



### SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK - John Doser

How many Rochester sports fans realize that Bob Thomas, the McQuaid soccer style kicker whose 19 yard field goal New Year's Eve beat Alabama to win Notre Dame the national college football championship, was responsible for a Section 5 ruling which ended a high school athlete's competing in two sports during a single season?

Back in 1969 Thomas was leading the McQuaid soccer team in scoring and booting the extra points and field goal attempts for coach Tom Seymour's gridders at the same time.

He booted one field goal of 45 yards against Aquinas in a 15-3 loss, but the kick remains the longest ever recorded in the Rochester area, and is sixth or seventh best ever in the state.

But after the 1969 season Section 5 passed a rule which prohibited any youngster from playing both football and soccer in any one season, or, for that matter, any two sports in any one season.

Seymour, who saw Thomas play for ND as a sophomore three years ago, managed to catch his famous graduate on TV a few times when his own Knights weren't scheduled.

"My feelings for the boy have remained the same," Seymour explained.

"The kid has worked extremely hard in this area for the last six years. Every summer, for example, he's been at East High every day, with the encouragement of his father, kicking field goals for two or three hours every night.

"He got to be the kicker he is because of hard work. He's a very competitive player, whether it's football or soccer. I understand he's already received a couple of feelers from professional teams," Seymour said.

Seymour has been fortunate with kickers since Thomas graduated.

He had Artie McLeod, a Thomas-soccer style kicker who quit the pitch game to kick extra points (because of the Section 5 rule) and Chuck Schott, a junior who will be back again next season.

McLeod won three games with field goals for St. John Fisher this season and Schott booted 19 of 23 extra points and two of four field goals for the Knights this season.

Seymour said Schott is a true griddy all the way. He also plays first string defensive end.

READERS of the New York Times sports pages who looked for the printed word of Thomas exploits against Bama were disappointed.

Results of the Sugar Bowl weren't available when the edition distributed in Rochester was printed and the news was old for the next day's edition.

Even so, Thomas was accorded great local coverage by sportswriters Bill Parker and Craig Stolze, both of whom did excellent jobs of reporting the lad's great kick.

Thomas would probably select his game-winning kick against Alabama as the single greatest highlight of his career, but he'd have problems trying to decide what belongs in second spot.

His three field goals against USC in ND's 23-14 win was a tremendous feat and the fact that he put 41 of 43 boots through the

uprights during the regular season is quite an achievement as well.

We said a few weeks ago that Thomas was virtually an automatic choice for the local athlete of the year honor to be named at the upcoming Gannett Rochester Press Radio Club Pro Athlete of the Year Dinner, Feb. 6, at the Downtown Holiday Inn.

Ironically there are more local athletes in the running than ever before, some including golfer Terry Diehl, co-gridders Rich Russo of Cornell and Cleveland Cooper of Navy, Bob Sekel, baseball hurler, Baltimore Orioles' chain, billiards king Irving Crane, horseshoe thrower Carl F. Steinfeldt, tennis star Patty Schoolman, speed skater Kathy Turner and soccer player Terry Lippman.



### IN THIS CORNER - George Beahon

"Titanic Thompson," said the retired hustler, "wasn't even named Thompson. It was Thomas but much of the man's legend has been warped in the telling and retelling over the years."

Titanic was renowned for setting up a victim in advance. Like playing a man for considerable money on a golf course and losing; then, apparently tipsy, offering to play the man again the next day, for twice as much, lefthanded. Of course, Titanic was a natural lefty.

One of Titanic's coolest set-ups, according to the retired hustler, involved an almost illiterate saloon keeper friend of Titanic's, whom we shall call Fabulous Fats.

Titanic and Fats were heading via train for the city in which Fats conducted a bristling business.

"Listen, dumb Fats," said Titanic. "I am going to teach you to spell two ten-letter words - rhinoceros and anthropoid. Now keep spelling these two words until they become automatic, and we will score."

Titanic then brought a partner into the act, a personable, dignified type. He tutored the skill in the spelling of ten-letter words, including rhinoceros and anthropoid.

On the chosen night, Titanic sat down in Fabulous Fats' saloon, along with some high rolling cronies, and sprung the trap.

## Legion of Mary Seeks Members

Helping ease the current vocation shortage with an active lay apostolate is the theme of the membership drive being conducted by the diocesan Legion of Mary.

The legion, a lay organization of men and women assisting the priest in working with the people in the parish through spiritual works, social services, human development and home visitations, is active in 50 parishes.

The members hold a meeting once a week with a spiritual director to increase their spiritual lives, report on work done and to receive new assignments. Members work in pairs for about two hours a week.

For information on becoming an active legionary, contact Miss Lucile Kunz, 544-1218 or Frank Shaughnessy, 342-0463 in the Rochester area; James Kildea, 732-9985 in the Elmira area; Mrs. Betty Barry, 924-5477 in the Geneva-Auburn area; Daniel

Tubbs, 658-4253 in the Dansville area; Mrs. Dorothy Taillie, 467-

0441 for the Junior Legion, open to those under 18.

## CYO Issues Newsletter

The Catholic Youth Organization has begun to publish a monthly newsletter. It distributed 1800 copies of the first issue in December.

Tom Cotterill, youth development director and editor of the newsletter, looks upon the newsletter as "a communication link with youth and adults working with youth through the diocese." He said the paper will "provide a forum for sharing ideas and goals."

The first issue featured reports on the recent national CYO convention, the CYO sponsorship drive, the girls' basketball program, and the youth

development program's progress, as well as letters from acting director John Klein and consultant Father Tim Weider.

In future issues the newsletter will seek reports from all parish youth groups throughout the diocese.

As a special service, free copies will be mailed to any 10 persons designated by a parish, or any 30 designated by a Catholic high school.

Subscriptions are available for \$1 for 12 issues by sending name and address to Thomas Cotterill, CYO, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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