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Divine Child's lost football year recalled

Alumnus writes history of its Class C 1960 championship season

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DEARBORN ? The sports history of one local high school is the focus of a new book written by a lifelong resident.

Dwayne Kremko helped Divine Child High School make history in 1960 when its football team won the city and state Class C championship without a senior class.

That type of football success was the first of its kind ? a varsity football team lacking any senior players. However, it went undocumented in the school's archives because, without a graduating class, there was no yearbook.

It was that very issue that motivated Kremko to write "Falcons: The Lost Year," based on the school's first football season.

"I started off writing the book as sports history," Kremko said. "But as I was talking to students, parents and classmates, I learned that the same values that I received in 1960 are the same set of values that are being taught at the school today."

Kremko spent four years writing and publishing the book. Although the book focuses on the football team's successful first season, it provides insight into what it takes to overcome odds, and how to use lessons learned at an early age throughout an entire lifetime.

"It's a motivational, inspirational, historical and hysterical book. The book is a metaphor for life.," Kremko said.

Divine Child High School first opened its doors in 1958. Two years later, its freshmen, sophomores, and junior students wanted to form a football team. In 1960, the school's first football team with no senior class was accepted to play in the parochial league.

Kremko, who played as a defensive end, said it was naturally assumed that the team would lose all its games. "We said it was up to us, if we put our best foot forward we could do it. It's like a Rocky theme, because we were the underdog."

The Rev. Herman Kucyk, pastor of the high school and associate pastor during the first football season, said

the book serves as a great way to document the school's history.

"The book is true to form. I think it can be another movie like 'Remember the Titans,' " said Kucyk, who wrote the book's foreword. "They were a great bunch of kids. They were pace setters for our school because they began the tradition and to this day sports play a good part of our school, but academics comes first."

Kremko said he is amazed at the fact that the school has more teachers today than students in his graduating class in 1962. That year, Kremko graduated with 68 of his classmates, today's senior class averages about 210 and the instructional staff consists of more than 70 teachers, he said.

The book, which came out in July, can be purchased at Border's Bookstore and the Little Professor Book Store. Kremko is using the book to help his alma mater continue to thrive and most recently he gave \$400 from book sales to the school's alumni association.

"Actually, writing the book was very fulfilling and rewarding," he said. "It enables me to give back to this wonderful institution that gave me values and direction in my life. The school is doing a wonderful job in preparing students for life."

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