Detroit Tiger's batboy grateful for opportunity

ong hours, hard work and very te money are the negative sides to

attue money are the negative sides to being a batboy at Tiger Stadium. But the excitement, glamour and prestige of being involved with the league's big name ballplayers make the job worthwible.

beauge of the seng involved with understanding the senging the sen

lins explained.

Collins played hockey at Frankin last winter and hopes to do so this year. He also plays on a summer baseball team when he gets the chance to work in the games around his Tiger schedule.

There are many things about the fulltime job that would make the average person shy away. Collins sometimes spends 16 hours a day at the stadium. He is paid \$14 a day no matter how long he is there.

"It is a good experience," Collins said. "There are a few frings benefit to being a bettory, such as being able to sell the used and broken equipment. Even that stuff goes for being a bettor to sell the used and broken equipment. Even that stuff goes for being some offered \$00 for Carl Yastrzemski's Boston Red Sox uniform. He didn't take the offer because that would have been outright stealing on his part.

Besides the obivous benefit of getting to know the ballplayers, Collins said he gets the best possible baseball education at Tiper Stadium. "I have some great teachers down there at the stadium." I love baseball and would like to play in the major leagues some-day."

like to jay in the major leagues some-day."

A typical summer day for Collins legins around 1 p.m. when he arrives at the stadium for a night ghe arrives, arriving, job to the colling of the property of the colling of the colling of the york and starts to clean up the clubhouse before the visitors arrive. The visiting teams supply the uni-form, and Collins gets to keep the hat. Collins mops the floor, cleans out the lockers, shines shoes, picks up the uni-forms and sets them out for each player.

Two other boys help Collins do the dirty work. They're known as club-house assistants.

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Once the teams shows up at the stadium, it is not supply to make sure districtions and the stadium, it is not the stadium of the stadium of

watching the teams at work.

During the game, Collins does various things like picking up the equipment around the dugout and preparing bats for each player. He watches the

bats for each player. He watches the game when he can.

The hard work starts when the game is over. Collins pleks up the locker-room, cleans the whole place over again and does the laundry. He practically does everything that he did before the game. Collin's day typically each at about 1:30 a.m.

"It's not as glamorous as everybody thinks, being a batboy. I tell my friends that and they just can't believe it," Collins said.

"I was on cloud nine my first year as a batby. In my second and third summers, things weren't so great. I realized that the players on your toes all of the time." Collins continued. Being around such great players all of the time has taken some of the fun away from the job for Collins. He no longer collects autographs although he does collect equipment the players give him. He has hats, spikes and even a glove here and there from the travelling professionals.

Overall, according to Collins, the visiting team players are very nice to him although some irk him by calling him "clubby" instead of Bob. "Sometimes I sit down and talk with

the players about everything from school to girls to basebail. Most guys like to talk before the game but not after," Collins said.

Dawe Nelson used to be Collins' favorite player. Nelson played for Karsas City until he was released two years ago. Collins has not seen him "We used to talk and joke all of the time. He called me. "Tobacco-chewing Bob" because I was the only hatboy he'd ever seen that chewed tobacco," Collins explained.

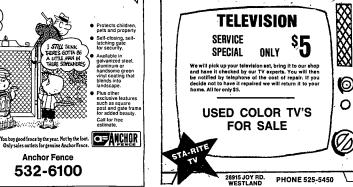
Not all of Collins' memories of the job are good ones. Collins cities last

job are good ones. Collins cites last August, when he was hit by a line drive, as being the most memorable

incident of his bathoy career. He was about twenty yards into the outfield helping Frank Howard and another player with hitting practice. Collins was relaying the ball back into the infield.

"All I remember is seeing a ball coming right at my face," said Collins.

This summer will most likely be Col-lins last as a batboy. He'll be 18 years old soon and the Tigers perfer younger boys for the job.



Track picks

Avondale; High jump--Rick McKibben, Farm-Avenasie; rigit jumplick McKibben, Farmington; Pole vultLarry Varley Brother.
Larry La

HONORABLE MEN-TION: Ian Joseph, Troy Athens; Terry Weathers, Rochester, Jeff Davis, Rochester, Jeff Davis, Rochester Adams; Ken Wilder, Aubum Heights Avondale; Robbie Hen-derhan, Brother Rice; Mark Lee, Southfield; Don Double, Troy; Larry Weathers, Rochester; Bob Morden, North Farmington; Chris Car-twright, West

Bloomfield, Earl Watson, Troy; Greg Symon, Southfield-Lathrup; Jeff Sherman, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Jeff Shan-brom, West Bloomfield; Mark Lunetta, Groves; Mark Lumetta, Groves; Chuck Steltenkamp, Troy; Dave Schrader, West Bloomfield; Cluuck Dew, Troy; Dave Eberle, Rochester; Al Tingley, Avondale; Greg Lahr, Scuthfield; Amie Jackson, Troy Athens; Mark Henn, Troy; Scott Johanssen, Troy; Pros. Morens; Mark Henn, Troy; Scott Johanssen, Troy; Priss Henn, Troy; Rochester; Ohrs Nigab; Adams; Keith Taylor, Rochester; Ohrs Nigab; Adams; Keith Taylor, Rochester; Ohrs Nigab; Adams; Peter Claypool, Earley Charles, Charles, Peter Claypool, Scabolim; Dave Koppin, Detroit Country Day; Bill Keadro, Scabolim; Dave Koppin, Detroit Country Day; Phil Kooppilski, Avondale, Tim Winship, Croves; Make Wasserback, Troy; John Gossman, Avondale; And Krafsur, Southfiel-Lath-up; Barry Tornow, Andower; Pete Byerlien, Rice.

Plymouthite victorious in tennis tournament

Plymouth captured \$750 first place prize money as he defeated Chuck Brainard of Bay View, 7-5, 6-4, in the sixth annual Sibley's Detriot Tennis Club invitational tennis

tournament last to urn a ment last weekend.
The tournament, held at he Detroit Tennis and Squash Club in Farmington Hills, featured Meris Sc., Sc., and Scyear-old divisions, along with a Women's singles event. Winners in each of these events, except the Men's SS and older division, received 4100 first place prize money.
Other victors included Barb Fischley of Dear-

born, who defeated Dane Selke of Detroit, 6-0, 6-1, in the women's singles. men's Singles, have seen Moraina of Birimipaum beat Bob Morion of Columbus, Olio, 6-6, 5-7, 7-6 (5-2) in the 1te breaker). In the men's 45 division, Leonard Brose of Southfield was the victor over Charles Karabell of Oak Park when Karabell was forced to retire in the second set because of leg cramps.

Bill Mitchell of Bloomfield Hills won the men's 55 event by beating Bill Maul of Detroit, 6-1, 26, 6-1. Harry Golden, and the second set was semi-finals toer.

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