



**JOHN BLACKSTOCK (Bad Axe)
JIM OOLEY (Traverse City)
RON THOMPSON (DePorres)
DENNIS ZBOZEN (Warren Woods)**

NAMED MHSFCA "COACHES OF THE YEAR"

At the November 30 meeting of the MHSFCA Board of Directors, the "Coaches of the Year" were selected for Classes A, B, C, and D. Every fall each head football coach in the state is sent a ballot where he may vote for four coaches in the region and class. Four coaches are selected from each class and in each of the four regions. The Board of Directors then select a "State Coach of the Year" from the sixteen "Regional Coaches". The four selected this year are:

Class A — Jim Ooley (Traverse City)
Jim is one of the most respected coaches in the state of Michigan and his won-lost record of 87-22-3 speaks for itself. He has been at Traverse City for the last 25 years serving the last 14 years as head coach. His team have won league championships in 67, 68, 69, 72, 75, 77, and 78, and most of the time his teams are ranked in the Top 10 in the Class A ratings. Jim has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin at Stout

where he was also an outstanding football player. He has been named a Regional Coach of the Year six times and Jim is respected throughout the state for the outstanding job that he has done with the football program at Traverse City High School.

Class B — Dennis Zbozen (Warren Woods). For the last two years Warren Woods has dominated the Warren Conference and much of this is due to the fine coaching of Dennis Zbozen. Last year his team was 10-1 and this past fall Warren Woods was 12-0 winning the "State Championship" in Class B. His overall record as a head coach is 28-11 and he has been named a Regional Coach for the last two years. Dennis graduated from Hillsdale College and has his Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Class C — John Blackstock (Bad Axe). John Blackstock has just retired as the head football coach at Bad Axe High School and his 1978 team posted a 11-1 record losing in the state finals.

His overall record for 12 years as a head coach is a very creditable 73-35-1. John graduated from Central Michigan with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree and he has been the Secretary-Treasurer for the MHSFCA for the last three years. His 1978 football team was ranked number two in the AP, UPI, Detroit News, and Detroit Free Press.

Class D — Ron Thompson (DePorres)
DePorres has always been noted as a basketball power and through the efforts of Ron Thompson they are now known as a football power. Most of their opponents throughout the year have been Class A and B opponents and they posted an outstanding 11-1 record this year winning the Class D Championship. Coach Thompson has an overall 25-12-1 record in the 4 years that he has been the head coach and he has coached teams to league championship and one state title in the eight years that he has coached.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Would you like to be a Director for the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association and represent your area in this fine organization? Here is your chance. Our annual election will be held at the Seventh

Annual Football Clinic for *odd* numbered regions. The regions parallel the MEA regions and if you are interested in being a candidate, send a letter to: John Blackstock, Bad Axe High School, Bad Axe, MI 48413, by

February 15, 1979. We have a great Association and it is due to the fact that we have great leadership. If you feel that you have something to offer, get your name in to Mr. Blackstock.

Officers

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Region 13

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John Nelson, Muskegon Mona Shores

Region 14

Art Gillispie, Alpena

Jim Watters, Alpena

Region 15

Jim Ooley, Traverse City

Tom Stobie, Frankfort

Region 16

Randy Neelis, Les Cheneaux

Jim Hilgendorf, Rapid River

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

There will be three new honorary members inducted at the annual football clinic at Warren Woods High School on Saturday, Feb. 24, 1979. They are:

CLAUDE H. STEVENS...former coach and presently a teacher at Owen Gage High School for the last 28 years. His varsity basketball and baseball teams have won over 300 games.

WALT BAZYLEWICZ...present Athletic Director for the Detroit Catholic League. Walt was an outstanding high school football coach for over a 25 year period at Redford St. Mary's, Detroit St. Thomas, and Notre Dame High School.

PETE SARK...sportscaster with WFDF in Flint and sport's editor of Grand Blanc Newspaper for the last 25 years. Has been voted "outstanding sport's broadcaster" 3 times. Strong supporter of high school football playoffs and high school athletics in general.

MHSFCA Board of Directors' Meetings

The following is a listing of dates for the MHSFCA Board of Directors' Meetings:

Friday, February 23, 1979

Clinic meeting at Warren Woods High School — 4 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 26-28, 1979 Kellogg's Coach of the Year Clinic

at Kalamazoo

Feb. 23-24, 1979 Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Clinic at

Warren Woods High School

Newsletter

The Newsletter is the official publication of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association with the expressed aim of keeping the membership informed.

Editor

Don Lessner

Riverview High School

Riverview, Michigan 48192

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1978 Football Playoff Scores

Class A	Traverse City	20
	North Farmington	14
Class B	Warren Woods	13
	G.R. Catholic	
	Central (Overtime)	12
Class C	G.R. Forest Hills	18
	Bad Axe	16
Class D	Detroit DePorres	38
	Crystal Falls	14

Duffy's Clinic

Mark January 26-28 on your calendar to attend the Kalamazoo Kellogg Coach of the Year Clinic. The MHSFCA co-sponsors the clinic and we receive \$2.50 for our Association for each coach that attends. The clinic always features outstanding speakers and is well worth attending.

Scholarship Notice

Every head football coach in the state has been sent a questionnaire at the start of the school year with information about the MHSFCA scholarship. Please take the time to fill out these questionnaires for your top scholar-athletes. Give your players a chance to win the \$300 presented by our Association.

Jr. College Football Update

The MHSFCA is encouraging the Jr. Colleges in the state to sponsor football. Our Association will attend a meeting this spring to present the reasons why we feel there should be more junior college football in the state and how it would help our players who cannot play major college football.

Open Football Dates in 1979

If you have any open dates on the varsity level for the fall of '79, contact Dave Driscoll at Jackson Parkside High School in Jackson, MI 49203. Coach Driscoll is compiling a list of all teams with open dates for next fall.

Public Relations Director

At the November 30 meeting of the MHSFCA Jim Crowley of Jackson Lumen Christe resigned as Publicity Director for the MHSFCA. He was replaced by John Herrington of Livonia Franklin High School. We thank Jim for all of his fine contributions to our Association and we wish John the very best in his new position.

BEER BUST on FRIDAY NIGHT after the clinic

COMMENTS FROM WINNING COACHES

The four coaches whose teams won state championships in the fall of 1978 were contacted and asked to give their response to winning a state title. Coaches Ooley and Zbozen responded to the request.

Coach Jim Ooley — Traverse City, Class A State Champs

"Our total experience with the 1978 playoffs was fabulous. After losing our fourth game 15-12 to Muskegon Catholic there was not much talk of the playoffs. We played each game at a time and wow... a state championship.

The thrill of being in the playoffs was only topped by being able to win 3 games against the best teams in the state. I only wish that each team and coach could feel the joy of the playoffs. When our team entered the dome to wait our turn, our fans and band stood up and cheered... it was enough to run a chill up my spine.

When we got home that evening there was a 1000 car motorcade that followed us into town for the last 20 miles. It was about 11:00 p.m. and people were lined up along our route. One elderly lady was in a wheel chair waving a sparkler. There was a pep

rally in the gym at midnight with over 3000 people.

Like I said, it really was an unbelievable experience. Thank God for giving us the opportunity."

Coach Dennis Zbozen — Warren Woods, Class B State Champs

"Winning the state championship is really a dream. Many of us at Warren Woods still can't believe it. I think it's something you think about but having it actually happen is unbelievable. When the season began there was talk amongst the players about getting to the Silverdome. I really feel that the players had it in their minds that they could go all the way. As the season progressed their confidence also grew. Being in the playoffs in 1977 also helped us this year.

The support of the administrators, faculty, and student body was fantastic. The excitement of the 1977 playoffs grew as the season progressed. As we entered the 1978 playoffs our school enthusiasm was at an all time high. The school was decorated from the floor to the ceiling. The cheerleaders were the leaders of keeping the student

body at a frenzied pitch. The week of the finals the whole community was 10 feet off the ground. All the billboards in town wished us well. We had signs all along I-75 toward the Silverdome encouraging us. Then the big house... 20,000 people, bands playing, people cheering, and us on the field. What excitement!

Since our overtime victory was over a very good Grand Rapids team we have not touched ground yet. Our community and school are still reaping the benefits of the championship. The local newspaper honored our team at a county banquet as did the booster club. Our state representatives took the team out to lunch. Letters and well wishes are still coming in congratulating the team. Our local government is planning to dub the high school street as Warren Woods Boulevard. Signs will be posted at the city limits honoring our state championship. I think we wake up every morning wondering if the dream is over.

It is truly a great experience having participated in a state championship game... having been fortunate to win is the ultimate. I only wish all of those involved in high school athletics could experience the same thrill as we have!"

Michigan High School Football Coaches Association

APPLICATION FORM

Send to: Curt Evans
Homer High School
Homer, MI 49245

CHECK ONE:

- ☐ MHSFCA ONLY — \$2.00
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MHSFCA-MHSCA — \$5.00

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MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHES ASSN.

John Blackstock, Secretary-Treasurer
Bad Axe High School
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
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