



SCHOLASTIC
NOTEBOOK
John Doser

He never made the sports pages, but his presence and influence affected those who did.

Robert F. Tofany, 15, was scorekeeper for the Bishop Kearney High ice hockey team.

He also suffered from muscular dystrophy and died Thursday, Nov. 1, 1973.

Robert never missed a Rochester Americans' home game either. He was a devout hockey fan. His mother said hockey was his love.

He was in class at Kearney on Wednesday, the day before he died at his home, 59 Huntington Meadow, Penfield.

His mother said Robert had a lot of trouble, but just kept on pushing. She said he died the way he wanted to die.

Robert's attendance and participation in BK hockey will be sadly missed this season.

He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Tofany and nephew of Vincent L. Tofany, former state Motor Vehicle Commissioner who recently became president of the National Safety Council.

McQUAID'S sharing of the City-Catholic League football championship with Madison was in part due to the total turnaround of halfback Mike Donovan in the Knights' 7-0 win over Kearney in McQuaid's second-to-last game of the season.

Donovan fumbled on the three-yard line to blow a 72 yard drive by the Knights in the first period against the Kings.

McQuaid was on another march of 75 yards to paydirt in the final period and this time Donovan carried the ball in from the three without dropping it for the only TD of the game.

Ironically, Donovan was subbing for senior halfback Roger Key who missed the BK contest because of a shoulder injury.

McQuaid's victory over Kearney might have been more decisive with Key because Key broke open a scoreless match against East the following week with a 71-yard zip for his 14th TD of the season, second in City-Catholic League scoring to Cardinal Mooney's Tony Shaw with 16 tallies. McQuaid beat East, 17-0.

Key, who scored 12 TD's last year, also finished runnerup to Shaw last season.

Shaw concluded his brilliant grid career at Mooney by scoring three touchdowns and rushing for 261 yards in the Cards' 30-0 win over Franklin.

The Mooney speedster set school and C-C league records with a total of 1,425 for a single season, and 2,967 yards for three varsity seasons.

McQuaid and Madison split the championship with identical 6-1 league marks and both were 7-1 overall. A ninth game could have been played to settle the tie, but both squads declined.

Mooney, which led the league most of the season until it lost to McQuaid, finished tied with Aquinas for third with a 5-2 record.

FOOTNOTES — Aquinas won the City-Catholic JV grid title with a 6-1 league mark and the Little Irish were 6-2 overall. Aquinas grad Rich Russo scored twice and rushed for a game high

180 yards on 28 carries for Cornell in the Big Red's 44-14 win over Columbia.

Mooney freshman Tom Rzepka ran a 1.6 mile, 8:47 for a Catholic school frosh record at Cobbs Hill and set a diocesan tournament record for 1.58 miles at Genesee Valley Park with an 8:51.

Stepping down as Mooney cross-country coach after two seasons is Brother Tom Gallagher whose Cards won 20, lost 2 during his tenure.

Sectional news: Ted Bondi, Genesee Central, has been appointed by Section 5 to fill the unexpired term of Nick Zona on the section's executive committee. Zona, chief consultant of H&PE for the Rochester City School District, resigned. Nick received a well deserved standing ovation by council members.

Section 5 baseball chairman Gene Baker recommends using minor league parks and playing night games for next year's tournament.



IN THIS CORNER
George Beahon

"Sit down and relax your entire body. Next, think about the procedure. For example, if you want to bowl a strike, go through the entire process in your mind. You will find that if you have bowled a strike before, you will be able to remember all of the steps that you went through as you bowled. If you have trouble visualizing any aspect of the procedure, walk through it. Then sit back and visualize it again. Finally, try to sit apart from yourself and analyze what you do in detail. But, try this only after you master the rehearsal technique."

Enough of the bowling talk. It's the thinking of my favorite sports shrink, Dr. Bob Nideffer, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Rochester.

Nideffer went to some length in a recent TV interview to explain some of the intricacies of what's known in sports vernacular as choking — whether it's a 20-handicap duffer gulping on a four-bit putt, or a World Series pitcher throwing a gopher ball down the pipe.

When the Oakland A's and New York Mets butchered the first half of the late baseball tournament, Nideffer was not surprised.

He hasn't been surprised that seven Super Bowl productions have yet to deliver one technically classic football game. Nor is he surprised when the Stanley Cup and National Basketball Association playoffs more often than not fail to offer the best in their respective sports.

He says athletes don't necessarily come up with big performances in the big games. When they do respond to pressure in a positive way, it may be by accident.

A complete sports authority, Nideffer is 31, a former collegiate diving champion, a holder of a Black Belt in Aikido. He's done extensive research on mental rehearsal and relaxation in sports.

His latest studies, likely to find exposure soon in national publications, have been in the area of "attentional focus" which he believes tells why athletes respond differently under pressure situations.

Nideffer offers two examples of

Kohoutek Due

Comets Outlive Superstition

BY JOHN DASH

The King of England was dead. The circus was coming. Wall Street was gloomy. The weather was rotten and hucksters in Haiti and in Texas were selling "comet pills" just as fast as they could make them.

Comet pills, you see, protected one from the sinister influences of Halley's Comet as it made its 1910 pass around the sun.

And Iri F. Hicks, a "free lance" weather prophet from St. Louis was blaming Halley's Comet for the stretch of weather that everybody was complaining

Comet Show

Rochester's Strassenburgh Planetarium has prepared a special program on comets which is shown Sundays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free with tickets to the regular star show.

According to the Planetarium the show covers the history of comets, reactions to them and describes their characteristics.

about. An area daily newspaper wryly commented on Hicks' observations that "the comet is not in a position to contradict him at any rate. it can bring no suits for slander."

The night that King George acceded to the throne, the folks in Bermuda saw Halley's Comet turn red. It was viewed as a portent of war in the monarch's reign. Astronomers figured it was a fluke in the atmosphere.

Rochester's Highland Park opened and, believe it or not, the local constabulary was rounding up people for violating a new ordinance. The city no longer tolerated public expectation.

Professor Howard Minchin told the Academy of Science in the Eastman Laboratory that Halley's Comet would not hit the earth. But reports were coming from the South that the churches there were doing a land-office business in repentance and disaster.

In New York City, The World reported, "The town had prepared itself for a new sensation. It was keyed up to a high pitch of expectancy at the prospect of being sprinkled with star-dust, and the possibility of being smothered by noxious gases or bombarded by meteorites lent a keener zest to the interest. But the show did not come off, and New York went home feeling that it had been uncoiced."

The folks in New Jersey, however, had a little assist in their enjoyment of the comet. Seems a chemist with the aid of a small balloon, a quantity of sodium, a time fuse and a stick of dynamite, contrived an apparatus which would rise about 1,000 feet in the air and then explode with a terrific roar, igniting the sodium, which would fall to the earth in a great shower of flame. The practical joke worked to perfection. The explosion could be heard for miles and fully an hour passed before the residents of the nearest town were calmed down.

Not all stories connected with Halley's 1910 passage are amusing. Throughout the country there were reports of people driven mad or to suicide for fear of the phenomenon.

Comets, Halley's in particular, have a venerable history of raising both religious and superstitious sentiments.

In 1066 the passage of Halley's Comet was seen a favorable omen for William the Conqueror, but throughout the rest of Europe this prayer was uttered: "Lord, save us from the Turk, the devil and the comet."

Willy Ley, noted science writer, claims that in the 16th Century

comets were considered "visible signs of divine wrath but pious prayer may avert greater punishment such as pestilence and famine, or else sway the Lord to inflict such punishments upon the Turks."

It was as late as 1700, Ley says, that the religious and astrological interpretations of comets were dismissed in favor of scientific observation of the phenomenon.

Any day now, amateur sky watchers will be able to get their first naked-eye glimpse of what promises to be the "comet of the century," a newly discovered visitor to the sun called Kohoutek.

For folks with telescopes and binoculars, the comet looks like a faint hazy patch 20 degrees above the southeast horizon about 5:45 a.m.

From top to bottom of a closed fist, held at arm's length, is about 10 degrees.

Kohoutek, as it rounds the sun, will give the earth a show more spectacular than Halley's comet did. If the preceding history of folk's reaction to comets is any indicator, we earthlings are likely to put on a pretty show ourselves.

LeFevres Slated at Fisher

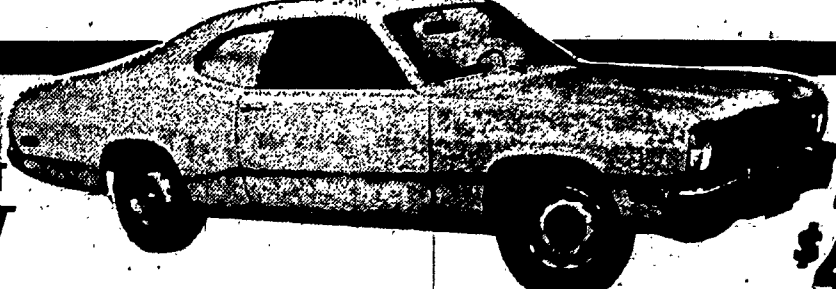
The Singing LeFevre Family, of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, will perform at the St. John Fisher College English Department's second annual "Thanksgiving Soiree," on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m. in the college's Basil Hall Auditorium.

The LeFevre family performs traditional and old-time music of the Southern Appalachians. Their presentation includes a folk song workshop, which encourages the audience to participate.

The concert, which will be followed by a sherry hour, is free and open to the public.

ARC OPEN HOUSE

The Monroe County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children will hold open house this afternoon and evening. Visitors will be welcome at the Green Door, 191 E. Henrietta Rd., and Sunshine House, 595 Brooks, residence centers, and at work training programs in the Al Sigt Center, 1000 Elmwood, and the Annex, 291 Westfall Rd. Hours are 3-5 and 6-8 p.m.



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