

CROSSFIRE

By LOU CHIESI

Denver Booming Sports City

DENVER, Colo. — If the new American Football League succeeds in becoming the nation's second strongest professional football circuit, Denver undoubtedly will prove one of the league's strongest franchises.

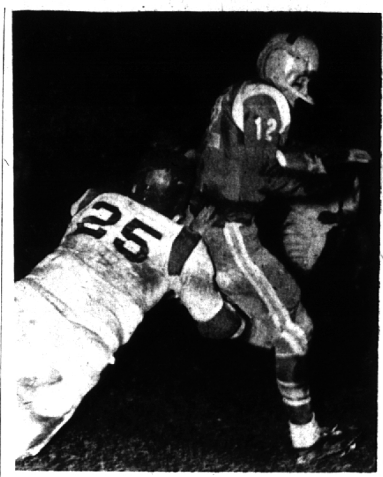
If the AFL fails, and its best cities are included in an expanded National Football League, Denver most certainly will be one of the cities retained.

Denver appears to be accepting its new pro club, the Broncos, with steadily growing enthusiasm.

NEWSPAPERS, television stations, and radio outlets now accord the Broncos a considerable attention—as much, if not more, than the three major collegiate football powers in the state, the University of Colorado, Air Force Academy, and the University of Denver.

Spectators who only a few months ago prophesied doom for the Broncos in an arena which was very heavily to college play now are somewhat optimistic.

It is interesting to note that Bloomfield's first backfield left "to carry the ball" in the second half of Friday's injury bound upset by Milford.



Bloomfield's first backfield left "to carry the ball" in the second half of Friday's injury bound upset by Milford. (Photo by Evran Peskin.)

Bloomfield Upset, 13-7, By Last Place Redskins

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AND TO TOP OF the absence of the three first string backs, the Broncos fumbled seven times.

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FEW CITIES in the country are so saturated with football. Not only are Colorado, Denver and the Air Force Academy at high school level, but major schedules, but Colorado State, Colorado Aergies and Colorado Mines have their follow-up.

THE STRENGTHENING of the Big Eight Conference has raised college football status here to new highs. No longer is the conference described as Oklahoma and the Seven Dwarfs.

THE RISE OF Missouri, Kansas and Colorado has leveled play. Big Eight Conference teams now are respectable records in inter-sectional competition.

DAN DEVINE, the former Michigan State backfield coach, has elevated Missouri into a national power, and another Michigan State backfield coach, Mickey Grandelius, has Colorado on the path to championships.

GRANDELIUS is assembling a powerhouse; few schools in the nation can boast more promising young talent than Buffalo State. Grandelius and his aggressive, youthful staff, which includes John Polonchek and Buck Nyström, also former MSU aides, in two years has won the respect and strong support of Colorado followers.

Even Kansas State, a football doormat for years, anticipates better things. Don Swann, still another former Michigan State assistant, reportedly has assembled a strong team.

THE COACHES who started under Biggie Munn and Duffy Daugherty obviously learned how to recruit, among many other accomplishments. They are helping the Big Eight gain national respect and prestige.

THE PROBABLE success of the Denver Broncos and the boost in the eight states makes Denver's booming importance as a sports center.

THE CITY'S beginning to talk about a major league baseball franchise; it has supported Class AAA baseball comparatively well. Denver would be a natural for a major league hockey franchise, and a reasonably sound bet for professional basketball.

THE CITY eventually must profit from the swing west of sports balance of power. It's ready.

INCIDENTALLY, most close observers of the Denver Bears baseball team doubt that the Detroit Tiger farm club will sign the Tigers with a flood of excellent young talent next year.

THE DENVER club won the American Association pennant last year, but several key players (See CROSSFIRE, 7-E)

The Birmingham Eccentric

PAGE 8 OCTOBER 20, 1960

Falcons Dump Haston, 31-7, for First Victory

Groves' gridders may have had a slow start on the season, but once the Falcons decided Haston discovered Friday in the third quarter.

After three league losses, the Falcons picked up the school's first varsity victory and added a little life to the other side of their record.

Art Schuler was the man of the day, exploding with three third quarter touchdowns and running for 219 yards to give his teammates a comfortable lead.

WITH THE FALCONS trailing 7-0, Schuler raced 51 yards around end on the second play of the last half to capture the lead, 12-7.

After an exchange of possession he was right back at it again with a 42-yard pass followed by a 7-yard dash up the middle for another tally, 18-7.

The 16-year old youth still wasn't finished as he traveled 74 yards to pay dirt with excellent blocking on the first play of the Falcons' next series, 24-7.

AN INTERCEPTION by Bill Falls on his own 26-yard line set off Schuler's third score.

The Falcons took a share in the last half scoring with a fourth quarter 6-yard slant off tackle. Groves blocked a punt on the Redskins 35.

At the end of the first quarter, Southfield faced a Farmington punt on its own 20-yard line.

The Falcons recovered the ball, but the Blue Jays staged a resolute goal line stand and recovered a Farmington fumble on the Redskins 10.

RESUMING offensive play, Southfield couldn't get anything going and the half ended scoreless.

Cleveland Stuns Cranes, 19-0, With Aerial Game

The Cranbrook Cranes were white-washed 19-0 in their first league gridiron contest by the Preppers of Cleveland.

Cranbrook out-rushed the Preppers 150 yards to 90, but the Cleveland aerial attack made the difference as they passed for two TD's and a total of 64 yards.

ON THE NEXT play quarterback Bob Young threw a 35-yard pitch to use the missed point to their advantage in the last quarter.

BOTH SQUADS spent the fourth to be the Broncos' toughest games.

Potential Pro Pitcher Hurls Tips at Groves

Within the modern, spacious confines of Groves high, a former \$20,000 Boston Red Sox "bonus baby" teaches youngsters the fundamentals of sports.

He is 23-year-old Dick Radatz, of Berkeley, a physical education major at Michigan State, who expects to graduate in January. In the meantime, he is a student-teacher at Groves.

Radatz is a 6' 5", 230-pound prospect, big-league pitcher with a semi-ivy league haircut, deep brown eyes, and a muscular build.

THIS SUMMER he pitched in the Red Sox's class AAA farm club, in Minneapolis, winning 12 and losing only four.

CLUBS on hurling against major league batters at the Red Sox spring training camp in February.

In his senior year at Michigan State, he was named to the first string All State baseball team.

Frank Howard is with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Ken Hunt is with the New York Yankees.

EARLIER in Bill's budding career, he was on the Baltimore Orioles spring training camp in Thomasville, Georgia. After playing there several months, he declined their offer to sign a contract and resolved to go to college.

"I think a boy just out of high school (See PITCHER, 7-E)

Maple Sprinters Run Away With Eighth League Crown

Repeating their performances of past years, Seaholm's runners once again ran away with the Eastern Michigan League Cross Country championship for the eighth consecutive season.

And its decisive victory sets a speedy fast pace for all contenders in the coming state meet which the Maples tucked under their belts.

Second place M. Clemens' 61 points and Hazel Park's 69 for third, were even threaten Seaholm's position with 96 points last Thursday.

OF THE 42 SPRINTERS from seven schools competing, Maples Ted Egner, Jack McPhee and Mike Greer captured 2nd, 4th and 5th spots. Bill Heydon, Scotty Purvis, Murray Stewart and Doug Roberts reinforced the Maple strength with 10th, 16th, 17th and 22nd places.

THE JUNIOR VARSITY runners have yet to lose a dual meet to an Eastern Michigan league school.

Coach Kermit Ambrose and his speedsters are looking forward to the state meet at Ypsilanti Nov. 11 when "I plan to turn the horses loose and let them go all out," said Ambrose.

Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Dearborn finished behind Seaholm in last year's state contest, but Ambrose pointed out that Edsel Ford has beaten all three squads this year and he looks for some stiff competition from them.

EARLIER LAST WEEK the Maples added another link to their chain of victories by downing Pontiac Central 20-0.

Jack McPhee's 10:35, and Mike Greer's 10:41 took 1st and 2nd with Scotty Purvis' 11:16 adding the extra power. Ambrose is coming on Purvis as his fifth runner, and the lanky sprinter is improving with each meet.

THE RESERVES also defeated Pontiac Central 16-47 with the Maples clinching 8 of the first 9 slots. Tom Stone is still out of the lineup with an injured foot, but Ambrose is hoping he'll be in shape for the regional and state meets.

ONLY THE ALBION Invitational Saturday and the Regional Meet at Farmington Oct. 29 stand between the Maples and state competition.

Seaholm's Best Not Enough Against Ferndale's Passing

Seaholm played its best game of the season Friday against Ferndale, but it wasn't good enough as the undefeated, Eastern Michigan League leading Eagles won by the slim margin of 12-7.

The Maples are the only team attempt at the same play, Jacobson's cocked arm was knocked as he released the pitch and halfback Jay Burgess intercepted on the 35 that TD flooded the contest with anything.

The equally matched squads were both fired up for the big encounter and staged an excellent defensive battle with heads up ball all the way.

WITH THE EAGLES struggling for an insurance TD and the Maples fighting for the game leading score through three quarters of play, the skirmish was wide open for anything.

Offensively it was halfback Steve Jacobson's lightning end around source pitted against quarterback Mike Brown's powerful passing.

ALTHOUGH THE SCORING was confined to the first half, both ends of the game offered equal excitement with Seaholm fans generating expectation of a last minute Maple score.

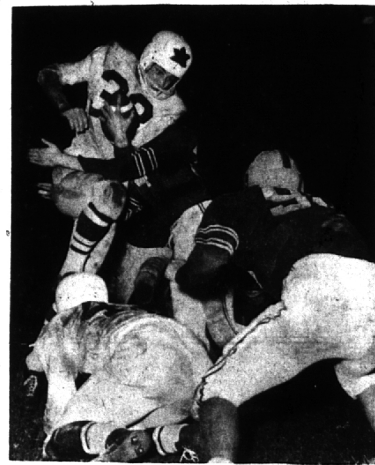
The last quarter drizzle made little difference to the fans as they merely shrugged their shoulders and turned up their collars.

Even with only six seconds remaining and the Eagles in possession on their own 25, the fans crowded the muddy sidelines, hoping for a Ferndale fumble.

BUT BROWN TOOK the final snap from center and zig-zagged backwards toward his own goal to kick the clock.

Seaholm's last chance to score with one minute left in the game, Jacobson returned a Ferndale pass 16 yards to the Eagles' 46. Two plays later the Maples were threatening with first and 10 on the Eagles' 20.

Jacobson's long pass to diving Tom Sweeney at the goal line whizzed out of reach. On another



Anything for a Yard

It didn't make much difference to Seaholm halfback Steve Jacobson (38) whether he went around, through or over Ferndale's defense as long as he picked up the yardage. The Maples didn't pick up quite enough, however, as the Eagles nipped Seaholm, 12-7.

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