

Thurston Triumphs; Gains Playoffs

The final game of the regular season will be just academic as far as Thurston is concerned in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack League's International Division.

Thurston wrapped up the title in convincing fashion and earned the honor to advance into the Mack district playoffs by blanking the Livonia Patriots (Franklin High), 6-0.

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Thurston gained a 1-0 lead in the second inning when title in convincing fashion and earned the honor to advance into the Mack district playoffs by blanking the Livonia Patriots (Franklin High), 6-0.

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In the fifth two walks and two errors produced still another Thurston run while in the seventh walk and singles by Dennis Poppenger and Gordon Eszes accounted for the final two Thurston runs of the game.

The victory was Thurston's 10th against one loss and one tie.

In another Mack game, North Farmington squeezed past Tom's Service, 2-1, as Harvey Sell bested Dave

Johns. Sell gave up three hits, fanned four and walked three. Johns was touched for five hits and struck out nine.

Sell singled in North Farmington's first run in the third inning and the winning marker came across in the sixth on doubles by Marty Raymond and Greg Brown.

Tom's scored in the first inning on Mark McKeefer's past Tom's Service, 2-1, as Harvey Sell bested Dave

THURSTON CAME back Saturday to post another victory - this time a 12-1 romp over Farmington Harrison.

Mark Miller gave up only one hit while fanning five as he coasted along on the hill for Thurston.

Meanwhile, Thurston capitalized on wild Harrison pitching - putting together 13 hits by seven hits. The big Thurston inning was the third when five walks along with hits by Larry Poma and Mike

Robinson brought in seven runs and put the game out of reach.

Poma was the only Thurston player with two or more hits. Tom's Service rebounded for a 5-2 win over Garden City East as Kirk Price was the winner in an unusual game.

Tom's made only two hits and had three walks, but was helped along by errors.

Tom's scored three times in the first inning on only one hit by Frank Grebek - and tallied

two more in the third on two walks and an error.

In other International League Division, the Livonia Patriots (Franklin High) downed Livonia Hubert Realty (Livonia Stevenson), 3-1.

Rob Hollandsworth allowed only four hits to best Mike Gee, who was touched for six hits and the defeat.

Nelson Cady tripled in Tim Rose, who had singled, for the only Hubert run and then the

Patriots finally tied the game in the fifth on singles by Karney Derderian, Paul Sosich and Hollandsworth. The Patriots broke the deadlock in the sixth when Steve Crowe started matters with a single. Ken Yuhass was safe on an error. Gary Allen reached on a fielder's choice. Tony Kaseta sent out a sacrifice fly and another fielder's choice brought in the second run of the inning and the finale of the game.

By George Maskin observing sports

The ladies of the household might as well be forewarned.

Those hours and sometimes days when dad spends most of his life glued to the TV watching football are right around the corner.

Sure, we're still in July and summer vacation time still has several weeks to go. But football seems to come earlier and earlier every year.

The Lions and all the other pro teams already are in training. A week from Friday, the All-Star game comes up in Chicago and then you can start seeing football on the tube as a regular item every weekend.

As if that isn't enough, the Big Ten football teams are swinging into their schedules even before the high schools, which is something new.

That's because the Big Ten is expanding to 11 football games and to get in that number, it's necessary to open practice in August so first games can be played on Sept. 11.

And the prep!

Time was when coaches couldn't gather their forces until the week before Labor Day.

But now there's nothing about conditioning sessions throughout the summer, as long as, technically, there is no football or there are no football pads in sight.

And... instead of just three weeks of official practices, the prep teams now can engage in four, which has to be most beneficial for all concerned.

So, like it or not, football is here and that means pro hockey and basketball are just around the corners, too. Come Labor Day, or thereabouts, the Red Wings and Pistons jump into their operations.

A VISITOR to Cranbrook School, where the Lions are preparing for the 1971 finds optimism bubbling all over the place.

This is said to be the "year of the Lion" and from Coach Joe Schmidt down, the feeling exists everywhere.

There's little doubt that the Lions began to jell into a powerhouse in the second half last season when they came on to finish second and qualify for the playoffs where they lost in heartbreaking fashion to Dallas.

Schmidt has molded together a team, which has all the ingredients of a winner. The Lions have the offense and the defense...or they will have by the time the regular season begins in late September.

They'll also have the schedule going for them, meaning they won't have as tough a slate as they did a year ago.

What they don't know, of course, is how fortunate they'll be in the injury department. That's the category which has hurt the Lions most over the years.

As Schmidt tells reporters: "It's the unknown factors which could decide who wins or who loses."

Injuries, naturally, provide football or any other, coaches, with their greatest concerns and headaches.

THE LIONS very well could give the Detroit area the sports lift it now needs the way the Tigers have run into their difficulties.

For awhile, it appeared the Tigers might be able to do something, but that appears to be out of the question now.

Say what you want, Billy Martin has done a tremendous job of keeping the Tigers together and going. He went into the season with one pitcher in Mickey Lolich and at this date he doesn't have many more.

The club has battled through a series of injuries... sore arms and aching legs to mention a couple of items.

Add 'em all together, the Tigers well might be down with Cleveland and Washington, instead of where they are -- enjoying some respectability, although their pennant hopes have gone down the drain.

Notwithstanding, the Tigers always keep in the spotlight and it should be no different this weekend when they return home for a series with the Oakland A's.

The Tigers again will have to confront one Vida Blue, the hottest, young property to hit the baseball scene in a long time, either Saturday or Sunday.

You remember what Vida did to the Tigers Friday. A one-hit shutout.

Wherever he goes, he's been jamming stadiums, and it should be the same Sunday in Detroit. And, deservedly, so.

It's refreshing to see a young man like Vida Blue come along. Success hasn't gone to his head.

Maybe you noticed during the All-Star game how he ran on to the field...and off. How many pitchers hustle like that?

Baseball, nor other sports, ever will have to worry that they're dying out... not as long as someone every time things get a little troublesome, a Vida Blue shows up to revive everything.

Call it the American Way.

Playoff Time For Little Leagues

Remember the South Farmington Nationals? They're the Little League baseball team which became the darlings of Oberlinland last August when they won just about everything in sight.

The South Farmington team won the area, the district, the sectional, the state, the divisional and then the first game in the national regionals, before losing.

It came within one victory of a trip to the Little League

World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

Beginning next week, South Farmington will start the defense of its long line of titles.

BUT THE TEAM will have pretty much a new look. Most

of the players have graduated from the 12-year-old category, the maximum for Little Leaguers.

Gone, too, from the team is manager Fred Wenson. He's turned manager and will umpire in the District Four

playoffs involving South Farmington and most of the other Oakland County teams.

Richard Torjigan has been named to manage the Southfield Farmington Nationals which will play its first game against the Davidson-

Birmingham American game at Eton Field No. 1 in Birmingham on July 29.

Birmingham American and Davidson will oppose at Eton Field in one of three games next Tuesday. Southfield National East will face North Farmington-West Bloomfield Inter-National at Farmington Bond School and the South Farmington Americans will take on Birmingham Nationals at Eton on Tuesday's other games.

THEN ON THURSDAY, July 29, the pairings will be as follows:

Beverly Hills vs. North Farmington-West Bloomfield Nationals at Bond School.

South Farmington American vs. Birmingham National, Eton Field.

Southfield National-East vs. Fenton at Southfield's Civic Center.

North Farmington-West Bloomfield American vs. Holly at Holly.

Avondale vs. North Farmington-West Bloomfield National, Bond School.

Southfield American-North vs. Birmingham Federal, Eton Field No. 2.

Novi vs. Southfield American-South, Novi.

Walled Lake vs. Southfield American-Birmingham National winner, Eton, No. 3.

All games will start at 5:30 p.m.

The District Four playoff title will be decided at Southfield on Aug. 7.

Lights Needed In Southfield

They're doing a lot for sports in the various suburban communities.

New hockey arenas...new golf courses...more tennis courts...

But, there would appear to be a major road for steps to be taken to erect more baseball diamonds with lights for night action.

Southfield is a typical city which has light up for baseball. Farmington is another.

Their American Legion baseball teams this summer have been finding it tough to get in their games on schedule.

In the case of Southfield, in particular, the team now has engaged in three ties, because the darkness set in before a decision could be reached.

WHILE SOUTHFIELD still remains tied with Waterford for the 18th District League, the team has failed to win or lose in its last two starts.

First there was a 2-2 tie with Waterford, then a 3-3 verdict with Farmington Friday.

"We know that's not the way baseball should be played, but what can we do about it," said Will Oliver, the Southfield manager after the deadlock with Farmington.

"You can't keep playing the dark. So, when a game is tied, that's the way it has to be."

Twilight Legion games for Farmington and Southfield begin at 6 p.m. Since it gets dark around 8, the teams have to hustle along.

If there are any delays, or extended innings, the teams have their problems.

Fortunately, for Southfield, the deadlocks haven't tumbled them from the lead. But Southfield will have its work cut out this week in the final four games of the regular schedule.

Single games are booked on Wednesday at Berkley and Friday at Troy for Southfield and then what amounts to a "do-or-die" doubleheader at Waterford on Sunday should settle the divisional crown and decide whether Southfield or Waterford advances to next week's regional competition.

THE SOUTHFIELD Farmington game developed into a pitching gem between Southfield's Steve Gombar and Farmington's John Fleming.

Gombar allowed two hits, Fleming seven.

Farmington took a 3-1 lead in the game before Southfield rallied to get even.

Here's the way the scoring went:

In the Southfield second, singles by Dennis O'Rourke,

Gary Martin and Gombar led to one run.

Farmington scored twice in its second inning. A walk and an error led to one run.

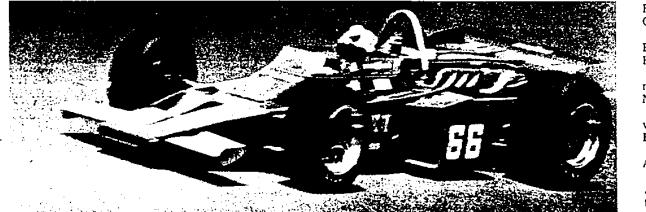
Fleming's single knocked in the second run of the inning and put Farmington on top, 2-

In the third inning, Rich Stringer parked a homer for Farmington and the lead now was 3-1.

But Southfield rebounded for a run in the fourth on singles by Dan Damiani and O'Rourke and a sacrifice fly by Al Davis.

In the fifth, Southfield tied the game on a walk, a single by Gary Marza and a sacrifice fly by Dave Cast.

The tie left Southfield with an overall record of 15 wins, two defeats and the three deadlocks.



THERE HE GOES... Mark Donohue zooms under the wire to victory in the 200-mile for Indy cars at Michigan International Speedway before more than 35,000 spectators. It was Donohue's fifth straight victory of a USAC Indy-type car race.

Sandlot Schedule

- ADRAY LEAGUE
- Wednesday
- North Farmington vs. Westland Cleaners, Garden City; Garden City vs. Redford, Thurston; Northville Reef vs. Livonia Hubert Realty, Cass Benton. Games at 6 p.m.
 - Friday
 - Plymouth Bidwell vs. Redford, Ford, 6 p.m.; North Farmington vs. Livonia Hubert, Ford, 8:30; Northville vs. Garden City, Northville, 6.
 - Sunday
 - North Farmington vs. Garden City, Ford, 1:30; Livonia Hubert vs. Westland Cleaners, Ford, 6; Northville vs. Plymouth Bidwell, Ford, 8:30.
- AMERICAN LEGION
- Wednesday
- Southfield at Berkley, 6 p.m.
 - Friday
 - Southfield at Troy, 6; Farmington at Auburn Heights, 6.
 - Sunday
 - Southfield at Waterford (2 games), 1:30; Walled Lake at Farmington (2 games), 1:30.
 - Monday
 - Berkley at Farmington, 6.

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Holds six bushels and unloads in seconds. So this fall save time with Snapper and its Grasshopper attachment.

Any season of the year, Snapper V series mowers work hard. They pick up leaves, pine straw and most other light litter. ●Big three-bushel bag ●Bag is between the handles, for close trimming on both sides. ●"Down-flector" blows walks and driveways clean, windrows leaves and can be used in areas where bagging grass is not needed.

Snapper's V-21 and 18 vacuum clean your lawn.

S'field Softball

- In men's Class A action in Southfield, John Curly of Miami Blue Water Pools banged out three singles and a homer as his team defeated Sports Fair, 16-4.
- Brewer Roofing remained tied for first place with a 2-1 victory over Garden Plaza Vitamen.
- The Bonnie Bakers stayed in contention with a 26-19 win over S.S. Kresge. Lathrup Village won their third game of the season by defeating United Paint and Chemical 13-2.
- In Men's Class B, division A Action Computer Service ran their record to eight wins, one loss with a 16-8 win over PWYHEA. Stu Kirchner had three home runs and a single for the winners.
- Merrill Lynch had to go nine innings but eventually pulled out a 19-18 victory over ACTS. IBM stayed in contention by defeating Michigan Credit Union 19-13, while Control Data won their second game of the season, 12-5 over Judma Corp.
- Federal Mogul defeated Bendix by the score of 16-8.
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| Computer Service | W 1 |
| Federal Mogul | 8 1 |
| Bendix | 7 2 |
| IBM | 6 3 |
| Judma | 6 4 |
| Credit Union | 4 6 |
| Merrill Lynch | 3 8 |
| PWYHEA | 2 8 |
| ACTS | 2 7 |
| Control Data | 2 7 |
- Miami Blue Pool
Brewer Roofing
Bonnie Bakers
Lathrup Village
Garden Plaza
S.S. Kresge
United Paint
Sports Fair

SEE THEM AT A DEALER NEAR YOU!

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WESTLAND DAVE'S ENGINE and MOWER SHOP 8513 INKSTER RD. between Joy Rd. and Ann Arbor Tr.	427-6444	REDFORD TOWNSHIP HARTOM Power Tool Sales 26221 GRAND RIVER 4 blocks West of Berch Rd.	532-3265
SOUTHFIELD LIONT'S MOWER SHOP 28879 GREENFIELD S. of 12 Mile Rd.	557-3850	ROYAL OAK LAWN EQUIPMENT CORP. 520 W. ELEVAN MILE RD. E. of Woodward	398-3636