

# Redford Repeats Again As State FP Champs

It's getting to be like a stuck record—when it comes to Redford Township in Free Press League baseball competition. Redford, which has won the Greater Livonia League crown six straight times, made it three state crowns in a row over the weekend at Perry Field in Ann Arbor.

**By George Maskin**  
**observing sports**

**A SPORTS COLUMN IN SHORT PANTS:**  
It's tough to believe it's really true—Bob Green, Lucky Birkett and Herb Schroeter all say that they are through with sandlot baseball in these parts.  
Green heads up the athletic division of Livonia's Recreation Department. In that capacity, he's been No. 1 in running the various baseball and softball programs which involve Plymouth, Redford Township, Garden City, Farmington, Westland and, of course, Livonia.  
Birkett and Schroeter are two able managers who have devoted a good share of their years to helping youngsters play baseball.  
Green has revealed that he has submitted his resignation, effective Sept. 1. His is a grueling job and from what we understand the pay might be better.  
Birkett and Schroeter cite "personal reasons" for deciding that they'll spend their future summers engaging in some other aspect of fun.  
To lose one of the three is a blow in itself. For all three to depart at the same time... well, it's bordering on a tragedy!

**TALK ABOUT YOUR exciting sports stories—**the one involving Gates Brown must occupy a top spot.  
Here is a ball player that pretty much has wanted to be traded. He has felt that if he could play on some team other than the Tigers he'd be a regular—the goal of every player.  
Here, too, is a player that came within an eyelash of being traded last spring. All the reports out of Lakeland, Fla., were that Manager Mayo Smith wouldn't bring Gates up north.  
Something happened and Gates came north with the Tigers. He has become the majors' premier pinch-hitter, starting the week with a .600 batting mark when batting for somebody else.  
His greatest day was last Sunday with the game-winning homer in the first game and the game-winning single in the ninth against Boston.  
If you wait long enough and have patience, justice sooner or later comes your way. It sure has for Gates Brown.

**IT'S A TRIBUTE** to a game of baseball players when you can across a team like Allen Fence of Livonia.  
A year ago, Allen rolled to the state Class F title for boys 14-15 years of age.  
This week Allen carried Livonia's colors into the district Class D tournament after previously missing by a half-game the Connie Mack divisional championship.  
The Allen success story again brings to the fore that old saying about "Youth Must Be Served."

**TODAY'S HATS OFF** department features the Garden City baseball team which reached the finals of the State Little League championships before losing at Alpena.  
**NO CAUSE** is more worthy than the Free Press Charities which sponsors the annual Detroit Lions-Baltimore Colts football game a week from Friday night at Tiger Stadium.  
A substantial amount of the proceeds from the game is turned over to Children's Hospital and other needy establishments.  
That, in itself, should be a good enough cause for one to want to hurry and get his tickets to see the Lions meet the Colts.  
But the Lions themselves shape up as a much more interesting team for 1968. They have come up with several spectacular ball players in the likes of Mel Farr, Len Barney, Earl McCulloch and Gary Barton, not to forget their numerous older stalwarts.  
There's also a good chance that by a week from Friday new quarterback Bill Munson may be ready to toss a few passes against Johnny Unitas and Company.

**IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD** your vacation yet, may we remind you that time's a-fleeting!  
One week from Monday will see the official start of high school football in Michigan.

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Wednesday for Redford.  
This will mark the third consecutive year that Redford has won the nationals.  
In the past, Redford has been beaten in two starts each time and thus quickly eliminated.  
"IT'LL BE different this time," declared manager Bob Atkins, who has guided Redford to a record of 20 victories in 26 games this season.  
He credited great pitching by Paul Tonnemacher, Dan Camp and Tom Fleszar in bringing Redford home a champion at Ann Arbor.

## 'A' Is Won By Redford

It all boiled down to one game. There would be no tomorrow—unless you won.  
That was the story as Redford Township and Livonia collided at Thurston Stadium.  
At stake was the Greater Livonia Class A baseball title and the right to advance into the regional starting Thursday at Detroit's Burt Field.  
Livonia had fought back twice in a row with the chips down against Redford in the last week. In equally "no tomorrow" situations, Livonia had downed Redford, 4-0, to win the third round of the regular-season championship; then Livonia won, 5-3, in the opening round of the playoffs.  
So everything hinged on Sunday with the winner collecting everything and the loser nothing.  
REDFORD AROSE to capture the big one, 4-0, and now meets Detroit McAle Thursday evening at Burt Field in the opener of a three-team, double-elimination tourney to decide which goes on to the state meet at Thistle Creek.  
Dearborn will be the third team at Detroit.  
Redford will be shooting to regain the honors it gathered in a year ago when it won the league, the district, and placed second in the state, the national regional and the national world series.  
"I really was afraid of this one," said manager Bill Mikel of Redford who walked from the sidelines as his team came through in the clutch.  
Mikel was tossed out of the

5-3 Livonia victory along with second baseman Dave Woloch. Under league rules, each was barred for one game.  
BUT AL TURNER took over for Mikel and got his hand into the title picture for the second time during the weekend.  
He had led the Redford Free Press team to a pair of victories Saturday and then Redford won the State FP crown Sunday, although Turner had returned the club's reins to Bob Atkins.  
Bob Green took over for Woloch and chipped in with a hit and a run.  
Larry Salei, a basketball and baseball player at the University of Detroit last winter, turned in a sparkling pitching job for Redford to master Jacy

Swalm, the big man all season for Livonia.  
Salei found himself in a series of jams. But, thanks to a fine defense, he worked out of each tight situation.  
Meantime, his mates scored twice in the fourth inning and two more in the fifth to build up a comfortable edge.  
GARY SCHAEFER tripled in the fourth for Redford and scored on Robby Masson's single. Tim Fisher followed with another triple to make it 2-0.  
In the fifth, Salei singled and was forced at second by Sam Lamerato. Green singled and stole second. Both runners came in when Gary Schaefer singled.  
Livonia threatened in the first inning when Butch Bowen was safe on an error and was sacrificed to second. Jim Rose bounced to short and Bowen was retired at third.  
On the play Rose took second. When he tried to score on Roger Frayer's hit, Rose was nailed at the plate by Terry Rothwell's great throw.  
Livonia put two aboard in the fourth when Gary Krupinski and Paul Portney produced, but neither could score.  
In the sixth, Rose was safe on an error and Frayer was hit by a pitch. But a double play ended the threat.  
THE EIGHTH saw Livonia present its best threat when Frayer singled and wheeled to third on Frayer's double. But Salei got the next two men on strikes and the third man to fly out for the final out.  
Gary Schaefer with two doubles and a triple topped the winners' attack. On his fourth trip to the plate he was hit by a pitch.  
Fisher had a double and triple for the winners while Lamerato chipped in with a single and double.  
Redford in its parade to the league crown won 27, lost five and tied one.

CAMP WORKED eight innings and gave way to Barnett and Fleszar in the ninth. The latter got the final out with the bases loaded.  
Redford took the lead in the third inning when Bill Faby singled, stole second and scored on an error. Reg Barringer walked, stole second, went to third on an error and then pulled off a double steal after Leland Bjerke walked.  
A walk to Faby, a sacrifice and a single by Bill Holmes made it 3-0 in the fifth. In the seventh Billy Holmes singled in Barringer and Tom Webster.  
In the ninth inning, Lansing struck back. Two singles and two walks brought in one run and Barnett to replace Camp. Another walk forced in a run and brought in Fleszar.  
He walked another man, banded two, walked one more and then got the last one to preserve the victory.

## Desire Is Big Reason For Success Of Tigers

One can find a great many faults with the starting Detroit Tiger pitchers, except for Danny McLain.  
Front-liners Earl Wilson, Joe Spina and Mickey Lolich each has produced his share of misery for manager Mayo Smith.  
Talk about the low batting averages on the team. Nobody hitting over .300. At least no regular.  
There, of course, is the famous Gates Brown, who started the week belting at a .404 clip. But Brown usually only comes to bat as a pinch-hitter.  
To repeat—say what you want to about the starters and the hitters.

more in which the Tigers went head-on with the second-place Birds. The Tigers came out with flying colors.  
There were a series in Baltimore.  
The Tigers' desire to win.  
2-- Their ability to rise and produce in key situations.  
Much has been written about the rallying Tigers; how they have won more than 30 games in which they were tied or trailing as late as the seventh inning. But, how about the knockout blows the Tigers keep delivering?

## Defense Pays Off To Lions

The Detroit Lions stand one-one after two exhibitions. Something else stands out:  
1-- The Lions' always-slightly defense figures to be as potent as ever.  
2-- The Lions will field a more powerful offense than at any time in the last few years.  
In two tuneup games, the defense has yielded one touchdown and three field goals. With that kind of work, the Lions shouldn't have much trouble winning.  
Philadelphia seldom threatened seriously last Sunday when the Lions struck in a hurry for a 20-3 victory in a game that was moved from Mexico City to Philadelphia almost at a second's notice.

PAUL TONNEMACHER, a stellar pitcher all season from Livonia Spartans, struck out 11 and gave up four hits in whitewashing Mt. Pleasant.  
Three Redford runs scored in the second, Bill Holmes walked and Bob Holmes and Marty Ingoussian singled to load the bases.  
Ferguson squeezed in Bill Holmes and Tonnemacher followed with a two-run single. Himmelspach singled across Barnett with the fourth Redford run in the seventh.



SLIDING INTO THIRD is Sam Lamerato, of Redford, as Livonia's third sacker Paul Portney reaches for the ball to make the tag during moments in the championship series at Ford Field.

**The Tiger Schedule**

WEDNESDAY—At Cleveland, 7:30 p.m. (WJR).  
FRIDAY—At Boston, 8 p.m. (WJR).  
SATURDAY—At Boston, 2:15 p.m. (Ch. 2 and WJR).  
SUNDAY—At Boston, 1:30 p.m. (Ch. 2 and WJR).  
TUESDAY—Chicago at Tiger Stadium, 2 games, 5:30 p.m. (WJR).  
WEDNESDAY—Chicago at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m. (WJR).

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