

Sports News

By George Maskin

Turning out of our subdivision the other day, we quickly came upon two baseball diamonds where youngsters for North Farmington's Little League baseball teams were working out.

There was quite a throng present — both players and adults, the latter present to manage and coach.

Trying to drive through the traffic precluded much of an opportunity to inspect closely what was going on — on the two diamonds.

Hopefully, the fathers who gathered to run and help with each team would retain the same enthusiasm they were showing on this, the first day of drills, into the hot days of late June and July when, perhaps their teams had become losers on the field.

Most important, however, one has to wish that the boys will learn something while they're out there as members of the Little League team.

WE'LL GRANT that few of the dads associated with the Little League program are teachers or professional coaches. Most never played on a baseball team, or any other team.

Yet, regardless of one's background, he can impart some knowledge and thus make the time spent by all concerned something valuable and something to be remembered.

If we've had a complaint about Little League baseball it is that the boys involved learn very little from the time a season begins until it finishes.

The boys who can't swing a bat in the spring, haven't improved to any degree in July.

Pitchers who struggle to get the ball over in April, seem to show little improvement in the later stages of the season.

Infielders who don't know how to handle themselves with a man on base in the spring, are just as lost when a rival gets aboard in July.

TRUE, WE CAN'T expect that the adults will solve all the problems. There isn't the time, among other things.

But there has to be something the fathers can pass along to the boys which will stand the kids in good stead.

If nothing else, the dads can instruct their charges to win and lose gracefully... to respect the umpire or umpires... to have respect for the fellows sitting in the opposing dugout.

In the latter category, the best way the dads can help is by setting an example themselves.

They don't have to go screaming toward an ump who has called what might appear a wrong play at second or a pitch a ball instead of a strike.

The pops should know better — and so should the moms — that when a game has ended and their team has lost, that the blame for the defeat shouldn't be slapped on the umpire.

In actuality, it may have been a decision made by a manager or a coach which had more to do with the defeat than any made by the umpire.

IF THE ADULTS can't respect umpires, how can they expect the youngsters to?

And to us, there's a more serious side to such a situation — beyond the confines of the athletic field.

Lack of respect for an official can produce a similar lack of respect for a police officer or a school teacher or the adult who lives next door. Or, maybe for you yourself, the boy's dad or mom.

There's so much that can be learned by a youngster playing baseball. It's up to those of us who have been around to do our parts.

I know that when we have umpired Little League games, we've tried to say things which might assist a boy.

Will you, as dads, and mothers, do the same? In the long run, you'll feel better about it... and so will your boys!

'76ers Aren't Finished Yet

There were those who figured the '76ers had had it when they lost the opener of their Eastern Division finals in the National Basketball Association.

But the '76ers rolled back to trounce Boston, 115-106, at Boston Wednesday and then on Thursday scored a 122-114 win in Philadelphia to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Game four will be played Sunday in Boston and will be on national TV with Channel 7 the Detroit outlet at 2 p.m. Meantime in the Western Division, Los Angeles made it two straight over San Francisco, 115-112.

THE '76ERS' bench spoiled the difference against Boston Wednesday as Matt Goukas, Bill Melchior, and Johnny Green came through in the second period when the '76ers boomed ahead by seven points and remained in command the rest of the way.

Wally Jones with 24 points topped the winners. The Thursday game saw Hal Greer tally 21 of his 31 points in the fourth period to ward off a Boston comeback which had cut the '76ers' lead to 104-103 with five minutes left to play.

VHL Chamberlain and Chet Walker each had 22 points for the winners while Jones had 20 and ex-Michigan State star Green 17.

John Havlicek was high for Boston in both games, getting 22 Wednesday and 27 Thursday.

LOS ANGELES had to overcome a 10-point deficit in the final few minutes to subdue San Francisco.

The Lakers' one-two punch of Elgin Baylor and Jerry West won too much for the Warriors. Each made 36 points.

Raiders Beaten In 2 Sports

It was a tough Thursday for North Farmington High in baseball and track.

Both Raider teams lost. In baseball Walled Lake trounced North Farmington, 11-1, by scoring eight times in the fourth inning. Wally Williams slammed two doubles and a single and John Burgess a homer, single and triple for the winners.

The North Farmington track team amassed only 38 points to winning Cranbrook's 70 and Walled Lake's 43 in a triangular meet.

John Mann accounted for the sole Raider first place as he won the high jump with an effort of six feet, two inches.

The spring off-campus course program of the Michigan State University Continuing Education Service lists 153 courses in 138 communities throughout the state.

Habs Bounce Bruins Out Of Puck Play

For nine years the Boston Bruins tried in vain to make the National Hockey League playoffs.

They finally qualified for the 1968 Stanley Cup competition, but they didn't last long. The Montreal Canadiens, the regular-season champs in 1967-68, spoiled the Bruins' bubble by ousting Boston in four straight.

After winning the first two at home, the Canadiens clipped the Bruins, 5-2, in Boston Tuesday and then followed with a 3-2 win Thursday to move into the Eastern Division final against the eventual winner between New York and Chicago.

MONTREAL RALLIED for both triumphs at Boston. In each case Ed Westfall put the Bruins on top early.

But in the Tuesday game, veteran John Beliveau tied it and three second-period goals

by Claude Frowest, Ralph Backstrom and John Ferguson iced matters.

On Thursday after Westfall scored, Claude LaRose hit twice for Montreal and then faced Backstrom for what proved the winning goal with 3:25 left to go.

Boston regained life when Charles Hodge tallied with 88 seconds left, but that was it for the Bruins.

The Rangers, after beating Chicago, 2-1, on Tuesday, dropped a 7-4 verdict at Chicago Thursday. Thus the Rangers enter Saturday's television game with a 2-1 edge.

DONNIE MARSHALL's goal with seven minutes left won for the Rangers, but on Thursday Chicago bounced back with five tallies in the third period. Stan Mikita and Pip Martin each had scores for the Hawks.

Rod Gilbert of New York

tallied twice within six seconds in the second period, just one second off the record set by Livonia's Norm Ullman when he played with Detroit against Chicago three years ago.

In the Western Division, St. Louis seized a 3-1 lead against Philadelphia by winning, 5-2, while Minnesota topped Los Angeles, 3-2, to even the set at two games apiece.

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