

Tip To Baseball Players 'Stay Home'

"Stay close to home... you have nothing to gain by going downtown."

The advice from Louis D'Annunzio, crack scout for the Detroit Tigers and one of the most popular and well-liked men in his profession.

D'Annunzio's remarks were directed at Greater Livonia area baseball players... boys from Livonia, Plymouth, Redford Union, Farmington and Garden City.

"It's silly for boys 17 and 18 to think that they have a better chance to play baseball and gain recognition if they spend their summers in Detroit," continued D'Annunzio.

The Connie Mack and Detroit Free Press Leagues operated around Livonia have to be two of the best in the state. Show me leagues where they have better managers than fellows like Al Turner, Bob Atkins, John Hartwig and all the rest."

D'Annunzio paused for a few seconds.

"Why we think so much of the league out around Livonia we have scouts there most every time the boys of high school age play.

"That's how we first looked at Rick Clark (an ex-star at Redford Union and for Atkins' summer Redford Township team which plays in the Livonia League).

"Rick now is something like 6-2 for our Jamestown (N.Y.) farm club. He sure looks like a corner. Maybe in two or three years he'll be up with the Tigers. He hurled a neat five-hitter the other night."

D'Annunzio was high up in the third deck at Tiger Stadium when he talked to the boys.

Many of his boys have made it to Tiger Stadium, the most notable of whom happens to be an "enemy,"—Milt Pappas of the Baltimore Orioles. D'Annunzio was scouting for the Orioles when he literally stole Pappas away from the Tigers.

OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maskin

After that happened, the Tigers made certain such a business never would happen again. They induced D'Annunzio to join the Detroit fold.

D'Annunzio had more to say for suburban youngsters.

"These boys don't seem to realize that by coming to Detroit in the summer they're being exploited by some of the sandlot managers.

"All boys should realize that wherever they play, the distance between bases is the same. The same goes for the distance between home plate and the pitcher's mound. And there is no difference in the bats or the baseballs."

D'Annunzio also had high praise for John Dufour, who runs the Recreation program in Livonia, and Al Roscoe, who directs the athletic leagues.

"I have seen a lot of baseball programs in my time," added the veteran Tiger scout. "But the one serving the Livonia area has to be one of the best."

Dufour and Roscoe have matters well organized. The lighted field on Farmington Road is dandy. When a scout shows up to watch a game, he's treated in royal style.

"The folks out that way should appreciate the sandlot baseball being offered them. And the boys themselves should forget that they'll encounter better conditions elsewhere."

D'Annunzio minces no words that the Tigers would have liked to have landed Franklin High's Bernie Carbo in the recent draft.

"That's one of the hitches in the new draft system," he explained. "You might miss out on a fine product in your area. Under the old system, we had a better chance of landing such a boy."

Have D'Annunzio didn't say so, but over the past decade the Tigers have missed some standouts from their own backyard—stars like Pappas, Dick Radatz, Ron Perrano, Tom Tresh, Leon Wagner, Lennie Green, etc.

But one boy D'Annunzio did help get for the Tigers is Willie Horton, the brightest young face to hit the club in a long time. He also had a great deal to do with Detroit signing Catcher Bill Freehan and Joe Sparna.

Whether baseball retains the new draft remains to be seen, according to D'Annunzio.

"I'd have to say everything will depend on whether the draft succeeds in doing away with the big bonus money paid in advance. If the clubs still have to dish out a lot of money, they very well might ditch the draft in a year or two."

In the meantime, D'Annunzio won't change his scouting pattern. When he spots a bright, young performer, he'll personally work with the boy... hoping perhaps, that the Tigers might be fortunate to draft the young man some day in the future.

"You'll be seeing me around Livonia a lot this summer," D'Annunzio concluded.

"With two fine games every night, and some dandy players out there, we'd be silly if we didn't pay regular visits to Ford Field."

Scouts, representing other big league clubs, chorus almost identical remarks.

The fact that something like 112 major league ivory hunters, including some big wheels, showed up for the Livonia Invitational prep final between Franklin and Redford Union further attests to the calibre of baseball being played around here this summer.

So why go elsewhere?

Observer Sports News

Page 2B Wednesday, June 23, 1965

SATURDAY'S BIG RACE AT HAZEL PARK IS THE MAPLE LEAF HANDICAP, 6:30 BURLING.

THIS YEAR'S ROCKING HORSES ARE, SAY!

YOUNG CHARLES SANTAZAR IS A GOOD BET TO WIN THE TOP APPRENTICE JOCKEY AWARD AT HAZEL PARK, CHARLES ALSO CAME FIRST THE YESTER OUT FOR THE OVERALL JOCKEY CORRAL!

HAZEL PARK RACE TRACK, TEN MILE AND DEQUINNE, TEN RACES WEEKLY, POST TIME: 9:30 PM; WEEKDAYS; 2:00 PM SUNDAYS.

SETS PACE IN FREE PRESS LEAGUE:

Trip at Stake For Redford Team

A trip to Xenestville, Ohio, for a July 4-5 trip leader stands on the horizon for the Redford Township entry in the Greater Livonia-Detroit Free Press baseball league.

The team, which paces the league as of June 30, will win the right to play at Xenestville. At the moment, the "loaded"

Township team paces the circuit with an unbeaten record.

Manager Al Turner has assembled an all-star array of Township talent for play in the Free Press league—competition in which ultimately could lead to the state title and the right to represent Michigan in the All American Top Tournament in Johnston, Pa., in late August.

Greats from Redford Union, Thurston and St. Agatha highs make up for the Township team.

Many of the players were acclaimed in 1964 and 1965 on the Observer Newspapers' All-Area baseball team.

The Township pitching staff lists three standout southpaws in Rick Fisher (Redford Union), Arnie Helwig (Thurston) and Mike McCrum (Thurston) along with righthanders Tom Tanner and Jim Sprout (Thurston) and Rick Collins (St. Agatha).

Tanner is fresh from a try-out with the New York Yankees who signed him a

year ago to a bonus which assures him his college education at Hillsdale.

Others on the Township team include Alharaa choices like Harry Kendrick (Redford Union), catcher; Dave Woloch (Redford Union), second base; Lou Banwert, (Thurston and Eastern Michigan), first base; Rick Harlow (Thurston and Michigan State), outfielder; and Terry Rowland (Farmington road). In addition to Livonia and Redford two teams from Dearborn Heights and one from Wayne form the line.

In this Wednesday's action, North Dearborn meets South Dearborn at 6:15 with Redford meeting the Wayne Red Sox at 8:30. On Friday, South Dearborn plays Redford at 6:15 and Livonia takes on North Dearborn at 8:30. There'll be a twin bill Sunday when Redford plays Livonia at 6:15 and Wayne meeting South Dearborn at 8:30.

But in the sixth the Township bellers connected for four hits along with a walk to score four runs. Banwert began matters with a double. Barringer and Gary Knock singled. After Woloch walked, Rick Harlow singled.

Under the revised Free Press League schedule, games will be played every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings at Henry Ford Field on Farmington road. In addition to Livonia and Redford two teams from Dearborn Heights and one from Wayne form the line.

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He struck out 17, walked five and allowed three hits.

Pete Hembrugh, hurling for the Livonians, deserved a better fate.

Until the sixth inning he had allowed only one hit—a homer by Harlow.

Hazel Park Lists 6 Exceptional Races

The thoroughbred race meeting at the Hazel Park Race Track has been going good, and it's going to get better.

With an abundance of excellent stables and outstanding jockeys, and purses at an all-time high, track officials believe the next couple of weeks may add Governor's Handicap for three year olds and a mile and a half furlongs.

Saturday, June 26, the \$10,000 Grosse Pointe Handicap for three year olds at a mile and a sixteenth.

Saturday, July 3, the \$12,500 added Governor's Handicap for Michigan-bred three year olds at a mile and a sixteenth.

Saturday, July 3, the \$30,000 (Continued on Page 3-B)

FLAT ROCK SPEEDWAY

Saturday, June 26

LATE MODEL
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 1st Race—8:30

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CHILDREN—50c
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Bentley Grad In No-Hitter

Homecoming was sweet for Larry Sladak. After leaving Bentley High a year ago, Sladak enrolled at Western Michigan University for the 1964-65 school year.

He returned to the sports wars locally last week pitching for the DRC team of Livonia in the Connie Mack League.

Sladak got the call to face the Plymouth Elks and he promptly responded by pitching a 2-0, no-hit masterpiece. He struck out 12 and walked three.

The ex-Bentley star had a job to best Phil Troutman, star moundman at Plymouth North this past season.

An error in the first inning helped DRC to get on the scoreboard quickly with an unearned run. The other DRC rally came in the sixth inning when Mike Dodson doubled and Jack Horbanuk singled.

Other Connie Mack action last week saw N. REDFORD 5, LIVONIA ELKS 1.

Dick Barryman and Dave Bourassa teamed up to allow three hits between them. The former was touched for a pair of safeties, one of them by Tom Labo knocking in the lone Elks' run.

Barryman fanned seven to Bourassa's six.

The Townshipers scored two runs in the first inning as Harry Kendrick, Leland Bjerkse and Ernie Bourassa delivered hits. Barryman's hit drove in the third run in the second inning. After an error netted North Redford a tally in the fourth, Bjerkse and Bourassa came through with base knocks in the fifth to finish up the scoring.

LIVONIA ELKS 4, INKBYER 2.

Five straight singles in the fifth inning netted two runs and helped the Elks pull out a triumph.

Fred Davies started the bombardment. Then Mike Moersch, Ray Mack, Dick Scanlon and Tom Labo followed suit.

In the first inning, Davies socked across Moersch and Steve Atkinson with the Elks' first two runs.

LIVONIA GIANTS 10, OPTIMISTS 0.

Ron Kapanke coasted along with a three-hitter and fanned five while Bruce Berger provided the Giants, who are made

Varsity Letters Awarded

Varsity letters were awarded the following spring athletes at Farmington and North Farmington high schools:

BASEBALL
 FARMINGTON—Gib Adams, Tom Donoghue, Nick Johnson, Wayne Johnston, Ron Lee, Ed Meters, Carl Misch, Chris Norton, Mike Perry, Mike Spearley, John Wiedner.

NORTH FARMINGTON—Jack Anderson, Bill Bowles, Bob Butler, Dale Chamberlain, Kim DeCoursey, John Kramer, Ron Markins, Rick Norton, Bill Rideshaw, Bruce Ranck, Chuck Viane, Jim Wrigglesworth.

TRACK
 FARMINGTON—Bruce Anderson, Bob Chacko, Bill Collins, Bob Donovan, Mike Ellis, Jon Grimes, Larry Harvey, Ken Hawkins, Gary Lockwood, Rod McGaw, Gary Schultz, Ron Shortt, Fritz Simons, Randy Taggart, Cliff Terry, Joe Watson, Tom Winters.

NORTH FARMINGTON—Larry August, Steve Dube, Andy Lawing, Bob Linderman, Jeff Morello, Mark Palmer, Jim Rowe, Wayne Ware, Bruce Wheeler, Doug Wood.

GOLF
 FARMINGTON—Greg Bain, Dick Bayer, Carl Hunt, Greg (Continued on Page 3-B)

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