

Observing Sports

By George Maskin

Fifth Anders Tournament Will Go Down As Best

It was the kind of a tournament which will ring in the memories of those who participated and watched for a long time.

We're referring to the fifth annual Les Anders Invitational baseball meet.

The games for the most part were thrillers. There were scores like 4-3, 2-1, 3-1, 2-0, 4-0.

Even the 7-5 finale in which Wayne downed Redford Union had its thrilling moments, especially in the last of the seventh when RU staged a rally that came within a whisker of knotting the score.

It was generally agreed the baseball surpassed anything the meet had seen in its previous four years.

For that you can take the word of scouts like the veteran, Louis D'Annunzio.

"We were thoroughly impressed," Louie told us after the meet was over. "We saw good pitching, good hitting and some dandy fielding most of the time."

ONE HAD TO NOTE, too, the tremendous turnout.

When Bentley played Stevenson there had to be 1,500 to 2,000 camped on the sidelines at Ford Field.

Even last Thursday, with the temperature down around 40, there was a huge gathering of robust fans for the title game.

It's this kind of action which proves that high school baseball isn't a dead sport. There's great interest in the game and a tourney like

the Anders class certainly helps to climax the season for the area's prep.

The Anders meet alone brings all the Observerland schools, plus a few of our neighbors, together.

All of the coaches, who entered teams expressed happiness in the way things went—and that held whether the teams won or lost.

A GREAT MANY folks deserve credit any time something goes in a big way.

We start with the coaches and the players for the jobs they turned in.

Then, how about a salute to Bob Schwarz of the Livonia Recreation Department for sweating out some hectic moments, cancelled by the rain.

The Livonia Optimists rate orchids for their part in the sponsorship and so do our bosses on the Observer Newspapers who share with us such a profound interest in schoolboy sports.

Last, but not least, all the fans must come in for a pat on the back.

As noted, they turned out in great numbers and certainly got their "money's worth."

Another year most assuredly will bring another tourney and no doubt the entry will soar to the 20 mark with Churchill of Livonia joining the holdover entries.

Perhaps a few other schools will get in; too, and within a couple of years there'll be new teams from Plymouth, Farmington and Livonia to bid for honors.

Wayne Champ In Anders Baseball Meet

For the first time since the Les Anders Invitational Memorial baseball tournament was established five years ago, as "outsider" has walked away with the crown.

During the first four years, as an overrated school won the honors.

But Tuesday at Ford Field in Livonia it was Wayne over Redford Union, 7-5, in the championship game.

Thus Wayne won the right to represent the Livonia tourney in a Southeastern Michigan regional against champs from Pontiac, Wyandotte and Utica at Pontiac Saturday.

Victories over Farmington, Claremontville, Franklin and Garden City West preceded the triumph over Redford Union in Wayne's parade to the crown.

Redford Union had downed Plymouth, St. Agatha, Garden City East and Bentley to gain the title game.

"We had turned in so many splendid efforts in the field and it was just a shame that we should encounter such troubles in a game that was so important."

NONETHELESS, Redford Union didn't go down without giving its all.

The Townshippers trailed, 7-0, entering the last inning. They not only scored three times, but had the tying runs aboard when the final two outs were made.

In winning, Wayne carried off the title trophy while Redford Union had to settle for the runner-up award made possible by

Green of Wayne allowed one hit while tossing three straight goose eggs.

THE TIDE CHANGED in the fourth inning.

Two singles and a sacrifice gave Wayne one run, but Redford Union got it back when Kirk Taylor was safe on an error and eventually scored on

Jerry Cook's hit.

Wayne went ahead, 3-1, in the fifth without the benefit of a hit. A pop fly fell back of the pitcher's mound. Then came a walk and with an infield out, Wayne had runners on second and third with two out.

Then came the boulder to second and a high throw to Bjerke. The umpire ruled Bjerke, covering first, didn't touch the base. It was on this play two runs scored as an unhappy Bjerke stopped to say a word or two to the ump.

A HIT BY Bill Booker and a stolen base helped Redford Union get another run in the fifth, but Wayne notched three runs on an hit in the sixth and one more in the seventh without a safety.

Legion Opener Booked Friday In Farmington

The curtain goes up Friday on the 18th District American Legion baseball season with 11 teams, including Farmington Groves, Walker Post 346, making up the field.

This represents a three-team boost over a year ago with Pontiac, Madison Heights and Waterford Mott the new entries.

The holdovers are Farmington, Southfield, Clarkston, Waterford, Walled Lake, Berkley, Milford and Troy.

Harry Kujawa again will manage the Farmington entry.



ANDERS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT championship trophy is presented to Wayne Coach Gary Green by Robert Hatcher of the Livonia Optimist Club. The group includes from left: Asst Coach James Chronowski, Green, John Smith, Merle Collins, Hatcher, Joe Russell (hidden by trophy), Joe Knight, Roger Housley, Gary Truskowski and Bob Snyder (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

REDFORD UNION managed five hits, while Bjerke ended a sensational prep career in which he won 28 games, by allowing only three hits.

But his team's generosity was too much in the end.

Redford Union was charged with six errors, plus three of the type that don't show in the scorebooks, Wayne, in contrast, made only two miscues.

The tourney attracted a record field of 19 teams and produced the closest and the best games since the meet was founded.

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HE HAS SEVEN returns back. They are:

- 1-- Doug Drapalski, who pitches, catches and plays the outfield. He has been attending Western Michigan University.
- 2-- Terry Seever, infielder, from Oakland University.
- 3-- Mark Kujawa, catcher-infielder from North Farmington High.
- 4-- John Thomas, second baseman from North Farmington High.
- 5-- Ron Weber, Pitcher-outfielder from North Farmington.
- 6-- Ross Patton, pitcher from Our Lady of Sorrows High.
- 7-- Bob Thelsen, pitcher from Our Lady of Sorrows.

Three new additions are expected to be play Hazelroth, a first baseman from North Farmington; Pat Hickey, who played third for the Raiders, and Frank

Upset By Groves In Finals

Title For Thurston

Co-champions! That's the way Thurston High's baseball team ended the 1969 Northwest Suburban League race.

Finishing 10 days after everybody else because of rain-outs, Thurston dropped its final to Groves, 4-3, and thus missed a chance to wind up as the outright king.

Thurston posted a record of 8-2 in the league and stood 17-3 overall.

Tim Carr, Thurston's ace pitcher, was spotted a 3-0 lead, but Groves came back to pull out the issue.

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JC Track Meet Set

The Farmington Jaycees will sponsor an area-wide junior championship track and field meet for boys and girls, ranging in ages from 8-18 June 21 at the Farmington High School all-weather track.

Entries may be obtained at all area schools. There will be competition in five age brackets for the boys and girls: 8-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18.

Medallists will be awarded for the first three places.

Farmington winners will qualify for the state meet in Detroit on July 19.

The Pee Wee and Junior Divisions will compete in the morning from 9-11:30 a.m., The Prep, Intermediate and Senior Divisions will take over from 1:30 p.m.

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