

observing sports

The Friendly Skies of United Airlines had just brought us back to Detroit.

As we strolled through the concourse at Metro Airport, the better half of our household, commenting on a just-concluded trip to Las Vegas, remarked:

"Now top the past few days we've had."

No way, we trust, will the weathermen here match the heat wave that struck Las Vegas last week.

Imagine, daily temperatures in the afternoon at around 115 degrees! It's hard to comprehend that when you arise and listen to the 8 or 9 a.m. news reports, the announcer says "It's already 90 in Las Vegas."

And, what about driving along at midnight and noticing the sign above the Sahara Hotel with the temperature indicating 102 degrees. Yes...and that was at midnight.

If you want to know how 115 degrees feel, turn on your kitchen stove...get it up to around 110-120, open the door and stick your head in.

That's the sensation you get when you walk from an air-conditioned hotel lobby into the streets of Vegas!

BUT, THERE'S NO PLACE like Vegas for entertainment and excitement... not when in the short span of five nights you are able to attend, in person, shows featuring the likes of Johnny Carson and Dean Martin...Perry Como and Jimmy Durante...Paul Anka and Teresa Brewer...Don Adams and Jack E. Leonard.

And, what about the new place called Circus Circus, where they have a variety of acts, like acrobats swinging in the upper rafters...like a gent diving some 80 feet into a small crater or...

And, while all this is going on...those busily engaged on the main floor of the arena take no time to turn away from pulling the levers on slot machines or from indicating whether they need another card in what's known as "Black Jack."

They say, there's only one Las Vegas. Unless you get there at least once, you've missed something.

But getting back to that remark by the better half of the household:

"Now top the past few days we've had."

THERE'LL BE LITTLE time wasted in something taking place on the sports scene which might rival what happened to us personally last week.

After all, this is THE day Denny McLain becomes eligible to pitch again for the Tigers.

Unless, there's a rain, Denny will pitch this very evening for the Tigers against the Yankees.

The Tigers, from Manager Mayo Smith down, have hopes that Denny will be the difference in the second half of the season...that with McLain pitching every fourth day he can improve the team's fortunes immensely.

If anybody can put new life into the Tigers, Denny McLain has to be that man.

There are those who may be concerned that the developments of the past few months will put McLain on the spot.

Remember that many felt that Denny should have been suspended for more than just half a season? Remember, too, that he's been involved in bankruptcy proceedings? And, what about the remarks catcher Bill Freehan made about Denny in his new book?

We doubt that any of this will affect Denny if he gets back on the winning track. Fans are people, and people are fickle and they are quick to forget and to forgive.

There'll be a few who'll make some remarks. They'll pop off from the stands.

BY AND LARGE, most of us will take the stand:

"Let's forget about the past. A new day has arrived and to bring up the past won't do the Tigers or Denny McLain any good."

Just what to expect of McLain in his first start or in, say, the next few weeks, remains a big question.

Sure, Denny says he's in good shape. He's been pitching and working out in Florida.

But, Denny hasn't hurtled to any big leaguers. He's been throwing to high school players and sandloters.

He's had to "spring training" this year...no chance to work in any exhibitions...no opportunity to get the "feel" of hurling against major leaguers.

However, there's no more cocky athlete than McLain. He bubbles with confidence and enthusiasm. He says he can get out there and pitch and win...right from the start.

Somehow, we kind of believe Denny on this score. We wish him only the best, not so much for himself, but if the Tigers can become a winner again, it will help a great deal toward pepping up the Detroit area and Michigan during some other wise trying times.

Southfield Pitcher CMU Standout

Dennis Wooster of Pontiac and Greg Main of Southfield emerged as the top right handed hurlers on the 1970 Central Michigan University freshman baseball team.

Wooster was kept mostly under wraps until late in the season when he produced two victories in three days and

ended up with a perfect 0-0 earned run average for 13 and one-third innings of work.

Main was in seven games and posted four wins in five decisions as the most successful right-hander on Coach Dave Keilitz's staff. He also worked the most innings on the team, 34, and was touched for 32 hits while fanning a team-leading 37 and passing 15 batters.

Main's ERA was a fine 2.91. The 6-foot-2, 210 pounder is a graduate of Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows High School.

Garden City Ends Hubert Win Streak

Bang, boom, bang...and with it went the unbeaten ways of Hubert Healy in the Greater Livonia Adray Baseball League.

After rolling over one rival after another to the tune of five straight victories...Hubert ran into his downfall Sunday when Garden City cashed six runs in the first inning.

That's all Garden City could do the rest of the evening, but it was enough the way Rick Ostland from Garden City East high was pitching.

WHEN IT WAS all over.

Garden City possessed a 6-2 victory.

The big inning for Garden City started with a walk to Chuck Evans. Pat McHugh singled and the runners took an extra base on a sacrifice fly.

A sacrifice fly by Craig Sylvester sent in one run. Then Ray Hannan singled. Kevin Wilkinson doubled. Marty Dork walked. Eddie Fushes singled. Rick Lang sacrificed and Ostland hit single.

Six runs. And it was all over.

Ostland fanned 10. He lost his shoult when John Schroeter singled in both the Hubert runs. Later Jim Erwin tripled with one out for Hubert and Ostland showed his brilliance by fanning the next two batters and getting the third man on a fly.

The defeat came after Hubert had dented Westland 3-2 earlier in the day when Roy Hollandsworth singled, Jim Schroeter with the winning run in the seventh inning.

Earlier Bob Fialano and Stu

Rose had belted home runs for Hubert which used the pitching of Bob Hood and Ken Gossowski to hold off Westland. Don Gregor doubled in the first. Westland ran and scored the second on an infield out.

Bill Conlin hurled the first four innings for Westland while Kerry Webb finished up for the second time during the day.

Webb had worked in a 7-5 loss to Plymouth on which Plymouth's Nick Valenti went the distance to pick up the triumph.

Bob Kellman of Plymouth and Mike Martin of Westland each pitched a five-run inning in the game.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP'S defending league and state champion, beat out a 1-2 win over Farmington Holcomb in a game called after five innings.

An eight-run assault in the fourth inning more than proved enough for Redford.

Tim Carr, Bill Holmes and Bob Howe, each had two hits for the winners. Dennis Pop-

finger socked out three while Kirk Taylor drilled a home run.

REDFORD GAINED a tie with Hubert for first place by beating Northville 7-0 as Dale Bjerkie gave up three hits and fanned 12.

Bjerkie still stretched to 28 innings his streak of shutout frames in besting Northville's Jeff Taylor.

Bjerkie also drove in Bill Holmes with the first Redford run. Hits by Kirk Taylor and Dennis Popfinger brought in the other two.

Sandlot Schedule

CLAS A	NATIONAL LEAGUE	AMERICAN LEAGUE
Wednesday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac Thursday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac Friday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac	Wednesday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac Thursday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac Friday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac	Wednesday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac Thursday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac Friday: 11M vs Garden City, Garden City West, Woodland Lakes vs. Northwest, Jeff Creek, Livonia vs. Super's, East Pontiac



TOO LATE and Scott Stacey, of Big Boy, is tagged out at third by Ken Grant, of Livonia Optimists, on a pickoff play. Scott wondered a bit too far from the bag and the throw from the pitcher nailed him. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

Farmington Legion Sweeps Double Bill

Things are looking up for Farmington's American Legion baseball team.

After a slow start, the team has rebounded with two 16-year-olds, Bruce Economou and Ray Ponke, impressing. Farmington swept a double-header from Auburn Heights, 5-4 and 4-1.

"It's encouraging to get pitching like we got against Auburn," manager Wally Christensen said.

ECONOMOU HAD a shoutout going until the seventh inning when he tired and the opposition pushed over four runs.

Ponke pitched a strong game all the way.

Farmington scored twice in the opening inning of the first game on a walk to John Holappa, a single by Dave Delling, a sacrifice and a ground out.

In the second inning, Rick Garneau singled and Delling doubled to help bring in two

more runs. What proved the winning run came across when Dave Shay knocked in Holappa.

Economou fanned seven and walked only four men.

Ponke fanned nine and was helped along to a 2-0 lead in the first inning on singles by Ponke himself, Delling and Shay.

In the third inning, Holappa tripled and Delling brought him in with a sacrifice fly.

Then in the fourth, Shay singled, Economou walked and Paul Kupferschmidt delivered a long sacrifice fly.

Farmington hosts Berkley Wednesday, plays at Madison Heights Friday and returns home Sunday for a double-header with Waterford

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Snowmobile Dealers Plan Show Oct. 17

The third annual Greater Michigan Snowmobile and Winter Sports show will be held Oct. 17 through 25 in the Detroit Artillery Armory.

Show manager Donald Stewart expects to fill nearly 200,000 square feet of floor space with models from most of the 70 snowmobile manufacturers in the country.

In addition to snowmobiles and related equipment, there will be a large selection of all-terrain vehicles.

The show is owned and produced by the Michigan Marine and Snowmobile Dealers' Association, is the largest dealer-owned snowmobile show in the world.

Michigan State wrestling coach Grady Penner serves as president of the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

23 Golfers Move In Loop Play

Livonia's Women's Golf League hit its halfway mark Friday with eight changes affecting 23 members.

Most of the girls went up a flight, accounting for some new faces in the winner's circle for low net.

In a flight, it was Jackie Stocks with a low of 37, Katie Ogden, took E flight honors. Jean Nielsen and Virginia Scholtz tied in C flight with low gross of 35. Doris O'Connell was D flight winner with 35.

Rain spoiled E flight matches.

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