

Bentley Takes Lead In Suburban Six Baseball Race

It's any "anybody" race for the baseball crown in the Suburban Six League.

There's no team which hasn't lost...all of which puts Bentley High in good shape. The Livonians have dropped only one of four league starts.

Thus, after beating Redford

Union, 7-4, Thursday, Bentley finds itself starting the new week on top in the title chase.

WHILE BENTLEY disposed of RU, Plymouth suffered a heart-breaking defeat in bowing 1-0, in a battle of two-hits.

Ken Ockerman hurled a five

hitter and fanned nine to best RU's Kirk Taylor, who was touched for nine hits while whiffing six.

Redford Union got off to a three-run start when Kirk Taylor and Tim Fox walked, an error, and a single by Keith Everett put Ockerman in trouble.

But when Ockerman settled down while his mates got one run in the first, four in the second and two in the sixth.

Dick Boehm was hit by a pitch in the first and came around without the benefit of a hit.

In the second, Dan Boehm singled, Ockerman singled and

Gary Battle singled for one run. Bob Walden followed with a three-run homer and Bentley was in the lead.

In the sixth with two out, Battle singled, Walden tripled him in and Walden scored on a wild pitch.

GLEN KNIGHT, of Allen

Park, emerged the winner over a luckless John Cederberg in the game with Plymouth.

Each gave up two hits, but one of the Parker hits was a single by Mike Nolan, which skipped past the Plymouth outfielder and Nolan circled

the bases for the game's only run.

Plymouth had two men on in the second, third and fourth innings, but couldn't score. Pat Cunningham and Steve Friction accounted for the only Plymouth hits.

Redford Union's loss to Bentley was the second in as

many days for the Township, who had started the week unbeaten in the league.

On Wednesday, RU lost to Belleville 5-2, after taking an early lead when Neal Thomas doubled in Bill Booker and then Bill Herbert homered.

Booker was the losing pitcher, he gave up five hits.

Falcons Vault Stands Out In Rout Of Raiders

It was Nat Durham's first big chance in a track meet.

The sophomore from Farmington never before had soared over 11-feet, 6 inches in the pole vault.

But against North Farmington, as his team rolled to an easy 86-32 victory, Durham

Tough Loss Suffered By Churchill

When it comes to heart-breaking pitching performances, Churchill High's Mike Keller turned in an against Walled Lake Western when Western won, 2-0.

Keller took over from Brian Sherman with three on in the second inning, Western leading, 2-0, and nobody out.

From that point on he pitched perfect baseball. But his mates weren't able to overcome their deficit and Churchill wound up the loser.

Mickey Cron had two hits for the losers while Pat Welch and Denny Kolakowski each had one.

FRIENDLY CONFINES

The Tigers out-homered every opposing American League club in Tiger Stadium in 1969 except the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Senators.

THE VICTORY was the sixth in a row without a loss for the Falcons, one of the area's most powerful prep track teams.

Mark Bender led the winners as he won both the dashes. Randy Pender turned in an excellent time of 20.7 in winning the low hurdles.

THE RESULTS: 880-YARD RELAY: 1-Farmington (Carroll, Cleveland, Arnold, Goldbaum); Time: 1:33.3.

LOW HURDLES: 1-Carroll, 2-Gow (NF), 3-Duke (NF); Distance: 19 feet, 11 inches.

SHOT PUT: 1-Massey (F), 2-Bird (NF), 3-Dawkins (NF); Distance: 18 feet, 3 inches.

880-YARD: 1-Massey (F), 2-Kerans (F), 3-Winterbottom (NF); Time: 1:42.2.

100-YARD: 1-Rollins (NF), 2-Steinle (F), 3-Pender (F); Time: 15.5 seconds.

HIGH JUMP: Tie for 1st-Klawnseder (F), Cleveland (F), 2-White; Height: 5 feet, 10 inches.

MILE: 1-Hildebrandt (F), 2-Costello (NF), 3-Bell (F); Time: 1:30.3.

100-YARD: 1-Bender (F), 2-Kerans (F), 3-Kerans (F); Time: 10.2 seconds.

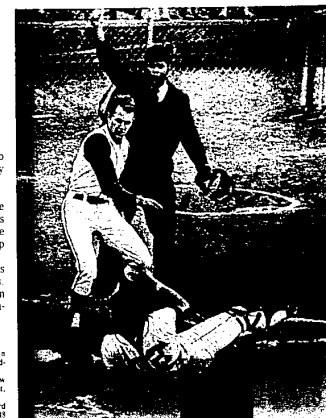
100-YARD: 1-Gow (NF), 2-Cleveland (F), 3-Duke (NF); Time: 21.7 seconds.

TWO MILE: 1-Dunbar (F), 2-Stokes (NF), 3-Burns (F); Time: 9:32.8.

220-YARD: 1-Bender (F), 2-Timmons (F), 3-Poelling (NF); Time: 22.8 seconds.

MILE RELAY: 1-Farmington (Carroll, Kerans, Kewell, Hildebrandt); Time: 2:31.2.

POLE VAULT: 1-Nat Durham (F), 2-Bodak (NF), 3-Duke (NF); Height: 12 feet, 6 inches.



"OUT" WAVES THE UMPIRE as Plymouth Catcher Dale Rumberger blocks the plate to tag RU's Bill Booker. But the impact dazed Rumberger for a few minutes and



his teammates rush out to revive him. He was able to resume his position behind the plate and finish the game. (Observer photos by Harry Mauthe)

RU Trackmen Continue Long Winning Streak

Cooling off Redford Union High's track team in Suburban Six League action has become a tough proposition.

The Townshippers, who have lost only once in a conference dual meet in three years, added to their streak Thursday by downing Plymouth, 78-40.

Redford Union had overall power against the Rocks with sweeps in the mile and the high hurdles.

MIKE BODAK, of Plymouth, was the meet's only double winner. He captured the 100-yard dash and the long jump.

Bentley, meantime, dropped its fourth decision in seven meets when beaten by Trenton, 61-56 1/2.

Mark Johnson and Mike Day were standouts for Bentley.

Johnson won the low hurdles and was third in the long jump and pole vault. Day was second in the shot put and high hurdles and third in the high jump.

Bentley scored a sweep in the 440-yard run in which Darrell Proctor was first across.

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1 Mile: 1-Murder, 2-Powell, 3-Ward; Time: 13.3 seconds.

Low Hurdles: 1-Johnson, 2-Day; Time: 21.7 seconds.

Pole Vault: 1-Johnson, 2-Bugler, 3-Powell, 4-Kerans, 5-Mike Bolas, 6-Bentley, 7-Morton, 8-Mudas, 9-Proctor, 10-Koch; Time: 2:31.

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There are those who keep saying: "Cut back on school sports to help keep the expenses down in our educational program." In some communities they have. Fortunately, it's different -- at least, so far -- around Oberlinland.

Most boards of education hereabouts in the battle to keep outgo (finances) from matching income have felt that to drop interscholastic sports in any degree wouldn't make sense...that the harm done would exceed any meager savings.

This must prompt a salute from all of us. We were thinking about it the other afternoon at Our Lady of Sorrows during a 1-0 game decided by an unusual ruling by our favorite umpire (his initials are G.M.).

It wasn't the decision the ump rendered, or who won.

That really wasn't anywhere as important as the number of fans who turned out to watch the game.

The crowd ripped those who would tell you that there is NO interest in high school baseball. Phooey on such talk. There's a great deal of interest, especially when schools are able to play games on diamond on the "campus" grounds and not five or six or 10 miles away.

There's something else, too, which shows that baseball is popular on the school fronts. It's the annual Les Anders Memorial tournament held at Ford Field...with this year's tourney to begin during the third week in May.

WHEN THE LATE Mr. Anders, along with recreation officials, Junior Chamber of Commerce and Observer newspaper dignitaries, came upon the idea of such a meet five years ago, the interest was significant...something like eight schools.

The meet became an instant success, artistically on the field and from a popularity standpoint.

As a result, the number of competing schools has increased with each year.

Now we're up to 20 for the coming meet, which may be the last...and not because the schools, the coaches and the fans are against it.

The Anders tourney may give way to something bigger...much bigger -- a state high school baseball meet.

Just such promotions as the Anders meet has helped to convince schoolmen around Michigan that it is possible to conduct a spring baseball tournament on a state-wide basis.

Virtually every prep baseball coach has pleaded for a state meet for years. But, there were those -- and one can understand their reasoning -- who felt that it might not be wise to undertake a state tournament.

They were concerned there wouldn't be enough time, or interest, or some other things.

But when a meet like the Anders event can go off so smoothly, there's no reason why in essence it couldn't serve as a district or regional for a state tournament.

And this is what likely will happen in the years to come. Likely starting next year when from all indications Michigan's first state prep baseball tournament will be held.

JUST WHAT WILL happen to the Anders tournament remains to be seen. We, for one, would like to see it remain a part of the prep baseball program.

It's been the ONE event each spring which tied all the Observer schools together and the sponsors already have envisioned adding Southfield, Southfield Lathrup and Brother Rice.

How to hold a state tournament and the Anders meet simultaneously naturally poses a question.

But we have an idea.

In track they have the various invitational every Saturday which lure the thousands.

Saturday is a quiet day for prep baseball. Here and there a school plays.

So, what would be wrong if beginning with the first Saturday in May and continuing for three or four Saturdays, Oberlinland teams hold the Anders meet...and thus keep it alive?

It would add something extra to the spring program and we can't see why it would cramp the schedules of the various teams.

Every coach you talk to says he's all for playing as many games as possible. And a Saturday game or two wouldn't conflict with the regular-season, league schedules, etc.

It's just a thought...because those who have had anything to do with the Anders meet over the years would hate to see it fade from the picture.

Of course, its elimination would not come under the category of "a failure."

Instead, it would be bowing to PROGRESS...and who can fault that?

Frosh Matman

Michigan State freshman wrestler Bill Elsenheimer of Madison Heights, is a member of the 1970 U.S. National Greco-Roman mat team.

ANN ARBOR Olympian Sam Stoller's Michigan record of 61.1 seconds for the 60 yard dash lasted until 1970 when Wolverine sophomore Gene Brown ran the distance in six flat.

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