

Thursday, July 17, 1980

# 'It's one of those days' — Legion drops pair

By TOM BAER

From the third-base coach's box, Farmington American Legion manager Wally Christensen watched one of his players hit into a triple play in the first game of an 18th-District double-header against Southfield last Sunday.

"That's the first time I've had a triple play pulled on me in 19 years of managing," Christensen said. "I said to myself, 'This is going to be one of those days.'"

It truly was.

Southfield, trailing 2-0 at the time of

the triple killing, rallied for two runs in the top of the eighth and whipped Farmington, 4-2, at Drake Park. Southfield also worked overtime to win the nightcap, 7-6, in 10 innings.

The double loss put Christensen's Farmington team at 10-8 this summer. Southfield climbed to 14-5.

Southfield snapped a 2-2 tie in the opener when Ken Sullivan doubled off the left-field light pole and scored on Ken Angrove's single. Angrove then took second and third on wild pitches by Farmington's Steve Rutkowski and scored on Chuck Spier's squeeze bunt.

Winning pitcher Brad Still went the entire eight innings, allowing seven hits. He struck out five and walked two.

In addition to serving up the two wild pitches, Rutkowski, the loser, gave up two hits and struck out none in one inning of work. Starter Mike Tetreault was breezing along with a no-hitter until the sixth, when Still lined a single to left center.

FARMINGTON SCORED both its runs in the second inning. Pete Tompson singled and came home on Bruce

Morrison's long triple. Morrison scored on Rich Nutter's single.

Southfield pulled off its triple play in the fourth. Farmington placed runners on first and third as Barry Williams and Morrison singled. Then Rob King lined out to third baseman Ken Kirsten, who stepped on third for the second out and three to to nail Morrison, who was attempting to steal.

In the second game, Farmington rapped out 14 hits, including four by Morrison.

"We hit the ball all over, but we left

way too many men on base," Christensen said. "We stranded eight men in the first seven innings and four more during the three extra innings."

The frustration lasted until the bottom of the ninth. Morrison walked to load the bases, but Williams flied out to deep center to end the threat.

In the Southfield 10th, Gary White walked, took second on Spier's sacrifice and scored on Angrove's single off relief pitcher Nutter. Pat Flood pitched all 10 innings, striking out three and walking four.

Nutter, the losing pitcher, worked

three innings, giving up four hits and striking out two. Starter Brian Bruce pitched the first five innings before being lifted in favor of Tompson.

Southfield, which scored three runs in the second inning, got a double and two singles from Ron Curcio. Morrison, a first baseman, had an excellent day at the plate, going six for seven and knocking in three runs in the double header.

Farmington plays next on Friday at home against Waterford Chief. Game time is 6 p.m. at Drake Park.



LeRoy "Skip" Gordon prepares his Laser for a day of sailboat racing on Stony Creek Lake. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Laser Fleet

# Poor man's yacht club draws local sail buffs

By TOM BAER

LeRoy Gordon has a nickname — Skip. It refers to his lifelong interest in competitive and recreational sailing.

"I picked up that name when I was three or four," Gordon said.

"My parents had a Thistle, a 17-footer with a wooden hull, which had to be refinished every year. While they worked on it, they'd stick me in the stern and let me play with the rudder. I became the skipper of the boat."

These days Gordon, a 33-year-old Farmington Hills resident, skips his 14-foot Laser sailboat in Sunday races around Stony Creek Lake near Rochester.

Furthermore, he was recently named fleet captain of the Metropolitan Detroit Laser Fleet (MDLF), a kind of a poor man's yacht club that sponsors the intra-squad races at Stony Creek and some bigger ones on Lake St. Clair.

The Sunday races are informal. Three four-mile races are held, two in the morning, then a break for a picnic lunch, then one more race in the afternoon. Prizes include drinking glasses with Laser emblems.

"I'd say we're sailors first and racers second," Gordon said. "Our attitude is that when we're on the water, we're very serious sailors. But when we're back on shore, there's a lot of friendship and camaraderie."

LASER IS both a brand and a class name. It's a single-handed boat, meaning it carries only one person when racing.

It was designed in 1970 as both a recreation craft and a "very serious competitive boat for racing," according to Gordon.

Lasers cost \$1,300 new, and more

*'Sailing a boat like this takes a fair amount of stamina and intelligence. It's like a big chess match between yourself, the wind and the other boats.'*

— LeRoy Gordon

than 120,000 have been produced. The fiberglass hull means very little maintenance.

"The biggest expense you might have is to replace the sail," Gordon said. "A new sail runs about \$175, but you don't have to do that every year."

The weekly competition means a lot to Gordon and the other MDLF sailors.

"Sailing a boat like this takes a fair amount of stamina and intelligence," Gordon said. "It's like a big chess match between yourself, the wind and the other boats."

"A lot of my friends say, 'Oh, you go sailing. You just sit on the side of the boat.' Well, that may be true on the big 35-footers, but not in these smaller ones. You have to do some work in the spring to get in shape for sailing."

And Gordon likes the individual challenge of racing the small Lasers.

"It's good because it's you — and only you," he said. "If you do well, you can pat yourself on the back. If you don't do so well, you have no one to blame but yourself."

Gordon's kind of racing is called one-design sailing. All the boats are identical. Rules prohibit alterations to make them faster.

"THE THEORY behind this is that the skipper and crew should win the race rather than the guy with the most

modifications for speed," Gordon said.

Stony Creek Lake is ideal for small boat racing because very few power boats are allowed.

"The whole lake is for sailing," Gordon said. "You don't have water skiers or other jet boaters out there. We actually rent the lake from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan System. For a small fee, no other classes of boats will be on the lake that day."

Gordon would like to expand the 40-member MDLF. Prospective members shouldn't be put off because they think sailing is too technical, he said.

"The basic knowledge for sailing is really pretty simple," said Gordon, a manager of secured lending in the American Motors Corp.'s Southfield headquarters.

"I could have a beginner sailing without too much difficulty in a couple of hours."

"But there's a big difference between just sailing and racing."

The MDLF will hold its annual Detroit Laser Open Saturday, Aug. 2, at Crescent Sail Yacht Club on Lake St. Clair. Last year, 30 boats from the metropolitan area entered the race.

Persons wanting additional information about the MDLF and its activities may call Carl Temple, another club member, at 588-7070 or 254-2265.

## Putting prowess earns a trip to Vegas for pair



Farmington's Andy Hatton ponders a putt during the National Open Putting Championships at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course. (Staff photo by Art Emanuele)

The Southeastern Michigan Regional portion of the National Open Putting Championships had a decidedly Plymouth bent last weekend at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Jerry Thomas, 21, currently a Livonia resident but a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, placed second overall in the 62-man field.

William Chamberlain, who resides in Plymouth, won a separate playoff to qualify as the second non-amateur for the national finals from the Livonia site.

Thomas' score of 33 putts over the 18-hole layout on the practice green was matched by Craig McClellan, a Woodhaven resident, who was low-scoring non-amateur.

McClellan won the first-place trophy on the second extra hole and earned an expense-paid trip to the national tournament Dec. 5-6 at the Tropicana in Las Vegas.

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## Charity golf tourney set for Glen Oaks

Glen Oaks Golf and Country Club in Farmington Hills will host the semifinals of the annual Metropolitan Detroit Walter Hagen Junior Golf Championship for boys and girls ages 13-18 on Aug. 5.

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Walter Hagen Junior Tournament seeks to perpetuate the memory of golfer Walter Hagen, while raising money to support cancer control programs in the Detroit area.

There will be separate play for boys and girls. Age groups will be split with a masters division for golfers ages 13-15 and a golden masters for participants ages 16-18.

The top three golfers in each division at each

(Continued on page 2B)

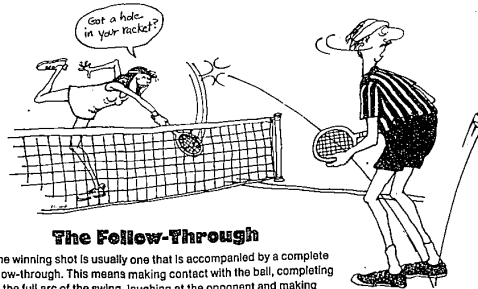
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### The Follow-Through

The winning shot is usually one that is accompanied by a complete follow-through. This means making contact with the ball, completing the full arc of the swing, laughing at the opponent and making a remark, such as, "Got a hole in your racket?"

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