

'A' Race Hinges On Redford-Plymouth Makeup Battle

What happens in the Greater Livonia Class A baseball's League's second-half pennant chase boils down to the final game on the regular schedule -- a makeup between Redford and Plymouth Wednesday at Ford Field.

The "ifs" are these:

1-- A Redford victory gives

the Township the second-half crown.

2-- If Redford loses, Livonia Hubert ties for first with Redford and forces a one-game playoff for the crown.

Should Redford take the second-half title, it'll meet Hubert, the first-half winner, in a best-of-three series starting this weekend for the "A" title and right to represent the loop in the state districts next week in Pontiac.

BOTH TEAMS won Monday night at Ford Field. Redford scored in the top of the first inning to edge Village Ramblers, 5-4. Hubert disposed of Plymouth, 9-3.

Rick Berryman, who had hurled seven innings the day before, worked to relief to save Redford which cashed the winning run against Village when Tom Cuddy was safe on an

error, Mark Carrow singled and Gary Schaefer beat out an infield tap.

Cuddy's first hit of the season knocked in two Redford runs in the fourth after Carrow doubled and Dave Wolch singled in a two-run first inning.

Four singles gave Village three runs in the fifth inning when they tied it with an unearned run in the sixth.

Bill Ziegler hurled for Hubert and fanned six. Roger Frayer bagged three hits and Gary Krupinski drove in three runs. Ziegler finished a double in the

first inning and Krupinski bagged one in the fourth. Bill Pelham picked up a pair of RBIs to help in the victory.

THE TWO front-runners won on Sunday -- Hubert over Ramblers, 10-2, and Redford in a 2-0 squeaker over Northville.

Rick Berryman, hurling for Redford, came within one out of a no-hitter, losing it in the seventh inning when Bill Fox singled.

Meantime, Berryman started the Redford scoring rally in the fifth with a single. He came home on Mark Carrow's triple.

Then Gary Schaefer singled in Carrow.

The losing pitcher was Bill Dimmers, who matched the brilliance of Berryman in all but the fifth inning.

CHRIS Wendrick picked up the Hubert victory over Village Ramblers.

He started slowly, being picked for four hits and both the Ramblers runs in the first inning as Lamerato, Cooper, Munson and Curtis slapped singles.

Thereafter, Wendrick closed the doors on Ramblers and his mates did some scoring of their

own to win going away.

Jeff Peck singled, a Chip Rose in the first inning and Rose's sacrifice fly sent over to Arrell, who had tripled, and the equalizer in the third.

In the fourth singles by Jack Westcott, Wendrick and Rose produced one more run and Peck followed with a three-run homer.

Wescott doubled, scoring Roger Frayer, who had singled in the fifth. Then in the sixth Arrell doubled, Rose singled and Peck and Jay Schwalim followed with a sacrifice fly. The final run came in the seventh

when Bill Pelham tripled and Gary Krupinski singled.

VILLAGE RAMBLER came back in the second half of the evening's doubleheader at Ford Field to beat Plymouth K. C., 4-1, in the ninth inning.

Ramblers down, 4-2, rallied for two runs in the seventh to tie the game on doubles by Lamerato and Cooper and single by Munson.

In the ninth, an error, a triple by Munson and double by Cooper decided the game.

Plymouth scored two in the first inning when John Bida singled, Gerry Kisabeth singled and Doug DeMates also singled.

Another run was tallied in the third on a double by Bida and singles by Kisabeth and Pete Woodward. The final Plymouth run was chalked up in the sixth when Stan Cross singled and raced around on John Gilles' triple.

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Redford Risks Championship In FP Tourney

IT'LL BE state tournament time for Redford Township in the Detroit Free Press baseball competition starting Thursday against the Oakland County champs at Northwestern Field in Detroit at 5 p.m.

Redford is out to win the state title for the seventh straight time.

The playoffs are being conducted on a two-defeat and out basis... and will be concluded at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on Saturday.

The state champ qualifies for the national All America boys tournament which starts in Alton, Pa. on Aug. 14.

Redford was the national runner-up to New Orleans last year. Dale Bjerke, Redford's unbeaten pitcher in Livonia play, is slated to start in Thursday's game.

In the victory that followed for Redford, Tom Booker allowed one hit and fanned nine. Hits by Dennis Primeau, Bill Fay and Himmelsbach and a sacrifice by Bill Holmes gave Redford two runs in the first inning.

In the third, Howe singled, Booker was safe on a fielder's choice, Primeau singled, Fay walked and Leland Bjerke singled for three more runs.

Coach Winners

KALAMAZOO -- Two Western Michigan University alumni, both lettermen on the 1957 track squad, coached state track championship teams this spring. John MacKenzie guided Detroit Redford Union to the Class A title in Michigan while Jim Eger coached Elkhart to the state championship in Indiana.



SLIDING HOME in a cloud of dust and beating the relay by a wide margin is Jeff Peck of Livonia Hubert Realty, who scores in the championship playoffs against Plymouth. Catcher Gary Kisabeth reaches for the ball -- too late to make a play -- while the umpire follows the action. (Observer photo by Harry Maute)

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REDFORD TUNED UP Thursday's game with a series of games last weekend.

They split at Mt. Pleasant, winning, 6-1, after losing, 4-1. Then they won at Clare, 11-0 and 8-1.

A homer by Joe Himmelsbach accounted for the only Redford run in the first game at Mt. Pleasant as Bjerke suffered his first loss of the summer.

The Tigers hit 52 more home runs than any other team in the American League in 1968.

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Getting the last man out sometimes can be dangerous business.

Twice Hubert Realty failed to do so in the Connie Mack district tournament against Dearborn Heights and as a result Hubert was one of three teams left -- each with a loss -- after

rain forced postponement of action Monday.

There were two out in the bottom of the seventh inning when Dearborn Heights tied Hubert at 3-3 and then were out in the tenth when the Heights cashed the run that spelled a 5-3 victory.

Hubert scored twice in the second inning on hits by Randy Hickerson and Dave Gregor, two errors and a passed ball. In the sixth Gary Crosey singled in Stu Rose to make it 3-0.

But the Heights got to Bob Hood for two runs in the sixth and tied it in the seventh.

Then in the tenth, Hubert took a 5-3 lead when Dave Lowe, Bob Ficano and Rego all walked and Hickerson singled. But the Heights rebounded with a single, a walk, a double and a single... to emerge the victors.

THE TOURNEY opened for Hubert in brilliant fashion-victories over Grosse Pointe, 1-0, and Wyandotte, 7-2.

Beating Grosse Pointe required nine innings (two over the regular distance) and a superb pitching effort by Hood, who chalked up his seventh shut-out conquest of the season. Hood has to be something out of this world against Grosse Pointe. His rival, Bob Umar, was just as spectacular.

Each allowed three hits. Hood fanned 11, Umar three.

Only one Pointer was able to get as far as third base as Hood was in control all the way.

Ulmur FINALLY weakened slightly in the ninth inning... and that was the game.

Randy Hickerson of Hubert waited out Ulmur for a walk. Gary Crosey followed with a sacrifice and Dave Gregor, the all-area high jumper at Stevenson

High last spring, came through with a single to chase in Hickerson.

Hood still had to get the Pointers out in the bottom of the ninth to preserve the victory.

Ken Gawkowski, who hurtled for Allen Fence during the regular season and was one of two players Hubert was able to add for the tourney, coasted along to an easier victory against Wyandotte.

He yielded five hits, fanned seven and walked four, but it wasn't until the seventh inning his mates put the game on ice by scoring four times.

Hubert had led only by a 3-2 score going into the seventh.

DAVE GREGOR had two hits for the winners. So did Hickerson and Bobby Ficano.

The first two Hubert runs came across without a hit. In the first, Ficano was safe on a miscue and proceeded around on three straight wild pitches.

In the second inning two walks, an error and a hit batsman made it 2-0.

Gregor walked and eventually scored on Ficano's hit in the fourth.

Then in the seventh, Dave Lowe opened the big uprising with a single. Dave Gregor and brother Don each followed with run-producing doubles.

After Gawkowski walked, Ficano and Stu Rose chipped in with singles on each of which a run registered.

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BY GEORGE E. BEALS

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