

Redford Union, Wayne Gain Tourney Finals

Redford Union or Wayne? That was the issue at stake Tuesday night when the two schools met in the finals of the fifth Les Anders Memorial baseball tournament at Ford Field in Livonia.

They were to have clashed Sunday, but rain dictated otherwise. The delay, in a sense, brought cheers to both teams... especially Redford Union which would

have had to play three times in 48 hours. REDFORD UNION won its way to the title game by winning over Plymouth, St. Agatha, Garden City East and finally over Bentley, 4-3, in a nine-inning semifinal duel.

Wayne turned back Farmington, then ousted Clarenceville and Franklin before going 10 innings on Saturday to turn back Garden City West, 5-4.

The journey, which started with a record field of 18 teams, is sponsored by the Livonia Optimist Club, the Livonia Recreation Department and the Observer Newspapers.

Here's the story of the way the semifinal action went:

Wayne 8, G.C. West 4

It took 10 innings (three over

the seven frames usually played by the group) before Wayne could oust Garden City West, 5-4.

Singles by Joe Roussel and Jim Creekmore, coupled with a fielder's choice, led to the deciding run after Garden City West had rallied to knot the score.

Wayne erupted for its first four runs in the fourth inning.

Meantime, West tallied in the fourth when Jerry LaCross was safe on an error and came home on Carl Dork's single.

Two more West runs were tallied in the fourth on a single by Al Poland, triple by LaCross and an error. In the fifth, a hit by Poland and an error enabled West to tie the score at 4-4.

Roger Housley hurtled the distance for Wayne while Steve

Pummill and Pat McHugh worked for the losers.

Redford Union 4, Bentley 3

A bitter duel between two of the arch rivals in Observer-land resulted in Redford Union squeaking past Bentley, 4-3, in the eighth inning. An error, giving Randy

Taylor life, started the eighth inning. Kirk Taylor was hit by a pitch and both Dale Bjerkie and Tim Fox were hit by a pitch to force in the winning run.

RU started Kirk Taylor, but at the end it was Bjerkie, the team's ace hurler, who came to the mound in the seventh and picked up his second victory in 24 hours and third in the journey. Bentley used Ken Ockerman

at the outset, but finished with its ace, Ken Gawtkowski. Redford Union scored in the first on a walk to Earl Thomas and an error and twice more in the seventh on an error, Bjerkie's walk and hits by Fox and Rob Nasdi.

BENTLEY RALLIED in the fifth when Ockerman doubled over Jim Erwin, who had walked, and taken second on Joe Berg's hit.

Then in the last of the seventh and trailing 3-1, Bentley got even when Paul Miller, Dave Rice and Bill Rice walked and Hugh Shannon knocked in two runs with a single.

Redford Union managed only three hits as Ockerman fanned 12 and Gawtkowski whiffed four more. Bentley was held to five hits with Taylor striking out 11 and Bjerkie three more.

Here's the way the quarter-

finals went:

Wayne 8, Franklin 3

Four runs in the third inning provided Wayne with enough of a cushion to turn back Franklin, 5-3. Three Franklin errors contributed to the Wayne uprising in which the "winners" managed only three hits.

Jim Green was the winning pitcher while the loss was tagged on Gary Minor.

Brad Lyons squeezed in Archie Lieb with the first Franklin run. The second resulted from a walk to Ray Lee and singles by Charles Wiggins and Mike Lindstrom.

Ron Opland doubled over Gary Allen, who was hit by a pitch, with the final Franklin run.

G.C. West 3, Riverside 2

Pat McHugh scattered three hits and fanned 11 as Garden City West squeezed out a 2-2 win over Riverside. West had to rally from a 2-0 deficit and finally won with a two-run outburst in the final inning.

An error giving Jerry LaCross life on a triple by Ray Hannon gave West its first run. Then in the final inning, with the chips down, Rick Roth walk-

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SLIDING ACROSS plate in a cloud of dust is Garden City West's Jerry LaCross during a tense moment in the quarter final round of the fifth Les Anders Memorial baseball tourney on Henry Ford Field in Livonia. (Observer photo by Doug Johnson).

There's Precedent Behind Smith Move

When Mayo Smith, manager of the Tigers switched Mickey Stanley from center field to shortstop permanently, after the experiment during the 1968 World Series, he had plenty of precedent for his move.

To many it seemed shocking that he should take a player who was generally considered the best centerfielder in baseball and move him to the key position in the infield. It was especially surprising that the switch was made at a time when the Tigers are defending the world championship.

But it isn't the first time the Tigers have switched a star at one position to another to solve the problem of getting more hitting power into the lineup.

Back in the days when Mickey Cochrane was piloting the "Bengals," he was faced with much the same type of problem—and he acted quicker than Mayo to make the most of the conditions.

IN THOSE DAYS Mickey was a fixture behind the plate. He was a fiery leader at the height of his career and it would have

been folly to ask him to give up the catching job to another. But right behind him was a big, square shouldered Indian named Rudy York, who was eager to become the Tiger catcher and fought Mickey for the job every inch of the way.

Rudy wasn't the greatest catcher in the league, but he was one of the most powerful players. Mickey wanted to make use of his power at the plate. So, he made a decision.

He sent Rudy to Milwaukee of the American Association, to learn how to play first base. "Learn to play first," Mickey told him, "and you can be the backup for Hank Greenberg."

It wasn't what the big Indian wanted. But he went.

He not only learned how to play first, but at the end of the season was named the most valuable player in the American Association.

HE WAS NOW ready—not only to be Greenberg's backup man, but Rudy was ready to fight Hank for the job.

And Cochrane knew he would have a problem on his hands

before he could have both Greenberg and Rudy in the lineup at the same time to take advantage of their power at the plate.

During the winter Cochrane and those who guided the destiny of the Tigers decided on a daring move.

Why not move Greenberg to the outfield and put Rudy on first?

The idea seemed fantastic. Greenberg was called in. The predicament was explained to him and it was pointed out that the move could possibly be of great benefit to the club.

"Fine," Greenberg answered, "but what about me—and my future. I know where I am going as a first baseman, but I won't know about the outfield."

"Make it worth my while to try," he told the late Walter O. Briggs, owner of the club at the time.

IT SO HAPPENED that Briggs was a gambler, too.

So, he rewarded Greenberg with a substantial raise to move to the outfield and York went to first base...but not before one of the sanest moments the Tigers ever experienced in spring training.

When York reported the next spring, Mickey contacted him and said, "Rudy, forget that first baseman's mitt for the time being and get an infielder's glove. We're going to try you at third base."

"Not me," Rudy answered, and went fishing for four days. When he returned Cochrane not only sent him to third base, but moved the flawless Charlie Gehringer from second base to short in an experiment.

It lasted only a few innings. Never was a player so much out of place as Gehringer at short—and several line drives almost killed York.

"Get out of there before you get killed," Cochrane yelled to York.

SO RUDY MOVED to first base, and Greenberg went to left field on a permanent basis. No player ever worked harder to make good than Greenberg, and he would shag flies long after the other players ended their practice for the day.

He never went back to first and the Tigers had full use of the double-barreled attack of Greenberg and York.

At the time the move seemed even more startling than the shifting of Mickey Stanley, the league's best center fielder, to shortstop to make the most of the talent available in defense of the American League pennant.

It was both a first -- and a last -- at Farmington High School.

The "first" was the initial track meet staged on the Falcons' new all-weather oval. The "last" was the swan song staged by the Williams twins -- Gary and Larry -- as they made their final appearances before the home folks winning ones despite the fact their team lost to North Farmington, 71-47. In the annual dual meet between the arch rivals.

Coach Jerry Young of Farmington had to have a few jumps in his throat as he saw the Williams boys bow out.

Larry won the two mile, Gary the mile.

THREE YEARS of brilliant track and cross country efforts were coming to an end by the two brothers.

They had made headlines with victory after victory. And there was more, too. When the Farmington coaches met last week to pick the outstanding senior graduating athlete, they named Larry Williams.

Larry had been named All-State twice in track and twice in cross country.

Gary wasn't far behind. He was an all-stater in the two sports a year ago.

Each had won twice in the later -- Lakes championships. Larry twice in a row took the two mile. Gary won the 880, then the mile.

LARRY WAS SECOND as a

junior and senior in the state Class A track meet's two-mile run.

Gary was runnerup a year ago in the mile.

They had run one-two two years running in the regional cross country championships and excelled in the state meet.

But they were more than just sparkling athletes at Farmington High.

"Both also were honor students," their proud coach declared. "They are members of the National Honor Society."

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SCORING FIRST RUN for Redford Union in the semi final game against Bentley is Neil Thomas. That's Bentley Catcher Bill Rice waiting for the ball which didn't arrive in time. RU toppled Bentley to gain the championship finale of the fifth annual Les Anders Memorial baseball tourney. (Observer photo by Doug Johnson).

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