

Convention at Troy Hilton

Sports collectors show treasures

By ROSE WEBER

Understanding wives, patient grandmothers and cooperative sisters followed in the wake of young and not-so-young sports memorabilia collectors at the sixth annual Midwest Sports Collectors Convention held in the Troy Hilton Inn last weekend.

"My wife and daughter Linda help Chris and me add to our collection by going to garage sales," said George Hunter, a baseball card collector from Southfield.

Mrs. Hunter's biggest bargain was a stack of Bowman cards worth at least \$20 purchased for \$1.50. Hunter said both he and his son like to play ball, and the whole family goes to watch the Tigers. "But Chris is the real expert in the family. He knows all the facts about the players," he added.

BUYING, SELLING and trading was brisk in both ballrooms. Displays ranged from ball cards of the late 1800s to complete sets of the 1975 roster offered at prices from five cents to \$1 for single cards, with sets going at \$5 to \$80.

Rare cards such as the 1910 Honus Wagner are worth \$1,000.

John Metzger of Cincinnati, Ohio

took a break from his table to look for missing items in his personal collection.

"You have to have an understanding wife. Every once in a while she'll threaten to throw out the whole mess, but she never does," he said.

He admitted that his two sons were responsible for his interest in baseball cards.

"They got me hooked on them. But I think the collection has brought us closer together as they got older. At least when we have a discussion, it's about baseball and it's friendly," he said.

FOOTBALL CARDS, autographed footballs, baseballs and bats, authentic player uniform shirts and even 62,000 tickets from a World Series game that was never played were also on display.

Jerome Alongi of Du Quoin, Ill., was offering the tickets for sale as well as cards from his collection of 300,000.

Asked why he collects baseball cards, he answered with a big grin.

"Why collect anything? I'm just crazy about baseball, although people do say I'm just crazy."

Veteran collectors came with elaborate lists of their collections and card

numbers needed to fill out complete sets.

ONE YOUNG lady busily sorting through bottle caps with pictures of baseball players on them was too engrossed to look up. Her grandmother, reciting the needed names from a list, volunteered they were looking for caps for the grandfather who couldn't come.

And although there was a flurry of autograph seekers as Ralph Houk, manager of the Detroit Tigers, entered the room, it took several pleas for the tables to be covered before the avid collectors were ready to listen to the guest speaker.

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16 squads enter Festival tourney

The largest field ever will be taking to the diamonds July 25-27 in the seventh annual Farmington Founders' Festival Softball Tournament.

Sixteen Farmington clubs have entered the double-elimination tournament which runs through Sunday. The 31-game tourney will take place at Drake Park (Drake Road south of Grand River) and Knights of Columbus Field (Middle Belt Road between Grand River and Nine Mile).

Play begins Friday with Mid-E Rubber playing Mor's in a 6 p.m. game at Drake Park. Country Lane plays Village Inn at 7:10 p.m. Defending champion Len's Dry Wall plays Doobies at 8:20 p.m.

Play continues on Saturday with 10 games set for Drake and 10 scheduled for K of C Field. The championship game will be played Sunday at 3 p.m. at K of C Field.

South Farmington Ponies to play Franklin in tourney

South Farmington's Pony All-Star team will play Franklin on Thursday (July 24) in the first game of a double-elimination tournament. The game begins at 6 p.m. at Walled Lake Central High School.

In addition to South Farmington and Franklin, the Pony tournament field includes teams from Walled Lake and Garden City.

South Farmington's squad was selected from the six-team Pony League. South Farmington's starting lineup: pitcher Greg Herberholz, first baseman Dave Elwell, second baseman Felix Ruberg, shortstop Al Sahy, third baseman Joe Brown, left fielder Bob Micunek, center fielder Win Daum, right fielder Tim Pink, and catcher Chuck Calo.

The softball tournament has been a part of the Founders' Festival for seven of its 11 years. Farmington Jaycees won in 1969, and the Knights of Columbus took the trophy in 1970. Steinhaus won in 1971. Farmington Lins was the top team in 1972. Assammy won in 1973.

A total of 46 trophies will be awarded after the championship game on Sunday. There will be team first and second place and individual trophies, and a third-place team trophy.

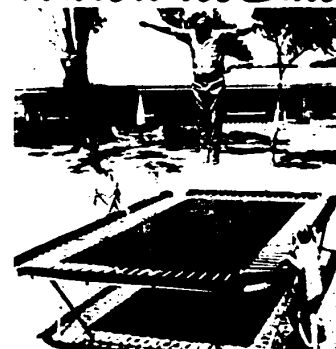
In addition, a most valuable performer award and 10 all-star awards will be given. The recipients will be selected by tournament director Tom Donoghue.

A case of beer, donated by area store owners, will be given to each tournament player who hits a home run.

Wally Christensen will manage the South Farmington team. Steve Hay, who managed the Pirates in the Pony League, will coach the All-Stars.

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