

Sports

Shraluka's Slants

By Bob Shraluka

What's Ahead For NEIC?

The Northeastern Indiana Conference has had a long — and proud — history in its many years of existence. But what lies ahead for the NEIC? Rumors circulating of late tend to lead one to believe that in another year, or two, or three, there may no longer be a Northeastern Indiana Conference. And, suffering the most would be Decatur and Bluffton.

The conference now numbers 10 members, Decatur, Bluffton, Kendallville, Auburn, Garrett, Elmhurst, Angola, Columbia City, New Haven and Concordia. Elmhurst announced last year that the 64-65 season would be their last one in the NEIC. The word is that New Haven may leave after this year, or the following one. We would guess that once Elmhurst and New Haven are gone, Concordia will be quick to follow.

With those new high schools beginning in Fort Wayne, and one or two years from varsity competition in athletics, the Fort Wayne schools are making plans to have their own conference, including all the city teams. This would include New Haven (which has an enrollment that is higher now than many of the Fort Wayne city schools), and, of course, Elmhurst and Concordia.

We have also heard that some of the NEIC schools to the north are thinking of forming a new conference for teams of that area. Decatur and Bluffton are the only schools in the NEIC south of Fort Wayne, and if just two or three of those five in the north join in forming a new conference, it would spell the end of the NEIC.

Decatur and the Parlor City of Wells county are more or less "isolated" from the rest of the conference. Should several or all of those five northern NEIC schools (Angola, Auburn, Garrett, Columbia City, and Kendallville) pull out of the conference, it could make scheduling, especially in football, quite difficult for Decatur and Bluffton. Quite difficult, at least, to schedule the type of opposition those two schools now play in football and basketball.

The first three mentioned schools are definitely on the way out. Maybe the idea up north will never materialize, and the NEIC will remain with seven teams. The league might add a few new members then (Berne is reportedly trying to get in), and continue for many more years. We hope so, for the NEIC has been a strong conference for many years, and has produced many fine athletes!

If the league does stay together in the years ahead, we would definitely like to see something done about the football scheduling. As it stands now, a team need play only five conference games to qualify for the title in football, which is all New Haven and Columbia City plays. Decatur, Kendallville and Angola play eight each, the others, six or seven each. When you get a strong club like New Haven playing just five, its rough on the rest. They are the only unbeaten, untied team of the 10 now, and meet just Angola and Kendallville (both of whom are winless) and Elmhurst and Concordia the rest of the way. If they win those four, it isn't hard to figure who will win the title. Five of five figures out at a perfect 1,000 percentage, and always beats 7-1.

Jackets Seek To Get Attack Going Against Portland Panthers Tonight

Decatur's Yellow Jackets will be out to make good on pre-season predictions of a potent offense, and seeking to return to the victory column, when they host the Panthers of Portland at Worthman Field tonight.

Kickoff time is 8 o'clock tonight and another large crowd is expected to be on hand for the

Jackets' final home appearance until October 21. Following tonight, the Jackets will begin a three-game series of road trips. General admission tickets will be on sale at the northwest gate for tonight's game, which is the lone non-conference game of the season for the Decatur eleven. Portland and Decatur have one

thing in common. Both were beaten for the first time this season last Friday, after each had won their first two games. The Panthers dropped a 13-6 decision to a big Hagerstown outfit last week.

The Jackets have spent many hours of practice sessions this week trying to get their tremendous offensive potential rolling. Despite the fact that the entire backfield is back from last year's team that averaged nearly 21 points per contest, the Jackets have been able to muster only 20 total points in their first three games this year.

As of tonight, they rank ninth in the NEIC in scoring. Only Angola has scored less, as the Hornets have been blanked in all three starts thus far. With the exception of a 60-yard pass-run play, Dave Anspaugh to Max Elliott, at Auburn, and a one-yard plunge against Garrett by Bill Blythe, the offensive unit hasn't crossed opposing goal lines.

The Jackets have scored only three TD's all year, and one was Elliott's 50-yard scoring gallop with a recovered fumble against Garrett.

Portland, on the other hand, has been a high-scoring club, although their opposition hasn't been nearly as strong as that which Decatur has been facing. The Panthers whipped Royerton by a 19-14 score in their opener and romped to a 27-7 victory over Berne, before dropping that 13-6 decision to Hagerstown.

Their slender, 134-pound half-back Junior Bryan, a tremendous open field runner, has scored five touchdowns already this year, and will lead the Panther offensive attack tonight.

Mainly a rushing team in their first two games, Portland put on a good passing show against Hagerstown and can be expected to throw plenty tonight. Coach Glen Bryant's eleven completed 11 of 18 heaves last Friday, good for a total of 138 yards. Their rushing attack suffered, however, as they garnered just 10 yards rushing in that game.

Decatur will have a slight size advantage, at least as the offensive lines go. The Jackets' offensive starters will average 178 pounds apiece, while Portland's will average 173. Portland's biggest player is 222-pound Bob Whitacre.

The Jackets will have a decided weight advantage in the backfield, as Portland's is "light," but fast.

Good Success

Decatur has had good success with recent Portland teams, winning twice and tying once in the past three contests. The Jackets recorded a 27-0 win last season and a 25-14 victory in 1962, and the two clubs battled to a 13-13 tie in 1961.

Portland, however, has a 5-4 advantage in the last 10 games played between the two clubs, with the one tie. From 1957 through 1960, the Panthers registered four straight wins, by scores of 22-7, 26-13, 19-0 and 7-0 respectively. The Jackets posted a 15-0 victory in 1956, while Portland copped the

1955 game, by a 19-6 margin. The Jackets won a 7-6 decision in 1964. The Decatur squad is in good shape physically, as everyone came out of the New Haven game without any serious injuries. Parents of the players will be honored in pre-game ceremonies by the Booster Club.



FAST ACTION SUNDAY—Fast action, such as that shown above, will be seen at the Decatur Speedway Karting Association's track Sunday, when the big Decatur Invitational Championships will be held. Drivers shown above, left to right, are Keith Raupley, Floyd McBride, Kay Doster, Neil Keller, Buck Rancher and Bruce Schnepf. McBride, Keller and Schnepf are all local drivers.

(Photo by MacLean)

Big Race Day At Kart Track Sunday

All local drivers and many from the surrounding area will be on hand Sunday as the Decatur Invitational Championships will be held at the Decatur Speedway Karting Association's track Sunday afternoon.

Time trials will begin at 1 p.m., with races to start at 2:30. All local drivers will be competing and area drivers such as Larry Wilkin, the 1963 Junior Grand National Champion, and John Klotz, of stock car fame, are expected to be on hand.

The local karting track's big race day Sunday has been publicized throughout the state, and the Association anticipates some 80 karts will be on hand to provide plenty of competitive racing. Races will be run in the following eight classes: Junior; Hobby Stock; 6.1 Stock, light and heavy; 6.1 Modified, light and heavy; 8.2 "B" Limited; and Duals "C", open.

Trophies Awarded
Trophies and merchandise awards will be presented to approximately 60 of the finishers, with gate prizes being drawn for by the spectators attending. Gate prizes have been donated by local merchants.

The local track, located five

miles south on U. S. 27 and one-half mile west, is a one-quarter mile paved track, 20 feet wide with the longest chute measuring 300 feet in length. Six of the turns are flat and one is banked.

The average time for the track is 19 seconds, with some of the faster karts running in the low 18-second bracket, which means speeds up to 65 MPH for the faster karts on the straightaways.

The kart engine is a precision racing engine, derived from the common chain saw engine. Some of these engines will run constantly at RPM's of 14,000 or better, usually burning a methanol fuel.

Last Sunday's results were as follows: Junior — Larry Wilkin, Hurlton; Allen Pasteur, Payne, O. Brad McBride, Hobby — Jim Eiting, Decatur, Ben Brown,

Rockford, O. A Modified — Neil Keller, Decatur; Red Sink, Fort Wayne; Bill Bartkus, Fort Wayne. A Stock — Dale Doby, Fort Wayne; Alan Bogner, Decatur; Larry Myers, Decatur. B Limited — Neil Keller, Decatur; Bruce Schnepf, Decatur; Keith Randy, Fort Wayne.

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Suveges, Knych In State PGA Finals

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Defending champ Ed Knych of Ft. Benjamin Harrison and John Suveges of Fort Wayne met in a 36-hole test over the Country Club of Indianapolis course today for the \$600 top money in the Indiana PGA golf championship.

Aussies Favored As Cup Battle Begins

CLEVELAND, Ohio (UPI) — Fred Stolle and Roy Emerson of Australia were favored over American aces Chuck McKinley and Dennis Ralston today in the opening singles matches of the Davis Cup challenge round.

GAS-TOONS

By Bob Gay



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Phils Hesitate, Cause Big Scramble In N.L.

By FRED DOWN
UPI Sports Writer

The Philadelphia Phillies may not be lost because they hesitated but they sure have created a free-for-all.

First it was the Cincinnati Reds who barged back into the National League pennant race and now it's the St. Louis Cardinals who have moved back into a position which must be reckoned with. Things were getting pretty sticky for the Phillies 24 hours ago but today they know the meaning of the old refrain that "three's a crowd."

That's because it's getting mighty crowded up around first place in the NL with both the Reds and the Cardinals pressing in behind the Phillies and creating all sorts of mathematical combinations that could "rob"

the Phillies of their first flag since 1950.

The Phillies had an opportunity to restore their lead to four games when they played the Milwaukee Braves Thursday night while the Reds were idle. But the Phillies blew a 5-3 decision to the Milwaukee Braves.

Reds Close Gap

That enabled the Reds to move up within three games of the Phillies while they sat around their hotel rooms and also provided the Cardinals with the chance to cut their first-place deficit to only 3½ games by sweeping a doubleheader from the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-2 and 4-0.

And now all at once the two fast-flying pursuers are counting their blessings—the chance to get at the front-runners face to face before the season is over. The Reds have two games left to play with the Phillies and the Cardinals have three. If nothing else, this means the Phillies can't back in. They've got to beat their closest pursuers or blow the flag.

Two triples by Joe Torre—the first in the second inning and the second in the eighth—drove in three of the runs that created a 5-0 Milwaukee lead and negated a desperation three-run Philadelphia rally in the last of the eighth. The losing pitcher was Jim Bunning, the veteran who so often had been the Phillies' "stopper" this season. Wade Blasingame went 7 1/3 innings to pick up his seventh win of the season.

Sets Club Record

Bob Gibson scattered nine hits and struck out 11 to raise his season total to a club record of 232 for the Cardinals in the first game and Ray Sadecki came back in the nightcap with a five-hitter and 10 strikeouts to raise his record to 19-10. Curt Flood had five hits and Lou Brock and Mike Shannon homered to lead the Cardinals' offense during the doubleheader.

Ron Santo's ninth-inning sacrifice fly climaxed a two-run rally and gave the Chicago Cubs a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the only other game played in the majors. Rookie Paul Jaeger, who shut out the Dodgers for the last two innings, received credit for the victory while Bob Miller suffered his seventh loss against seven wins.

New Haven Sitting In NEIC's Driver's Seat

The New Haven Bulldogs, who took a giant stride in defense of the 1963 Northeastern Indiana Conference football title with a 25-0 victory over Decatur last week, rest atop the standings entering tonight's card as the only unbeaten and untied eleven in the conference.

The Bulldogs opened their NEIC slate with that victory last week, and now have only four conference contests remaining to be played.

Two other teams in the league are unbeaten, but have at least one tie. Elmhurst, which didn't win a game all last year, battled to a 19-19 tie with Concordia last Friday, after two victories to start the campaign.

Concordia has now played a pair of conference contests—and tied both, with Elmhurst and Angola.

Other Games

All 10 conference teams were in action last Friday in league games. In addition to the Decatur-New Haven and Concordia-Elmhurst games, Bluffton nipped Columbia City, 6-2, for its second victory, while Auburn blanked Angola, 21-0, for the Devils' second win. Garrett registered its first win, after a pair of defeats, by romping to a 26-6 victory over Kendallville.

Decatur and Auburn are the only teams not playing conference affairs tonight. The Yellow man Field in their only non-con-

Jackets host Portland at Worthman game of the season, and Auburn entertains Hicksville, O.

New Haven goes for its second win at Angola against a Hornet eleven that hasn't scored in three games this season. Bluffton entertains Garrett and Elmhurst will be favored when the Trojans host Columbia City. Kendallville, which has given up 71 points in three games thus far, is invaded by Concordia.

SUM Winless
While New Haven is the only team without a loss or tie in league play, four have yet to win a game. Concordia, as mentioned above, has tied in its two starts, while Columbia City lost its only NEIC game. Angola is winless, with one tie, after three games, while Kendallville has dropped both its starts in the conference.

How They Stand
As the teams enter another big card tonight, here are the NEIC standings with the overall records, and the total points scored and points allowed in all games for each team.

NEIC ALL TP OPP			
New Haven	1-0-0	1-0-1	38 11
Elmhurst	2-0-1	2-0-1	51 33
Concordia	0-0-2	0-1-2	26 52
DECATUR	2-1-0	2-1-0	20 31
Bluffton	2-1-0	2-1-0	32 33
Auburn	2-1-0	2-1-0	54 7
Garrett	1-2-0	1-2-0	40 38
Col. City	0-1-0	0-3-0	28 54
Angola	0-2-1	0-2-1	0 34
Kendallville	0-2-0	0-3-0	27 71

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