

Class A Title Going Down To Final Wire

Who says pitchers can't hit? Take Jay Schwalm of Livonia Hubert Realty's powerful Class A baseball team.

Schwalm was the top pitcher in the Livonia "A" circuit last season.

He hasn't lost any of his mound stints this year. He has a record to date of five victories and one tie in six decisions.

... an earned run average of 1.99 and a total of 57 strikeouts in 57 innings. This kind of work gives Schwalm plenty of reason to do some bragging about his hurling. But, he'd rather talk about what he's done on the plate for Hubert this season.

And that's being something, too. He singled in one of the Hubert runs Wednesday night in a 2-1 victory over Village Ramblers.

THE RBI lifted his season's total to 28, tops on the team, and his batting average to .290. His winning blast came in the sixth inning off Paul Knechtges after Paul Forney and Jeff Peck had singled to account for

one run. Al Krumm emerged as the winner on a three-hitter, while tanning six, to hike Hubert's overall record for the season to 22-3.

The team stands 11-2 in the second half campaign which ends Monday night, and it appears the race will go right down to the wire before either Hubert or Redford Township

emerges as the second half kings. HUBERT has two games left -- meeting Village Ramblers Sunday at 6 p.m. and then Plymouth Monday at 6 at Ford Field.

Meantime, Redford, which has a 10-1 mark, was to play off a postponed game with Plymouth Saturday, then face Northville at Thurston Sunday at 3:30 before closing the schedule Monday facing Village Ramblers at Ford at 8:30.

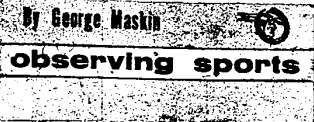
If Redford and Hubert tie for the second-half title, they'll have to play to settle the flap.

Should Redford cop the second-half crown, then it'll engage Hubert in a best-of-three series starting Wednesday night at Ford for the right to advance into the state district at Pontiac on Aug. 21.

IF HUBERT takes the second-half title, no playoff for the Livonia crown would be necessary, and Hubert merely would stand by and wait for Aug. 21 to roll around.

Schwalm and Bill Ziegler have accounted for half the Hubert victories between them. Ziegler has a 6-0 mark and a fantastic earned run average of 0.42. He has fanned 76 in 49 innings and walked only 16.

Catcher Gary Krupinski leads the Hubert team in hitting with a .398 average. Jeff Peck is at .333, Chip Rose at .329 and Paul Portney at .328.



Let's take a few seconds to salute the unsung heroes of amateur baseball in Observerland. Why not a flock of orchids for the good gentlemen who cough up the dollars needed to send forth teams in good-looking uniforms...

As you sit and watch your favorite teams play, you probably don't think much about Mr. Sponsor. Many, for example, don't realize that teams like Farmington and North Farmington highs become Chesley Industries and Coleman Moss, respectively, in the summer months...

That Stevenson High becomes both Hubert Realty and the Spartans... that Redford turns into Warholak Uniroyal Title... that Franklin turns into Phillippi Service... Bentley into Allen Fence... Plymouth into the Plymouth Elks... Livonia's Free Press team into Cardinal Decorating.

SOME SPONSORS fork out money for several teams. Take Livonia realtor John Hubert. He makes it possible for three teams to operate during the summer, and two have done right well this year.

There's his Class A team, which won the first-half title in the Greater Livonia League... then his Connie Mack team which won the American Division crown and this weekend is at Trenton engaging in the district tournament.

"Sponsors are very important to sandlot baseball," says Bob Schwarcz, who runs the athletic end of the huge Livonia Recreation Department program.

"Without somebody to pay the bills for uniforms, equipment, etc., we'd never be able to put on the vast baseball and softball program we do each summer." "The same holds true in Redford Township, Plymouth, Farmington and all other communities.

"The recreation department can provide fields... maybe some of the umpires. But, by and large, it takes sponsors for individual teams to absorb most of the load."

SOME SPONSORS are more generous than others. Some care not to let their identity be known. A few look at it from a commercial standpoint... "how much publicity can we get for the money we spend?"

But most sponsors are citizens with a heart... sometimes even women... who understand the importance of summer baseball programs... and activities during other times of the year, especially, those youngsters not involved in schoolboy play.

One such man is Mike Adray of nearby Dearborn. Mike has had as many as 25 teams take off one-time during the summer.

"I love sports," says Mike, who operates an appliance store in Dearborn. "I guess I have a soft heart, too. When a guy comes and says he has a bunch of kids who want to play ball or hockey and need a sponsor... well, there I am, forking over some money so they can get going."

MEN LIKE ADRAY and John Hubert well realize that the cost of sponsoring a team has gone UP like everything else.

"Heck," Adray was saying the other evening, "we used to put up \$100 and that would carry a team through a season."

It's so much different now. The average sponsor of a Connie Mack team in Greater Livonia lays out from \$350 to \$500 for one season. If his team happens to be a champion... well, the tag increases.

For Class A teams, the price is higher yet. But for a Little League team, well, it's a little less.

Although the number of sponsors has jumped in recent years, there still aren't enough to go around. Remember the Redford Township-Free Press team of a year ago? ... the team that won the Livonia League and the state titles and then was runnerup for the national crown?

The Redford boys lacked a sponsor. Manager Bob Atkins laid out quite a chunk for new uniforms and the boys had to help him raise money to get even... if he ever did.

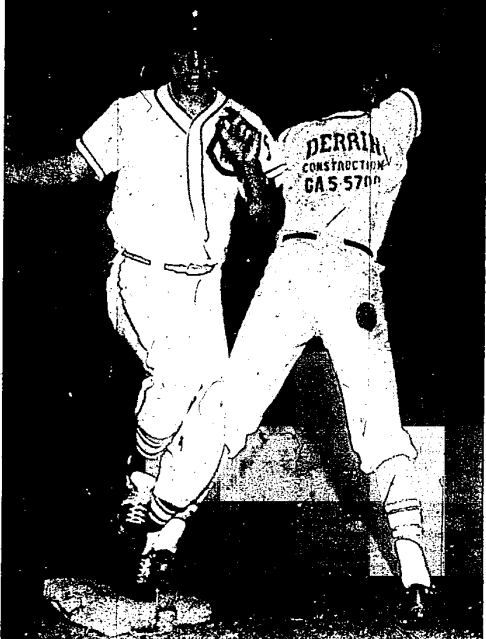
But in the main, the Phillips, the Chesleys, the Cardinal Decoratings, the Big Boys... the Men Fences, the Hubert Realties and the Warholaks are helping to give us a classy amateur baseball program... one of Michigan's best. Gentlemen, for the sandlotters and their fans -- thank you, very much.

Collegians Land Stars

Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington has plucked two of the state's top high school golfers for next season--Richard Kalls of Pontiac and Pat Walters of Southfield.

In the recent National Junior College tournament in New Mexico.

Coach Dick Robinson will have virtually his entire team back, including Mike Sauer from Farmington.



SAFE AT FIRST -- Dave Lind, Livonia Cardinals right fielder, safe at first on a close play Livonia Astros first baseman is Kevin Nelson. (Observer photo)

He's A Champ-- Patience Pays For Plymouth

A winner -- as a player and a manager. Meet Redford Township's Leland Berke, who has been identified with more championships in his few years in baseball than a dozen others usually enjoy in a lifetime.

Leland in the last few days has celebrated participating on two pennant winners. He plays on the Redford Free Press League team which took the Greater Livonia title in two straight over Northville in a playoff.

Berke also managed the Everett Delivery team from Redford Township in the Greater Livonia Class E League for boys of junior high school age.

EVERETT BEAT the Livonia Aces, 6-5, Wednesday night to take the American League "E" title. He plays on the Redford Free Press League team which took the Greater Livonia title in two straight over Northville in a playoff.

Berke also managed the Everett Delivery team from Redford Township in the Greater Livonia Class E League for boys of junior high school age.

He played on three Free Press state champs and last year's team which captured the national final at Johnston, Pa.

He now attends Eastern Michigan University and played on Eastern's strong team last spring.

Berke used four pitchers to beat the Livonia Aces. He started with Keith Everitt, went to Dean Naon, then Chuck Pearce and finished with Dave Martin. The game was decided in the seventh inning when Rob Campbell walked, stole second and third and scored on a sacrifice fly by Martin. However, a fine throw by Everitt in the bottom of the seventh cut down the using run at the plate. Everitt and Mark Durance each had two hits for the winners. Berke's brother Dale starred at Redford Union last spring and was voted on the All-Observer area team as a pitcher. Dale is the top pitcher on the current Free Press team. Dale also must decide within the next week where he'll attend college. He's debating between Eastern Michigan and the University of Detroit.

Perfect Victory Brings Crown To Northville

It was too much to expect... a championship game decided by a perfect pitching performance. But that's the way it was when Northville Reef blanked Big Boy of Redford, 2-0, for the National League crown in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack League.

As a result Northville earned its way to the district meet at Ann Arbor, while Hubert Realty of Livonia represented the Livonia circuit's American League in the district this weekend at Trenton.

BUT THAT perfect game! Take a bow, Fred Holdsworth, who is following in his father's footsteps. His dad once pitched for teams like Wayne State University. No doubt, pop has had a few tips for son along the way. But young Fred never was more brilliant than against Big Boy.

NORTHVILLE HELD a game edge over Big Boy entering the game. A Big Boy win would have tied the race and forced a playoff. But Holdsworth made certain Northville Reef never had a chance to do anything. Twenty-one batters stepped to the plate for Big Boy. Twenty-one made out... eight on strikes.

"I never saw a pitching job like that by a boy of high school age," said manager Art Adams of Northville. Losing manager Emil Majeski agreed. "It was something the way that kid pitched," said Majeski, who coaches the Thurston High team during the spring.

JOHN MUNSON, who hurried for the losers, pitched well enough to win 98 per cent of the time. He made the mistake of serving up a home run to Pat Cayley for one run. Mills doubled in the fielder's choice and passed ball led to the second.

Pony Leaguers Lose In Tourney

North Farmington's Pony League All Stars had their problems in district playoffs. After being Southgate's best, 9-5, in the first game, in successive starts they were beaten by Southgate, 4-3 and 2-0.

JEFF KALLGREN slapped a two-run homer in the first inning while Wally Kraft hit three slugs in North Farmington's lone victory as John Cullen went the rounds.

ONCE MORE, North Farmington had the hitting edge, 5-2. Southfield knocked out North Farmington's Pony Americans, 5-0 and 2-1. Jeff Myers, the losing pitcher in the second game, fanned 11 and allowed only three hits in the second game.

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By MARVIN KEMP

Fence posts will rot out in time, no matter how they are treated or what kind of material they are put into. The use of creosote, other wood preservatives, etc., will delay the rotting to some degree. If it were possible to use fence posts that had been immersed for long periods in tanks of hot creosote, for example, allowing it to penetrate into the deep interior of the posts, they could be expected to last for a great many years. Some fences stay in good shape for 20 years. You just can't say whether it's best to put them in the ground or in concrete.

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HELPFUL HINT:

One way to reduce moisture penetrating in setting up fence posts is to slant the concrete down from the post to the ground.

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