

# Four Straight Puts Giants on Top

The test of a great team is its ability to come through in a clutch.

Manager Lucky Birkett's Livonia Giants proved themselves real Giants last week in the Greater Livonia-Detroit Free Press baseball league.

At a stake was a trip for the July 4 weekend to Zanesville for the leader of the Wednesday. Going into the week, the Redford Township entry held a commanding edge over the Giants.

What's more the Giants were faced with the problem of making up two games because of previous ties and rainouts.

The showdown began on Sunday for the Giants. They had to go against the Redford Township.

In an exciting game as been played on Livonia's Ford Field,

the Giants came through a 2-1 winner. Then on successive days, the Giants bested North Dearborn, 9-5; South Dearborn in a 1-0 thriller, and Wayne Civic Center, 5-1.

Redford had only one other tilt in the league and won, 6-4.

The net result was that the Giants with one fewer loss after the June 30 competition was awarded the holiday trip.

Here's a rundown, game-by-game on what happened last week in the Greater Livonia-Free Press League:

**Giants 2, Redford 1**  
Pete Hembrugh of the Giants pitched a gem. The Giants managed only five hits to eight by the losers.

Both the Giants came in the first inning when Perry Forer doubled and Jim Rose singled. Mike Stachurski also singled, Roger

Prayer was safe on an error and Hembrugh delivered what proved the winning hit.

A double by Tom Tanner and single by Tim Fisher produced the Redford run in the second.

Redford had all kinds of chances, but Hembrugh was terrific in the clutches. In particular, Hembrugh got into a real jam in the seventh (and final) inning when Terry Rothwell walked, Dave Woloch doubled and Rich Harlow walked with one out to jam the bases.

Hembrugh then proceeded to get the next two batters on strikes.

**Giants 9, No. Dearborn 5**  
Bob Morgan hurled for the victors and lost a shutout in the final inning when the defense caved in behind him. Morgan permitted only one hit in the

entire game and sent down 11 batters.

A run uprising in the sixth inning gave the Giants their winning cushion.

Lucky Birkett opened matters with a walk. Paul Hartage also drew a pass. Then after Perry Forer doubled, Rose and Stachurski walked. Paul Hartage doubled, Rose and Stachurski walked. Paul Deeder doubled and Bob Morgan singled.

**Giants 5, Dearborn 4**  
Another thriller from start to finish. It took the Giants eight innings (one extra frame) to gain the victory as four homers and a triple and walked home when Rose socked a single up the middle.

Bill Montroy hurled the route for the victors and kept South Dearborn in check.

**Giants 5, Wayne 1**  
After only resting 72 hours, Hembrugh was back on the mound for the Giants.

This time he came through with a two-hitter and received some heavy stickwork from the Redford batsmen.

For two for two and Morgan who unloaded a vicious triple.

**Redford 6, N. Dearborn 4**  
Tom Tanner's seven-hit pitching, along with 15 strikeouts, highlighted the conquest for Redford, its sixth against only two losses in the Free Press circuit.

A four-run uprising in the

third inning enabled Redford to carry off the banner.

Woloch began the rally with a walk. Harlow and Bahwert then singled and Rothwell walked with one run across in the first.

Forer jammed, Ken Backs stroled to the plate and socked a long triple to clean the sack and the Redford batsmen had enough runs to emerge on top.

Harlow added a double to his single to lead the Redford attack.

## Observer Sports News

Page 4-B Wednesday, July 7, 1953



CHECKING ENTRIES IN THE \$13,100 Michigan Pacing Derby Wednesday night at Northville Downs is 21-year-old Jerry Mijal, of Plymouth, and his star pacer Philip Brian. Mijal shelled out \$15,000 for the four-year-old during the winter and believes Philip can win the Derby just as he did the rich Motor City Pace at Wolverine Raceway a month ago. The Derby attracted a field of 11 for the mile test.

8,239 Wager \$401,221

### Betting Mark Falls At Northville Downs

In the series which started in 1945 when the late Foy Funder-Continued on Next Sports Page

## Farmington Rolls On In Legion Baseball Play

The Farmington Express continues to roll in the American Legion's Eighteenth District baseball league.

The big Farmington bats knocked over Troy, 10-4, and 7-0, in a doubleheader and then proved too good for Waterford, 7-0, before Manager Wayne Johnson's team moved against Southfield in a showdown for first place.

The sweep against Troy and win over Waterford opened the Farmington record to 9-2 for the campaign.

Chuck Viane's pitching and hitting paced the opener against Troy.

The slick hurler from North Farmington high school posted his third Legion win without a loss as he held Troy to six hits.

In addition, Viane clubbed out two hits on his own and scored a pair of runs.

Farmington boomed ahead in the third inning when Dick Johnson homered after Miles Kearney had singled. In the fourth inning, Farmington notched three runs when Bill Oldershaw walked, Wayne Johnson tripled and Viane, Mike Perry and Barry Aneda singled.

Came the sixth inning and Farmington checked in with five more runs. Oldershaw began matters with a walk. Wayne Johnson and Viane singled. Perry Doubled, Aneda singled and Jim Johnson singled.

Rick Krumm scattered three hits and struck out eight in blanking Troy in the second half of the twin-bill.

The long ball again shot Farmington off to a lead. This time it was Tim Marzoli's homer following singles by Bill Bowles and Wayne Johnson which made it 3-0 for Farmington in the second inning.

Singles by Mifch and Bowles added another run in the third. In the fourth Marzoli walked, Krumm and Aneda singled to up the Farmington lead to 6-0.

The final run scored on hits by Oldershaw, Bowles and



SLUGGER IN ACTION: Carl Mitch of Farmington's American Legion team took another hit. He started the week with a 5-8 average.

Wayne Johnson. It was Johnson's fourth hit of the afternoon. Aneda also collected four safeties in the game.

Steve Page struck out eight of the first nine men he faced and finished with 11 whiffs more singles in the sixth inning against Waterford. Viane finished up and fanned four more batters.

Tom Webster scored the first Farmington run when he singled, moved up second on a wild pitch and counted on Perry's hit.

In the fourth, Oldershaw tripled, Webster singled and Johnson walked along with a sacrifice fly and a passed ball for three more runs.

Hits by Oldershaw and Bowles added a marker in the fifth. In the seventh, Wayne Johnson homered, Kearney tripled and Bowles delivered a sacrifice fly.

Last week's also proved a productive loss for the Farmington Legion team.

## OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maslin

PUTTING ONE WORD AFTER ANOTHER — This was a fine story our good friend, Hal Schram, ran in the Detroit Free Press the other day about the sandlot baseball program in Livonia.

Hal very well might have added that Kids' baseball also is prospering in all of the communities bordering on Livonia — meaning in Redford Township, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Nankin.

In each area, there is baseball for all age levels — from eight-year-olds on up.

If there is a tragedy, baseball speaking, it's found in the fact that teams are overcrowded in the Little League bracket, but when you get up to teen-agers and adults, the totals fade away to almost nothing.

Where does the blame belong for the scarcity of adult teams?

Point a finger at television . . . at automobiles . . . at rock and roll. There just seem to be too many diversions for our older boys and girls in the modern era in which we live.

Orchids to Willie Horton, who in his rookie season has won himself a starting spot on the American League All Stars who go against the National Leaguers in Minneapolis next Tuesday.

When Horton started his hitting trend in early May, the "know-it-alls" said that he would cool off and fade out the next time he had to face the various clubs.

True his hitting has slipped . . . but he's still socking the ball at better than a .300 clip and ranks among the leaders in the most important department of hitting — runs batted in.

The Horton story is a great one in still another manner. Last winter his mother and father both were killed simultaneously in an auto crash.

The shocking event could have knocked out Horton. But Willie fought off the tears within.

And now he has been saluted "as the best" by those who should know better than anybody else — the players and managers in the American League.

It won't be long now and the horses will be racing at the DRC over at Middlebelt and Schoolcraft roads.

And now he has been saluted "as the best" by those who should know better than anybody else — the players and managers in the American League.

Meantime, for those wishing to watch the horse close to home, there are the trotters who go every evening but Sunday at Northville Downs.

What's happened to the summer? The Detroit Lions are getting ready to spring into training out at Cranbrook . . . and if you didn't remember . . . the all-star game comes off in Chicago some five weeks hence.

The Lions will play a couple of their pre-season games at Tiger Stadium, slipping in their activities between contests played by the Tigers.

Speaking of the Tigers, they keep fooling all the dopsters who didn't concede them a chance before the campaign began in April.

The Tigers aren't folding. They may have their problems with Sunday doubleheaders, but as long as they can win four or five times during the rest of the week, they'll stay in the thick of contention.

What you have to like about the Tigers is their bench. Charlie Dressen isn't stuck with just his starters.

He always has two or three topflighters in the dugout ready to pinch bat or help out defensively in the late innings. The addition of Orlando Pena also has bolstered the pitching department considerably.

Wouldn't it be something? . . . the world series in Detroit in October?

JUST A THOUGHT: Why not fence in Livonia's Ford Field for baseball?

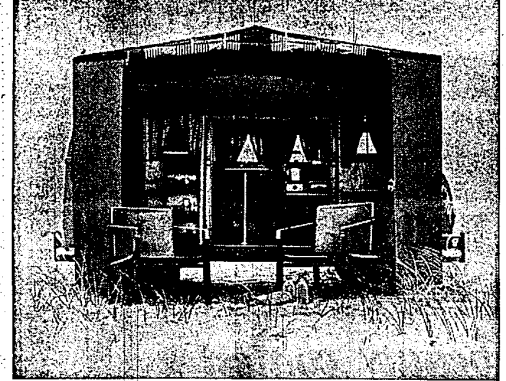
Wonder when Farmington, Redford Township and Garden City will light up their diamonds for baseball?

TODAY'S TIP: If you don't find Channel 59 on your TV set, be sure and have one for the fall.

The station will carry pro football exhibitions . . . Michigan, Michigan State and Notre Dame . . . in football and basketball . . . also all the 35 road games of the Detroit Red Wings and a flock of contests-involving the Pistons.

While you're fixing up your TV, you might make certain that you have a nice, soft chair and lots of pop. Continued on Next Sports Page

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