

observing sports

St. Agatha One Victory Away From Wrapping Up Loop Title

Loopholes...loopholes...loopholes...

You'll find 'em in almost every phase of life, from income tax to getting out of a jam with your wife.

Because of one, the Tigers have lost out on drafting Bill Fahey, the former Redford Union High School catching star. So has the University of Detroit.

When Fahey finished his prep career, the Tigers made him one of their picks in the annual spring draft of graduating prep and college eligible performers.

But Fahey decided he preferred to attend U. of D. That knocked the Tigers out of the box...at least until he completed his collegiate eligibility or reached his 21st birthday, whichever came first.

You see, under the pro baseball-college arrangement, once a young man enrolls at a major university, the pros can't touch him until one or the other of the aforementioned happens.

The colleges long had wanted the rule. They cried that their sport would be ruined if the pros could come along at any stage and pluck a player...which is what used to happen.

Boys were drafted after their freshman, sophomore and even junior years. Some collected big money, some didn't.

BUT, ah...THAT business of the "loopholes." It seems that if you're attending a junior college the regulation doesn't hold on being drafted.

Fahey, who had a fine season in 1969 at U. of D. under Redford Township Bob Miller, the Titan coach, and then played extremely well for Redford's Free Press state champs, decided he preferred to speed his entry into professional baseball.

This was accomplished by dropping out of U. of D. and enrolling at St. Clair Community College near Port Huron.

The bars for being exempt from the pro baseball draft now were off.

Last week, the majors held their annual special winter selections. The Washington Senators picked Bill Fahey.

OVER AT U. OF D., coach Miller isn't happy. He's lost a player on whom he was counted for two or three more seasons...a solid hitter and a first-rate catcher.

But there's nothing Miller or anybody can do. The colleges themselves left a loophole and shot no discredit to Fahey. He used it to get himself a win at playing for cash.

Payhey would appear to have a bright future ahead. Those who have watched him rate him an excellent prospect.

He throws well, he's an excellent receiver, has good speed for a catcher and isn't a bad hitter.

What's more, the fact he's a catcher, should help too. There aren't many topnotch receivers around...even in the majors.

BOUNCING AROUND: It makes us envious...watching folks of all age brackets enjoying themselves at skiing.

For reasons we can't understand, it's just impossible for us to stand up on a pair of runners. No sense exposing oneself to a broken foot...or maybe two broken feet.

But one thing is certain. Skiing has to be a fun sport. It's a great one for keeping the family together...and goodness knows in the modern scheme of things we need something to keep members of the homestead from running in different directions.

There's something else about skiing. Like golf and tennis and ping-pong, it's a sport for everybody...from a couple of years on up.

Besides, it's great exercise. And healthful. So we're told, anyway.

NOTED THE FINE sports column Pete Waldmire did in the News the other day on snowmobiles and the need for more stringent rules and regulations.

Like skiing, snowmobiles are attracting more and more participants every year. Unlike skiing, snowmobiling can produce far more serious injuries.

In skiing, if there's an accident, only one person usually suffers; in snowmobiling, it can be a flock of people.

It would appear that snowmobiles must be regulated the same way cars and motorcycles and boats now are in Michigan.

If they aren't...we may face some serious tragedies before long.

TALK ABOUT MODEST young men: Doug Jones of Bentley High's basketball team also serves as the team's correspondent when it comes to reporting to the newspapers.

After Bentley's 96-point total against Allen Park, he was asked if that was a school record.

"No," said Jones, "we missed tying it by one and all because I missed a free throw near the finish. In fact, I had a 'one and one' and if I made both, we'd have set a record."

Just one more victory! That's all that stands between St. Agatha High's basketball team and the Southwest

Division title in the Catholic League.

St. Agatha made it 10-1 for the season by winning in dramatic fashion, 72-70, over Wayne St. Mary's on a 15-foot jumper by Dave Urban with four seconds remaining.

Now all St. Agatha needs is to beat either Lourdes or St. Francis de Sales and the undisputed title will fly over the Redford Township school, which is enjoying a banner year in sports.

ST. AGATHA won the divisional football title last fall, then soared all the way to the Second Division finals before losing.

Urban's payoff shot came just after St. Mary's had evened the score in a topsy-turvy finish.

St. Agatha had led 35-29 at the half, but fell behind, 57-53, going into the fourth period.

Then in the last period, Mark Miron led a St. Agatha rally as he personally scored seven points while Urban had four, along with Tim Flamboe.

ALL OF THE ST. Agatha starters scored in double figures. Urban had 18, Miron 17, George Barbour 13, and Doug Inch and Flamboe 12 each.

Flamboe and Urban gave St. Agatha might on the boards with 18 and 15, respectively.

St. Agatha meets Lourdes this week, then finishes the regular season against St. Florian. Both games are scheduled in the St. Agatha gym.



RU COACH Bob Mattingly tries to put across some ideas he hopes will stop the Trenton sharpshooters during the Suburban Six League encounter of Redford Union. His efforts went for naught -- Trenton had too many guns this time.

(Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

Churchill Makes It 3 Out Of 4

Forgotten at Churchill High are the first six games—all defeats—suffered in basketball this winter.

What's important is that Churchill has improved and now is winning—three out of the last four.

Churchill split during the past week. First three was a 61-52 loss at the hands of Belleville.

But then Churchill rebounded to beat Carlson, 88-81.

AGAINST BELLEVILLE. Always a tough customer in the Suburban Six League, Churchill was in the thick of matters until two minutes remained.

With the score, 55-51, in Belleville's favor, Churchill exploded with an 8-2 finish after Churchill had led, 45-43, after three periods.

Keith Armstrong had 18 points, Jerry Olajace and Ray Young 16 against Belleville.

Six Churchill players scored in double figures against Carlson with Olajace collecting 17.

Gary Leirstein 15, Young 16, Pat Welch 13 and Bruce van Wagoner and Armstrong 10 each.

Churchill now has an overall record of 3-7.

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NF Tops Franklin In Swim

North Farmington's swimming team continued to surprise by downing Franklin, 55-50, in a Northwest Suburban League meet.

The Raiders now are 2-1 in the conference and 5-3 overall.

Medley relay: 1-NF (Conklin, Swan, Panosian, Smith). Time: 1:53.

200-yard free: 1-Shakotko (NF). 2-Matousek (NF). 3-Goodwin (F). Time: 2:05.6.

Individual medley: 1-Burk (F). 2-Kotlarz (F). 3-Miller (NF). Time: 2:21.8.

50-yard free: 1-Spendal (F). 2-Bertsch (NF). 3-Smith (NF). Time: 24.4 seconds.

Diving: 1-Carr (NF). 2-Dodge (F). 3-Ber (F).

100-yard butterfly: 1-Burk (F). 2-Panosian (NF). 3-Swan (NF). Time: 1:00.8.

100-yard free: 1-Spendal (F). 2-Bertsch (NF). 3-Worack (NF). Time: 54.8 seconds.

100-yard back: 1-Herbert (F). 2-Conklin (NF). 3-Dolan (NF). Time: 1:03.4.

400-yard free: 1-Shakotko (NF). 2-Matousek (NF). 3-Hanson (F). Time: 4:39.7.

100-yard breaststroke: 1-Kotlarz (F). 2-Adams (F). 3-Amperse (NF). Time: 1:09.9.

Freestyle relay: 1-NF (Elliott, Ackroyd, McLean, Worack). Time: 3:49.6.

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Toutaint Duo Wins Honors In Snowmobile

The Westland father-son combination of Tommy and Frenchy Toutaint made a sweep of snowmobile honors in the South Lyon competition over the weekend.

Frenchy, owner of the Salem Lumber Co. located on Plymouth Road in Livonia, took the top trophies in the B and C events in his Arctic Cat.

Tommy, a student at Garden City East High, was the victor in the Class A competition.

Dave Chalmers (Southfield), Wayne State University freshman basketball center, canned nine of 10 field goal chances vs. Cleveland State, a 90% mark, to set a school record.

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