

By George Maslin
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 places 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 (SSS) 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 Observerland 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 horsebushes 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.

If you're simply depends on you yourself.

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

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 Schwarz, who runs the athletic program for the Livonia Recreation Department.

What satisfies Schwarz 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," Schwarz says, adding 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 sticking together during the summer, as we have in the Mack program, and 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 weekend nights the Tigers have with the Baltimore Orioles... the big auto race on the Detroit River Sunday... the elite of the horse show world competing at the Bloomfield Hills Hunt Club... the golfing greets 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!

Wet Greens

No Problem

Undaunted but delayed by inclement weather, Livonia Women's Golf League got off to a late start Friday at Waukegan's Willow Municipal Golf Course.

Honors went to: Edna Karhunen and Janita Hamel in A flight with scores of 52. In B flight, Diane Hildebrand took low gross with 51; C flight, Beverly Griffin with 70; Joanne Lane in D flight with a 75; and Eugenia Dallas in E flight with a 95.

LANDSLIDE

No Tiger pluck had ever received as much as a single vote for the Cy Young Award until 1968, when Denny McLain was the American League's unanimous winner.



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Plymouth Star Athlete Shows Versatility

When it comes to versatile sports stars, Bruce Bauman is entitled to take a bow.

He was a four-sport man during his high school athletic career at Plymouth High. And a standout in everything he did. Bauman was the Rocks' quarterback in football... a shining light in basketball... played some baseball early as a prep team member... by being called as the pole vaulter on the Observer All-Area prep track team.

He soared as high as 19 feet, 6 inches during the recent spring season, but now that school is behind, he has switched to baseball where as a member of the Plymouth Elks in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack League he's swinging a mighty bat.

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

BAUMAN SOCKED a homer in the sixth inning to get the

Elks on the scoreboard after Mike Daily of Cheley had bunted scoreless ball for five frames.

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

Kerwin Campbell allowed four hits in pitching the victory. He yielded the only Cheley run in the fourth when the Himmelsch brothers, Tony and Joe, slugged singles before an error

ruined Campbell's shutout.

Adrian Bauman's homer, Walter L. A. singled, went to second on a passed ball, stole third and scored on a passed ball.

The Elks jammed the bases in the seventh on walks to Dave Schwartz and Dennis Becker and a single by Campbell before Bauman's triple.

ONE OF the best sand pit-ching duels... a longtime marked the scoreless battle between Livonia's Phillips Service and Northville's Red. Darkness forced the teams to halt after nine innings.

Dennis F. Ober, named last week on the Observer's All-Area prep team from Farmington, matched Red's Fred Holdsworth in firing goose eggs. Holdsworth allowed three hits, two by Frank Kaspere, and fanned 16. Fisher gave up four hits and fanned nine.

Five times Northville got a runner on third, but Fisher was more than equal to the task. Livonia's Allen Fene jumped off to a four-run lead in the first inning, with two coming on Ken Ockerman's homer with a mate aboard and a guested past Holkam's from West Bloomfield, 12-1.

All added five runs in the third; put the game out of reach. Ockerman buried the first four innings and then gave way to three mates who finished up.

Hits by Hugh Shannon and Tom Malone helped in the five-run third while Scott McKenzie rap-

ped out the only two Holkam safeties of the game.

The Livonia Spartans received three - hit pitching from Clark Colton, a junior at Stevenson, in turning back Coleman-Moss from Farmington, 4-0.

The Spartans cashed one run in the first when Tim DeWitt walked and Rick Horstman and Tom Seel followed with singles. A double by Steve Kuhlman, a walk to Colton, and singles by DeWitt and Horstman produced three more Spartans' runs in the fourth.

Redford's defending league champions gained a 2-0 win over Novitz B and V as Kirk Taylor from Redford Union scattered two hits and fanned six.

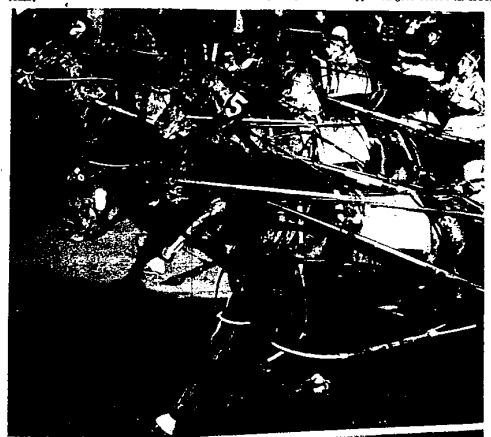
Bill Becker slugged home Bob Mumcey with Redford's first run

while singles by Randy Taylor and Randy Link and a sacrifice by Kirk Taylor produced the final Redford run. Link had two hits for the winners who evened their record at 1-1.

TOM'S SERVICE of Livonia, stocked with Churchil's Hall players, gained a 4-3 verdict over Bryant Walker (Garden City West) when Evan Smith doubled over Jim Versey with the winning run.

Tom's had scored three times earlier on a walk to Pat Welch, Versey's single, a triple by Smith and single by Ray Miller.

Bob Jares, who attended Divine Child, outslugged Steve Punnell, Pat McEligh's single knocked in two of the losers' runs.



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 2:11.2.

Ted Taylor's Comeback Talk Of Harness World

The comeback story of harness racing in 1989 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 26-year history, one that found the half-mile plant setting a single night betting record Saturday with a total handle of \$454,119.

For the record, the attendance for 1989 is a mile ahead of 1988 figures but the average nightly handle is up more than six per cent.

Also, playing a major role in the upsurge is Cashing Beauty, a five year old owned by Margaret Carpenter of Curcio, O., who has become the top player in the area.

Cashing Beauty has taken the thunder from Philip Brian, the eight year old from the Mijal stable in Westland, for two consecutive weeks. The speedy pacer won Saturday before a crowd of 7,255 in 2:02 with Philip finishing out of the money.

MEANWHILE, TAYLOR is off on the hottest winning streak of any driver in Northville annals, recording eight victories in three nights. He started with a four bagger Friday, came back with one on Saturday and then added three more Monday... that gave him a total of 25 for the meeting.

That's quite a contrast to the injured driver who was hustled off the track in an ambulance after an accident at Wolverine in which his horse rolled over him. He was treated at the St. hospital and then rushed to St.

Mary where 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.

He was fit and ready when Northville opened its 54-night season and has been at his old tricks during the first three weeks in which he piled up the 25 victories.

HE HAS BEEN the driver with the most victories at tracks of the Detroit area tracks for the past three or four years but

has yet to win a driving title which is based on a winning percentage.

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