

Thursday, July 1, 1976

Little Caesars lands 3 players on Adray League all-star team

While Little Caesars of Farmington lost three close Adray League games last week, three of its top players were named to the league's all-star team which will challenge the Detroit Adray All-stars July 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Henry Ford Field in Livonia.

Third baseman Jim Vogl and catcher Sherman Stenson, both of Farmington High School, and pitcher Bill Mathews of Charleston, a member of the state Class A baseball championship team, were selected to the all-star team by the league's six coaches.

Patcher Tim Hammer, first baseman Mitch Thomas, second baseman Tim Raymond and outfielder Paul Patek all came within one to three votes of placing on the squad.

And to coach John Stenson, it sure "felt good having seven players nominated for the all-star team and having three of them get the nod to compete against the Detroit boys despite the team's 5-10 record."

For a young, developing Adray squad, Little Caesars is coming on strong. While several other teams are well stocked with college players, Little Caesars is composed mostly of high school athletes.

"WE'RE JUST starting up in this league and it seems that we're always coming up short when we need the run," Coach Stenson said. "And most of our losses prove that. We've played a lot of close games, but we don't feel too bad about it because the team is coming around and it will take a while before we'll start to gel."

Little Caesars-travelled to University of Michigan's Spring Softball to play a double header against Ann Arbor Adray, but they came up on the losing end both times in close games.

In the first game double plays, and caught line drives proved fatal for the Farmington squad as they lost 3-2. Little Caesars Tim Hammer pitched his

second complete game without his team scoring any runs.

In the nightcap, Little Caesars lost again 5-3, a battle that saw the Farmington players outlast Ann Arbor, 5-4.

No player from either team got more than one hit and Little Caesars was doomed to defeat when Ann Arbor scored four runs on three hits in the sixth inning.

Greg White of Little Caesars had a one-hitter and a 3-1 lead going into the sixth inning, but gave up three hits and two runs in the sixth and Little Caesars never caught up.

GRIFFIN SPORT crashed Little Caesars Monday night 9-0 but they prevented two

Nelipka of Griffin from recording a no-hitter when Greg White of Farmington singled into left field in the seventh inning.

Nelipka, who pitched his first game since coming back off a sore arm, hurried well through the seventh inning but began to tire.

Little Caesars' Handy Wroten lined out Sherman Stenson walked, Ron Silbertson was hit with a pitch and White singled to end the no-hitter.

Tom Griffin of Griffin Sport was the big hit of the game with back to back triples.

Little Caesars' next game is a double header against Wendy's Restaurant Friday at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at Henry Ford Field in Livonia.

Wolverine sets national record

Wolverine Harness Raceway is now in a position to claim a new world record with every two-minute mile clocked for the remainder of the meeting, which lasts through July 30.

Monday night, the world record of 102 two-minute miles at a single race meet was matched, passed then added to, giving Wolverine 104 of harness racing's magic miles.

The two-minute mile is a standard of excellence in harness racing. A horse which has earned a two-minute clocking is assured of commanding higher stud fees as a stallion.

The previous record of 102 two-minute miles was set at Hollywood Park in 1974, a record which took 77 nights of racing to accomplish. Wolverine's Monday race was only the 67th of 84 nights.

Longtime Michigan driver and Livonia resident Wally McMurray brought Fleet Almahurst home in 1:58.8 to break the record equalled earlier Monday by Chris Boring's Shuway (Chatham) with a 1:58.8 race.

The winning ride for McMurray earned him a silver trophy and a new suit of clothes.

The amount of two-minute miles at the current Wolverine meet has been so impressive that the United States Trotting Association last week notified the Livonia track that its speed rating had been lowered two full seconds to 2:01.4 officially the fastest in North America.

Amidst the flurry of two-minute miles last weekend, eight were recorded Saturday night was a stunning performance by Silk Stockings, destined to be known as one of harness racing's greatest mares as well as one of its all-time greatest performers.

Driven by Preston Burns, Silk Stockings' best time is 1:55.1, equalling the track record set last month by Keystone Accent and establishing a new world record for aged four-year of age and older, pacing mares.

Silk Stockings did pace a faster mile last year (1:53.4) as a three-year-old. The mare is owned by Dr. Kenneth and Clare Marsh, who together operate the Au Clair School for Autistic Children in Delaware.

Silk Stockings now has earned more than \$40,000 in her career.

Tecumseh farmer Larry Young, owner-trainer-driver of Michigan Trotting sensation Hobo Colby, has accepted an invitation from Houserville Raceway in New York to compete in Saturday's \$50,000 international trot.

If Hobo Colby, a \$500 purchase who has earned more than \$60,000 the year alone, maintains his winning form in New York, he could become eligible for the rich trotting classics in France.

A natural parlay started Wolverine bettors in the face Monday, as Caline (sic) Kid won the third race, returning \$7 straight, and Coffee Brandy captured the last race for a \$9 mutual.



AL ACKERMAN

Farmington Legion splits double header

Farmington's American Legion squad split a double header Sunday against Lake Orion, winning the opening game, 6-4, and dropping the nightcap, 7-2.

Kevie DeLoe went all the way in the first game for Farmington, giving up five hits, striking out nine and allowing five walks.

Farmington managed five hits but one batter went down missing as three players accounted for five RBI's.

Bruce Sher of Farmington, the lead off batter, opened the game with a home run.

Farmington scored another run in the first inning when Dick Radatz got to first base on an error. He then stole second base and reached third on a pass ball, later scoring the second run on a Farmington hit.

In the second inning, Farmington scored four more runs to take a 6-0 lead.

Sher had three RBI's, going 3-2, and he and Randy Meyer each had one.

In the second game, Farmington used six pitchers against Lake Orion as that ball club scattered more than 16 hits.

LARRY MCKEE started out for Farmington by putting down the first two batters. But in the second inning, he became a little wild and issued two walks.

Tom Harmon came on in relief and gave two hits with two men on base. After that, Rick Ormsby was brought on. He walked a batter, struck out another, walked in a run and finally put the side down by striking out a second batter.

Lake Orion scored eight runs on three hits in the second inning, while taking advantage of the six walks issued by Farmington pitchers.

Lake Orion scattered the rest of its hits throughout the remaining seven innings while three other Farmington pitchers were called in to try to cool the Lake Orion bats.

Fred Blackmer, Bob Patek and Dick Radatz all failed to save the game for Farmington.

Farmington recorded its first win since June 1975 when Jay Cummings, Patek, Blackmer and Marty came all angled, scoring their two runs on four hits with two outs in their half of the sixth. But they were shut down in their bid to gain on Lake Orion.

Farmington's American Legion team is now 5-11 and will play its next game July 3 at 6 p.m. against Berkeley at Drake Park.



Last week's downpour completely swamped the Drake Field pitching mound, so Randy Goers, a Farmington DPW worker, manned a squeegee Friday afternoon and readied the field for baseball action. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Ackerman assesses events

His job's a sporting issue

By HY HENNINGMAN

Southfield's outspoken and candid sportscaster, Al Ackerman, lets viewers know exactly where he stands on every major sporting issue.

"A sportscaster is responsible to report events as they happen. Every sportscaster should have the same freedom of expression as a newspaper columnist," Ackerman explains.

"Take Howard Cosell for example. He is disliked by many viewers, but he has done more in that field than anyone else." Setting in his small office at Channel 7 in Southfield, the frank sports reporter always is surrounded with a clutter of paper and notes, while he answers a telephone that rings constantly.

"Detroit is a great sport city," he says, "between calls." His fans are extremely knowledgeable. They have been let down by poor management. Seventeen years is too long to wait for a football champion.

"The Tigers are slipping with their failing farm system and 11 changes of ownership and bad trades was enough to deteriorate the Pistons," he continues while explaining what's wrong with professional sports in Detroit.

"THE DETROIT Lions folded altogether because teams isn't a sport for Detroit."

This club would have been up today if the games would have been moved to the suburbs.

When asked whatever happened to loyalty, Ackerman says it remains only in high school.

"Professionals don't have those feelings. Look what happened to former Red Winger Phil Roberto and Doug Harvey from Kansas City. They were traded minutes before the game. The two hockey players exchanged uniforms and teams, so how can you have feelings?" Ackerman continues.

The ABC affiliate sport commentator says he experienced pride when Gordie Howe, Sid Abel and Ted Lindsay played for the Red Wings in Detroit.

"They lived and worked in the city, but that happened in the days before the agents and big money changed the professional attitude. Detroit prides itself with the Bobby Lanes, the Billy Martins and the Gordie Howes. Those are the men who made Detroit a great sports city."

Ackerman's Accurate Predictions, a regular feature during his sports report, is a "fun thing" for the newsmen.

"If I have ten wrong, viewers will never forget it. But when I have ten right, they never make a comment," he says.

The sportscaster also has a strong opinion about building sports stadiums.

EVERY STADIUM is a pain, except according to Ackerman. Most of them don't make money because they have a limited number of games and for the rest of the year remain empty.

"I have nothing against building a stadium as long as tax money isn't used for private enterprise at the time when we are in such desperate need for school funds."

Unafraid to speak his mind, he continues, "The Pontiac management made a villain out of me, but the media I receive prove that I obviously have made more friends than enemies."

Ackerman didn't start his professional career in broadcasting.

After graduating from Chicago Teachers' College, he became a teacher in the Chicago school system. Two years later, he moved to Michigan where he began his broadcast career.

In 1964, he started with WJZ Radio-TV as a sportscaster and talk show host. In 1967, he left Channel 4 and joined Channel 7.

"Channel 7 is a melt of personalities, we genuinely like each other," he concludes.

Wayne State University's Hand football coach, Dick Lowry of Farmington Hills, recently returned from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Summer Conference at Keweenaw, Wis.

Lowry and his family attended the conference for the second year in a row, with last year's conference held in Estes Park, Colo.

The FCA sponsors several conferences around the country each summer and Mr.

WSU coach attends meet

Present will host the Michigan conference, July 13-August 3.

After the meeting, Lowry began reading his football team for its regional 16-game grid schedule which opens at Howell and University Sept. 18.

Lowry will lead his Tartans in defense of their Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title.

Pre-season drills for more than 100 grid candidates open Aug. 23.

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