

COURIER Sports

IN THIS CORNER

George Beakon

The crazy season was only a couple of hours old when the first unbelievable crazy result came tromping in from Foxboro, Mass. Jim Plunkett and the New England Patriots had plunked the Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins. The score: 34 to 24. It wasn't even THAT close.

Even playing away from home, the Dolphins were 14-point favorites on the first Sunday of serious bone cracking in the National Football League. How do you pick a winner?

The answer is that if you try, you do not like money.

This researcher has some stats from pre-season scrambling, plus the first week's competition in league play. It would surprise you, maybe, to learn that favorites win two-thirds of the time. But the point spread this season has brought the field — meaning the bettors — to the turf.

If you played the favorites and gave the points, you won half, lost half. Naturally, the same if you took the underdogs all the way.

What that means, if you're giving up the usual \$1.15 to \$1 — or 11 to 10 if you're a player at the \$50 level or higher — is that you lose. On the first week, your selections broke even, but you lost the vigorish. If you played all 13 games, you got one tie, six wins, six losses — on the average. If you bet \$110 on each game, you won six, lost six, and blew \$60. You collected \$600 in winners; you lost \$660.

I kept a record on late exhibition season games. Early in pre-season, the oddsmakers refused to make a line because of the preponderance of rookies and free agents. Over the last two

weekends, they offered action, and of the 26 games I clocked, the favorites won 18 games, lost 8. But the point spread brought back a different tally. Deducting the handicap points, the games resulted in 13 winners, 13 losers, for favorites and underdogs. Again, the vigorish chewed up the bettors.

I found only one successful man over the first weekend, and he was a "shopper." Early in the week he found Los Angeles favored at 6 over Denver. He laid the 6. On Sunday he found a soft touch who had LA favored by 7 1/2, so he bet on Denver. LA won by 7 (the closing line) which means he cashed on both ends, which is what the trade refers to as catching a "bager."

Most of the losers went down in trap plays. That is, they went for what some oddsmakers call "public teams." Miami is a public team. That is, fans and bettors go for Miami because Miami is associated with success. Miami probably should have been 10 points, but the world goes for champions, so the Dolphins were installed at 14, and still the players overplayed Miami. Dallas, the Jets, Bills and Minnesota are other public teams overpriced to compensate for public overreaction.

The most overpriced team of all, however, isn't in the NFL, WFL or the CFL. It's an independent out of South Bend, Ind. Some people jump on Notre Dame on a parlay card or a separate betting line as if the Irish were something good to eat. The truth of the matter is that while Notre Dame does go for impressive wins, because it has only the ratings to fight for, the Irish are the worst buy on the board, Saturday to Saturday. Or, in the case of 1974, Monday to Saturday. Don't say you weren't warned.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK
John Doser

The death of 16-year-old DeSales of Geneva High School tackle **Chris Tandle** on the day of the Saints' season opener two weeks ago, shocked coach **Harry Furman's** gridders to the quick.

The death, which Furman said was due to natural causes, frustrated, but didn't destroy his youngsters' spirit — the kids took a vote and elected to play the opener anyway, against Dundee Central, in Chris' memory.

The fact that DeSales won, 30-24, is not so important.

On the day of the game and again on the day of the funeral, the minds of Furman's gridders were many miles away, dwelling on other things, bigger and more important than football.

Furman said Chris suffered a slight ankle injury during the week prior to the opener and had missed some practice time. He was expected to suit up for the opener, however.

He passed away in bed early Saturday morning, Furman said, and the call Furman received from Chris' family was not at all what he expected.

We extend profound condolences on behalf of the sportswriting fraternity to Chris' family and his teammates.

The Second Annual Kodak Celebrity Golf Classic takes place

Saturday and Rochester jeweler **Bill Scheer** has a \$5,000 ring for any golfer (pro or amateur) who scores a hole-in-one.

Press-Radio Club members **Pete Culross** of Kodak and weatherman **Tom Wells** of Channel 13 predict Super Weather. Culross bases his prediction on the Farmer's Almanac; we hope Wells was a little more scientific about it.

The celebrities who will tee off beginning at 10:30 a.m., at Oak Hill, include **Joe DiMaggio** (he won last year), **Phil Foster**, **Pee Wee Reese**, **David Wayne**, **Allie Reynolds**, **Lefty Gomez**, **Richard Arlen**, **Carmen Basilio**, **Dick Gallagher**, **Tommy MacDonald**, **Ed Lopat**, **Mel Allen** (the actor), and **Ralph Branca**, among others.

The purpose of the tournament is to raise funds for the Rochester Press Radio Club's charities.

Tickets at \$5 each (\$2 for students), are on sale from area Rotary and Lions Club members, branches of Lincoln First Banks, Eddie's Chop House, The Carriage Stop, The Red Lion, and Kelly's East.

The pitch is to come out and rub elbows with the stars in order to spread some sunshine into the lives of a lot of needy kids in the Rochester area.

You even get a dollar off Kodak color film if you bring your camera.

Football Preview

DeSales . . . 'a Great Bunch'

By JOHN DOSER

DeSales of Geneva head football coach Harry Furman is a volunteer dollar-a-year coach; so is his entire coaching staff.

The Saints practice at night because the coaching staff works during the day.

They're small in numbers, and injuries hurt in more ways than the obvious.

"But," says Furman, "these are a tremendous bunch of kids who love to play football and the school cooperates with us in every way."

Furman's reference to the school means Sister Agnes Catherine, principal, and Tom Lavin, assistant principal.

Furman's endeavors for the 1974 season were shaken to the depths two weeks ago when 16-year old junior tackle Chris Tandle died early Saturday morning, the day of the season's opener against Dundee.

Chris' death, due to natural causes, Furman said, left his teammates in a state of shock, but the youngsters voted to play the game anyway in Chris' memory: DeSales won, 30-24.

"We had a very, very poor practice the day Chris was buried," Furman explained. It was obviously difficult to have the gridders keep their minds on football.

Ironically, Chris had missed some practices prior to the opener with a slight ankle injury, according to Furman. He was expected to play Saturday afternoon against Dundee.

DeSales lost All-Wayne County end Dan Hennessey via graduation from last year's team which finished 4-3-2 for fifth place in the Wayne Finger Lakes League's Western Division.

Furman, who took over the DeSales coaching reins five years ago, ran up a 1-7 season in his debut, but won the division title the following year with a 7-1 record.

DeSales finished second three year ago with a 6-2 mark and two years ago the Saints were 5-2-1.

"We're small every year," Furman said, "but we've never been lower in the league than third place in the past four years."

Here are the faces DeSales fans will see this season: quarterback Gary Ania, 5-6, 145 pound senior; guard Jim Cardinale, 5-5, 175 pound senior; tackle Ed Edgington, 5-10, 180 pound senior; center Dick Eddy, 5-11, 153 pound senior; end Mark Fragnoli, 5-10, 165 pound senior; halfback Don Graham, 5-9, 155 pound senior; tackle Kevin Lyncy, 5-6, 224 pound senior; end Dan Murphy, 6-0, 160 pound senior; halfback Matty O'Hanlon, 5-9, 165 pound senior; guard John Deraldo, 5-8, 155 pound junior; tackle Bob Landschoot, 6-0, 178 pound junior; and quarterback Lou Quethera, 5-8, 143 pound junior.

DeSales, which practices every night on the City of Geneva baseball field, pays for the lights it uses, and shares other expenses with Geneva High for use of the latter's facilities for games.

"Our relations with Geneva High and the townspeople are very good," Furman said. "We have no problems."



MATTIE O'HANLON



MARK FRAGNOLI

Notre Dame . . . High Hopes

By JOHN DOSER

Notre Dame of Elmira, the southern-most point on the Rochester Catholic Diocese's high school map, is prepared for possibly one of the best football seasons ever, according to Irish head football coach Mike Johnson.

Johnson, a 1964 graduate of ND who went on to star as a quarterback and safety at Alfred University, played his schoolboy ball under Nick Teta, now head coach at Rochester's Aquinas Institute.

ND is a member of the Sullivan Trail League which includes Catholic, public and Pennsylvania schools. The Irish compete in the Bi-State Division because of the presence of Sayre, Pa., High, in addition to Waverly, Edison of Elmira, and Hornell.

Last year ND finished 5-3-1 in the division behind champion Waverly. The Irish defeated Bishop Luden of Syracuse, 21-7, in the 1974 season opener.

When Johnson took over head coaching duties four year ago, Notre Dame had not won in 18 games. Johnson's debut was promptly recorded as an 0-8 season, running the losing streak to 26 in a row.

Johnson's second year at the helm ran the streak to 29 before Notre Dame beat Corning West, 13-0, on Oct 2, 1972, a date which for obvious reasons has become firmly imbedded in Johnson's memory.

Johnson, who is a guidance counselor at ND, said the Irish are now drawing better kids out for football since the sport is no longer a loser.

The Irish also compete in a very balanced league, Johnson,



Halfback Ed McGarrell receives a lateral in practice.

said, and "you have to be up for every game."

Photos by Bruce Genut

The Irish carry 35 players on their roster and this season Johnson has 18 returning lettermen, mostly seniors, despite the loss by graduation of five All League performers, including halfback A. J. Nassar who won the Ernie Davis memorial Award as the outstanding grigger of the Twin Tiers. The award is sponsored by the Elmira Star Gazette.

Returning lettermen include quarterback Dan Thomas, 5-6, 155 pound senior; defensive back Dan Frailey, 5-11, 170 pound senior; defensive end Ed Drake, 6-0, 180 pound senior; tackle Joe McCarthy, 5-11, 175 pound senior; middle guard Mike Bober, 5-8, 155 pound senior; guard Pat Birmingham, 5-8, 160 pound senior; tight end Dan Ramich, 5-10, 170 pound junior; guard Kevin Seaman, 5-7, 165 pound junior; center Fran Kamas, 5-10, 165 pound senior; halfback Al Baccile, 5-10, 165 pound senior; halfback Ed McGarrell, 5-10, 170 pound senior; safety Rich Long, 6-0, 160 pound junior; tackle Dick



KEVIN SEAMAN

Craft, 6-2, 220 pound junior; halfback Jim Sowers, 5-9, 160 pound senior, tackle Mike Burns, 5-11, 195 pound senior; tackle Jim Dunlavy, 5-10, 190 pound junior; and tackle Bob Osborn, 5-10, 165 pound senior