

# Franklin Wins Northwest Baseball Title

Franklin High baseball coach Ron Heller added nine bat girls to his varsity program. His Franklin team proceeded to upend Thurston in the championship showdown, 11-2, to win the Northwest with a 104 mark. Thurston finished second at 9-5.

"The new schedule had to be our key," said Heller, whose squad finished with an

overall showing of 13-9. "A record of 1-3 has been winning this league and at one time this season we stood 5-4, one notch from being right out of the picture."

Franklin then ripped off five straight league wins to capture the title.

The Patriots bowed to

Southfield Lathrup, a team that had won only one game, in the Les Anders Tourney and fell to Farmington in state action.

The Patriots came to play ball when it came down to the Northwest Suburban title chase.

It was the first crown for Heller, who took over the main coaching duties in '69, after Jim Ford had taken the Franklin team to the championship the year before.

Franklin placed fourth under Heller in his rookie season, third in '70, second in '71, tied for the basement last year and captured it all this season - nine bat girls and all.

Thurston and Coach Emil Majeski found themselves faced with an instant replay of the '72 race.

Birmingham Groves took the title away from Thurston in that season's finale and this year it was Franklin's turn.

The two All-League hurlers were on the mound. Majeski going with his ace, Mark Falvo, and Heller putting it on the line with his Rich Gaber.

Gaber came through with a four-hitter and his batsmen pounded out 14 hits. It was Gaber's seventh win in 10 decisions overall and his seventh in the league against two setbacks.

Falvo lasted only 3 1/3 innings, gave up seven runs on eight hits, and suffered the loss. Ray lives worked the final 2 2/3 innings, giving up four runs on six hits.

Thurston started off with a bang but finished with a thud.

Eagle lead-off batsman Gary D'Ascenzo drilled a shot to center which Franklin's Tony Dattilio misjudged. D'Ascenzo was safe at second on the error and scored on a single by John Ray.

was forced to leave the game with a dislocated shoulder as a result of the collision with Waterstone.

Gar Frantz kept Franklin alive with a base on balls and scampered in on a double by Dave Watkins.

Franklin exploded in the third to set the tempo of the important league clash.

Dattilio was safe on an error by Eagle center fielder Gary Chappell and scored on a hit by Frantz who moved up on a passed ball. Watkins singled and Frantz was picked off third, Falvo to Tom Dowdy.

But the Patriots were still kicking. Tim Livesay singled and Wayne Darrah doubled.

Bob Falow walked and stole second and Dave Hollander doubled. The Patriots had opened up to a 7-1 lead.

"I have known all along that the kids could hit the ball but I must admit I was surprised," said Heller. "I expected everyone to be tight for this finale."

Franklin pushed it to 10-1 in the fourth. Waterstone

doubled and was again cut down at the plate when Frantz was safe on an error. Watkins singled and Darrah singled.

The Patriots concluded their assault in the fifth when Gaber drew a walk. Waterstone singled, Dattilio sacrificed, Watkins walked and Livesay walked to force in Gaber.

Thurston talked once in the sixth but the deed was done.

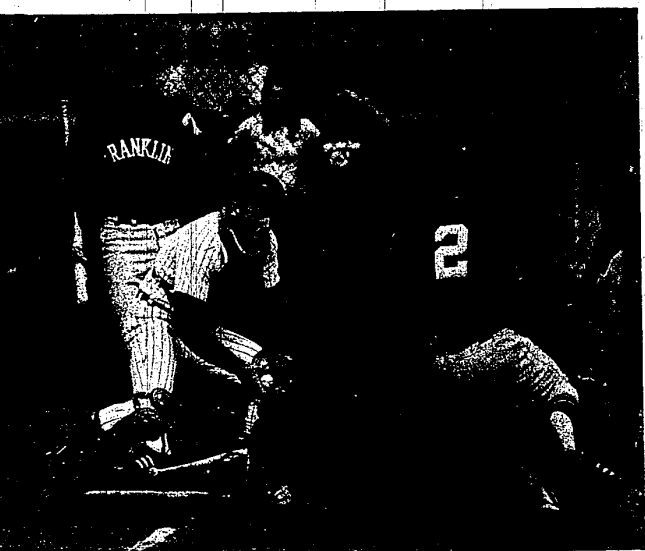
THURSTON	FRANKLIN
D'Ascenzo, 3	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Falvo, 5-20	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Chappell, 3	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Ray, 2-9	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Chappel, 0	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Stall, 1	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Dowdy, 3-4	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Robinson, 0	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Dattilio, 0	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Falvo, 0	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Watkins, 0	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Thurston	10-0 Wins, 11-2
Franklin	10-0 Wins, 11-2

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SET FOR THE TAG - Thurston catcher Mike Robinson reads himself for a home plate collision with Franklin's Jeff Waterstone in the Northwest Suburban championship contest with on-deck batsman Gar Frantz looking on. Waterstone was out and Robinson was forced to leave with a dislocated shoulder. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

## Spartans Dump Rocks In Pre-Districts, 3-1

Livonia Stevenson hasn't been winning a lot of baseball games this spring, but first-year Coach Gerry Goode is on second base now, ready to dash to third.

Goode's Spartans have not been over the 500 mark yet but are close now with an overall showing of 7-8.

As far as Goode is concerned, wins No. 6 and No. 7 could change a losing season into a winner.

Win No. 6 was a state qualifying victory over West Bloomfield Andover, 4-1, and win No. 7 was a 3-1 triumph over Plymouth to move into the districts at Southfield.

Stevenson now finds itself pitted against city rival Churchill in the 10 a.m. clash Saturday, (June 2) at Southfield High.

Farmington meets Millard in the 12:30 p.m. game with

### State Baseball Tournament

the two winners fighting it out for the district title at 3 p.m.

Tom Centers has been the show for Stevenson. The senior right-hander picked up both state tourney victories to up his season record to 6-2, six of Stevenson's seven wins.

Centers tossed a five hitter against Andover, walked two and struck out seven. Wally Jones suffered the loss with Stevenson banging out six hits, walking three times and striking out six times.

Bloomfield scored in the opening inning but Stevenson came back with two in the second.

Centers walked, Bob Hope tripled him home and Dan Bliss sacrificed him in.

The Spartans added two more insurance runs in the third. Mike Assemany sin-

gled, Mark Temby was safe on an error, Bob Ganzak walked and Mark Tressler singled in Assemany and Temby.

It was to the pre-district clash at Plymouth.

Centers came up with a four-hitter this time, walked three and struck out eight. Steve Robb and Tom Willette worked for the Rocks with Robb taking the setback, his eighth in 13 outings.

Stevenson collected six hits off the two hurlers in the extra inning contest.

Plymouth drew first blood in the first when Don Bidwell singled, advanced to second on an error and dashed in on a hit by Jeff Waller.

An opposite field homerun by Stevenson's Don Finn in the fifth notched things up, 1-1, and that's the way it remained until the top of the eighth.

Spartan leadoff batsman Mike Assemany singled and Mark Temby singled. Steve Brown was safe at first on a sacrifice bunt that was booted by Willette.

With the bases loaded and no outs, Bob Ganzak grounded to short and Assemany was forced at the plate.

Tressler didn't let this scoring opportunity escape.

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### Action Tonight In Les Anders

The Les Anders baseball tourney field still remains at four but with the help of "Mother Nature" it should be sliced to two tonight, Thursday (May 31).

Semifinal action pits Westland John Glenn against Thurston in the 6 p.m. clash at Ford Field with Redford Union and Southfield Lathrup doing battle in the 8:30 p.m. contest.

The tournament, sponsored by the Observer Newspapers and Livonia Parks and Recreation, will wrap up next Tuesday, June 5, with the two winners meeting at Ford at 7:30 p.m.

### Churchill High Hosting 4-Week Cage Clinic

Churchill High varsity basketball Coach Pat Monagan announced that he will be heading a four-week basketball clinic at Churchill High.

Registration will be the first Friday, Monday, June 18 at 9 a.m. in the Churchill gym.

The clinic is open to all Livonia junior and senior high school students with the Monday through Friday sessions lasting from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

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