

**FOOTBALL**

# Harbaugh starting his pro career from the ground up

Michigan's Jim Harbaugh laid a perfect pass into the hands of Brigham Young's Lakei Heimuli, who dropped it.

"Now which guy went to the passing school?" asked Bears backfield coach Johnny Roland.

Heimuli caught many more than he dropped at the Bears' mini-camp last week. But Harbaugh is the one who turned a stereotype into stereophonic raves.

Michigan's reputation is in danger of getting off the ground. Air Bo.

"I think Harbaugh has a great presence," said coach Mike Ditka. "He exudes confidence. He really feels there's nothing he can't do. He feels like he will have command of the offense in a short period of time, and I think it's good."

Harbaugh was decisive, quick and accurate with his passes. When he rolled out or scrambled, teammates taunted him: "This ain't Michigan."

But his passing was every bit as good as that of quarterbacks Steve Fuller, Mike Tomczak and Doug Flutie.

"If nothing else, he's proved he's a No. 1 draft choice," said one Bear executive.

"His arm is stronger than what my first information told me," said offensive coordinator Ed Hughes. "He picked up receivers and read defenses. The kid has a lot going for him. I was impressed."

A good first impression was Harbaugh's intention. He hasn't always been good at first impressions. When he was 10, he was thrown out of a baseball game in front of his dad, Jack, a football coach who is now an assistant at Pitt.

"The odds of you making it are about 100 to 1," his dad told him. "Anytime you get in trouble, you fold up your tent."

At Michigan, Harbaugh was late for his first meeting.

"You'll never play a down at Michigan," Bo Schemmeler told him.



**Don Pierson**  
On pro football

In Chicago, Ditka was not overjoyed on draft day when he had to be talked into Harbaugh over a defensive player. But if Ditka wasn't convinced before the mini-camp, he is now.

"My arm strength is there to throw every route I'm asked to throw," Harbaugh said. "I always thought I had a pretty strong arm. I got that knock because people didn't see me play outside of the Midwest."

"They think of Michigan and Bo and three yards and a cloud of dust. They don't expect us to have a passing game, so they knock it."

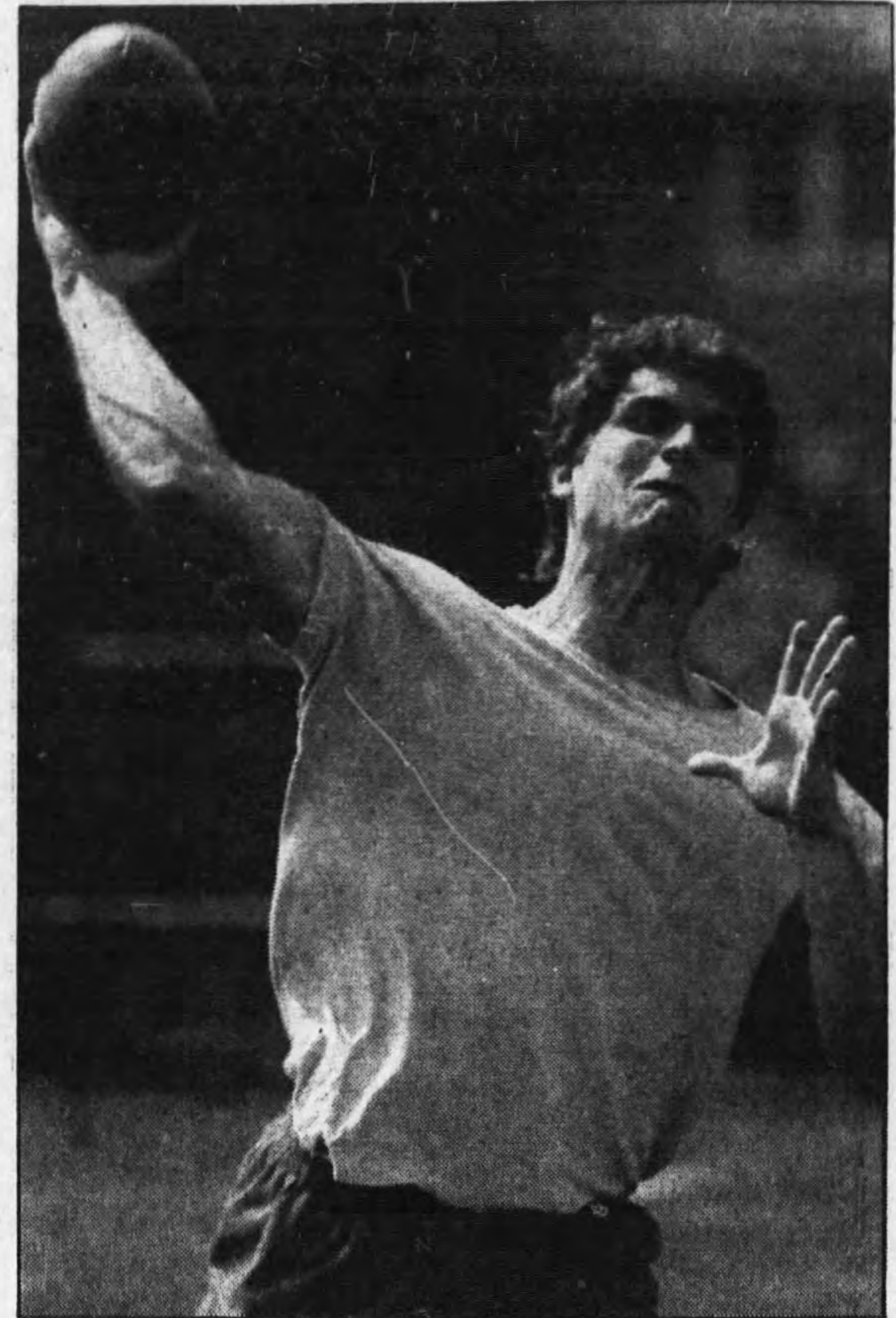
"They say we can run but we can't throw and that's why we lose. We threw for more yards than we rushed for for the first time in history."

"Then they say: 'Harbaugh doesn't have a strong arm. They just dump the ball off.' We averaged 10 yards per pass attempt. Nobody else in the country did that. We were throwing downfield a lot."

Harbaugh averaged 10.07 yards per pass attempt last season. Miami's Vinny Testaverde averaged 9.26. Harbaugh has a hard time figuring out stereotypes. Testaverde threw for 2,557 yards in 276 attempts. Harbaugh threw for 2,557 yards in only 254 attempts.

Oregon's Chris Miller, another first-round quarterback, threw for 2,503 yards in 356 attempts. Colorado State's Kelly Stouffer threw for the most yards of the four first-rounders, 2,604, on the most attempts, 374.

Yet somehow, Harbaugh got grouped below the first echelon and the Bears got criticized for making a second- or third-round choice into a first-rounder.



Tribune photo by Bob Langer  
No. 1 draft pick Jim Harbaugh impressed some people with his performance at the Bears' mini-camp, including coach Mike Ditka.

## NU gets a pleasant surprise

By Bill Jaus

Going into Saturday's Purple-White football game at Dyche Stadium, Ron Burton was listed on the Northwestern depth chart as the Wildcats No. 1 fullback and their No. 2 tailback behind Stanley Davenport.

This, of course, meant that the Wildcats were suffering from a serious shortage of running backs.

And that's the reason that coach Francis Peay, as well as the majority of the sun-drenched crowd of 5,459, was encouraged Saturday by the performance of Byron Sanders and Greg Schultz.

Sanders, an often-injured 5-foot-10-inch, 190-pound transfer from Hutchinson Community College in Kansas, showed spurts of speed and bursts of power while rushing for 114 yards on 25 carries for the White team, which won 17-14.

Schultz, a 190-pounder from Crystal Lake South who will be a junior next fall, gained 77 yards on 24 carries at tailback for the Purple team.

Sanders and Schultz each scored a touchdown in the 40-minute game that was so dominated by the offenses that neither team had to punt.

"The punter got a rest," noted linebacker Tom Kaukialo, whose 16 tackles earned him defensive player of the game honors. "But when you divide up a team evenly,

like we did, the offense always gets a little edge."

Sanders was voted the top offensive player, an uplifting honor for the Wichita native who played virtually no football in the past three seasons.

"I didn't play at Hutchinson last year because of a knee injury," said Sanders. "My first year there, I gained maybe 200 yards. I was the second-string tailback."

"I didn't play as a high school senior, either," said Sanders. "I had an ankle injury then."

As a high school junior, however, Sanders was one of the best backs in Kansas. Big Eight scouts flocked to his door.

"I heard from Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State," Sanders said. "But when I couldn't play as a senior, I had to go to junior college. I understand this. This is the way it is."

Bruce Cowdrey was an assistant at Oklahoma State when Sanders was a hotshot prep back in Wichita. He remembered Sanders when he joined Peay's staff this year and recruited him to beef up the thin corps of running backs.

Other backs have looked swift or strong in previous Northwestern spring games only to regress into mediocrity in the fall. This, explains some Wildcat fans, is simply because the backs are running

against their own defenders.

Sanders, however, "is for real," Peay said. His speed and power promise to provide excellent tailback help for Davenport.

"We've not had a lot of depth at running backs," said Peay. "And to rebuild a position like that takes several years of planning. That's why the play today of Sanders and Schultz is encouraging."

"Sanders has a raw talent. Obviously, he has a great deal to learn. His play today was more a culmination of steady climbing through spring practice."

Davenport, Burton and regular quarterback Mike Greenfield played limited roles for the two offenses, which rolled up 624 yards. Peay and his staff wanted to watch the younger guys under fire.

"It doesn't matter which tailback starts or makes the first carry," said Peay. "If you have two outstanding tailbacks, you distribute the load equally."

Peay turned the game over to his assistants, who coached players picked in a draft. Greenfield played only the first series and hurled a 46-yard bomb to George Jones on a flea flicker to open the game with a razzle-dazzle play that delighted the old grads in attendance.

"I don't know who put in the play," said an amused Peay. "It's not, ah, our regular offense."

## Texas information subpoenaed in Walters case

From Chicago Tribune wires

AUSTIN, Tex.—A federal grand jury investigating a New York sports agent has subpoenaed scholarship information on three former University of Texas football players, according to the university's athletic director.

Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said an FBI agent handed him a subpoena last week asking for information on former Longhorn running back Edwin Simmons, wide receiver Everett Gay and tight end William Harris.

The Chicago-based grand jury is investigating reports that **Norby Walters**, a New York sports agent, and his associate, **Lloyd Bloom**, threatened players and rival agents to keep players from deserting him, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The newspaper said the subpoenas involve scholarship payment records of the three former players.

Several of the athletes represented by Walters have broken their contracts with the sports agent

and reported that they were threatened by him, the newspaper said.

Dodds said the grand jury has also subpoenaed the three Longhorns and the FBI has interviewed them although none is represented by Walters.

Dodds said the records were to be turned over Saturday and involve scholarships and any other payments university might have given the athletes. Dodds said the FBI has not asked any athletic department official to testify.

FROM PAGE 1

## Lincicome

Continued from page 1

stantly decreasing.

"Most vulnerable to the midlife crisis are those who have made a fetish of physical fitness. These Peter Pans of sport refuse to accept the inevitable and try unsuccessfully

to retain their youthful vigor by even greater sporting endeavors.

"Quite a few sportsmen have died on the squash courts or the athletic field in a vain attempt to keep up with younger men."

I wonder if Phil Niekro knows about this?

Things have gotten so bad, I learned, that homes are being broken up by sports. The family

that plays together, it seems, does not stay together.

"Women's more recent obsession with sport has imposed further strain on the institution of marriage," the report says. "So much male and female libido are now invested in sport, there is little left to sustain some marriages."

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"I wasn't worried about it," Harbaugh said. "I knew I was strong enough to play in the NFL. It wasn't like I was apprehensive coming here, saying, 'Geez, I wonder if Willie Gault is going to outrun every deep ball I throw?'"

"It's more like I wanted to come in and show everybody I do have the arm. People say things and it irritates you a little bit, but you just take it with a grain of salt."

So did Gault outrun Harbaugh's arm?

"He's quick," Harbaugh said with a laugh. "Something different has to click when he's out there because he's so fast. You really have to let go of it early, throw as far as you can and let him go get it."

Ditka ended the mini-camp on a long bomb from Harbaugh to Glen Kozlowski, who is no Gault but was nevertheless behind a cornerback in the end zone.

"I've been impressed with all the receivers. The game is just a lot quicker. Everybody can run and has size," Harbaugh said. That's what was most impressive about Harbaugh. He fit in immediately. He did not throw behind receivers. He avoided interceptions.

"I threw just two interceptions," Harbaugh said. "I hate throwing interceptions. I wanted to make it through the mini-camp without throwing any."

Linebacker Jim Morrissey stole one with a great jump.

"I didn't think he could make that play," Harbaugh said.

That's because Morrissey is from Michigan State. Stereotypes die hard.

"You learn," said Harbaugh.

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