

# Farmington Nears Legion Title

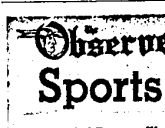
Just win... four in a row! That's all the Farmington American Legion team must do in the next five days to haul in the 18th District baseball title.

Going into this—the final week of the regular schedule—the Farmington aggregation boasted a record of 18 wins and four losses to lead Waterford by one game.

Ahead for Farmington is a home game with Berkley Wednesday and then three straight with Milford—at Milford Friday and a double header at Our Lady of Sorrows Field Sunday.

For the District kingly, there'll be a trip to Utica

during the first week of August for the zone tournament. The zone winner goes on to the state, the state victor to the nationals. "We've got a lot to look forward to," said manager Wally Christensen of Farmington. "But we have the



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kind of a team that as "do the job." Farmington won three out of its last four, falling only to Southfield in the last week. The Farmington team, over Troy, 5-2; fell to Southfield, 4-1; and then rebounded to take Walled Lake, 12-3.

and 6-4, in a doubleheader on Sunday. In the Troy game it was Jerry Turner who allowed only three hits and struck out ten to notch his fourth victory of the season.

Miller Kearney counted the first Farmington run in the first inning. Then came a four-run uprising in the third when Carl Misch and Tom Webster singled, Chuck Viane walked, Wayne Johnston tripled and came home on a bad throw.

Two innings later Viane slugged a homer after Webster walked.

on in the game with Southfield. Not one of the Southfield runs was earned. But, of course, they counted.

Farmington's only rally came when Tommy Webster walked, moved around to third on a couple of infield outs and crossed on the second half of a double steal negotiated with Joe Himmelspach, who walked.

In the Sunday games, Viane had little trouble boosting his season's record to seven wins against two losses. With Viane working under a big lead, Rich Krumm came to bat to finish the final two innings.

A triple by Viane and homer by Johnston gave Farmington two quick runs in the second inning.

Five tallies came across in the fourth. Hits by Jerry Tinkie, Johnston, Sneathly, Kearney and Viane figured in the uprising along with a sacrifice fly by Mike Perry.

Sneathly drove in two more runs with a double in the sixth to add to the winner's margin.

ON THE OUTSIDE comes Sulky Boy (8), a seven-year-old from the Howard Stiemer farm of Port Huron, to win a conditioned trot at Northville Downs at better than 113-1 odds for the biggest win mutual at a harness track.

in Michigan. Sulky Boy beat Diller H to the wire in 2:06.4 and the boxcar payoff was \$229.60. That bettered the previous high at Northville of \$177.80 by Best Effort on June 12, 1952.

The second half of the twinnish was much more exciting.

The Lakers sprung ahead, 2-0, in the first inning on a two-run homer by Steve Fogle. In the third, Fogle hit another homer to make it 3-0.

Farmington bounced back to get even in the third. Singles by Chris Norton and Misch, a triple by Viane and a hit by Himmelspach did the job.

In the fourth, Tinkie singled and scored on Turner's double with the go-ahead run. Two more runs counted in the fifth when Misch walked, Himmelspach doubled and Walled Lake committed a passed ball.

## 3-2 Pitch Rubs Out Bid for Perfect Tilt

The summer season has produced some spectacular pitching performances in the Greater Livonia-Class D Connie Mack baseball league.

But the "pitch" effort belongs to Kevin Fox, a 16-year-old from Redford Union high who hurls on the Earl Morrill team, which now has won seven of its eight starts in the Mack league's American Division.

Fox was matched last Thursday against the Livonia Phillippi Giants.

It was pretty much like Redford Union battling Benley, since the two teams are comprised for the most part of young men from the rival Suburban Six League schools.

All Fox did was to come within one pitch of recording a PERFECT GAME.

He set down 20 straight batters in the seven-inning contest won by Earl Morrill, 4-0.

Now it was Fox vs. Paul Deedler of the Giants. The count ran to three and two. Tension mounted.

Fox took his windup and fired. Would it be a perfect effort.

The pitch sailed in. Deedler watched it all the way. He didn't swing.

The umpire behind the plate never hesitated with his verdict.

"Ball Four," he yelled. Deedler stroled to first and Fox's super gem was gone. But he got the next man to preserve his shutout and his no-hitter.

In true sports spirit, Fox admitted afterwards:

"Sure I knew I had a perfect game going... and it would have been wonderful to have pitched one. But the

main thing is that our team won. That counts the most."

Fox had his rivals hitting grounders all afternoon. The Morrill infielders picked up 12 assists. There were two popouts to the field and just one fly to the outfield. The other six Giants went down on strikes.

Fox received his big hitting support from a Redford classmate, Leland Bjerkie, who drove in all the Morrill runs.

In the first inning with three on Bjerkie cleared the sacks with a double. In the third after Bill Fahy singled, Bjerkie slammed a triple.

The shutout was the second in as many days for the

Wine Letter at RPI

TROY, N.Y.,—R. Theodore Hart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Hart, 27860 Terence Drive, Livonia, Mich., has been awarded a white star and letter for participation on the varsity golf team at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Trials start at 7:30 the first race at 8:30 p.m.

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It would appear the finger must be directed at the various athletic recreation directors who have anything to do with summer baseball.

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## Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

The scene was the pool area of the very aristocratic Detroit Boat Club, located alongside the Belle Isle Bridge.

The occasion: the monthly sports luncheon at which we were guests along with Ray Scott, representing the Detroit Pistons, and Louis D'Annunzio, veteran scout of the Detroit Tigers.

D'Annunzio is responsible for bringing into the majors Lou D'Annunzio, Willie Horton and Milt Pappas... plus a flock of others.

Knowing about this writer's identification with the Livonia area, Louis looked over at us and remarked:

"Why don't you do something about keeping those good baseball players of yours at home, instead of letting them play on the Detroit sandlots."

He was referring to kids like Bob Ardell, Ken Bratherton and Vic Pilar, all from the Observer home front, and all presently starring as Louie puts it "down town in Detroit."

"It's a shame, those boys don't play where they live," continued Louie. "But, then how can you blame them?"

D'Annunzio didn't come up for much air.

The fault with Livonia and Garden City and Redford Township stems from the fact you don't have a real good junior Connie Mack League program.

(Connie Mack is restricted to boys in the 16-17-18 age bracket.)

"The net result is that your kids are going to Detroit to play with teams like Kowalski (the perennial national Class E champions). When these kids get the taste of Detroit baseball on the sandlots, they say 'nada' to staying home—where they belong."

It's D'Annunzio's contention that the Greater Livonia Class D and Detroit Free Press Leagues could rate with the best in the state—"if somebody out there would do something."

The somebody?

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## Northville Trotter Pays Record \$229.60

Harness racing fans in the metropolitan Detroit area won't soon forget the night of July 13 at Northville Downs. They'll remember it as the night they saw the biggest mutual payoff for a harness race in Michigan.

The amazing story behind the night they saw the biggest mutual payoff for a harness race in Michigan is a story that began in a harness race at Northville on June 12, 1952.

General Knox, a four-year-old son of Knox Hanover from the C. M. Saunders stable of Perryburg, O., snapped the live race winning streak of The Big Bear Friday in a conditioned pace.

With Ted Taylor driving, General Knox roared past The Big Bear in the final quarter and won by four lengths in 2:03.2 before a crowd of 5,840 that wagged a near record \$380,721.

At the end of the third week of the 35 night campaign, Northville reports business good despite a night during the week in which heavy rains held the crowd down.

The suburban half-mile plant has a highly average of \$290,631 for the first three weeks, compared to \$291,815 for the same period a year ago. The Downs has handled a total of \$5,231,354.

There was an even greater roar when the board showed the prices of \$229.60, \$39 and \$10.60 across the board. That bettered the previous high of \$177.80 by Best Effort on June 12, 1952 at Northville Downs and the \$175.40 by Song Cycle in the opening heat of the Motor City Pace at Wolverine Raceway earlier in the year.

It was the third victory in 18 starts for Sulky Boy and the fastest closing in the past two years.

With Driver-Trainee Dwayne Fletcher in the sulky, Transient made shambles of his eight rivals, taking the lead and staying a length in front all the way. He was at the quarter in :30, the half in 1:01, the three-quarters in 1:32.4 and then zipped home in :28.4 seconds for the two length victory in 2:01.3. That was the second fastest mile of the Michigan season.

Dick Dorwood, a six-year-old owned and driven by Bob Knudsen of New Era, Mich., pressed the victor in the final quarter but fell far back when Fletcher let his horse go.

Transient is owned in partnership by Robert Dyksterhouse of Charlevoix, and Fletcher. The wearing lead caught the eyes of the two at the Tattersalls sale three years ago and they bought him for \$800 and his mother, Transquill K, for another \$700.

The four-year-old has won a track and field clinic for boys in the seventh grade and older will open Monday on the Bentley High track at 8 a.m. The registration fee is \$10 and all interested must register this week at Bentley or Franklin High or on the morning of the opening session.

The clinic will run from 8 to 10 a.m. daily from Monday, July 25 through Aug. 13.

## Boost Fetz As Stevenson Sports Chief

Carl Fetz, acting Director of Athletics at Stevenson High School in Elmhurst, Ill., has been nominated for the post by a reviewing committee made up of Asst. Supt. Paul Johnson, Dr. Don Friedrichs and Dr. Whistler.

The recommendation has been turned over to Supt. Benton Yates for a final determination after which Yates will make his recommendation to the Board of Education.

Fetz, who received his bachelor's degree from Stevenson College in Springfield, Mass., with majors in health and physical education and a minor in physical science, also has a master's from Eastern Michigan University.

He has been in the Livonia school system for the past nine years, serving as coach of basketball, baseball, swimming and tennis in addition to teaching physical education.

During the past year he served as head of the physical education department at Stevenson and then assumed the duties of athletic director after the passing of Anders.

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