

Area Colt Hopes Ride On Two Teams

Only host Southfield-Lathrup will be on deck from Observerland for the regional Colt League tournament starting Thursday at Southfield's Civic Center.

North Farmington-West Bloomfield was ousted in two straight games by Birmingham, 3-2 and 11-3, Friday and Saturday to win one sectional title while Mt. Pleasant whipped St. Clair Shores twice to gain the other sectional flag.

Thus the four team tournament was made up of host Southfield-Lathrup, plus Mt. Pleasant, Birmingham and the Chicago-area metropolitan champion.

By George Maskin
observing sports

If you're a high school football player, your summer vacation is just about over.

Two weeks from Monday practice officially starts, but in the interim chances are you will be involved in almost daily conditioning drills with other members of your school's team.

Time was when if a prep coach assembled his charges in early August for calisthenics, running and the like, a nasty eye was cast his way.

The coach wasn't supposed to do anything with his football players until whatever day it was the State Association permitted all schools in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas to work out.

But, it's not that way any more.

No longer is it wrong with the coach and school subject to a sharp penalty for assembling the football players early as long as:

1-The players aren't wearing any football gear.

2-The sessions are devoted strictly to conditioning, with no football on the premises.

As a result just about every area high school coach now has his boys out. Some drill in calisthenics daily. Some maybe just two or three times per week.

In many locales in Michigan, special conditioning camps have been opened with most of the enrollees high school football players. In numerous cases, prep coaches run the camps.

Of course, we all know it's impossible to keep the football totally away. What's to prevent a few boys from going off in some playfield and tossing the pigskin around...kicking it, etc.?

The early conditioning sessions help to prove just how much effort boys put into football.

They are willing to sacrifice a good part of their summer vacation in order to build strong bodies and muscles needed to play football.

THE BOYS, as well as their coaches, readily know that to play football you have to be in top shape. Getting into top shape takes work...a lot of it.

As you pass groups of prep footballers any morning or afternoon, you have another reason to take heart in the young clan of our country. If these kids were off base, they wouldn't be spending the month of August going through intensive sessions.

Easier, for, them would be to bounce around and do the things we adults and the police take issue with these days.

Getting football charges fit and ready for the first day of practice is important. There's no tougher coaching job than trying to assemble a football team.

For one thing, the football coach has more players to work with than any of brother mentors.

Secondly, the game of football is far more intricate...offensively and defensively.

Third, in football the need to play together certainly is far more paramount than in baseball or swimming or tennis or golf or track.

Take baseball. If you're batting, there's little a teammate can do for you. You're actually on your own...you vs. the rival pitcher.

But, take the football quarterback. Without several teammates blocking for him, he stands to be "killed." Without good and able receivers, what good is how adept he is at throwing the football?

Defensively, in baseball, you're pretty much on your own. Sure the first baseman can help you out on a low throw.

But, in football, unless everybody is working together...you know what can happen.

MOST FOOTBALL coaches keep an eye on their athletes the year around. Schoolboy gridders are urged to wrestle, run track or play something in that period of the school year after football has finished.

In the summer, the coaches pass along certain conditioning advice for the boy to do on his own until everybody assembles around Aug. 1.

As one prep football coach told us the other day... "high school football is a year around effort. You don't have much time to relax."

Even around the Farmington high schools, you'll find the preps thinking already about football and also preparing themselves despite the fact it won't be known for three weeks whether they'll continue with varsity sports in the system.

The future of schoolboy sports in Farmington hinges on a millage vote on Aug. 23, the day the prep football teams in the lower peninsula can start workouts.

As one who recently had his own tax millage hiked along with a 50 per cent leap in state income tax, we can be very sympathetic to those who are reluctant to keep digging deeper and deeper in their pocketbooks.

Far be it for me to tell anybody how to vote, but then we'd better not sound off about the kids of today if we're not willing to try a little harder for them.

NORTH FARMINGTON-West Bloomfield lost in two tough games.

After dropping the 3-2 opener, North Farmington carried Birmingham 10 innings before Birmingham exploded with eight runs to put the game out of reach.

Gary Morrison was the losing pitcher in the opener. He allowed eight hits and fanned six while Don Therasse single and Louie Doot tripled to account for the only North Farmington hits.

North Farmington duelled with Birmingham for seven innings with Kim Parker permitting three runs and nine hits. Then Birmingham got to Chris Weber in the 10th inning to decide the issue.

North Farmington managed five hits in the

second game-another triple by Doot, plus singles by Therasse, Bill Doerr, John Cassidy and Kim Parker.

MT. PLEASANT downed St. Clair Shores, 4-2, and then 13-4.

The winner of the regional at Southfield will advance to the divisionals at Murray, Kentucky later this month.

From the divisional the champion goes on to the World Series of Colt League baseball at Lafayette, Ind., on Aug. 18-26.

The regional will be played on a two-defeat-and-out basis.

The Chicago champs will meet Mt. Pleasant in

Thursday's opening game at 4:30 p.m. with Birmingham opposing Southfield-Lathrup at 8 p.m.

The same time schedule will prevail Friday and Saturday and if a deciding game is necessary Sunday it will be played at 2:30 p.m.

Opening action in the Colt League regional baseball tournament at Southfield's Civic Center will open Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

The Observers Saturday in error reported the tourney would start on Tuesday.

Action will continue on Friday and Saturday and Sunday, if necessary.

Patriots Topple Plymouth Elks, 7-4

There really wasn't a loser when the Livonia Patriots (Franklin High) met Livonia Hubert for the Connie Mack League-Class D playoff title in Livonia.

Both teams already had

assured themselves a spot in a post-season tournament.

The winner goes to the Michigan Recreation meet, the loser to the Inter-Cities, both scheduled next week.

THE PATRIOTS won their way to the title round by downing Plymouth Elks, 7-4, Saturday at the Hubert Players sat in the stands and did some scouting.

An eight game Plymouth winning streak after the Elks had recovered from a slow start to become one of the hottest teams in the league. Tony Kaseta went the route for the winners to best Brad

Truax, who has been the ace of the Elks' mound staff in the past month. Kaseta fanned 10, Truax five.

It was an up-and-down game in which the lead changed several times.

PLYMOUTH WENT ahead first with two runs in the opening inning when Ken Rocco walked and Dave Hees and Jack Mathias followed with singles with an error tossed in for good measure.

The Patriots shot ahead, 3-2, in the second inning on successive singles by Gar Frantz, Gary Allen and Rob Hollandsworth for one run, a sacrifice fly by Kaseta for another marker and then a double by Barney Dorderian.

Plymouth bounced back on top in the fourth inning with two runs.

Mathias walked, stole second, went to third on a passed ball and scored on an error. Then Jim Grimmer doubled, stole third and came home on another miscue.

The Patriots didn't stay down too long. In the fourth Gary Allen and Ron Nisun walked and dashed around when Ken Yuhasz lashed a long double.

That put the Patriots in front for keeps and they added two insurance runs when Kaseta followed a walk to Nisun with a tremendous home run.

The victory was the ninth against four losses and two ties for the Patriots, who are coached by Ron Helier, also baseball coach at Franklin.

Westland 9 Puts Cleaner On Plymouth

Showdown time became a day and night affair as far as the Westland Cleaners and Plymouth Becker were concerned in the Greater Livonia Adray Baseball League.

They had come down to the closing game in the third round of the league playoffs with identical 5-0 records.

BETWEEN DARKNESS and rain, it became a long struggle...a struggle which had to shift the game from Plymouth where there are no lights to Ford Field in Livonia where the action could be completed under the arcs.

To complicate matters, the teams had to play through rain...the same showers which kept the Tigers from starting a game with California for more than two hours.

The elements notwithstanding, Westland emerged an 8-4 winner to wind up the third round with a perfect record and join

Redford, the first round winner, and Northville Reef, the second round champ, in the playoffs.

The weird sort of a game began with Westland taking a 2-0 lead in the second on two walks, a single by Pat Burke and an error.

BACK CAME Plymouth to score once on four walks in the third and then three times in the fourth when Howie Schryer was safe on an error. Gary Croskey walked and Pat Cunningham and John Stout followed with singles.

The lead didn't hold up for Plymouth as darkness and rain came and the team had to switch sights.

In the sixth Westland scored three times on four walks and a big single by Ken Gawkowski.

In the seventh, two walks, plus hits by Brad Lyons, Terry Miller and Dan Caesar wound up the scoring for Westland.

S. Farmington Eyes LL Crown

South Farmington, the Little League team that battled its way through district, regional, state, zone and into the finals of the tournament that decided the qualifier for the world series in Williamsport, Pa. before losing, will defend its district 4 crown Thursday at 5 p.m. on the Southfield Civic Center LL diamond.

South reached the finals for the second successive year by downing Beverly Hills, 8-1, Monday. It will tangle with the winner of the Avondale-Birmingham National semifinals in the championship.

That champion enters the state tournament next week and then the winners continue the drive that South handled so successfully a year ago.

Kevin Verner kept Beverly Hills under control all the way as he registered 10 strikeouts in the six innings on the mound.

Dick Radatz, son of the former major league hurler by the same name, was the big gun at the plate with four hits in as many times at bat. He had two doubles and two singles.

South put the game out of reach in the fourth when it tallied three times.

Area Youths Star In Fitness Meet

Twelve Observerland youths won awards at the Detroit Metropolitan Youth Fitness Meet at Lower Huron Metropolitan Park near Belleville.

The meet saw competition by 2,000 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15 in eight events which were classified by age groups. One hundred boys and girls from 52 communities won first, second and third place trophies.

Observerland youths who won trophies are: Randy Stone, 15, of 31167 Richland, Livonia, second place in the softball throw; Jeff Couturier, 12, of 630 N. Wayne Rd., Westland, first place in the running hop, step and jump event; Pam Redline, 12, of 28795 Glasgow, Southfield, second place in the softball throw.

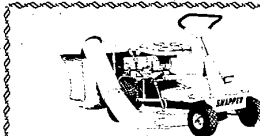
Nancy Lindstrom, 11, of 11021 Cranston, Livonia, third place in the softball throw; Cindy Mellas, 10, of 28620 Krauter, Garden City, first place in the standing broad jump; Maxine Cecotto, 14, of 30366 Rock Creek, Southfield, first place in the running hop, step and jump event.

Karen Mullane, 14, of 28629 Stuart, Southfield, second place in the running hop, step and jump event; Debbie Austin, of Redford Township, second place in the running hop, step and jump event; Pam Leith, 11, of 14150 Oxford, Plymouth, third place in the standing hop, step and jump event.

Sheldon Yellen, 13, of 17090 Cedarcroft, Southfield, second place in the chinning event; and Jim Hirsch, 10, of 14757 Yale, Livonia, first place in the chinning event.



THIS HAPPENED when Westland's Chuck Siamer reached for a line drive foul along first base and tried to double up on Plymouth's Dennis Becker. Chuck grabbed the foul but he didn't touch the bag soon enough for the twin killing. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

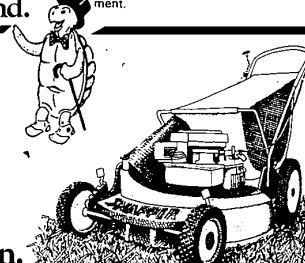


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