



FIVE TIME CHAMPION of the Redford Township National Little League are the Braves who recently beat the Cubs 3-2, for their fifth straight title. The group includes: (Front from left) Steve Moore, Mike Rex, Greg Johnson, Brett Björke, Gordon Fargie; (second row) Pete Carolan, Dennis Lark, Don Mann, Robbie Stonik, Chuck Priebe, Tom Sweeney, Ronnie Jess, Mark Martin; (back row) Coach Bob Jess and Manager Bill Mann.

UM's Halfback Johnson Has Summer Desk Job

The ideal summer job for the collegiate football star of yesterday was digging ditches or building roads. Fresh air, a blazing sun, and hard work were the summer combinations for full football victories.

Those days are no more. Today's outstanding players are thinking ahead more than a pro football career. They consider off-season and post-playing-day job prospects as well as their chances of making the professional game.

Michigan's top All-American candidate in 1968, Ron Johnson, is typical of the new career oriented athlete. The only muscles likely to be taxed by his job this summer are in his head, not his legs. Ron is an employee of the National Bank of Detroit.

"I work in the Credit Department at NBD," Ron explains. "I have the title of loan analyst trainee. I work closely with the loan officer, doing research and collecting facts that will aid them in their decisions as to whether a loan should be made or not."

Ron, a halfback, should be familiar with records and statistics after his 1967 football season. He kept the ailing machines in the press box busy as he rambled for 1007 yards, a modern-day Michigan rushing mark. In addition, he showed Navy with 270 yards rushing, a Michigan single-career record, and carried 42 times against Northwestern, setting a Wolverine and Big Ten workhorse standard.

A STUDENT in Michigan's School of Business Administration, Johnson carries a B-average. He is concentrating in the field of finance.

He has found this summer job especially valuable from a career standpoint. "It has given me a good perspective of business," Ron claims. "You learn the practical side of the business world from an experience like this, and how to apply many of the procedures outlined in textbooks."

Johnson has also discovered that his academic training is more relevant than he had previously considered it. "I've found that many of the things I just brushed aside because they seemed unimportant are used every day here," he laughs. "I'm not going to be so hasty about what I choose to forget from now on."

Besides his duties at the bank, Ron has kept busy in community activities. He assisted in the Junior Camp Track and Field Meet in Detroit, which involved a series of preliminary competitions at various sites throughout the city before the finals were held on June 29 at Cobo Hall. He encouraged youngsters to participate in the meet, and put in several guest appearances.

Despite his full schedule, Ron hasn't forgotten football, and conditioning drills. "I've been playing a lot of basketball to stay in shape, and lately I've been working on football fundamentals and doing some running," he explains. "For instance, one night I'll run about a half mile, play basketball for two hours, and finish up by going over some plays."

JOHNSON is not happy about the pre-season football predictions he's seen, most of which place Michigan well down in the Big Ten pack. When asked if the Wolverines would surprise the experts, Ron's answer is

an emphatic, "Very much so. We're very anxious to get going. We've got to prove something to ourselves this year. I don't feel we really went our limit last season. This time, we will."

Referring to his selection as captain, Ron says, "It's quite challenging, and a great honor for me. I think it will also help out my individual performance. I'm going to have to work harder because I must serve as an example to the rest of the team."

It should be an interesting season at Michigan if Johnson is planning on working harder. He's not worried about statistics though. "I'll just be doing my best, and trying to help the team win. Personal records aren't going to be my chief concern by any means," Ron points out.

The change from this summer will be pronounced. But it's doubtful that Johnson, an All-American in many ways, will have difficulty keeping the football records and banking records separate.

His fees will include teams from Livonia, Westland, Dearborn Heights, Roseville and other neighboring communities.

In Class F play, Bill's posted a 14-0 record. This year the team is 12-2.

Henry Nay and Henry Wassman have co-managed the team this season. Wayne Williams and Junior Reed have led the Bill's pitching.

In the hitting department, top man has been Howard Schreyer at .436. Howard's brother, Dick, formerly starred for Plymouth High and the University of Michigan.

Gary Close and Doug Nay both have hit .350 for Bill's.

Special senior citizen contests will be featured Old Timers' Day, Monday, Aug. 26, at the Michigan State Fair. All senior citizens will be admitted free until 3 p.m. that day. The Fair opens Aug. 23 and continues through Sept. 2.

Livonia 'A' Team Keeps On Bouncing Back

Winning with its back to the wall has become an old habit for Livonia's Class A baseball team.

First there was a triumph to tie for the regular-season, third-round championship. Then there was a head-to-head, sudden death clash with Redford Township for the third-round final. Livonia won it.

Wednesday night, Livonia and Redford were at it again in the playoffs to determine which team goes into the state district at Detroit's Ditzel Field starting Friday.

LIVONIA WON again, 5-3, although the game never reached a proper conclusion.

With the Livonians at bat in the sixth inning, the umpire ruled the game forfeited because of protests by the Redford team.

Manager Bill Mikel of Redford promptly lodged a protest over a protest. Such protests usually go nowhere.

The umpire was making a judgment verdict and you can't win a protest when judgment is involved.

Bill Ziegler made the route for the winners and allowed six hits while fanning 11. Rick Krumm started for Redford. Chuck Vane and Rick Berry-

sixth before play was stopped when Ziegler, Butch Bowen and Rose singled.

The teams were to play the second game Friday evening. A third, if necessary will be played Sunday at Ford Field.

BACK CAME Redford with two runs in the second on a single by Gary Schaefer, a triple by Terry Rothwell and an error.

Redford went ahead in the third when Sam Lamerato singled, stole second on Gary Schaefer's second single.

In the third Livonia went on top, 4-3, as Jim Rose walked and Roger Frayer, Gary Krupinski and Paul Portney all followed with singles.

Livonia added a run in the

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Older Class Fails To Halt Plymouth '9'

Champions in Class F last season, Bill's Market of Plymouth made the move into Class E baseball action with flying colors this season.

As a result, the Bill's team comprised of boys 14-15 (in Class E they were under 14), will contest with teams from 17 other cities starting Monday in the Inter-cities tournament at Couse.

Their foes will include teams from Livonia, Westland, Dearborn Heights, Roseville and other neighboring communities.

Sports Briefs

Emil Griffith says he's ready for another shot at middleweight champion Nino Benvenuti.

A roaring, one-sided upset victory over previously unbeaten Joe Harris has re-established Griffith as a title contender.

He reigned as the champ until Benvenuti beat him last March.

Harris had won 24 straight until Griffith gave him a few lessons in a Philadelphia ring Tuesday night. There was nothing close about the fight—once Griffith stepped into the ring.

It was like a master showing his pupil how it should be done.

THE MICHIGAN OPEN started at Spring Meadows with two Livonia players among the qualifiers. Steve Kazmar shot a 70 in the trials while Rocky Pozza had a 78. Pozza was the runnerup in last weekend's State Public Links tourney.

Steve Souchak is the defending champion for the State Open.

Places Fourth

47-45-25 to place fourth in the weekly Women's Metropolitan Golf Association tournament. The winner was Mrs. David Mortimer of Birmingham with an 86.

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