

observing sports

Putting one word after another—And did you file all your income tax forms—like the state and city, too?

If your mind is relieved of that unhappy headache than how's about a moment or two thought in connection with Little League baseball?

It's just around the corner in most of our communities. Youngsters are being asked to sign up.

Which is fine. It's great that the kids have something extra to do during the weekends, while school still is on, and then in the summer while the classrooms are shut down.

But hopefully, this will be the year—we hope—when the moms and pops will let the kids have a good time—let them play for the fun of it, with the pressure of winning removed.

Sure we want to teach our kids to win. Without a winning spirit there's no way to succeed in any endeavor in life.

But everybody can't win. Losers have to be gracious. They have to be able to accept the happiness with the sad parts in life.

So, moms and pops, let the boys play...let all the boys play. Teach them how to play the game the right way. Encourage them to do the job right, whether it's pitching or sitting and yelling from the bench.

But, more important, make sure the kids have fun. If they don't, they'll lose out on something which is very important in life. Fun is something that decreases in most of our lives with the passing of each day.

AH, RACING in Michigan from March 1 to mid-December?

Well, we hear that is in the offing for the horse fans and owners next year.

And, who's been hollering for extending the season? What sports editor dear to our hearts?

As we said before, our good folks like to attend the races. They like to wager their hard-earned bucks.

Every time somebody bets, each of us benefits in some way. The state collects around 6% from each wager.

The state is crying for more money. Racing can help. Any extra the tracks contributes will mean just that much less you and I must dish out in income tax, or some other kind of tax next year.

So, good luck at the Detroit Race Course where the lid goes up next Monday.

All signs indicate another record-breaking meet at the DRC. They've got some dandy horses coming in...some outstanding stables...some crack jockeys...some brilliant trainers.

How do you like what happened during the first week of high school baseball hereabouts?

Two no-hitters?

The league title chase begins next week. There are some dandies in the offing.

ONE HEARS through the grapevine that a top area basketball coach won't be at his old job next season.

He's asked to be relieved of his chores.

WATCH FOR THE 1970 Observerland High School track ratings.

Coach Jerry Williams of Farmington, with the assistance of other area coaches, will again present the rankings each Wednesday in the Observer.

There are several stellar athletes again in the area, despite the fact the likes of John Morrison, last year's state hurdles champ from Redford Union, now is performing for Michigan State.

ALL OF WHICH brings up an explanation to a letter: "How come Michigan State and any other colleges can use freshmen in spring sports?"

That's the new rule for the colleges. About the only sports where the big schools won't use freshmen are football and basketball.

It's a great rule, especially for recruiting purposes. You can tell a standout high school track or swim or baseball star: "Come to our school and you'll be on our varsity as a freshman and making trips to California or Florida."

MAYBE YOU NOTICED the item the other day about a co-ed in the east who has gone to court in hopes that the judge will permit her to play on a boys' team at her high school.

The national prep rule on this matter....and that includes Michigan...is uniform: No girls can participate on the same team with boys, or vice versa.

This doesn't mean that some girls might excel if put on the same teams.

DRC Opens 90-Day Meet Monday

The greatest stakes program and the highest overall purse distribution in the Detroit Race Course's 22-year history highlights the 90-day meet which opens Monday, April 20.

There are 75 stakes, handicaps and feature events listed on the 1970 program, with total purses in excess of \$3,250,000. The list is topped by the Michigan Mile, which will carry an added value of \$100,000 for its renewal on Saturday, June 20.

John R. (Jack) Davis, President of the DRC, expressed the belief that the caliber of racing this season will be the best ever provided at a Michigan thoroughbred track.

Michigan racing, we have intensified our efforts to improve the caliber of competition we provide for our fans," Davis said. "We now have a year-around recruiting program among the horsemen to interest them in racing with us."

According to Ryder there are 25 stables that are either new to this area or haven't

the first two races, and there will also be additional perfecta wagering.

The stakes program gets off to a fast start with the \$15,000 Curtains Up Handicap on opening day. It is for three year olds at a sprint distance of six furlongs.

One of the country's leading winners, both in money and races, the ever-popular M.H. Van Berg Stable is on the grounds awaiting the opening, along with America's winningest jockey, Larry Snyder, who last year led the nation with 382 wins.

Snyder is back at the DRC and will attempt to top his performance of 132 wins at this track, an all-time record, established last year on his way to capturing the coveted title.

"We have made a number of improvements and changes in the plant in our continuing effort to give fans the finest of facilities," Davis concluded.

Post parade at the DRC Monday through Friday, will be 3:20 p.m. and on Saturdays and holidays 2 p.m.



NEVER TOO YOUNG to learn seems to be the thought of this mother as she carries her tiny son in the infield at Clarenceville High while watching one of the rays of the Cville-West Bloomfield meet. (Observer photo)

Walk Spoils Perfect Game As Bentley Tops Franklin

What a combination Dave Rice and Al Hernandez make for the Bentley High baseball team.

Rice just missed pitching a perfect game, while Hernandez made the fielding play of the game and struck a mighty bat in Bentley's 11-0 romp over Franklin.

Rice worked to only 21 batters. That's par for the course in a seven-inning game.

Only one Franklin man reached base—getting there on

a walk. But he quickly was erased on a double play and everybody else on the Franklin team retired in order.

IT TOOK A diving stop, followed by a perfect throw by Hernandez to cut down what looked like a sure-fire Franklin hit.

Hernandez, a junior who cracked the starting lineup for the first time this season, was a mighty man at bat, too.

He rapped out two doubles, he walked once, drove home five runs and stole four bases.

Ken Ockerman didn't do badly either with the bat. He had two hits and drove over two runs.

Bentley never was in trouble after the first inning in which it scored four times.

Two were out when Hernandez and Jim Erwin walked. Both scored on Ockerman's

Trojans Fall To Milford In Opener

It was game No. 1 for Clarenceville and game No. 5 for Milford.

The result was inevitable. Milford won easily, 12-0.

Errors led to the downfall of the Trojans.

One bobble led to six unearned runs in the second inning.

In the fourth, there was a grand slam homer, but it came after the side again should have been retired.

Joe Mutnick and Chip Mayreles accounted for the only two Clarenceville hits.

A Churchill First: Blanks Crestwood

Happy day for Churchill High's baseball team. That was Friday when Churchill downed Crestwood, 8-0, for its first varsity baseball

Garden City Baseball Trials Set

Tryouts for the Garden City team in the Livonia Class A baseball league are scheduled for Garden City Park, Merri-man at Cherry Hill Road, on Sunday, April 19, at 1 p.m.

A special invitation is extended to all players in the area and the makeup of the team, according to rules, will include 15 players, seven of whom can reside outside the city limits of Garden City.

The Livonia League will comprise teams from Plymouth, Northville, Redford, Garden City and Livonia.

In announcing the tryouts league officials also have called attention to two important rules for Class A teams.

The first of these is that no player on one Class A team can play for another in that classification. The second concerns a player who plans to compete outside of his home town must obtain a written release from the manager of the home town team.

The Garden City team will be managed by Dil Clark and coached by Bob Asher.

Victory in the young Livonia school's history.

Bob Phillips went the route for Churchill. He allowed four hits and didn't walk a batter.

Churchill also was limited to four hits, but picked up 13 bases on balls en route to the historic triumph.

THE LIVONIANS scored three times in the first inning without the benefit of an aid. Three walks and two sacrifices got the job done.

In the second a hit by Denny Kolakowski with three on, was the result of walks, added two more runs.

Then in the seventh, Churchill tallied three more with three walks, plus a single by George Ganzoil.

The victory came after Churchill had dropped a 4-3 heartbreaker to Dearborn Fordson.

Churchill had rallied to tie the score in the seventh before Fordson cashed an unearned run to win the game.

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