

Simmons Nears Auto Title

Race Pilot Blazes Again

Dick Simmons, one model stocks became popular and he was one of the guys that started it.

He got considerable competition from the spotlight from his wife, Jean, leading powder puff racer at the time.

Simmons, 37, lives at 40950 N. M-1, Plymouth, with his wife, Jean, and their son, Billy, 13.

Simmons, known to his followers as "Lil' Richard" almost from the day he took up driving at Parington Pastures (on his 21st birthday), left his mark wherever he went.

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

8 track -- a pretzel shaped course that utilizes both ends of the regular oval with an open intersection in the middle.

It takes a certain breed of car to handle 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 has been the champion three times and is currently leading the field in 1967.

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.

Pitchers Star With Bats, Too

Take a bow, Paul Tamm.

Take a bow, too, Jack Robertson.

Thanks to their arms and their bats, the respective teams triumphed in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack League.

Tommemacher hurled the Livonia Spartans to a 2-0 shutout over Garden City.

Robertson, meanwhile, did a nifty job of leading the Redford Township Optimists to a 4-3 verdict.

But what made both Tommemacher and Robertson the happiest were their hits -- and in key situations.

TOMMEMACHER KNOCKED

the Spartans' first run in the second inning after Phil Camp had singled and Bob See had walked.

This meant more to Tommemacher, who had a brilliant spring pitching for Stevenson, than the fact he throttled the heavy hitting Garden City team on 40 hits and, in addition, fanned 15.

The other Spartans' runs came in the sixth, Jerry Detter was safe on an error, Steve second and romped around on See's single.

As for Robertson, a product

of Plymouth High, he gave up three hits and set down seven on strikes.

But his bat produced a pair of doubles and knocked in three of the Optimists' four runs.

ROBERTSON'S FIRST double came in the second inning and chased in Jim Bida.

Williams, who had singled, in the fifth, Mike Robertson walked him to a hit by Williams.

Then in the sixth, Robertson belted his second double, after Jim Carter had singled, to account for what was the winning run.

The victory gave the Optimists a 4-3-2 record -- the two for ties -- their bid to overtake Earl Morrall.

THE LIVONIA Elk ran into trouble against McFarland of Garden City and wound up 4-3 losers.

Rick Mack worked five innings and Denny Hopkins finished up for the losers, who counted all their runs in the third inning.

Ron Troia walked to get the rally going. Mack was safe on an error, but Larry Draper and Tom Moersch singled the latter, sending in the final two runs.

THE PHILIPPI Giants of Livonia received fine pitching from Jim and Fred Davies to turn back Northville, 4-3.

Jim started, but when the heat got to him a little, older brother Fred came to his rescue and kept Northville in check the rest of the way.

The heat, the sacrifice and a major factor in the Phillips' scoring.

Dave Fisher singled in the third, was advanced to second on a bunt and scored on Dave Scott's single, the fourth.

Dave Scott singled, moved to second on a bunt and came in on Jim Davies' hit.

Then in the fifth, Carl Gobronski, Carl, Greg Gray tripled and Scott singled again to wind up the Phillips' scoring.

WE'LL PRESENT post-ponement of two other games on the Tuesday schedule in Connie Mack play.



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 Sparma and Denny McLain, and a third Tiger, Mickey Stanley, who shortly moves into the North Farmington school area.

Sparma 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 sports management felt that Joe should be shipped to the minors — and the low minors, less to try and straighten himself out as a pitcher.

Sparma 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 Sparma 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 Sparma.

MEANTIME, McLAIN would 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 — he doesn't complain, he doesn't whine, he blames 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 injured 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 Clete A. Fehner's play.

Also hurling on the Detroit sandlot is Billy Hoefft, 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 Hoefft 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 loafing since the last football season. He's done one terrific job on Channel 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., Redford Township (the leader) vs. Livonia's Pavillion McDonough (in second place) vying for the fourth time this season.

So Redford has a 2-1 edge, but Livonia has a 2-0 record. It will be up against Jay Schwalm, who blanked them the last time they met, and who has allowed only one run in three games, while rolling up 12 strikeouts. Schwalm and his mates enjoyed a feast on Thursday in rolling to a 13-2 victory over Inkster to bring the Livonians' record to seven wins against four losses.

Pete Hembrough and John Breckinridge divided the pitching for the visitors and allowed four hits, Mezzalina, Jim Rose of Livonia matched the entire Inkster output with four safeties of his own and also scored four runs.

LIVONIA BROKE into a 2-0 lead in the first, but Paul Morris and Jim Rose clicked. Then the Livonians wrapped up the game by hitting around in the second when they scored six times.

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

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

Heller bashed 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 Longhle.

With the score one-sided, the umpires called the proceedings to give the team a chance to catch up.

Whether Livonia can catch Redford now is problematical, however. Redford 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 Mason's two-run home run put Redford in front for keeps.

Golf Queen To Teach

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

Miss Kramerski was the state champ 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.

Softball Stars Battle Friday

The annual all-star softball game, featuring teams from the Michigan and Unlimited Leagues, 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.



Sears

Also in the advertisement, a woman is shown with the text "gives your hair weeks of style hold".

In just 15 minutes more than shampoo-and-time, we can give your coif full body and soft style pattern that really holds between sets... is "reborn" with each shampoo and set... lasts six to eight weeks! \$6.50 plus shampoo and set.

Lyric Beauty Salon

Sears

Livonia Mall

7 Mile at Middlebelt, 476-6000

GOING FOR A DRIVE?

Why Not Drop Anchor at The Skipper's Table? . . .

If you're going for a drive, the Girl from Skipper's suggests you drop by and stretch your legs at either the two Skipper's Table Restaurants, 33201 Plymouth Rd. at Farmington Rd. or 7030 West 7 Mile Rd., one block West of M-20. lunch is only 99 cents weekdays. Desserts are bargain prices extra. Come as you are . . . it's a family place to eat.

Clarenceville Takes First At Festival

The 80-member Clarenceville High School Marching Band was the winner of the competition on 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 Kerkel.

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