

# Southfield Legion Nears Title Showdown

The showdown is at hand for Southfield and Waterford in the 18th American Legion baseball battle.

Just about everything, meaning the championship, figures to ride on the double header the two teams play Sunday at Waterford.

All season they've been fighting a nip-and-tuck battle for the top slot.

There's almost nothing to choose between the two going into Sunday's twin bill.

SOUTHFIELD by downing Berkley, 7-2, Wednesday retained a slight edge over Waterford with a record of 16 wins, two defeats and three ties.

A split Sunday could be enough for Southfield to win the title and gain the right to advance into the state regional later in the month.

Bob Brown, the young pitcher from Brother Rice whom the Tigers thought so highly of and drafted him, turned back Berkley on three hits. He fanned seven and walked only two batters.

He lost his shutout in the seventh inning when

Bill Flynn homered with one aboard. But, by that time, Southfield was rolling along with a cozy lead.

SOUTHFIELD TOOK a 2-0 lead in the first when John Solberg crashed a homer with one mate aboard. Another Southfield run came in the third on a hit batsman and fielder's choice.

In the fifth, Brown's double and a single by Dennis O'Rourke added another run to the Southfield total. Then in the sixth Gary Martin's hit followed an error to make it 5-0 for Southfield.

The winners used two errors, a walk and a fielder's choice to register twice more in the seventh and sew up the victory.

Southfield was to play at Troy Friday before making the trip to Waterford Sunday where the action will start at 2 p.m. Waterford is the defending district champion.

The two front runners played 10 days ago and the game ended in a tie when darkness forced the proceedings to be halted without a decision either way.

# Redford Has Its Own Vida Blue

Talk about Vida Blue who's on the brink of winning 20 games this season for the Oakland A's.

How's about Randy Ferguson of Redford Township.

He's just 17, pitches high school and sandlot baseball and he was going for his 20th win of the season Saturday when Warholak Tires (Redford Union) met a team from Cincinnati in a special inter-sectional game at Cranbrook.

Ferguson won 14 while losing only three for Redford Union High this past spring. He was named on the All-Observer team.

WITH WARHOLAK in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack League, he's 5-0 in summer play and, according to coach Bob Atkins, he probably would be 7-0 or 8-0 if Atkins didn't use the other pitchers on his staff.

"In the Mack program we try to develop future Redford

Union players as well as use some of the boys who have just graduated," said Atkins. "Thus, we haven't pitched Randy as much as we probably would have...or maybe a pitcher of his ability should work."

But with Warholak, champs of the National Division of the Mack League, bound for a city title series and then the state Mack meet, it's a cinch Ferguson will be used more often now.

There is a possibility he could wind up a 25-game winner, which would be amazing, considering that school and sandlot teams play a lot fewer games than they do in the majors.

FERGUSON ALLOWED only three hits in shutting out Tom's Service, 4-0, in his latest Mack start. He walked only one batter.

R.J. LeRoux scored the first Warholak run without the

benefit of a hit and singles by Kurt Fritz and Mark Durance led to the second tally.

Then Ferguson walked, Steve Friedman singled, Bob Brown beat out a bunt to score Ferguson and Friedman came in on a double steal.

The three-hit pitching of Gary Gaspas meantime enabled Farmington Harrison to down Livonia Hubert, 5-2. Gary Mooney doubled in one run for the winners while he laid down a perfect squeeze to admit Tom Young with a second

marker for the Harrison team. Little Caesars of Farmington won a 2-0 decision from Plymouth's Red Holman, 2-4, as Phil Millman scattered only two hits.

Farmington scored in the first inning on a single by Ray Ponke, a walk and a single by Bruce Economeau. In the sixth, Dan McGrath's double and Ponke's single brought in the winners' second tally.

REDFORD TOOLING went eight innings to down Plymouth Elks, 7-5, with a walk, error, sacrifice and a single by Keith Armstrong leading to the two runs in the eighth.

Redford had rallied for two runs to go ahead, 5-4, in the seventh, only to see Plymouth tie the game up again at 5-5.

Bill Duncan was the pitching and batting hero as Crowe Royals downed North Farmington, 3-1.

Duncan, from Bentley High, allowed five hits and struck out five and broke a 1-1 tie in the fourth inning when he socked a homer with one mate aboard.

Two errors, a hit batsman and fielder's choice netted Crowe its first run in the first inning. North Farmington counted in the first on a walk, fielder's choice and error.

National Pride (Churchill High), the American Division champs, added Livonia Optimists to its list of victims, 2-0, behind the pitching of Ken Woods who allowed only one hit to best Bill Couch.

Mark DeRoche doubled in Ernie Comini with the first National run in the first inning. The other one came home in the fifth on singles by Bob Blaies, Comini and DeRoche.



VIDA BLUE of Redford is Pitcher Randy Ferguson, of the Warholak Tire team, who will be bidding for his 20th victory Saturday in a game against an Ohio All-Star team from Cincinnati. Randy won 14 games for Redford Union, five for Warholak and there is a chance he could record as many as 25 before the end of the summer. Vida Blue, the American League sensation from Oakland, will be after No. 20 Sunday when he faces the Tigers.

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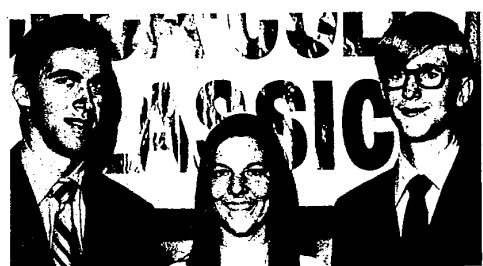
# Green's 5-Hitter Beats Farmington

A five-hit pitching effort by Jim Green enabled Westland Cleaners to roll past North Farmington, 9-3, in an Adray League baseball game.

A four-run, third inning settled the game. After two North walks, Brad Nigh singled in two runs. Then walks led to the next two runs.

Green struck out six and walked two. The loss was tagged on John Combs who yielded nine runs and six hits in four innings.

The victory was the third without a loss for Westland in the third round of play in the league.



OFF TO WASHINGTON to compete in a national bowling tournament for 20 \$1,000 scholarships are Michigan's three qualifying representatives, all from the metropolitan Detroit area. From left: Brent Begnoche, Lathrup Village; Gail Griwicki, Detroit; and Geno Muzzin, Lincoln Park. Gail and Brent are winners of the Detroit Junior Classics; Geno, the Lincoln Park Kiwanis.

# Mack Teams Await Tournament Drawings

The regular season history now it's on to the playoffs for teams in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack League.

The three divisional champs—Warholak Tire (Redford Union), Thurston and National Pride (Churchill) are waiting for the start of the state district Mack tournaments.

Each will be assigned to a different district, it has been announced.

Since the districts won't begin for another week, plans are underway to have the

three square off in their own series to settle the Greater Livonia Mack title.

It would probably be a one game and out tourney. This means one team would draw a bye into the final.

The other teams in the Livonia Mack program which finished with .500 records or over will engage in their own playoff to decide which team qualifies for the Michigan Recreation and the Inter-Cities Class D tournaments.

Thus, of the 21 teams which began originally in the Mack League, five will earn spots in

post-season tournament play against other communities.

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# Chapman Wins New Golf Honors

More honors have come to Bob Chapman, the 6-foot, 4-inch basketball and golf star from Farmington High.

Chapman, an all-star cager last winter, took individual honors and will lead seven

Michigan representatives to the United States Golf Association's Junior Amateur tournament at Rockville, Md., Aug. 3-7.

He shot a 38-35-73 to top a field of 87 teenagers who participated in the state qualifying trials held on the tough Red Run course in Royal Oak.

Kip Byrne of Birmingham was second with a 74.

Among the alternates is John Marker, Jr. of Southfield who shot a 42-37-79.

This marks the second time that Chapman has won a spot in the national. He played in the tournament two years ago.

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