

Tiger Rookie Hurler Gives Dad Thrill

By W. W. EDGAR

No one is looking forward to the opening of the major league baseball season with greater anticipation than Fred Holdsworth, principal of Northville High School. And for a very good reason.

His 19-year-old son, Fred Jr., has been the talk of the Tiger training camp and is looked upon as the first rookie since Art Houtteman to win a place in the starting list of pitchers.

As he sits in his office, high on the hill at Eight Mile and Sheldon Roads, the principal has a

difficult time keeping his mind on anything but the hope that the boy can make it.

"At home we've all got our fingers crossed," he'll tell you, "and nothing would please us more than seeing him in a starting role as the fourth pitcher."

In his mixed emotions, though, he qualifies his wishes for a starting role with the remark that he wants him to pitch—regularly.

"I'd rather see him down in Toledo, or some other high minor league club," he pointed out, "than sitting on the bench with the Tigers."

"I don't know too much about this fellow

Fowler who coaches the Tiger hurlers," he went on, "but unless young Fred is learning something under his care, I'd rather have him pitching."

AS HE SPOKE the elder Holdsworth turned in his chair and smiled the smile of a proud father who couldn't hide his feelings.

"We talked to young Fred over the phone Sunday night," he said, "and I asked him, rather jokingly, what kind of a pitch he served to Herman Killebrew, the Minnesota Twins slugger, the other afternoon when he hit a homer and the Twins scored four runs in the first inning."

"He told me it was a good pitch, and that

Herman was pulling away from the pitch. But, young Fred told me that Killebrew had so much power, he still lifted the ball far enough for a homer."

YOUNG FRED is not only impressing Billy Martin, the Tiger manager and the other baseball men down there, but he is even delighting his father—and not only on the mound.

"I was delighted with the way Martin handled the boy after that bad inning. He didn't give up on him, but kept him in the game and he followed with three great innings."

"And I also was delighted with the way the boy handled himself. If you recall he hit a triple and a single and after the game remarked, 'After the way I pitched, I should do something to help win the game.'"

Young Fred comes by his baseball ability naturally. His father was a big righthanded pitcher who played on many of the top amateur clubs and was a teammate of Lloyd Brazil, the U-D immortal in the Pontiac League.

He also pitched three years at Wayne State University and was a regular on the mound during his four-year hitch in the Marine Corps.

He hesitated a moment, possibly anticipating the question as to why he didn't go further.

"I was a lefthanded batter," he said, "and I had an awful time against southpaw pitchers and their curves. So I turned to education."

Young Fred was torn between higher learning and baseball according to his dad, but, between them, they figured he could get his education later.

"I started him young," the elder Holdsworth says. "We used to play catch in the back yard. I kept emphasizing from the start that control was the most important thing and young Fred has that."

"And he won't have my trouble against southpaws—we taught him to bat righthanded."

THE YOUNGER HOLDSWORTH has been a major league prospect for the past several years. He played in all the little leagues in Berkeley and was a member of the championship team in the Les Anders Tournament.

Aside from that he starred at Northville High for three years while compiling a 29-3 record.

"That's why I want him to pitch," his dad repeated. "Sure it would be grand to see him land the Tiger berth—but not at the expense of sitting on the bench."

"He's still in the learning stage and needs work."

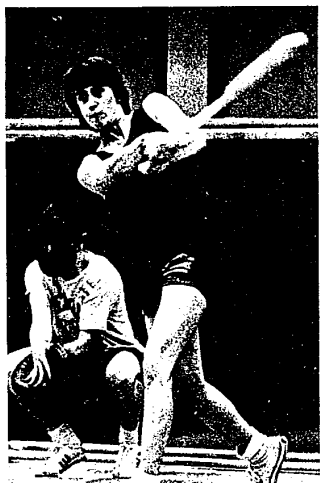
"But we're all keeping our fingers crossed."

observerland sports



Raiders Looking For Solo March To Baseball Title

North Farmington and John Glenn fought to a co-championship last year in the Northwest Suburban baseball race with identical 7-3 records.



RAIDER HOPEFUL — North Farmington's Junior Louie Doot hit .306 last year on junior varsity and could be one of the coming batsmen and hurlers on the Raider squad. (Observer photo)

This season the Raiders could do it all alone.

Coach Tom Wallis boasts six returning lettermen including All-League catcher John Haine and is very optimistic

about the upcoming season which opens against Farmington on April 10.

"We have some good talent coming back and two outstanding prospects in Lew Doot and Kim Parker," said Coach Wallis. "We are looking to improve upon our '71 mark of 11-7."

Haine is the backbone of the squad with an average of .375 in his junior season.

"There isn't enough you can say about Haine," added Wallis. "He is a real team leader and we are looking for another great season from him."

MARTY RAYMOND and Chuck Wolfe compose the returnees in the outfield with Raymond hitting .285 and Wolfe .300 last season.

The infield has Dave Neuman and Scott Ramsey returning with .285 and .209 averages respectively, and Doug Moher will be the lone man on the mound with varsity experience.

Wallis is hopeful juniors Doot and Parker will take controls in pitching. Doot compiled a 23 record and batted .306 on the junior varsity and Parker finished with a 43 mark and hit .500. "If Doot and Parker come around," added Wallis, "we are definitely going to be tough."

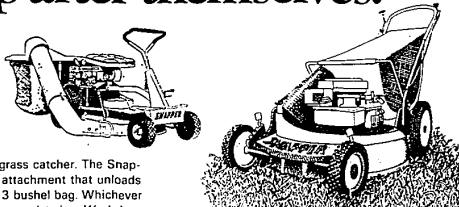
Mike Gasser, John Knock, Tom Hamilton, John Cassidy, John Dwyer, Brad Houck, and Steve Ryan round out the list of hopefuls.



KEEPING FINGERS CROSSED — Fred Holdsworth Sr., principal of Northville High School, reverts to old custom in wishing his son luck in bid for starting role as Tiger pitcher.

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It's That Time Again; 'Golf Bug' In The Air

The bunny won't arrive until Sunday but long before that time the annual duel between golfers and the small white pellet will have started at Livonia's Whispering Willows golf course on Saturday morning.

It didn't take many of the bright sunshine days of the past week to get the blood of the golfers boiling ... and on this premise Pro Gary Whitener is looking forward to the largest opening weekend attendance since the course opened.

"We could have opened a week ago and had a large crowd," said Whitener, "but we announced our official opener for April 1 and that's what it is going to be."

Whitener and Livonia Supervisor of Parks and Recreation John Dufour are looking forward to the best season ever.

The course grossed more than \$150,000 a year ago with a net profit of \$45,000 on the record 46,000 rounds. The

profits kept most of the recreation program going throughout the year.

Whitener will have the same staff as in 1971.

Greens fees will be the same as in 1971 with the following schedule:

RESIDENTS — Monday through Friday, \$2.75 for nine holes and \$4 for 18. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, \$3.25 for nine and \$5 for 18.

NON-RESIDENTS — Monday through Friday, \$3 for nine and \$4.50 for 18. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, \$3.50 for nine and \$5.50 for 18.

SENIOR CITIZENS — Monday through Friday (must teoff by noon), \$1 for nine and \$2 for 18.

BOYS AND GIRLS (17 and under) — Mondays, 8 a.m. to noon, \$1 for nine and \$2 for 18.

TWILIGHT RATES — (After

5 p.m.) \$2 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents.

Starting times are available for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays with a charge of 25 cents per person.

Whitener emphasizes that there is no league play at the course with the exception of the women's Friday morning Golf League. Other than that, it is open play at all times.

At the moment he is busy with plans for a junior golf clinic for youngsters scheduled for the week after Livonia schools close in June. The clinic annually attracts hundreds of youngsters who receive their initial introduction to the sport.

Plans for registration for the clinic will be announced later.

Merchandise of all brands and prices will be available in the pro shop beginning with opening day. The course also has a driving range and a practice putting green and pull carts and electric carts for hire.