

# Tiger enjoys his farm life

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

GREG EVERSON may agree that baseball is a field of dreams, particularly in a place called London, Ontario.

The former Livonia Bentley High and University of Michigan product finds playing AA minor league ball, as a Detroit Tiger farmhand, even more enjoyable when he's getting batters out.

The 24-year-old relief pitcher proved his worth again Thursday on an already deep and talented pitching staff when he fanned four in two scoreless innings of work — his fourth save of the season — in a 7-4 victory over the New Britain (Conn.) Red Sox before 3,801 fans and the San Diego Chicken at LaBatt Stadium.

The homegrown Chicken was the main attraction Thursday, but the newly renovated (\$750,000) minor league park, which is nearly 50 years old, is nestled in a perfect setting, a sightseer's delight.

Located in the tree-lined and lush Springbank Park, a shade off the Thames River, the blue and orange trimmed stadium serves as perfect backdrop for sparkling skyline of downtown London, a city of 268,000 inhabitants.

"IT'S A LOT bigger difference than Lakeland (Fla.) . . . the weather is a lot nicer for one," said Everson, who sports a 3-3 record and a team-low 2.70 earned run average. "Tonight was a perfect night to pitch. It was cool (low 60s), ideal weather."

London, situated approximately 140 miles northeast of Tiger Stadium, is the ideal spot for Team Everson, which also includes wife Pam and 23-month-old son Adam.

"It hasn't been too tough," Everson said. "Living only a couple hours away, my parents are close. They helped us move here. My parents and friends are close enough to come down here on weekends to see me play so that makes it nice."

"And when I'm on long road trips, sometimes anywhere from seven to

10 days, my wife is able to get away and go home. It takes the pressure off her. Last year when we found out the AA team was moving from Glens Falls (N.Y.) to London, it worked out even better for us."

"This is a nice town and they treat us well here."

Everson, who signed originally as a free agent in 1987, obviously has aspirations to pitch someday at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull.

The climb was made a tedious one with stops in humid Fayetteville, N.C. and Lakeland.

LONDON IS NOT quite the big leagues, but it has its advantages. The fans politely applaud Everson and his teammates during the nine-inning affair, while devouring Domino's pizza at a (big) alce. The air is fresh and the stadium is spotless, no trash cluttering the closed-in grandstand.

And while these Canadians treat themselves to a night out, Everson tries to make sure they go home a winner.

The submarine-style right-hander has added a deadly forkball to his repertoire to go along with his fastball and slider pitches.

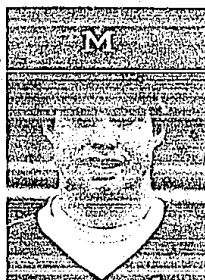
"I've always thrown three-quarter and dropped down when I threw my fastball," Everson said. "When I was at U-M, they told me to drop down all the time. I decided to go all the way in college."

Several relief pitchers have subordinated their way to stardom in the big leagues — Bruce Sutter, Dan Quisenberry and Ted Lincecum to name a few.

"Greg has good control and enough stuff to get the left-handers out," said London first-year manager and former New York Yankee standout Chris Chambliss. "He's tough on right-handers because he gets good movement on the ball. Right now he's starting to get his confidence back and starting to believe in himself."

EVERSON SUFFERED through a mild slump earlier this season.

When London pitchers Mike Schwabe and Randy Nosed were



Greg Everson  
closer to home

called up to the big club, it put a strain on an depleted pitching staff. Everson felt the effects and a twinge in his shoulder.

"I was pitching just about every other day because we didn't have anyone else to call on," said the 6-foot-2, 200-pound Everson. "I didn't have my best stuff and I was getting hit a little bit. And my shoulder got a little sore, which had never happened before."

When Nosed and Dave Cooper (from Toledo, the Tigers' AAA club) were each back to London, Everson was asked to fill the middle reliever's role, something that ruffled his feathers a bit.

"They brought Cooper in as their 'stepper' and when they told me I was going to be a long reliever I got kind of upset," he recalled. "But I put that all behind me and decided to make the best of it."

"It gave me a chance to show my versatility. I just decided to show them I was going to be the best middle reliever possible."

The laid-back Chambliss has had a soothing effect on Everson and the young London prospects.

"HE'S NEVER managed before and he's learning," Everson said.

"We're learning right along with him. He jokes around with the guys, but he can be serious when he has to be. He tries to do the 'extra things' to get us ready to play. It's been fun playing for him."

Everson believes he can make the Tigers' 40-man roster in the near future just as well as he believes on using his forkball on a 3-2 count.

"I believe most of the (Detroit) prospects are here in London and hopefully I'm one of them," he said. "The Tigers are struggling and so is Toledo. I also see that two of our guys (Schwabe and Nosed) have already been brought up, so I have to feel I could be there, maybe in September when they open up the roster to 40 players."

But in the meantime, Everson toils in London town, a city which has produced such NHL stars as Darryl Sittler, Dino Ciccarelli, Rob Ramage and Brad Mars — all of whom played for the Ontario Hockey League Knights, a Junior A team.

ITS INDUSTRIAL base includes GM-Diesel, 3M and LaBatt's Brewing.

It's a town split in baseball loyalties. Blue Jay fans on one side and Tigers on the other.

Local radio broadcaster Chris Kubinski, who was born in Chicago but has lived most of his life in London, says there is a lot of interest in baseball.

"We get just about everybody here on cable TV — the Pirates, the Cubs, the Braves, the Mets, the Yankees, the Orioles, the Blue Jays and Montreal, and of course the Tigers," he said. "There's a bar downtown called Joe Cool's and they show (Detroit) Tiger games only. It's owned by Mike Smith, who's on the board of directors."

London also televises its own Eastern League games.

On this night Mickey Lolich does the color commentary with London native Pete James doing the play-by-play.

"This is definitely a baseball town," Kubinski said.

For Everson, London is part of a fantasy trip coming true.

## SENIOR MEDALIST

Elise Handelman of Farmington Hills won the bronze medal in the 100-meter dash in the over-55 year-old age division at the U.S. Senior Olympics June 21 in St. Louis. Handelman, a member of the Wolverine Pacers Track Club in Dearborn, was clocked at 17.3 in the 100.

She qualified for the nationals by winning the gold medal in the 100 at the state's Senior Olympics. Handelman also won gold medals in the 100-meter dash and cycling at the state meet.

## SOCCER SIGN-UP

The Farmington Soccer Club is accepting registrations for the fall '89 season from residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills with birth years of 1976-81 for boys and 1971-81 for girls.

Walk-in registration is scheduled for consecutive Saturdays, July 8 and July 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Hall. Those registering must bring the \$35 fee, their social security number and birth certificate with them.

Registration forms can also be picked up at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Office at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The \$35 per season fee includes a uniform and is due July 15 to ensure a place on a team.

For additional information call Joe Miller at 553-2535 or Fred Burton at 478-4322.

## COACHES NEEDED

Farmington Public Schools is accepting applications for non-teaching coaching positions for the 1989-90 school year in football (varsity assistants), junior varsity and freshmen) and soccer (varsity and junior varsity).

Applicants should send resumes to Ronald G. Holland, 32500 Shawasee, Farmington, 48024, or call 471-6337 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

## SOCCER TRYOUTS

The Livonia V Premier Soccer Club will have tryouts for the 7th boys under-15 Wolves team for the winter '89 season at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at Jaycee Park. A second tryout for the spring '90 season will be announced in November upon completion of the boys high school season.

Players should bring water and a soccer ball with their name on it. For information, call coach Bruce Thomas (473-5650) or tryout coordinator Kathy Coyne (427-3336).

## MILT WILCOX CAMP

The Milt Wilcox Baseball Camp is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 10-13 at Drake Field, located on Drake Road north of Nine Mile in Farmington Hills. The camp is sponsored by South Farmington Baseball, Inc.

Wilcox, the former Detroit Tigers pitcher who currently is Madonna College's pitching coach, will staff the camp together with director Mike George, the Madonna College baseball coach, and Dearborn Divine Child coach Mark Falvo.

Camp features include free T-shirt and cap, daily drawings for Tiger tickets, 12 hours of instruction and awards.

The camp is open to boys and girls ages seven to 17. Cost is \$125 per camper. Registration is limited to the first 200 applicants, and may be completed at 8:15 a.m. on the opening day of camp.

For more information, call Roxanne Fitts, 478-1130, South Farmington Baseball president, at 474-8868, or Mike George at 537-1130.

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# Key hit carries South Farmington to a title

Kristin Kostara came through in the clutch, slugging a two-out, bases-loaded double in the bottom of the eighth inning to bring her South Farmington Girls C tournament team back from the brink of defeat to a 13-12 victory over Garden City June 25.

The win clinched the Midget Division championship at the East Detroit Softball Tournament, South's first tourney title this season.

**softball**

The game was deadlocked after seven innings, but Garden City took a one-run lead in the eighth before Kostara's heroics. The tournament championship earned South a berth in

the USSSA Midget World Tournament July 28-30 in Plantation, Fla.

OTHER TEAM members are Beth Atkinson, Abby Ault, Kim Davis, Diana Dickow, Brittany Dixon, Tammy Dominick, Vicki Fischer, Alana Heikkinen, Blaks Heraghy, Ellen Kozlowski, Jennifer Lia, Becky Pesel, Kristin Schlott, Sarah Shelters and Kristen Siskowski. The team is managed by Lance Pesel and is coached by

Mike Thomas, Carla Dickow and John Heraghy.

South Farmington's B tournament team also did well at the East Detroit tourney, taking third-place honors in its division. South's one-run loss to Southgate in the semifinals wrecked its hopes for a championship, but the team still will play in the USSSA Pee Wee World Tournament July 28-30 in Muncie, Ind.

## INDIANWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB—LAKE ORION

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## July 10-16 TICKET PRICES

<b>SEASON TICKETS</b>	
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Grounds Only	\$70
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Grounds Only	\$160
<b>DAILY TICKETS</b>	
Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, July 10, 11, 12	\$10
Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, July 13, 14, 15 or 16	\$18

**News**

