

Pilar Pitcher Thurston to Baseball Title



THE CHAMPIONSHIP trophies, rotating and permanent, are presented to members of the Thurston High team following its victory in the championship game by Kenneth Baranish, President of the Livonia Optimist Club, one

Bouquets to Thurston High School—the 1966 winners of the Les Anders Memorial Invitational baseball tournament. Behind the brilliant pitching of southpaw Vic Pilar, Thurston took the deciding game by a 4-1 score over Garden City West at Livonia's Ford Field Saturday to cap one of the finest seasons ever turned in by an area prep baseball team. The win over West gave Thurston an overall 18-2 record for the 1966 campaign, which included the championship of the Northwest Suburban League.

Slade in the third inning. Thereafter Pilar was next to untouchable and he finished off the evening by striking the last three men to face him to give him 13 whiffs for the evening and 40 in the tourney. When it was all over, the spoils went to Thurston as the Township school received the title trophies from Carl Howell, upcoming president of the Livonia Optimist Club who joined with the Livonia Recreation Department and the Observer.

Newspapers to sponsor the meet for the second year in a row. Franklin carried off the 1965 crown, downing Redford Union in the title game. Redford Union this year gained the consolation crown with a 6-1 victory over Plymouth. Thurston went to work in a hurry against Bob Gmache, tall right-hander who started for West, which came into the final game with a 12-1 record. Leadoff man Bob Holmes of Thurston walked, Paul Santangello was safe on an error and Reg Barringer walked to jam the bases.

Barry Simescu followed with a double over the left fielder's head to chase in Holmes and Santangello and Barringer in turn scored on San Des's infield single. Pilar, who had one-hitited Bentley and flipped a no-hitter against Franklin, ran into a jam in the second inning when Gary Simpson ran two bases on an error and took third on a passed ball with none out. This merely inspired Pilar to strike out the next three men. Came the third inning, Gmache walked and rode home on Slade's long double. Slade, trying to stretch the belt into a triple, was flagged down. Slade was the last West runner to see base. Pilar set down the final 13 in order. Thurston picked up its second



BIGGEST STAR of the annual tournament was pitcher Vic Pilar of Thurston High. He hurled a no-hitter in the semi-finals and held off Garden City West's bats in the final.

Bentley Takes Relays, Ends Best Track Year

The finest track season in Suburban Six League dual-meet history ended on a doubly happy note. Coach Ron Federer's thin-clad downed Franklin, 69-40, for the Livonia city title and then came back to win the Claude Snarey relays with 35 points to runnerup Thurston's 31 under the lights at Bentley Saturday night. Ediel Ford scored 30 points, Dearborn had 25 and Plymouth and Franklin trailed behind in the evening spectacular held to honor the memory of one of the top prep coaches of the past. Bentley had gone through its

Pilar's Record In Meet

Here's the pitching performance of Pilar turned in as he led Thurston to the championship in the Les Anders Memorial baseball tournament: 1-Best Bentley, 1-0, in a one-hitter. 2-Blanked Franklin, 1-0, on a no-hitter. 3-Relieved in the seventh inning to get the final out in Thurston's 2-1 victory over Plymouth. 4-Best Garden City West 6-1, in one-hitter in championship game. 5-Allowed only two runs and two hits in 2 1/2 innings of pitching. 6-Struck out 40 out of possible 53 batters he faced.

Observer Sports News

Page 2-B Wednesday, June 8, 1966



RUNNERS-UP TROPHY, for second place in the first annual Les Anders Memorial baseball tournament, is awarded to members of the Garden City West team by Observer Sports Editor George Maskin.

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DENNY MCCLAIN

Tiger Stars To Appear at Wonderland

Detroit Tiger stars Bill Freehan, Denny McLain, and Don Wert will make a personal appearance Saturday at Wonderland. The trio, which has played an important role in the Tiger's early-season performance, will be at the center between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Two thousand photographs of each player will be distributed free of charge. The players will autograph baseballs and other souvenirs following a brief interview in the Mall, near Winkelman's. Wonderland is located at Plymouth Road and Middlebelt, in Livonia.

Homer in Pinch Downs Franklin

It was Thurston over Franklin, 5-3, and then Dearborn over Franklin, 4-2, as the curtain dropped on the regular-season baseball races for the three teams concerned. Thurston, in finishing its Northwest League campaign with a record of nine wins and one loss—the team had clinched the title the week before—required a dramatic finish to down Franklin. Going into the final inning, Franklin led by 3-2. Dan Besk started matters for Thurston with a single. After Bill Holmes sacrificed, Bob Durand, a pinch hitter, walked. Up came Vic Pilar, another pinch-hitter, who has been making headlines with his pitching all season. This time, Pilar showed he could hit, too. He dished a long home to drive in Besk and Durand and break up the game. Thurston had scored twice in the first inning on singles by Reg Barringer and Dan Harris and a double by Barry Simescu. Franklin came back to score

Belleville Win 'Fatal' To Bentley

A 2-0 victory by Belleville over Plymouth also spelled doom, to Bentley's hopes of sharing the Suburban Six League championship. The victory gave Belleville the title with an 8-2 record and left Bentley second at 6-3 and unable to make up a game with Allen Park. Under league rules, only a game which figures in the pennant can be replayed after the final dates of the regular season. Plymouth managed only two hits—a double by Pat Williams and a single by John Underwood—against Belleville. Dan Camp, a lefty, was the losing pitcher. The Rocks also dropped a 3-2 verdict to Northville in a non-league game as John Bida and John Ellis each slapped out two hits and Jerry Norquist socked a long homer.

Sandlot Curtain Goes Up

The curtain goes up next Tuesday on the 1966 Connie Mack League baseball season for area teams. At least 14 clubs are set for action in the American and National Leagues. Boys from 16-18 make up Mack teams which participate in state tournaments at the end of the local campaigns. Four teams from Livonia, two from Redford Township, two from Plymouth, two from Garden City, two from Dearborn Heights and one from Northville and Dearborn will make up the Mack circuits. Games are scheduled for afternoons and evenings with the night play at Ford Field in Livonia. The Greater Livonia Free Press League begins action next Wednesday with teams from Redford Township, Garden City, Livonia and Dearborn Heights.

OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maskin
One thing about sports... there's always something popping. For the better part of the last nine months, the high school athletic parade has kept us hopping. Now that the prep season is pausing for a little relaxation, one gets a better chance to see what's going on elsewhere. And, a lot is. Take this week, for example. Those who love their golf can see the best in the business up at Warwick Hills where the annual Flint Open gets under way Thursday and winds up on Sunday afternoon. In the meantime, the Tigers will be at their home stomping grounds for what shapes up as another of those "old-times" series with the New York Yankees. The rejuvenated Bronx Bombers come for dates Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. The Sunday doing will be in the nature of a twin bill. As the late Bob Murphy used to say, we have all the tickets you need for this series. Just meet us under the Belle Isle Bridge.

On the subject of baseball, the area's sandlot program has started to move along at full clip. By next week, all teams in all age brackets will get going. The Greater Livonia-Connie Mack Class D circuit will include teams from Livonia, Plymouth, Redford Township, along with Dearborn. The older high school standouts and college freshmen will contest in the Free Press League that carries with it a prize to the national championships in August.

The Livonia and Redford Township Class A senior teams are beginning to click and improve now that the boys are back from college and the high schools are through. For those too old or fat to enjoy a round of baseball, there's always polo, which has boomed into a stimulating activity. It's pretty easy to belt the ball. Everybody gets in a lot of running and fun... which after all is the name of the game.

There are other exciting activities on the docket hereabouts in the weeks ahead. You always can enjoy yourself at the Wolverine Raceway's nightly trotting sessions at the Detroit Raceway. You also might strike it rich! The trotters are going until June 25 at the DRC. Don't miss catching at least one night. The golfers are out in full swing and wherever you go, the courses are on the loaded side. Tournament (Continued on Page 3-B)

Arrell kept Thurston in check

until the final inning when Mike McCrumm and second baseman Dan Berk will be graduating within the next few days. Thurston finished the season with an 18-2 record. Last losing by a 2-1 score almost a month before against North Farmington. Only three members of the Thurston team will be gone next season. Pilar, outfielder Mike McCrumm and second baseman Dan Berk will be graduating within the next few days. Thurston finished the season with an 18-2 record. Last losing by a 2-1 score almost a month before against North Farmington. Only three members of the Thurston team will be gone next season. Pilar, outfielder Mike McCrumm and second baseman Dan Berk will be graduating within the next few days.

Pilar has his eye on either a major league bonus contract or a 1966 season. McCrumm leaves shortly for the Air Force Academy. Berk also will enter college, but still isn't certain where. Redford Union capitalized on walks and errors to gain an easy win over Plymouth in the consolation game.

Rod Ferguson singled opening the game for RU and when Mark Ross and Randy Maltby followed with hits, RU was ahead 1-0. Then, Leland Bjerke and Dick Becker walked to help RU take a 3-0 lead against Pat Williams in the first inning. Plymouth countered with a run in the second on singles by Williams and Jim Arnold and an infield roller by John Gills. Redford Union sewed up the game with three more runs—without a hit—in the third inning.

It all came as a result of four walks, a hit batsman and an error. The rest of the way, the game developed into a pitchers' duel between RU's David Bourassa and Plymouth reliever Dan Camp, both lefties.

Bourassa, in scoring his sixth win of the season against one loss, fanned eight and allowed three hits. RU wound up with only five hits in the game.

Rocks' Net Team Falls In Tourney

Plymouth high's hopes in the state Class A tennis tournament ended in a hurry at Kalamazoo. The Rocks' Bob Stover lost to Jeff Warrner of Dearborn, 6-4, 6-1 in the singles, while Paul Jones-Steven Hulse of Plymouth fell in their first doubles test to a duo from Hamtramck.

Austin high won the Class A title with Hamtramck second. First-baseman Bill Pyles led Wayne State University's baseball team in batting as a junior in 1965 with a .358 mark.

DENNY MCCLAIN
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