

Tigers' McLain Sure Bet For 30-Game Season

There can be little that's certain in life. The next-closest items have to be:

1 -- Denny McLain, the squire

of Farmington Township's Wood Creek Farms, will become major league baseball's first 30-game winner in 34 years.

2 -- His Detroit Tigers will

win the American League pennant. McLain will shoot for his 21st coonquet Wednesday night when the Tigers take on the

Washington Senators in Tiger Stadium. He never hurried more efficiently, nor did he ever have an easier time, than last Se-

ptember when McLain and the Tigers crushed the Baltimore Orioles, 2-0.

Thus McLain became the first hurler since 1920 to post 20

victories before the first of August. When Denny Dean won 30 in 1934 -- the last pitcher to achieve the mark -- No. 20

didn't come until Aug. 7. McLAIN ALLOWED the Birds three hits while his mates went on their wildest batting party

in several games, clouting out five homers. While Horton socked a pair, while Al Kaline, Don Wert and Dick McAuliffe each had one. Norm Cash, meanwhile, slogged out four hits in five trips to the plate.

The romp followed a 4-1 win over the Birds on Friday and gave the Tigers the series, 2-1, when Baltimore came back on Sunday to post a 5-1 verdict.

But the two victories all but

quieted down the Birds, and the Cleveland Indians, who have been threatening the Tigers since the All-Star game.

Clicking with the pressure on, the Tigers came home to face the New York Yankees with a 6 1/2-game lead.

"True, we were in a rut for a while," said Manager Mayo Smith, "but I think we have pulled out and should be in good shape the rest of the way."

"No, we don't have a chance to take it easy--not when we have to play Minnesota next weekend and then Cleveland comes to Detroit next Tuesday."

"But, if we can get over the next couple weeks in good shape, the schedule will favor us in the home stretch."

DARYL PATTERSON was the hero of the victory on Friday.

The Tigers were ahead, 2-0, in the sixth when Earl Wilson had to retire with an ailing knee. He left with Mark Belanger on base.

Jon Warden came in and finished the process of walking Frank Robinson. Boog Powell beat out a punt to jam the bases. There was nobody out.

Warden here gave way to Patterson who fanned the next three men and allowed only one hit in the final four innings of work to enable Wilson to even his record at 8-5.

McAuliffe drove in a run in the fifth and scored another in the eighth.

MICKEY LOICHL didn't last long on Sunday. He was chased early after Frank Robinson ended a two-run homer in the first inning.

The Tigers went scoreless until the ninth when Horton homered to spot Dave McNally's shutout. It was Horton's 28th of the season, two short of league leader Frank Howard of Washington.

The Tigers finish their series with the Heat Thursday, then play three games at Minnesota before returning home next Tuesday to meet Cleveland in a two-night doubleheader starting at 5:30 p.m.

Most Tigers Started Careers In 'Kid' Loops

Most of the Tigers currently on the active roster took part in one or more of the many amateur diamond programs on their way to the Big Time--but two of the pitchers made the grade without any such experience.

John Hiller, who is from Canada where other sports are more prominent, and Earl Wilson, who was more interested in other sports action as a youngster, have been pros only on the diamond.

Norm Cash and Tom Mat-

chick, along with Hiller and Wilson, did not play high school baseball. But Cash is one of five Tigers who were collegiate stars. The others are Bill Free-

man, Jim Northrup, Daryl Patterson and Joe Sparna.

FRED LASHER's high school experience was limited to one season, his senior year. The big right-hander was so good, however, that he was promptly signed to a pro contract.

Mickey Lolich has the widest background in amateur baseball among the Tigers. In addition to high school experience, he participated in Little League, Connie Mack, Babe Ruth and American Legion programs.

Twice he was in the Babe Ruth World Series and once in the American Legion World Series. This is the year he hopes to play in another, more important, World Series with the Tigers.

TIGERS WITH experience in various amateur baseball programs:

LITTLE LEAGUE -- Gatas Brown, Wayne Comer, Bill Freehan, Willie Horton, Mickey Lolich, Dick McAuliffe, Tom Mat-

chick, Jim Northrup, Daryl Patterson, Jim Price, Joe Sparna, Jim Rooker, Dick Trave-

ski.

PONY LEAGUE -- Comer, Northrup, Dennis Ribant, Sparna, Mickey Stanley, Trave-

ski.

BABE RUTH LEAGUE -- Horton, Lolich, Denny McLain, Mat-

chick, Northrup, Ribant, Rooker, Stanley.

CONNIE MACK LEAGUE -- Lolich.

AMERICAN LEGION -- Brown, Comer, Freehan, Al Kaline, Lolich, McAuliffe, Mat-

chick, Northrup, Ray Oyler, Price, Ribant, Sparna, Rooker.

Stanley, Travecki, Don Wert, John Wyatt.

HIGH SCHOOL -- Brown, Comer, Pat Dobson, Freehan, Horton, Kaline, Fred Lasher, Lolich, McAuliffe, McLain, Northrup, Patterson, Sparna.

COLLEGE -- Cash, Freehan, Northrup, Patterson, Sparna.

The Tiger Schedule

WEDNESDAY--Washington at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m. (WJR)

THURSDAY--Washington at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m. (WJR)

FRIDAY--At Minnesota, 9 p.m. (WJR)

SATURDAY--At Minnesota, 2:15 p.m. (Channel 2 and WJR)

SUNDAY--At Minnesota, 2:15 p.m. (Channel 2 and WJR)

MONDAY--No game scheduled.

TUESDAY--Cleveland at Tiger Stadium, 2 games, 5:30 p.m. (WJR)

WEDNESDAY--Cleveland at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m. (WJR)

Pistons List Record 38 Home Games In '69

The Detroit Pistons will play a record number of 38 home games at Cobo Arena during the 1968-69 National Basketball Association season.

The schedule, announced by General Manager Edwin Coll, also calls for two NBA doubleheader attractions. An appearance by the Harlem Globetrotters will be added later.

Last winter the Pistons booked only 32 home games and presented no twin bills.

"The tremendous response of our fans, who helped us set an attendance record last season, has prompted us to book more home dates than any other Eastern Division team," Coll said.

According to schedules released by other Eastern teams, the home cards will range from a high of 37 by New York to a low of 28 by Cleveland.

"We do have had numerous requests to stage some doubleheaders," Coll added. "So we are going along with the fans' wishes."

THE PISTONS will pry open their home play on Friday, Oct. 18, against the Boston Celtics in a resumption of the battle the two teams staged in last year's playoffs when the Pistons seized a 2-1 edge be-

fore Boston rolled back and went on to capture the world championship.

The home debut by the Pistons will come two days after the Pistons visit Baltimore for the season's official opener on Oct. 10.

The first doubleheader at Cobo Arena will match Detroit against Phoenix while Baltimore meets San Diego on Nov. 27.

On Feb. 20, the Pistons will play Atlanta (last year's St. Louis Hawks), while Baltimore takes on Phoenix.

The Pistons are carried for 11 Wednesdays and 11 Fridays at home, six Saturdays, five Sundays, three Thursdays and two Tuesdays.

ALL SUNDAY GAMES again will be played at 2 p.m.; so will a Saturday, Dec. 28 encounter with San Francisco.

The starting time for night games remains at 8 o'clock with the openers of the doubleheaders booked for 6:45 p.m.

With the expansion of the NBA to 14 teams, the league has adopted a new scheduling format. Basically each club will play all others six times each.

In four cases, there will be a seventh meeting to boost the overall schedule to 82 games, the same as last year.

M Slates Cage Clinics

The weather is warm, but the game of the cage is basketball, at least for next week at the University of Michigan.

Wolverine Coach Dave Strack will welcome Ann Arbor youngsters interested in basketball for a week-long clinic starting Monday morning.

THIS IS THE THIRD of three sports clinics being held on Michigan athletic facilities supervised by Wolverine coaches. The clinics are sponsored by the Ann Arbor Recreation Department.

More than 600 youngsters have participated in the basketball and track clinics, and following basketball there will be week-long activities in gymnastics and football.

Strack will be assisted by assistant coaches John Orr and George Pomey. The basketball clinic will be divided into three age groups (12-13, 14-15, 16-19).

Strack says the instruction will stress fundamental development in the basics of basketball on a level applicable to each age group. The Wolverine coach says, "Our goal is to give the boys a solid basketball foundation so they can then go out and practice on their own."

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Don Canham is pleased with the program. Canham said, "I am happy that so many youngsters are taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in sports and use Michigan's facilities, particularly the underprivileged children, many of whom are seeing our athletic fields for the first time."

Charles Oxley, the director of the Ann Arbor Recreation Department also has praise for the clinics.

Oxley said, "It is a rare privilege for these youngsters to get expert instruction from the outstanding men that make up Michigan's coaching staff."

Ohio-Owned Wins \$17,300 Michigan Derby



SLIDING INTO catcher Bill Fahey, of Redford, is Livonia's Bill McAlpine in this play at the plate during a game at Ford Field in Livonia.

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Boy Bye Andy, a four-year-old son of Bye Bye Byrd, came storming down the middle of the track in the drive to the wire to capture the \$17,300 Michigan Pacing Derby at Northville Downs.

Handled by Fritz Newhart, the four-year-old was kept well in the pack of 10 starters for three quarters of the mile and was fourth behind the leading Royalien, Brady Adios and Rusty C as the field turned into the stretch.

That's when Newhart turned Bye Bye Andy loose and he literally said by- and to all his rivals. The four-year-old was in front by a length with a hurling to go and widened the margin to four and a half at the finish.

Royalien, a six-year-old son of Royal I. Frisco from the Marion Beltz stable of Livonia, with Tom Wank in the sulky, hung on to take second in the last time of 2:02.3.

Bye Bye Andy, owned by Ann B. Michael of Bucyrus, O., and Mary Byrd Secret of Rochester, N.Y., was the 2-1 choice of the bettors and paid \$8.50. It was his sixth win in 14 starts and boosted his season earnings to more than \$17,000.

The Derby was the second and last of the rich early closing events at the 'Downs which ended its 54-night meeting Wednesday.

Aided by breaks by three of the five trotters, Good Pair's Billy, a seven-year-old owned by the Good Pair Farms of Caledonia, Mich., registered one of the biggest upsets of the Northville meeting Friday when he won the \$4,500 Open Handicap trot.

Going postward as the 7-1 longshot in the field of five, Good Pair's Billy, guided by Dick Palmer, used his No. 1 post position to take the lead from the starting gate.

Little Dominon, the heavily backed Baron of Amboy and Chancy Guy picked the first turn to go into breaks with the result that Good Pair's Billy and El Darno quickly opened up eight lengths.

Baron of Amboy, the odds-on favorite, came roaring back but Palmer kept Billy going at a steady gallop. El Darno handled by Howard Niles, made a bold bid in the stretch but couldn't catch up and Baron of Amboy ended in the closing strides to finish third.

Good Pair's Billy paid \$16.60. Boy Diller, a five-year-old Diller Hanover horse owned by Katherine Eastin of Wayne, and piloted by Chris Boring, became the second pacer in two weeks to upset the great Philip Brian, star of the Mijal Stable of Westland, and generally rated as the fastest and best in Michigan.

Short John, who was shipped in from Chicago and to test Philip, turned the trick a week ago. He was in Saturday's first and had ambitions of making it two in a row--but Boy Diller had different ideas and got the job done in fine style.

Strange enough, the crowd of 5,000 witnessed one of the oddest of harness racing when the field finished in the exact order of post positions. Boy Diller had No. 1, Eddie's Jet No. 2, General Knox No. 3, Short John No. 4, and Philip Brian No. 5 and that was the finish.

What's more, it was noted that the turbines are yet to win a race.

PITY THE SPONSORS of the \$100,000 Minnesota golf classic at St. Paul this weekend. Most of the big names aren't playing the Jack Nicklaus Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, Doug Sanders, Gary Player, Master champ Bob Goalby and Julius Boros, winner of last weekend's PGA, all are elsewhere.

All of which makes U.S. Open champ Lee Trevino and top money winner Tom Weiskopf the two favorites for the seventy-two hole test which ends Sunday.

On the 228-yard eighth hole, Trevino skied his tee shot into the cup for an ace. A stiff breeze helped. He scored a 34, two under par, for the nine.

CONTINUING ON THE subject of golf, Cass Jawor, the assistant pro at Glen Oaks in Farmington, teamed with Dennis McInerney to card a 198 to win the Michigan Pro-Am golf title.

BASKETBALL STAR Lew Alcindor, appearing on the Today program on NBC, was cut off after having said:

"Yeah, I live here, but it's not really my country."

He later declared:

"What I was trying to get across was that until things are on an equitable basis, this is not my country."

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