



HEAD FIRST INTO HOME — Redford Adray's Bill Fraser gives it a head first slide into home on a wild pitch with

Ypsilanti pitcher Vern Cowen missing on the tag. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

## Livonia Class E Champs Nearing State Crown

The Livonia Class E baseball champions are only two games away from capturing the state title.

Fischetti Floors, winners of the Livonia League with an 18-1 mark, won the district crown over Dearborn

Heights and Allen Park and swept to regional honors with an 11-0 victory over Trenton. Livonia, which now sports

a 23-2 record, wraps up state action tomorrow (Thursday) with a noon contest at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn and a 2:30 p.m. clash at Levanog Park.

The district crown was won via a forfeit over Dearborn Heights and an 18-1 thumping of Allen Park.

The 11-0 regional conquest of Trenton was headed by the pitching efforts of John Kolis who handcuffed it on two hits, walking one and striking out 11.

Rick St. Bernard, Ron Oetens and Kim Willett worked the Trenton mound with the Livonia collecting eight hits with St. Bernard was the loser.

Livonia opened with two runs in the first stanza. Bob Jemrog and Tim Murphy drew walks and Bob Rose and Bill Lajole followed with singles.

The battle broke wide open in the fourth with Livonia scoring eight times on only four hits to take a commanding 10-0 lead.

Kolis opened with a single, Murphy walked and Rose was safe on an error. Lajole singled in two, and Gary Beyrend was hit by a pitch. Bob Moreau followed with a hit, Joe Palm walked and Kolis banded out his second hit of the inning.

Livonia capped its offensive showing in the fifth when Rose and Lajole were hit by pitches and Beyrend was safe on an error with Rose scoring.

## Junior B Hockey Strikes Livonia

Hockey in Livonia has taken another step forward.

A group of Livonia hockey enthusiasts with support from Mayor Edward McNamara, Livonia City Council and the Parks and Recreation has formed a Junior B team which will be called the Livonia Vikings.

The Vikings have obtained the coaching services of John Gumbleton, former coach of Benedictine High School and Oakland Community College.

Formation of the club was a joint effort by the Livonia Hockey Club with Ron Abraham president.

The purpose was sighted as an establishment of a team to gain college scholarships and act as a stepping stone to players 16 through 20 years of age.

Livonia Junior B hockey club also recognizes the need for junior B competition to complement the minor league hockey program.

The Vikings have scheduled their home ice at the Ford Ice Arena and plan to play a league schedule of 40 games in the Wolverine Ju-

nior B hockey league. Other clubs in the league are Oak Park, Southfield, Kalamazoo, Flint and Chicago.

The Vikings will play Saturday evenings at Ford beginning in mid-October. National Hockey League rules will be in effect, three 20 minute periods along with a three referee system.

Sponsor of the Vikings is Bud Grace, owner of Daly restaurants.

First practice will be Sept.

4 at Devonshire Ice rink at 6:30 p.m. On Sept. 6, there will be a second session at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Sept. 8.

Anyone interested in trying out for the squad must be in attendance on these dates.

An invitation has been extended to any hockey player, ages 16 through 19; a player can be 20 if his birthdate falls after Dec. 31, 1972.

Opening game is slated for Oct. 13 at Ford Ice Rink against Flint.

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# The Court Jester

by BILL CAMERON

Did you know that there are seven ski areas in the State of Virginia? I couldn't help but mention that as I just returned from three days at a resort called "Bryce Mountain" in Bayse, Va. I found it interesting because, after all, I do write a ski column during the winter.

I was there at the invitation of a friend who had a chalet loaned to him for a week, and, being a tennis player, he needed an opponent to make his vacation worthwhile. This all-season area had just completed building two new tennis courts giving them four courts which were filled from eight o'clock in the morning to eight at night.

The courts were constructed by a recognized tennis court contractor with proper drainage, pitch and finish.

When I compare these with what they are doing to the five courts at Stevenson High School I shudder at the waste of taxpayers money.

If you bring in a driveway paving contractor to repair parking lots and tell them to pave the tennis courts while they're at it, you're going to get five tennis driveways. I was told by one school board official that there was a drainage problem which caused the courts to buckle. If that were the case, you would think they would have attempted to solve the problem first rather than just resurfacing the area.

It will be interesting to see the courts in the spring or even after a rainstorm. We've been complaining about the courts for three years and they've finally got around to resurfacing them.

The inevitable reply is always a shortage of money. Temporary repairs usually end up costing more money. After all, they couldn't afford \$800 to field a tennis team, so what can you expect?

One thing you can expect is some good tennis at the women's tournament for Class A, B, and C players on Aug. 25-26. If you haven't received an entry blank, pick one up at the Livonia Family Y. Remember, only 15 entries to each classification.

Everyone should have a tournament experience. It improves your game and gives you an opportunity to meet other players who offer different styles. Just think of the challenge. You may even find your husbands cheering from the sidelines. (Please fellows, no coaching!!!)

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**Bantam Hockey Players Wanted**

The Southeastern Michigan Hockey League is seeking bantam hockey players (ages 13 and 14). Home ice will be in Birmingham for the 1973-74 season.

There are no resident requirements. For additional information contact: Walt Folk, Dale Joritz, John Booth, or Don Currie.

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