

Sparma, Under Pressure, Worries About Vargo Ave.

The clock above the entrance door read 7:20 p.m.

The scene within the room was peaceful. You might almost hear a pin drop.

Over in a corner sat the man from Livonia's Vargo Ave. with a big No. 21 on the back of his business attire.

He was crouched on a little stool, in front of a cubicle where his regular street clothes hung—not so neatly.

Another of his business associates, wearing a No. 37 on his back, stood by talking hardily over a whisper to one Joseph Falls of the Friendly Free Press.

This was the Tigers clubhouse at Tiger Stadium with game time against the Chicago White Sox now less than 40 minutes away.

The No. 21 was Joe Sparma, enjoying a great season with the Tigers and one of the biggest reasons they're in the midst of the most jammed-up pennant race in the history of the American League.

We don't have to say it's been a five-team struggle for weeks now.

JOE SPARMA dug into his pocket. Out came a piece of bubble gum. He's not the tobacco-chewing type.

As we approached, he looked up, and the same question that was on his mind back in early April down in Lakeland, Fla., still bothered him:

"What's your paper doing about getting my street paved?"

What else could we do but shrug our shoulders?

"It's getting worse and worse... bumper and bumper... and dusty, too," explained the man who within moments would be standing by himself in the middle of the diamond with over 20,000 staring at him, with many thousands glued to their radios and TV cameras carrying each of his actions back to the Chicago area.



JOE SPARMA WANTS HIS STREET PAVED

"My wife and I will ruin our cars. So will the neighbors."

Joe paused.

"Hey, my wife should be here by now. She always comes down to see my pitch. And she's here with the other players' wives on Fridays, too. That's about all she can get away. Baby-sitting problems, you know, can be expensive."

THE NO. 37 MOVED to where Hank was sitting. The No. 37 was swinging a bat and in case you don't recognize him, he's the most famous hitter in history—Hank Agyre.

"Showing off to Joe Falls about your hitting?" quipped Sparma to Agyre.

"You should talk," snapped back Agyre.

"How come your average is so lousy (Sparma had one hit in 54 times at bat entering the present week's action)?"

"Simple," said Sparma. "I never have been to bat so much in my life."

"Don't let success get to your head," roared

observing sports

Agyre as he bounced out of the clubhouse to hit fungoes.

Sparma talked about his new business ventures for the coming fall (after the world series, naturally) and kiddingly asked if the Pistons could use "another small guy."

"Don't laugh," he continued. "I was captain of my high school team in Ohio. I even wanted to play for Ohio State University, but it seems like they had a guy by the name of Jerry Lucas and another by the name of John Havlicek... and just a few others when I was there."

So Sparma devoted his athletic career to directing the football team at quarterback and pitching for the Buckeyes in baseball.

THE QUIET IN THE BIG Tiger clubhouse was interrupted. Willie Horton rolled in from fielding practice.

"Get this one over in 2:15 (two hours and 15 minutes)," he puffed Horton.

"I'll settle for a victory in three hours," ripped back Sparma.

The clock had moved around to 7:37.

"Guess it's time I gathered my stuff up; a guy has to earn a living, you know."

He arose, jammed another piece of bubble gum in his mouth, reached for his bat, his glove and his heavy jacket.

"Boy, this is a lot of stuff to take out there when you won't be around for two innings."

It was a judgment of the highest order. Sparma survived those two innings—pitched well enough to win, but was jinxed by an error.

The calm of the Tiger clubhouse now was gone. Al Kaline, Don Wertz and all the rest were storming in to make final preparations for the night's work coming up.

The man from Vargo Avenue in Livonia headed down the tunnel leading to the Tiger dugout and the diamond. On his broad shoulders he carried what the fans and his team wanted most—the pennant.

4 Stroh Bowlers On All-City Squad

The Greater Detroit Bowling Association No. 1 All-City team for 1966-67 included four members of the Stroh team and one member of the John F. Ivory outfit.

Stroh bowlers who earned positions on the top GDBA All-City fivesome are Mike Totsky, captain John Ruggiero, Mike Samardzija and Bob Crawford. The John F. Ivory bowler who turned the first-team All-City trick is Jack Born.

Places on the GDBA All-City team are determined by the number of points bowlers amass in certain specified tournaments and by their performances in leagues. Events involved are City, State and ABC tournaments; GDBA and ABC Masters, BPAA All-Star, and MotorWeek Individual Classic. Points are also up for grabs for games of 300, 299 and 298, series of 800, averages of 200 or better, and 11 strikes in a row in one game.

Totsky and Ruggiero each piled up 42 points to become co-captains of the 1966-67 No. 1 team. Born and Crawford had 34 points apiece, and Samardzija had 33 points.

Making the second team were Bob Strampe, 30 points; George Glasco, 28; Dave Soutar, 26;

Bill Smith, 26, and Bud Hill, 25. Those to merit honorable mention were Hugh Humpert, 21 points; Jack Treloar, 20; Rick Kendall, 20; Fred Ringrose, 18, and Fred Vitali, 17.

Totsky shot a 299 game, averaged 212, and won points in the GDBA Masters, GDBA City Tournament singles and all-events, and ABC singles, doubles and all-events.

Ruggiero's points came from the State Tournament singles, doubles and all-events, and ABC doubles and all-events. He showed averages of 204 and 205.

Crawford, who averaged 209, earned points in GDBA Masters, and ABC singles, doubles and all-events.

More Sports On Pg. 4B

Baseball Abandoned Workout Started Handball Career

It was a quarter of a century or so ago.

Alvin August was a freshman at the University of Michigan and went out for the yearlings' baseball team. He hurt his shoulder and the coach made a suggestion:

"Go over to the handball courts and work out so you will remain in shape. It'll be good for you."

August took the suggestion. The only thing was—he never returned to the baseball diamond.

He usually loved handball so much, that he has played the game ever since and become one of the state's -- in fact of the nation's -- top players.

Not only has August, now a dentist residing in Farmington Township, excelled in the sport, but his two sons, Steve, 26, and Larry, 19, have turned into stellar handball performers, too.

This week has seen the August clan performing en masse in the Michigan State Open tournament at the Palmer Park Courts in Detroit.

THEY'LL ALL be back there over the Labor Day weekend for the national three-wall championships in which Steve is given a great chance to win the singles and dad ranks as a solid threat with Dr. John Scopa for the masters' (for older players) doubles crown.

Steve has tagged off most of the major titles of late in the family.

Not too long ago he won the state singles. He has held the Detroit City Open, the state doubles (with his dad), the National Junior and the National Collegiate crowns.

The fact he has reached his senior year in the medical college at the University of Michigan hasn't slowed down his handball play.

"This is the one way I know to keep in shape physically," At Ann Arbor he gets a chance to play with brother Larry, who two years ago was a star athlete at North Farmington High.

Larry, too, aspires to become a doctor. He's in his sophomore year in pre-med at the university.

Although Steve and Larry are performing as a team this week for the first time in three years -- Larry has been away during recent summers -- they won't combine in the forthcoming nationals.

"Steve just has too good a chance to take the singles, so he doesn't feel that he should be played by having me around in the doubles, too," declared the younger Larry.

THE PAIR already boasts a second-place finish in the national three-wall and has been second once in the state doubles.

As spokesman for the trio, Larry says:

"Handball is a catchy sport. By that I mean that once a person gets a 'snatch,' or plays in one, he instantly goes wild about the game."

"Right now, we have a big problem. We need more courts so that we can attract more

players. Around New York, they have courts everywhere... at the big summer hotels in the mountains, at the beaches, etc.

"Around here, we're getting a few more, but it's a slow process. The YMCA in Livonia will have some new ones soon."

Larry actually is a strange teenager---strange in that very few his age care much about handball.

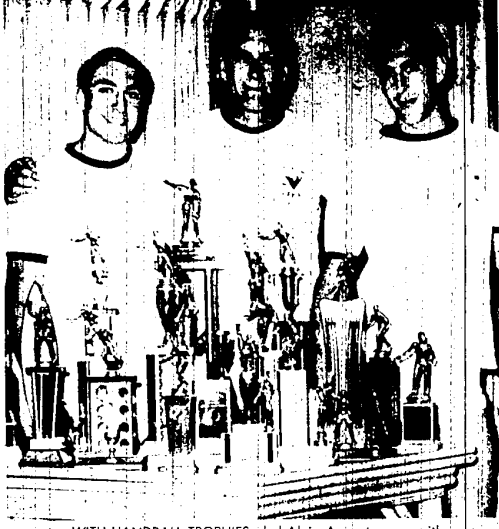
"We sure could use more kids in my age category in handball. That's where our game is hurting."

"We are picking up more and more players who are in their late '20s and '30s. But, the younger fellows... well, that's a problem."

"Maybe we should have more playing courts, as I said. That would make it easier for boys to find a place to try out the sport."

"There's one thing about playing handball, the Augusts and anybody else who plays the game will tell you:

"It helps to keep the waistline trim."



WITH HANDBALL TROPHIES, dad Alvin August poses with sons Larry (left) and Steve in their Farmington home.

Redford Champs Down In 1st

ALTOONA, Pa.—It was a tough start here for the Dependable Hardchrome team of Redford Township, Mich., champs of the Greater Livonia-Detroit Free Press League.

The Michiganders were beaten, 8-1, by New Orleans in the first round of the All-America Boys tournament.

549 MARK

In a decade of varsity rowing, Wayne State University's crew has won 28 of 51 meets, a 54.9 percentage.

REMELA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL General Contractor

REMODELING Quality is our Business!

HOMES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS DESIGNED AND BUILT

KE 5-8010 GR 6-2864

29776 Grand River Farmington, Mich.

Coach Retires

Former Wayne State University head football coach Herb Smith, retiring this spring after 21 years at the school, served for six years as the head grid mentor.

YOUR Independent AGENT

SERVES YOU FIRST

For fast relief of distress from fire, storm, accident

This symbol identifies us as professional independent agents. That means we can protect you from several lines property and liability companies the right insurance for your home, car, or business. For service beyond the call of duty, call us.

BERGSTROM INSURANCE

"Above You We'll Be There"

23140 W. 13 MIKE

ROBERT H. BERGSTROM CPU

PHONE 476-3400

at Bel's

You'll find Stride Rite Width Sizes AA to EE

Northville's Family Shoe Store

153 E. Main Street Phone 349-0630

Open Daily 9 to 6 Friday 9 to 9

USE YOUR MICHIGAN BANKCARD

THE STRIDE RITE SHOE

One of the things girls enjoy most about being girls are Stride Rite shoes. And we have all the newest and nicest shapes for everything from playdays to party ones. And all with that just-right fit built right in.

Sears

Rolling SENSATION

gives your hair weeks of style hold

In just 15 minutes more than shampoo-and-set time, we can give your hair full body and soft style pattern that really holds between sets... is "reborn" with each shampoo and set... lasts six to eight weeks! \$8.50 plus shampoo and set.

Lyric Beauty Salon

Livonia Mall

7 Mile at Middlebelt, 476-6000

GOING FOR A RIDE?

DROP ANCHOR AT SKIPPER'S TABLE

If you're going for a drive, the Girl from Skipper's Table suggests you drop by and stretch your legs at either of the two Skipper's Table Intergrated Restaurants, 23201 Plymouth Rd. at Farmington Rd. or 7030 West 7 Mile Rd. one block West of Livonia. Lunch is only 99 cents weekdays. Dessert and beverage is extra. Come as you are... it's a family place to eat.