Slumping Tigers Wonder What's Wrong

Maybe it was the heat, ... maybe itredoses, ...maybe a lot of other things. But the recent Detroit Tiger slump caused many to wonder: "What's Happened?" It all started two days after the All-Star game, Detroit went to Minnesota and lost two out of three 19 **1** 1

to Minnesota and lost two out of three. Before they finished a wes-tern trip, the Tigers had lost five out of eight. The Tigers came home to three gigantic crowds--all over so ooo You spot a group of youngsters-most look under 10-waiting to engage in a game. There's one adult in the throng. He's picking who'll play and who won't. This is Little League as ex-sports editor Ed Hayes says it should be played. The kids have their fun, they learn something, but there's little, if any pressure. And, imagine kids playing without any screaming parents!

three gigaitic crowds-all over 60,000. But the best the Tigers could do agains Blaitmore was bo win once in four starts--thanks to a dramatic two-out, two-run homer by rookin Tom Matchlek in the final lining of Fridays series oppore. That gave Detroit a 5-4 vic-fory. But the next day it was 5-3 for the Birds and then on Sunday, the Birds won, 5-3 and 4-1.

4-1

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game lead had shrunk to 5 1/2 games in leas than two weeks. While the Tigers were stag-gering, Baltimore and Cleve-land had become red hot. Two items seemed to perpise the Tiger pilot: 1.-The pitching had gone sour. Even Denny McLain couldrit win before the home folks, And the relief work of the team wawit what it had been earlier.

2--The Tigers weren't get-ting the big hits. Except for Matchick's blow, the Tigers were leaving too many of their makes about, and they of the makes about, and they of the time for a work on the road, "You couldn't suppet us to riaty as hot as we had been," one veteran said. "We still got a pretty cozy lead," another one said.

The Tigers think they'll get straightened out fairly soon, Manager Smithwashoping so, especially the pitching, Things-got to the point where he kept Joe Sparma out of his usual starting turn on Sunday. Sparma did work in relief--and well, too, He should be

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BUT AROUND the league, back in the rotation this week, the experts were feeling that maybe the American Leagues would still have a ding-dom race, reminiscent of lat sea race, reminiscent of lat sea son when the bettle went down hat day and the find ag with Deform a day and the find faster, game before Boston took the And, that's the way it's been hind, The Tigers think theyi ig so. The Matchick homer on Fri-day left over 53,000 fans limp, He had another in the first game Sunday.

* *** MATCHICK'S WORK over the MATCHICK'S WORK over the week obviously has won him the shortstop job over the weak-hitting Ray Oyler. The Tigers can afford to yield a little on fielding to get a little more

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But in the end Baltimore had some homer power, too, which made it possible for vic-tories in the last three games.

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screaming parents! LIKE UMPIRING behind Tommy Webster of Livonia Cardinal Decorating. You have a special feeling for Tommy. You remember him as a boy of maybe five or six when he lived behind you on Cheyenne in Detroit. For a while you lost track of Tommy when he moved up to Farmington. Then you caught him again as he starred in three sports for Our Lady of Sorrows. No finer gentleman anywhere than Tommy. The other evening when he thought we missed a perfect strike, he simply suffere." MR, Maskin, thas athere the the thetter swung merrity away, hitting only the air. LIKE A MOTHER walking up to you after a

LIKE A MOTHER walking up to you after a game at Ford Field. "Gee, you're the man I've been trying to catch up to for some time."

up to for some time." She identified herself as the mother of Greg Macy, ex-Bentley High star and now a two-sport performer that Ablon College. Somehow the publicity department at Ablon had overlooked the Greg Macy story this past year. Although he was only a freshman, Greg won himself a regular place on the baskethall team. He beat out the team's so-called star for a starting slot. Then Greg went out for baseball and helped the Britons capture the MIAA championship. He's back playing sandlot ball with Cardinal this summer.

this summ "And, mer. this summer. "And, would you know it?" his mom said. "He's working his way right out of the starting lineup."

. . LIKE THE VARIOUS wives and girl friends who come to games at Ford and other fields and keep the scorebook. It's not easy and it sometimes gets pretty uncomfortable out at Ford when the files start biling. Which reminds us to ask the city fathers: "How come you can't spray the area to make the baseball more enjoyable?"

the baseball more enjoyaou: **LIKE BASEBALL** managers James Leonard and Warren Pearce, who took over the Westland Pacers in the Greater Livonia Class A team, just when it appeared the team might be on its way out. The two have been together since 1956, man-aging teams in the Westland area. They have won Little League titles, crowns with girls' teams and with boy aggregations in the older age brackets. They haven't had a bed of roses with West-land, but they've kept the team going.



Manager mayo Smith allow his head as he took his Tigers on the road again for three games in Washington and three more in Baltimore.

WHAT HAD been a 9 1/2-

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Manager Mayo Smith shock

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