



WESTLAND WELL REPRESENTED -- While W. W. Edgar, the Observer's Roving Editor, was making his 48th consecutive appearance at a Tiger opener he happened across two chaps from who you may hear a lot. On the left is Joe Nelko who is pitching against the Orioles Friday night, and on the right is Tom Timmerman, both of whom live in Westland. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

# Lolich Gets Off To Big Opener; Bengals Romp

By W. W. EDGAR

For four innings Tuesday afternoon the Tigers were having a field day with the Cleveland Indians in their opening game of the baseball season.

While a gathering of 54,089 fans -- largest opening day crowd in Detroit history -- looked on they pummeled three Tribe hurlers, ran the bases with abandon, cashed in on the hit and run play and to many of the oldtimers brought back memories of the days of Ty Cobb and the daring of Mickey's Cochran's teams of the mid-thirties.

WITH THIS TYPE of baseball they built up a 7 to 1 lead and caused many so called experts wondering if this team could live up to all the rash promises made when Billy Martin was named manager to succeed Mayo Smith last fall.

Then, just when it seemed that there was a new day dawning, out from the shadows of the Cleveland dugout stepped Carmen Pasqual, the well-traveled veteran Cuban hurler to put an entirely new complexion on the game.

Shunted about from team to team last season and finally winding up on the "unwanted" list he became a free agent until Al Dark, the Cleveland manager, in desperation signed him just a few weeks ago.

Calling on all the experience he has Carmen quelled the Tigers like a master. He forced them to hit the ball into the ground, thus preventing them from getting any men on base, and their daring was stifled.

For three innings he allowed only one hit, the silencing of the Tiger bats and the elimination of activity on the base paths put a new twist on the game.

When it was over the Ti-

gers were the winners, 8 to 2, but there was a hollow ring to the cheers that greeted the players as they flocked around the new manager.

Aurelio failed to get a hit and Brinkman collected his lone single in the eighth, long after the game was decided.

ALMOST OVERLOOKED was the work of Mickey Lolich who now must carry the brunt of the Tiger pitching burden.

He gave up only four hits -- two in the fifth inning when the Tribe scored its second run. At the plate Mickey did

Even Jimmy Campbell, the general manager, who was smiling from ear to ear in the early stages, wore a sombre expression as he accepted congratulations for attempting to build a new team on the ashes of the 1969 pennant winners.

tin as the manager. And it was Campbell who was accused of highway robbery in a baseball sense when he acquired the entire left side of the Washington Senator infield -- Aurelio Rodriguez, the third baseman, and Eddie Brinkman, the shortstop -- in the deal last winter for Denny McLain and Don Wert.

The new lads acquitted themselves fine in the field and Rodriguez's speed, brought the Tigers their first run on a hit and run play in the second inning.

All told the Tribe used six pitchers. After starter Steve Hargan was driven to cover with Willie Horton's double in the third, the Tribe paraded

Charlie Machemehl, Steve Dunning, Pasqual, Ray Lamb and Dick Austin.

Of this group only Pasqual proved his worth and no sooner had he departed at the end of the seventh than the Tigers leaped on Austin for the final run.

There were smiles galore in the Tiger clubhouse at the finish and Martin was busy accepting congratulations. But he was just a bit wary, calling attention to the fact that the Tigers must face the pennant winning Baltimore Orioles in four games in three days over the coming weekend.

Between handclaps he muttered, "We can tell you more after that series."

## Slate Plans For Observer Relays

An unusual relay meet, one that will have every outstanding high school trackman in Observerland in competition, has been added to the list of spring events.

The first annual Observer track relays will be staged by the Redford Union staff at Lola Valley Junior High on Saturday, May 1 with more than 800 athletes from 20 schools in competition.

It will be sponsored by the Observer Newspapers, the Livonia Optimist Club and the

coaching staff from Redford Union headed by Athletic Director Howard Kraft and Track Coach John McKenzie.

THE SCHEDULE calls for the field events to start at 5:30 p.m. and the track events at 7:30 a.m.

It will be operated on the basis of a relay meet and each school will have three entrants in each of the field events with the total distance or total height determining the winner.

The field events include: high jump, pole vault, shot put, and the long jump.

The track portion of the program includes: four mile relay, 800-yard relay, two mile relay, 400-yard relay, shuttle hurdle relay, sprint medley relay, and mile relay.

Four individual medals will be given to the winner of each running event and four to the second place team.

In this field events, three medals will be presented to the winning team.

A TEAM TROPHY will be awarded to the overall winner with trophies for each of the winning teams in all 11 events.

Sponsors of team trophies include: Griffin Sports, Griswold Sports, Southgate Sports, Livonia Optimist Club, Whitehouse Waleit, RU Dad's Club, National Concrete, Seifert Printing, Ely Oil and Coal and Roger Peck Chevrolet.

"A relay meet is the most popular with coaches," said McKenzie, "It gives them the

chance to use all of the men on the squad and actually prepares them for the league and state championship meets a few weeks later.

"We also will have an opportunity to see all of the area's top stars compete against each other for probably the only time of the entire season.

"Track fans will be able to see how the sprinters, middle distance and distance runners compare. They can see the

best hurdlers, the best shot putters, top pole vaulters and the best in the high and long jumps.

"We believe this meet will become one of the entire year, especially since we already have confirmations from all but five or six schools in Observerland.

Bruce Waha, famed prep track coach at Redford High in Detroit, will serve as referee. Other officials will be volunteers from the staffs of the competing schools.

### FREEHAN UP TO OLD TRICKS

Now that his back is finally healed Bill Freehan, the Tiger catcher is hopeful of a great season. He got away to a flying start in the opener when he scored the game's second run on Mickey Lolich's single in the second inning. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

## Our 'Eddie' Covers 48th Opener

There is quite a difference between the Detroit Tiger openers of 1971 and those of 1924 when W. W. "Eddie" Edgar, currently roving editor of the Observer Newspapers and longtime sports-writer for the Detroit Free Press, covered his first opening game.

It was 48 consecutive Tiger inaugurals for Eddie Tuesday and he enjoyed this one just as much as the first, probably more so because the Tigers beat Cleveland this time and they lost to the same Indians in 1924.

The atmosphere was the same ... a sunny, chilly day, a packed house with 29,000 in 1924 and more than 56,000 in 1971.

But back then there was a big parade from the Book-Cadillac Hotel up Michigan Ave. to the ball park. All that is gone but there is still much of the same color.

The presentation of the good luck floral horseshoe from the Detroit Fire Department, the mayor and the governor vying for attention and exposure, the usual good wishes and then the shrill cry of the crowd as the Tigers raced out on the field for the opening pitch.

There was something more to 1924 -- it was one of the teams of the immortal Ty Cobb who was still at his prime. And starting for the Indians were such greats as Tris Speaker and Charley Jamieson.

The Tiger lineup listed names that of few of the present generation ever heard of.

Johnny Bassler a Tiger great was behind the plate. The outfield had Cobb in centerfield, Bobby Veach left and Davey Jones in right.

The pitcher? None other than George Daus, who was such a brilliant one in those days.

And Eddie remembers that the baseball writers had to climb through the girders and up on top of the roof to watch the game. There wasn't any second deck to Navin Field and it was climb, climb and climb all the way and don't look down if you had a weak stomach.

That was 48 years ago. Times have changed but the game is still the same and Tuesday's opener was just as exciting for Eddie as the one in 1924.

Incidentally, the Observers can boast of something few community newspapers have. Three members of the

## Thurston Nine Takes Opener

The Tigers and Cleveland Indians had nothing on Thurston High School's baseball team.

In fact, Coach Emil Majeski and his Thurston players "beat" the Tigers by one day in 40-degree weather by opening their 1971 season on a victorious note by downing Royal Oak Kimball, 3-2.

Steve Kreager, a senior righthander, scattered four hits in posting the victory. He struck out 15 but was wild, walking 10.

Thurston scored twice in



staff hold cards in the Baseball Writers Association of America. They are: Eddie, Sports Editor George Maskin and Executive Editor Tommy Thompson.

THE FIRST Ladies and Retirees Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, when the Tigers face Boston.

## NOW thru JULY 31 Thoroughbred Racing in the Grand Michigan Mile Tradition

### DETROIT RACE COURSE

LADIES DAY EVERY THURSDAY 1/2 PRICE ADMISSION TO HEATED GRANDSTAND

SENIOR CITIZENS \$1.00 TO GRANDSTAND EVERY DAY

DOUBLE BIG P (PERFECT BETTING) POST PARADE 3:20 p.m. Monday thru Friday 2:10 p.m. Saturdays & Holidays

SCHOOLCRAFT AND MIDDLEBELT, LIVONIA GET TO RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION GA 1-7170

## SWIM POOL SALE



GIANT 25' OVAL LIST PRICE \$650\* NOW \$466

- WIDE SIT-ON TOP RAIL
- STRAIGHT POST VERTICALS
- LOCK-TITE CONSTRUCTION
- HEAVY WINTER LINER



LIVONIA 34750 Plymouth AIN ARBOR 2450 W. Stadium Daily 10-9; Sat. 10-4; Sun. 11-6

## Greetings at Easter

Closed EASTER SUNDAY Closed GOOD FRIDAY 12-3

from all of us at American Hardware

We invite you to window shop Easter Sunday... see the finished Boat Hatch Cover Coffee Table in our Fireplace Window...

You'll want one! Watch for our GRAND OPENING of our WINE CELLAR (2nd floor)

### American

HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO.  
31245 EIGHT MILE ROAD at MERRIMAN in LIVONIA  
Phone 476-8240 or 527-5445 • Lots of Free Parking

## WATCH THE MASTERS WITH THE LEADER

See the action on CBS-TV presented by Cadillac

### APRIL 10 & 11

5:00-6:00 p.m. E.S.T., Saturday  
4:00-5:30 p.m. E.S.T., Sunday

### CHARLES DALGLEISH

Near The G.M. Bldg. Cadillac INC.

6160 Cass Ave. (313) TR 5-0300

Covers one whole block between Cass and Woodward