

Redford Storms Into Finals

The honors keep mounting for Redford Township's Class A baseball team.

From champs of the Greater Eastern League to district champs to state runners-up and now to a spot in the World Series of the American Baseball Congress which starts Thursday in Battle Creek.

The Townshipers, co-managed by Al Turner and Bill Mikiel, made it to the world series this past Labor Day weekend by gaining the finals in the East-Central regionals in the ABC meet at Battle Creek.

So Thursday it will be Redford in the first round at Battle Creek's Bailey Field. In all, eight teams from all sections of the United States—from the east to the west coast, from Texas to the northern boundary—they're all in fighting in the classic of all sandlot tournaments.

Redford gained the regional finals and the right to gain the world series the hard way.

The Townshipers lost to Cleveland, 11-5, in the first game of the double elimination competition.

With their backs to the wall, Redford stormed back to edge Waterloo, Ia., 2-1, then it was 3-0 over Kalamazoo in 10 innings, and in what proved the biggest

game of all, Redford ousted Akron, 9-1.

That left Redford with only Kalamazoo and Akron left, and when Redford drew the bye into Monday night's final, the team automatically won a spot in the regional.

Redford made only seven hits against Cleveland and except for a four-run seventh inning, the Townshipers didn't do much. Hits by Jim Probusky and Schaefer marked the seventh-inning uprising. Probusky slugged a homer in the losing cause.

Tom Blanchard then came back with a six-hit effort to spark a Redford outscored Waterloo, 2-1.

Both the Redford runs were scored in the first inning when Schaefer singled, Dave Woloch doubled and Rick Harlow singled.

Two fine double plays and a great relay throw to nail the would-be tying run at the plate also contributed to the victory.

Redford stormed back from a 5-0 deficit in beating out Kalamazoo, which erupted for five tallies in the first inning.

Both two-run doubles by

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Harlow and Probusky gave Redford four quick runs before the team went ahead, 7-0 in the third when Schwalow routed a homer with Harlow and Probusky aboard.

Kalamazoo tied the game in the fifth and went ahead in the sixth before a single by Schwalow, a sacrifice and a hit by Robby Masson in the ninth tied the score.

Then in the tenth, Masson singled and stole second. Two walks loaded the bases before Keith Spicer's long fly ball to Masson with the winning run.

Don Bielski, picked up from Wyandotte, flipped a three-hitter in Redford's 9-1 win over Akron.

His mates slaked him to a three-run lead in the first when Masson walked, Schaefer was safe on an error and a fielder's choice loaded the bases. Harlow singled in two runs and Bob Green drilled over another.

Redford added two runs in the fifth on a walk to Masson, a sacrifice, a double by Woloch and singles by Spicer and Harlow.

Woloch singled in Schaefer in the fourth and Schaefer came in on Spicer's sacrifice in the sixth. In the seventh doubles by Green and Masson and an infield hit by Bielski topped Redford's lead to eight runs.

Glenn Cry: 'Hold That Front Line'

"Hold that line..." It's a familiar cry heard around football games... and it's something, too, that coach Bob Lusk at Glenn High hopes his forwards will do in the season ahead.

"We have probably the best backs we've ever had here at the school," said Lusk as he sized up his material.

"We're loaded with veterans as linebackers and our secondary on defense."

"But our line—our line: really, 'Cause, offensively and defensively, we have to do a great deal of rebuilding and unless we can come up with something in our front wall, this could be a long fall here at Glenn."

Lusk talked about the happier features of his team first. He has a backfield that will include Tim Wozny at quarterback, Steve Paschke at half, Bill Blitho at fullback and Dennis Maloney at flanker.

Paschke is the only returning starter among the current, but the others have played and combine with Paschke to give Glenn a formidable foursome, according to Lusk.

Defensively, Wazny, Maloney and Bob Russ give Glenn a veteran secondary while at the linebackers, there are Bill O'Connor and John Zarabek, both seasoned operators.

As for the offensive line, Mike Robbins is the only veteran, with whom Lusk describes as great experience. He was a center a year ago, but now has been switched to right guard.

The other front-wallers either are fresh from the reserves or saw limited service on the varsity in '66. Ray Lane (not the Tiger broadcaster), will take over for Robbins at center. O'Connor will take over for Robbins at center. O'Connor will take over for Robbins at center.

Losses Fail To Worry Bentley

A first look at the Bentley high school varsity might give the impression that coach Larry Joiner should be crying everywhere he goes.

The Bentley training camp shows few players with much in the way of experience.

"I would guess that if you added all the playing time of our returning players together, they wouldn't have been in a dozen plays for Bentley last year," says Joiner.

So, he should be complaining, you say?

No, sir. Joiner remembers what happened in 1965.

"Our players that year didn't have any more experience than our present group," explains Joiner.

Remember what happened to Bentley in '65?

Sure, that was the year the team streaked through an unbeaten season.

"It just seems that we never have too many boys coming back," added Joiner.

"Maybe we play too many seniors some will say."

"But, it's worked for us, our strategy, so why rock the boat?"

The major casualties include all-star quarterback Greg Coleman and such fine backs as Kevin Hooker, Jim Matevina and Ken Jackson.

Joiner has three candidates bidding for the quarterback slot—Jim Powers, John Schroeder and Shipley. The latter played some defensive backfield last year.

LeRoy Watson, a linebacker who ran few offensive plays, is available, along with Tim Malone, a defensive player in the final two games.

Up front there are Dan Doyle, an end; Bob Buckley, a center; and tackles Tom Garrett and Al Vasaris.

"I think we have the type of boys who can develop into a winning team," adds Joiner.

"The big question is just how long it will take them to get it together, quickly, well, we could go to town in a hurry."

"But there's one thing—we are very optimistic."

Bentley has no new opponents on its schedule. The first two non-leagueers are in the afternoon at Farmington and Warrenton. Then follow five battles with Suburban Six League rivals before the final with cross-town Franklin.

Bentley is going for a 7-30 p.m. starting time for home games this season.

Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

One hates to have to part company with something good.

Which is why we hate to see the 1967 sandlot baseball pass from the scene in Greater Livonia.

It was the "year of years" in these parts as evidenced by what happened.

There was the Livonia Jets winning the state Class E crown and the Phillippi Giants capturing the state Class D championship.

Redford Township's Free Press League team made it through the regular-league season as champion, added the state flag and then went on to the All American Boys tournament in Altoona, Pa.

Redford's Earl Morrall did well in the regional Connie Mack tournament. So did Livonia's Bentley in its Mack regional.

And then there was the Redford Township Class A team—champions by a mile in the Greater Dearborn League, victors of River Rouge in a qualifying playoff, and then runnerup to Kalamazoo for the state American Baseball Congress flag.

Added to their achievements, the Redford "A's" won a place in the ABC regionals this past weekend at Battle Creek.

Such a series of successes just don't happen.

Bob Atkins, who managed the Earl Morrall team and ranks among the state's top high school baseball coaches (he's at Redford Union); sizes up the "greatest year ever around here in sandlot baseball" in two words:

"Betty organization."

Let Atkins elaborate:

"Virtually all of our Connie Mack teams, for example, were comprised of high school squads which came into the summer program virtually intact from their prep schedules."

"As a result the sandlot managers found themselves blessed with better talent—because, you can believe me—we have some great schoolboy baseball around this area."

"These kids get some excellent coaches in (Please Turn Page)



IN CHARGE: Coach Herb Coleman (left) and Captain Frank Walsh of Our Lady of Sorrows High's football team. This is Coleman's first year as the head man at the Farmington school.



'DRIVE, DRIVE, DRIVE'—Line coach Stan Pyle backs the commands at Our Lady of Sorrows High's forwards go through a stiff session. Sorrows will be defending divisional champion in the Catholic League.

Sorrows Has The Backs, Needs Line To Repeat

Some four years ago, Bud Webster looked around for somebody to assist him with the coaching of Our Lady of Sorrows' High School football team.

He found a willing helper in Herb Coleman, the branch manager for a Detroit area safe company.

Coleman knew something about football. He had played three years of varsity ball with Notre Dame in the '40's and later served four seasons as an offensive center for the Baltimore Colts when they operated in the old American Conference.

What Coleman never dreamed was that the day would come when Webster would leave Sorrows and he (Coleman) would be asked to take over as head football coach.

And Coleman has accepted the challenge.

He steps in to replace Webster, who currently teaches in Ferndale and has no head-coaching assignment, after Sorrows' greatest season.

A year ago, Sorrows captured the sectional title, won in the Second Division semifinals; and then played Wayne St. Mary's for the Second Division title in the Catholic League. St. Mary's won in a thriller, 19-13.

Graduation has robbed Sorrows of its entire starting backfield, led by Cliff LaFond, who achieved Class C All-State honors.

But the line, offensively and defensively, is solid with veterans and Coleman has the entire No. 2 backfield available.

However, there's really not too much reason for gloom around the Farmington school.

"We should be tough on defense," says Coleman.

"We're tough."

How about the offense? "So much depends on the way out backfield shapes up."

Mike Birolot appears as the No. 1 quarterback with Tim LaFond, Mark Hartwig

and Jerry Horner in the other backs.

Tim is Cliff's brother and the last of a parade of LaFond brothers who have performed at Sorrows.

Most of them have been stars, too.

The line will be led by Frank Walsh, a 245-pound senior tackle who already has been besieged with "looks" from college coaches.

Two transfer students, the Valenti brothers, should help considerably. Mike Valenti is a guard, brother Joe an end who gained all-city honors a year ago in St. Louis, Mo.

Greg Main, a 210-pounder, gives Sorrows a giant at center. Mike Valenti's running mate at guard likely will be John Van Dusen, 6-3, 180 pounds.

Walsh will team with Bob Bratton, a transfer from Detroit Salaten High, while Bill Hartstock, a track speedster who was third in the state last spring in the Class C 440-yard dash is being groomed for the other end.

In the defensive department, Sorrows will have players like Barry Walsh, a 200-pound guard, and linebackers John Hughes, Mike Barnes and Rick Farron around to torment the opposition.

All of which indicates Sorrows should go places again in the Catholic League—IF the offensive backfield can jell.

Dad August Wins Title In Handball

Pop "showed up" on in the national three-wall handball tournament which ended Monday in Detroit.

Dr. Al August of Farmington Township shared the masters doubles title with Dr. John Scopia while August's son, Steve, had to settle for runner-up honors in the singles.

Scopia-August won over defending champion Gus Lewis and Ken Schneider of Chicago, 21-14, 21-19.

In singles August was beaten by Carl Oberst of New York, 21-19, 21-14.

Go Under Stairs To Install Bins

Don't waste the space under basement stairs. This can be a prime storage area.

The best way to handle it is with a series of pull-out storage files, or bins, which fit right in under the stairs.

Essentially the files are just boxes the width of one or two stair treads and as deep as the staircase fits into. Heights will vary, one being no more than a drawer and the tallest high enough to take kits and garden rakes.

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Everybody Returns for 1967 No Groans At Stevenson

Jack Reardon finds himself in a rare position—for a coach—as he reads the Stevenson high football team for its 1967 campaign.

Stevenson and Reardon didn't lose a player from last year.

Well, at least, nobody who figured prominently in Reardon's plans.

The reason for the lack of casualties is simple: Stevenson hasn't had a twelfth grade until this year.

All of which makes the Stevenson team rare in another sense.

Most of the boys now are playing together on the varsity for the third straight year.

One factor disappoints Reardon as he holds daily workouts:

"When I saw some of these boys as sophomores I visioned them really picking up a lot of weight by the time they became seniors."

"This, however, hasn't happened. Truthfully the boys as seniors aren't as big as we had expected. But this does

not mean we won't be showing up for any games."

Reardon sees the team improving on last year's record when Stevenson won two and lost six in its first crack at competition in the Interlocks Conference.

"There's no question our greater experience will help," says Reardon.

"There could be a psychology angle, too, as far as we are concerned."

"Until now we didn't have a twelfth grader, and all of our opponents did. Maybe our boys somehow might have sensed we just weren't in a class with rivals as long as we lacked seniors."

It goes without saying that Stevenson has veterans to stock every position.

"What's more," adds Reardon, "we have more than just one boy, so with the extra competition that

should help keep our boys on their toes, too."

Looking at the Stevenson backfield, Jerry Deiter has the inside track at quarterback. But Tom Parker is a junior with considerable potential.

Paul Pender, Dave Mastay and Dave Ragland figure to spread out the work at halfback, while it'll be Larry Olesky and Dan Keith operating from the fullback slot.

In the line, Dale Wendell, Craig London and Nick Exaros return at the ends.

Larry Meyers, Carl Holmer, Mark Beatty and Bud Danalis give Stevenson a fine quartet at tackle. Rick Kinicki, Stan Edwards and Chuck Soback should handle the guard assignments with Mark Roberts at center.

Reardon also hopes to work in some sophomores and juniors.

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