

Gibson contract has fans wondering

WITH winter's sharp winds biting you these mornings, it is difficult to believe that the baseball players soon will be heading to "spring" training camp for what is certain to be an interesting season.



the stroller
W.W.
Edgar

During winter, the big league players held the stage with their demands for long-term contracts and unbelievable salaries. The time has come for the owners to take the center of attention. And that is what will make it interesting.

For instance, fans now will keep their eyes on Kirk Gibson to see if he is earning a million-dollar salary. He had better come through.

You can imagine the roar of the fans if he fails to hit with men in scoring position. During the World Series, Gibson jumped with glee when his home run decided the issue. He'll have to jump a lot of times this season to earn his paychecks.

THE REAL shock will come when the

owners start renewed action. It will not be surprising to see them take action to eliminate long-term contracts.

In fact, Bill LaJole, general manager of the Tigers, already has stated that one- and two-year contracts will be in vogue.

Owners will not be on the defensive any more, as was the case with Gibson. He stuck it out to the last minute to demand a five-year pact. Finally he settled for three years, but he possibly put an end to long-term pacts, regardless of how good he plays in the coming season.

Gibson's demand for more money and a five-year pact to play right field was a poor example of the fellow he followed in the toughest part of the playing field.

WHEN AL Kaline was there, he received \$90,000. When he was offered \$100,000, Kaline refused it, claiming he was not worth it.

Can you imagine a fellow turning down a \$10,000-a-year raise? Well, Kaline did, and will long be remembered. Gibson will be long remembered, too, for greediness.

Take a look at the record books, and you'll find few players who graciously

accepted short-term contracts. Even Babe Ruth never complained about his paycheck. And he deserved what he got — and more.

But it will be fun at the next owners' meeting to see how far back they will go to make up for the demands they received since the close of last season. Don't be surprised if they place two-year limits on the pacts hereafter.

BACK IN 1909 when the Detroit Tigers won their third straight pennant, owner Frank Navin refused to grant any raises. He argued that attendance didn't permit it. And his word stuck.

You might find some more Navins when contract time comes again. What- ever happens, the players have brought it on themselves.

Westmoreland to be at UM-D

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, former U.S. Army chief of staff and commander in Vietnam, will speak at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23.

His topic will be "Vietnam: A True History" and will concentrate on different views of that war, including his and the national media's. Westmoreland dropped a slender suit against CBS News last year.

Westmoreland will speak in the Recreation and Organization Center on the

campus, which is on Evergreen south of Ford Road. Admission is free to UM-D students and faculty, \$2 for other students and \$3 for the public. Tickets are available at the door.

During his 36 years of military service, Westmoreland worked on 17 battle campaigns in three wars, received four distinguished service medals and was decorated by 18 foreign countries. He was Time magazine's 1965 "man of the year."

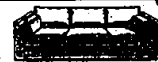
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Family Fun Day cancelled

The Winter Family Fun Day, scheduled for Sunday at Addison Oaks County Park, has been cancelled by the Oakland County Parks Foundation. No alternate date has been set yet.

A foundation spokesman blamed the melting of snow and soft ice for cancellation of the four-hour event. It was to have included a dog sled race, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating, ice fishing and snowshoeing.

OU offers computer courses

Four session courses for beginners on the Wang word processor and the IBM-PC will be offered by Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education starting Jan. 23 on the Rochester campus.

Basic instruction in word processing, including text editing, personalizing form letters, copying, printing and filing on diskettes will be offered in 7 p.m. Thursday lectures, Jan. 23 and 30, and Saturday labs Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. Tuition is \$90.

Fundamentals of operating the IBM-PC, covering use of disk and printer, Lotus 1-2-3 and PC-File III will be taught from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 25 through Feb. 15. Tuition is \$95.

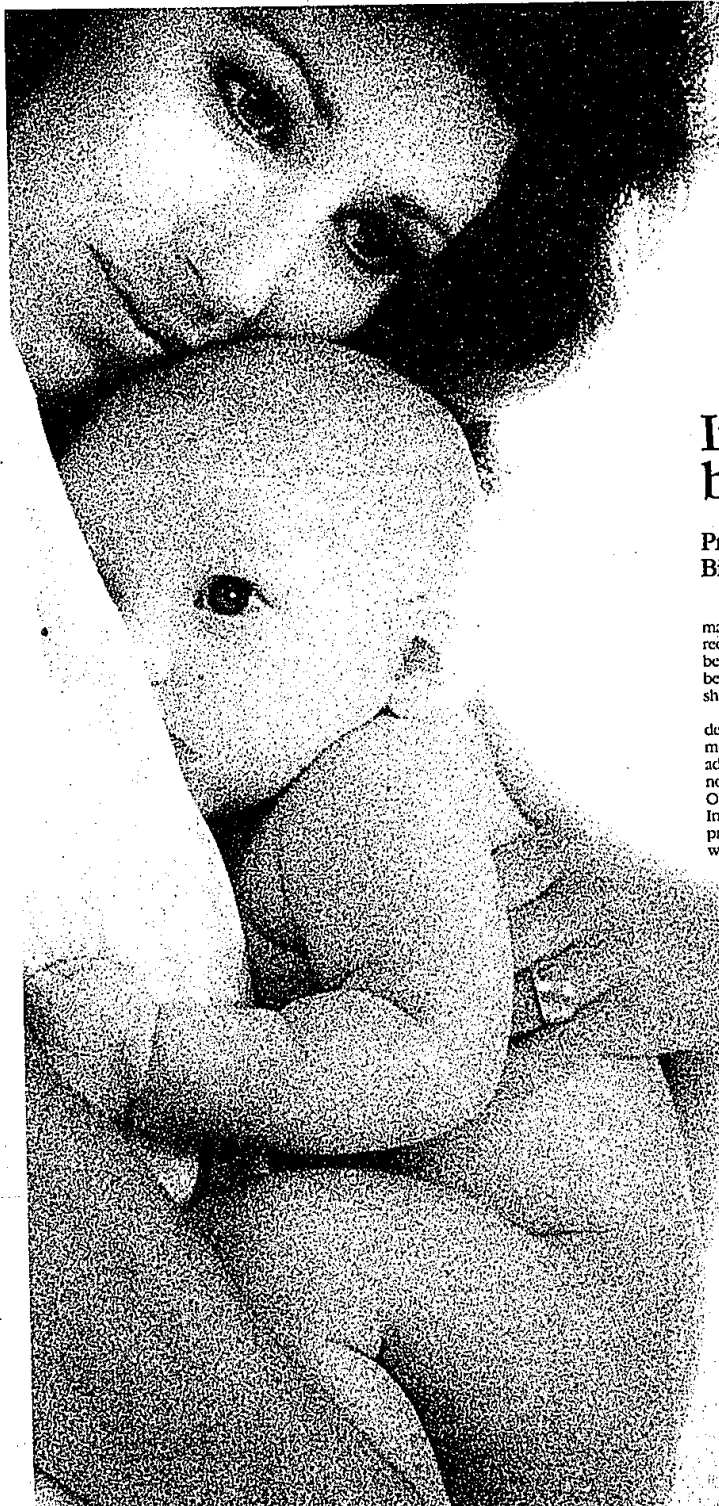
Enrollment is limited; no computer experience is required. To register, call the continuing education office, 370-3120, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. weekdays.

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