaugh, M. Schork, J. O'Sullivan, B. Cook, R. Smith, J. Simon, W. DeNeff, B. Kelley, D. McCarney, Trainer. Absent: B. DiDonato.

St. Thomas Varsity Football Squad



St. Thomas Varsity Football Roster

		GREEN	WHITE	HT	WT	CLASS
QB	JOHN WRIGHT	7	7	6' 3"	170	12
QB	RON SMITH	16	12	5' 9"	150	11
HB	PAUL LEMMER	18	26	5' 8"	145	12
HB	DENNIS TICE	21	21	5' 8"	140	11
HB	JIM IOTT	24	24	5' 9"	150	11
FB	PETE RODRIGUEZ	31	31	5' 10"	155	12
HB	BLAISE DiDONATO	32	32	5' 10"	160	12
SE	MARK SCHORK	40	40	5' 11"	150	11
FB	GEORGE CRESWELL	42	42	6'	175	12
FB	JEFF RUPERT	44	25	6' 1"	180	10
HB	MIKE FOX	45	41	5' 10"	140	10
T	MARK KELLEY	52	52	6' 1"	197	12
G	BRIAN KELLEY	51	51	5' 11"	180	10
C	PHIL DASCOLA	60	60	5' 10"	160	12
C	JIM O'SULLIVAN	61	61	5' 10"	150	11
G	JOE SIMON	62	62	5' 9"	154	11
T	KEVIN TRIM	63	63	5' 10"	160	11
G	CRIS CAVANAUGH	64	69	6'	170	11
G	WAYNE DeNEFF	65	71	5' 11"	175	11
T	JOE TREML	70	70	5' 9"	160	11
T	PAUL SHERZER	72	72	6' 2"	210	12
G	MARK O'NEILL	73	74	5' 11"	170	12
C	BILL COOK	75	75	6' 3"	185	11
E	ROCKY FARMIOLOE	80	80	6' 1"	170	12
E	DAVE O'BRIEN	81	81	5' 11"	160	12
E	MIKE MROZINSKI	82	82	6'	180	12
E	MARK RICHMOND	84	84	5' 11"	172	11
E	DAVE MOREHOUSE	88	83	5' 10"	160	12

Schedule of Games

9/17	@Addison	8:00
9/24	@Deerfield	7:30
10/ 2	Summerfield	7:30
10/ 8	@Madison	7:30
10/16	Britton	7:30
10/22	@Whitmore Lake	7:30
10/29	@Whiteford	7:30
11/ 6	Sand Creek	7:30
11/13	Manchester	7:30

Directions

ADDISON -	12 West to 127 South to Town - left at light to school.
DEERFIELD -	23 South to 50 West to County Line Highway - left to town.
MADISON -	12 West to 52 South to 223 left to Treat Hwy. - right to School.
WHITMORE LAKE -	23 North to Whitmore Lake Exit - North past school - left at 1st road to field.
WHITEFORD -	23 South to Consear Rd. - West to School.

State Title Is Goal Of Experienced Irish

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

This is the autumn St. Thomas High Football Coach Dave McCarney has been waiting for.

Three years ago, when McCarney began coaching the Fighting Irish, he say there was little talent on the varsity so he inducted the services of a slew of sophomores hungry for experience and as capable of playing as the upperclassmen. As the group learned, it produced a mediocre first season followed by 7-2 last year and continually ranked in the Class D polls.

Now they are seniors. McCarney is hoping and expecting that this blue chip investment will pay big dividends all season long.

"Yeah, I guess I would definitely have to say this is really a bread-and-butter team for us," admits McCarney. "This is the third year these guys have been with me on the football field, and really, I was coaching most of them in basketball when they were in the eighth grade, so it really makes five years worth of coaching for me and most of them.

"And I expect it should really pay off. Already, you can see it. We did things the first day in practice that took a couple of weeks last year. And with these guys already knowing most of our plays and their assignments, we are able to add a lot more this year, and give us that much more to work with in the games."

Starting for St. Thomas on offense will be nine seniors, one junior and one sophomore. Each player started at least once last year, and seven of them did so for the entire season. Five were named to the Tri-County Conference All-League squad, and one earned All-State honorable mention.

To begin describing the Irish attack, one must start with quarterback John 'Elmo' Wright. Thoroughly dominating as a ballcarrier on option plays and a deadly passer who completed 53 percent last year for 847 yards and a dozen touchdowns, it was the St. Thomas signal caller that earned All-State honorable mention.

If a good number of last year's contests had been a little less lopsided, Wright would have had a chance to pass much more, and his statistics would be that much more impressive. As it is, the smart-thinking senior will have many coaches concentrating on

who last year booted five extra points for the Irish, is now at tight end where his blocking, sure hands and good speed appear to be a rewarding combination for McCarney.

Defensively, St. Thomas can not hope to match last season's stunning

'Not being in the Tri-County Conference changes our attitude about the season. We have to win everything now. We have to be looking ahead to the state championship,' — Dave McCarney

him throughout the season.

Complementing Wright in the backfield are George Creswell at fullback and Blaise DiDonato at short half. Both played their positions enough last season to have plenty of experience for the opener a week from Friday. And in the wingback position is Mike Mrozinski, a fleet-footed receiver from the Jim Smith mode who caught 10 passes last year at an average of 25 yards a grab and scored four touchdowns.

The offensive line, which McCarney is as pleased with at this time as any one aspect of his preseason squad, is stacked with experience. Tackles Paul Sherzer (6-3—210) and mark Kelley (6-1—198) and guard Mark O'Neill (5-10—170) all gained All-Conference honors last year, and each is stronger and quicker and even that much better this year, according to McCarney.

Lining up among these three are Phil Dascola at center, who started some last season, and guard Brian Kelley, who started all last year as a freshman and is one of two non-seniors on the starting offensive team.

The pass catchers flanking the line are Dave O'Brien and junior Mike Schork. Schork, the split end, played junior varsity last season. O'Brien

performance of seven straight shut-outs and a mere total of 43 points allowed in nine games. Gone from last year's whitewashing "11" are All-State middle linebacker, Jerry O'Connor, and safety Ron Shatzle. Otherwise, the Irish are returning the same stingy, airtight unit.

The only two St. Thomas offensive players not going both ways are Phil Dascola and possibly Wright. Junior Wayne DeNeff, the third guard on offense, will man one defensive tackle position and apair of seniors, Dave Morehouse and Chris Cavanaugh, are fighting for a vacant slot at defensive end.

The rest of the starters are going

both ways, and endurance and depth will be the only two problems for the Irish coaches, barring disastrous injuries. They don't need to worry about talent and the opposition shouldn't score very often.

The Irish are playing an identical schedule to last year, except that the game sites are all reversed. The opener will be with Addison, a tough Class C school that turned back St. Thomas, 27-6, and has lost only to the nationally-famous Hudson in the past three years.

If McCarney, and his assistant, Joe McDermott, can guide the Irish by this challenging first match, they feel that St. Thomas stands an excellent chance at a place in the state playoffs at the end of the season.

"I can't explain how I feel inside," confides McCarney. "We're really looking forward to it, the whole season and especially the first game. The kids are almost quiet right now and just working hard.

"I just want to play the first game and see if we're as good as we think we are. Not being in the Tri-county conference anymore changes our attitude about the season. We have to win everything now. We have to be looking ahead to the state championship."

Irish Face Tough Foe

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

"This game is too important for the first game for our season."

With these words, St. Thomas football Coach Dave McCarney describes the Fighting Irish's season opener Friday night at Addison High.

This is the year McCarney and his staff spend their evenings with visions of a Class D state championship dancing in their heads. And an almost "must" in this elusive quest would be a victory over Addison, a top Class C school that has had an 8-1 record for each of the last four seasons in addition to a finish in the polls' top 10.

Last year was the first year St. Thomas ever played Addison, and the result was a disappointing, 27-6 loss. In that contest, the Irish never unwound. They committed infractions, fumbled the ball, gained only 32 yards rushing and failed to post a first down in the first half.

But the Irish are more experienced now.

And Addison apparently isn't quite the same Addison it was last year and the year before. The only team to beat the Panthers in the last four years is Lenawee County Athletic Association rival Hudon High, the team that last year set a national record for 71 consecutive victories.

Addison will be without the services of Jeff Hadden, the two-time, all-league quarterback who directed both the offense and defense for the last three years. His departure brought the Addison coach to remark that,

"Losing Jeff wasn't only losing a great quarterback and team leader. It's like losing a coach out on the field."

Returning for the Panthers is their other backfield member of the LCAA All-League team, fullback Paul Blossom (6-2, 210). "Blossom is their man this year," says Irish Assistant Coach Joe McDermott. "He's their ace, the guy they like to go to. They love to run out of a straight T formation and go between the tackles. When they do, which is usually, it's Blossom with the ball."

Blocking for Blossom will be a solid front line averaging more than 180 pounds, which is typical of a school Addison's size but big for a smaller school such as St. Thomas.

Defensively, Addison also looks very strong across the line. The Panther preventers line up in a 5-2 front, with the secondary forming a diamond. Blossom is again Mr. Heavy Duty. He plays middle linebacker.

The Irish used their one allowed pre-season scrimmage last week, and McCarney had a few things to say about the St. Thomas performance.

"We should be able to throw the ball effectively if the weather's right," he said. "But, all the time in the pre-season practices it's around 80 and beautiful and then we have to scrimmage in 45-degree freezing rain."

"This was good for us, though. We were running the ball just as good as I thought we should be able to, and that doesn't happen all that often."

St. Thomas Rips Addison

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

ADDISON — Hudson High, move over! It's time to make room for a stellar squad from Ann Arbor that has accomplished a feat matched only by the Hudson Tigers in the last four years.

St. Thomas began its quest for a state championship Friday night with a rousing 28-0 win over powerful Addison High, making the Fighting Irish the only football team other than Hudson to down the Panthers in the last 37 games.

The Irish struck quickly, capitalizing on an Addison fumble on the opening kickoff. George Creswell pounced on the ball for St. Thomas on the Panther 29 yard line. Eight plays and four

minutes later, the Irish held a seven-point lead.

Over half of the yardage, including the final scoring play, came on two quick play-action passes from St. Thomas quarterback John Wright to his wingback, Mike Mrozinski. That same combination, which worked wonderfully together last year for a dozen completions, 280 yards and four touchdowns, accounted for all four of the successful Irish pass plays last night, for a total of 83 yards and two touchdowns.

St. Thomas dominated Addison throughout the first quarter, limiting the Panthers to seven plays, and scoring the very next time it gained possession. This time the Irish needed only nine plays to cover 68 yards.

Fine open-field running by backs

Blaise DiDonato and Creswell accounted for most of the yardage, but it was Mrozinski again who scored the touchdown, a seven-yard pitch-out sprint to the corner of the end zone.

Perhaps it was this second six-point play in the first quarter, or maybe it was just a matter of time, but Addison, a Class C power, quickly revived itself and outplayed St. Thomas for the middle two quarters. However, despite running almost twice as many plays as the Irish, the Panthers failed to put the ball across the goal line.

And, for the eighth time in its last nine outings, the St. Thomas defense produced a shutout. That gives the Irish a 1.9 points-per-game average over that period.

"If the offense doesn't put the defense in a hole, we won't be scored

on," said St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney, jubilant after the contest.

"Oh Jesus, I feel great," he said. "Geez, I don't know what to say. The offense was just as good as I thought it could be. The front line was great all night long, both ways. Everybody just did great. They all know their jobs and they do 'em well, all of 'em."

After the Irish frustrated Addison with gutsy goal-line stands to stop long drives at the end of the first half, the middle of the third quarter and the first play of the fourth quarter, the fourth quarter was all St. Thomas.

ST. THOMAS	13	0	0	15-28
ADDISON	0	0	0	0-0

St. T—Mrozinski 6 pass from Wright (O'Brien kick)

St. T—Mrozinski 7 run

St. T—Creswell 1 run (Creswell 1 run conversion)

St. T—Mrozinski 60 pass from Wright

	St. T.	A
First downs	15	8
Rushes-yards	42-175	39-73
Passes	4-5-0	3-7-2
Passing yards	83	40
Punts-average	2-30	4-27
Return yards	4	12
Fumbles-lost	1-0	4-1
Penalties-yards	3-15	2-6

Irish, Braves, River Rats Make Good Impressions

BY DAVE RIGAN
News Sports Writer

St. Thomas, Ypsilanti and Huron made favorable impressions with its opening game results while Pioneer has left some unanswered questions.

St. Thomas has a powerhouse.

The AP's fourth ranked Class D team in the state demonstrated its prowess by crushing powerful Addison, 28-0. The loss was only the second in the last 37 games that Addison has played.

Mike Mrozinski scored three touchdowns and John Wright was a stand-out at quarterback. Both the offensive and defensive lines came through with stellar performances.

Coach Dave McCarney said after the game that, "If the offense doesn't put the defense in a hole, we won't be scored on." St. Thomas travels to Deerfield on Friday.

Yes, this looks like it could be the year for Huron High. It lost its first

game against Jackson Lumen Christi 13-0, but gave a very respectable performance against possibly the best class B team in the state. It will get another test against tough Lansing Harry Hill Friday at home.

The defense hit very hard and the 13 points it allowed was considerably better than the 35 Lumen Christi scored against last year's team. The running of Gary Reeves and Dan Spriggs was particularly impressive. Coach Tom Fagan is blessed with two excellent quarterbacks in Bill Thomas and Jerome Jelinek and if he can decide on one, the other could possibly make a big contribution at another position.

Ypsilanti demonstrated two important qualities in its 18-14 win over Lansing Eastern. It showed a diversified attack, gaining over 150 yards on the ground and in the air. It also revealed an ability to come from behind.

It came up with 18 points in the final quarter and made the winning

touchdown with 32 seconds left. Quarterback Scott Davis lived up to his pre-season billing by throwing two scoring passes and hitting on 9-19 for 160 yards.

The Braves will get a chance to test Catholic Central's defense Friday at Shadford Field.

The Braves were the only area team to be given an honorable mention rating in the Associated Press Class A high school football rating.

The strength of Pioneer is still in doubt. One thing is for sure though, the offense needs to improve vastly from last Friday's effort against Detroit Catholic Central in which it gained just over 50 yards in total offense. It's possible that Central's defense was just overpowering.

It's hard to say whether the 6-0 loss is any indicator of Pioneer's strength. One thing is certain. Pioneer has a difficult schedule. Friday it goes against Kalamazoo Loy Norrix, which is coached by former Pioneer assistant Don Blanchard.

St. Thomas, Ypsilanti Show Strength

Hudson Tops 'C' Rankings

By Associated Press

How soon they forget!

It was just last November that Ishpeming High School shocked the nation by upsetting much-heralded Hudson, 38-22, to win the state prep Class C championship and snap Hudson's winning streak at 72.

So when the first Associated Press football poll of the season was released today who do you suppose is rated No. 1 in Class C?

Go to the head of the class if you guessed: Hudson.

While Hudson went back to the top, Ann Arbor St. Thomas and Ypsilanti showed its competition that both teams will be in the battle for the number one ranking at the end of the year.

The Irish cracked the top five in Class D for the first week's poll. St. Thomas is ranked fourth with 52 points.

The Braves didn't make the top ten, but they did manage to gain an honorable mention billing in Class A with 18 points.

The AP poll, conducted among Michigan sports writers and broadcasters, ranked the Panthers ahead of

their Upper Peninsula rivals by the slimmest of margins: one point.

"We tell our players that polls don't win football games," Ishpeming Coach Mike Mileski said after learning the outcome of the first week's balloting. "Every Friday night when they pull on their pads they've got to prove their worth all over again."

So far this season the Hematites have been "worth" a perfect 3-0 record, including last week's 35-12 victory over Class A Marquette.

"We've got a real big one this Friday, too," Mileski said, "against Gwinn. They're a Class B school with a real good team. They're 3-0 right now, too, so somebody is going to come out of there with their first loss."

Hudson is 1-0. The season starts about three weeks later in extreme Lower Michigan than in the northern regions.

The pollsters tabbed Flint Southwestern, 1-0, the No. 1 Class A team by seven poll points over second-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice, 1-0.

Defending state champion Dearborn Child, 1-0, ranked ahead of Muskegon Catholic, 1-0, in Class B while defend-

ing Class D champion Crystal Falls Forest Park, 2-1, ranked ahead of Hbror Springs, 2-0.

Winning the state title last year, while hailed by a joyful city, apparently didn't do a thing for Mileski's recruiting program. The 36-year-old coach has only 21 players on his varsity roster.

"Some young men just find out that football isn't for them," Mileski said philosophically. "We've got a bunch of kids who know they have their work cut out. But we've got a very dedicated bunch."

The man the Hematites turn to most is All-State tailback Mike Dellangelo, a 5-8, 170-pound senior who played a major part in Ishpeming's stirring victory over Hudson in last year's title game.

In three games this year, Dellangelo is averaging nearly 150 yards.

"Within the groups I've coached in the last few years, we've had some outstanding leaders," Mileski said. "I think this has just been handed down from year to year. At any rate, it's happened."

"For example, Dellangelo and two of our senior linemen — Steve Alanko and Jerry Millimaki — have really got 'em fired up. Those three were all starters on last year's team. But the other three seniors, who are starting this year, have also emerged as leaders."

And even though they're not No. 1, the Hematites still try harder.

Here are the top 10 teams in each class in the first Associated Press high school football poll of the 1976 season.

CLASS A

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1	Flint Southwestern	1-0	71
2	Birmingham Brother Rice	1-0	62
3	Royal Oak Dendore	1-0	44
4	East Lansing	1-0	42
5	Muskegon	1-0	41
6	Detroit Southwestern	1-0	41
7	Dearborn Fordson	1-0	37
8	Trenton	1-0	21
9	Midland Dow	1-0	20
10	Traverse City	1-0	20
Honorable mention: Alpena (1-0) 15, Niles (1-0) 14, Ypsilanti (1-0) 14, Plymouth Salem (1-0) 13, Southfield Lathrup (1-0) 12, Midland (1-0) 11, Detroit Central (1-0) 9, Taylor Tuman (1-0) 8, Warren Fitzgerald (1-0) 7, Clarkston (1-0) 7, East Detroit (1-0) 5, Muskegon Area Shores (1-0) 5, Orchard Lake West Bloomfield (1-0) 5, G. Milled Hills Laker (1-0) 4, Grand Rapids Creston (1-0) 4, Grand Haven (1-0) 3, Detroit Catholic Central (1-0) 2, Westland Glencoe (1-0) 2, Monroe Jefferson (1-0) 2, Flint Kearsley (1-0) 1, Grand Ledge (1-0) 1.			

CLASS B

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1	Dearborn Child	1-0	73
2	Muskegon Catholic	1-0	68
3	Grand Rapids W. Catholic	1-0	60
4	Southgate Aquinas	1-0	41
5	Saginaw MacArthur	1-0	41
6	East Grand Rapids	1-0	37
7	Jackson Lumen Christi	1-0	27
8	Saginaw Swan Valley	1-0	25
9	Flint Flint Powers	1-0	24
10	W.C. Chippewa Valley	1-0	23
Honorable mention: New Baltimore Anchor Bay (1-0) 19, East Grand Rapids (1-0) 17, North Branch (1-0) 16, Fraser (1-0) 15, Harbor Woods Bishop Gallagher (1-0) 12, Tecumseh (1-0) 10, Flint Alesworth (1-0) 10, Piquette (1-0) 9, Wyoming Park (1-0) 8, Okemos (1-0) 7, Clawson (1-0) 5, Fruitport (1-0) 1, Detroit Bishop Foley (1-0) 1, Grosse Pointe (1-0) 1, Ann Arbor (1-0) 1.			

CLASS C

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1	Hudson	1-0	75
2	Ishpeming	2-0	70
3	Keweenaw	1-0	61
4	Traverse City St. Fran	2-0	56
5	Gainesburg Augusta	1-0	56
6	Center Line St. Clement	1-0	56
7	Portland	1-0	57
8	Allen Park Cabrini	1-0	53
9	Flint Rock	1-0	51
10	Okemos	1-0	50
Honorable mention: Lake Fenton (1-0) 17, Negaunee (1-0) 15, Saginaw St. Peter's/Paul (1-0) 14, Dearborn St. Alphonsus (1-0) 13, Orchard Lake St. Mary (1-0) 12, Hartford (1-0) 12, Bay City All Saints (1-0) 12, Richmond (1-0) 12, Rose (1-0) 11, Grosse Pointe (1-0) 10, Cassopolis (1-0) 5, Breckinridge (1-0) 1, Almont (1-0) 1, Rowland (1-0) 1.			

CLASS D

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1	Crystal Falls Forest Park	2-1	63
2	Hartford Springs	2-0	55
3	North Adams	1-0	55
4	Ann Arbor St. Thomas	1-0	52
5	Royal Oak St. Mary	1-0	47
6	DeTou	2-0	35
7	Rapid River	1-0	27
8	Flint Holy Rosary	1-0	27
9	Bessemer	2-1	26
10	Ann Arbor Lewis	2-0	22

Irish Goal: Stay Motivated

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

On Monday, the first day of practice following last Friday's season football opener, a St. Thomas starter said to Coach Dave McCarney, "It doesn't seem like the Addison game should be over."

All summer the Irish waited and prepared for Addison, a Class C powerhouse that dumped them last year. And then, the practices provided their rewards, as St. Thomas came out scrapping and dominated the Panthers, 28-0, in probably the toughest contest of the season.

That win gave McCarney's squad a fourth-place ranking in this week's Associated Press Class D Poll, and also determined what will be the primary job for the coaches as the Irish prepare to play at Deerfield away Friday.

Last year, St. Thomas sloppily ran over Deerfield, 31-0, in the first of seven straight shutouts against Tri-County Conference teams. This year, the Irish are even stronger and the trick will be to stay motivated and prepared for the weaker teams.

Last year was Deerfield Coach Rick Senica's first at the school. He began by building for the future and his year-old investments paid their first dividends as Deerfield downed Waldron, 14-6, in its season opener.

Five sophomores and two juniors were in the Deerfield starting lineup last season, and those seven return as two-way starters this year. Three are in the backfield: quarterback Andy Iott, halfback Chet Slasko and Randy Keller at fullback.

With this kind of experience in the offensive spotlight, in addition to junior All-League guard-linebacker Kim Diver, the Minutemen run a lot of

tricky, gambling counters and man-in-motion plays.

On defense, Deerfield also plays a game that is full of chances.

Stubborn Irish Contain Upset-Minded Minutemen

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

DEERFIELD — To eliminate the threatening Tories, a militia nicknamed the Minutemen was established on Nov. 23, 1974, by the Continental Congress.

On Sept. 24, 1976, in the year of bicentennial festivities, the Minutemen attempted to rise from their graves and relive the Battle of Lexington — this time against the Irish.

But the Fighting Irish of St. Thomas refused to be spooked, as they came from behind Friday night against the Deerfield Minutemen to

win, 16-12, and avoid a major upset.

St. Thomas was clearly not playing the same kind of football it did a week ago in its season opener when it downed powerful Class C Addison, 28-0. And a letdown against a weaker, smaller team was what Irish Coach Dave McCarney had worried about more than anything else.

Yet St. Thomas did not play with the same motivation it had seven days earlier. At the end of the first half, neither team had scored and it wasn't until the last minute of play in the second quarter that the Irish managed their third first down, the same number Deerfield had at the time.

The deadlock was quickly cracked with the opening kickoff of the second half. Deerfield halfbacks Chet Skasko and Jim Swindeman worked a reverse handoff to perfection as Swindeman scampered around the right end and several flat-footed Irish for a 78-yard touchdown run.

Exactly six minutes later, with 5:46 left in the third quarter and St. Thomas leading, 7-6, after a muffed quick kick by the Minutemen was converted into a one-play, 11-yard touchdown run by Blaise Didonato, Deerfield again worked the same kickoff return play to perfection.

"Those two touchdown returns —

that's just good preparation by them," said St. Thomas' McCarney. "I think our contain man was getting sucked in and then couldn't get back, and they had a good kid with the ball. But they outcoached us in the kicking game. They beat us in the specialties."

But that was the only way the Minutemen defeated the Irish. Statistically, St. Thomas dominated Deerfield, holding the Tri-County Conference team to just two net yards in the second half.

The big question was whether or not St. Thomas could avoid penalties for any one possession and mount a scoring drive. The officials marked off 85 yards against the Irish in the second half, and many of those infractions came at just the wrong times and stalled any momentum.

Finally, with 3:14 left in the contest and the Minutemen continually battling to stay on top, it was Deerfield's ball, fourth and 20 on the six-yard line. A deliberate mis-snap over the punter's head and out of the end zone for a safety closed the gap to three, 12-9, and had St. Thomas receiving a Deerfield kick from the 20.

Then, St. Thomas played good football. Moving 47 yards in two minutes and eight plays, with George Creswell running hard behind tough blocking for most of the yardage, St. Thomas scored the winning touchdown. This left the Minutemen with only 76 seconds, and they quickly threw the ball into the hands of the St. Thomas secondary.

"This game was one of those deals where I hope we learn from it and I'm glad we won," said McCarney of his fourth-ranked Class D team. "Sure there was a letdown, and I guess the thing to say is that it's good to have a close game if you win because you benefit from it."

"Well, believe me, we learned our lesson."

ST. THOMAS	0	0	7	9-16
DEERFIELD	0	0	12	0-12
D—Swindeman 78 kickoff return				
St. T.—Didonato 11 run (O'Brien kick)				
D—Swindeman 93 kickoff return				
St. T.—safety, ball out of endzone				
St. T.—Creswell 1 run (O'Brien kick)				

	St. T.	D
First downs	14	3
Rushes-yards	49-175	30-44
Passes	8-14-0	1-3-0
Passing yards	90	20
Punts-average	6-30.6	8-25
Return yards	18	25
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	10-110	5-55

Prep Grid Assessments Easier After Two Games

BY DAVE RIGAN
News Sports Writer

Two weeks into this high school football season, a couple of things are apparent.

St. Thomas and Ypsilanti have strong teams and both Pioneer and Huron could be described as emerging. The Irish are undefeated and the Braves have only lost a close one to Detroit Catholic Central. The River Rats are 1-1 and Pioneer 0-2 after playing two outstanding teams.

Last week was one of low scores, but that could change.

Huron gained 220 yards rushing in

its 6-0 win over Lansing Harry Hill, including a 43-yard scoring jaunt by tailback Dan Spriggs. He and fullback Gary Reeves combined for 165 yards. Quarterback Jerome Jelinek is also an offensive threat, both running and passing.

Huron's defense has been its strength so far and that alone should keep the team in most games. Led by senior linebacker Brad Wilkinson and Paul Weber, the River Rat defense limited an outstanding Jackson Lumen Christi team to 14 points and allowed Hill a total of 77 yards in total offense.

The main thing Huron has lacked so

far is a passing game. It may be due to a lack of emphasis from Coach Tom Fagan and his assistants, or from a lack of opportunity. Both Jelinek and Bill Thomas are capable passers, so it's likely that the Hurons will be putting the ball in the air more often in the future.

St. Thomas' main problem is to keep from suffering a letdown against teams it should beat easily. It is still playing teams from the Tri-County Conference, but the games will not count in the league standings.

The Irish are officially in the Detroit Catholic League, but weren't able to schedule any games in the league

because of the lateness of the shift in conferences.

On the field, St. Thomas had to come from behind against Deerfield to win, 16-12. It dominated the game on offense, but fell victim to the old reverses.

Ypsilanti travels all the way to Alpena this Friday and if it can survive the bus ride of 250 miles the game should be a good one. The two teams were ranked almost even by the Associated Press Poll of last week, before the Braves lost to Detroit Catholic Central, 17-14.

Central taught Ypsilanti the same lesson it taught Pioneer the week before: ball control. It ran 59 times for 232 yards. The Braves had a total of 42 offensive plays.

Again, Coach Ralph Perriello's team displayed a balanced attack, gaining roughly equal yards on the ground and in the air. Perriello is undoubtedly hoping that his team can move the ball early and get a lead. The two previous games were decided in the last minute of play.

Pioneer showed an emerging offense centered around quarterback Phil Kroeger in its 14-6 loss to Kalamazoo Loy Norrix. Kroeger fooled the defense all night with his slick ball handling.

End Jim Keeler is a threat to catch both the long and short pass. If coach Chuck Ritter comes up with one or two secondary receivers, Pioneer might break tradition and become more than just a "running team with a passing threat" as Ritter has oft described his team.

Irish Climb In Grid Poll

The St. Thomas High football team continues to climb in the Associated Press Class D poll. The Irish moved up a notch from No. 4 to No. 3 after its narrow 16-12 victory over Deerfield last Friday.

The Irish have 48 points and stand behind No. 1 Crystal Falls Forest Park, with 71 points, and No. 2 Harbor Springs (67).

St. Thomas moved into the spot vacated by North Adams, an upset victim last weekend.

The No. 1 rankings stayed the same in all four classes. Flint Southwestern maintained its top-spot in Class A, while Dearborn Divine Child, Hudson and Crystal Falls Forest Park remained top-ranked in Class B, C and D respectively.

St. Thomas is the only Ann Arbor area team to be ranked in the top ten in any class, while Manchester, which boasts a 2-0 record, received a honorable mention in Class C.

Meanwhile, Flint Southwestern isn't a parochial school, but it's top ranked squad believes the team that prays together, stays together, says Coach Dar Christiansen.

"We have a closeness as a team," he said. "For pre-season we went to a church camp up north. The kids had a real Christian experience, as well as learning football."

"It's carried into the season. They have a spirit of cooperativeness, not just on the field but off it as well. They help people around the school and community."

"They pray the night of a game, before a game and after a game. It's really a close-knit group of young men."

The 45 players on the squad have a variety of religious beliefs, Christiansen said.

"The kids believe in a Supreme Power. They've never prayed for a victory, though. The basis of their prayers on game nights is to thank God for keeping them healthy enough to be able to play."

Southwestern produced Rick Leach, the sophomore who is the starting quarterback for the University of Michigan's No. 1-ranked Wolverines.

The Colts won their first two games convincingly and sit atop the Class A poll with 74 of a possible 75 points in the vote by a panel of sports writers and broadcasters from throughout Michigan. Royal Oak Dondero is a close second with 71 points.

Perennial power Dearborn Divine Child remains atop the Class B list just ahead of Muskegon Catholic. Hudson, the team that reeled off a national high school record of 72 consecutive victories before losing to Ishpeming in the state tournament finals last year, is still the top Class C team. Norway has moved up from third to second as runnerup Ishpeming lost and fell to ninth.

Crystal Falls Forest Park leads second-place Harbor Springs among the top 10 teams in the Class D rankings.

Southwestern opened its season by beating Pontiac Central, 28-6. Last Saturday it crushed Flint Northern, 35-6. The Colts host Saginaw on Friday night in the first of five consecutive games in the Eastern Division of the tough Saginaw

Valley Conference.

Christiansen's top offensive performers include quarterback Jim Buterakos (16 of 30 with five touchdown passes), split end Rodney Feaster (eight catches and three TDs), slotback Reggie Mitchell (8.0 average as a runner and several catches), tailback Booker Moore (who broke all Flint rushing records last year and is continuing his pace), and tight end Don Leach — Rick's brother.

Defensive stars include linebacker-fullback Rodney Graham and linebacker-center John Russell.

"We have a team that would rather pass than run," Christiansen said. "That's why Moore's running feats are so remarkable."

He said Don Leach "is not anything like" his brother "except in intensity."

Christiansen, 35, is in his sixth season at Southwestern where his teams have compiled a 40-7 record. The Albion College graduate served for a time as an assistant and head coach at Flushing High in his home town, and also was an aide to Leach's uncle, Bob Leach, at Flint Central.

St. Thomas Wary Of Big Gainers

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

Third-ranked St. Thomas High will clash helmets and unbeaten records with Petersburg-Summerfield Saturday night at Hollway Field. This marks the third straight week that the undefeated Irish will be taking on a previously unbeaten team.

Last year, Petersburg finished with an 8-1 season, its only loss being a 15-0 shutout at the hands of St. Thomas. The Bulldogs lost a good portion of last season's squad to graduation, but with St. Thomas out of the Tri-County Conference, they hope to become league champions for the first time this fall.

The Bulldogs won their first two games, downing Litchfield in the opener and then last week sliding by Sand Creek, 20-14. These two wins have placed Petersburg into an honorable mention slot of the Associated Press Class D rankings.

Unlike most high school football teams, Petersburg runs from the Oklahoma 'wishbone' offense. With good backfield speed, this makes for an offense of sweeps and options for the quarterback to keep the ball. This alignment also makes for unusual offensive blocking, and hence a different kind of defensive preparation by the Irish than for most other teams.

"Petersburg has a really explosive offense," says St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney. "They're really based on the big play, on getting one long run. And they really have a strong kickoff and punt return game."

St. Thomas football players and fans know that this means a different kind of performance is necessary Saturday from the St. Thomas specialty teams than the one given last week. Against Deerfield, when the Irish had to score with just 72 seconds left to win, 16-12, both of the opposition touchdowns came on kickoff returns.

"Needless to say, we've been concentrating on our specialties, like the kickoffs," says McCarney with an embarrassed chuckle. "Our defense was really good last week. It was just that one kickoff team. A couple of key

guys were leaving their lanes going downfield and that's how there was so much room for that kid on those returns."

St. Thomas will also have one particularly explosive back to worry about in the Bulldogs' Jamie LoRocca. A springtime track champion, the junior halfback has gained over 150 yards in each of Petersburg's first two games. "No doubt about it, he's the guy they like to go with on the sweeps," says McCarney.

After last Friday's close call with Deerfield, McCarney and his playoff-minded football team should have little problem getting ready to play their contest this week. A psychological letdown had been a prime concern of McCarney's, but the actual scare of defeat is more powerful than even a Knute Rockne pep talk.

"I think they're really looking forward to the game Saturday," McCarney says. "There shouldn't be any letdown this week."

"Petersburg has given us a good game every year. The kids know this and we've had really good practices all week long so far. We'll be ready."

As far as being ranked third in the state in Class D, McCarney believes that he and his team cannot worry about that at this time nor let it be a sign that they don't have to work as hard against lesser teams. It is too early in the season to really know how good the other squads in the ratings are.

"I'll tell ya," says McCarney. "We've had a little talk among ourselves about being ranked third this early in the season."

"We don't know if we're the third best team in the state. There's just too many teams out there waiting to prove themselves. Right now, we're just going to try and prove we're one of the best teams in the state each week."

St. Thomas Rips Summerfield, 40-6

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

All four members of the St. Thomas High starting backfield scored a touchdown in the first 16 minutes Saturday night as the Fighting Irish

rolled over previously beaten Petersburg-Summerfield, 40-6.

Petersburg came into the contest bearing an Honorable Mention ranking in the Associated Press Class D Poll and third-rated St. Thomas quickly showed the Bulldogs how

much they have to improve to move up in the rankings.

St. Thomas scored on its first four possessions.

The first Irish touchdown came on an 11-play drive that covered 57 yards and took five minutes. Taking the

football across the goal line was tailback Blaise DiDonato who accounted for 84 yards rushing on 17 carries.

It was after this impressive drive that the Irish showed their only weakness to date. Bulldog track champion Bruce LaRocca returned Rocky Far-

miloe's kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown, making it the third time St. Thomas has had the kickoff run back for a score.

It is also the only way the Irish have been scored on in their three games.

Wingback Mike Mrozinski quickly

demonstrated his all-round football talents on the next scoring play, and showed why he is an All-State candidate. Mrozinski reached high over his head for John Wright's pass as he cut across the middle, pulled the ball in with one hand and without breaking stride sped by the Bulldog secondary for six points.

Not enough can be said for the passing attack of St. Thomas. If it was required more often because of closer games, the statistics would be more impressive. But this year, Wright has hit 17 of 26 passes for 275 yards, and 13 of those have gone to the sure hands of Mrozinski.

Wright, followed by fullback George Creswell, got the next two touchdowns for St. Thomas.

Our middle is very aggressive and we just took advantage of that all night," said St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney.

"I put in an unbalanced line with Brian Kelley and Paul Sherzer, our two tackles, on the same side for our first two drives. And we scored both times. Those are our best two linemen and I definitely think they are both all-state tackles."

The always prestigious individual statistics were as evenly dealt out among the St. Thomas starters as the touchdowns. Creswell ran for 93 and Wright 92 of the Irish's 302 yards on the ground while Mrozinski caught all five of the completed passes for 102 yards.

"Petersburg knew what we were going to do," said McCarney. "We just went at 'em."

St. Thomas	21	6	13	0	—40
Summerfield	6	0	0	0	—6

ST—DiDonato 3 run (O'Brien kick)

PS—LoRocca 87 kickoff return

ST—Mrozinski 36 pass from Wright (O'Brien kick)

ST—Wright 16 run (O'Brien kick)

ST—Creswell 2 run

ST—Wright 37 run (O'Brien kick)

ST—DiDonato 10 run

	ST	PS
First Downs	22	6
Rushes-yards	51-301	32-37
Passes	5-7-0	1-6-1
Passing yards	102	22
Fumbles-lost	1-1	5-1
Punts-average	2-46	7-31.6
Penalties-yards	7-65	5-42

Mark O'Neill, Like All Of Us, Ponders The 'Ifs'

no

I don't know if Mark O'Neill has ever read Frost.

Maybe modern educators have decreed that poetry no longer enlightens. Especially poetry by a New Hampshire chicken farmer.

But on the chance Frost still stands in the good graces of those who teach, perhaps a mention of one of his early works might apply to young Mark O'Neill. And what happened to him just nine days ago.

Mark probably knows that Robert Frost didn't make the first-string poet position as a freshman. Or even as a senior. By the time the critics began talking about the talent of this New England full man he had been an "ex" everything.

One biography says while waiting to get into the Bar Game of Poetry, Frost earned a living "in many miscellaneous ways." He even tried newspapering, which shows how low one can sink when one's desperate. And hungry enough.

And when success finally did straddle across Mr. Frost, he would for years afterward wonder what would have happened had he played a different game. That question probably nags in all.

The trucker wonders why he didn't stick to construction trade. The welder worries about the sales job he gave up. Even the dentist frets about the career in law or business — or house painting — he passed for eternal tooth repair.

While all of us think about the "if" of our lives, few are sufficiently talented to put it down on paper. Robert Frost was. He called it "The Road Not Taken."

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear—
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

Have happened had he played a different game. That question probably nags in all.

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And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood and I
Took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The year Frost wrote that poem the Red Sox played the Phillies in the World Series.

Johnny Mautbsch led the Michigan football team to a 34-4 rout of the Lawrence eleven.

And the Ann Arbor City Council decided to retire the Fire Department's horses and "motorize" the firemen.

It was 1915.

The president of the United States, a former college professor named Wilson, was marrying a millionaire's widow.

A mob of 800 U-M students stormed



By William B. Trend

the Majestic Theater when the manager refused to admit a bunch of sophomores free.

And the Ann Arbor Daily Times News was giving 12 paragraphs in a page one story about a burglary at the Michigan Milling Company at 208 Third Street.

About the same time the St. Thomas High School football team was out at the old fairgrounds pounding a

Jackson team 31 to 0. In that game the holes opened by the St. Thomas offensive line were "large enough to drive a wagon through," the Times News reported.

"Martin, Stofflett and Knoll scored two touchdowns each. Smith at quarterback would call four or five line bucks and then would throw a pass," the local paper said.

"But it was Martin, Lintz and Walsh who shone above all others on the St. Thomas line. The Jackson team was unable to stop them," the story said.

It's been more than six decades since that football game. The old fairgrounds now has baseball played on. It. Martin and Lintz and Walsh are gone. But their young successors carry on. Mark O'Neill is one of them.

He hails from a dynasty of great athletes. They came in St. Thomas High School, these brothers O'Neill, when Tysilanti's St. John's fell to the accountant's pen in the early '70s.

The three brothers who preceded Mark captained St. Thomas football

squads. Pete led the patiens as the dynamic field leader at quarterback. Vince kept the tradition as the indestructible fullback. Dan carried on as a powerline guard and end. They were all stars. And Mark may be the best of the lot.

His coaches say he has amazing "quick eyes," is an untiring blocker and at defense, guard is perennially the top man in tackle. In basketball—what else? He's a catcher. Good enough a play variety ball as a freshman.

This was to have been Mark O'Neill's year. He is a senior, playing with a football team which is virtually all seniors. Dave McCarmey, the St. Thomas coach, said before the season began his team could be state champions.

But two days ago on a Lenape County grid hard by the city fields, Mark O'Neill's high school football career ended. He was making a tackle when a disfield, player's helmet

came flying into his left arm, at

base snapped. Minutes later a doctor was giving the final blow: "No one plays football with a broken arm."

For Mark O'Neill, like it always was for the old Brooklyn Dodgers, there will be no "next year." When the cast comes off they'll be starting basketballs around the high school campus.

Robert Frost chose the road he took.

Mark O'Neill was forced on him. But it is not given to us to know why the road we have before us is there. Nor what lies around the next bend. Surely it is better that way.

Mark O'Neill, sitting out the rest of the football season, still has the memories of the three years spent in the trenches. The crash of souls, the mangled forearm, the dirt and the sweat ripping down the back. He still can recall the shouts of battle from the practice field, the electricity of the games, the agony and the ecstasy.

He still knows the glory of the other road.



MARK O'NEILL

While he walks out he traveled

Which has perhaps the better claim
And for him, will make all the difference

And for him, will make all the difference

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Hal Schram's Top 10

Class A

Northwestern	3	0
Catholic Central	3	0
St. Ignace	3	0
St. Joseph	3	0
St. Donato	3	0
Northwestern	3	0
Stevenson	3	0
St. Ignace	3	0
Edsel Ford	3	0
St. Louis Norrix	3	0

Class C

St. Ignace	5	0
St. Ignace	3	0
St. Ignace	4	0
St. Ignace	5	0
St. Ignace	2	1
St. Ignace	2	1
St. Ignace	3	0
St. Ignace	3	0
St. Ignace	3	0
St. Ignace	3	0

Class B

1—Dearborn Divine Child	3	0
2—Muskegon Catholic	3	0
3—Grand Rapids West Catholic	3	0
4—Jackson Lumen Christi	2	1
5—Riverview	3	0
6—Coopersville	3	0
7—Oscoda	3	0
8—Detroit Austin	3	0
9—Vicksburg	3	0
10—Eaton Rapids	3	0

Class D

1—Crystal Falls	4	1
2—North Adams	3	0
3—Detroit DePorres	2	1
4—Ann Arbor St. Thomas	3	0
5—Manistee Catholic	3	1
6—Flint Holy Rosary	3	0
7—Beal City	3	0
8—Harbor Springs	3	0
9—Waterford Our Lady	2	1
10—Memphis	2	1

City Prep Squads Show Effective Passing Game

BY DAVE RIGAN
News Sports Writer

Air power!

That's what Huron High, St. Thomas High and Ypsilanti High used last weekend to soften up their opponents and the three teams are off to a fine start in the 1976 football campaign.

The River Rats are 2-1, the Irish 3-0 and third-ranked in the Associated Press Class D poll, and the Braves are 2-1.

And you can look for more bombs on Friday when Huron visits Romulus, the Irish play at Adrian Madison and the Braves face a real toughie, undefeated South Central Conference foe Adrian High.

Pioneer High, 0-3, which hasn't

gone to the air much so far, will be at home against unbeaten East Lansing, also on Friday.

In games last week, Huron smothered Ecorse, 34-7; St. Thomas demolished previously unbeaten Petersburg-Summerfield, 40-6; Ypsilanti pounded Alpena, 28-0, and Pioneer again came close, but not close enough against another formidable opponent, Lansing Eastern, losing 14-7.

Ypsilanti quarterback Scott Davis has led the local aerial wizards all season and he continued to impress in the Braves' victory over Alpena. He completed nine of 18 for a whopping 232 yards and four touchdowns.

He had bombs of 65, 54, 35 and 34 yards for scores. The final two went to Rodney Holman.

It's possible that Davis would like to save a couple of those gems for the game against the powerful Maples who won their third straight this season, downing Battle Creek Central 28-6.

John "Elmo" Wright has completed a sparkling 17 of 26 for St. Thomas. His yardage total is 275.

Mike Mrozinski's 13 catches in three games is impressive and he is a genuine candidate for all-state honors. He caught all five of Wright's completions in the 40-6 drubbing of Petersburg-Summerfield.

St. Thomas' rushing attack was even more impressive, rolling up more than 300 yards. Wright gained 92 in addition to his 102 passing yards for a total offense of 194. Fullback George Cresswell rushed for 93 yards.

Huron's passing attack finally flow-

ered last week, after two dismal performances. Jerome Jelinek hit on seven of 10 for 101 yards.

The running attack is still the biggest offensive weapon for Huron. Spriggs gained 111 yards in 13 carries and Reeves added 54 in nine carries. The total of 235 yards in 38 carries is better than six yards at a clip.

The River Rats face a Romulus team that it beat 21-12 last season, at Romulus Friday afternoon.

Pioneer, meanwhile, will be facing the toughest of its non-league foes. If Pioneer can survive the pre-conference schedule with a minimum of battle scars and ego damage, the struggle may be worth it.

Cliches such as "Pioneer is the best 0-3 team in the state", can give little comfort to the team at this point. A win is what it needs.

There is little problem with personnel. The team has talent at almost all positions. It has emerged from the rebuilding stage into a good football team. The defense has consistently held the opposition within range, despite some mistakes.

The team has adequate speed on offense, but so far, no one has demonstrated the ability to break a game open with a long run or pass. Quarterback Phil Kroeger has scored on runs of less than 30 yards, but no one has come up with a real game-breaker.

The team may have to rely on the power running of Adrian Rogers, which was brilliant at times against East Lansing, and the option runs of Kroeger. The passing game is still a threat rather than an attack.

BY DAVE RIGAN
News Sports Writer

Exciting football has been the rule for local high schools.

Ypsilanti has led the league in heart-stoppers.

It has a record of 3-1 and three of the games have been decided in the final quarter. The Braves' 28-26 win over Adrian on Friday and their 18-14 victory against Lansing Eastern were all suspense.

Ypsilanti was behind, 20-0, against Adrian and didn't score a point against Eastern until the final quarter.

The Braves were given an honorable mention by The Associated Press Class A high school poll for the first time this season after they knocked off the undefeated Maples.

Pioneer finishes a close second in thrillers.

All four games have been decided by no more than a touchdown and the last two against Lansing Eastern and East Lansing have been humdingers. In both contests, it looked like Pioneer had turned the tide late in the game, only to have the opposition come back with winning touchdowns with 1:19 and 19 seconds left to play.

St. Thomas, third-ranked team in class D, has generally overpowered its opponents with an unstoppable offense led by quarterback John "Elmo" Wright and end Mike Mrozinski. The passing attack has been very effective and the ground game is capable of eating up turf at a rapid clip.

But the Irish played one close game and it was almost a big upset

Prep Grid Rankings

By The Associated Press

Here are the top 10 teams in each class in the fourth Associated Press high school football poll of the 1976 season:

CLASS A

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Flint Southwestern	4-0	74
2.	Royal Oak Oshtemo	4-0	71
3.	Muskegon	4-0	63
4.	Del Catholic Central	4-0	58
5.	East Lansing	4-0	54
6.	East Detroit	4-0	45
7.	Del Southwestern	3-0	43
8.	Midland Dow	4-0	39
9.	Orchard Lake W. Simsbury	4-0	27
10.	Farmington Harrison	4-0	20

Third-Ranked Irish Lose Co-Captain

St. Thomas' High, undefeated and third ranked in Class D and fielding one of its best football teams in years, is being cut down by injuries.

Senior Mark Kelley, co-captain, linebacker and offensive tackle, was scheduled for knee surgery today following an injury in Saturday night's 40-6 victory over Petersburg-Summerfield.

Earlier, senior Mark O'Neill, middle guard and offensive guard, was sidelined with a broken arm.

"This is a real hard blow for our team," said Coach Dave McCarney, "because Kelley and O'Neill played on the same side of the line for the last three years. They are excellent football players."

He added that juniors Joe Simon and Joe Trembl are coming along well and softening the effect of the losses.

McCarney says he is hopeful that with a fast recovery of the two injured players, they'll be able to rejoin the team before the season is over.

Offensive Line Injuries To Test St. Thomas Mettle

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

Good football teams manage to win despite untimely penalties, turnovers — and even injuries.

For the next five weeks, the undefeated and third-ranked (in Class D) St. Thomas High football team will have to try to prove it is just as good as it thought it was in the face of the most unfortunate of the above calamities to strike a team — injuries.

Two weeks ago, the Irish lost Mark O'Neill, their aggressive left guard and feisty noseman because of a broken bone in the forearm. Coach Dave McCarney was forced to readjust his line.

Then, last Saturday, 6-1, 197-pound All-League left tackle, Mark Kelley, pulled out on a quick pitch early in the first quarter and crumbled to the

ground in agony when his left knee would not go in the same direction the rest of his body went.

Wednesday, surgery was performed.

In two successive wins over relatively easy opponents, St. Thomas has lost the entire left side of its line. Both O'Neill and Kelley were three-year starters and played an integral role in the impressive 217 yards-per-game rushing attack established thus far by the Irish.

"Boy, this surprises me," says McCarney. "Kelley didn't get hit. He was just making a cut.

"This really doesn't change anything though. We just have to work harder because we're going to miss them. Joe Simon is filling in at nose guard and we're real pleased with the way he's doing. On defense, Mark Richmond or George Creswell will replace Kelley and Joe Trembl will take his offensive tackle spot.

"Psychologically, we realize it's that much harder. We just lost one half of our line. It's a real challenge to have these juniors fill in and that's the way everybody is looking at it."

The real challenge begins Friday night at Adrian when St. Thomas takes on Adrian Madison. The Trojans are 1-2 and do not seem to be very potent but are willing to gamble on anything at any time.

For St. Thomas, this marks the third time in four games that it plays on the road. It also marks the begin-

ning of a five-game stretch against the weakest teams on the schedule, before a showdown at the end of the season with Manchester, by which time the regulars might be able to return.

Wright, Mrozinski Pace Irish Rout

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

ADRIAN — It's comforting to know that some things haven't changed in the last 3,000 years.

Two wily, brave soldiers can still lead an army onto foreign soil against the respected Trojans — and win. Just trade Odysseus and Sinon for John Wright and Mike Mrozinski, exchange the wooden horse for a splendid passing attack, and you have the reasons why Ann Arbor St. Thomas was able to down the Trojans of Adrian Madison Friday night, 39-0.

The two All-League senior captains threw and ran for the Fighting Irish's first four touchdowns, accounting for 86 of the team's 146 yards running and more than half of the team's passing yardage. The undefeated, third-ranked team now stands at 4-0 and the stomachs growling for a state championship have now turned to watering mouths.

It took St. Thomas less than four minutes to post its first touchdown. The Irish converted on three running plays from the 10 after recovering the first of four Trojan fumbles for the evening. Wright, the

quarterback, ran the ball across the line from the two.

On the next St. Thomas play from scrimmage, Mrozinski, the wingback, showed why he, as well as Wright, is an All-State candidate. The speedy 180-pounder took the ball on a counter-trap play, gave the outside linebacker a fake and then outran the secondary for a 71-yard scoring play.

This, however, was half of the rushing yardage that the Irish was able to muster for the contest. The Trojans were determined to prevent St. Thomas from gaining anything close to its 301 yards of the previous week, and played almost an eight-man line that left Wright plenty of room to throw.

And the senior quarterback had little problem maintaining his impressive 65 per cent completion rate for the season. He threw seven times in the first two quarters, completing five and connecting twice for touchdowns.

"They stacked their linebackers against us and took away all of our inside running game, the off tackle stuff," said St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney.

"But they completely gave us the passing game when they did that.

They decided to sacrifice Elmo's (Wright) throwing just to stop us on the ground. Quick passes to the outside were wide open.

"We don't have any one strength and we can pass as well as we can throw any day. That's why we're a good team and that's how we won tonight."

In an attempt to hold the score down as well as prepare the underclassmen with experience for future seasons, the second and third strings played throughout the second half. Many players got bruises they usually can only associate with practices as juniors Jim Iott and Mark Schork scored their first touchdowns and gave the reserves something extra to cheer about.

ST. THOMAS	13	14	6	6—39	ST	AM
ADRIAN MADISON	0	0	0	0—0	14	3
St. T—Wright 2 run (kick by O'Brien)					6-17-0	3-9-0
St. T—Mrozinski 71 run					109	7
St. T—Mrozinski 6 pass from Wright					35-146	33-(27)
St. T—Farmiloe 34 pass from Wright (Farmiloe pass from Price)					2-1	9-4
St. T—Iott 1 run					21	5
St. T—Schork 1 run					3-31	6-31.6
					Penalties-yards	3-35 5-45

Hal Schram's Top 10

Class A

	W	L
Southwestern	4	0
St Catholic Central	4	0
gon	4	0
Oak Dondero	4	0
ansing	4	0
St Southwestern	3	0
etroit	4	0
a Stevenson	4	0
azoo Loy Norrix	4	0
orn Edsel Ford	4	0

Class B

	W	L
rn Divine Child	4	0
Rapids West Catholic	4	0
and Rapids	4	0
owers	3	1
	4	0
on Catholic	3	1
Austin	4	0
apids	4	0
ew	3	1
sville	3	1

Class C

	W
1—Norway	6
2—Hudson	4
3—Onaway	5
4—Negaunee	6
5—Marysville	3
6—Center Line St. Clement	3
7—Gd. Rapids Forest Hills Northern	4
8—Jonesville	4
9—Kalamazoo Hackett	3
10—Flat Rock	4

Class D

	W
1—Crystal Falls	5
2—Detroit DePorres	3
3—North Adams	4
4—Ann Arbor St. Thomas	4
5—Manistee Catholic	4
6—Flint Holy Rosary	4
7—Beal City	4
8—Concord	4
9—Harbor Springs	4
10—Royal Oak St. Mary	3

Irish Crush Britton-Macon

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

"Our first stringers need more work," said St. Thomas High football Coach Dave McCarney after his team whitewashed Britton-Macon, 37-0, Saturday for its fifth straight game without a defeat.

McCarney's observation comes in the wake of three consecutive romps by the Fighting Irish, winning by scores of 40-6, 39-0, and last night's, 37-0. Through those three games, the starting 11 who must prevail for four full quarters when St. Thomas meets undefeated Class C Manchester in the season's finale, have averaged less than three quarters of action.

"I need our first stringers to have four tough quarters of a challenge," said McCarney. "We just need more tough games to keep our thing going.

"Our timing in the first half was the worst I've seen it all year. I think that this is partly from the distraction of homecoming but also because we just aren't coming out sharp because of who we're playing. We can't let this happen."

For the second straight week, St. Thomas did not score a touchdown until its second possession. And, if this is not enough to worry the Irish

coaching staff during fruitful times against weaker opponents, St. Thomas only managed to score one more time

in the first half against Britton.

Carrying the ball across the goal line for the first St. Thomas touchdown was fullback George Creswell on a four yard off tackle dive. For Creswell, who gained a game high of 81 yards in 19 carries, this was his fourth touchdown of the year as the 175 pound senior continued to be extremely effective near the end zone.

In between the Irish's first six points and their second score were two exciting touchdown plays that were called back because of infractions. A 60-yard punt return by John Wright was nullified by an illegal block below the waist and a 61-yard pass play from Wright to Rocky Farmiloe was snubbed out by an illegal shift in the backfield.

ST. THOMAS	6	8	16	7-37
BRITTON-MACON	0	0	0	0-0

ST—Creswell 4 run
ST—Farmiloe 9 pass from Wright (Farmiloe 3 pass from Tice)
ST—Didonato 1 run (Farmiloe 3 pass from Wright)
ST—Mrozinski 52 punt return (O'Brien kick)

	ST	B
First downs	16	10
Rushes-yards	39-231	55-102
Passes	6-13-0	3-14-2
Passing yards	53	30
Fumbles-lost	4-2	6-4
Return yards	62	28
Punts-average	3-35	4-36.7
Penalties-yards	3-35	2-10

Irish, Braves Making Points

Ann Arbor St. Thomas has moved into second place in the Michigan High School Athletic Association play-off point standings in Class C, Region I while Ypsilanti has made a move into contention for the title in Class A, Region III.

The Irish have totaled 52.80 points to trail Region 1 leader Marcellus (55.20) by less than three points.

St. Thomas crushed Britton-Macon Saturday night, 37-0 to run its record to 5-0.

The Braves have rebounded from 17-14 loss to Detroit Catholic Central in the second game of the season to finally put enough playoff points on the board to be ranked fifth in Region III.

Only the leading team in each region advances into the state football championship playoffs.

Ypsilanti (87.00) is over five points behind Region III leader Dearborn Edsel Ford (92.80) with four games remaining in the season.

The Braves play Jackson Parkside on the road Friday night while Ann

Arbor St. Thomas plays at Whitmore Lake Friday night.

Here are the state leaders by class and region.

Class A: Region I — Detroit Southwestern, Region II — Southfield; Region III — Dearborn Edsel Ford; Region IV — Flushing.

Class B: Region I — East Grand

Rapids; Region II — Saginaw Swan Valley; Region III — Ionia; Region IV — Detroit Austin.

Class C: Region I — Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern; Region II — Flat Rock; Region III — Tie: Bay City All Saints and Shepherd; Region IV — Onaway.

Class D: Region I — Marcellus; Region II — Flint Holy Rosary; Region III Manistee Catholic Central; Region IV — Crystal Falls Forest Park.

Irish Roll Over Trojans

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

WHITMORE LAKE — There was no need to hold one debate, much less four, over who was the better football team Friday night when Ann Arbor St. Thomas squared off against Whitmore Lake.

The Fighting Irish, coming into the contest with the number-three ranking for Class D, showed the Whitmore Lake fans just how they came to earn this rating as they demolished the Trojans, 46-0.

While only a handful of fans remained throughout the game during the one degree (Celsius) temperatures and strong westerly winds, St. Thomas running backs Blaise DiDonato and George Creswell argued in behalf of the Irish rushing attack. DiDonato scored three touchdowns and gained 95 yards, to boost his season total up to a team-leading 423 yards and an average of 5.0 yards a carry.

Creswell, a gutsy fullback, rushed for 89 yards in the third quarter, a personal high of 98 for the game, and also scored one touchdown. This put Creswell right behind DiDonato for the season, as he is averaging 4.8 yards a carry and has amassed 374 yards on the season.

"I thought this was one of George Creswell's finest games," said St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney. "He has really worked hard this season."

Of course there was another aspect of the St. Thomas offense that allowed for the three straight touchdowns in the third quarter, and that was the offensive line that opened hole after hole for the Irish backfield.

"Yeah, I'd really like to commend the whole offensive line," said McCarney. "Phil Dascola, the center, guards Brian Kelley and Joe Simon, and Joe Tremi and Paul Sherzer, the tackles, really took control of the third quarter."

"Those five guys, we'd never win without 'em. They really just started firing off and stuck with their blocks. We talked about that at halftime, about controlling the football when we came out in the third quarter, and those guys made sure we did."

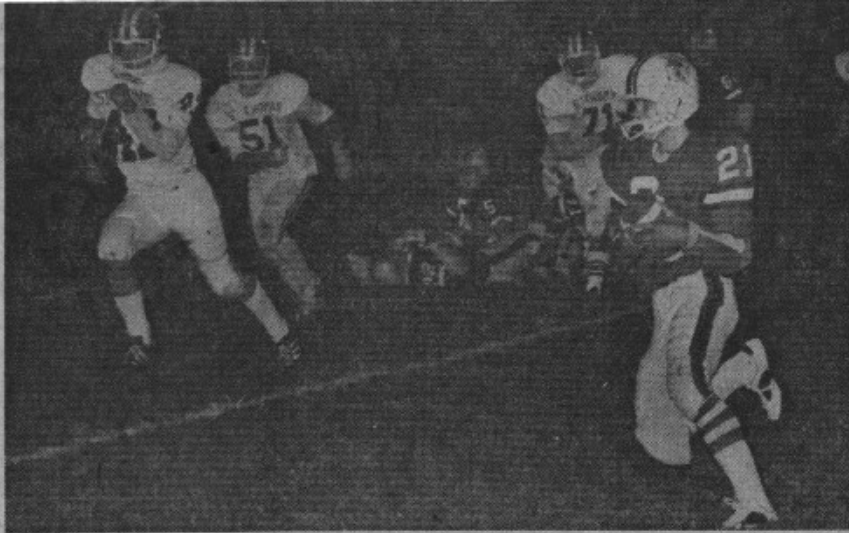
For the third straight game, and for the 11th time in the last 14 contests, the St. Thomas defense posted a shutout. But not only did the Irish hold Whitmore Lake scoreless, they stopped them from averaging more than 1.8 yards a carry and forced the Trojans into five turnovers for the evening.

The third-ranked Irish have been missing two All-League linemen due to injuries for the past three games. To show what kind of depth St. Thomas has, and how powerful the team is, the past three games have all been victorious shutouts with the offense averaging over 40 points per game.

And right now, it looks like Mark Kelley and Mark O'Neill, the two sidelined starters, will be back in action before the final game of the year when the Irish take on the tough Flying Dutchmen of Manchester.

	ST	WL	ST. THOMAS	WL
First downs	19	4	6	14
Poses	6-11-0	1-3-1	0	0
Passing yards	99	21	0	0
Rushes-yards	46-249	37-55	0	0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	5-4	0	0
Punts-average	3-38	5-28	0	0
Penalties	10-80	5-25	0	0

WHITMORE LAKE 0 0 0 0—0
 St. T — DiDonato 11 run
 St. T — Wright 15 run
 St. T — DiDonato 7 run (O'Brien pass from Wright)
 St. T — Lemmer 3 run (Farmiloe kick)
 St. T — DiDonato 9 run (Farmiloe kick)
 St. T — Kelley recovered fumble in end zone



News photos by Larry E. Wright

Hot Pursuit

Three St. Thomas defenders chase down Whitmore Lake running back Ron Reed (21) as he attempts a sweep. The Irish players are George Creswell (42), Bri-

an Kelley (51) and Wayne DeNeff (71). St. Thomas routed the Trojans, 46-0, to remain undefeated and post its fourth shutout in six games.

Stakes Are High For Local Grididders

BY DAVE RIGAN
News Sports Writer

The next three Fridays will feature local Class A high school football teams in head-to-head competition

and there is plenty at stake.

Pioneer High (1-5) travels to Ypsilanti High (5-1), this Friday and both teams still are in contention for the South Central Conference championship. Huron High also is in the running and plays a league breather with Jackson Parkside at home.

Meanwhile, St. Thomas (6-0) continues to roll over its opponents and plays at Whiteford on Friday.

Last weekend was another good day for three of the teams. The Braves, River Rats and Irish all came out easy winners. Ypsilanti trimmed Parkside, 38-6, Huron whipped a good Jackson team, 26-7, and the Irish annihilated Whitmore Lake, 46-0. Pioneer lost another toughie, to Adrian, 7-6.

The Huron win was significant because it virtually assured the team of a winning season. Its record is 4-2 and the River Rats should defeat Parkside before they go against Ypsilanti and Pioneer to close out the season.

Friday's win against the Vikings had some interesting statistics. Fullback Gary Reeves rushed for 143 yards, including 108 in the 20-point second half. The other figure, one that again demonstrates the strength of the defensive line, is that it held speedster Mike Cawthon to 22 yards. He gained 144 the week before against Ypsilanti.

Paul Weber, normally a fullback, played on the line for the first time this season and did a good job.

The victory shows that Huron could give the Braves a good battle. Ypsilanti only defeated Jackson, 6-0 the week before.

Ypsilanti Coach Ralph Perriello wasn't exactly ecstatic over the lopsided score. "When you win 36-0 and don't look good before you play Pioneer, it has to be a blessing in disguise, he said. "Maybe we can show these kids the film and point out their mistakes which might get them working harder and generate more enthusiasm."

Ypsilanti has to be considered the favorite for the big game coming up for a number of reasons.

The defense has recorded two

straight shutouts, but Adrian scored 26 points and gained 363 yards in the first conference game. Pioneer held the Maples to a total offense of 25 in the second half last week.

The main reason for the Braves success is a diversified offense. Rod Holman caught four passes for 136 yards against Parkside. Quarterback Scott Davis has been able to hit the key passes. The running attack proved strong in a tight game against Jackson.

Pioneer has won only one game, but has looked good most of the time against excellent competition. The defense has been consistently strong as demonstrated against Adrian in the second half.

The team has played up and down, and mostly down in the first half in many of its games. Three times fullback Adrian Rogers has done virtually nothing in the first half and then returned in the second half to become a one-man wrecking crew.

He carried 17 times in a row last Friday to start the second half. The first 13 resulted in 68 yards and a touchdown.

Pioneer has lived and died over the years on its running attack and if Ypsilanti can manage to stop it Friday, Pioneer could be in more trouble. Pioneer also must stop the passes of Davis if it is to win.

St. Thomas is battling a computer that has proven to be quite fickle. A complicated point system will determine the teams that make the post-season playoffs. Last season Jackson Lumen Christi, the best class B team in the state according to many observers, went undefeated, yet didn't make the playoffs.

The third-ranked Irish have been led all season by their offensive line. Coach Dave McCarney said after last Friday's win that, "Those five guys, we'd never win without 'em." He was talking about Phil Dascola, Brian Kelly, Joe Simon, Joe Tremi and Paul Sherzer.

They helped Blaise DiDonato and George Creswell combine for 193 yards. DiDonato has now gained 423 yards and Creswell 374 on the season.

Quarterback John Wright also got into the act Friday, connecting on six of 11 passes for 99 yards.

Irish: Laughter On Tap?

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

Two weeks ago, St. Thomas High



PAUL SHERZER

downed Britton-Macon, 37-0.

The week before that, Britton thumped Sand Creek, 34-7.

Last week, Sand Creek walloped Whiteford, 65-7.

One need not be Euclid or even the proud owner of a Texas Instrument pocket calculator, to conclude what the outcome will be, when St. Thomas plays Whiteford. However, football games do not always work out just like mathematical equations.

When the Fighting Irish go on the road Friday night for the fifth and final time this season to meet Whiteford, they still must be ready to avoid an upset which would shatter their perfect 6-0 record and ruin their chances to make the state playoffs at the end of the year.

"These kids are pretty hungry for a state championship, so I don't have to say that much," says Coach Dave McCarney. "That's good, because the more you talk about motivation and stuff, the more you have to think about being ready to play rather than just being ready.

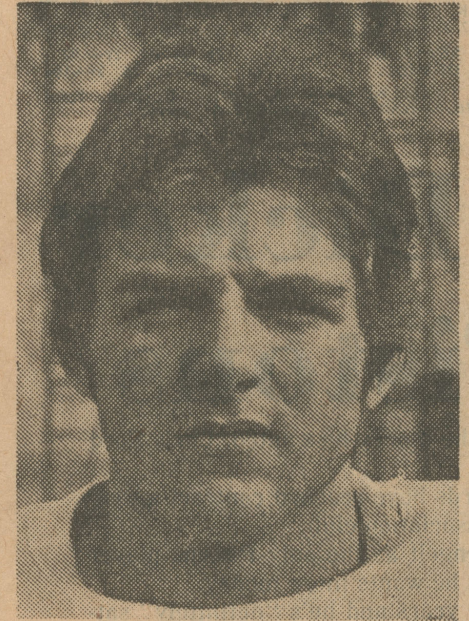
"One of the great things about these kids is that they're mature enough to realize we just can't afford to lose so they're always ready. They just keep thinking about playing again and winning."

Whiteford is 1-5 on the year, having won its season opener against Adrian Madison, 7-6. Since then, it has been nothing but defeat for the Bobcats, and sometimes by as many as 58 points.

"I don't really know what Whiteford's problem is this year," McCarney says. "They've got one good player, Rick Perry, and he's been in and out all season with injuries. They really haven't got much depth, I know that.

"Whiteford plays a real wide-open offense. That's one thing we'll have to be prepared for. They split their backs off wide, in a real goofy arrangement. It's an unusual thing to get ready for."

If by chance the St. Thomas offense should stall, and fail to produce the 40.5 points it has been averaging through the last four games, it is still



MIKE MROZINSKI

unlikely that the Bobcats will score on the Irish defense.

The masters of seven straight shut-outs last year, and in four out of their six games this year, the St. Thomas defenders are giving up 2.4 points per contest through their last 14 games. Led by All-State candidates in tackle Paul Sherzer and wolfman Mike Mrozinski, the team still hasn't been scored upon this year on a play from scrimmage.

St. Thomas Pounds Hapless Whiteford

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

OTTAWA LAKE—The local bookie goes under the nickname "Boris the Lithuanian" and he was calling a 51-point spread Friday night when undefeated, third-ranked Ann Arbor St. Thomas High played the Whiteford Bobcats.

It's a good thing no one decided to gamble with Boris, because even though St. Thomas scored six of the eight times it had the football, it could only post a winning margin of 40 points, 43-3.

The only two times St. Thomas failed to score were when a fumble stopped a 75-yard drive on the Whiteford 14 and when time ran out at the end of the game with the Irish inside the Bobcat two-yard line.

The St. Thomas scoring, as well as its rushing attack, was led by the backfield combination of fullback George Creswell and tailback Blaise DiDonato. While the Irish have been

averaging 213 yards on the ground, last night marked the first time this season that an individual ball carrier gained over 100 yards.

Creswell raced for 102 yards in 10 carries and scored three touchdowns. DiDonato also shattered the century barrier, running for 101 yards in 15 runs and scoring one touchdown. Both of these ball carriers came into last night's contest averaging 4.8 yards per run, and now Creswell has scored eight touchdowns on the year to DiDonato's 10.

The Irish also showed that they can score by the pass as well as the run, which was no secret. On the first play of their second possession, quarterback John Wright hung a 30-yard pass out to Rocky Farmiloe who had split the Whiteford secondary and was all alone in the end zone.

Wright went on to complete four of the five passes he attempted in the game, for a total of 102 yards and two touchdowns. The senior quarterback made honorable mention All-State last

year, and it's hard to believe that the 65 per cent completion rate he has going this year will earn him any lesser honor.

Whiteford scored its lone three points after a rare fumble by St. Thomas' Mike Mrozinski as he tried to return a punt. With possession on the 25, and then the 10 after a roughing the passer penalty, the Bobcats managed a field goal from the nine-yard line. This made them only the third team in seven games to score on St. Thomas this year.

The only fault to be found with the St. Thomas defense last night was its excesses, resulting in three 15-yard penalties that accounted for more than half of the first downs by Whiteford. Several strong sacks of the Bobcat quarterback, particularly by defensive end Dave Morehouse, balanced the Whiteford rushing attack at an even zero.

"I expected to beat 'em and we beat 'em," St. Thomas Coach Dave McCahey stated succinctly after the game. "Boy, I wish we'd have got that last TD."

ST. THOMAS 14 22 0 7—43
WHITEFORD 0 0 0 3—3
ST—Creswell 3 run (kick by O'Brien)
ST—Farmiloe 27 pass from Wright (kick by O'Brien)
ST—Mrozinski 4 run
ST—Schork 12 pass from Wright (Richmond 2 pass from Tice)
ST—Creswell 10 run (kick by O'Brien)
ST—Creswell 2 run (kick by O'Brien)
W—Briskey 9 field goal

	ST	W
First downs	20	5
Rushes-yards	36-271	33-0
Passes	4-5-0	4-7-0
Passing yards	102	12
Return yards	73	85
Fumbles-lost	2-2	1-1
Punts-average	0-0	5-31
Penalties-yards	5-55	2-30

Playoff Leaders Solidify Rankings

LANSING (AP) — With just two weeks left in the football season, front-runners are beginning to solidify their holds on the top rankings of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Only four of last week's leaders in the computerized prep ratings were unseated this week, all by second place teams in their respective regions. That meant 12 teams stayed in front in the race for playoff berths.

The final rankings will be used to schedule semifinal and final game opponents in each class for the state prep football championships.

In Class A, the only leader change came in region two, where Livonia Stevenson broke a tie with Southfield and moved ahead of last week's leader, Farmington Hills Harrison. Detroit Southwestern, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix and Midland Dow kept their No. 1 positions.

In Class B, Okemos broke a three-way tie for second and took over

first place from Ionia in region three, while Detroit Austin overhauled Dearborn Divine Child in region four. Grand Rapids West Catholic and Mount Pleasant retained their leads.

Class C leaders Kalamazoo Hackitt, Flat Rock and Shepherd maintained their leads, while in region four, Norway jumped ahead of Onaway.

Class D is unchanged, with Marcellus, Flint Holy Rosary, Manistee Catholic Central and Crystal Falls Forest Park remaining in front.

Three leaders in the Associated Press poll are confirmed by the computer — Norway, Grand Rapids West Catholic and Crystal Falls. Class A leader Flint Southwestern is third in region four.

Following are the top five teams in each region in all four classes, with their point averages:

Class A		Class B		Class C		Class D	
Region 1		Region 1		Region 1		Region 1	
1. Detroit Southwestern	78.44	1. Grand Rapids West Catholic	91.33	1. Kalamazoo Hackitt	54.21	1. Marcellus	55
2. Madison Heights Umple	70.71	2. East Grand Rapids	91.05	2. Galesburg-Augusta	71.91	2. ANN ARBOR ST. THOMAS	54
3. St. Clair Shores L. Stephens	70.33	3. Wyoming Park	91.25	3. Comstock Park	49.71	3. Okemos	51
4. Detroit Mountford	70.34	4. Coopersville	78.42	4. Janesville	46.66	4. North Adams	46
5. Midland Park	68.04	5. Hialeah	75.71	5. Crystal Falls Forest Park	48.81	5. Cadillac Franklin	44
Region 2		Region 2		Region 2		Region 2	
1. Livonia Stevenson	80.41	1. Mount Pleasant	82.57	1. Flat Rock	68.66	1. Flint Holy Rosary	47
2. Farmington Hills Harrison	80.71	2. Saginaw Valley	78.65	2. Marysville	76.71	2. Detroit St. Martin DePorres	46
3. Westland John Green	80.47	3. Okemos	77.26	3. Pontiac	72.66	3. Mt. Pleasant St. John	45
4. Royal Oak DeWitt	78.28	4. Chelsea Park	69.25	4. Richmond	70.66	4. Mich. Lutheran Seminary	44
5. Sterling Heights	74.41	5. East Rapids	48.85	5. Orchard Lake St. Mary	48.71	5. Sag. St. Stephen	44
Region 3		Region 3		Region 3		Region 3	
1. Kalamazoo Loy Norrix	81.28	1. Okemos	85.71	1. Shepherd	72.14	1. Manistee Catholic Ctr.	40
2. Lincoln Park	78.25	2. Cananda	84.57	2. Bon City All Saints	70.85	2. Okemos	36
3. East Lansing	72.71	3. Flint Ainsworth	80.57	3. Gladwin	70.58	3. Joliet-St. Lawrence	35
4. Ypsilanti	71.76	4. Ionia	69.40	4. Bodley	56.66	4. Holland	37
5. Dearborn	70.80	5. Grand Rapids	65.58	5. Harbor Beach	62.57	5. Belleville	34
Region 4		Region 4		Region 4		Region 4	
1. Midland Dow	101.44	1. Detroit Austin	82.38	1. Norway	81.44	1. Crystal Falls Forest Park	43
2. Port Huron North	101.21	2. Novi	79.42	2. Okemos	81.34	2. Harbor Springs	42
3. Flint Southwestern	100.57	3. Dearborn Divine Child	73.71	3. Zephyr	64.21	3. Powers North Central	41
4. Muskegon	88.58	4. Southfield Aquinas	76.66	4. Traverse City St. Francis	62.71	4. Breckenridge	40
5. Muskegon West Shore	88.45	5. Riverview	69.71	5. Reedwood	61.21	5. Elgin Tract Creek	39

How They Rate

Class A Region 1

1 — Detroit Southwestern, 104; 1 — Detroit Mumford, 102.7; 3 — East Detroit, 97.2; 4 — Madison Heights Lamphere, 94.7; 5 — St. Clair Shores Lake Shore, 94.7.

Region 2

1 — Farmington Hills Harrison, 98.7; 2 (tie) — Livonia Stevenson and Southfield, 97.2; 4 (tie) — Royal Oak Dandero and Westland John Glenn, 94.7.

Region 3

1 — Kalamazoo Loy Norrix, 98; 3 — Lincoln Park, 97.3; 2 — Ypsilanti, 91.3; 4 — East Lansing, 88; 5 (tie) — Adrian, Belleville and Dearborn, 83.3.

Region 4

1 — Midland Dow, 101.3; 2 — Flint Southwestern, 94.7; 3 — Port Huron Northern, 91.3; 4 — Flushing, 84.5; 5 — Marquette, 87.7.

Class B Region 1

1 — Grand Rapids West Catholic, 91.7; 1 — Grand Rapids, 88.7; 2 — Wyoming Park, 84.3; 4 — Hillsdale, 82.7; 5 — Coopersville, 71.3.

Region 2

1 — Mount Pleasant, 76.2; 2 — Saginaw Swan Valley, 76; 3 — Saginaw Douglas MacArthur, 74.5; 4 — Big Rapids, 69.7; 5 — Cheboygan, 67.3.

Region 3

1 — Ionia, 86; 2 (tie) — Corunna, Fenton and Okemos, 82.7; 5 (tie) — Easton Rapids and Sparta, 81.3.

Region 4

1 — Dearborn Divine Child, 82.3; 2 — Detroit Austin, 78.7; 3 — Novi, 75.3; 4 — Auburn Heights Avondale, 62; 5 — Dexter, 61.3.

Class C Region 1

1 — Kalamazoo Hackell, 75.7; 2 — Galesburg-Augusta, 70.3; 3 — Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, 68.8; 4 — Jonesville, 60; 5 — Comstock Park, 58.

Region 2

1 — Flat Rock, 85.3; 2 — Marysville, 75.3; 3 — Hudson, 70.7; 4 — Richmond, 69.2; 5 — Orchard Lake St. Mary, 65.3.

Region 3

1 — Shepherd, 72; 2 — Gladwin, 68.5; 3 — Bay City St. Francis, 68; 4 — Bad Axe, 60.8; 5 — Harbor Beach, 59.2.

Region 4

1 — Oshtemo, 80.6; 2 — Norway, 77; 3 — Negaunee, 65.5; 4 — Evart, 57.8; 5 — Traverse City St. Francis, 59.5.

Class D Region 1

1 — Marquette, 62.3; 2 — Ann Arbor St. Thomas, 58; 3 — Concord, 46.2; 4 — Wyandotte Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 39.2; 5 — North Adams, 28.2.

Region 2

1 — Flint Holy Rosary, 68; 2 — Detroit St. Martin DePorres, 59; 3 — Mount Pleasant Real City, 56; 4 — Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary, 52.8; 5 — Saginaw St. Stephen, 51.2.

Region 3

1 — Marquette Catholic Central, 64.8; 2 — Onkama, 52; 3 — Bellaire, 47.4; 4 — Johannesburg-Lewiston, 44; 5 — Hillman, 43.6.

Region 4

1 — Crystal Falls Forest Park, 67.4; 2 — Harbor Springs, 54.8; 3 — Powers North Central, 53; 4 — Ewen Trout Creek, 46; 5 — Bessemer Johnson, 45.2.

Playoff Standings

CLASS A

Region I

1. Detroit Southwestern	116.57
2. Madison Heights Lamphier	104.80
3. St. Clair Shores Lake Shore	99.42
4. Detroit Catholic	94.62
5. East Detroit	93.75

Region II

1. Farmington Hills Harrison	104.00
2. Livonia Stevenson	104.00
3. Sterling Heights	101.00
4. Westland John Glenn	100.00
5. Detroit Central	90.75

Region III

1. Lincoln Park	102.00
2. Ypsilanti	97.75
3. East Lansing	97.74
4. Dearborn	95.50
5. Orchard Lake West Bloomfield	94.62

Region IV

1. Midland Dow	107.50
2. Flint Southwestern	105.00
3. Muskegon	96.50
4. Port Huron Northern	93.50
5. Flint Carman	91.75

CLASS B

Region I

1. Grand Rapids West Catholic	100.50
2. East Grand Rapids	98.50
3. Wyoming Park	95.50
4. Coopersville	80.75
5. Hillsdale	78.25

Region II

1. Mount Pleasant	88.37
2. Oscoda	75.25
3. Saginaw Swan Valley	73.87
4. Cheboygan	72.75
5. Big Rapids	72.37

Region III

1. Okemos	94.00
2. Corunna	92.00
3. Flint Ainsworth	91.00
4. Ionia	89.00
5. Cedar Springs	78.75

Region IV

1. Novi	83.62
2. Southgate Aquinas	76.37
3. Detroit Austin	75.12
4. Dearer	72.50
5. Auburn Heights Avondale	70.50

CLASS C

Region I

1. Galesburg-Augusta	77.50
2. Kalamazoo Hockett	77.25
3. Comstock Park	71.50
4. Jonesville	65.00
5. Cassopolis	64.00

Region II

1. Flat Rock	91.50
2. Marysville	83.75
3. Hudson	77.46
4. Orchard Lake St. Mary	72.00
5. Center Line St. Clement	67.75

Region III

1. Shepherd	77.00
2. Harbor Beach	73.75
3. Bay City All Saints	73.00
4. Gladwin	70.50
5. Bad Axe	69.87

Region IV

1. Onaway	84.00
2. Norway	80.46
3. Ewart	68.88
4. Traverse City St. Francis	64.75
5. St. Ignace	62.55

CLASS D

Region I

1. Marcellus	66.50
2. Ann Arbor St. Thomas	61.00
3. Concord	55.37
4. North Adams	48.35
5. Camden-Frontier	39.37

Region II

1. Flint Holy Rosary	66.75
2. Beal City	62.00
3. Detroit St. Martin De Porres	57.75
4. Royal Oak St. Mary	56.07
5. Dryden	56.12

Region III

1. Marquette Catholic	63.00
2. Okemos	61.00
3. Johannesburg-Lewisston	54.00
4. Hillman	51.66
5. Manassas	48.35

Region IV

1. Crystal Falls Forest Park	67.11
2. Harbor Springs	61.77
3. Powers North Central	52.28
4. Beasmer	46.77
5. Ewen-Trou Creek	42.66

Prep Grid Rankings

CLASS A

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Flint Southwestern	8-0	25
2.	Royal Oak Dandera	8-0	20
3.	(Tie) Del S'western	7-0	29
	East Lansing	7-0	29
5.	Farmington Harrison	8-0	50
6.	Westland Glenn	8-0	47
7.	Livonia Stevenson	8-0	45
8.	Midland Dow	8-0	40
9.	Lincoln Park	8-0	27
10.	Muskegon	7-1	25

Honorable mention: Ypsilanti (7-1) 17.
 Detroit Catholic Central (7-1) 16, St. Clair
 Shores Lakeshore (8-0) 15, Dearborn Ed-
 sel Ford (7-1) 12, Highland Park (7-0) 8,
 East Detroit (7-1) 7, Port Huron Northern
 (7-1) 7, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix (7-1) 7,
 Traverse City (7-1) 3, Madison Heights
 Lamphere (8-0) 3, Sterling Heights (8-0)
 7.

CLASS B

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Ed Rapids West Cath	8-0	74
2.	East Grand Rapids	8-0	70
3.	Conroe	8-0	50
4.	Southgate Aquinas	6-1	56
5.	Wyoming Park	8-0	54
6.	Brklyn ColumbiaCentl	8-0	43
7.	Okemos	8-0	37
8.	(Tie) Detroit Austin	7-1	38
	Mount Pleasant	7-1	38
10.	Flint Ainsworth	7-0	34

Honorable mention: Ionia (8-0) 23, Caro
 (8-0) 22, Saginaw Swan Valley (7-1) 19,
 Dearborn Divine Child (6-2) 15, Eaton
 Rapids (7-1) 13, Tecumseh (7-1) 11, Now
 (7-1) 10, Hillsdale (7-1) 7, Oscoda (7-1) 2,
 Algonquin Catholic Central (8-2) 2, Sault
 Ste Marie (7-1) 2, North Branch (7-1) 2,
 Appletonville (7-1) 1.

CLASS C

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Norway	9-0	73
2.	Hudson	8-0	69
3.	Flint Rock	8-0	65
4.	Galesburg-Augusta	8-0	60
5.	Onaway	8-0	54
6.	Marysville	7-1	44
7.	Bay City All Saints	8-0	41
8.	Shepherd	8-0	40
9.	Center Line St Clement	7-1	31
10.	(Tie) Kalamazoo Hockett	7-1	32
	Orchard Lk St Mary	8-0	22

Honorable mention: Jonesville (8-0) 14,
 Hartford (7-1) 12, Napanee (7-2) 9, Glad-
 win (7-1) 8, Lakeside (8-0) 6, Berrien
 Springs (7-1) 6, L'Anse (8-1) 5, Fulton-
 Middleton (8-0) 4, Sanford-Meridian (8-1)
 4, Traverse City St. Francis (7-1) 4, Rich-
 mond (7-1) 3, St Ignace (7-1) 3, Hancock
 (6-2) 1.

CLASS D

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Crystal Falls ForestPk	8-1	73
2.	Harbor Springs	9-0	66
3.	Ann Arbor St. Thomas	8-0	64
4.	Marcellus	8-0	58
5.	Beal City	8-0	54
6.	Royal Oak St Mary	7-1	49
7.	Flint Holy Rosary	7-0	45
8.	Johannesburg-Lewisston	9-0	43
9.	Manistee Catholic	7-2	36
10.	Onkama	8-0	25

Honorable mention: North Adams (7-
 1) 22, E Concord (7-1) 15, Saginaw Mich-
 lan Lutheran (8-2) 11, Owendale-
 Gagefown (7-1) 10, Saginaw St. Stephen
 (5-2) 8, Caseville (7-1) 7, Alameda (6-2)
 6, Genesee (8-0) 5, Benary (7-2) 4,
 Hillman (8-1) 3, Marcellus (6-2) 2.

Prep Grid Rankings

By The Associated Press

Here are the top 10 teams in each class in the seventh Associated Press high school football poll of the 1976 season.

CLASS A

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Flint Southwestern	7-0	75
2.	Royal Oak Dandera	7-0	70
3.	(Tie) Det S'western	6-0	60
	East Lansing	7-0	60
5.	Farmington Harrison	7-0	55
6.	Westland Glenn	7-0	38
7.	(Tie) Midland Dow	7-0	37
	Livonia Stevenson	7-0	37
9.	(Tie) Muskegon	6-1	34
	Port Huron Northern	6-1	34
Honorable mention: Lincoln Park (7-0)			
20.	East Detroit (6-1)	20.	Kalamazoo Loy
	Norrix (7-0)	19.	Ypsilanti (6-1)
	13.	Detroit Catholic Central (6-1)	10.
	Highland Park (6-0)	9.	Dearborn Ford (6-1)
	5.	Detroit Mumford (6-1)	3.
	St. Clair Shores Lake Shore (7-0)	1.	Grand Rapids Creston (5-1)

CLASS B

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Gr Rapids West Cath	7-0	74
2.	East Grand Rapids	7-0	69
3.	Saginaw Swan Valley	7-0	55
4.	O'bern Divine Child	6-1	51
5.	Detroit Austin	7-0	46
6.	Eaton Rapids	7-0	45
7.	Wyoming Park	7-0	43
8.	Carunna	7-0	38
9.	Southgate Aquinas	5-1-1	37
10.	Brklyn ColumbiaCents	7-0	36
Honorable mention: Mount Pleasant (6-1)			
27.	North Branch (7-0)	18.	Ironia (7-0)
16.	Okemos (7-0)	13.	Cora (7-0)
	13.	Flint Ainsworth (6-0-1)	6.
	Tecumseh (6-1)	5.	Navi (6-1)
	4.	Penton (7-0)	3.
	Cassopolisville (6-1-1)	1.	

CLASS C

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Norway	9-0	73
2.	Hudson	7-0	70
3.	Flat Rock	7-0	64
4.	Galesburg-Augusta	7-0	63
5.	Hartford	7-0	51
6.	Oradway	7-0	47
7.	Boy City All Saints	7-0	39
8.	Marysville	6-1	34
9.	Center Line St Clement	6-1	33
10.	Shepherd	7-0	19
Honorable mention: Richmond (7-0)			
17.	Orchard Lake St. Mary (7-0)	14.	Jonesville (7-0)
	13.	Kalamazoo Hackett (6-1)	13.
	Negaunee (7-0)	10.	Traverse City St Francis (6-1)
	9.	Lakeview (7-0)	8.
	Gladwin (6-1)	8.	L'Anse (8-1)
	5.	Fulton-Middleton (7-0)	4.
	Sanford-Meridian (7-1)	4.	St Ignace (7-1)
	3.	Hancock (6-2)	1.

CLASS D

Place	Team	Record	Poll Points
1.	Crystal Falls ForestPk	8-1	72
2.	Harbor Springs	8-0	65
3.	Ann Arbor St. Thomas	7-0	63
4.	Marcellus	7-0	55
5.	Beak City	7-0	54
6.	Royal Oak St Mary	6-1	46
7.	Johannesburg-Lewiston	8-0	41
8.	Flint Holy Rosary	6-1	37
9.	Saginaw St. Stephen	5-2	34
10.	Saginaw Mich Lutheran	6-1	25
Honorable mention: Onkema (7-0)			
20.	Manistee Catholic (6-2)	20.	North Adams (6-1)
	15.	Bellevue (7-1)	13.
	Concord (6-1)	11.	Owenable Gagetown (6-1)
	7.	Cassville (6-1)	4.
	Allendale (5-2)	5.	Rapid River (7-2)
	4.	Bessemer (6-3)	3.
	White Pine (6-2)	2.	North Central (6-2)
	1.	Hale (6-2)	1.

Irish, Braves, Rats Have Goals Alive

BY DAVE RIGAN
News Sports Writer

Unbeaten St. Thomas High (7-0) is driving for the state Class D championship.

Ypsilanti High (6-1) is shooting for the state Class A title and the outright South Central Conference championship.

And Huron High (5-2) is bidding for a share of SCC crown.

So you can see it's another big weekend of high school football coming up on the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti scene.

Right now, St. Thomas is no better than runner-up just to get into the state playoffs but if the Irish win their

next two games, they just might be on their way.

Ypsilanti (6-1 overall and 4-0 in the SEC) already has clinched a share of the conference championship and the Braves have a good shot at the state playoffs.

Huron High (5-2 overall and 2-1 in the SEC) would keep its hopes of a SEC title tie alive if it can defeat Ypsilanti on Ypsilanti's Shadford Field at 7:30 p.m., Friday.

Huron will play Pioneer High (1-6 and 1-2) in the season's finale at Hollway Field on Friday, Nov. 12, while Ypsilanti plays a non-league game at Belleville to wrap up its regular season on the 12th.

This Friday, Pioneer will be at home against Jackson High (0-3 and 3-4).

St. Thomas, challenging Marcellus (near Kalamazoo) for the Region I play-off berth, will be at home against Sand Creek (3-4) at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, at Hollway Field.

If Ypsilanti wins Friday, it will be the outright champion with a 5-0 conference record. If Huron wins it will battle involving Ypsilanti, Huron and Adrian.

The Irish offense has been highly productive all season and led the way again in last week's 43-3 win over Whiteford. The defense has also done its share, too, defensive end Dave

Morehouse did a great job getting into the opponents' backfield and sacking the quarterback.

As usual, quarterback John Wright and backs George Créswell and Blaise DiDonato led the way offensively. Wright completed four of five passes and the two runners both topped the 100-yard mark for the first time this season.

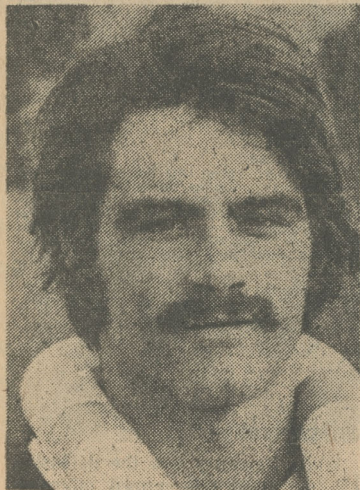
Ypsilanti doesn't have much time to rest on its laurels after beating Pioneer, 21-6. Huron has been impressive all year.

The River Rats were not overly impressive in their 24-0 whitewash of Jackson Parkside. The usually potent offense netted a total of 159 yards.

Coach Tom Fagan was excited nevertheless over the fact that his team is still in contention. "We have our destiny in our own hands. We will go after them," he said.

Pioneer now has to fight a battle of waning confidence after suffering six losses in seven games. The loss to Ypsilanti was the most decisive of the season.

The one new element for Pioneer was the play of sophomore quarterback Jim Smith, who played his first full game at the helm in the absence of injured Phil Kroeger. He demonstrated a strong throwing arm and connected on three passes for 74 yards.



PAUL WEBER



BOBBY JONES



MIKE PEE



GEORGE CRESWELL



BLAISE DIDONATO

High School Players In The Spotlight

Among the leading football players at the local high schools these days are Paul Weber of Huron High who helped produce a safety and blocked a punt against Jackson Parkside, Bobby Jones of Pioneer High, one of the hardest hitters on the field,

Mike Pee of Pioneer who plays both defensive halfback and wingback, and George Creswell and Blaise DiDonato of St. Thomas High who each rushed for more than 100 yards last

weekend when the Irish won their seventh straight game and added enough points to give them a 249-21 lead over their opponents.

Injuries Hamper St. Thomas

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

Unbeaten and untied St. Thomas High, driving for a Class D play-off berth for the state championship, suffered another blow Tuesday.

Fullback George Creswell, who has been up around 100 yards rushing in a couple games this fall, has a broken collar bone and is lost for the season.

Earlier, senior lineman Mark O'Neill was sidelined with a broken arm and senior lineman Mark Kelley with

a knee injury which required surgery.

"I don't know, this is really strange," says Coach Dave McCarney. "In the last two years we haven't had many injuries at all and now, all of a sudden, we've got three starters out.

"George was our most improved player and probably was the most pleasant surprise we've had on offense."

More than just a pleasant addition to the St. Thomas offense, the 6-0, 175-pound senior fullback was the team's second-leading ground gainer, averaging 5.4 yards a carry. Creswell had run the ball 88 times for 476 yards and eight touchdowns.

On defense, Creswell shared linebacking duties with junior Mark Richmond. Richmond will now assume that position full-time, where he has proven quite capable in recent outings. On offense, St. Thomas depth will get its real test. Sophomore Jeff Rupert will replace Creswell at fullback.

"Jeff has been playing there behind George all year and has some game experience," says McCarney.

"We obviously have some depth because we're 7-0 with two starters out for the last four games with injuries," says McCarney.

"The difference is between having a senior with experience and determination and a sophomore with determination. Jeff will do the best he can —

he's a good athlete and a strong runner."

McCarney has held out some hope of getting back O'Neill and Kelley before the season ends but that's up to the doctors. The cast was scheduled to come off O'Neill's arm early this week and Kelley is reported making good progress.

St. Thomas must win its last two games — against Sand Creek this Saturday and Manchester next Saturday — in order to keep its hopes alive

for the state playoffs. Both games will be played at Hollway Field.

According to the latest computations from the State High School Athletic Association, Marcellus is leading Region I in Class D with 65.71 points. St. Thomas is second with 58.28. The Irish presumably could overtake Marcellus by winning their last two games if Marcellus loses one of its final two.

Marcellus will be heavily favored to knock off Martin (1-6) this Friday but next week plays Mattawan (6-1), a strong Class C team, and presumably will be the underdog.

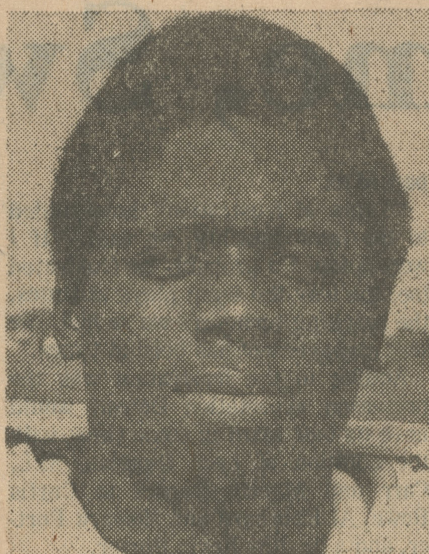
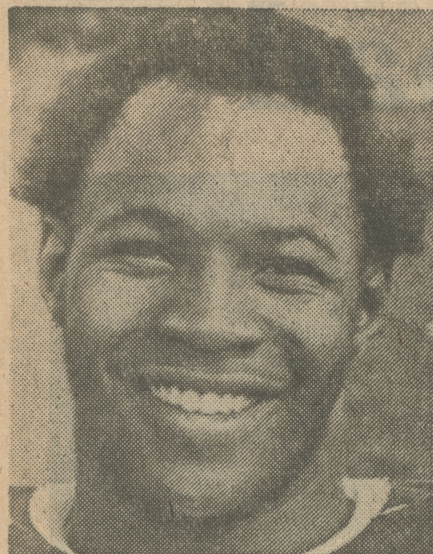
Sand Creek (3-4) has demonstrated a powerful offense in most of its games and is expected to give St. Thomas its toughest test in several weeks.



MARK RICHMOND



JEFF RUPERT



Spotlight On Preps

The high school football season is coming to an end but a couple of the most important games of the season will be played this weekend when Pioneer High and Huron High clash for the Class A city championship and unbeaten St. Thomas High goes after its ninth straight victory against Manchester. One of the leading St. Thomas players is quarterback John Wright (top, left)

while Dave O'Brien (top, center) is a sure-handed pass-catcher. Jerome Jelinek (top, right), is Huron's talented signal-caller and Gary Reeves (bottom, left) one of the leading ballcarriers. Pete Woodruff (bottom, middle) and Rod Green are a pair of standouts for the Pioneers, Woodruff on the line and Green as a running back.

Irish, Braves Striving For Playoff Berths

The Michigan High School Athletic Association's weekly playoff ratings are getting a bit of local attention since two schools from this area have moved into the top three.

Ann Arbor St. Thomas now occupies the second position in the Class D Region I ratings while Ypsilanti has moved into third place in the Class A Region III listings.

Belleville High is also making a run at a playoff spot. It is now tied for fifth in the Class A Region III standings and still has a game to go against Ypsilanti in each teams finale.

The rest of the standings are finally looking a little bit more like the high school poll voted on by the writers.

The Irish have 56.00 points while Marcellus still leads Region III with 67.33.

The Braves were ranked fifth last

week. Now, they are trailing only Kalamazoo Loy Norrix and Lincoln Park.

Here are the listings of the topped ranked school in each region.

Class A: Region I — Detroit Southwestern; Region II — Farmington Hills-Harrison; Region III — Kalamazoo Loy Norrix; Region IV — Midland Dow.

Class B: Region I — Grand Rapids West Catholic; Region II — Mount Pleasant; Region III — Ionia; Region IV — Dearborn Divine Child.

Class C: Region — I — Kalamazoo Hackett; Region II — Flat Rock; Region III — Shepherd; Region IV — Onaway.

Class D: Region I — Marcellus; Region II — Flint Holy Rosary; Region III — Manistee Catholic Central; Region IV — Crystal Falls Forest Park.

Irish Roll; Manchester Outing Next

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

St. Thomas High was scored upon from scrimmage and intercepted for the first time this season, but it was the same result as the first seven games. The Irish downed Sand Creek Saturday night, 28-7.

St. Thomas scored one touchdown in each quarter and thoroughly dominated the Aggies in every statistical category, even though the undefeated and

third-ranked team showed some signs of looking ahead to next Saturday's showdown with Manchester.

"I think the players and the coaches were a little guilty of looking ahead to next week," said St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney. "I think we had to be, we were talking about the game with Manchester off and on all week.

"But I was pleased with the kind of game we played. This is the time when a team's really ready to be upset. Sand Creek is a young football

team that's just beginning to gell. They're a good offensive team and they gave our defense a bit of a test — they're quick."

St. Thomas scored the first touchdown of the game with a 63-yard drive on its first possession. The Irish took only three plays to cover the distance, as sophomore Jeff Rupert and seniors Blaise DiDonato and John Wright each carried the ball once, with Wright running the last 14 yards.

Sand Creek came right back to tie

the score with a 62-yard drive that consumed the last four minutes of the first quarter. Accumulating half of their 10 first downs for the night, the Aggies ran successfully at St. Thomas' short side and became the first team to score on the Irish on a play from scrimmage this year.

However, the success enjoyed by Sand Creek in the first 12 minutes did not extend into the final three quarters. The Aggies only gained 57 yards in 22 carries during the last three

periods, while St. Thomas rushed for 155 yards and three touchdowns.

Wingback Mike Mrozinski scored the second touchdown on a 22-yard pass play from Wright, taking the ball on the 15 and racing down the sideline to the goal line. Mrozinski caught five passes in the game for 86 yards and has now caught 24 of the 44 passes completed by the Irish this year.

Blaise DiDonato sprinted for touchdowns of 15 and 14 yards behind the blocking of All-State candidate Paul Sherzer to round out the St. Thomas scoring.

DiDonato ran for 106 yards in 20 carries. Rupert, starting at fullback for the first time in place of the injured George Creswell, also ran well. He gained 46 yards in six runs.

ST THOMAS 7 8 6 7—28
SAND CREEK 7 0 0 0—0
ST — Wright 14 run (Kick by O'Brien)
SC — McInlyre 8 run (Kick by Harriman)
ST — Mrozinski 22 pass from Wright (Wright 2 run)
ST — DiDonato 14 run (Kick blocked)
ST — DiDonato 15 run (Kick by O'Brien)

	ST	T	SC
First downs	17	10	
Rushes-yards	43-216	38-129	
Passes	9-13-1	2-11-2	
Passing yards	29	122	
Fumbles-lost	3-0	0-0	
Return yards	47	92	
Punts-average	4-38.5	4-33.5	
Penalties-yards	5-55	5-35	

St. Thomas Gridders See Writing On Wall

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

Those in search of an answer often turn to the writing on the wall.

The wall at the base of Elizabeth Street right next to the St. Thomas School has been painted with a special message for this Saturday night's season finale football game against Manchester.

It reads: "The Dutch Must Go For 9-0 ST Defense."

Indeed, when these two powerful offensive squads square off, it is likely that the key will be which defensive unit proves stingier. While neither

squad has allowed more than two touchdowns in one game all year, it is also true that neither squad has faced a more potent scoring attack.

The Irish have scored more than 36 points in five of their last six games. The team is averaging 34.6 points per game to their opponents 3.4. Led by a balanced rushing attack, St. Thomas has been gaining yards at an average of 221 per game in addition to 90 yards in the air.

"Oh we know they're a good football team, there's no question about that," says Manchester Coach Jim Fielder. "They've got a couple of really good linemen. They've got a really good

quarterback in (John) Wright and (Mike) Mrozinski's a good slot back.

"I've watched them play a couple of time this year and I'm impressed. They move the football real well. We're going to have to play tough defense to stop 'em."

The Manchester offense has been impressive all year.

Blessed with one of the finest and quickest all-around backfields in quarterback Jeff Clark, halfback Curt Fielder, fullback Tim Koceski and Pete Tassie at wingback, the Dutch have only been held under 20 points once this season and have had explosive games where they scored 58 (against Onsted).

St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney knows the abilities of the Manchester offense. He has watched the Dutch play more than once this year and is aware that they are always a threat to produce the big play.

Last year, when Manchester handed St. Thomas its only defeat in the last 16 games, Tim Koceski broke loose for a 47-yard run on the second play of the game to put the Irish in a hole.

"We're a team defense and that's been the key to our success," says McCarney. "We don't have one person who does the job. We aren't worrying about a shut out (the Irish have produced 11 in the last 16 games) or anything like keying on one player.

"We're just going to go out and play the same team defense we've played all year. We're not going to key on Fielder or Koceski. Some teams have made the mistake of doing that and the other has run wild."

Irish (8-0), Dutch (7-1) Battle It Out Saturday

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

Ann Arbor St. Thomas and
Manchester high schools will be

trying to finish the 1976 football season with a victory that will give each school its best record in many years when the two teams play one another Saturday night at Hollway Field.

For the Fighting Irish, undefeated with an 8-0 mark, this could be the first time in as far back as anyone can remember that the team went through the season unbeaten.

For the Flying Dutchmen, 7-1 and having lost only to powerhouse Hudson by four points, this is the closest they have come to an undefeated season since 1957.

But there is more than just a good record at stake for St. Thomas when the third-ranked Class D team takes on Manchester, which was rated 11th prior to its defeat to Hudson.

There is also a chance to make the state championship playoffs for Class D.

The Irish are currently second behind Marcellus in their division, which they must win to advance.

It appears right now that St. Thomas will gain a play-off berth by downing Manchester while Marcellus

will have to lose.

"We really aren't talking about Marcellus at all right now or a state playoff spot or anything like that," says St. Thomas Coach Dave McCarney. "Right now, we're trying to get ready to be Manchester, and I think it'll be a real showdown."

"We're trying to finish the season with an unbeaten record, to be 9-0 after Saturday night. It's exciting to prepare for a 9-0 season. This week, when it's been so cold, it'll all been made a lot more fun because of that."

"There aren't that many teams in the whole state that have a chance to play for their ninth victory this week. I told the kids that's something to be proud of and I think they are."

Manchester already is assured of sole possession of second place in the Lenawee County Athletic Association and cannot by any possible outcome catch first place Hudson. It is natural to wonder then if the Irish won't be

more ready for Saturday night's contest and maybe the Dutchmen will be a little bit down.

"I sure hope not," said Manchester coach Jim Fielder. "I think we've got enough working for us that I don't think we'll let down. We're working personally on a good record and we've got our own goals for this game which we hope to meet."

"We do expect St. Thomas to be really psyched up for us. They have a good shot at the state playoffs if they can beat us so I know they'll be ready."

Just days before the last game of the season for each team, it is a time for looking back on the rest of the year as well as preparing for the final battle.

For Fielder and his Flying Dutchmen they know they have one of the finest teams in Manchester history and it is only one close game lost to the Hudson Panthers that keeps it be-

ing from the greatest season ever.

"I wish it was like basketball and you could play a team twice, once at their place like we played Hudson there and then once at our place," Fielder says. "This is a great squad and the season has gone real well. We just feel we could beat 'em if we could play 'em a second time — but we won't get that chance until next year."

"In all respects, it's been a great season," says McCarney. "The kids have been so good. They give us the concentration at the times we need it and they've really applied themselves all season long."

"It's more than that too. It's been great for the school. You hear a different rumor every day about maybe the school's closing tomorrow or whenever. But this team's no rumor and the whole school knows it and its something you can see they've rallied around."

Braves Must Sit Home, After all

BY BRUCE MADEJ
News Sports Writer

YPSILANTI — The Ypsilanti High celebration was a bit premature Friday night. The impossible happened and the Braves were edged by Lincoln Park for the playoff spot in Region III for the state Class A football tournament.

"As it turned out Lincoln Park needed five of its opponents to win," Ypsilanti Coach Ralph Perriello said. "Nobody ever expected Riverview to upset Trenton."

Trenton was one of the strong teams in the tough Suburban Eight Conference while Riverview was having its problems during the year.

"They never called us about what happened," Perriello added. "I guess they don't call the runner-up."

Lincoln Park had 105.33 points while Ypsilanti finished with 104.66.

A win by any of Ypsilanti's opponents during the course of the year or another loss by a Lincoln Park opponent would have given the Braves the Region III title.

Midland Dow takes on Lincoln Park

Saturday afternoon at Lansing Sexton Stadium.

"I still think the playoffs are a great thing," Perriello said. "It was just one of those things."

"I still feel this team is the best team I've ever coached."

It was generally assumed by just about everybody that a victory over Belleville last Friday night would have given the Braves a berth in the state playoffs.

Midland Dow and Ypsilanti even had a film exchange on Saturday morning to prepare for the semi-final contest.

In Class D, St. Thomas was nosed out by Marcellus for the playoff spot from Region IV.

The Irish completed a perfect season Saturday night with a 14-6 victory over Manchester.

The Irish were 9-0 while Ypsilanti was 8-1.

Only one state title holder will return to the state playoffs. Crystal Falls Forest Park, from the Upper Peninsula, will try to do it again in Class D. The team it beat last season in the championship game, Flint Holy Rosary, also qualified.

Forest Park topped Harbor Springs by 48 points in the final Region 4 standings, and will play Manistee Catholic Central in a Class D semifinal game at Thirby Field in Traverse City. That game, and all the semifinals, will be this coming Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary suffered a 50-0 thrashing by Forest Park in the state finals last year. If the Flint school wins its semifinal game with Marcellus at DeWitt High, and if Forest Park stops Manistee, last year's finalists will have a return bout.

Class A's 1975 champ, Livonia Franklin, was not as fortunate this year. Farmington Hills Harrison won a tight battle for that Region 2 berth, and will face Region 1 champion Madison Heights Lamphere in a semifinal game at Pontiac's Wisner

Stadium.

The other Class A semifinal coinflips Midland Dow and Lincoln Park at Lansing's Sexton Memorial Field.

Dearborn Divine Child, 1975 Class A champs, will sit out this year's playoffs. Region 1 sends East Grand Rapids against Mt. Pleasant of Region 2 in a semifinal bout at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids. Okemos will represent Region 3 against Novi at Rocker Community Field.

Ishpeming defeated Hudson for 1975 Class C crown, but neither will appear in this year's finals. Hudson had a 9-0 season, but placed a state third behind Flat Rock in Region 1. Ishpeming failed to show.

Flat Rock meets Galesburg in Class C semifinals at C.V. Post Field in Battle Creek, while Ypsilanti and Bay City All Saints battle for another Class C finals berth at Mt. Pleasant High School.

The 1976 finals will be played at the Pontiac Silverdome on Saturday, Nov. 27. The Class D finale is scheduled for 10 a.m., with Class A at 1 p.m., Class C at 5 p.m. and Class B at 7 p.m.

CLASS A

Region 1

1. Madison Heights Lamphere, 111.11; 2. St. Clair Shores Lakeshore, 104.66; 3. Detroit Southwestern, 102.75; 4. East Detroit, 97.35.

Region 2

1. Farmington Hills Harrison, 105.02; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 102.64; 3. Sterling Heights Sterling, 100.66; 4. Westland John Glenn, 104.82.

Region 3

1. Lincoln Park, 105.33; 2. YPSILANTI, 104.66; 3. East Lansing, 102.60; 4. De Ann, 99.55 and Dearborn Edsel Ford, 98.55.

Region 4

1. Midland Dow, 112.44; 2. Flint Southwestern, 7; 3. Muskegon, 102.66; 4. Flint Corman.

CLASS B

Region 1

Gr. Rapids East Gr. Rapids, 102.44; 2. Gr. Rapids West, 96.22; 3. Wyoming Park, 97.35; 4. South Haven, 77.35.

Region 2

1. Mt. Pleasant, 99.22; 2. Saginaw Swan Valley, 95; 3. Oscoda, 77.55; 4. Big Rapids, 74.22.

Region 3

Okemos, 98.00; 2. Corunna, 97.33; 3. Flint Thornton, 95.99; 4. Ionia, 89.88.

Region 4

Novi, 86.10; 2. Def. Austin, 77.66; 3. River-View, 72.88; 4. Southgate, 70.33.

CLASS C

Region 1

1. Galesburg-Augusta, 81.88; 2. Comstock Park, 80.55; 3. Kalamazoo Hackitt, 79.44; 4. Cassopolis, 69.33.

Region 2

1. Flat Rock, 99.11; 2. Moravia, 89.55; 3. Hudson, 84.44; 4. Fowlerville, 71.33.

Region 3

1. Bay City All Saints, 77.33; 2. Shepherd, 76.44; 3. Bad Axe, 70.22; Gladwin, 69.77.

Region 4

1. Onaway, 81.00; 2. Norway, 80.66; 3. Evert, 68.88; 4. Traverse City St. Francis, 68.33.

CLASS D

Region 1

1. Marcellus, 71.55; 2. ANN ARBOR ST. THOMAS, 68.44; 3. Concord, 61.22; 4. North Adams, 53.66.

Region 2

1. Flint Holy Rosary, 69.22; 2. Royal Oak St. Mary, 63.88; 3. Beal City, 60.44; 4. Del. Martin DePorres, 57.87.

Region 3

1. Manistee Catholic Central, 61.00; 2. Okemos, 61.00; 3. Johannesburg-Lewisville, 54.00; 4. Hillman, 51.66.

Region 4

1. Crystal Falls Forest Park, 67.11; 2. Harbor Springs, 63.22; 3. Powers North Central, 57.22; 4. Bessemer, 44.22.

Irish Edge Manchester In Finale, 14-6

'We're The Best,' Says St. Thomas Coach

BY DOUG BLACKBURN
News Sports Writer

"We are the best football team in Class D. I know we are."

With these words, St. Thomas High Coach Dave McCarney expressed the feeling of the entire Irish team and coaching staff after they defeated Class C Manchester, 14-6, last night to finish the season with a perfect 9-0 record.

However, the third-ranked St. Thomas squad will not get a chance to

prove it is the best team in the state because of the play-off system. Marcellus, a team that is one slot behind the Irish in the polls, will represent this division in the state playoffs by way of gathering more points through the season because of the quality of its opposition.

Quarterback John Wright combined with wingback Mike Mrozinski for 127 yards through the air and the pair completed passes of 51 and 42 yards in the first and fourth quarters to set up the two Irish touchdowns.

The first score came with 3:57 left in the first period when Wright bulled in the ball from the one. His keeper capped a 72-yard drive highlighted by two tosses to Mrozinski for a total of 66 yards.

On the second play of the drive, the co-captain combination showed why each is a bonafide All-State candidate. Mrozinski broke across the middle, tightly covered, and Wright threw the ball above and beyond the defense where the wingback could leap to make a brilliant catch before racing

30 yards down the sideline to the Manchester 18.

The Flying Dutchmen came out running hard to open the second half and immediately scored a touchdown. They took the first half of the quarter to move 67 yards as quarterback Jeff Clark found Pete Tassie open in the end zone for a 10-yard scoring toss.

Manchester went for two points with the extra point conversion which would have given the Dutch an 8-7 lead. The fake kick worked to perfection until the unguarded receiver let

the ball slip through his hands, allowing St. Thomas to hold the lead.

The Irish came right back to score. Again it was Wright and Mrozinski combining for a majority of the distance as Mrozinski outsped safety Curt Fielder to make a fine 42-yard catch of Wright's bomb before Fielder could drag him down on the eight.

Blaise DiDonato finished the drive with a strong run on a power sweep from the four as the senior tailback scored his 13th touchdown of the season. DiDonato, held to one yard in the

first half, came back to gain 41 yards in the second half in 11 carries.

"It was a good game, oh boy, was it ever a good game," said McCarney. "They were ready. They were really ready."

"We knew we would have to look to Elmo (John Wright) and Mike (Mrozinski) and they were up to the occasion. They just did it for us. Mike made great catches and he was good passes. Both showed a lot of poise and they were getting good blocking."

The St. Thomas defense also met the challenge.

Manchester had not been held to less than two touchdowns all year and only on one occasion had the Dutch failed to score more than 12 points.

The Irish defenders not only allowed but one score but held the Dutch to just eight first downs and only nine yards passing. Led by the vicious tackling of DiDonato at short half-back, an interception by Dave O'Brien and a blocked punt by Rocky Farmiloe, St. Thomas did not permit Manchester to put together two first downs except on the one scoring drive.

"We beat an excellent ball club," said McCarney. "Our defense came up to it. We had to stop 'em and keep our poise and move the ball and we did."

"We played over injuries and did an outstanding job of pulling ourselves together all season long. I could single out kids on this team forever."

St. Thomas 7 0 0 7 - 14
Manchester 0 0 6 0 - 6
ST - John Wright 1 run (kick by Dave O'Brien)
M - Pete Tassie 10 pass from Jeff Clark (pass failed)
ST - Blaise DiDonato 3 run (kick by Dave O'Brien)

	ST	M
First downs	11	8
Rushes-yards	40-81	38-143
Passes	6-7-1	3-9-1
Passing yards	127	9
Return yards	124	62
Fumbles-lost	4-1	3-0
Punts-average	5-34.2	7-32.6
Penalties-yards	3-45	8-49

St. Thomas High (9-0-0) Came To Play

Never Mind The 'Rah, Rah' Stuff

What about this St. Thomas High team that went undefeated, untied and unsurpassed through nine straight football games?

It was a team and a year to remember because an undefeated season is a rare gem found in a road studded with rocks.

The Irish were a rather cold and calculating gang of weekend executioners.

Coach Dave McCarney never really knew for sure what was going on in their heads and hearts. They practiced diligently and worked hard but with little talk or emotion.

But when the referee signaled "start the game," McCarney knew they had learned their lessons well and possessed a burning desire to win.

They cut down their opponents with driving, bruising tackles and blocked furiously on attack.

"Only losers put on a big show," said one of the players when asked about the apparent lack of emotion.

There wasn't any jumping and screaming when the little Class D school cut down Class C Addison, 28-0, with a brutal defense and four methodical touchdown marches, nor when it hammered out a 14-6 victory over once-beaten, Class C Manchester just last Saturday night.

The offense was poised and the defense frenzied.

Through the first seven games, the starting offense did not lose a fumble. And through the first seven games, the defense did not yield a touchdown on a scrimmage play.

Go ahead and play the state high

school championships, the best "D" squad won't be on the field!

That's the way a lot of Ann Arbor football followers feel about the Irish, especially those fans who watched the team roll up 291 points to their opponents' 34.

It was a year to overcome adversity because the Irish suffered injuries to their best guard, their leading linebacker and one of their two big guns of the running attack.

Just shortly after the season started, battling guard Mark O'Neill was knocked out for the year because of a

broken arm. A little later, hard-hitting linebacker Mark Kelley was sidelined with a knee injury which required surgery and driving fullback George Creswell suffered a broken collarbone.

Kelley mended rapidly, returned to practice last week and he and his younger brother, Brian, led the linebacking assault on the Dutchmen.

The rival coaches said defense would decide the St. Thomas-Manchester game and St. Thomas had it.

Joe Simon, Paul Sherzer and Wayne

DeNeff rolled off the blocks and plugged the line while Rocky Farniloe and Dave Morehouse turned back the Dutchmen at the flanks. In the secondary behind the Kelleys were Blaise DiDonato, Mike Mrozinski, John Wright and Mike Schork, tackling hard all night.

Much of the credit for Saturday's success on cold and wind-swept Hollway Field should go to assistant coach Joe McDermott who mapped the defense and assistant coach Bill Blake-

more who did the scouting.

Offensively, McCarney's Irish des-

troys Manchester with a passing attack that was a success all season long when the chips were down.

Despite hands that were red and purple from the cold, quarterback Wright arched strikes to wingback Mike Mrozinski which set up touchdowns and Mrozinski catches were the best you'll see — a leap and a two-handed catch and another pass he gathered in on the dead run.

One covered 51 yards and the other 42 and for the night the two seniors collaborated for 127 yards on four completions.

Wright (one-yard run) and tailback DiDonato (three-yard run) scored the touchdowns and old reliable Dave O'Brien booted the extra points, including one when the ball wasn't properly set up.

On offense, McCarney lined up his men with sophomore Jeff Rupert at fullback, Schork and O'Brien sharing the split receiver assignment, Farniloe at tight end, Sherzer and Joe Tremi firing out at the tackles, Brian Kelley and Simon at guards and Phil Dascola at center.

There's no way to put together an unbeaten season without strength in all facets of the game and Farniloe was an effective punter while reserves such as Ron Smith, Paul Lemmer, Dennis Tice, Jim Iott, Pete Rodriguez (until injured) Mark Fox, Jim O'Sullivan, Kevin Trim, Chris Cavanaugh, and Mark Richmond did the job when called upon.

"They were intelligent players," said McCarney. "They asked questions. When we told them the other team would be stunting a lot, they wanted to know exactly where and under what circumstances."

Wright, Mrozinski and Sherzer were three-year starters and how about these statistics:

Wright — 2,214 yards passing (26 touchdowns) and 589 yards rushing for a remarkable 3,063 total yards in his three years at quarterback.

Mrozinski — 47 catches for 932 yards and 11 touchdowns and a rushing average of 14 yards per carry.

Mrozinski was never off the field his senior year — running back punts and kickoffs and centering on punts and extra points in addition to his duties as wingback and "monster" on defense.

Sherzer is a quick, 6-2, 210-pounder who has .019 speed in the 40 yard dash.

"We ran to his side," said McCarney, "and our opponents paid him the compliment of double teaming him all the time."

St. Thomas didn't make the playoffs because Marcellus (near Kalamazoo) also went undefeated through nine games and piled up a few more computer points by playing more Class C opponents.

But as far as St. Thomas is concerned, the playoff don't mean all that much.

The Irish accomplished every goal they set for themselves by winning every game.

No one could ask for more than that.

26	Adrian	5
16	Overland	12
40	Sumnerfield	4
29	Adrian Middle	4
27	Berlin Middle	5
46	Whitmore Lake	6
42	Whitford	5
25	San Creek	7
14	Hutchinson	4
291		34



ROCKY FARNILOE



PHIL DASCOLA



DAVE MOREHOUSE

What About Those 'Perfect' Teams Not Picked for Computer Playoffs?

BY HAL SCHRAM
Free Press Sports Writer

The computer had its say in Michigan high school football late Sunday afternoon. Only a few may agree with its selections but this doesn't matter now — the computer has the last say.

The field for the second annual football playoffs of the Michigan High School Athletic Association opening Saturday has been set. The 36 schools chosen — four in each class — have no argument with the computer's findings. It's a different story, however, for a couple dozen other teams who feel they're just as qualified to play as the chosen few.

"We had just beaten our opponent soundly," said Flint Southwestern coach Dan Christensen, "but our locker room was like a tomb. The kids sat around staring at the wall, a few cried, they knew that Midland Dow had won and that we had lost out in our bid for the playoffs."

"I guess there's nothing that can be done," Christensen said. "There's only next year. . . but not even that for the seniors. I feel so sorry for these kids."

Southwestern finished 9-0, has been rated No. 1 in all the polls all season long, and is ranked No. 12 in the nation by one national sports magazine. Yet the Colts are asked to stand by and watch Midland Dow represent its region.

"I don't want to hear anything more about the playoffs," said Norway coach Bob Giannantonio. "We've had two straight 9-4 seasons and for some reason failed to qualify both years. It's been a sickening experience."

Grand Rapids West Catholic had been rated No. 1 in Class B for the last three weeks. Yet coach Fred Julian and his Falcons finished second best in their region.

"We had a game Saturday night and before we went out on the field we realized we had no chance to make it," said Julian. "Can you imagine the problems we faced trying to get our kids in the proper mental frame of mind for the final game on our schedule?"

DOWN AT HUDSON High, where the Tigers have won 31 of their last 32 games and just finished off another perfect season, there was less resentment. After all, coach Tom Saylor

and his Tigers in the last two seasons have come in for a lot of national and statewide acclaim.

"We really never were given much of a shot by the computer all season long," said Saylor. "We knew we had only an outside chance of making it."

In the Free Press weekly ratings four of the 36 teams chosen by the computer are not found in the Top Ten of their respective classes.

With more than 675 football-playing high schools in Michigan it is obvious that some better system of selection is needed in the future. There are just too many perfect-record and near-perfect-record teams each season to limit the field to 36.

It might be pointed out that neither the 28-team Detroit Public School League nor the 32-team Metropolitan Detroit Catholic League qualified a team this time around.

There are five greater Detroit teams selected — Lincoln Park, Farmington Harrison and Madison Heights Langphere in Class A; Novi in Class B and Flat Rock in Class C.

Eight semifinal games will be played Satur-

Hal Schram's Top 10

Class A

	W	L
1—Flint Southwestern	9	0
2—Royal Oak Dendero	9	0
3—East Lansing	8	0
4—Livonia Stevenson	9	0
5—Sterling Heights	9	0
6—Midland Dow	7	1
7—Detroit Southwestern	9	0
8—Lincoln Park	9	0
9—St. Clair Shores-Lake Shore	9	0
10—Westland John Glenn	9	0

Class C

	W	L
1—Norway	9	0
2—Hudson	9	0
3—Onaway	8	1
4—Marysville	8	1
5—Center Line St. Clement	9	0
6—Shepherd	8	1
7—Kalamazoo Hackett	9	0
8—Flat Rock	9	0
9—Galesburg-Augusta	8	1
10—Jonesville	8	1

Class B

	W	L
1—Grand Rapids West Catholic	9	0
2—East Grand Rapids	9	0
3—Mt. Pleasant	9	0
4—Wyoming Park	9	0
5—Corunna	8	0
6—Okemos	9	0
7—Ionia	8	0
8—*Flint Ainsworth	6	2
9—*Southgate Aquinas	8	1
10—Detroit Austin		
*—played the game.		

Class D

	W	L
1—Crystal Falls Forest Park	8	1
2—Ann Arbor St. Thomas	9	0
3—Beal City	9	0
4—Marcellus	8	1
5—Royal Oak St. Mary	8	1
6—North Adams	8	0
7—Harbor Springs	8	1
8—Flint Holy Rosary	8	1
9—Comcord	7	2
10—Manistee Catholic	7	2

day throughout the state with the winners advancing the following week to the Pontiac Silverdome for the finals.

In the meantime, everyone else can turn their attention to basketball, swimming and hockey.

Wright Named All-State On UPI Class D Team

Quarterback John Wright and two-way tackle Paul Sherzer of Ann Arbor St. Thomas have been honored by United Press International.

Wright was named All-State quarterback on UPI Class D team while Sherzer was given an honorable mention as a lineman.

Wright completed 45 of 75 passes

for 837 yards and nine touchdowns this past season.

He also ran 370 yards and gained six touchdowns rushing.

Nick Allison of Adrian Madison called Wright the "best quarterback in years."

The 6-2, 175 pound senior was a three year starter for St. Thomas.

Wright accumulated 3,063 yards total offense during that time. He passed for 2,214 yards and 26 touchdowns while rushing for 859 yards.

Sherzer, also a senior, was also placed on the Associated Press All-State team along with Wright and Mike Mrozinski.

Sherzer played tackle on offense and defense.

The Irish finished the season with a perfect 9-0 mark.

ALL-STATE

Aaron, Jim, LB, Johannesburg-Lewiston
Campbell, John, IL, Battle Creek St. Philip
Davis, Charles, TE, Crystal Falls Forest Park
Gedron, Tim, IL, Camden-Frontier
Griffis, Bret, IL, North Adams
Grass, Pete, KS, Beal City
Jackson, Robert, RB, Allendale
Johnson, Bruce, RB, White Pine
Lewis-Lonnie, RB, Marcellus
Pagel, Robert, LB, Crystal Falls Forest Park
Southward, Mike, IL, Flint Holy Rosary
Wilson, Dave, RB, Johannesburg-Lewiston
WRIGHT, JOHN, QB, ANN ARBOR ST. THOMAS

ALMOST ALL-STATE

Bush, Joe, IL, Johannesburg-Lewiston
Cornwell, Jerry, LB, Marcellus
Detrich, Joe, RB, Sag. Mich. Luth. Sem.
Harrod, Roger, RB, North Adams
Kolonski, Gerard, RB, Manistee Catholic
Lyons, Craig, IL, Hillman
Reeves, Dick, RB, Harbor Springs
Sigler, Jack, KS, Camden-Frontier
Strauss, Chris, IL, Beal City
Terna, Gary, IL, Allendale

HONORABLE MENTION

Ends — Receivers: Anderson, Ewen-Traut Creek; Brinkman, Owen-Gage; Carlson, DeTour; Clary, Genesee; Hall, Grass Lake; S. Marnon, Memphis; Puffi, Daraville; Vanderbrook, Saginaw St. Mary.

Linebackers: Hartung, Pittsford; Hummel, Grasse Pointe Liggett; Mix, Frankfort; Seybert, Hillman.

Linemen: Bland, Detroit DePerres; Chartier, Powers North Central; Corbett and DeNell, Crystal Falls Forest Park; McCormick, Bellair; **PAUL SHERZER, ANN ARBOR ST. THOMAS**; Wogenschutz, Britton-Macon.

Quarterbacks: Boer, Concord; Buck, North Adams; Heiden, Bellair; Jablonski, Royal Oak St. Mary; M. Marnon, Memphis; McIntyre, Sand Creek; Morris, Waterford D.L.; Rhine, Harbor Springs; VanPatten, Holton; Ziehm, Owen-Gage.

Running backs: Bradley, Peck; Guidos, Flint Holy Rosary; LaRocca, Petersburg-Summerfield; Lalka, Kingston; Moore, Detroit DePerres; Richards, Royal Oak St. Mary; Short, Lake Linden.

Defensive backs: Ball, Crystal Falls Forest Park and Pde, Manistee Catholic.

Kicking specialists: Favreau, Frankfort and McCarty, Royal River.



JOHN WRIGHT



MIKE MROZINSKI



PAUL SHERZER



SCOTT DAVIS

Three Irish, Ypsilanti QB Selected For All-State Team

Note to college recruiters:
Don't overlook the Class D high school football players.

A team that goes 9-0-0 for the season has some talented athletes and the best for St. Thomas were tackle Paul Sherzer, wingback Mike Mrozinski and quarterback John Wright.

The three were named today to the Associated Press Class D All-State team, recognizing their abilities and their durability as three-year starters.

The only other athlete in Washtenaw County named to the All-State team was Ypsilanti High quarterback Scott Davis and just about every Big Ten school is bidding for the services of the 6-4, 200-pounder.

Main difference between D, C, B and A athletes is the quality of the competition they face and college recruiters aren't gambling too much when they take a player from a big class A school who has withstood the

punishment and test of a full A schedule.

Athletes from the big high schools are potential contributors as freshmen to the college of their choice while those from smaller schools usually will take longer to develop.

Prepsters from the big city high schools, such as those in Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland and Cincinnati, also are considered more ready to make an early contribution.

Davis can pick his college following a year in which he completed 57 of 129 passes for 1,196 yards and 19 touchdowns. He rushed for 361 yards and six additional TDs.

He posted 21 times for a 37.5 average and has been the leading scorer on the basketball team for two years. He plays third base in baseball.

Each of the three St. Thomas all-stars has the size to play college ball — Wright, 6-2, 185; Mrozinski, 6-4

and 180, and Sherzer 6-3, 215.

Sherzer dominated the line in his Tri-County Conference games while the Wright-to-Mrozinski pass represented St. Thomas' most dangerous weapon.

In three years, Wright's passing totaled 3,214 yards and 38 touchdowns. He added 849 yards rushing and most of Mrozinski's 47 catches for 935 yards and 11 touchdowns were launched by Wright.

The St. Thomas trio also is outstanding on the basketball court and in the spring turns to track — Wright a state championship performer in the hurdles, Mrozinski a middle distance runner and Sherzer a shot put-ter.

It was a great disappointment at St. Thomas and at Ypsilanti High (8-7) that their teams missed the playoffs but the selection of three Irish for the Class D team and Davis as a quarter-

back on the A squad makes up for some of the disappointment.

Not all the spoils go to the victors. At least, not in high school football.

Although Crystal Falls Forest Park and Flint Holy Rosary each placed one player on the D team, St. Thomas, Beal City and Johannesburg-Lewiston were the teams that got the most attention from the selection committee.

Crystal Falls linemen Charles Davis and Flint Holy Rosary tackle Mike Southward drew All-State acclaim. Today their teams play for the D championship in a rematch of last year when Forest Park romped home, 59-0.

(An article on the four All-State teams, plus the complete rosters, is on page 12).

Class D

Coach of the Year:

Vally Gallitis, Beal City

Quarterbacks:

John Wright, Ann Arbor St. Thomas, 6-2, 180

Jim Morris, Waterford Our Lady of Lakes, 5-9, 175

Backs:

Dave Wilson, Johannesburg-Lewiston, 5-9, 175

Robert Jackson, Allendale, 5-9, 125

Dick Reeves, Harbor Springs, 6-1, 200

Bruce Johnson, White Pine, 5-11, 210

Keith Moore, Detroit St. Martin DePorres, 5-6, 165

Lennie Lewis, Marcellus, 6-1, 185

Ends:

Jerry Vandenbrook, Saginaw St. Mary, 5-11, 175

Robert Clary, Genesee, 5-11, 165

Bob Saylor, Pottersville, 6-4, 220

Mike Arzinkski, Ann Arbor St. Thomas, 6-0, 185

Linemen:

Paul Sherzer, Ann Arbor St. Thomas, 6-2, 215

Jerry Cornwell, Marcellus, 6-3, 240

Jim Aaron, Johannesburg-Lewiston, 6-1, 195

Wayne Lalline, Ewen-Troul Creek, 5-8, 190

Charles Davis, Crystal Falls Forest Park, 6-1, 200

Mike Soufflard, Flint Holy Rosary, 6-1, 180

Chris Straus, Beal City, 5-11, 175

Craig Lyons, Hillman, 6-2, 185

Bob Watts, Cassville, 6-0, 190

Nedor Krzywi, Hamtramck Immaculate Conception, 6-0, 190

Kicker:

Pete Gross, Beal City, 5-10, 180

—Moore and Watts are juniors. The rest are seniors. Jackson is the only repeater from the 1975 team.

Special Honor Coach: Dick Mettloch, Crystal Falls Forest Park; Dave McConney, Ann Arbor St. Thomas.

Quarterbacks:

Dave Stanfield, Pottersville; Dave Rhine, Harbor Springs; John Cox, Baldwin.

Backs:

Will Hummel, Grasse Pointe University Lippett;

Mark Reynolds, Dryden; Joe Dietrich, Saginaw

Michigan Lutheran Seminary; Bob Cousar, Baldwin;

Gerard Kolonowski, Manistee Catholic Central.

Dennis Loko, Kingston; John Conley, Saginaw St.

Stephen; Dave Bushirk, Concord; Brad Boyer,

Concord; Jerry Brown, Onkama; Gaven Ple-

kow, Olivet; Tim Richards, Royal Oak St. Mary.

Ends:

Greg Anderson, Ewen-Troul Creek; John

Schmitt, Dryden; Ron Carlson, DeTour; Bert

Brinkman, Allendale-Gagetown.

Linemen:

Al McDowell, Pickford; Joe Bush, Johannesburg-

Le. ison; Mark Setterbo, Frankfort; Greg Gui-

das, Flint Holy Rosary; Aaron O'Brien, Genesee;

Gary Tatro, Allendale.



Ann Arbor St. Thomas
1976 Football Scores and Record
9 Wins, No Losses, No Ties

St. Thomas – 28	Addison – 0
St. Thomas – 16	Deerfield – 12
St. Thomas – 40	Summerfield – 6
St. Thomas – 39	Adrian Madison – 0
St. Thomas – 37	Britton-Macon – 0
St. Thomas – 46	Whitmore Lake – 0
St. Thomas – 43	Whiteford – 3
St. Thomas – 28	Sandcreek – 7
St. Thomas – 14	Manchester – 6
Totals: 291	34

Undefeated, Untied, and Unequaled!

1976

ST. THOMAS FOOTBALL

9-0-0

SEPT. 17	@ ADDISON	WON 28-0
SEPT. 24	@ DEERFIELD	WON 16-12
OCT. 2	SUMMERFIELD	WON 40-6
OCT. 8	@ ADRIAN MADISON	WON 39-0
OCT. 16	BRITTON-MACON	WON 37-0
OCT. 22	@ WHITMORE LAKE	WON 46-0
OCT. 29	@ OTTAWA LAKE WHITE FORD	WON 43-3
NOV. 6	SAND CREEK	WON 28-7
NOV. 13	MANCHESTER	WON 14-6

SUMMARY ST. THOMAS FOOTBALL

TEAM VARSITY OPPONENT TOTALS

PLACE _____ DATE _____

ST. THOMAS	87	62	68	64	291
OPPONENTS	13	0	18	3	34

SCORING : TOUCH DOWNS EXTRA POINTS FIELD GOALS SAFETIES

See separate sheets

		ST THOMAS	OPPONENTS
FIRST DOWNS	TOTAL	142	50
	RUSHING	100	31
	PASSING	38	10
	PENALTY	4	9
RUSHING	NUMBER	394	308
	YARDS	1999	489
	AVERAGE	5.1	1.6
PASSING	ATTEMPTS	94	71
	COMPLETION	55	21
	INTERCEPT.	2	10
	YARDS	861	205
TOTAL OFFENSE	PLAYS	488	379
	YARDS	2860	694
KICKOFFS	NUMBER	50 (1 onside)	16 (1 onside)
	YARDS	49 - 2168	15 - 652
	AVERAGE	44.3	43.5
PUNTS	NUMBER	29	50 (4 Blocked)
	YARDS	964	46 - 1478
	AVERAGE	33.3	32.2
RETURNS	PUNTS	26 (2 fair catches)	41-658 13-102
	KICKOFF	24-246 -10.3	13-246 41-658
	INTERC.	17-237 -14.0	2-30
		10-83 -8.3	
PENALTIES		49-485	41-295

SUMMARY - INDIVIDUAL

OFFENSE

RUSHING

NAME	Games	NUMBER	TOTAL YARDS	YARDS	AVERAGE	LONG GAIN	100+ Gain
Didonato	9	141	780	GAINED 791 LOST 10	5.53	29	5
Cresswell	7	89	522	522 5	5.87	29	2
Wright	9	83	356	428 72	4.29	38	0
Mrozinski	9	19	143	153 10	7.53	73	0
Rupert	9	26	112	114 2	4.31	28	0
Fox	9	17	44	51 7	2.59	12	0
Tice	9	7	15	18 3	2.14	5	0
Lemmer	9	5	14	14 0	2.80	6	0
Richard	1	3	12	12 0	4.00	5	0
Kelley, M.	3	1 (lateral)	7	7 0	7.00	7	0
Iott	9	1	1	1 0	1.00	1	0
Smith	9	2	-7	1 8	-3.50	1	0
Totals	9	394	1999	2117 127	5.07	73	7

PASSING

NAME	ATTEMPTS	COMPLETE	YARDS	INTERCEPT	LONG GAIN
Wright	79	47	835	2	60 ^{TD}
Smith	9	2	23	0	14
Tice	5	5	14	0	3
Farmiloe	1	1	12	0	12
	94	55	861	2	60

55 RECEIVING 861

NAME	NUMBER	YARDS	AVERAGE	LONG GAIN
Mrozinski	28	556	19.8	60 ^{TD}
Farmiloe	11	164	14.9	36
Didonato	6	49	8.5	19
O'Brien	4	44	11.0	26
Iott	2	23	11.5	14
Schock	1	13	13.0	13
Richmond	1	3	3.0	3
Smith	1	2	2.0	2
Fox	1	2	2.0	2

PUNTS

KICKING

KICKOFFS 33.0

NAME	NUMBER	YARDS	AVER.	NAME	NUMBER	YARDS	AVER.
Farmiloe	28	950	34.0	Farmiloe	42	1864	44.3
Oleuncak	1	14	14.0	Mrozinski	6 (inside)	5-211	42.2
				Schock	2	93	46.5
Long St Farmiloe	29	964	33.2	Long St Farmiloe	50		

SUMMARY DEFENSE

RETURNS

A. E	KICKOFFS			PUNTS			INTERCEPTIONS		
	NUMBER	YARDS	AVERAGE	NUMBER	YARDS	AVG	NUMB.	YARDS	AVE
Mrozinski	7	145	20.7	Mrozinski	8 (1fc)		Wright	2-22	
Wright	3	73	24.3		7-113	16.1	Mrozinski	2-30	
Didonato	3	9	3.0	Wright	13 (1fc)	11.0	Richmond	1-16	
Cresswell	2	7	3.5		12-132		O'Brien	1-10	
B. Kelley	1	0	0.0	Didonato	4-0	0.0	Farmaker	1-3	
Fox	1	3	3.0	Tice	1-1	1.0	Schorh	1-1	
							Walters	1-1	
	17	237	14.0				Didonato	1-0	

Long: Wright 29 yd

TACKLES

26 (2fc)

24-246-10.25

Long: Mrozinski 27 yd

NAME	TACKLES			TACKLED FOR LOSS	FUMBLES RECOVERED	PASSES	
	SOLO	ASSIST	TOTAL			BROKEN	INTERC.
B. Kelley	18	93	111	1(-7)	2 (1TD)	1	0
DeNeff	23	65	88	2(-8)	2	0	0
Sherzer	32	54	86	7(-37)	1	2	0
Simon	11	54	65	4(-29)	3	0	0
Mrozinski	17	30	47	1(-8)	2	3	2
Morehouse	15	24	39	6(-62)	0	0	0
Schorh	11	27	38	0	0	6	1
Farmaker	8	23	31	0	0	1	1
Didonato	11	12	23	0	0	1	1
Cresswell	7	15	22	2(-10)	2	0	0
Richmond	2	13	15	0	0	0	1
B. Kelley	3	9	15	0	0	0	0
Trembl	4	6	10	0	0	0	0
Rupert	3	7	10	2(-7)	1	0	0
Wright	4	5	9	0	1	1	2
O'Brien	4	5	9	0	1	1	1
O'Neil	2	2	8	1(-10)	0	0	0
Trim	0	8	8	0	2	0	0
Davola	2	5	7	0	0	0	0
Fox	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
Tice	0	5	5	0	0	0	0
K. Richards	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
O'Sullivan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lemmer	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Cavanagh	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Iott	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

1 Block punt

2 Block punt

1 Block punt

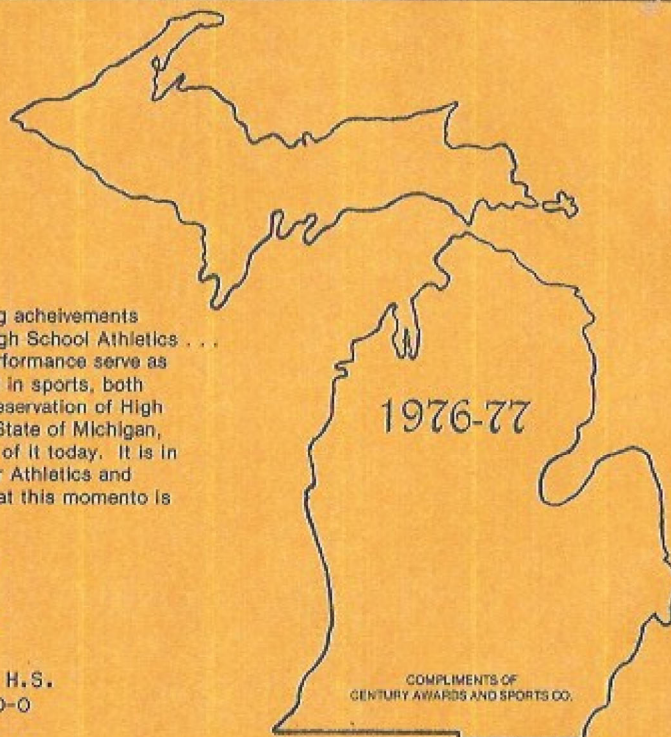


In recognition of your outstanding achievements
and contributions to Michigan High School Athletics . . .
May your record and personal performance serve as
a guide to all individuals involved in sports, both
present and future, in that the preservation of High
School Amateur Athletics in the State of Michigan,
might be maintained as we know of it today. It is in
the spirit of High School Amateur Athletics and
continued youth development, that this memento is
awarded.

PRESENTED TO

DAVE MCCARNEY

Ann Arbor St. Thomas H.S.
Season Record: 9-0-0



COMPLIMENTS OF
CENTURY AWARDS AND SPORTS CO.

'Fighting Irish'

Given Salute

St. Thomas High School's "Fighting Irish" football team won recognition from Ann Arbor City Council Monday night.

Council, unanimously approved a resolution honoring the team for its undefeated season, which included rolling up 291 points in nine games against their opponent's 34 points.

COUNCIL—DECEMBER 6, 1976

R-484-12-76

RESOLUTION COMMENDING ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Whereas, on November 13, 1976, St. Thomas High School Football Team successfully completed an undefeated season in Class D competition, and

Whereas, in spite of injuries, through the leadership of Coach Dave McCarney and his staff, the "Fighting Irish" rolled up an incredible 291 points to their opponents' 34 in the nine games played,

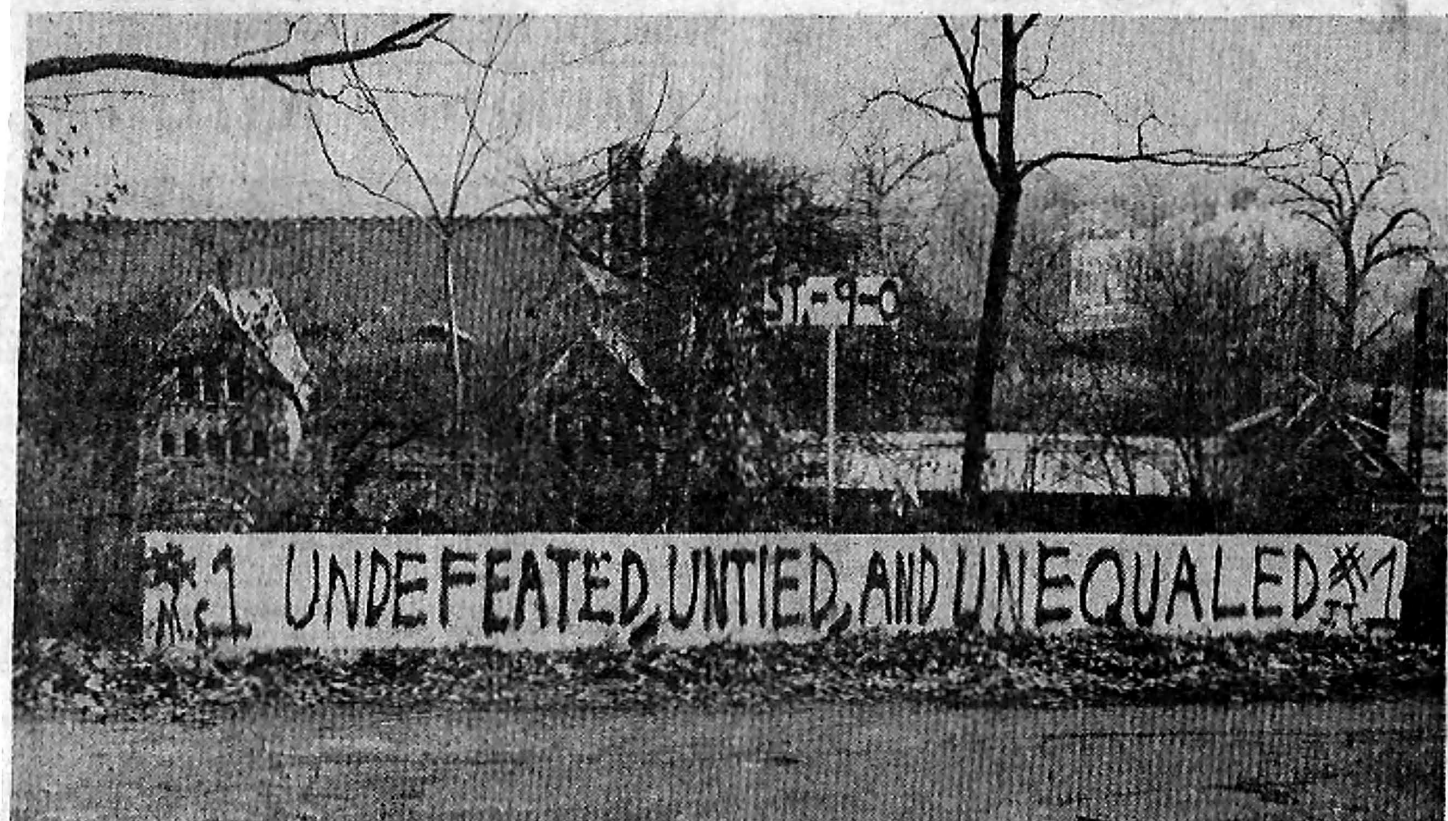
Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the City of Ann Arbor hereby commends the St. Thomas High School Football Team for an outstanding season and congratulates them on their achievements.

Moved by Councilmember Bertoia that the Resolution be adopted.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Yeas, Councilmembers Allen, Keogh, Greene, Jones, Henry, Bertoia, Trowbridge, Kenworthy, Bell, Belcher, Mayor Wheeler, 11

Nays, 0

Chair declared the motion carried.



News photo by Cecil Lockard

Hail To The Irish

The St. Thomas High School football team completed a perfect season Saturday night by winning their ninth straight game, 14-6 over

Manchester. The undefeated season is the first for any Ann Arbor team in almost 20 years and Sunday night the painters were out to pay trib-

ute. This wall on High Street at Elizabeth Street near the school got the treatment, indicating the "Number One" status.

Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard honoring undefeated 1976 St. Thomas football team Saturday

- Published: Sep. 30, 2016, 12:30 p.m.

By

- **Sam Meads** | smeads@mlive.com



The Father Gabriel Richard football team takes the field before the Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard vs. Romulus Summit Academy high school football game on Saturday, October 18, 2014, in Ann Arbor. Katie McLean | The Ann Arbor News

In high school football today, a 9-0 record and 291-34 score differential earns a top seed in the MHSAA football playoffs. In 1976, Ann Arbor St. Thomas high school, now Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard high school, was left out of the Class D playoffs with those results.

Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard will celebrate the 40-year anniversary of the final St. Thomas football team in its homecoming game against Westinghouse (PA) Saturday at 1 p.m.

St. Thomas was left out of the playoffs by a fraction of a point due to the point system that determined the four teams to make the state semifinals. Joe Simon, a junior on the 1976

team, compared the point system to how the college football playoff committee currently determines the college football playoff with strength of schedule and opponents records.

“I think we would’ve won it all that year, but we never got the chance,” Simon said.

A senior laden team with a strong junior class, the Irish knew they had something special after a 7-2 finish the year before.

“There was a preseason high school preview in the Ann Arbor News and I told them if we don’t go 9-0 I should be fired,” St. Thomas coach Dave McCarney said.

“During that season I realized that injuries can happen and things can change, so I never said that again.”

St. Thomas had several key injuries to seniors that season, but several juniors, including Simon, stepped up to make the undefeated season possible.

The season couldn’t have started better as St. Thomas forced an Addison fumble on the opening kickoff and scored a few plays later.

“I really think that first play against Addison really gave us momentum to have the season we wanted to have,” McCarney said.

St. Thomas defeated two quality Class C teams that year, including Addison in the season opener and Manchester in the season finale. The Irish weren't given a chance to compete for the state title. Crystal Falls Forest Park beat Flint Holy Rosary in the state finals. Holy Rosary dominated Marcellus, who beat St. Thomas in the semifinals. The final AP Poll ranked St. Thomas second behind state champion Crystal Falls Forest Park.

“It’s still a little unsettling that we didn’t get a chance to play for the championship,” Simon said. “I think it would’ve been a great game against Crystal Falls.”

McCarney credits a lot of their success to the University of Michigan coaching staff who had an open door policy with the St. Thomas coaching staff. McCarney taught at St. Francis where son’s of Michigan coaches Bo Schembechler (Shemy) and Jack Harbaugh (John and Jim) attended.

McCarney would go to the Michigan coaching office every week and game plan with Harbaugh and offensive line coach Jerry Hanlon.

“Coach Hanlon would always know these little adjustments that we could use against a certain defense we were going to face,” McCarney said. “It’s pretty hard to fail when you get this kind of help so all I had to do is not screw it up.”

McCarney credited the fellow coaches at St. Thomas as to why their athletic programs had so much success.

“St. Thomas was a place where coaches encouraged kids to play multiple sports and when I went on to other places, it wasn’t always like that,” McCarney said. “My defensive coordinator was the varsity baseball coach and he won a state title, and our basketball coach who supported us at every game won a state title as well.

“All of the coaches supported one another and that helps to have success.”

Twenty-two of the 29 players on the team are expected to be in attendance for the game on Saturday. McCarney and Simon said it should be a great showing from the entire St. Thomas/Gabriel Richard community.

“I was fortunate as a young coach to have that kind of a team and they made me look good,” McCarney said. “They were all team players and did whatever was asked of them and I think that goes to show why they are all so successful today.”

“It was a once in a lifetime kind of team.”