

Long Course meet

AAU swimmers set state final

By TOM BAER

The last weekend in July should be profitable for swimmers in Southfield and enjoyable for amateur swimmers from throughout Michigan.

The Michigan Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Long Course swimming state championships will be held from July 30 to Aug. 1 in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department's Civic Center Pool. And, if last year's meet is any indication, hotel and motel accommodations in the vicinity could be hard to find.

Last year's meet drew more than 3,000 swimmers from 90 state AAU clubs. This year, the Long Course meet should draw at least as many participants, according to John Lindgren, vice president of the host Southfield Swim Club and entry chairman for the meet.

"Participants come from all over the state for this meet," Lindgren said. "It's one of the few long course meets where the best amateur swimmers from Michigan can compete against each other."

"It's a good meet because it has the best swimmers. It's required that the swimmers be the best in the state. They have to meet national standard times, and those times are some of the fastest around."

The Royal Oak Penguins coached by Dave Segrave, look as a possibility to win the meet team title, some area coaches believe. Another possibility is the Ann Arbor Swim Club, which won last year's meet with 738 points. The Southfield Swim Club, coached by Bob Harding, isn't expected to be a threat this year.

ONE OUTSTANDING area swimmer, Jeff Lusky of the Birmingham Swim Club, will host his Long Course participation to Friday, July 28, only. That's because the team has entered the Michigan Interclub Championships at Plum Hollow on the same weekend.

In all, 114 separate events will be held for boys and girls in four age groups — 10 years and under, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-18.

On Friday (July 28), warmups for 13-14 and 15-18 swimmers will begin at 8 a.m. Preliminary heats for those age groups begin at 9 a.m. The 10-and-under and the 11-12 swimmers will warmup at 1 p.m. Finals for all age groups will begin at 7 p.m. The same times will be Saturday (July 31).

On Sunday (Aug. 1), the same morning times are in force. But the afternoon starting times after 10-and-under and 11-12 swimmers warmup at 2 p.m. and begin the events at 3 p.m. and begin the finals at 7 p.m.

Caesars '9' splits

By TOM BAER

Farmington Little Caesars is destined to finish in last place in its rookie season in the tough six-team Livonia Adray League. But manager John Stinson's squad's strength was showing last Sunday in the second game of a double header against first-place Ann Arbor.

Caesars pitcher Bill Mathews threw a three-hitter, while teammate Ron Silbertsen went three for three and knocked in four runs to lead Farmington to a 7-2 victory over Ann Arbor. Farmington dropped the first game, 12-2. The double header split Stinson's team with a 5-16 Adray record.

Mathews, an outstanding right-handed pitcher on Clarion High's Class A state championship team last spring, was just about uncatchable against Ann Arbor. He fanned eight and walked only two.

"In his last two starts, the opposition has managed just as his off him, so he's been pitching real well," Stinson said. "Mathews is a baseball star during his high school days at Southfield-Lathrup. Right now, he's the team's run producer."

A shortstop and leadoff batter, Silbertsen opened the game by blasting a first-inning home run. Randy Wroten also homered in the first to get Caesars off to a flying start.

Ann Arbor used the game as two-all, but Caesars went ahead to stay with a run in the third. Silbertsen walked, took second on Sherman Benson's sacrifice and scored on Wroten's double.

CAESARS ADDED another run in the fourth when Gus Patek walked and scored on Silbertsen's double. In the sixth, Gus Edgeman and Gus Patek drove walks, and then pulled a successful double steal. Silbertsen then delivered a single, scoring

Preparing for a meet of this size can be quite a task. Southfield Swim Club officials have been working hard to get the Civic Center pool ready for the big weekend.

"This meet will run from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on all three days," Lindgren said. "So you have to have a lot of people there to help out. Before we're done, I would estimate that 25 people are going to be some how involved in putting on this meet. The equipment has to be there. There's and medals have to be ready. All in all it's quite a task."

MANY AREA swimming clubs are donating equipment for the Long Course meet, according to Lindgren. The Cranbrook Swim Club will provide the lane markers. The starting blocks will come from Southfield High School. The touch timing system will be provided by an individual associated with the Royal Oak Penguins. Lindgren said.

Admission to the meet is free. The Southfield Swim Club will sell programs to help offset expenses. The programs, \$1 for the events and 25 cents for the finals, are important to the participants as well as the spectators.

"The old cliché that you can't tell the players without a scoreboard is very valid in this swimming meet," Lindgren said. "This is a self-maintaining meet, which means that the swimmers have to know what event and what heat they're in. And they have to be on the starting block before that gun goes off."

"They know all that by our program. If they're not there, we're not going to hold their hand and walk them over to the starting blocks."

Southfield, with its 50-meter, eight-lane heated pool, has an excellent facility for a meet of this size, according to Lindgren.

"THERE AREN'T many 50-meter pools in the Detroit area," he said. "But Southfield's facilities — including the locker rooms, snack bars and viewing areas — are some of the best in the nation. We also get outstanding cooperation from the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department."

"For example, we had a conflict with the meet. The Parks and Recreation Department had it on their calendar for the weekend of July 23. The AAU had it scheduled for the following weekend, so we had to request the change. The Parks and Recreation people were very nice about it."

"There is no rain date for this meet. It's a rain-or-shine kind of thing," Lindgren said. "The only thing that could halt the meet would be lightning."

both runners. Silbertsen took second on Tim Raymond's single and scored when an Ann Arbor infielder made a throwing error on Jim Vogt's grounder.

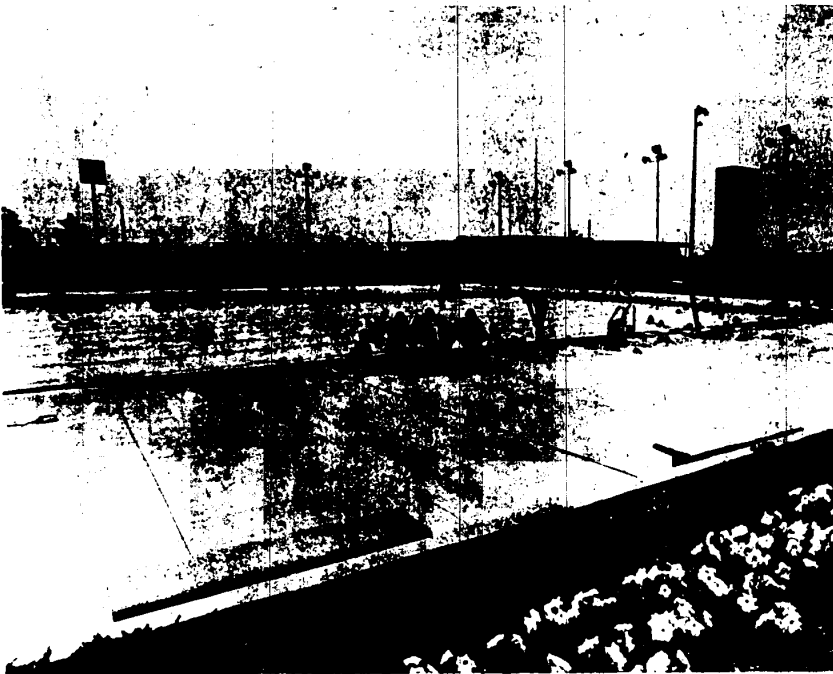
Caesars had seven hits in the game. In the first game, Ann Arbor outdid Caesars, 9-5. Caesars scored single runs in the third and fifth innings. In the third, Mitch Thomas walked, moved to second on Vogt's single and scored on Stinson's ground out. In the fifth, Mitch Thomas doubled and scored on Wroten's single. Loung pitcher Tim Hammer walked the whole game, struck out three and walked three.

Hammer was also the losing pitcher last Friday when Caesars dropped a 3-1 decision to Livonia Burger King. He allowed just four hits, struck out six and walked four. Hammer, who has been an effective shortstop pitcher in past years, has yet to win an Adray game in six outings.

"He's pitching as the team seems to be playing — in bad luck," Stinson said. "He's been the bad breaks for the entire summer. I wouldn't take anything away from his pitching. We haven't been able to get the sticks going for him. And when we do, he can't seem to get the ball over and do the job."

Burger King opened the scoring with a run in the first, and then added another in the third. Greg Robinson drove in both runs with a pair of singles. Caesars scored its run in the seventh. Mitch Thomas and Mathews doubled home on singles, and Greg White doubled to tie in Thomas. The next batter, Mike Thomas, flied out to end the threat. Caesars outdid Burger King, 7-2, but the losers stranded seven runners.

Little Caesars ends its regular Adray season on Friday (June 31) with a game against Livonia Wally's Restaurant. The game begins at 6 p.m. at Henry Ford Field in Livonia.



Southfield's Civic Center swimming pool will be the site of the 1978 Michigan AAU Long Course state championships. The meet, which is expected to draw more than 3,000 of the state's finest amateur swimmers, will be held July 30 to Aug. 1. The pool

is Olympic-sized (50-meters) with eight lanes. Southfield's facilities—including the locker rooms, snack bars and viewing areas—are some of the best in the nation, according to a meet official.

Legion '9' forfeits game

Farmington's American Legion baseball team lost one the hard way — by forfeit — during the second game of an 18th District double header against Rochester last Sunday at Oakland University. Farmington won the first game, 5-1, in eight innings.

Umpire Ron Tate awarded the second game to Rochester because of alleged derogatory comments made by Farmington manager Wally Christensen and other members of the Farmington team. Rochester was leading 8-4 in the sixth inning when Tate forfeited the game.

Christensen said that he will appeal the decision to American Legion authorities. The opening game featured an eight-inning pitching stint by Farmington right-hander Larry McKee. He scattered five Rochester hits while striking out eight and walked two. His Legion record is 4-3.

"He had a rough first inning with two walks, but then he settled right down," Christensen said. "The only other runners were on the first base hits bunched between the third and sixth innings."

"McKee had a couple of rough ball games lately, but he seems to have come around now. He lost that 4-4 game to Troy, Birmingham the other night (July 15), but he pitched real well. I think he found himself in that game."

Farmington scored the winning run with two out in the top of the eighth. Rick Miller walked, stole second and scored on Rob Patrick's long triple. Farmington's other run came in the sixth when Randy Meier slugged a long home run.

"The ball went a good 300 feet," Christensen said. "It cleared the left-field fence at the 251 mark and bounced on the tennis courts."

Rochester scored its only run in the first. George Rupert reached first base when Farmington first baseman Jay Cummings batted a grounder. Rupert advanced to third on Mark Martin's single and scored on Scott Harvey's bunt hit.

Farmington catcher Terry Hall displayed a good throwing arm in the first game, making three Rochester runners try to steal against him.

On Friday (July 18), Farmington defeated Royal Oak, 7-3, in an 18th District game at Drake Park.

Winning pitcher Kevin Dely lifted his Legion record to 4-1-1 by scattering seven Royal Oak hits, fanning seven and walking two.

"He cut his walks down for a change," Christensen said. "That would be his plus factor in that game."

Farmington, which had nine hits, opened the scoring in the first when Bruce Sher singled, took second on a groundout and scored on Meier's single. Cummings added a two-run homer in the sixth. Dick Radatz went two-for-four at the plate and Miller knocked in two runs with a single.

Farmington, which has a 9-1 record not counting the forfeit, plays next on Friday (July 21) at Auburn Heights. The game begins at 6 p.m. at Arvonale High School.

NFWB Colts begin tourney

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Colts baseball team will begin district tournament play on Thursday (July 21) at St. Clair Shores' Kyle-Moore Field. Harper near Fourteen Mile. NFWB, managed by Walt Waterbottom, will play Garden City at 1:30 p.m.

Waterbottom's squad is a 15-man all-star team of 13 and 16-year olds from the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Colts League. Only three teams — NFWB, Garden City and host St. Clair Shores — have entered the double-elimination district tournament. If NFWB wins the district tourney, it will advance to the state Colts playoffs, scheduled for July 28-Aug. 1 at Hanstranch's Playfair Field.

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A privately-sponsored All-Sports tournament for men is planned for the last weekend of September and the first two weekends of October at various sites in Farmington. The tournament involves three sports—softball, basketball and tennis.

The same 15-man team must participate in all three sports. There are no residency

or age requirements, but there will be a team entry fee. The softball games will be played at the College of Cumberlands Field. Basketball games will be played at Nelson Junior High, and tennis games will be held at Farmington City Park.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Mike Wilson at 673-680 or 673-7173 after 6 p.m.