

# 1975 Tigers: Campbell's greatest challenge

By W.W. EDGAR

During his years as general manager of the Detroit Tigers Jim Campbell has made many bold moves. He fired Billy Martin as manager when he was at the peak of his popularity with the fans. He traded Denny McLain after his finest years with the team. He wouldn't renew Mayo Smith's contract after the pennant winning years. And he approved the shifting of Mickey Stanley, the regu-

lar center fielder, to shortstop to replace Ray Oyler for the 1968 world series. But, by his own admission, the greatest gamble he ever has taken is sending the "bunch of kids" that lost to the Baltimore Orioles, 10 to 0, in the season opener, into the long pennant race. No team ever has undergone such a shakeup in the major leagues. Only four experienced major league players were in the starting lineup.

Bill Freehan behind the plate, Joe Coleman on the mound, Aurelio Rodriguez on third base and Willie Horton as the designated hitter. "You never know what is going to happen when you deal with human flesh," Campbell confided before the game. "These kids have a lot to learn, and they'll start learning this afternoon when they face Jim Palmer, one of the best pitchers in the league, and the Orioles. "If they 'jell'—and I'm sure hoping

they do," Jim said, "we could have a very exciting summer." Remembered that he had brought in a group of young players from Syracuse of the International League in the mid-40's—the group that included Freehan, Horton, Stanley and Jim Northrup, Campbell nodded with a smile. "But they had a year or two more experience in the minor leagues than the group we have put there now."

More than that, too, 103 members of the media were on hand to follow the action. Of this group 77 were writers and 26 members of the TV and radio outlets. It was one of the biggest turn-outs for a regular game.

Many of them accompanied the team to New York where the 'kids' had a face to face confrontation with 'Catfish' Hunter and the New York Yankees for another lesson over the week-end.



W. W. EDGAR, ROVING EDITOR for the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, meets with former Detroit Tiger greats Charlie Gehringer and Al Kaline before the Tigers' opening game

last Thursday. Edgar continued his amazing string of Tiger home openers which he has witnessed, this game running the string to 52.

Asked why he waited until the start of this season to bring them in as a group, Jim replied: "They weren't quite ready last year until late in the fall, and I wanted them to have as much experience in the minors as possible." Even after the opening game had ended, with the Tigers suffering their worst opening day defeat since records were kept, he was not discouraged. "They didn't quit," he said. "They kept fighting until the last out. And, while they got only three hits, they didn't make an error under the pressure of opening the season."

"They're going to make mistakes," he went on, "but they are going to be exciting. It all depends on how quickly they 'jell'."

Another who looked at the 'new' Tigers was Charley Gehringer, the Hall of Famer who is considered the best second baseman of all-time.

"I know how those kids feel out there," he said. "I know how I felt when I came up in 1924. I hope they make it—but I think they still are a year away."

"One thing about them, they're all young together, and they can be molded into a machine together. That helps."

Proof that the eyes of the baseball world will be on the kids was furnished by the fact that more than 40,000 fans turned out for the opener.

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# Spring means Anders tourney for Farmington baseball teams

By TOM SCHRAM

Spring is in the air and for Observer & Eccentric area high school baseball teams that means one thing—the annual Les Anders tournament. Now in its 11th year, the Anders tournament has survived some tough odds to remain the showcase of area high school baseball. The tournament will have a new sponsor, the Livonia Rotary Club, which will present the games in cooperation with the Livonia Parks and Recreation Department. Eighteen of the area's best clubs will be on hand for the tournament with opening action slated today and Tuesday before the first regular round is played on Saturday, April 19. Included in this year's field is defending state Class A baseball champion, Livonia Churchill.

Livonia Stevenson and Redford

Thurston will kick off action this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. at Stevenson. Southfield-Lathrup and Wayne Memorial will go at it Tuesday in a 3:30 p.m. game at Wayne. THAT WILL CUT the field to 16 teams as quarterfinal action gets under way Saturday. "There have been a lot of people in the community who have really helped out on this tournament," said tourney director Dick DeVries. "And nobody yet has 'no' when I've asked them to do something." DeVries said that coaches will select the most valuable player in the tournament and medals will be given to individual members of the winning team. As always, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will provide the trophy for the winning team. No entry fee is charged to the teams and all other expenses will be

picked up by Rotary with the exception of programs which will be provided by Wonderland Center. Other members of the tournament committee include Frederick Dixon, Robert Griffin, Larry Joiner and Robert Silkaum. Here are the pairings for the first round of the Les Anders tournament to be played on Saturday, April 19: At Perin Field: FARMINGTON versus LIVONIA FRANKLIN, 10:30 a.m.; PLYMOUTH CANTON versus REDFORD UNION, 12:30 p.m.

At Namia Mills: THURSTON-STEVENSON versus WESTLAND JOHN GLENN, 10:30 a.m.; FARMINGTON HARRISON versus GARDEN CITY WEST, 12:30 p.m. At Haggerty Field: LATHRUP-WAYNE versus CLARENCEVILLE, 12:30 p.m.; CHURCHILL versus BENTLEY, 2:30 p.m. At Cass Bostons: NORTH FARMINGTON versus GARDEN CITY EAST, 10:30 a.m.; BISHOP BORGESS versus PLYMOUTH SALEM, 12:30 p.m.

# Another hockey honor for Southfield star

Michael Stusick of Southfield has really been piling up the hockey honors at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill. over the past two years. Stusick, a graduate of Detroit Benedictine High School, has been named to the All American College hockey team for 1975. This is the second time he has been selected. Last year, he was the first Forester in recent history to make the All American team as a sophomore.

Stusick is a versatile hockey player, playing both forward and defense. In addition to his All American status, he holds the title of Lake Forest's all-time leading scorer. This season, despite an injury midway through the year, he scored 30 goals and assisted on 18 more. His career record includes 85 goals and 54 assists for a total of 139 points. He was voted Most Valuable Player by his teammates during his sophomore year.

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