

'Our Old Men Can Do It Again!' -- Billy Martin

By W. W. EDGAR

It's a long way from April to October, but if you take the word of the Tiger officials it may not be too early to make your reservations now for the world series.

From Owner John E. Fetzer down to Vince Desmond, the traveling secretary, they voiced confidence of a Tiger pennant victory at the annual baseball party.

"I had hoped we would be able to show you the pictures of the Tigers in the world series," Fetzer told the gathering of several hundred fans, "but it just didn't happen that way. It will be a different story next time."

Most confident of all, however, was Billy Martin, who will be starting his third year as the field manager.

"We had the best defensive team in the league a year ago," he said. "We made fewer errors, both mentally and physically, and our 'old men' will be able to do it again."

"For the first time," he said, "we'll have the strength we need on the pitching staff. We will have four starters, with Mickey Lolich, Joe Coleman and Woodie Fryman certain of their jobs. A fourth we are sure to develop in spring camp."

Though he is a recent convert to the new designated hitter rule, Billy is certain it will help the Tigers. With fellows like Gates Brown, Frank Howard, Al Kaline and Duke Sims to be used in that role, Billy feels the Tigers will be stronger than ever.

And even Desmond went on record with the confident statement, "Our club now looks like the best in the league. Don't forget we barely missed last

fall and the fellows now are more determined than ever. They'll be hard to stop."

Listening to all these statements of confidence as the time comes to head south for training, Charlie Gehring, the Tigers all-time second baseman, confided, in a very low tone, "This is the time of year when we always win the pennant."

Charlie, a keen student of baseball, dropped the only skeptical note in the valley of predictions. "What these fellows forget," he said, "is that this new rule makes it a different game and there's no telling what the outcome will be until we see it in action."

"It looks to me as though they're changing the game to produce a lot of runs. When you can pick the spots for special hitters--and keep them in the game--it could change things more than you'd think."

"I'm going to wait and see before I make up my

mind whether I like the new rule.

Another who oozed confidence was Ray Lane who shared the radio booth with Ernie Harwell for a half dozen years.

Ray was forced to leave the radio assignment and devote his talents to being sports director of Channel 2 when Van Patrick, the veteran announcer, decided to curtail his activities and give up the late sports show.

"It was a difficult decision for me to make," Lane admitted, "because this looks like the year, and I would have enjoyed being with the team going into the series."

This is the note of optimism the Tigers will take with them on their annual public relations tour of the state next week--and then off to Lakeland to prepare for the long campaign to justify it!



AN EXPLANATION -- Billy Martin (left), manager of the Tigers, telling W. W. Edgar (right) at the Tigers baseball party why he wasn't available when Charlie Gehring (center) recommended him to the Tigers while both were serving at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. Billy already had agreed to play for Casey Stengel and the Yankees -- but he eventually got here.

Stevenson Climbing Back Into Cage Race

Livonia Stevenson climbed back into the Inter-Lakes basketball race with a 67-54 win over Waterford.

The Spartans stand 2-1 in league action and jump into the fire Friday against undefeated Pontiac Northern.

The Waterford victory marked the fourth straight for Coach George VanWagoner and his Spartans who sport a 7-3 mark overall and stand 4-0 in '73.

Dale Haberman popped in the opening bucket against Waterford and Stevenson was never to be headed, leading after one quarter, 23-11, and 42-24 at the half.

THE SPARTANS hit 10 of 19 from the floor in that opening

period, with Haberman collecting 11 of his game high 25 points.

Waterford came back to win the second half, 30-25, against Stevenson's three-quarter court press, but the damage already was done in the first half.

Stevenson hit 24 of 65 from the floor for 37 per cent and Waterford 18 of 54 for 33 per cent.

HABERMAN	collected	13	rebounds	and Larry Fisher	11,	with Stevenson	hauling	in	26
Stevenson	toppled	the	Northern	crew	in	both	meetings	last	year,
Stevenson	67	54	Waterford	67	54	67	54	67	54

NF Raiders Splash By Harrison

It went down to the final event. Whoever won the 400 yard freestyle relay would win the dual swim match.

North Farmington won the relay with the foursome of Ankele, Hatch, Gasser and Griswold in 3:35.4 and won the meet against city rival Farmington, Harrison, 48-47.

Harrison's 200 medley relay squad of Rado, Howell, Hornacek and Arnoldy established a school varsity record of 1:56.1 which also qualified the crew for the state meet.

North sported a double winner in John Griswold with individual firsts in the 200 and 400 freestyle as the Raiders pushed their team record to 7-2.

200 medley relay: 1 - Harrison (Hornacek, Arnoldy, Rado, Howell); 2 - North Farmington (Giswold, Gasser, Munro, Peterson); Time 1:56.1

400 freestyle: 1 - Griswold (NF); 2 - Rado (NF); 3 - DuShane (NF); Time 3:35.4

200 freestyle: 1 - Ankele (NF); 2 - Griswold (NF); 3 - Peterson (NF); Time 1:56.1

100 freestyle: 1 - Rado (NF); 2 - Ankele (NF); 3 - Hatch (NF); Time 1:29.4

400 freestyle: 1 - Griswold (NF); 2 - Arnoldy (NF); 3 - Peterson (NF); Time 4:15.2

100 backstroke: 1 - Smart (NF); 2 - Griswold (NF); 3 - DuShane (NF); Time 1:30.3

100 breaststroke: 1 - Peterson (NF); 2 - Hornacek (NF); 3 - Howell (NF); Time 1:57.9

400 freestyle relay: 1 - North Farmington (Ankele, Gasser, Hatch, Griswold); 2 - Harrison (Peterson, Plerson, Nowhorne, DuShane); Time 3:35.4

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Jackson Raceway ends its most successful winter campaign at Northville Downs Saturday with waging and attendance figures far ahead of those for a year ago.

President and General Manager Leon Slavin has nothing but smiles these nights as his Jackson-at-Northville meeting prepares to ring down the curtain on its 24-night campaign.

With just three nights remaining before the trotters and pacers open a 39-night Northville Downs campaign next Monday, latest statistics show Jackson has a nightly average handle of \$293,000 and an average turnstile count of 3,500. All of which means the track's business is up almost 25 per cent over 1972 and crowds 15 per cent.

Blessed with perfect weather conditions last week, Jackson ended with the best business of the winter. It was climaxed by the largest Saturday crowd in four years when 5,197 went through the gates and wagered a record \$153,833.

"We have had the best racing ever this winter," said Slavin in explaining the business surge. "Our weekend programs have been exceptionally good with the result we have been attracting record crowds and betting is at an all-time high for this time of the year."

This was substantiated Saturday when Bedford Joe, a six-year-old owned by Ed Weber of West Bloomfield, established himself as the top pacer at the meeting with a 2:04.4 clocking in the featured \$1,000 preferred pace.

The Jet, handled by Gordon Norris, was dropped into the No. 3 spot for the first lap. Then as the field entered the backstretch on the second trip, Norris sent The Jet around the outside and into the lead. He had a length on his six rivals on the final turn and coasted home by four lengths.

The 2:04.4 clocking was the second in as many starts for The Jet and definitely established the racing strip as one of the best all-weather tracks in the Midwest.

Bedford Jet will get another crack at his rivals Saturday on closing night when Racing Secretary Tom Smith has scheduled another \$1,000 race expected to draw Adakio, Knox Abbe, Action and Erlans Valley along with any other new stars that have checked in for the Northville Downs season.

WHEN NORTHVILLE Downs opens its 30th season Monday, a prominent figure who has participated in every opener thus far, will be among the missing for the first time.

He is Dr. Linwood Snow, track physician since the plant pioneered night, parimutuel betting on harness races back in 1944. "Doc," who admits to being more than 70, has been ailing for the past several months and decided to call it quits.

Dr. Snow was one of the guiding lights in the track operation in the pioneer days. He was president and principal stockholder in the Northville Driving Club, owner of the half-mile track, at the time and quickly saw the advantages of having the old Northville Fairgrounds busy most of the summer.

A former manager of the Michigan State Fair and a political leader, Dr. Snow had little trouble convincing members of his board of the wisdom in leasing the track to the Buffalo, N.Y. syndicate that wanted to hold night racing.

It was a smart decision, one that stockholders never regretted since the price of the shares skyrocketed and dividends over the years were astronomical.

"Doc" never lost his interest in the pacers and trotters and kept his position as track physician even though he officially retired from active practice several years ago.

He will be replaced by Dr. Eugene Capuzzi, also of Northville, but things won't be quite the same in the first aid station. "Doc" knew everyone and delighted in having them drop in on him during the season.

THIS 'N THAT... From Windsor Raceway comes word three drivers and trainers have been handed lengthy suspensions for inaccurate information pertaining to ownership and training of two horses, Shondo and Captain Car Lith.

Suspended for 30 days, ending Feb. 19, are Terry Butler of Clinton, Mich.; Tim Butler, of St. Clairsville, O.; and Ray Gauthier, of Plymouth, Mich.

Tim Butler and Gauthier were banned after a routine check by security officials uncovered drugs, syringes

Stevenson Swimmers Win, 48-47

Stevenson's Jon Hulet set a school record in the 100 yard butterfly as the Spartans splashed past Franklin in a dual swim meet, 48-47.

Hulet clocked the distance in 1:57.7.

50 freestyle: 1 - Saunders (SI); 2 - Konecny (SI); 3 - Foley (SI); Time 24.1

100 butterfly: 1 - Hulet (SI); 2 - Balmain (SI); 3 - Klotz (SI); Time 1:03.5

200 freestyle: 1 - Kenny (FI); 2 - Wright (FI); 3 - Buckler (SI); Time 4:05.6

100 backstroke: 1 - Koldofski (SI); 2 - Mauno (SI); 3 - DeBakson (FI); Time 1:17.0

400 freestyle relay: 1 - Franklin (Harrison, Foley, Balmain, Kenny); Time 3:27.1

Andover Muscles Way Past Trojans, 78-57

"They physically killed us," said Clarenceville basketball Coach Ralph Weddle after seeing his Trojans drop a 78-57 decision to Bloomfield Andover.

"It was a physical game. The referees let it go and our tallest, 6-2 Brian Luka, just couldn't keep up with their 6-8 Tom Fisher and 6-5 Jeff Stratton," added Weddle.

It was loss No. 9 against three wins and the Trojans now stand 0-5 in the Wayne-Oakland League.

ANDOVER LED after one quarter, 21-13, and 48-27 at the half. Each team scored 11 in the third quarter and 19 in the fourth, with the halftime margin of 21 points holding true.

Clarenceville came up with another one of its bad nights from the floor, hitting only 19 of 63 for 24 per cent while

Wrestlers Win, 41-9

Plymouth pushed its Suburban Eight wrestling mark to 3-0 with a 4-19 victory over Dearborn.

The Rocks stand 4-2 overall and travel to Belleville Thursday.

Meet results: 98-John Major (P) defeated Tom Vihalic (D), 6-2

100-Joe Wisniewski (D) defeated Carl Schulte (P), 16-0

112-Dave Dunce (P) pinned Pat Ryan (D), 9-8

110-Dave Edminster (P) defeated Paul Titman (P), 4-0

145-Ray Titman (D) defeated Steve Goodwin (P), 4-0

155-Scott Agnew (P) defeated John Hiron (D), 7-1

167-Roy Back (P) pinned Ron Jackson (D), 4-38

185-Larry Edge (P) defeated Ben Nelson (D), 8-2

HWY-Brian Campbell (P) pinned Mark Geiger (D), 3-08

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