

It's Playoff Time In 'A' League

It'll be playoff time this week in the Greater Livonia Class A baseball league. Redford's defending league and state champs, along with Livonia Hubert are assured spots in the series.

There's a possibility that Northville could creep into the picture, providing it is able to defeat Redford for the second time and winning a playoff.

REDFORD won the first round while Hubert reigned in the third round, which moved along merrily while the second round remained unsettled, pending the making up of several postponements.

Manager Bob Atkins, who has led Redford to league and state titles and to the national tournament at Altoona and Johnstown, Pa., during the past five years, is hopeful his team's batting attack comes alive this week.

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Redford suffered its second straight shutout loss Wednesday when blanked by Northville, 2-0, in a game that assured Hubert the third-round crown.

Hubert had a 4-0 record going into its last regular season game Friday and even a 5-0 record in the playoffs.

Livonia Girls Are Tournament Bound

Livonia's Spring Valley Sluggers are tournament bound, according to Mrs. Rhoda Gliner, manager.

The Sluggers are champions of the Livonia Recreation Dept. Girls Class F Slow-Pitch Softball League.

The Sluggers, girls aged nine to 13, wound up regular season play with a 8-7 victory over the Road Runners in the final inning. This gave the champs a 9-2 season mark.

The squad will enter the Mac Mac Tournament tomorrow (Sunday) with a game at 3 p.m. on diamond No. 10 at Joy Rd. and Spinoza, in Rouge Park.

THE SLUGGERS will be pitted against five teams outside the city and elimination will follow on a single loss.

The Livonia girls will enter

loss wouldn't deprive the Livonians of the third round crown. Redford's loss to Northville was its second in the round.

THE PLAYOFF will be a two-defeat and out affair regardless of whether there are two or three teams in action.

The Detroit Invitational nine-team tournament on Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 12 noon at Jayne Field, Six Mile and Conant, Detroit.

Teams in this tournament come from Detroit and suburban communities. Two losses will constitute elimination.

Team trophies and various individual awards will be given in each tournament.

But girl for the Sluggers is Suzi Gliner. Coaches are Marshall Epstein, Robert Thompson, Richard Lewis and Robert Stiefer.

Members of the 12-girl Sluggers squad are: Sue Brinson, Sally Lewis, Lynn Gliner, Arlyn Gliner, Lisa Epstein, Brenda Tipton, Debbie Stiefer, Sue Thompson, Lisa Oppenheim, Di Truax, Kim Boucher, Susan Gammon, Kathy Pepper, Lynn Cohen, Kathy Zimmerman, Vicki Thrasher and Debbie Siefman.

Bad Beating

Michigan State's first intercollegiate athletic event of record was a baseball game with Olivet College which State won 20-9 on May 19, 1884.

Hubert and Redford start off Tuesday night at Ford Field. Other games will be played Wednesday and Thursday.

The Greater Livonia winner, will advance into a double elimination state meet in which teams from Oakland County, Midland and Lansing will be involved.

Hazel Park To Open 22nd Season Monday

The Hazel Park Race Track, expecting the richest purse schedule ever, opens Monday, Aug. 3, for a 90-day thoroughbred meeting that will continue until Saturday, Nov. 14.

The track is located at 1650 East 10 Mile Road.

This will be the 22nd season for Michigan's No. 1 race track, and it could be the best ever. Officials believe this meeting will crack all state records for attendance and mutual handle. They have their reasons for such optimism. Items:

The purse, anyway you look at it, is the richest ever. It offers the most money (\$3,400,000), the most generous stakes and handicap awards (almost \$500,000) and the highest purse (\$5,000) in the history of the sport in Michigan.

The track will be more comfortable and attractive. New barns have been built and many improvements have been made in the backstretch for the benefit of the horsemen. The lower grandstand will be entirely enclosed and heated in cold weather, another first for a Michigan track. The whole plant has been refurbished for the new campaign.

Director of racing Bert Thompson and racing secre-

The state tourney will wind up in Ann Arbor and the champ - which has been Redford now for five years - goes on to the All American Boys tournament in Pennsylvania later this month.

John Morrish from Oakland University held Redford to

tary Milt Efthemi are delighted at the quality and balance of the stakes which will race at the track this year. They anticipate that the competition in the big stakes and features and handicaps will be exceptionally good. And the day-to-day racing cards will be uncommonly exciting.

The winningest owner and the winningest jockey in the United States in 1969 will

Redford Phoenix 9 Wins State Crown

Meet the Redford Township Phoenix League Broncos - they're state champs!

By beating a fellow Redford Township team, known as the Fisher League, 9-2, in the first game the Phoenix All-Stars captured the state crown and earned a trip to Lafayette, Ind., for the national regional.

Bronco baseball is for boys 12 years old and is another version of Little League. The Bronco League is fairly new and teams have a chance to shoot for a national title,

three hits in hurling Northville to its win over the Township. Morris fanned 11.

Greg Main, the loser, allowed six hits.

Northville scored once in the third inning and again in the fourth. Stan Niderer knocked in the first tally, the other came in on an error.

be back to campaign at Hazel. They, of course, are the legendary M.H. Van Berg, whose horses won more money and more races than any other owner's last year, and Larry Snyder, the Toledo-born jockey who topped the division's saddlemiths in total jumps.

The post parade for the first race will start at 3:30 p.m. on weekdays and at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and holidays.

which this year will be decided at Chesapeake, Md.

GORDIE ROBERTS, brother of Doug Roberts, a pitcher in the Oakland Seals in the National Hockey League, slugged the ball as well as pitched brilliantly for the Phoenix Stars against Fisher.

He allowed three hits while his mates collected 15. Roberts had three hits and Besamon 4p. Their back-to-back homers helped put the game out of reach.

Phoenix reached the finals with a 13-1 romp over Walled Lake as Robert and Besamon handled the pitching. Doug Klast had four hits for the winners.

Fisher won its way to the title game by defeating Walled Lake No. 2, 5-4 as Corey Rodriguez pitched the distance and helped his own cause with three hits.

Rex Team Wins Plum Hollow Golf

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rex of Franklin became defending champions at the mixed invitational golf tournament at Plum Hollow this weekend with a gross of 72. Net winners were Mr. and Mrs. William Healey from Oakland Hills Country Club with a score of 70.

It was the 25th annual mixed invitational and dinner dance held at the golf club. Ann Wetlaufer and Allan Ash served as co-chairmen for the event. Over 100 teams entered the competition.

Indians on reservations, who now represent about two-thirds of the more than 650,000 American Indians, are the country's most disadvantaged minority group. These people have an extremely high unemployment rate and an average annual income of less than \$2,000. Some Indians on reservations earn as little as \$500 a year.

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PASSING ALONG THE ORCHIDS:

To Jim Campbell, the general manager of the Tigers, who went after and has succeeded in bringing baseball's 1971 All-Star game to Tiger Stadium.

The word has been making the rounds that Campbell and the Tigers were somewhat hesitant on bidding for the All-Star game, until such time as Detroit came up with a new stadium.

It would now appear that despite all the talk such a stadium may be a long time away.

In fact, the feeling now exists that owner Bill Ford of the Lions may go ahead with that move to permit a new stadium - just for football - to be erected in the Pontiac area.

Ford has committed himself to the Pontiac project unless something is done and a definite move is made in Detroit by September.

Well, look at the calendar!

MORE ORCHIDS:

To the Tigers! Al Kaline on this weekend when the community, baseball, sports in general is to toast him with his "day" at Tiger Stadium Sunday before the Tigers meet the Minnesota Twins.

As we've said before, no player in these parts, except for the Wings' Gordie Howe, is more deserving of such a special occasion.

Kaline has meant a lot to the Tigers, to baseball and the Detroit area.

He now says he'll play at least one more season for the Tigers. Chances are that, if they bring him in and make him a regular first baseman, he could play a few more years.

Whether Kaline would go for that, of course, is a subject only he himself can answer.

Kaline always has been the proud athlete. He has said that unless he can help the team, he won't stay on... just for the chance to collect a pay check and receive a major-league uniform.

He doesn't want to be the athlete who fades away on the field. He wants to go out when he's still "up there."

Not very many take that attitude. No doubt, they can't afford it.

PASS ALONG THE ORCHIDS:

To all of the high school football athletes in these parts who already have started training for the season ahead.

The hot weather, the high humidity hasn't cramped the styles of the preps. Nor the fact they're still on vacation from the classrooms and the other kids in the neighborhood may be whooping it up.

The prep athlete knows that when the call comes to practice on Aug. 24, he must be ready.

To be ready simply means he must start conditioning himself early - a month to two months in advance.

Most of the preps get the word from their coaches on what to do...exercise speaking.

In many instances, the coaches call three-times-a-week conditioning classes, which are legal under state rules, and put the boys through calisthenics, running and what have you.

In some instances, the boys are doing it on their own - like the teenager wearing a North Farmington tee-shirt who was romping along on the highway the other morning.

ADDITIONAL ORCHIDS:

The action taken by Southfield to build an indoor hockey arena and a public nine-hole golf course comes at a time when the citizens of Observerland have become more and more conscious of the need for greater recreational facilities.

"These have to be great additions for our community," says Southfield's Jack Berry, who happens to be very close to hockey and golf, since he covers both for the Free Press.

The indoor arena means that eventually Southfield will have high school hockey, along with Livonia. It also means that numerous other boys will get a chance to play hockey under organized conditions.

As for golf, good friend Berry notes:

"There's no reason why any city the size of Southfield shouldn't have at least one public-owned course."

Livonia is a classic example, outside of Detroit, where the establishment of a city course (Whispering Willows) is paying off with greater dividends every day the place is open.

A FINAL ORCHID BARRAGE:

To the Detroit Race Course where a record running meeting has just come to a conclusion.

You can't say enough about the DRC officials who have done their best over the years to give the Detroit area the best racing possible.

Now come the trotters and pacers at DRC starting Wednesday as the runners move over to Hazel Park.

As we wrote here last week... when the runners return to the DRC next year... they'll be back for their longest stand in history.

We can expect in Michigan racing from March to Christmas... both for the runners and trotters.

Aged Mark

Michigan State's first victory in the Drake Relays was scored in 1922 by DeGay Ernst with a record-breaking 54.4 in the 440-yard hurdles.

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