

In Little League state finals

Alpena nips Southfield National West

By TOM BAER

Fielding errors cost Southfield National West a Little League state tournament title and a chance to move on to the national tourney.

Manager Galen Kersten's Southfield squad, which earned a place in the state tournament by winning sectional and district crowns, had established itself as one of the best defensive teams around. But Alpena took advantage of five Southfield errors and stopped National West, 3-2, in the game which settled the state survey last Saturday at Ypsilanti's Harris Field.

As state champion, Alpena will represent Michigan in the Little League regional tournament this weekend at Baxter Springs, Kan.

Southfield started the state tournament by beating Essexville-Hampton 2-1 last Friday. Pitcher John Maroney was an individual standout. He worked the entire six innings, allowing just four hits and striking out four batters.

"He has a hard fastball and his control is excellent," Kersten said. "He's an all-around ball player—as far as

I'm concerned, our most valuable player."

Maroney also played a part in producing Southfield's run. The winners scored two runs in the fifth inning to erase a 1-0 Essexville lead. Mike Distel walked and went to second on a passed ball. Maroney then singled to knock in Distel. Maroney took second on the throw to the plate, and then advanced to third on another passed ball.

GALEN KERSTEN then smashed a liner to the shortstop. The ball went off his glove and into left field for a hit which drove in the eventual winning run.

Southfield's victory overshadowed a fine pitching performance by Essexville-Hampton's Dave Lebrun, who allowed just three hits and fanned seven Southfield batters. Tom Vermeesch's fourth-inning home run accounted for the losers' lone run.

Against Alpena, Southfield took a brief lead when Tom Maroney smacked a bases-empty homer in the second inning. In the third, John Fresco doubled, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Maroney's hard grounder.

"Maroney hit the ball to deep short," Kersten said. "The shortstop threw to home, but it was too late to get our runner."

Southfield pitcher Jim Ostrowski gave up 11 hits, struck out two and walked one. "He didn't pitch a bad game," Kersten said. "The support just wasn't there."

Alpena came back with a run in the third on two singles and two errors. Then the winners scored the tying and winning runs in the fifth inning when six men batted. Alpena scored

the runs on three singles and two errors.

In the top of the sixth, Southfield's Carrie Kennedy led off with a single, but the next three batters were easy outs and the game was over.

Alpena pitcher Jeff Klein gave Southfield just four hits, while striking out nine. "He pitched a real good game," Kersten said. "He mixed a fairly good fastball with a good fast curve, which he kept low."

The loss ended Southfield's tournament efforts with a 6-1 record. In seven tournament games, which include

the sectional and district, Southfield hit 10 home runs and compiled a team batting average of .344.

In a state tournament consolation game, Essexville-Hampton beat Wyoming-Pinery Park 4-3.

Kersten, a budget analyst at the General Motors Tech Center in Warren, said he was pleased with the turnout of Southfield fans at the state tournament.

"We had a lot of Southfield people who were not connected with baseball out at our games," he said. "They drove all the way out there both days to see our games."

Davis embarks

Navy Mess Management Specialist Third Class Frederick Davis, son of Dr. Frederick Davis of 32721 Grand River, Farmington, is on a Mediterranean tour aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy.

Davis and his shipmates are scheduled to visit Naples, Italy, and Barcelona, Rota and Palma, Spain.

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Love notes

By BOB LOVE

(Director of Tennis Education for The Racquet Club)

Doubles game is more fun



"People learning tennis should play singles."

This is one of the most incorrect statements that could be made about tennis. Beginners seldom have the skills, either physical or mental, to enjoy tennis while playing singles, and let's face it, if you aren't enjoying tennis, why play it?

Because the name of the game should be enjoyment of tennis, beginners should concentrate on doubles. The list below tells some of the many advantages of doubles over singles for the beginning player.

- Doubles is the game of a "lifetime" and is the style that most players will play for years. Learning doubles skills early will give you tools for pleasant tennis for decades.
- Doubles is highly social, and good doubles players will find themselves socially desirable, unless, of course, they are so competitive that no one wants to get on the court with them.
- There is less area to cover so beginners can focus on hitting the ball more than desperately dashing all over a singles court in pursuit of the lazy flier.
- You have a partner to blame for errors, but must also learn to share victory as well. He or she can also help pick up balls.

(The above four reasons are commonly given in doubles-versus-singles arguments, but don't really indicate the true value of playing doubles as part of an initial learning experience. The reasons below will give more insight to the doubles picture.)

- Doubles is very mental and there-

fore is easier for most people to learn. Singles is so dependent on running ability and endurance that frequently the mental part of the game is ignored by beginners. However, doubles is a game of placement and positioning which can be learned in a good clinic and by reasonable practice.

- Doubles gives players more strokes and will lead to a person becoming an all-around player far more rapidly than singles. Doubles players get opportunities to hit volleys, lobs, overhead smashes, and approach shots more often than singles where the emphasis is on serve, plus forehand and backhand drives.

Beginners will also learn the value of a well-placed, service return through doubles and that will make returning service in singles much easier.

Doubles players must temper their nerves so they can get to net and keep their opponents off of it. This is another carryover skill which enhances one's chances for success in singles.

While the ultimate tennis experience seems to be the one-on-one confrontation of singles, doubles can be the main source of tennis pleasure for players of all ages, plus give the additional benefits of developing the player's game to a level of totality.

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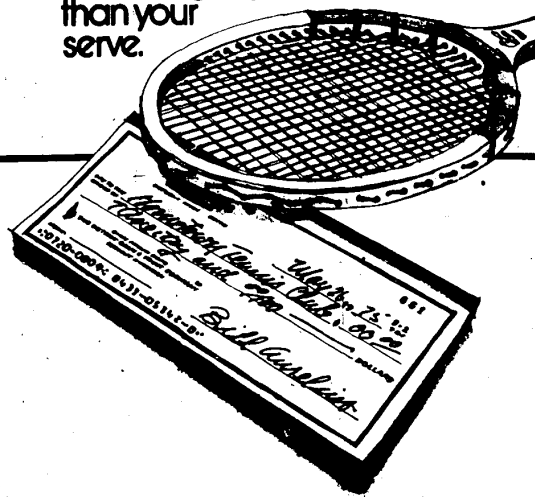
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