

By George Maskin

observing sports

Livonia, Redford Battle In Class A

The crush is about with us in sports. For the past couple of months, baseball has had the No. 1 spotlight to itself with golf, horse racing, tennis and a few track meets "cutting in."

Now comes football, set to unload its full punch, starting Friday night when the Green Bay Packers go against the College All Stars in Chicago. And three days later, the Detroit Lions start their exhibition grind with an invasion of Buffalo to meet the Bills.

When football on the pro level swings out, the college and high school brands can't be far behind. At the University of Michigan, the Wolverines begin work in three weeks, Michigan State and the preps a week later.

Also, before one knows it, the Red Wings and Pistons commence preparations. They'll be training side-by-side, the Wings at Port Huron and the Pistons down the road a few miles at Marysville.

WHILE ALL THE aforementioned will be transpiring, the 1968 Olympic Games will bust loose in full regalia in mid-October when the world's greatest amateur athletes assemble in Mexico City.

We should qualify the word "greatest." There is some doubt at the moment whether any of the Negro stars of the United States will strut their stuff.

The latest word is that they may skip the Games. Should that happen, those who elect not to perform will be the biggest losers.

At least, that's the way we see things; but one can't fully appreciate another man's thoughts on the same, ticklish subject.

THE BUMPING OF SPORTS means, too, that your televisions will be jammed up with sports.

Baseball will continue its wide variety of action. Football comes in with the All Star game and a series of exhibitions, including the Lions vs. Philadelphia in Mexico City, before the barrage of regular-season action begins.

There still are some big golf tournaments on the TV slate and the Olympics will offer several hours of what promises to be thrilling action—all in living color, too.

The Red Wings will be back to the tube along with games from Toronto and Montreal on Saturday nights.

The Pistons expect to do 25 games on TV, and for the first time, plan to show their games in color.

MEANTIME, THE CURTAIN has gone up for a long meeting of runners at the Detroit Race Course and this also is the opening weekend for the trotters at Hazel Park.

The DRC plans a bigger and richer parade of sports for this season, topped of course by the Michigan Mile (it's actually a mile and a quarter).

Speaking of the DRC, this has been a tough year on publicists at the track. Tommy Devine succumbed to surgery and passed away in June.

The other day, his able successor, Bill Kofender, was stricken and now is recovering from a stroke in the Detroit Osteopathic Hospital.

THE MONTH AHEAD promises some heated moments for the area's sandlot baseball players. The playoffs began this week and the two big prizes will be the state Class A and the state Free Press crowns.

A year ago, Redford Township entries dominated in both and the result was that Redford gained the national Class A world series finals while in Free Press play, the Townshipers won their way into the National Boys tournament at Altoona, Pa.

There'll be state meets for Connie Mack teams and for those in the lower brackets.

All of which is good for the sandlotters. Unlike some districts where the action stops for them in late July, Greater Livonia area teams go well into August.

It'll require a playoff to decide the third round winner in the Greater Livonia Class A baseball league.

Redford, winner of the first two rounds, finished all even with Livonia in the third go-around—each with a 9-1 record.

The one-game battle to determine the round victor will

be held this weekend, probably Sunday.

If Redford wins, the Townshipers qualify automatically for the district tournament for the right to advance into the state meet.

If Livonia takes the one game playoff, another playoff becomes necessary between Livonia and Redford to decide the

overall loop champ.

TWO OF the most exciting games of the season brought down the curtain on the regular-season schedule Monday night at Ford Field.

Livonia received a scare before besting Westland, 3-1. Then it was Redford's turn to quiver before the Townshipers

could walk off the diamond with a 4-3 decision over Plymouth. Livonia's three runs off Jerry Nezewski, working brilliantly for Westland, all were earned. Bulch Bowen scored in the first inning on a walk, stolen base, another stolen base and an error.

In the third after Jim Rose and Roger Frayer singled and

advanced on a sacrifice, both scored on a bounce to second, which was followed by a wild throw.

Singles by Hall, Miller and Leonard had given Westland a run in the second. But Westland saved its best shot until the final inning when three walks loaded the bases.

Two of the passes came off Bill Pelham and the third off Livonia ace Jay Schwalm. There was only one out.

But Schwalm got Nezewski on a pop foul and then fanned Tom Piscoplak for the final out.

IN THE LIVONIA-Plymouth struggle, Gary Schaefer three times delivered sacrifice flies that scored Sam Lamerato. The final time produced the winning run in the fifth.

The other Redford run was tallied in the fourth when Dick Johnson doubled home Dave Woloch.

Plymouth tallied in the first when Larry Wells drove in Jared Stevens, in the third when Brian Giles was hit by a pitch and came around on a stolen base and an error and in the fifth when John Bida singled and scored on another error.

Then in the seventh, two sin-

gles and intentional pass loaded the bases for Plymouth and brought in Rich Krumm to pinch in place of Chuck Viane.

Again there was one out. Krumm got one man on strikes then Wells blasted a liner to right which Mike Schaefer nailed for the third and final out of the evening.

Hank Knight hurled for the losers and deserved a better fate.

LIVONIA AND Redford both had won lopsided games Sunday. The Livonians crushed Dearborn Heights, 19-0, while Redford scaped Westland, 15-1.

Bill Ziegler, Livonia's winning pitcher, allowed only one hit while his mates collected 16, including three each by Frayer, Rose (who ended with a .430 batting average), Paul Portney and Ziegler himself.

Portney had two triples and Frayer one.

Tom Tanner hurled four innings and Larry Salci two for Redford against Westland. A triple by Don Fredericks accounted for the losers' lone run.

Lamerato, Terry Rothwell, Woloch and Mike Schaefer each drilled out two hits for Redford.



A RECORD opening-day crowd of 14,500 watches the thoroughbreds in the initial race at the Detroit Race Course. It was the largest gathering in DRC history and the mutual handle

soared to an all-time high opening day total of \$1,061,826. The 84-day meeting continues through Saturday, Nov. 2.

OBSERVER

Sports News

Record Crowd, Handle Mark DRC Opening

Exactly 14,500 fans participated in the Detroit Race Course's record opening Monday.

The highest mutual handle in opening day history, \$1,061,826, topped last year's high of \$1,013,281, by a better than \$46,000 margin.

A beautiful day also saw the inauguration of perfect betting in thoroughbred racing in Michigan.

The DRC's perfect race, the last one on the nine-race card, paid \$200.60 on the 6-8 combination to bettors selecting Pictorice (\$21.20) and Americanita in that order to finish one-two.

Jockey Larry Snyder got his DRC season off to a rousing start by winning both ends of the daily double-winning board Sun Jet (\$8.20) in the first race and Do It Shadow (\$11.40) in the second.

New jockey at the DRC, Richard Grubb, also picked up a pair of victories—the hard way.

He scored as a substitute rider in the fourth race on Encanto Gent (\$17.00) and then, in the featured Curling Up Handicap, brought home 7-1 shot Muzledick as a replacement rider again.

Muzledick paid \$16.80 to win the DRC's opening stakes offering, beating out the favored Champion Kid and Foreign Comet.

DRC officials expressed optimism following the day's program for continued success in the 84-day meeting. The Bully Boy Handicap, for a \$15,000 Added purse, will highlight Saturday's card at the DRC.

Troy Driver Wins Sports Car Event

Jeff Lance, of Troy, extended his winning streak to six in the Waterford Hills Sports Car Racing Club's mid-summer trophy races Sunday as veteran drivers dominated the competition.

Lance, piloting a Lotus 51 Formula car, dashed into a first-lap lead and never was headed as he outdistanced Paul Laine of Grand Rapids, who finished second, Bill Martin, of Detroit, was third.

Tom Abbott, of Farmington, continued his winning ways with a victory in the Formula Vee class. Art White, of Waterford, was the runner-up.

Jim Hagerty, of Pontiac, driving a Honda, was the champion in B-production. Doug Fletcher, of Warren, piloting a Sprint finished second.

Dan O'Connor, of Royal Oak, walked off with G-production honors in his Sprint, while Del Law, Ann Arbor, in a Spitfire and Conrad Mistak, Warren, driving an Alfa, took second and third, respectively.

Bernie Leckow continued his dominance of the Sedan-4 class. The Warren speedster defeated Scott Clawson, Dearborn.

Bill DeBoer, of Grand Rapids, took first place in Sedan-3 class with Art Supple. Dearborn Heights, second, Ray Wojcik, New Boston, was the winner in Sedan-2 class in his NSU. Beverly Schult of Plymouth, scored a win in Sedan-1.

Curtis Gahman, Royal Oak, was the winner in his Lotus Super Seven in D-production. Larry Clinegan won the E-production trophy with a victory over fellow townsman Garrett Van Camp of Farmington. Clinegan, in an MG-B, nipped Van Camp, driving a Porsche, on the last lap. Doug Miller, of Plymouth, finished third in E-production in his Porsche.

Coach Fires In Hole-In-One

Ken Dean, who coaches at North Farmington High, enjoyed the biggest moment that can come to a golfer Saturday when he scored the 15th hole at Bob O'Link.

He used a No. 4 iron to sink his tee shot on the 100-yard hole. It was Dean's first ace.

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