

By George Wiskin
Observing sports

We're officially in what's known as the vacation season.

True, there are many who scoot away to Florida or California in the winter . . . others who go in the spring and the fall.

But for most of us . . . especially when you have youngsters in school . . . the vacation period is jammed into the two-month period of July and August.

Obviously, you can't spend the entire summer away from home . . . unless you're in a very fortunate or select (\$\$\$\$) group.

But for the stay-at-homes looking for something to do during the summer — and this goes for adults and youngsters — you really don't have to wander too far from your homes.

It really makes no difference which end of Observatory you live in . . . Garden City or Farmington, Plymouth or Redford Township . . . or Livonia in between.

Each community offers a complete recreation program during the summer months, ranging from shooting horseshoes to swimming to horseback riding to golf to tennis . . . or just sitting under the lights at Ford Field and watching baseball every evening of the week.

What you do simply depends on you yourself.

IF YOU'RE ENTERPRISING, if you care to do something . . . it's waiting for you.

Just consider the one aspect of baseball, or its off-brand version of slo-pitch. For players from 7-70, there's a spot for you on some team.

The interest in baseball and slo-pitch swells each season.

"We're enjoying our best year in several," says Bob Schwartz, who runs the athletic program for the Livonia Recreation Department.

What satisfies Schwartz the most is that there are more teams (17) in the Connie Mack League and the same goes in the area's Free Press League which has six teams.

"It's healthy to see this upsurge for boys in the upper teenage category when it comes to baseball," Schwartz was saying the other evening.

"So many have been saying that the kids are getting away from baseball because of other things like cars and dances and what have you.

But when you see the various high school teams stick together during the summer, as we have in the Mack program, you see their school fans coming out to watch their friends play during the summer, you get a very warm feeling."

SWIMMING IS ANOTHER activity which knows no age limits and is readily available to all of us.

There's no community in Observerland without several pools open to youngsters and adults. In most, there are sound instructional programs to help one develop into a good swimmer.

But when it comes to swimming, there's another feature for which all of us should feel happy. Within a matter of minutes from any of our homes are beautiful lakes.

We drove away from home the other afternoon and within 15 minutes we passed six lakes . . . of different sizes.

What made us angry was the fact we had left behind our swimming trunks and we aren't lucky enough to own a boat . . . even a row boat.

BOATING, OF COURSE, is not an expensive activity. Around most lakes you'll usually spot a place where they'll rent you a small craft, with a motor, at a nominal cost.

What can be more relaxing than to move into the middle of a lake, pull out a fishing pole, cast it overboard and sit back and wait for something to happen.

You're away from the hustle and bustle of work . . . from the stop and go on the expressways and other roads . . . from the noise that the kids create around the household.

And, if you come forth with some kind of a catch, you have something to talk and rave about for weeks and years to come.

So, as we said, you can mix your vacation days up with some inexpensive doings around home.

Just look around . . . and you'll find something that should suit you.

A call to any recreation center could solve your problems in a jiffy.

SHORT SHOTS: Thoughts that come to mind as we pack for a trip to London Friday night . . . the two big series the next two weekends the Tigers have with the Baltimore Orioles . . . the big win over Detroit Friday night . . . the start of the horse show world competing at the Bloomfield Hills Hunt Club . . . the golfing greats coming to Michigan next week for the Buick Open at Grand Blanc . . . the big drag races this weekend at the Detroit Raceway . . . the horses running at Hazel Park and the trotters at Northville.

All in all, if you're the "watching type," you'll have plenty to occupy your time . . . considering that your TV will bubble with some exciting entertainment over the weekend, topped by the Tigers-Baltimore collision at Baltimore.

Meantime, London here we come!

Plymouth Star Athlete Shows Versatility

When it comes to versatile sports stars, Bruce Bauman is entitled to his share.

He was a four-sport man during his high school athletic career at Plymouth High. And a standout in everything he did, from football to Rock'n'roll, track in football to a shining light in basketball — played some baseball early as a prep team finished up by being halted as the pole vaulters on the Observer All-Area prep track team.

Bauman's baseball debut came in the seventh inning; Bauman exploded with a two-triple to wrap up the victory for the Elks.

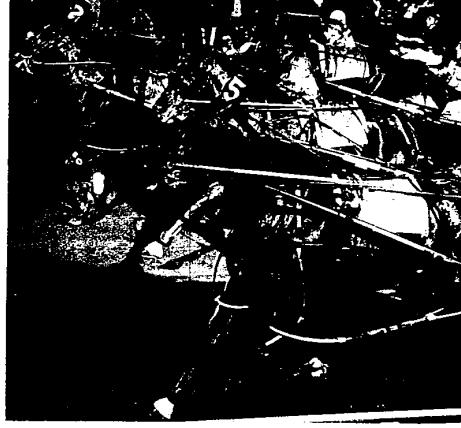
Kevin Campbell allowed four hits in pitching the victory. He yielded the only Chesley run in the fourth when the Himmelbach brothers, Tony and Joe, slapped singles before an error.

BAUMAN SOCKED a homer in the sixth inning to get the

Elks on the scoreboard after Mike Daily of Chesley had hit a scoreless ball for five frames.

Then in the seventh inning, Bauman exploded with a two-triple to wrap up the victory for the Elks.

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SEVEN FOR SEVEN. There were only seven starters in this pace at Northville Downs and all seven were on the wire at the finish. Just count the heads of drivers and the horses at the right and it all adds up to seven. Hi Lo Wayside (5), handled by Jake Foster, was the winner with Ricki Wayne (2), driven by Shelley Goudreau, second in a time of 2:12.2.

Ted Taylor's Comeback Talk Of Harness World

The comeback story of harness racing in 1969 is being written at Northville Downs by 42-year-old Ted Taylor, driver-trainer from London, O., who was hospitalized midway through the recent Wolverine Raceway meeting and missed three full weeks of competition.

It is the spectacular driving of Taylor that is pacing the "Downs" to its best year in its 25-year history, one that found the track in a financial bind.

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Mary X-rays showed internal injuries.

Doctors ordered Taylor removed to a Detroit hospital for additional examinations and special care — he was there for almost three weeks.

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Thanks to Bauman's clubbing, the Elks clipped Farmington's Chesley Industries, 5-1.

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