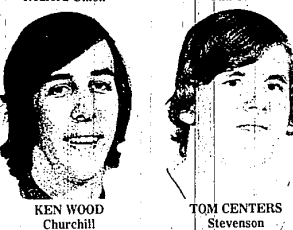
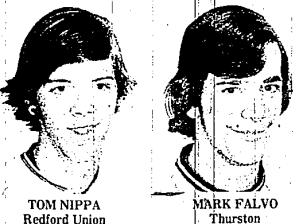


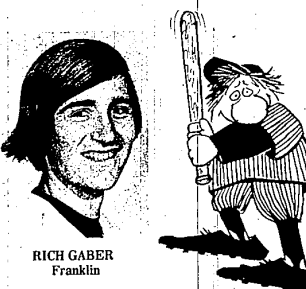
All-Area Baseball Lineup Announced

All-Area Hurlers



Observerland's Top 20 Hitters

	ab	r	h	bi	ba
ROY, Thurston	88	21	37	15	.420
FRANTZ, Franklin	66	18	27	23	.409
PAULINE, Farmington	49	6	20	8	.408
SMITH, Southfield	45	8	18	10	.400
WATKINS, Franklin	59	10	23	9	.390
FOSTER, Churchhill	57	18	22	24	.386
KELLY, Churchhill	63	19	24	27	.381
NICOLIN, Farmington	43	8	17	9	.377
LIVESAY, Franklin	43	13	24	14	.375
DREHER, Churchhill	66	19	24	14	.364
BOEGLER, Bentley	44	4	16	12	.363
FISHER, Southfield	42	5	15	7	.357
WATERSTONE, Franklin	74	19	26	11	.351
ANLEITNER, GC East	60	11	21	12	.350
HERST, GC West	86	12	30	18	.348
WHALEY, GC East	58	11	20	15	.343
REED, GC East	47	5	16	6	.342
HAWRANEY, Churchhill	57	11	19	15	.333
KELLY, Bishop Borgess	85	18	29	8	.329
BLAIES, Churchhill	67	20	22	12	.328
McLELLAN, GC West	58	11	19	9	.327
RUHL, Southfield Lathrup	52	10	17	11	.327
WASILEWSKI, Bentley	52	14	17	8	.327
WISNIEWSKI, GC East	52	23	16	8	.320
CENTERS, Stevenson	41	8	13	12	.317
ROBB, Plymouth	70	10	22	6	.314
COMBES, N. Farmington	54	10	16	12	.313
FALVO, Thurston	76	12	23	10	.310
McLEAN, Thurston	62	8	19	12	.308
YOURCHOCK, Redford U.	91	14	18	12	.307
KARR, GC East	52	15	16	8	.307
HACKMAN, GC East	52	9	16	11	.307
GOTTSMALL, Churchhill	56	12	17	1	.304
LINTON, John Glenn	63	6	19	8	.301



BRENT BOEGLER Bentley
JIM WISNIEWSKI GC East
BRIAN KELLY Churchhill
JERRY HERBST GC West

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

Ever think about coaching high school baseball?

If the thought has ever crossed your mind, the Observer Newspapers has put together a team no baseball lover could walk away from.

This prep team is hitting at a .361 clip, averages six feet and 170 pounds, and sports a pitching staff that performs at a .756 winning percentage. The hurlers have an earned run average of 1.92 and record an average of one and a half strikeouts per inning.

No. 1 is not the All-American high school dream team.

It is the 1973 All-Observer baseball squad selected from 18 area high schools. Seniors dominate the 12-man squad with one junior slippin' into the second base slot. That is Thurston High's John Roy. No. 1 batter in Observerland with a .420 mark.

Batgirls made their appearance this season in Observerland and two have been selected to add a "sign of the times" note to the all-area picks.

Franklin High's Claudia Carney and Gigi Ettinger of Stevenson have been chosen to deliver the bats to the blue chippers of Observerland.

Livonia Churchill came up with the strongest showing in the first team selections, capturing third base, outfield and pitching slots, with Franklin, Thurston and Garden City East each boasting two first teamers.

The first team infield consists of Franklin's Gar Frantz, Thurston's John Roy, East's Steve Orr and Churchhill's Bobby Blaies.

Churchill's Jim Foster, East's Mike Whaley and Franklin's Jeff Waterstone make up the outfield, with John Glenn's J.P. McBride the No. 1 catcher in the area.

The four-man pitching staff is composed of Tom Nippa of Redford Union, Thurston's Mark Falvo, Ken Wood of Churchhill, and Tom Centers of Stevenson.

Franklin High first baseman Gar Frantz made it a repeat performance in the Observer selections.

Frantz hit .442 his junior and was an All-State selection. This season the 6-1, 180-pounder connected for 27 hits in 56 at bats for a .409 mark, scored 18 runs and accounted for 23 runs batted in.

At second base is the lone junior to make the first team in Thurston High's John Roy. The 5-10, 165-pounder paced all hitters in Observerland with a .420 mark on 37 hits in 88 at bats.

Thurston was top on the charts last season in the hitting of Bill Fraser at .500, and again swept top billing in '73.

Roy scored 21 runs for the 16-1 Thurston club and collected 15 runs in, three doubles and two triples.

Garden City East's Steve Orr nailed down the shortstop slot for the second consecutive season.

The All-Observer shortstop, who was also All-Observer quarterback in the fall, batted out 17 hits in 57 at bats, scored 18 runs, batted in 12 and hit at a .298 clip.

Orr is considered by almost every coach in the area as one of the finest all-around athletes and was an unanimous choice for the infield berth. Only three errors at shortstop.

Churchill's Bobby Blaies claimed the hot corner.

The Charger third baseman, who was the No. 2 quarterback in the area in the fall, collected 21 hits in 64 at bats for a .328 average.

Blaies scored 20 runs, batted in five doubles, walked five times, had 12 runs batted in, struck out only four times and was in eight for eight in the stolen base department.

Blaies was All-Western Six and made only three errors at third in a 15-7 season for Churchhill. The 5-9, 156-pounder is headed for Adrian College where he will play baseball and football.

Jim Foster of Churchhill heads up the outfield with a .366 batting mark. He has a .386 batting mark in the stolen base department.

The 6-2, 195-pound senior had 22 hits in 56 at bats, scored 18 runs, batted in 24, (tops in Observerland), hit five doubles, three triples and three home runs.

He was walked 17 times and was 12 for 13 in the stolen base category.

Foster was All-Western Six and Churchill's most valuable performer, an all-league football player, starter on the basketball squad and is eyeing University of Detroit, Adrian and Alma.

Garden City East's Mike Whaley weighs in at 200 pounds, tops for the first team, stands 6-11 and carries a big bat.

The Panther outfielder had 20 hits in 58 at bats, scored 11 times and drove in 15 in hitting at a .343 pace.

The other outfield slot was captured by Franklin High's Jeff Waterstone.

The 5-8, 150-pound senior (lightest on the squad) hit .351, with 28 hits in 74 at bats, and scored 18 runs in the leadoff position for a champion Franklin team.

Waterstone delivered four doubles, one triple, walked 14 times and stole 15 bases.

Jeff is a two-year All-Northwest Suburban performer as well as co-captain the past two seasons on the Franklin team.

The backstop, the mainstay of any team, is John Glenn's J.P. McBride.

The 6-1, 160-pounder was noted for being capable of beating his opponents in many ways.

McBride collected 34 hits in 94 at bats in Glenn's 14-13 season, scored 17 runs, hit eight two-baggers, one homer, walked 36 times, stole 13 bases and did not record a strikeout in a total of 101 trips to the plate.

This was the third straight 30-hit or better season for McBride at Glenn.

The four-man senior pitching staff is headed by Tom Nippa of Redford Union.

The All-Northwest Suburban hurler came up with a 9-2 season, recorded 74 strikeouts in 83 innings and a 1.62 earned run average.

The tall left-hander was one of the mainstays in RU's 22-9 season.

Next on the pitching charts is Thurston's Mark Falvo.

The All-Northwest Suburban right-hander at six feet

and 160 pounds pitched 66 1/3 innings, struck out 79, walked 28, allowed 47 hits and came up with an 8-3 record with a 3.30 earned run average.

Falvo also batted out a .299 batting mark with 22 hits in 74 at bats, taking double duty at third base.

Stevenson High is Tom Centers and Tom Centers is Stevenson High.

The 6-5, 193-pound senior has led the Spartan crew to the district championship with a 6-2 record, has recorded 6 strikeouts and sports a 1.65 earned run average.

Top is planning to attend Eastern Michigan and has three years of varsity baseball, three years of varsity basketball, and two years of varsity soccer behind him.

Centers was All-Inter Lake, and chosen the team's most valuable performer.

The Stevenson right-hander was No. 25 on the area batting charts with 13 hits in 41 at bats, scored eight times and batted in 12 runners to complement his .317 average.

The final hurler on the first team is Churchhill's Ken Wood, a 72 member of the second team.

Wood at 6-0 and 170 pounds finished at 5-2 for 73, pitched 45 1/3 innings, allowed 30 hits, 13 runs, struck out 52, walked only seven, hit one, and wound up with a 1.09 earned run average.

In '72, Wood also sported a 5-2 mark with a 0.87 earned run average and in three years of varsity ball has compiled a 14-4 record which includes five shutouts and two two-hitters.

On two occasions he struck out 14 in one seven inning stint.

The second team All-Observer hit at a .359 clip, just two percentage points below the first crew at .361.



The infield boasts Bentley's Brent Boegler at first; East's Jim Wisniewski at second, Churchhill's Brian Kelly at short and Garden City West's Jerry Herbst at third.

Plymouth's Steve Robb, Farmington's Rick Pauline and Churchhill's Rick Dreher form the outfield with Redford Union's Glenn Richmond's catcher.

Franklin's Rich Gaber and Glenn's Dave Wesley complete the pitching staff and the second team.

There it is, the top baseball prep in the area, batgirls and all.

FIRST TEAM

	Class	Ht	Wt	BA
1B GAR FRANTZ, Franklin	Sr	6-1	180	.409
2B JOHN ROY, Thurston	Sr	5-10	165	.420
SS STEVE ORR, GC East	Sr	5-8	155	.298
3B BOB BLAIES, Churchhill	Sr	5-9	156	.328
OF JIM FOSTER, Churchhill	Sr	6-2	195	.386
OF MIKE WHALEY, GC East	Sr	5-11	200	.343
OF JEFF WATERSTONE, Franklin	Sr	5-9	150	.351
C J.P. MCBRIDE, John Glenn	Sr	6-1	160	.352
TOM NIPPA, Redford U.	Sr	6-0	160	.9-2
P MARK FALVO, Thurston	Sr	6-0	160	.8-3
P KEEN WOOD, Churchhill	Sr	6-0	170	.5-2
P TOM CENTERS, Stevenson	Sr	6-5	193	.6-2

SECOND TEAM

	BA
1B BRENT BOEGLER, Bentley	.363
2B JIM WISNIEWSKI, GC East	.320
SS BRIAN KELLY, Churchhill	.381
3B JERRY HERST, GC West	.348
OF STEVE ROBB, Plymouth	.314
OF RICK PAULINE, Farmington	.408
OF RICK DREHER, Churchhill	.364
C GLENN RICHMOND, Redford U.	.298
P RICK GABER, Franklin	.7-3
P DAVE WESLEY, John Glenn	.7-4

HONORABLE MENTION

1B-YOURCHOCK, Redford Union; 2B-CAMPBELL, Redford Union; COMBES, North Farmington; BIDWELL, Plymouth; HOLTON, Farmington; MCKEEVER, John Glenn; JIM KELLY, Bishop Borgess; HODGKINS, John Glenn; D'ASCENZO, Thurston; 3B-GANZAK, Stevenson; DARRAGH, Franklin; C-TRESSLER, Stevenson; KLEIFELD, St. Agatha; MILOSCH, Bishop Borgess; OF-CIAKO, St. Agatha; WALDOCK, Bentley; WATKINS, Franklin; McLELLAN, GC West; BRITTAIN, John Glenn; FULKS, Redford Union; COLLINS, Harrison; DATTILO, Franklin; RUHL, Southfield Lathrup; LAIRD, Clarenceville; P-IVEY, Thurston; HAGEN, Farmington; HACKMAN, GC East; MILLER, Redford Union; SILVERSTEIN, Southfield Lathrup; VEZINA, Bentley; PANZOFF, Churchhill; MORRISON, Harrison; DOBBS, GC West. BATGIRLS-CLAUDIA CARNEY, Franklin; GIGI ETTINGER, Stevenson.

Franklin's Hellier No. 1 Coach

Observer Newspapers have selected Franklin High's Ron Hellier the area's No. 1 baseball coach for 1973.

Hellier's crew was the only Observerland team to win its league title and it was a real uphill struggle.

Franklin won its league opener over North Farmington but Hellier lost his only experienced pitcher in Junior Jamie Knapp, who suffered a severe elbow muscle-pull and was to sit out the rest of the season.

The Patriots then dropped five straight games and Hellier went looking into his infield and outfield for pitchers.

He converted third baseman Wayne Darragh, shortstop Tim Livesay and outfielder Dave Watkins into hurlers and got the biggest surprise in Rich Gaber, who wound up leading Franklin to the Northwest title.

A sweep of a twin bill with Plymouth changed the Patriots' luck and midway through the season, Franklin found itself faced with a 5-4 league record.

"I must admit that I thought we were out of the race then," said the 33-year-old Hellier.

But his Patriots proceeded to rip off five straight wins and take the Northwest with a 10-4 record.

It was Hellier's first title in five years. Franklin had won four championships in five seasons before Hellier took over the main controls at Franklin in '69.

Hellier's disappointments came in both tournaments. His Patriots blew their opening round of the Les Andes to Southfield Lathrup and Hellier was the first to admit that his crew was caught looking.

The other tourney loss was in a pre-district clash with Farmington. Hellier could have taken a forfeit win over Farmington when the umpires failed to show at one set time, but decided to play it off with talent.

"I ended up being just a toss of the coin," joked Hellier. "There was no real contest of ability in the mud and rain. Farmington's fire run came when my shortstop picked up a handful of mud instead of the ball."

"We had to use two different ball diamonds and the kids were up to their ankles in water," added the Franklin coach.



RON HELLIER
Coach-Of-Year

A protest was lodged in the state game by Hellier. Although it was upheld, the state decided to let the 2-1 victory for Farmington remain in the books.

Ron graduated from Bentley High School in Livonia in '68 and went on to Olivet College where he pitched four years of varsity ball for a 19-6 record.

Hellier graduated from Olivet in '69, majoring in psychology and physical education. He worked in industry a year, and then was a grad assistant under head varsity baseball coach at Eastern Michigan University, Ron Destrice.

Ron then taught one year at Birmingham's Covington Junior High School and moved to Franklin in '69.

The Franklin coach and his wife Laurie, whom he married in his junior year at Olivet, have a four-year-old girl, Lisa, and a one-year-old future baseballer, Robbie.

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"We had to use two different ball diamonds and the kids were up to their ankles in water," added the Franklin coach.



DAVE WESLEY
John Glenn

Second Team



BRENT BOEGLER Bentley
JIM WISNIEWSKI GC East
BRIAN KELLY Churchhill
JERRY HERBST GC West
STEVE ROBB Plymouth
RICK PAULINE Farmington
RICK DREHER Churchhill
GLENN RICHMOND Redford Union