

Cherie Parks Trying Out For Second Base

John Glenn Baseball Has Girl Candidate

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

business... that is as far as the baseball team and Cherie Parks are concerned.

What started out as a joke at John Glenn High School has now turned into serious wanting to do everything.

East Cagers Almost Made The 'A' Grade

By TOM DONOGHUE
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Flint Northern advanced Garden City East in the State A championship basketball finale?

The matchup is just a shattered dream now. Billy Joe Young's Panthers played their hearts out and team followers were almost believing that this might be the year for East.

East crushed Annapolis, 99-40, for its seventh straight win on Jan. 11, but fell to its first defeat three days later to Taylor Center, 57-54. The loss was a fluke. Young and his squad were forced to play the opposing team's style when the slippery floor conditions prevailed after a sanding and reworking finish over the holidays.

After a Lutheran West win, East lost to Inkster in overtime, 88-83, in a clash where Inkster fans neared the point of controlling the game.

THE PANTHERS then reeled off four straight victories before being upset by Lutheran West, 69-66, without the services of 6-4 center Dave Jackson.

The regular season ended on a sour note with Inkster scoring a narrow 90-89 win on its home court.

It was then on to the state tournament. . . . Young carried a 12-4 record into the Franklin district and won hands down as expected. The Panthers zipped past Franklin, Churchill and Plymouth to move to the regionals.

East toppled Bentley in the first round, 58-51, and surprised almost everyone, by upsetting Detroit Northwestern for the regional title, 55-51.

Next was the real test . . . It was Pontiac Central and East in the state quarterfinals at Ferndale. East boasted a 17-4 mark and Central checked in at 18-2 with the both losses to the No. 1 team in the state, Flint Northern.

YOUNG knew it would be a tight fight and a blow struck the East attack two days prior to the battle . . . junior forward John Grigal slashed his leg in an accident and received 10 stitches.

It was questionable if Grigal would play against Central, but Young had no one else to turn to and the junior forward had to give it all he could.

From the opening tip, it was evident that the game was going to be an uphill struggle for East with the ineffectiveness of Grigal under the boards. The Panthers stuck with it and fell only four points shy at the final buzzer.

With the buzzer, vanished all hopes of playing at Ann Arbor in the semifinals and East Lansing in the finals, and four East seniors had worn the blue and white uniform for the last time.

DAVE JACKSON, Jack Hayes, Jeff DeHarte, and Russ Tappen are the graduating seniors.

Jackson climaxed all post-season honors by being named to the all-state second team and finished with a 24.8 scoring average. Hayes finished with a 16.1 mark and DeHarte concluded with a 13.9 scoring average. Tappen saw limited action.

"This is the best offensive team I have coached in my 11 years at East," said Young. "The 1968 club was better on defense but this year's squad went up against tougher opponents."

THIS MARKS the second time Young has guided his cagers into the quarterfinals. His '68 club lost to Catholic Central and boasted all-star Mike Maciasz.

Maciasz and Rick Clack went on to star at Olivet College where Maciasz received all-league honors four years and Clack made all-league this year. Olivet tied for the title last year and captured the MIAA crown this year.

Young has 136 wins and 74 losses at East after a 63-11 record at Shawneetown, Ill. So it is now 199 and 85 for the Panther mastermind.

His team in Illinois made it as far as the regional finals in 1960 when Jerry Sloan (now with the Chicago Bulls), knocked him out of state tourney competition.

This year it was Pontiac Central which has now moved on to the state finale against Flint Northern, after an upset win over Lansing Section in the semifinals.

Central might have been too quick for East but a Panther attack at full strength might have overcome the quickness.

"We could have beaten Lansing Section in the semifinals," added Young. "But I won't go as far as to say we could have beaten Flint Northern."

"Flint Northern is the likes of a small college team and should have no trouble knocking off Central," added Young.

and it has happened at John Glenn. Miss Parks is trying out for second base on the varsity squad.

The "joke" came about during a psychology class taught by Coach Norm Hoenes, in which Cherie was a student.

Miss Parks is far from a newcomer to the sports world. She has played two years in the Livonia Women's Fast Pitch league and one year in the Westland Slow Pitch league. Cherie has also been active at Glenn in girl's sports.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL has seen Cherie for three years and she has run the 880 in track the past two years and was in tennis last year.

"Mr. Hoenes and I were kidding each other about the idea of me going out for the team," said Miss Parks. "He said it would be all right with him, and that's how it all started."

A total of 80 candidates ventured out for the squad and there in the thick of it was Miss Parks in her shorts and cut-off sweatshirt.

"The first week is the conditioning week; the week where we see who wants to work and get in shape," said Hoenes. "She really surprised me, Cherie didn't drop out once in the running and didn't miss one pushup."

"It was really sort of funny watching everyone work out," added Coach Hoenes.

"Usually a lot of the guys goof off during the exercises but when they saw Cherie giving it all she had and making it, nobody was dropping out."

But it was far from glamour and glory for Cherie.

"I was really dead after that first week," she said. "We ran two miles a day with sprints and drills afterwards."

"I almost fell out a couple of times, but everyone had been telling me that it gets easier after the first week. A lot of the guys were encouraging me on in addition to all of the girls in the school," added Cherie.

What about the Glenn "male" ballplayers, well this is what Coach Hoenes says about that: "Most of the guys have accepted it and once they saw how good she can field, a lot of them shut up fast."

SENIOR FIRST BASEMAN Mike Borders commented, "I think it is an all right thing. It sure makes us guys work harder thinking that a girl might take over our position."

"I think the whole idea is really cool," said senior outfielder John Lee. "It's really helping the team get in condition. . . . I mean who wants to have a girl beat him out of his position."

Cherie couldn't be more excited about being the first girl to try out for a boys varsity sport but she has found one group at Glenn opposing her . . . the girl's coaches.

"All the girl coaches are afraid that boys will be attempting to go out for the girls teams next year," added Miss Parks. "Plus, being out for baseball stops me from going out for the girl's track team."

Cherie's parents have had mixed emotions. "My dad thinks the idea is really great and is pushing for

me, but my mom has really flipped," added Miss Parks.

John Glenn opens its regular season against Garden City West on April 5 and according to Coach Hoenes, if she is still out, she will be at second base.

"If a girl is good enough to

make the varsity team, there should be no reason why she can't play," concluded Hoenes.

But there exists a conflict. . . . For one, a Northwest Suburban league rule exists that says a girl cannot take

part in any league contests involving boys.

COACH HOENES and his baseballers could get around that by not having her play in any league games, but a higher conflict exists.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has in its Girls Directive a ruling that states, "Girls are not to engage in any inter-scholastic contest which involves part of or all of a team composed of boys."



SMILING HER WAY into the hearts of the John Glenn baseball squad is secondbase hopeful Miss Cherie Parks. She is flanked by senior

outfielder John Lee (left) and senior firstbaseman Mike Borders (right). (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Franklin Looking For Quick Start; Hitters Getting 'The Eye' Early

A quick glance in the Livonia Franklin High gym on a weekday afternoon will resemble the likeness of another Tigertown.

Franklin has gone all out this spring and baseball Coach Ron Heller couldn't be happier. A batting cage has been set up in the balcony area of the gym and a netting is strung across the lower portion where batting tees are positioned.

"The addition of the cage is really going to help our hitters get in the swing of things early," said Heller. "We don't have to wait on the weather now before hitting the ball."

Ron has 84 hopefuls out for the varsity and admits the cut to 17 is really going to be tough.

"With no junior varsity, it is rough to cut the kids from the team and giving them no team to fall back on," added Heller.

Franklin concluded last year with a 15-10 mark and finished second in the Northwest Suburban league with a six win and four loss record.

The Patriots lost in the final game of the district, 3-2. Franklin's '72 outlook leans towards the young side with only six returning lettermen, including last year's leading

hitter in senior Karney Derderian.

DERDERIAN blitzed for .344 and will be a key to the infield.

Junior Gar Frantz is the leading hopeful according to Heller. Last year as a sophomore he hit .295 and paced the squad in extra base hits. He holds down first base and stands 6-1 and checks in at 175 pounds.

Senior Steve Crowe, Rick Frayer, Dave Pelty and Fred Beal round out the returning lettermen with Frayer the lone returning hurler.

The senior pitcher worked in relief last year and chalked up

a one win, two loss record with five saves to his credit.

PELTY was the backup catcher last year and should provide the Patriots with experience behind the plate. Beal is the fastest man on the squad and can mark off the distance between home and first in 4.0 second.

The top prospects for '72 are Junior Jeff Waterstone, sophomore Dave Watkins and seniors Dennis Watson and Ken Oliver.

Watson and Oliver should round out the pitching staff with Frayer. All three throw from the right side of the mound.

HITTING with authority is what Heller sees in the bats of Waterstone and Watkins and both could play a key role in this year's search for the league crown.

Franklin opens against Redford Union on April 10 with the first league encounter on April 17 against Birmingham Groves.



IN THE CAGE -- Franklin's Connie Derderian prepares to lash out at a pitch inside the Patriot batting cage. Ron Heller's baseballers are preparing for the April 10 opener with Redford Union. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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