

Rare wedding is almost sports event of the decade

By LEONARD POGER

WESTLAND—There is a debate whether Tom Wilmot and Rebecca Bandy had the wedding of the year or just the sports event of the decade.

In either case, an estimated 250 persons jammed the Jaycee Park bleachers Monday afternoon to witness a rare type of wedding ceremony.

To capture the highlights: THE BRIDE arrived with her maid of honor by helicopter and walked to second base, third base and to home plate where the bridegroom was waiting with Wayne County Juvenile Judge James Lincoln.

The groom and his best man were dressed in the softball uniforms of Studio Lounge, team sponsors and a Westland tavern where the bride works. It was also the first meeting place for

the pair two years ago. After a five-minute ceremony, the bride walked to the pitcher's mound, where "Tom & Becky" was lettered with chalk lining, and threw three practice balls to her new husband at the plate.

Lincoln, who admitted that the ceremony was the most unusual of the more than 3,000 he has performed, served as home plate umpire.

The men's and women's teams sponsored by Studio Lounge and other well-wishers formed a reception line along the first base line and later enjoyed a pre-game drink of champagne in paper cups.

The teams formed an honor guard with their softball bats for the couple to walk under.

THE REASON for the softball field for the ceremony was that the couple

met at Studio Lounge after a softball game.

Monday was also the team's last regular season game before the playoffs start.

Mrs. Wilmot, dressed in white and carrying a parasol and a floral bouquet in the form of a softball, enjoyed the ceremony and the game afterwards.

"It was beautiful," she said during the reception at Studio Lounge—where else—"It was the best game of the year."

The ceremony provided a standard for other sports-minded couples. Besides the groom and best man wearing boutonnieres on their softball jerseys, the ceremony started promptly at the announced 5 p.m. time.

The ceremony was only five minutes and the rings were available for the bride and groom to slip on each other's finger.

Wilmot, 36, of 34525 Fountain Blvd., Westland, was forced to wear his ring on his baby finger because of an insect bite on his left hand prevented him from wearing it on the next finger.

When Lincoln pronounced the couple man and wife, Wilmot kissed his bride twice.

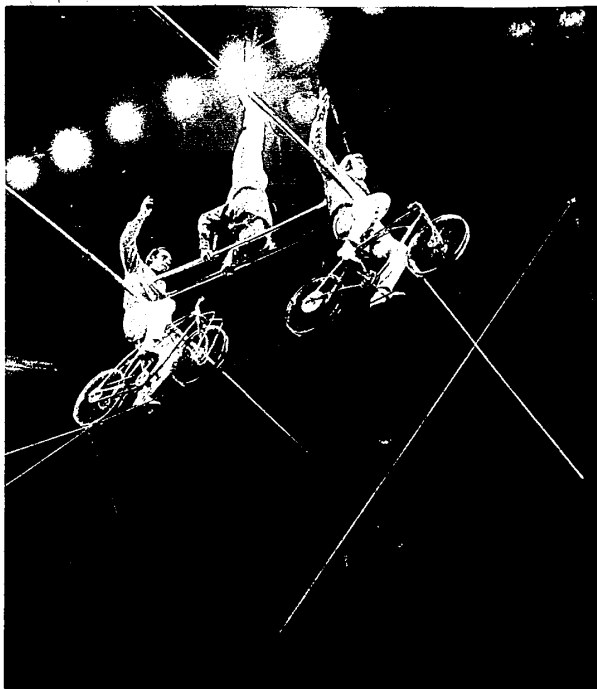
In the reception line, he also got to kiss the girls' softball team while the bride, 21, complained that she could only shake hands with them.

FOR THE sports minded who don't care for the romantic side of life, Studio Lounge beat Delucas 14-4.

How did Wilmot make out?

He had two triples, a double, single and six runs batted in on offense and several great catches in right-center field on defense.

Now that's a winning day for anyone.



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Dunn lists endorsements

Judge Richard D. Dunn, a candidate for one of five new seats on the Wayne County Circuit Court, has released a list of endorsements received.

Dunn, a 12-year veteran of municipal and district court service in Dearborn Heights, is one of 18 candidates for the five new circuit court seats. His campaign has carried him to a majority of the 37 communities in Wayne County.

Dunn says the 14th District Republican Committee, the Dearborn Heights and Allen Park Republican clubs and Grosse Pointe Republican Women's Club have endorsed his candidacy. Also pledging support to Dunn are

the 15th District Democratic Organization (which includes Westland, Garden City and Canton Township), and Democratic clubs from Westland, Wayne, All Park, Taylor, Lincoln Park and Dearborn Heights.

Labor endorsements for Dunn include the U.I.W., Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, Greater Detroit Building Trades Council, and Drive Organization of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Other endorsements have been given by the Detroit Police Officers Association, Wayne County Sheriffs Association, Wolverine and Dearborn Bar Associations and a "well qualified" from the Detroit Bar Association.

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