

Sports

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(F10)



Marty Budner

Smith's book, Tigers are hot

TIGER-HOLIC Fred Smith admits his timing couldn't have been better. "If you would have told me at the beginning of the season that they'd be 24-0 right now, of course I wouldn't have believed you," said Smith, who lives in Southfield. "I couldn't have picked a better year."

Yes sir. The Tigers are hot and so is Smith's latest book: "Fifty Years with the Tigers."

A native Detroit, Smith has penned previous baseball books. They include "Tiger Trivia," "Son of Tiger Trivia," "The Brooks Robinson Quiz" and "999 Tigers."

These books dealt with trivia and names. This one's different.

Smith decided Detroit's baseball fans needed a locally flavored encyclopedia chronicling recent Tiger history.

"Fifty Years" encompasses 50 chapters which briefly describe Detroit's yearly baseball fortunes. It starts with Mickey Cochrane's 1934 pennant-winning team and concludes with Sparky Anderson's near-miss squad of '93.

It's errors are few.

Most chapters seem to start with the same "optimism" theme and there are a couple of occasions where Smith unapologetically is loyal to Tiger management for whom he once worked. And, of course, the book is absolutely regional in scope.

There may not be many people from Joplin, Mo., interested in the 234-page work. But, then again, if you're a devoted Tiger fan living in Chicago or Los Angeles, it's a book you certainly should look at.

Smith does provide great insight into individual seasons and each chapter ends with Tiger hitting and pitching stats from that particular year. It comes complete with pictures of past Tigers, detailed lists of all Tiger award winners and Ernie Harwell's incomparable "Game for all America" poem.

Essentially, the book reads like Jack Morris pitching style.

It starts out with a fastball of pennants and World Series through the '30s and '40s, kind of slides and falls away from the reader during the '50s, whips right past you during the '60s, changes up and fools you during the '70s, and comes back hard for the decisive late-game edge in the '80s.

And, like Morris, it's a winner all the way. Enough of the review. Let's get into the meat of the matter.

If you're a true Detroit Tiger fan, and you can't answer these basic questions, you'll need the book (\$9.95 at most local book stores). All the answers are according to "Fifty Years with the Tigers."

1. Who was the first player to hit a ball out of redbull Briggs Stadium and what year did he do it?

2. John J. McHale, a former Detroit Tiger player, is currently president of the Montreal Expos. As a high school athlete, he competed in a sporting event at Briggs Stadium. What was the event and for what high school did he compete?

3. In 1946, the Detroit Tigers traded Barney McCosky to the Philadelphia A's. They received a future Hall of Famer in return. Who was he?

4. Since 1934, five Detroit Tiger pitchers have been connected for grand slam home runs. Who was the last pitcher to have done it and who was the only pitcher to have done it twice?

5. Detroit's Harvey Kuenn won the 1959 batting title. He was traded the following season for another individual batting leader. Who was he and what batting title did he win?

6. Detroit was no-hit in a 1987 baseball game but still won. What pitchers combined to throw the no-hitter, who did they play for and what was the final score?

7. The Detroit Tigers had three of the American League's most valuable players from 1934 through 1937. Who were they?

8. Night baseball debuted in 1930. In what year did the Tigers play their first home night game and against which team?

9. A Detroit Tiger player is the only American Leaguer to have won the most valuable player award at two different positions. Who was he and what were the positions?

10. In 1955, Al Kaline became the youngest player ever to win the American League batting title. Who was the previous youngest?

11. When was Briggs Stadium renamed Tiger Stadium?

12. The 1972 American League playoffs between Detroit and Oakland was scarred by an ugly bat-throwing incident. Who threw the bat and at whom?

13. Al Cowens was suspended seven games for fighting in 1980. Late in the season the two players traded differences with a hand shake at home plate. Who did Cowens fight?

14. Detroit finished fifth in the 1976 East Division, tied with an under-.500 record. Yet three players finished the 1976 American League All-Star team. Who were they?

15. Who were the eight players involved in the 1976-1977 end-of-season trade between the Detroit Tigers and Washington Senators?

(If you're really curious, the answers can be found on Page 3C.)

City meet full of surprises North tops rivals



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Lauri Runk, the ace of the Farmington Harrison girls track team, didn't win the long jump Tuesday in the Farmington city meet as she is attempting to do above. But she did win the high jump, going 5-2.

Greenberg hot in key North victory

North Farmington's girls softball team played in the chase for the North Suburban League (NSL) title Tuesday by defeating Garden City 5-2 behind the one-hit pitching of Suzette Greenberg.

Greenberg went the distance on a cold and windy afternoon on North Farmington's home field, yielding two unearned runs while fanning four and walking six, as the Raiders improved their league mark to 4-2. The win left them one game behind Redford Thurston.

"It was a good win for us," North Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "Suzette did a nice job for us. It wasn't a well-played game, but she kept us in it. She kept their runners off the bases."

Amy Austin was the offensive star for North Farmington, going 3-for-4 with three RBI. Her clutch single in the first inning drove home Libby Shaw and Tracy Toccalone to give the Raiders a 2-0 lead. Austin on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Michelle Rosen.

Garden City scored a run in the first inning and another in the fifth to close the gap to 4-3, but North Farmington put the game out of reach with four runs in their top of the sixth.

After Shaw had singled and Toccalone walked, Austin came through once again, singling in Shaw to give the Raiders a 5-4 lead. Donna Kornreich then hit a two-run triple to ice the victory.

Paul Kosciuszko drove in the final run with a fielder's choice.

Kathy England's RBI single in the fifth was the Raiders' only hit in the game. North Farmington had only four errors, three in the earlier, and were in Garden City, which fell to 0-4 in the NSL.

North Farmington (7-3 overall) plays Thurston in a big game on Friday that could determine the eventual NSL champion.

"It was a good win for us. Suzette did a nice job for us. It wasn't a well-played game, but she kept us in it."
—coach Denny Mikel
North Farmington

FARMINGTON HARRISON exploded for 13 runs in the first three innings in Tuesday's 16-3 rout of Northville to improve its Western Lakes Activities Association record to 4-1. The Hawks are atop the WLA's Western Division.

Winning pitcher Michelle Vogt (6-0) didn't allow an earned run, scattering four hits while whiffing six batters. She struck out the side in the first inning and set down the last 10 batters she faced.

Deanna Kool led the Hawks' offensive attack, going three-for-five with five RBI, including a double and a bases-loaded triple. She also stole three bases.

Collette Cashin, who is batting .471 for Harrison, this season, added two doubles; Tawana Hicks had three hits, including a double.

FARMINGTON played perhaps its worst game of the season. The Falcons were crushed Tuesday by Lewis Livonia Baseball, 16-1. It was the Falcons' first victory last season.

Debbie Thompson, who was the starter for Lewis Livonia, pitched 11 1/2 innings to record the victory.

Sperry's starter, Scotty Smith, pitched 10 1/2 innings, but he was hit by two batters in the fourth and fifth innings and seven in the fourth.

Lori Ingalls, Tara Tuomey and Jill Waterman had two hits each for Farmington, which fell to 3-4.

Nothing like a good old city rivalry to bring out the best in some teams — and the worst in others.

The Farmington city track meet was held in unusually cold weather Tuesday, and the results — at least of the girls meet — were equally unusual.

The Farmington girls track team came into the meet ranked No. 1 in Observerland. Farmington Harrison was ranked fifth. North Farmington wasn't ranked at all. Final score: North 88 1/2, Farmington 85 1/2, Harrison 50.

"They were the No. 1 team in Observerland," said North coach Ralph Temby. "And we are a very young team with a 500 record. But, facts are facts. The weather wasn't very good and a lot of the breaks went our way. Harrison cut into Farmington and Farmington into Harrison. We just had the right people in the right places, that's all."

THERE WEREN'T any surprises in the boys meet. Farmington (previously ranked No. 2 in Observerland) ran away from the field. Final score: Farmington 88 1/2, Harrison 49 1/2, North 37.

The girls race went down to the final event — the 1,600-meter relay. At that point, Farmington and North were tied at 55 1/2. Harrison had 45 points. All the Falcons needed was a second-place finish in the relay and the meet was theirs.

Harrison's team pulled in first with a swift 4:22.66. North beat out the Falcons, 4:38.3 to 4:32.7.

There were three double-event winners in the meet: Farmington's Rhonda Lancaster took both the 100-meter (18.55) and 300-meter (49.31) hurdles. Jenny Lindbert, also from Farmington, won the 1,600 (5:46.88) and 3,200 (12:33.3) runs. North's Tammy Spengler won the 100 run in 13.47 and tied with the Hawks' Jill Birsas in the 200, each running 27.55.

Other winners were: Terri Quenneville (Farmington) 31.4 in the shot put; Beth Sherman (Farmington) 106.5 in the discus; Lauri Runk (Harrison) 5-2 in the high jump; Laina Shaw (North) 16-5 in the long jump; Tracy Brod (Harrison) 1:03.39 in the 400 dash; and Beth Emery (North) 2:32.4 in the 800 run. Harrison captured the 800 relay in 1:52.7. Farmington won the 1,200 relay with a 10:40.4 while North took the 400 relay with a 5:05.6.

IN THE BOYS race, Farmington dominated the field events, the middle distance events and the relays.

There were three double-event winners in the boys meet as well: Farmington's Al Hazen won the high jump (6-0) and the discus (130-8). Teammate Brian Looser won the 200 dash (24.00) and the 400 dash (52.34). North's super sophomore Kirk Arm-



Rhonda Lancaster had a big meet for the runner-up Falcons Tuesday winning both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles.

strong took both distance runs — the 1,600 in 4:35.5 and the 3,200 in 10:20.8.

The best individual performance of the day may have been Farmington's Jeff Lawton. Lawton, who placed first in the pole vault at the Observerland Relays Saturday (a feat originally and erroneously credited to Brian Looser), vaulted 13-0 to win the event Tuesday. His best was 12-6 at the Observerland meet.

Farmington won the 400 relay (46.19), the 800 relay (1:53.2) and the 1,600 relay (5:37.0). Harrison took the 1,200 relay in 9:40.85.

Other winners were: Brian Hood (North) 44-10 in the shot put; Victor Shaw (North) 20-8 1/2 in the long jump; Jerry Holcomb (Harrison) 15.76 in the 110 hurdles; Greg Coplan (Farmington) 41.0 in the 300 dash; Mike Roseman (Harrison), 11.56 in the 100 dash; and Al Stebbins (Farmington) 2:07.7 in the 800 run.

Jury still out on grid plan

The Farmington city council has a decision to make on whether to approve a plan to build a new highway interchange at the intersection of Highway 10 and Highway 16. The plan, which would cost \$10 million, would improve traffic flow and reduce travel time. The council will vote on the plan next month.

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