Meier packs potent punch in minors

games.

The former Farmington High and
Central Michigan University standout
has been playing outfield for Belling-

Farmington's Randy Meier is back in the swing of things.

And for that, the Seattle Mariners farm club he's on can be grateful. Just two weeks ago, Meier was hitting only .244 for the Bellingham, Wash, minor-league team.

Since then Meier has been lighting up the Northwest League. He has raised his average 66 points to .110 and has collected 20 rans, eight RBIs and the second of the property of miles north of Seattle, near Canada on the Canada of the Seattle, and the seattle, near Canada on the Canada of the Seattle, near Canada on the Seattle, near Canada

BELLINGHAM is located in some of that pretty Pacific Northwest country, 90 miles north of Seattle, near Canada on the ocean. When he arrived, Meler already know many of his teammates, having played with them in summer college leagues in Alaska and Cape Cod. His biggest fan — his wife, Patti —

attencs every home game. The former Patti Thoresen of Farmington and Meier were married May 29, just two works: before Seattle drafted him to the 20th round.

We've got one steadingst fan in our Park in Patti, 'Meier said. 'She's at all other than the state of the part of being in the minors, he said of being on the more. Being the farthest north, we have the longest road trips. Our shortest rips of the part of being in the minors, he slieng the farthest north, we have the longest road trips. Our shortest trips of the farthest north, we have the longest found trips. Our shortest trips of the farthest north, we have the longest found trips. Our shortest trips of the farthest north, we have the longest found trips. Our shortest trips of the farthest north, we have the longest found trips. Our shortest trips of the farthest north, we have the longest found trips. Our shortest trips of the farthest north, we have the longest found trips. Our shortest trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest trips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips of the road trips. Our shortest rips of the road trips weeks before Seattle dardted him in the 20th round.
"We've got one steadfast fan in our park in Pattl," Meier said. "She's at all the games."
Hushand and wife go their separate ways, though, when Bellingham is on the road. The travel, when combined with playing every day, is the toughest part of being in the minors, he said earliest north, we have the longest road trips. Our shortest trip is 64th hours by bus.

"We play a game one night, and it

"With this baseball strike and so forth, we've had many people from the big club come and watch us play," Meier said. "One of them has been the

Meter said. "One of them has been the director of player personnel, and he's the one who makes the decision if you go up or down.
"Normally he gets down here two or three times a year. But he's been around quite a bit this year."

Meier's next stop, if he keeps on stinging the ball, probably would be the Mariner's Wassau, Wis., team, half a nation away from Bellingham.

"I hope to move up one or two notches," Meier said. "But as Iar as getting into the big leagues, it's really hard to tell."



Randy Meier

<u>Distance run draws 209</u>

MSU standout wins at Stony

Thursday's 2½-mile run through Stony Creek's rolling hills was a routine outing for Big Ten 10,000-meter champion Jill Washburn.
"It was a good practice run for me — I just wani-ed a quick workout this morning," said Washburn, who will be a junior this fall at Michigan State Uni-

who will be a junior this 1811 at autumgan annu our versity.

"I like it here (at Stony Creek)," she said. "It's a challenging course because you have to keep fighting your way through the woods and the loose dirt." Washburn was one of 209 runners who participated in the 10th annual Stony Creek Metropark Distance Run at the park's Oakgrove Picnic area. like, were tive "". mile runs, and a five-mile run that attracted the mest contestant of the third with the third that the contest of the father — Joe — won the Division IV (some 158. Her father — Joe — won the Division IV (31 years and Albon) race for the second straight year with a time of 1258. Her father — Joe — won the Division IV (31 years and Albon) race for the second straight year with a time

father — Joe — won the Division IV (older) race for the second straight yea of 13:14.

of 13:14.

The other 2½-mile races winners included: Rochester's Doug Goudie in Division 1 (ages 1-10);
Livonia's Paul Coburn in Division II (ages 11-20);
and Pontiac's Tony Alessi in Division III (ages 21-30).

30).
Tom Zarzycki of Mount Clemens won the five-mile race with a time of 25:02, and Orchard Lake's Larry Fisher was second at 25:13.

WASHBURN, who has raced in five consecutive tony Creek runs, won the Big Ten's 10,000-meter utdoor championship May 1 on her home course at

MSU.

The 1978 Rochester High School graduate won with a time of 34:36, then came back the next day and placed second in the 5,000-meter run. She said it was the highlight of her carrier so far.

'My coach wanted me to let the other people lead, and for me to stay behind and

pass at the end. . . . There was no way I was going to lose that race after leading all the way through.'

- Jill Washburn Big Ten 10,000-meter champion

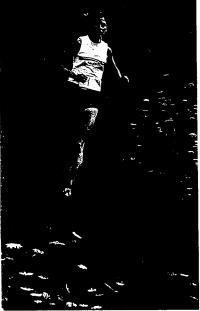
Washburn. "The (10,000-meter) race was like a six-mile run and a guarter-mile sprint. "My coach wanted me to let the other people lead and for me to stay behind and pass at the end.

But I think everyone else had the same idea.
"Except for a couple hundred yards at the beginning, I was the leader ail the way through. It got tough at the end because Melanie Weaver from U-

Was trying to pass me.
"I held her off though," she said. "There was no way I was going to lose that race after leading all the way through."

DAVE BLIEVERNICHT of Southfield is another DAVE BLIEVERNICHT of Southfield is another Stony Creek run veteran. Blievernicht finished sec-ond — 39 seconds slower than Joe Washburn — in the Division IV race. "I think I've missed a couple years, but I've been at all the other races (at Stony Creek)," said Bliev-ernicht. "My impression of this course is that it is possib. I see

by just a little longer now than it was the last time I raced here two years ago," he said. "It's a challenging course, and it's a delight to run on a true cross country course through the woods."



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Rochester's Jill Washburn runs to victory over a course which was cut through a field at Stony Creek Metropark.

Driving ambition

Spectator takes wheel for racing success

By Richard Lech

Walt Bohland was one auto-racing spec-tator who just couldn't leave the driving to

others.

Two and-a-half years ago, the Farming-ton Hills resident left the grandstands for the driver's saxt. So far, his performance has been anything but pedestrian.

Driving a 1917 Tornio fastback with a 351-cubic inch Cleveland engine, Bohland currently is in fifth place for the season in Flat Rock Speedway's street stock competition.

That's not bad for a field that usually to-tals 50 cars each week. And recently he took third in the racetrack's Midseason Championship.

Last year was even better.
Racing in a different Torino, Bohland finracing in a different Torino, Bohland fin-lished second overall in his class and won the Midseason Champinoship. Adjustments in breaking in a new car plus a few minor a en cidents and mechanical problems have stalled his points drive a bit this summer, however.

Tim through predicting how I'm going to this year. The 41-year-old engineering manager said. But I should be in the top 10, maybe even the top 12 the through the

HIS BACKGROUND certainly has helped. Bohland is the manufacturing and plant engineering manager for Ford Motor Company's Glass Division, and he has an en-gineering degree from the University of De-troit and a master's in business from Michi-





Walt Bohland (right) and Gerry Gentile prepare their Tori-no fastback for future races at Flat Rock Speedway. Boh-Sland, 41, made a late start in auto racing, but that hasn't