

# Little Leaguers Cry For More Diamonds

If you reside in the Farmington area—either in the city or the township—and have five or six or ten acres you don't know what to do with, here's a suggestion:

Why not turn it over to the good gentlemen who run the Little League as well as the Pony and Colt League baseball programs in what is described as Farmington's South End?

Their brothers in the North End, which teams up with West Bloomfield to run a similar program, also might appreciate the donation of a huge chunk of land.

It astounded us to learn that something like 1,200 boys, ranging in ages from eight to 16, play summer baseball in the North End, and there are more than \$50 in the South End.

"The whole thing is getting too big, much too big," explained Charles Smith, who's in charge of public relations for South Farmington.

"It's not that those of us who work for Little League object to our shores," added Smith. "But we just don't have the diamonds to take care of all the boys who want to play."

SMITH POINTED OUT that the South-siders have nine diamonds made available to them, but not on a full-time basis.

"We must share them with softball, girls' teams and everybody else," added Smith. "The result is that we are confronted with a serious problem."

"The way the boys have been coming out — our enrollment jumps around 100 boys

**By their hands**  
**observing sports**

per year — we may have to start restricting who plays.

"We have been making it possible for every boy, who shows up, to get on a team. Even the boy who didn't have the money to pay the necessary registration and insurance fee could play. We have simply felt that baseball is the one team sport all boys can play."

"But the way things look now, we may have to hold tryouts each spring, and just

pick out the better players. Again, that's not because we want it that way... but what other alternative do we have?

"Getting diamond space is a problem."

THE SOUTH FARMINGTON Association bumps into trouble when it appears before the City of Farmington fathers and asks for more playing room.

"We are told that the city kicks in over \$30,000 for recreation each year, while the township puts up around \$5,000," Smith relates. "Yet in the city there are only 10,000 people, while the township population has soared past 35,000."

"In addition, statistics show that seven out of ten who play in games at Farmington's City Park come from the township. So maybe the city bosses have a point."

"But we have all these boys, and so do the guys who run the North End program. We have written to the U.S. government in hopes that we might be able to purchase some land in the area that the Department of Agriculture might not need."

"We feel that it would make sense to get a 40-year mortgage and let the boys who'll

use the grounds in the next four or five decades pay for the land through their registration fees."

So far no word from Uncle Whiskers.

ACCORDING TO SMITH, it requires around five acres to build two diamonds... and "we need at least five or six diamonds just for our own purposes."

It's to be noted that men like Smith and Tom Hoffman, chief of Little League in South Farmington, are non-professionals in recreation work. They donate their time and take off precious moments from regular work like they did last week to get the diamonds ready at City Park for the area tournament.

"Perhaps, what we should do is to bow out... turn this whole thing over to the recreation people who are professionals..."

Then Smith paused.

"Yes, but we enjoy what we're doing. Sure some parents scream... they holler... their boys don't play enough... and everything like that."

"But, it's great to see these kids play baseball and stay off the streets."

Anybody with a few acres to spare? You'll never enjoy a happier tax deduction.

## Umps Absent, Bases Too--- Elks Blanked

So who needs umpires to play a baseball game?

The Plymouth Elks and Hawthorne Valley had neither for their Greater Connie Mack League game.

Still they played.

Unfortunately for the Elks, they couldn't produce a hit in the clutch and wound up 5-0 losers.

"We didn't want to have to make up the game at a later date," declared Paul Carlson, the Elks' manager. "So we decided to go on with the show with a couple pickup umpires and by using some stones as bases."

The Elks produced enough hits to win most any other time. But they didn't come at the right times.

Rick Fillmore staged out three safeties and Walt Leach and Bob Kellman two each.

IT WAS a tough night for teams sponsored by the Elks. Livonia's Elks bowed, 3-2, to Big Boy of South Redford as Rick Mack hurled effectively, but with little success for the Livonians.

Larry Draughn had two of the four Livonia hits. Mack and Denny Hopkins each knocked out one out.

Both the Elks (Livonia-style) runs came on errors.

The Plymouth Optimists bounced back on the winning road by combining good hitting with some solid pitching.

Dan Camp lifted the route and scattered four hits to fashion the triumph.

Jim Arnold batted over two runs with a double, Bill McAlpine slugged in a marker with a triple and Dave Prochaska came through with a



HOW IT'S DONE — Keith Wright is one of the many who instruct youngsters in Livonia on proper swimming techniques during the summer months. The various school pools are open to adults as well as the youngsters.

## Cardinal 'Backed To Wall'

Thanks to Farmington, Redford Township's Dependable Hardchorn appeared to have the Greater Livonia-Detroit Free Press baseball playoffs locked up.

With Chuck Vane, from North Farmington, High and Michigan State, spanning a masterful three-hitter, Dependable made it two straight in the playoffs by downing Livonia's Cardinals 2-1.

All of which meant that Dependable needed only one more win in the double elimination series against Cardinal, the only other survivor, to gain the right to advance into the sectional Free Press playoffs next week.

Cardinal went down to its first defeat in the series after two wins when Dependable put together three hits off Larry Ruzas in the seventh, after Ruzas had worked on, even terms with Vane.

PAUL SANTANGELO started the rally with two hits by

singing, Bill Fabey singled and so did Bobby Holmes and that ended the spine-tingler at Henry Ford Field.

Dependable had scored once in the first inning when Bill Fabey was safe on a fielder's choice, went to second on a walk to Holmes and scored on Terry Rothwell's hard single.

The teams rolled along with no change in score until the sixth when Ed Ryan walked for Cardinal. He went to second on

"YOU CAN DO IT" — Paul Mack offers encouragement to one of his young pupils during a swimming session at Bentley High. Thanks to the Livonia programs many boys and girls become adept swimmers each summer.

## For S. Farmington 'Ponies' It's One-Man Show!

Talk about your one-man shows in sports.

Phil Millman rose to the occasion—literally by himself—to get South Farmington off on the right foot in the district Pony League baseball playoffs at Farmington.

This is what young Mr. Millman did:

- 1.—Pitched the route.
- 2.—Won his own game when he socked a homer with two mates aboard in the fifth inning.

The victory was the sixth in a row for South Farmington

which is shooting to advance next week's sectionals.

Meantime, the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Pony Leaguers broke even in their first day of action at Garden City.

AFTER TAKING a 13-2 beating in the first game from Garden City, North Farmington rebounded to eliminate Southfield Woods, 9-0.

It takes two defeats to eliminate a team in the Pony competition, which is for boys in the 13-14-year-old age bracket.

Garden City received some fine pitching from Ron Collier, who allowed only four hits. Both the North Farmington tallies were of the unearned type, resulting from errors.

Gary Lyman slapped a homer to pace the winners, while Gary Puitches had three hits and Martin Nash and Bob Kleinsbrook two apiece.

The North Farmington breeze over Southfield featured a combined one-hit pitching masterpiece by Jim White and Drew Mahalic.

WHITE ALLOWED the lone safety—a triple—in the fourth inning. Mahalic worked the last three frames in near perfect fashion.

Don Dreyer belted out three hits on two singles and a double to top the winning attack.

## New Date Set For Auto Race

The Michigan-Ohio Figure 8 Invitational auto race has been rescheduled for next Wednesday at the Flat Rock Speedway. One of the favorites will be Dick Simmons of Plymouth, the top Figure 8 winner of the season at Flat Rock.

## Streak Nets 50-50 Season

The 1967 season ended on a happy note for Farmington's American Legion junior team. It was a year of ups and downs — and mostly downs — until the final weekend.

Then last Sunday, Farmington dumped Walled Lake out of the league and title by sweeping two games.

To make matters a little more joyous, Farmington ended the season on Wednesday with an 11-7 win over Southfield, the newly crowned 18th District title.

As a result, Farmington ended the campaign with 13 victories and 13 defeats.

"IN SOME respects we were disappointed," said manager

## Optimists Fall In Finale

The regular Connie Mack League baseball season ended on a dull note for the Plymouth Optimists Thursday.

Earl Morrill beat the Optimists, 7-4, to capture the divisional championship, despite the fact that Pat Williams lashed a triple and Dave Prochaska socked two singles for the losers.

Jack Robertson buried for the Optimists and was tagged for a homer by Pat Riley. Dave Bozars was the winning pitcher.

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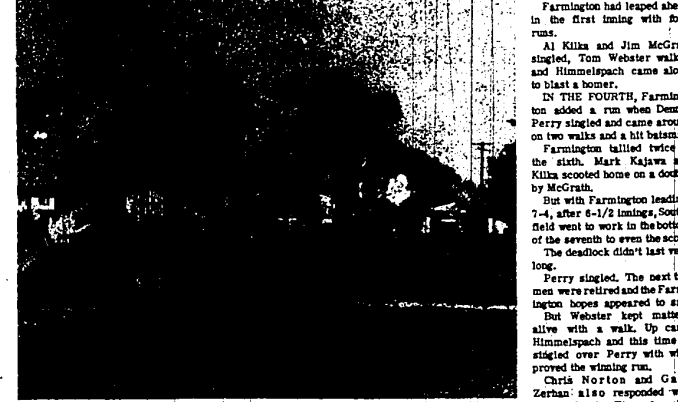
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FLAGGED DOWN — Ed Ryan of the Livonia Bentley team gets his man at third base as Garden City's Teeter tries to advance a base. Bentley is out in front in its drive for title honors in Connie Mack League play