



M.B. Dillon Ward

# Harwell — you couldn't meet nicer guy



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

From Ernie Harwell's second home (the radio booth), comes the vigorous voice that Tiger fans readily recognize as the sound of summer.

As even fair-weather Tiger fans realize by now, Tiger announcer Ernie Harwell recently joined the ranks of renowned broadcasters Mel Allen, Red Barber, Bob Elson and Russ Hodges in baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

That completes the roster when it comes to Ernie's ilk in the hallowed Hall. Quite an accomplishment for someone who at the age of 5 attended elocution school because he was "longue-tied."

It sounded like a great feature story. But Harwell, a Farmington Hills resident, defies the typical feature format. What makes him tick goes beyond baseball, and that's exactly why they say: "If you don't like Ernie Harwell, there must be something wrong with you."

Baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn describes the Tiger announcer of 22 years this way: "Ernie Harwell is a fine gentleman and an outstanding broadcaster who richly deserved the Ford Frick memorial award for broadcasting excellence. His contributions to baseball over the years include not only his highly professional on-air commentary but also his selfless giving to others, both in and out of baseball."

JIM CAMPBELL, Tiger president and general manager: "Ernie is the professional of all professionals in his area. He's the finest sports broadcaster in professional baseball in the country. There aren't enough good things to say about him."

George Kell, Tiger television announcer who won the 1949 American League batting title as a Tiger: "Ernie Harwell is an outstanding individual — a fine Christian man and a good family man. He's a credit to his community and to his profession."

Fred Smith, Tiger group sales manager who co-authored the books "Tiger Trivia" and "Sons of Trivia" with Harwell: "Ernie Harwell is an altruistic individual, which is the nicest thing you can say about anyone. He lives for God and his fellow man. He's a great broadcaster and a great individual. "Walking through the stadium, he has a cheery hello for every sweeper and vendor. It could be Bowie Kuhn or a bum off the street — he doesn't care."

Paul Carey, Harwell's fellow announcer: "I can't imagine working with anyone who could make things more pleasant. We work about 175 games shoulder-to-shoulder in a year's time, and that booth can get awfully small unless you've got someone as patient and tolerant as Ernie to work with. We all have eggs to a certain degree, and Ernie's is one of the smallest I've ever seen."

IT SHOULDN'T have been such a surprise, but "the voice of the Tigers" answered a telephone request for an interview by inviting me to his home. Half an hour later, a barefoot and smiling Harwell opened the door of his spacious home and led the way to the table.

Lulu Harwell had a tasty lunch ready — chicken salad complete with ripe cantaloupe offered to Ernie by a loyal listener.

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# Lynch and Sons rebounds to win district title

## Region is next test

Lynch and Sons did it the hard way, rebounding from the losers' bracket of Sunday's first game, Jim Maertens singled with one out. John Berti walked, and Randy Wroten then jumped on a 3-2 curve ball and rode it over the fence for a 4-3 lead.

Down 3-1 in the seventh inning of Sunday's first game, Jim Maertens singled with one out. John Berti walked, and Randy Wroten then jumped on a 3-2 curve ball and rode it over the fence for a 4-3 lead.

Leading RBI-man Tim Scheerer then lined a single to center to break the tie.

ed to an 18-1 victory.

Reliever Ed Lynch pitched four scoreless innings to earn the win.

Ken Mehall followed with a three-run blast to left center, and Lynch and Sons took an 8-4 victory.

THE MONROE whitewash featured a two-hit pitching performance by Tim Birtas, who struck out eight in four

innings of work.

Mehall went 2-for-2 with two RBIs while Steve Barnes drilled a three-run double and John Berti lined a two-run triple.

In the 4-3 loss to St. Clair Shores, a seven-hitter by hurler Ed Lynch and a 10-hit offensive effort behind him went for naught as sloppy base running and carelessness snuffed out several scoring opportunities for Lynch and Sons.

In the tourney opener, Lynch and Sons easily disposed of the Detroit

Wildcats, 8-0. Pitcher Mark Pomorski cruised to a mercy-rule-shortened four-hitter, striking out seven.

Tim Scheerer's fifth-inning liner down the left-field line upped the score to 8-0 and set up the shortened game.

Lynch and Sons will open regional play Friday at 2:30 p.m. in Battle Creek against the Detroit Americans.

The eight-team regional concludes Monday, followed by the Stan Musial World Series at Bailey Park on Labor Day weekend.

# What a year! McGuire shatters stigma

By C.J. Risko  
staff writer

Three years of finishing second melted away in a stretch of three months for 17-year-old roller skater Tim McGuire.

That stigma of never quite being the best disappeared when McGuire, who will start his junior year at Rochester Adams High School in a few weeks, leaped and spun his way to first-place finishes in state, regional and national tournaments.

In the National Championships in Ft. Worth, Tex. earlier this month, McGuire was the judges' overwhelming choice as top freestyle singles skater in the world class division. Four of the five judges rated him as best in the competition, while the fifth judge gave him a second place ranking.

But the McGuire family had more than one member of which to be proud. Lisa, 15, made her debut in the national tournament by placing second in junior pairs.

Roller skating is the McGuire's family sport. Mickey McGuire, the two skaters' father, use to perform at the Rolladisk Skating Rink in Waterford.

Ironically, when Tim and Lisa began skating lessons six years ago and a teacher recognized their potential and suggested private lessons, their father opposed the idea because of the work involved.

THE WORKLOAD never detered Tim, who now has an excellent chance to become a world champion when the world meet is held in Nelson, New Zealand, Sept. 3-14.

"The guys I have to worry about," Tim said in evaluating the competition, "are coming out of our own country with me."

In last year's meet, two of the top three finishers in freestyle singles were from the U.S.

Both Tim and his coach, Bev Schein of Grand Blanc, agree that what makes Tim different is his ability in jumps and spins.

"There aren't a whole lot of guys — four or five in the country — that can do clean triples," Tim said.

Schein, a women's figure skating national champion in 1955-56, thinks there are even fewer with Tim's ability.

"Tim and Rick Elsworth (another of Schein's students) are the only two in the country that can execute triples (cleanly)," the coach said.

"He's (Tim) one of the best," Schein, who's been coaching since 1957, said. "He has this burning desire to be the best and now he is best in the country — and soon, I hope, in the world."

"He has a very good chance."

BESIDES CHAMPIONSHIPS in the state, regional and national meets, Tim added a victory in the National Sports Festival in July. He competed there with other top athletes, many of whom will have the opportunity to perform in the 1994 Olympics.

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Tim McGuire

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