

# Spartans Turn Errors By Elks Into 'D' Title

Taking advantage of miscues, the Livonia Spartans from Stevenson High beat the Plymouth Elks from Plymouth High, 9-4 to win the Greater Livonia Class D baseball title.

The game was played at Thurston and had to be called because of darkness after six innings, prompting Manager Dana Becker of the Elks to sound a protest.

"This was a championship game and it should have played under the lights at Ford Field to a conclusion," said Becker, who also was angry because the game umpires showed up 15 minutes after the action was supposed to start.

THE ELKS received one consolation. Both teams qualified for post-season tournaments -- the Spartans for the State Representative district and the Elks for the Inter-Cities Class D meet.

Errors figured in most of the Spartans' scoring as the Elks out-hit the winners, 7-4.

In the second inning, a walk to Jerry Dettler, a sacrifice and error putting Tim DeWitt on and a hit by winning pitcher Rob Sievert made 12-0.

In the fourth, DeWitt walked and both Sievert and Matt Stahurski were safe on wild paces as they attempted bunts. All of which led to two more runs.

THE SPARTANS cashed four runs in the fifth when Jim Cron tripled, Horstman and DeWitt walked, Sievert was safe on another error and Stahurski singled.

Cron's triple and an error made it 9-0 before the Elks finally scored four times when Walt Lee singled, Don Gulekson singled, Pat Cunningham was safe on an error, Bill Lee singled in two runs, Craig Riblett walked and Howie Schryer singled for two more runs.

IT TOOK a pair of pitching duels to carry the Spartans and the Elks into the championship game for Class D honors.

In an all-Livonia battle, it was the Spartans by a 2-0 margin over Allen Fence as Stevenson High bested Bentley High.

Then in the other game, the Elks from Plymouth won eight innings (one extra frame) to squeeze past Big Boy of Redford (Thurston, 3-1).

After Clark Colton started for Spartans and lasted only one inning, even though it was scoreless, Jerry Dettler came in to keep Allen silent on one hit -- by Joe Berg -- the rest of the way.

ALLEN MUFFED a great chance in the first inning. Two men singled and each was tossed out trying to steal by Catcher Rick Horstman. Then another single and a walk went to waste.

Thus Allen put four men aboard in the inning without registering a run for Ken Ockerman, who hurled well enough to win on most occasions.

An error set up the first Spartan run. Matt Stahurski received life and came in on Jim Cron's single.

A walk to Tim DeWitt and singles by Bud Daniels and Colton yielded the second Spartan run in the sixth inning.

Jon Cederberg's two-hit pitching -- both safeties were by Dennis Poppenger -- highlighted the Elks' victory over Big Boy.

Mike Bradley worked until the

eight for the losers and was equally tough until he tired.

THE BIG BOY run came in the second on walks to Tim Bradley, John Kennan and Mike Bradley and Poppenger's first hit.

An error putting Pat Cunningham aboard, a hit batsman which sent Dale Rumberger to first, a sacrifice and a fielder's choice enabled the Elks to tie the game in the fourth. That's the way matters stood until the eighth when Cunningham walked, Cederberg singled and Dennis Becker was hit by a pitch.

Then a perfect squeeze and two walks followed to give the Elks their three runs and decide the game.

Here's the way the first day's play went in the tourney:

**Walker Loses**

A three-run uprising in the second inning, plus the effective pitching of Tim Carr, Steve Kragger and John Munson, enabled Big Boy's first run to down Bryant Walker (Garden City West), 3-1.

Carr singled, stole second and scored on Gordon Essex' double for Big Boy's first run. Scott Stacy singled in Essex and Stacy scored on a wild pitch and fielder's choice.

Meanwhile, Carr worked two innings and allowed one hit and fanned two. Kragger yielded one hit and whiffed six in the next three innings.

**Elks 6, Chesley 3**

Jon Cederberg with the aid of Nick Valenti turned in a fine pitching job as the Plymouth Elks (Plymouth High) turned back Chesley Industries (Farmington High), 6-3.

The teams fought on even terms until the sixth inning when the Elks tallied three times. After two errors, Pat Cunningham beat out a bunt single, Dale Rumberger singled over two runs and Valenti followed with a one-run single.

The Elks tallied in the first on a walk to Dennis Becker and a hit by Don Gulekson and twice in the third when Cederberg walked, Howie Schryer tripled and Walter Lee singled. Mike Daly suffered the loss while Joe Himmelpach put out the Elks' fire in the sixth when he relieved with three on and didn't allow another run.

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**Spartans Win**

A three-run uprising in the second inning proved the difference as the Livonia Spartans (Stevenson High) ousted Warholak Uni-Royal Tire (Redford Union), 4-3.

An error, giving Bud Daniels life, started what proved the decisive inning. Then Kerry Rifkin was safe on a miscue and Bob See walked to jam the bases.

When Jim Cron walked, one run was forced in. Then Rick Horstman was hit by a pitch and sent in another run. Jerry

Dettler beat out an infield roller for the final Spartans' run.

The Spartans had scored in the first when Cron singled and Dettler doubled.

Rob Sievert hurried the distance for the winners, leading Kirk Taylor and Bill Booker.

The Townships cashed two runs in the first when Neal Thomas walked, Mickey Robinson singled and Tim Fox doubled. Then Thomas singled, stole second and scored on Randy Taylor's hit for the final Warholak marker.

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