

# Simmons Nears Auto Title Race Pilot Blazes Again

Dick Simmons, one of Michigan's leading auto racers for nearly two decades, is on the move again, apparently headed for at least one and maybe more titles to add to a large collection.

Simmons, 37, lives at 40950 Mico, Plymouth, with his wife, Joan, and their son, Billy, 13. Simmons, known to his followers as "Bill Richards" almost from the day he took up driving at Partington Pastures (on his 21st birthday), left his mark wherever he raced.

From Partington Pastures it was a big jump to Motor City Speedway but the jalopies or



ONE OF MANY — Dick Simmons of Plymouth, one of the area's top auto-racing drivers, receives one of many trophies he has won in recent years.

## Reversal Of Form Strikes Legion '9'

Just when matters were beginning to look rosy for the Farmington American Legion Junior baseball team, the fortunes of war took a backward swing.

On the heels of a gala Sunday sweep of a doubleheader against Troy, Farmington went down to a 2-0 loss at the hands of Waterford and then outlast Berkley, 10-5, only to wind up on the short end of a 5-3 score.

Doug Drapalski and Joel Himmelspach did the pitching in the two games and deserved much better fates. Drapalski, for instance, allowed only three hits against Waterford. But his mates could get only two — one by Drapalski himself and the other by Himmelspach.

IN THE BATTLE with Berkley, Himmelspach got off to a bad start. He allowed all five runs in the first inning, although a tighter defense might have led to a different story.



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old model stocks became popular and he was one of the gang that cashed in. He got considerable competition for the spotlight from his wife, Joan, leading powder puff races at the time.

After Motor City Speedway closed, Simmons concentrated his efforts at Flat Rock Speedway and won the late model championship in 1960, was track champion (combining late model and Figure 8 points) for two years and then finished second in the late model division in 1962, 63 and 1964.

Simmons really began to shine, however, when Promoter John Marcum put in the Figure 8 track — a pre-war shaped course that utilizes both ends of the regular oval with an open intersection in mid-field. It takes a certain breed of cat to drive the Figure 8 course and Simmons has all of the qualifications — guts, a good car (in his case a 1955 Chevy that uses up about three bodies a year) and plenty of stamina.

Since the track was installed five years ago, Simmons was the champion three times and is currently leading the field in points.

HE WAS RUNNER-UP to Mel Murphy of Livonia last year, but he did win the championship at Spartan Speedway in Lansing last year while Murphy was second.

Last Saturday, Simmons won his fourth Figure 8 victory in a row and appears headed for another title.

## Slugging Trio Rough Pitchers Star With On Livonia Bats, Too

It was too much Dave Ventura... too much Carl Stevens... and too much Joe Huber.

As a result the Cardinal Decorating team of Livonia absorbed a 5-2 loss at the hands of Garden City in a Greater Livonia-Detroit Free Press League game Wednesday evening.

Ventura had three hits, plus a walk. His mates each had two hits.

Their efforts figured in all of the Garden City runs off losing pitcher Hank Shoenebeck. Cardinal went without a run until the sixth inning when Gary Birkensting, took second on an infield out and raced home on Paul Hartner's single.

IN THE SEVENTH, a single by Stott, a double by Jerry Island and a single by Greg Colton produced another run. But Garden City quickly checked matters there.

The Sunday schedule has been revamped with the dropping out of the Dad's Club team from Dearborn Heights. Garden City will meet Dependable, the league leader, at Garden City at 5 p.m. while the Cardinal team engages Wayne at Henry Ford at 6 p.m.

The regular schedule ends Wednesday with two games at Henry Ford — the Red Sox vs. Dependable at 6:15 p.m. and Garden City vs. Cardinal at 8:15.

Playoffs will begin next week-end to decide the team which then will advance into the next phase of the Free Press competition that could win a team trip to Pennsylvania for the national All-Boys tournament.



**EXTRA TALENT** — Besides starring as a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, Denny McLain also is a talented organ player. McLain, who makes his home in Livonia, gives musical lessons and also entertains at the organ during the off season.

## observing sports

The sports whirl is producing some happy moments hereabouts.

Especially for the two Livonia members of the Detroit Tigers, Joe Sparna and Denny McLain, and a third Tiger, Mickey Stanley, who shortly moves into the North Farmington school.

Sparna was a discouraged young man with the Tigers last season. (Now he's discouraged only because the good fathers of Livonia haven't seen fit to pave the street on which he lives.)

A year ago, just about everybody but the Tiger management felt that Joe should be shipped to the minors — and the low minors no less — to try and straighten himself out as a pitcher.

Sparna even got to the point he entertained notions of forgetting about baseball and applying for a quarterback position with the Detroit Lions. You'll remember he was a QB great in college at Ohio State.

But today Sparna is the top pitcher on the Tiger staff. He had a 9-1 record as these words were penned.

It's taken hard work, patience and a willingness to listen — to manager Mayo Smith and pitching coach Johnny Sain — to make a winner out of Sparna.

MEANTIME, McLain "could appear to have found his 1966 winning form after an "up and down" start this season. He never was better than last Monday in whipping the Cleveland Indians, 2-1.

There are many who don't understand McLain. They see in him a cocky, young man who has become "touched" by making it big so early in life.

We never have found McLain that way. He talks straight-forward. He doesn't complain, he doesn't put the blame elsewhere.

What he can't understand is why rivals pickle so many of his pitches and knock them out of the ball park.

But as Denny says: "What difference does it make where they hit the ball, as long as you win?"

WHEN YOU TALK OF PATIENCE, Mickey Stanley has plenty of it.

For two or three seasons, the Tiger brass have rated him a top outfielder. But he's had to capitalize on the sorrows of teammates to show just how good he is.

A year ago, Stanley didn't get his chance until injuries hit the Tiger outer garden. He wound up with an impressive average.

Notwithstanding, he didn't win a starting berth this season — at least not until Al Kaline and Gates Brown suffered bad injuries, and Willie Horton discovered that his foot ached so much he couldn't play every day.

So, once more Stanley has capitalized when opportunity presented itself: It's to be hoped that he'll remain a regular for the rest of the season. He deserves the chance.

THE MAJOR LEAGUES no longer may want Ray Herbert, another Livonian, but he still hasn't tossed in the pitching towel.

After years spent with the Tigers, Kansas City A's and Philadelphia Phillies, you'll now find Herbert pitching batting practice for the Tigers when they're home and also hurling for the Pepsi Cola team in Detroit's Class A Federation play.

Also hurling on the Detroit sandlot is Billy Hoelt, another ex-Tiger, who last performed in the majors with San Francisco. Billy lives around the corner from Franklin High.

It's likely that both Herbert and Hoelt could have worked this season in the minors. But pride no doubt, dictated they not go back on the farm to wind up their professional careers.

SWITCHING SPORTS, the vacation ends this week for Wayne Walker, another Livonian. Walker checks in at the Detroit Lions' camp full of optimism that the Lions will make considerable headway under new coach Joe Schmidt.

We should note that Walker hasn't been losing since the last football season. He's done one terrific job on Chasney 2 and also has been working for a film-producing company in Detroit.

# Livonia Rolls To 13-2 Win

Showdown time comes Sunday at Ford Field in Dearborn at 1:30 p.m.

It'll be Bedford Township (the leader) vs. Livonia's Pavel McDonough (in second place) clashing for the fourth time this season.

So far Bedford has a 2-1 edge, but Sunday the leaders will be up against Jay Schwalim, who blanketed them the last time they met, and who has allowed only one run in three games, while rolling up 12 straight victories.

Schwalim and his mates enjoyed a feast on Thursday in rolling to a 13-2 victory over Interster to bring the Livonians' record to seven wins against four losses.

Pete Hembrough and John Breckenridge divided the pitching for the victors and allowed four hits, five runs, Jim Rose of Livonia matched the entire Interster output with four safeties of his own and also scored four times.

LIVONIA BROKE into a lead in the first inning when Paul Portney and Jim Rose clicked. Then the Livonians wrapped up the game by batting around in the second when they scored six times.

Ron Heiler rapped a double to get the uprising going. He scored Jerry Allen's single. Hembrough walked and Portney followed with a run-producing single.

Rose slugged over two runs with a single after which Don Smith and Roger Frayer walked to force in another run.

Heiler chased in Rose and Smith with two more runs in the fourth after which Rose scored on a hit by Portney and again on a hit by Dan Loughie.

With the score so one-sided the umpires called the proceedings to give the teams a chance to enjoy an early shower.

Whether Livonia can catch Bedford now is problematical, however. Bedford won its 14th against three losses by beating Dearborn Heights, 4-1, with Rick Fisher allowing five hits.

The score was tied at 1-1 in the fifth when Robby Masson's two-run homer put Bedford in front for keeps.

## Golf Queen To Teach

Joyce Kammerliski, one of Michigan's outstanding women golfers, is coming to Livonia — to teach psychology at Stevenson High School starting next fall.

Miss Kammerliski was the state champion last season and among the semifinalists in this year's tournament at Red Run.

More than likely, she'll find some time to pass along some tips to the Stevenson golfers next spring.

**MULTI-LETTERS**

Wayne State University had 16 athletes as candidates for one or more varsity letters in the 1966-67 school year including one three-letter man.

## Gals Star In State Golf Play

Entries from Farmington distinguished themselves in this past week's Women's State Golf tournament held at Red Run.

Three of the Farmington ladies qualified for match play and two of them advanced past the first round.

The trio was led by Nancy Patch, freshly graduated from Ohio State. She won two matches before losing to medalist Cym, this Hill of South Haven, 2-1.

Miss Patch never was ahead, but she didn't fall behind for good until the fifteenth hole. Miss Hill sewed up the match by winning at No. 17.

In earlier matches, Miss Patch won over Mrs. Walt Montague of Red Run, 7-4, and then rallied from a three-hole deficit to put out Mrs. Bruce Hilkens. Miss Patch lost three of the first five holes.

Mrs. Chris Miller of Farmington scored a 4-3 win over Mrs. E.O. Reynolds of Lansing in the first round before losing to Mrs. E.L. Goddard of Oakland Hills, 6-4.

Mrs. C.F. Fox, another Farmington entry, dropped her first match, falling to Mrs. Frank Campsie of Grosse Ile, 3-1.

## Junior Fete On July 27

The annual Livonia Junior Football League banquet featuring baseball players will be held at Roma Hall on July 27 at 8:30 p.m.

Scout Louis D'Annunzio of the Detroit Tigers will be the featured speaker.

Guests will include Mayor Harvey Moeke.

Tickets may be reserved by calling Carl Westberg at 470-6442, Dick Weirbicki at 421-6442, Wally Heller at 421-6131, Stan Darrah at 421-7520 and Ed Lynett at 261-1821.

## Softball Stars Battle Friday

The annual all-star softball game, featuring teams from Livonia's Limited and Unlimited divisions will be played next Friday at Henry Ford Field No. 2 in Livonia.

The cream of the crop will be matched with the game open to the public.

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NEARLY 100 YEARS AND GOING

## Clarenceville Takes First At Festival

The 80-member Clarenceville High School Marching Band won first prize Thursday night at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City.

Pitted against class A schools and five class B schools were at the festival.

The theme of Clarenceville's program was "Westward Ho."

Band Director is John Nestek.

In all, three class A high schools and five class B schools were at the festival.