

Thurston Squeezes Past Royals To Win Mack Title

Thurston ... the grand champs of the Greater Livonia Connie Mack baseball league.

The Redford Townshipers squeezed out the honor by downing Crowe's Associates Royals (Livonia Bentley), 6-5, in a special playoff held at Thurston.

The Royals had swept unbeaten (two ties) through the

regular season in capturing the National Division Crown.

THURSTON WON in the rival American League with just one blemish to mar its record.

A roaring first inning which produced four runs helped Thurston to down the Royals who were down to only nine players because school open-

ation had called several performers at the same hour.

John Munson, the ace Thurston pitcher, not only hurled the victory, but it was his grand-slam homer in the first inning that provided both himself and his mates a big start.

In the first inning John King walked and moved along when

Gordon Ezzes was safe on a fielder's choice. A walk to Scott Stacey loaded the bases and brought up Munson.

One swing of the bat—and the Thurston team had four runs and Munson had himself a 4-0 lead.

Each team scored one run in the second inning. Thurston's

came when Steve Kreager walked, stole second, took third on a passed ball and came in on an error.

In the Royals, Bill Rice singled and the bases were loaded when Bob Walden and Tom Worniak walked. Then Paul Severyn was hit by a pitch, forcing in Bill Rice.

In the third inning, the Roy-

als again scored without the benefit of a hit. Walks to Dave Rice and Gary Battle and a pitch that hit Jim Erwin loaded the sacks. Bill Rice luffed a sacrifice fly to send in the run.

THURSTON CASHED what proved the winning run in the fourth inning when Steve

Kreager walked, went to second on a sacrifice, to third on an error and scored on John King's sacrifice fly.

The Royals scored in the fourth when losing pitcher Tom Cook walked, reached third on two errors and scored on Gary Battle's single.

Then in the fifth hits by Bill Rice, Walden and Severyn

finished the scoring for the Royals, but it still left the team one short.

Bill Rice had two hits for the Royals while Munson with his grand slam provided the big belt for the winners.

Munson allowed five hits and fanned four, but was wilder than at any time this season.



THAT MAKES IT OFFICIAL: Mayor Edward McNamara, of Livonia, and Waverline Raceway President Frederick Van Lennep (right) join in a ribbon cutting ceremony that officially started harness racing over the big mile track at the Detroit Race Course. Opening night attracted 9,732 fans who loved every bit of the new racing.

Jr. Teams In Tourney Play

It'll be tournament time for the area's younger baseball players this week.

Livonia's Ford Field will host the 16-team Class F Inter Cities competition for boys 12 years old and under.

Meantime, there'll be a Class E Inter Cities tournament for boys 12-14 at Ecorse and Michigan Recreation Park Association meets at Wayne for Class F teams and at Plymouth for Class E teams.

PLYMOUTH, LIVONIA and

Westland will be among the teams competing in the Inter Cities tourney for Class F teams.

Eight games are scheduled Monday with four Tuesday, the semifinals Wednesday and the title game on Thursday.

In the "E" Inter Cities, Livonia Griffin has drawn Trenton at Ecorse High Monday at 10 a.m. while Westland plays Wyandotte at 11 a.m. at Ecorse Municipal Field.

The Class F MRPA action starts Monday with Westland facing Ann Arbor at noon, to be followed at 2 p.m. by Livonia against Dearborn Heights.

The Livonia-Heights winner then meets the combined Plymouth-Northville entry on Tuesday with the final scheduled for Aug. 13. The champ goes on to the state semifinals at Jackson Aug. 18.

In the MRPA "E" play at Plymouth, the opener Monday

puts the Livonia All Stars against Dearborn Heights at the high school at 5 p.m.

Then on Tuesday, the winner faces the Plymouth-Northville combined entry for the title.

The Plymouth district champ qualifies to play at Wayne in the regionals Thursday. From there the winner advances to the state meet at Jackson on Aug. 18.

The first round Class F Inter

Cities pairings Monday at Livonia:

MONDAY

All games at Ford Field.

Class F: East Detroit vs. Plymouth, 1 p.m.; Wyandotte vs. Dearborn Heights, 1 p.m.; St. Clair Shores vs. Trenton, 3:30 p.m.

Class E: Westland vs. Allen Park, 1 p.m.; Livonia vs. Sterling Heights, 3:30 p.m.

Wayne vs. Northville, 3:30 p.m.



OUT AT FIRST is Bob Walden, of Crowe Royals, on a pickoff play in the game against Thurston. First baseman Gordie Ezzes takes the throw and makes the tag as

Bob makes a grab for the bag. (Observer photo by Harry Mauths)

Area Little Leaguers Near Crown

Special to the Observer

ST. CLAIR, Mich. — South Farmington stood on the verge of winning the state Little League baseball title Saturday.

Only Alpena or Muskegon, who contested here Friday, stood in the Farmington's path after a last-inning rally enabled South Farmington to nip Harper Woods, 2-1, in the tourney's first game Thursday.

Things didn't look too well for South Farmington when the six and final inning rolled around.

The team was trailing, 1-0, after Paul Cherry singled following an error in the third inning, to drive in a Harper Woods run.

But with one out, South Farmington rose to the occasion.

Jay Cummings singled and then Dave Duelo walked.

Up came James Vogl who responded with a double that knocked home Cummings to tie the score.

Next up was John Carney. He, too, lashed a double and Duelo streaked across with the winning run.

Duelo, who had won five games in earlier tourney games to get South Farmington to the state meet, allowed only two hits this time in going the distance. He struck out eight and walked one.

It marked the 22nd victory of the season for the South Farmington 12-year-olds.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

EDDIE MILLER, who owns the most familiar voice in Michigan thoroughbred racing, was back at his familiar post of track announcer when the Hazel Park Race Track opened its 22nd season Monday.

Miller called the first race at Hazel Park in September, 1949.

Except for a couple of seasons as announcer and racing secretary at Wheeling Downs, West Virginia, Miller has been calling 'em at Hazel Park ever since.

He began his race track career with a Daily Racing Form crew about half a century ago. He called his first race 46 years ago. Since that time, he estimates that he has described almost 45,000 races.

Stall Supervisor Dayton Martin, Public Safety Director Val Walker, Track Superintendent Henry Groth and starter Bryan Steele are others of the Old Guard who are back at their familiar posts.

Youthful Mill Ethimenes made

his debut as racing secretary. Walt Ogil, who has held several responsible positions at the track, is the new assistant racing secretary. Bert Thompson is back as director of racing. Frank Stepek, of course, continues as general manager. Jimus Pierce, one of the most respected men in the sport has joined Lewis Walter and William Kelly in the steward's stand. Jerry Hissman, Noble Hayes Jr. and Joseph Morris are the new placing judges.

Husky Ivan Siggis, who has been driving at Northville since he was in his teens, won the championship with a winning percentage of .409. Ivan had 14 wins in 12 seconds and eight thirds in his 57 starts.

Tom Merriman, of Wayne, who handles the powerful Robert Kalish, of Southfield, stable, wound up as a runner-up with a .380 percentage and Jim McGarry, of Northville, with a third with .376.

Wally McIlmurray, the long, lean veteran from Novi, was the winningest reinman with 56 victories in 163 starts. Wally ranked fifth in the ratings with a .361 percentage. He had 36 firsts, 28 seconds and 22 thirds for one of his best campaigns.

Warlohak's Victory Wins Tourney Spot

For winner and loser there was a prize when Redford Township's Warlohak triumphed the Plymouth Elks, 5-3, in the Class D Greater Livonia football playoffs.

Redford by winning, earned a spot in the Michigan Recreation Park Association District tournament which starts Tuesday at Livonia's Henry Ford Field.

The Townshipers go against Dearborn Elms at 8:30 p.m. after Ann Arbor plays Wayne at 8.

It's a double-elimination tournament with play resuming for winners and losers on Thursday. The champ qualifies for state meet at Jackson, starting on Aug. 18.

As for the Plymouth Elks, they've qualified to play in the Inter-Cities Class D tournament at Dearborn.

Kirk Taylor will help lead off a rallying Plymouth team and enabled Redford to sweep

the playoff with three consecutive victories.

Ferguson took over when the Elks scored three times to crawl within a run of a tie in the fourth inning.

From then on Redford averted further difficulties.

REDFORD BROKE loose in a hurry by scoring three times in the first inning.

A walk to R. J. LeRoux started things. Then after Tom Wysocki singled and Kirk Taylor doubled for one run, Dave Martin was safe on an error—a costly misplay for the Elks—since two runs scored on the play.

Another error enabled Taylor to score again in the third. He had singled and gone to second on a wild pitch. Then came the miscue which allowed him to rush across the plate.

But back came Plymouth in the fourth. Jim Erimmer walked and Lou Hietig, Pete Genger and Mark Bidigare all followed with singles. Genger's blow drove in one run, while two came across on Bidigare's hit.

Then in the last of the fourth, Redford tallied again when Dennis Blazok walked, stole second, went to third on an infield out and scored on a perfect squeeze bunt by Wysocki.

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Baseball Brochure Wins Award

Michigan State's 1970 baseball brochure for press, radio and TV has won two top national prizes.

The 34-page printed press release facts book was named to receive the John H. Kobs prize from the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association for the best university division baseball book of the year.

It also won a first from the College Sports Information Directors of America in a category for winter and spring sports brochures.

The Kobs award is named for Michigan State's late head baseball coach and was put into circulation a year ago. The Spartans' book won last spring and again this time to take an early monopoly on honors.

Royals Win Redford Faces Uphill Opener In Regional

It was a happy start for Crowe Associates Royals of Livonia (Bentley High's varsity) in the regional Connie Mack tournament at Livonia's Ford Field.

The Royals, who didn't lose a game during the regular season, came up with a 6-1 win over the Detroit Legion East.

A four-run third inning was the deciding factor in the game.

After a 1-0 lead in the first, Jim Erwin cleared them with a triple. Erwin then scored when Bill Rice singled.

Rice had two singles while Erwin also had a single. Mike Perino lashed out a pair of hits. Dave Rice pitched for the Royals and gave up four hits, one of them a homer.

The tourney will wind up Saturday or Sunday at Ford Field.

Thurston, the other Livonia area Mack champ is competing in a regional at Flint this weekend.

If Redford wins, a third and deciding game will be played probably Wednesday night.

It will be strictly uphill now for Redford's Wonderland Lanes in the greater Livonia Class 'A' Playoffs.

At the same time the Winderland pals will have to come alive if there is to be any more glory for the township team.

Beaten, 3-2, by Detroit ITM in the opening game of the 'A' playoffs Thursday, Winderland is faced with winning two in a row in order to remain in contention for a possible trip to Battle Creek for the state American Baseball Congress Tournament later in the month.

It will be do or die Monday night for Redford when the Lanes meets ITM again at 7 p.m. at Ford Field in Livonia.

If Redford wins, a third and deciding game will be played

probably Wednesday night.

REDFORD, which swept through the second round regular season, losing only once in 12 games, managed only two two-hits off Gordon Reek who pitched five innings and Jay Kuhnle who worked the final four for ITM.

Gary Schaefer doubled for Redford in the fourth inning and

MSU's Duffy Heads Into 17th Year

EAST LANSING

Michigan State football coach Duffy Daugherty adds still another year this fall to his longevity lead among all Spartan head men.

It'll be Duffy's 17th year in command of Spartan fortunes. Next longest tenure was the 13 years served by Charlie Bachman (1933-46). Only one other head coach, Chester Brewer, had years totaling double figures with 10 (1903-10, 1917, 1917, 1919).

Next with seven years is current State athletic director Biggie Mann (1947-53), followed by Ralph Young (1923-27) and John Macklin (1911-1915) with five each.

John Hornyak tripped in the eighth for the only two Redford hits that evening.

Hornyak's blast came after Reggie Barringer and Leland Björke had walked in the eighth and accounted for the two Redford runs.

Hornyak then tried to steal home and was thrown out to kill the last Redford hope.

Losing pitcher Bob Smoots gave up six hits and struck out 12. He gave up a lead-off triple the first inning to Jim Newman, who then scored on a wild pitch.

Garden City Colts Lose To Birmingham

Tim Fremuth's pitching simply was too leashed for Garden City Thursday as Birmingham downed Garden City, 6-0, in the first round of the Colt League baseball regional playoffs at Municipal Field in Garden City.

He allowed only two hits and received all the runs he needed when Jim Hughes homered with a mate aboard.

In another first-round game, M. Pleasant squeaked past Chicago Suburban Q-13, thanks to a three-run circuit smash by Larry Pohl.

The two winners were to meet Friday while the losers fought to stay in contention.

Play continues Saturday and

is slated to wind up Sunday.

The winning team will advance to the national sectional tournament.

Colt League baseball is for boys 16 years and under.

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