

Lathrup '9' trips Lahser

Junior righthander Scott Shafer pitched a three-hitter and struck out eight Monday to highlight Southfield-Lathrup's 5-0 baseball victory over Bloomfield Hills Lahser in a Metro Suburban Activities Association game. Lathrup is 7-2 overall.

Lathrup, which collected six hits off losing pitcher Charlie Porretta, scored two runs in the third inning, two more in the fourth and one in the seventh.

Jim Gagliardi had two hits in four trips and drove in three runs. Eric Benderoff singled in another run. Shortstop Dan Dickson was a defensive standout with seven assists, including two diving plays to throw out runners.

Earlier, Lathrup swept a doubleheader from Farmington Harrison, 3-1 and 8-3.

In the first game, winning pitcher Scott Kline threw only 74 pitches, allowing only four hits and striking out four. Shafer had two hits in three trips. In the nightcap, winning pitcher Pete Ammen fanned seven, and Dickson went three-for-three and drove in two runs.

Lathrup plays next on Friday at home against Troy Athens. Game time is 4 p.m.

SOUTHFIELD HAD its four-game winning streak snapped in a big way Monday. Final score: Berkeley 12, Southfield 0.

Berkley's Steve Baker was the

baseball

standout both at the plate and on the mound. He was the winning pitcher, going the distance with a two-hitter and 10 strikeouts. At bat, he went three-for-three — including two over-the-fence home runs — and drove in five runs.

Losing pitcher Bob Graham worked the first 5½ innings, allowing 10 hits, striking out three and walking three.

The victory put Berkeley at 7-6 overall and 5-2 in the Southeastern Michigan. Southfield fell to 6-7 and 4-4 in the conference.

Southfield has an SMA doubleheader against Hazel Park on Friday. The first game starts at 5 p.m. at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN dropped a 4-3 decision to Redford Temple Christian Monday. The loss put Coach Bob Newman's SCS Eagles at 3-5. Kent Nast, who wrote 6½ innings and allowed four hits, was the losing pitcher.

Earlier, Southfield Christian bombed Plymouth Christian, 13-3 and 17-15, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference doubleheader.

Tigers galore

Fred Smith lists all 995 in new book

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Ever wonder what became of Cletus Elwood Poffenberger, Ferris Fain, Ed "Lefty" High, Ducky Holmes, Lou Schlapacasse, Vito Valentini or Ab Salmon Wings?

Yes? Then you're a long-time Tiger fan who'd be interested in reading "The 995 Tigers," Fred Smith's recently-released baseball book.

The Southfield resident has authored the only compilation anywhere of capsules on every player ever to don a uniform for a particular major league ballclub — if only for a cup of coffee.

"The 995 Tigers" succeeds "Tiger Trivia," "Son of Tiger Trivia" (co-authored with Tiger announcer Ernie Harwell), and "Brooks Robinson's Baseball Quiz," a book Smith penned with Baltimore Orioles' famed third baseman Robinson, who wrote the book on winning the Golden Glove.

Smith, a native Detroit and a born statistician, is the Tigers' retired group sales ticket manager who also put in 22 years with AAA.

He embarked on the six-month-long task of writing "The 995 Tigers" because he "got to wondering just how many Tigers there'd been."

"My curiosity got the best of me — I wanted to see how many there were," said Smith, who spent \$25,000 publishing 20,000 copies of his paperback.

"I did the research by consulting old record books, my memory and my library at home. I've got a bookcase full of about 300 books — I buy every stat

book that comes out." One 1935 purchase recently netted Smith a small bundle.

"I sold a program from the Cleveland All-Star game at a baseball card show for \$85. I bought it for 25 cents," recalled Smith, who last season filled in for Tiger public announcer Joe Gentile when he became ill.

IF SMITH NOW is reaping his share of acclaim, he can reminisce about some humble beginnings.

"I published my first book on the Tigers in the '40s — it was a statistics book that was the forerunner of the Tiger Yearbook. Well, I got a letter from a library in Uppsala, Sweden, asking me how much my book cost," he said.

The fledgling author was so flattered he sent them two copies — free of charge.

"I was telling everyone my books were in libraries as far away as Sweden. Well about two weeks later, I got a package along with a letter from the library. It said, 'We thought your book was about the animal tigers. Here are your books.'"

"Talk about deflating your ego," smiled Smith. "Why couldn't they have just kept the darn things?"

Stats whiz Smith cherishes a few Tiger-oriented humorous memories as well.

NOT ONLY DID Cletus Elwood Poffenberger sport the most notable name of any Tiger in history, says Smith, but he was unforgettable for other reasons.



Fred Smith: "I did the research by consulting old record books, my memory and my library at home. I buy every stat book that comes out."

"They called him the Lord of Pilsner and the Baron of Sauerkraut," Smith said. "He was a real character. In hotels he'd call room service and order the 'breakfast of champions.'"

"When pressed he'd get down to details and explain that a breakfast of champions consisted of two eggs and two bottles of Strohs."

Oh, yes. You were wondering what became of those erstwhile Bengals. According to Smith, Poffenberger, a pitcher, also known as Boots, completed his won-lost record in 1939 after winning 10 and losing five for the 1937 Tigers. The next season he won six and lost seven before pitching in three games for the 1939 Dodgers without a decision the following year.

First baseman Ferris Fain came up with the Athletics in 1947 and led the American League in batting in 1951 and 1952. He completed a nine-year major league career with the Indians.

"LEFTY" HIGH appeared in four games as a left-handed Tiger pitcher in 1901. He was credited with one victory and no defeats.

Ducky Holmes, an outfielder, broke into the big time in 1895 with Louisville. His lifetime .282 average was compiled while playing for the Giants, Cardinals, Orioles, Tigers, Senators and White Sox.

Lou Schlapacasse, who was born in Ann Arbor and died there in 1910, played in two games for the Tigers in 1902. The outfielder went hitless in five at-bats.

Valentinetti, a Tiger pitcher in the 1950s, compiled a 13-14 lifetime record, completing his career with the Senators.

There's more where that came from in "The 995 Tigers," available at most bookstores for, appropriately, \$9.95.

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