

Rob Sievert's Two-Hitter Topples Big Boy, 9-1

Unbeaten Spartans Keep League Lead

Thanks to the arm and bat of Rob Sievert, the Stevenson High star of the spring season, Livonia Spartans held undisputed possession of first place in the Conne Mack League's National Division.

The showdown between unbeaten Western Big Boy and the undefeated Spartans didn't exactly materialize as expected—sparked by Sievert, the Spartans rolled to a 9-1 victory for their sixth straight in league play. It

was the first setback in all starts for Big Boy.

Sievert turned in a two-hitter, fanned four and drove in three runs with a homer and a triple enroute to his fourth straight conquest for the Spartans.

The Livonians clinched the victory in the fifth when they sent nine men to the plate to score four times on five hits. The big blow was the circuit clot by Sievert with one aboard. Big Boy was held scoreless in

all but the fifth when it tallied the lone run.

THE PLYMOUTH ELKS unloaded a three run outburst in the seventh to nip Phillippi Service, 4-3.

Phillippi appeared on the way to victory when it had a 3-1 edge going into the seventh. Phillippi tallied once in the third and twice in the fourth. In addition it had the bases loaded three different times and

failed to score.

The Elks took advantage of three successive singles and a walk in the seventh to score the runs. The big blow came off the bat of Walt Lee who drove in the tying and winning runs with his lone single.

Jon Coderberg became the winning pitcher when he took over in relief and fanned four of the six batters he faced. Bob Hollandsworth was the losing

hurrier.

The triumph moved the Elks into a tie with Big Boy for second place with a 4-1 record. It was the third loss for Phillippi against one victory and a tie.

McKAYS PARTYVILLE scored five times in the fifth inning and that was tough to spend Chesley Industries, 6-4. The other run came in the opening stanza.

Rob Mukka was the big gun

for the winners, starting the big rally with a single and then pitching his team to its first triumph of the season.

Mukka topped the fifth with a single. He was followed by a walk, a fairer choice, another free tic, two errors by Chesley and a two run single by Mike Milva.

Chesley tallied in the first, second, third and sixth. John Hollander, Joe Flynn and Dan McGrath each had two hits for

the losers.

The loss went to Tony Himmelsbach and was the fifth for Chesley against one victory.

B.J. RATEMAN ended his losing ways with a 7-5 win over Coleman Moss, which is still without a victory.

Jim Davies was the big noise for the winners with two singles and a double in four trips to the plate. He drove in two runs in the third when Rategan collected

three of its seven tallies. Dick McAdam drove in a run in the fifth to climax a rally that netted three scores.

Coleman Moss broke into the scoring column in the first with two runs. Scott Gentz drove in both with a double.

Coleman Moss sent across three runs in the seventh on two singles, a walk and two errors. Tom Warring received credit for the win and the defeat went to Gentz.

Split Gives Northville Free Press Championship

A bad hop that found a hot grounder bounding over the shortstop's head caused Cardinal Decorators quite a few headaches. The ball rolled into the outfield and paved the way for a run that gave Northville Reef Manufacturing a 2-1 victory and the first round championship in the Livonia Free Press League.

The Decorators needed a

sweep of the double bill to assure themselves of the title but unbeaten Northville had just enough to win and then dropped the second half of the double bill, 6-1.

The split gave Northville a 9-1 record and the Decorators had to be content with second with a 6-2 mark.

COACH LUCKY BIRKETT

had to use shortstop Dennis Trimeau on the mound in the opener and received quite a surprise when Denny buried a one-hitter, fanned eight and walked two.

As it was, Northville scored in the fourth and fifth innings, both times without a hit. Three errors, a walk and a fielder's choice netted the score in the fourth and two walks, an error

and a sacrifice fly by Jeff Taylor accounted for the winning marker in the fifth.

It was a different story in the nightcap where Dave Patih had one-hitter and walked eight. He received plenty of support from his mates who scored four runs in the fourth to ice the victory after tallying twice in the second.

REDFORD, WHICH ENDED the first round with a 5-3 mark, swept a double bill from the Nankin Interns, 4-3 and 9-2.

Redford started out with three runs in the first sparked by a three run homer by Lee Bjerke. Nankin came storming back and knotted the count in the fifth on a three run blow by Archie Lein.

That brought Dale Bjerke in from the bullpen to finish. He halted the spree and kept Nankin scoreless the remainder of the way.

Redford scored the winner in the sixth when Bill Howe was safe on an error. L. Bjerke singled and Tony Himmelsbach drove Howe in with a slow roller.

DALE BJERKE TOOK over the mound duties in the eighth and registered a 9-2 triumph after Nankin took a 1-0 lead in the first.

That deficit seemed to be the spark needed to ignite Redford which came back with three runs in the bottom half of the inning. Dan Sweeney walked to start the rally, Bill Howe sent him to second with a single and then Himmelsbach connected with a long homer to make it 3-0.

D. Bjerke added to the Nankin woes in the fifth when he contributed a home run to his team's total.



CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER Vince Witke, who takes delight in getting unusual shots of major boat races, was strapped to an overhead crane and hanging in a precarious position to get this shot of Driver Bill Murrey in Miss U.S. winning the World's Unlimited Hydroplane championship race Sunday on the Detroit River. Witke was practically on top of the boat when it zoomed to victory.

Northville Trotters Clash In \$18,550 Michigan Derby

Northville Downs, in its 16th year of operation, will present its richest stake in history Wednesday (tonight) in the 15th renewal of the historic Michigan Trotting Derby.

This year's renewal carries a purse of \$18,550—\$15,000 guaranteed by the track management and the balance coming from the nomination and starting fees. It is scheduled for a distance of one mile and is listed as the ninth race on Wednesday's program.

The Derby attracted a field of 10 including a powerful two-horse entry from the Gene Reigle stable in Greenville, O. The starters come from the east, Midwest and Canada and include many of the better middle class trotters now in competition.

While Executive Manager John Carlo was telling of plans for the Derby, Northville Downs has learned Saturday night that Philip Brian, the eight-year-old pacer from the Nijpal Stable in Westland, isn't washed up as many have believed.

PHILIP, GENERALLY considered the fastest and best of Michigan's aged pacers, finished up the track in starts on two previous Saturdays in \$5,000 preferred events.

In each he paced to the front from the starting gate and led to the three-quarter pole where he willed under the pressure of the fast clockings and faded out of contention.

He came back with a vengeance Saturday in surprising fashion since the feature was

scheduled for a mile and a sixteenth with a purse of \$5,000.

Few thought Philip would last and as a result he went postward as the 5-2 choice. But he raced like anything but a third choice, taking the lead on the first turn and holding it all the way under clever handling by Driver Jim Merriman Jr.

Merriman didn't turn Philip loose as he did in previous starts. He turned the first quarter in :30.4 and the half in :1:02.3, which was a tipoff that Philip would have plenty left for the second half mile.

Robbie North, the Canadian star, moved up to challenge at the three-quarter pole but was parked outside and never did catch up. Sweep Up

another Canadian speedster, tried to catch the leader in the stretch but didn't get the job done either.

As it was, Philip swept under the wire with a half length on Robbie North with Sweep Up another head back in the third spot. The time of 2:10.2 was only three-fifths of a second off the record of 2:09.4 set by H. D. Hanover in 1952.

TURNING BACK to the Trotting Derby, there'll be new names and new faces on the track when the field goes to the starter.

Checking in from Blue Bonnets Raceway in Montreal is Third Edition with Del MacTavish scheduled to drive. Reigle has entered his duo of Little Master and Tician, who were top contenders in the rich Merchants and Manufacturers at Wolverline Raceway.

Joe Marsh, Jr., who was one of the leading reinsmen in the Motor City before shifting his activities to Chicago, has entered Mighty Poplar, one of the better trotters in the Windy City.

From the trotters quartered at Northville Downs come Lady Missile, from the Gene Brown stable in Adrian who won two preferred trotting events at Northville in the past two weeks; Tommy Dorwood, who won a Derby preview Saturday; Blue Water Goldy, Oak Grove, Darling Duke and Randy D.

Top Stars To Play In Buick Open

Winners of five tournaments on the current professional golf tour and Phil Rodgers, the Buick champion in 1966, are among the first 115 PGA entrants for the first of 144 in the \$125,000 12th annual Buick Open little more than three weeks from now in Grand Blue near Flint.

The five 1968 champions are Charlie Sifford, Dale Douglass, Deane Beman, Tom Shaw and Jim Colbert, but the first flow of entries also brought in last year's Masters champion, Bob

Gosby, and Dew Flasterwald, three times runnerup in Buick Opens.

Nearly a dozen other good finishers in the 1968 Buick signed up.

Issues Call For Physical

Candidates for the 1969 football and cross country teams at Redford Union High must report for physical examinations on Monday, July 7 at 1 p.m.

That was the word from Athletic Director Howard Kraft who stated all candidates for the fall sports will be examined in the high school locker room.



REDFORD'S ROB MASSON tagged out attempting to steal second in this all-important game against Hubert Realty. Shortstop Chip Rose had the throw from the catcher in plenty of time. (Observer photo by Harry Mautner)

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