

Prep Baseball Tourney Starts Sat.

The big moments are at hand for high school athletes this spring. On Saturday, the lid goes up on the first annual Livonia Invitational baseball tournament for 10 area prep varsity teams. All games are to be played under the lights at Livonia's Ford Field on Farmington Road, between Schoolcraft and Five Mile Roads, to determine the winner of a grand trophy to be awarded by the meet's co-sponsors — The Livonia Optimist Club, the Livonia Recreation Department and the Observer Newspapers. The meet opens Saturday evening with Clarenceville facing Bentley at 7:30 o'clock. After Saturday's tilt, a two-week break in action is slated under a revision in the program announced by Les Anders of Bentley High, the tourney's director. Action will resume on Friday, May 28 with the Clarenceville-Bentley winner going against Our Lady

of Sorrows at 7 p.m. and Thurston engaging Redford Union at 9 p.m. On Saturday, May 29, it will be North Farmington vs. Franklin at 7 p.m. and Farmington against Plymouth at 9. Semifinal contests now are slated for June 4 at 7

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and 9 p.m. with the championship contest for Saturday, June 5, at 9 p.m. Redford Union, Franklin and Thurston shape up as the top teams to carry off the first annual Livonia Invitational. Redford Union has been surging in high gear in the Suburban Six League while Franklin and Thurston are the strong power in the Northwest Suburban League. Official state high school rules will prevail in the tournament. One special regulation has been inserted. If a team is leading by seven or more runs after five innings, the game will be stopped, except should this occur in the championship game. It also has been announced that if a game is called after the fifth inning because of rain and with the score tied, a new game will be re-scheduled. Tourney officials, along with coaches, are excited about the meet. "We plan to include the Garden City schools in

next year's meet, because they are now part of the Greater-Oakview coverage," an official said. While the baseball Invitational gets under way, area trackmen this Saturday will be vieing in state regionals. So will the various golfers. Both Bentley and Clarenceville have been assigned Class A and B regional track meets. The "A" field at Clarenceville will include Redford Union and Thurston, along with powerful Birmingham Seaholm, one of the teams to beat for the title. Host Clarenceville vies in Class B along with such strong teams as Lutheran West and Cranbrook. Plymouth, Garden City West and East, Bentley, Franklin, Farmington and North Farmington all are headed for the Livonia-Bentley "A" regional. It shapes up as one of the best in the state. The golf regionals are scheduled at Glen Oaks in Farmington and at Brighton for area teams.

Franklin, Thurston in Battle for Top

First-place was at stake this week in the battle of the unbeaten in the Northwest Suburban high baseball league. Franklin, the defending champion, clashed head on with 1964 runner-up Thurston. Each put a 4-0 league record on the line. Franklin rolled along last week by scoring a pair of shut-out wins — 6-0 over John Glenn and 2-0 over Birmingham Groves. Thurston took the measure of Oak Park, 6-2 and then Forward North Farmington 7-5. North Farmington bowed to Groves, 4-3, in nine innings in the other Northwest area team. Ken Bratherton and Tom Cannon fired the latest shutouts for Franklin to bring the team's total for whitewashing jobs this season to four. Bratherton strung Glenn on one hit. He fanned 14 and worked to only 24 men (three over the minimum) in the entire game. The lone safety off Bratherton was a blooper to the wrong field in the fourth inning. Franklin wrapped up the game with four runs in the third inning. With the bases loaded, Gary Birkett delivered a key hit. The blow, coupled with an error and passed ball, gave the Livonians their tallies. Cannon scattered five hits and fanned three in blanking Groves. Franklin itself had problems hitting the ball, collecting only two safe blows. The big one came off the bat of Sam Antonazzo who socked a single in the second inning to knock in Neal Thomas and Mike Stachurski (Continued Next Page)



TWO STARS of Thurston high's strong baseball team, Jim Sprout (left), is leading pitcher while Terry Rothwell is stand-out at bat.

Redford Union Stretches Lead; Rocks, Bentley Split Games

Redford Union remains the team to catch in the chase for baseball honors in the Suburban High School League. While R. U. blitzed Plymouth, 15-2, and Allen Park, 9-3, last week, Plymouth took the measure of Bentley, 9-1, and Bentley topped Trenton, 4-2, to give R. U. a full two-game lead over its nearest rival. Dick Barryman pitched the rout against Plymouth. He allowed three hits, fanned 12 and walked four. Homers by Jim Lake in the second and Bob Gotro in the third gave Plymouth an early 2-1 lead. Then the tide of the battle shifted. RU blasted over four runs in the third inning. Curt DeLoe reached base on a fielder's choice. Jim Johnston walked and Harry Kendrick singled for one run. After Russ Pulju walked to load the sacks, a triple steal and single by Ernie Bourassa gave the RU three more runs. In the fourth inning, RU salted away matters with a seven-run explosion. Singles by Barryman, Curt DeLoe, Johnston, a walk to Pulju and DeLoe, a walk to Pulju and Jim Bierberick's three-run homer did the damage. Bourassa finished the game with three hits and three RBIs. Barryman helped his own cause with two hits. Rick Fisher hurled for RU against Allen Park. He allowed four hits and fanned five. None of the runs off him was earned.

A triple by Kendrick and single by Pulju started RU off in front, 1-0, in the first inning. In the fourth inning, RU belted over six runs. Bierberick singled and George Little walked. Fisher singled and Curt DeLoe dropped a squeeze bunt. Johnston, Kendrick and Pulju then followed with base knocks for RU which now has won seven straight since losing its opening game. A seven-run uprising in the second inning paved the way for Plymouth to outlast Bentley. The Rocks had scored a run in the first inning without the benefit of a hit. In the second, John Daniel was safe on an error. Then John Underwood singled before Jim Arnold was safe on another error. A single by Ron White, walks by Martin Sutton and Lake, a single by Kurt Irish and a double by Daniel wrapped up the fireworks. Plymouth ended its scoring in the next inning when White homered. Kendrick and the Rocks were stopped by Bentley. A homer by Bill Woods, following Roger Jones' single gave Bentley two runs in the fifth. In the sixth, Mills tripped and John Plumley singled for another run.

In the seventh, Bentley scored two more on singles by Jones and Mike Danchar, a double by Woods and a sacrifice by Mills. Daniel was the winning pitcher for the Rocks. Bentley's lone win of the week came by a 4-2 score over Trenton. Hank Schoenbeck allowed Trenton six hits and fanned four. Neither run was earned. Bentley tallied three runs in the third inning. John Harrison singled, Plumley was hit by a pitch. Ray Watson singled and Mike DeGondia doubled. A walk to Woods, single by Mills, a walk to Harrison and a hit by Plumley netted Bentley its final run in the fourth inning.

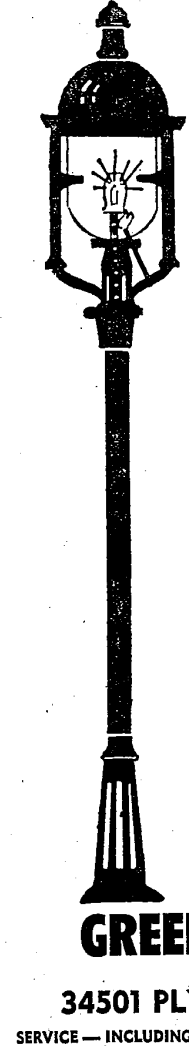
OBSERVING SPORTS By George Maskin "How's everybody back home?" The greeting came from Livonia's Ray Herbert as we met in the visiting team's clubhouse at New York's beautiful Shea Stadium. Herbert was there as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies to whom he was traded before the present season began after many great years (12 to be exact) in the American League. The National Basketball Association draft meeting took this reporter to the big city and with nothing to do in the evening... what was nicer than making our initial visit to the famed Shea Stadium. "I was just home for a day," Herbert told us. "Well, it was last week. We had a break in the schedule, in between our games in San Francisco and Chicago. So I went home to visit the wife and kids." Herbert, who during the off season works at Ward's (Continued Next Page)

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East Rips Rival, 21-2; Meet Next Sixteen players performed... and Garden City East's baseball team enjoyed a picnic. The final score read: East 21, Inkster Robichaud 2, in one of the most lopsided games ever played by East. Norm Vasquez went the route for East. He struck out 11 and gave up four hits. East bounced across six runs in the first inning and never was in trouble. Don Chutes first of two triples with two on was the big blow of the inning. Al Kamenfeldt and Dave Ventura each contributed doubles to the East onslaught. East starts play this week in the Wyandotte Invitational, meeting Riverview Friday evening at 7:30.

Thurston Wins Thurston high's golf team beat out Birmingham Groves and John Glenn by scores of 176 to 182 to 208 in a triangular meet in Fellows Creek. Dave Liblang had 41 and John Jakubik 42 for the winners. Frank McBride, Wayne State's track coach, finished fifth in the National AAU meet in 1932 and seventh in the final Olympic trials for the 500-meter run that same year.

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