

Preps Set for State Track, Golf Regionals

The hour is at hand for Michigan track and golf athletes to go after regional honors in their first hurdles to state title glory.

The track regionals come off this weekend with area thinclads assigned to meet at Clarencville and Ann Arbor high schools on Saturday.

The golf regionals are booked for Friday with Farmington and Brighton attracting the "beats."

Redford Union, Thornton, Farmington and North Farmington are included in the Class A field to participate at Clarencville where the action begins at 9:30 a.m. with the preliminaries.

Powerful Clarencville will go after glory in the Class B meet which is to be run along with the "A" attraction at the fine plant on Middlebelt Road.

Meanwhile Bentley, Franklin, Garden City East and West, John Glenn and Plymouth all have been assigned to Ann Arbor high schools on Saturday.

The Class A finals are set for May 21 at the University of Michigan and the Class B at Michigan State. Class C-D schools will go to Central Michigan at Mt. Pleasant.

Our Lady of Sorrows, the area's lone "C" track team will go to Brother Rice in Birmingham for its regional.

Of the several hundred area trackmen, the one who'll draw the most attention is Farmington's Ron Shortt who a week ago became the first Michigan schoolboy ever to clear 14 feet in the pole vault.

However, Shortt will have to achieve the feat in the state finals at Ann Arbor before he can enter the official Class A record books.

The Farmington golf regional will be held at Glen Oaks on 13 mile Ford and will involve 23 teams in Class A and 22 in Class B.

Entries from Farmington, North Farmington, Franklin, Bentley, Redford Union, Thornton and Garden City

East and West will contest in "A" at Glen Oaks with Clarencville vying in "B."

Plymouth has been directed to the regional at Brighton.

Farmington also has been announced as the host for the Class A, B and C-D final state tournaments with the players tackling the tough Meadowbrook Country Club course in Northville.

John K. Cotton, Farmington athletic director, will be in charge of the Farmington regional and also the state meet.

OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maskin

When you're smiling... the whole world smiles with you.

It did for Livonia's Denny McLean the other evening as he flipped a brilliant one-hit shutout in beating the Chicago White Sox.

Lots of folks have the impression that Denny, who purchased a home in Livonia last year, is the conceited type. But those who know Denny find him anything but.

He's an industrious young man. He's as outstanding at playing the organ as he is pitching at Tiger Stadium or anywhere else around the American League.

Denny kept busy during the winter entertaining patrons with his organ solos at a popular Farmington nightclub down around Grand River Ave.

Smile, too, did another Livonian, Joe Sparna, of the Tigers who turned in a neat performance the day after McLean accomplished his job.

Sparna didn't win, but with a little better hitting support, he would have. No pitcher can win when his mates don't get any runs for him.

The Sparnas live close by the McLeans. They add to the Livonia sports community which includes Normie Ullman of the Red Wings, Bob Bruce, who pitches for the Houston Astros in the National League, and Wayne Walker of the Lions and TV.

Smiles last week came to Edwin E. Coll when he was named new general manager of the Detroit Pistons basketball club.

Somebody wanted to know what were Coll's qualifications to run a major league team.

"You don't have any sports background," he was told.

But Coll has a sports background. He has been associated with the Pistons for a decade, working most the time behind the scenes in Fort Wayne.

What makes a successful G. M. in sports?

From our experience, it's the job the man does when he takes over... more so than what he did before he became a G. M.

Smiles there were for Roger Crozier, notwithstanding the failure of the Red Wings to win the Stanley Cup finals.

Crozier was a sensation in game after game as the Wings first surprised the Chicago Black Hawks and then pulled off two upset wins in Montreal before losing four straight.

To say that the Wings collapsed in an inaccuracy. The odds were against the Wings when the playoff began. They had finished fourth in the long, regular-season grid behind Montreal, Chicago and Toronto.

We'd have to say that the Wings were outstanding in the cup series. They gave far better than the experts predicted.

Speaking of the Wings, look for a flock of changes next season. Manager-Coach Sid Abel is not the type who sits still.

We found Dick Wilson in a happy frame of mind at the weekly sports broadcasters luncheon. Dick is the publicity man for the Wolverines.

The trotters, as you know, were delayed in getting started over at Middlebelt and Schoolcraft. Difficulties with the horsemen and union produced problems that kept the gates closed.

Now that everything is settled, the trotters are off and running six night a week. Attendance and wagering is booming.

As we've said before, you're in for an interesting night if you hike over to the DRG.

Smiles... smiles... smiles

Coach Ralph Temby of Clarencville's eight track team has reason to say his team is going—unbeaten in eight meets.

John K. (Jack) Cotton of Farmington, who will direct the 1966 state high school golf championships a week from Monday at Meadowbrook.

Farmington high's Ron Shortt, the first prep in Michigan to pole vault over 14 feet.

John Dufour, Livonia's recreation boss and his colleagues in the area who are delighted by way tickets are going for the Detroit Tigers-St. Louis Cardinal exhibition game at Tiger Stadium Monday evening at 7.

Proceeds of the game will be turned over to local social groups to foster amateur baseball in Michigan. It's a noble gesture on the part of the Tigers who in the long run hope to benefit by signing several home-grown products for their parent club.

And, speaking of smiles, those of us connected with the Pistons who are in New York as this is being published still have some hopes that they'll accomplish what happens at the annual National Baseball Association draft.

Keep on smiling... you'll find a flock of company.

Detroit Duo Falls Short in Pin Meet

With three weeks remaining in the Fourth annual Observer Newspapers Merri-Bowl Lanes mixed doubles tournament, the Detroit duo of C. Davis and J. Owens still have a firm grip on first place with the big 1361 count they fired two weeks ago.

But they had a few anxious moments over the weekend when Miss Jerry Barkus, 8357 Lane, Redford Township, and Fred Takahashi, 14151 Minnick, Detroit, made a strong bid but fell eight pins short with a 1353.

The Dagkus-Takalo team, who bowled out of Gloucestershire in Livonia, opened with a big 1411, then slumped in the second game with a mere 307 and came back with a belated run for 403 that just missed the spot.

Miss Barkus, who has a 135 average, had 199 in her opener, ran into a string of misses for 151 in the middle and then fired 183 in the finale for a 530 total.

Miss Takahashi, who entered with a 153 average, scored 215 in the first, ran into two splits in the second game for a 156 and in the third for 226.

Matter of fact there had an excellent chance of sending the team into the No. 1 spot but for a miss in the sixth frame after opening with a string of five strikes. He had 138 at the halfway point, missed in the sixth and then scored out for his 215.

The 1353 was good enough for second place but both Miss Barkus and Takalo are still mourning over the costly one pin miss that most certainly cost them the lead.

The duo of Carol Hillen and Guy Clark, Detroit, climbed into fourth place in the standings with a 1323. Miss Hillen, who has a 137 average, sparked the bid with a 588 series on spin as a Wolverine.

Observer Sports News

Page 2-B Wednesday, May 11, 1966

Bentley, RU Chasing Trenton in Baseball

Matters are jammed up in the fight for the baseball honors in the Suburban Six League this spring.

Trenton with a 3-1 record set the pace going into the week ending May 8. Bentley and Redford Union were tied behind at 2-1 with Redford Union third at 2-2.

Bentley helped digests matters by coming from behind on Thursday to turn back Trenton, 7-5, after trailing by a 5-0 count in the third inning.

The comeback enabled Bentley to salvage something out of the week's play after the Lions were blasted by Belleville, 12-0.

Redford Union also split in league action, falling to Trenton, 11-4, and then blanking Plymouth, 8-0. Plymouth, still winless this season, was blanked by Allen Park, 7-0, prior to losing to Redford Union.

As a result, the Rocks suffered two shutouts in the same game.

After being held to only five hits by Belleville, while Belleville rocked out 15, Bentley had its troubles against Trenton in the early going. The downriver team jumped upon Dave Gorton in a hurry and took command by a 5-0 score.

The wide margin held up until the fifth when walks to Morry Scherrens, Chuck Kellias and Greg Macy loaded the sacks for Bentley.

Two infield outs followed and Bentley had a pair of runs.

That's the way the tally stood until the seventh when Bentley cut loose with five big runs.

Mellias started the rally with a walk. Pinch-hitter Paul Sorcinelli singled in Mallas after the latter stole second and Greg Coleman, another pinch-hitter, was hit by a pitch. Then Ed Ryan socked in two runs to bring the score even at 5-5.

Ryan took second on the throw to plate and scored when Gorton singled. Gorton also moved up a base on another home run, which proved handy when Mike Danacha singled. That brought in Gorton and he proceeded to lead Trenton down the rest of the way.

David Bourassa went the rout and allowed only a single to Jerry Norbert and a triple to Jack Robertson in Redford Union's 9-0 whitewashing of Plymouth.

Bourassa struck in seven strikes-out pitches and was helped out by three double plays.

RU put together a pair of 1-0 wins in the fourth, hits by Leland Berke, Gene Buckingham, Bill Fahey and Dick Beckerley, along with a fielder's choice placed RU in a cozy position.

Three errors, two walks and a three-run double by Ron Ferguson led to RU's fourth out in the sixth inning.

Eight errors killed Redford Union in its game with Trenton. Kevin Fox was the losing pitcher. Each side made eight hits.

Redford Union also went down to a 2-1 setback at the hands of Berkley in a non-league contest. Fred Louder singled, took second on a wild pitch and came around on an error for RU's lone run.

Leop Tom Booker deserved a better fate. He allowed only two hits.

Plymouth was held to five hits in falling to Allen Park. Pat Williams led the Rocks with a pair of doubles.

Dan Camp worked until the fifth for Plymouth. Then Allen Park cut loose for four runs, chasing Camp to the showers.

BUT THURSTON LEADS: Glenn Pulling Big Surprise

While Thurston High charges along unbeaten in the North-West Suburban League's baseball race this spring, the circuit's big surprise continues to be John Glenn of Wayne.

Glenn chalked up a pair of league wins along with a non-league triumph last week to up his conference mark to 2-0 and its overall standing to 13-2 — one of the best records boasted by a prep nine in Michigan this spring.

Thurston, meantime, took care of Groves, 2-0, and Oak Park, 12-2, to remain on top, while defending champion Franklin nipped Oak Park, 2-1, in 10 innings before falling to John Glenn, 6-3.

Glenn also topped North Farmington, 3-0, in a league assignment and set a school record by dumping Huron, 24-7, outside the conference.

North Farmington was so shocked by the 12-4, in its other victory.

The Glenn batmen clouted out 20 safeties in the Huron onslaught. Rick Snow led the way with four hits, on a double. Len Wells was right behind with a single, double and triple, while Nelson Ellison had a pair of hits.

Glenn put the game out of reach by counting 11 times in the third inning on four hits and seven walks.

While Mike McMaster going six innings and Ellison finishing up, Glenn fanned back Franklin with little trouble. McMaster hurt his leg in the last of the sixth while running the bases after misplaying a run-scoring triple.

Wells socked in two runs for Glenn in the first inning and Dick Drury batted in Wells in the fifth. In the sixth, an error McMaster's triple, three walks and an error helped Glenn put the game out of reach.

Errors figured in all of the Franklin scoring in the game.

Ron Kinnunen was the pitching star in Glenn's 3-0 whitewashing of North Farmington. He fanned eight, allowed five hits and walked three.

Snow socked in two runs in the first and Nelson Vanderberg the other Glenn marker in the fifth.

With Vic Pilar tossing a four-hitter and fanning 12, Thurston (Continued on Page 2B)

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It's Split For East; West Slips

The baseball story for Garden City high schools wasn't something to write home about last week.

East high played two games and split. Garden City West on the other hand engaged in three tilts and dropped all of them.

The East win came by a 12-3 score over Lutheran West behind the two-hit (both singles) pitching of Paul Kightlinger who fanned three batters.

Dick Saylor continued his heavy hitting on East drilling out three singles in five trips. Don Smith and Paul Painter each chipped in with a pair of safeties.

Errors in the sixth inning paved the way for Robichaux to count five times as he turned back Garden City East 8-3.

It was East's first loss in Mid-Wayne League action after the team had won twice.

Joe Huber, the losing pitcher, deserved a better fate. When Robichaux exploded in the fifth, East was on top, 3-2.

Huber singled in Mike Conner and Norb Podowski with East's first two runs. Then Huber dropped a perfect sequence but George Doherty. But it wasn't enough for East to win.

East's losses came at the hands of Kennedy, 10-1, Riverside, 7-5, and Shaver, 11-7.

Bo Ardell gave up five hits to Kennedy, but was hurt by errors. Don Simpson had a single and double to top the four-hit West attack.

Riverside overcame a three-run banner by West's Terry Thompson, who also socked a double, to win. Ardell drove in one run, while an error paved the way for West's final tally.

A nightmare-ish fifth inning killed West's chances against Shaler. The Southgate team pushed over nine runs in the frame on only four hits. Two walks and five errors simplified matters for Shaler.

Thompson again had two hits for West which now stands 2-3 in Tri Rivers League action and 4-4 overall this season.

Wayne State University's 1962 track team chalked up a perfect 6-0 record, the most dual meet wins ever in the school's history.

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