

Plymouth Rallies By Bentley To Push Loop Record To 6-5

Plymouth High pushed across two runs in the eighth to topple Livonia Bentley in Suburban Eight baseball action, 9-7.

It was Plymouth's sixth league victory against five setbacks but only its seventh overall in 21 outings. Bentley slipped to a 4-8 conference record.

The Rocks outbent Bentley, 11 to 10 and jumped on five Bulldog errors to overcome a 7-4 deficit.

Steve Robb and Tom Willette worked the Plymouth mound with reliever Willette in the last 4 1/2 innings to pick up his second triumph.

Bentley Coach Marty Klozik utilized Doug Murphy, Paul Roshirt and his ace, Dan Vezina, with the latter hurling the final 3 1/2 innings and suffering the defeat.

The Rocks opened with three runs in the second. Ron Willette started with a single and Ron Egloff beat out an infield hit. Murphy threw wild on a pickoff attempt with Egloff moving to third and Egloff to second.

Murphy hooked a bunt by Jim Szilagyi with Willette scoring. Egloff advancing to third, and Szilagyi to second. After a strikeout, Tony Rossi

beat out a bunt with Egloff and Szilagyi scoring to make it 5-4, Plymouth.

Bentley came back in the third to take a 5-3 lead.

Bob Cross led off with a three-bagger and scampered on a single by Glenn Stevens. Roshirt drew a walk record.

Suburban Eight

Borgess Has Cage Clinic

Bishop Borgess High basketball Coach Jim Brisky announced a seven week basketball clinic starting June 11 and lasting through July 28.

The clinic will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the school.

There will be no fee and any youngster ages 11-17 is invited to attend.

Making Rules

Michigan State baseball coach Danny Litwhiler serves as baseball rules and tournament committee chairman for NCAA District Four.

Sparkman had seen enough. He brought in reliever Tom Willette who promptly closed the door on the Bulldogs, allowing no runs in 4 1/3 innings and only two hits.

Plymouth moved to within one in the fifth. Jeff Waller walked. Robb singled and Rob Willette bunted with Waller cut down at third. Egloff smashed two run double and the Rocks had sliced it to 7-5.

Bentley threatened in the last of the inning but a relay from Robb in center to Jeff Stringham at the plate nailed Vezina attempting to score on a double by Cross.

Plymouth's last shot came in the top of the seventh. Ron Willette led off with a single off Vezina and after Egloff went down on strikes, Vezina was called for a balk and the fun began.

Bentley Coach Klozik put up an argument that lasted 15 minutes with the end result being that Plymouth first base coach Bill White was ejected.

Bidwell grounded out but with two outs, Tom Willette knocked in his brother Robb with a hit to left center to match things up at seven-all.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Michigan's most successful harness racing meet is gradually grinding to a halt with waning and attendance at all-time highs.

Wolverine Raceway's 82-night meeting ends on Tuesday, June 19 and all indications are for the greatest collection of records ever made by a Michigan track in a single year.

At the moment Wolverine, which uses the facilities of the Detroit Race Course and the big mile track, shows an increase of 10 per cent in betting and 3.8 per cent in attendance.

The nightly average handle after 68 nights was \$657,347, far exceeding the state record of \$42,000 held by Hazel Park, and the nightly turnstile count is 7,390 way ahead of the 7,117 for the same number of nights in 1972.

A year ago Wolverine passed the million dollar mark for the first time ever in the state of Michigan. Saturday the big mile track plant had its fifth consecutive weekend in which it bettered a million, quite something when one considers no other harness racing track in the metropolitan area has even come close to a million.

And for the second time of

the meeting, the pacers and trotters outdrew the runners on a Saturday. Wolverine had 13,588 going through the gates and Hazel Park had to be content with 13,095.

The trotters had a total handle of \$1,051,112 for the night, \$1,858,524 for the week and \$4,941,118 for the six nights. The last mentioned is another all-time high, shattering the standard set a week earlier.

Now the big mile track plant is ready for what management believes will be the biggest closing two weeks in its 44-year history.

If the weather remains good and the track fast, fans should be treated to some of the fastest miles ever recorded in the Midwest. The reason is that Wolverine opens its annual Grand Circuit activities Friday and the program continues to the end of the meeting.

Racing Secretary Bill Connors has heard from practically ever stable in the land that has top Grand Circuit performers and each owner has indicated he'll have his horses at Wolverine if they are ready for that kind of competition.

Casleton Farm, owned by Wolverine President, Fredrick Van Lennep, has its standouts pacers and trotters enroute to Wolverine from

Lexington including Colonial Charm last year's two-year-old trotting filly, and Burning Speed, one of the circuit's fastest three-year-old trotting colts.

Both are eligible for the Roaring Ranks' opening events next Friday, the \$40,000 Matron three-year-old trot and the \$8,000 Matron three-year-old filly trot.

The influx of the stables from the east, south, midwest and west started Monday and Connors believes most of the circuit horses will be on the grounds by the weekend. In fact, he's hoping to arrange a couple of \$12,500 invitations for Saturday just as he had last weekend.

He knows the three-year-old pace, slated for Friday, June 15, when the track presents its annual Good Old Times night, will list most of the early contenders for the Little Brown Jug next September.

Ricci Rennie Time, fastest of all off his brilliant two-year-old record when clocked in 1:56.3, has been training at Brandevine Raceway. His owners expect to have him at Wolverine by mid-week.

On the grounds are Racing Knight, winner of the \$21,500 Motor City two weeks back and a 1984 victor in Saturday's 1000 and four-year-old invitational pace; J.R. Skipper, Gay Skipper and Bret Over Akin.

As selected fans were treated, one of the finest pacings ever at Wolverine, Saturday when Racing Knight, piloted by Dick Buxton, charged through the stretch to take the lead in the invitational and then had enough to hold off the late move of Keystone Pebble for the 1:58.4 win.

The packing was the fastest of the year in Michigan and only a second off the track record. The highly rated J.R. Skipper was an even fourth all the way, never improving his position.

Bret Over Akin, from the Earl Forsyth stable of Birmingham, had the lead for a while but faded and wound up sixth and last.

Owner Joe Sacco, of Southfield, celebrated his birthday Saturday and driver Merrill Dokey and Cressler Linbo, star of the Sacco stable, made it one worth remembering. The four-year-old made his season debut in a sparkling manner with a 2:00.3 victory.

Cressler was fourth turning into the stretch and made things easy by pulling away and opening up two lengths. He was still a length in front when he hit the wire ahead of Shells Gold.

Farmington Lims Still Unbeaten

The Farmington Lims slo-pitch softball club, winners of the 72 Farmington Founders Festival Tourney, remained unbeaten in the rain plagued Inkster Memorial Softball Tourney.

Lims knocked off Garden City Sport Shop, 6-3, and High Spot of Dearborn, 12-5, to win the winners bracket. Roger Frayer's grand slam homer pushed the Lims crew past a favored Dearborn.

Tourney finales will be held this weekend at the Westwood Park in Inkster.

New Arena

Michigan will have a new hockey arena for the 1973-74 season. Yost Fieldhouse is being converted into an 8,000-seat ice coliseum.

Wins 4 Titles

Michigan won four Big Ten team titles (co-championship in football, outright titles in wrestling, gymnastics and tennis) during the 1972-73 season.

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