

By George Maskin

## observing sports

Excuse us while we go back to school.

It's time for that annual refresher course...to scan through the baseball rules so we know what we're talking about when we push forth to umpire some high school and college games.

There's more to umpiring than just calling a ball or strike...an out or safe...a fair or foul ball.

Of course, these are the decisions which occur most frequently and they are apt to get you into the biggest jams of all.

But an umpire can take some solace in the fact that as much as anybody screams, there's no way any judgment decision—and that means a ball or strike, a foul or fair, or out or safe call—will result in league officials granting a protest.

If you're a baseball manager or coach, or a player, or a parent, you might as well realize as the season dawns...you'll get no place yelling at an ump.

We're going to protest that bad call on a ball or strike.

It's covered by the rules...what you can and can't protest...and it's the other rules that really can produce a flock of headaches for an ump. So that's why he must hit the book and prepare himself.

ASSUMING HE KNOWS what he's doing in the ball or strike, fair or foul, or out or safe category, the ump also must be sharp when it comes to making certain he interprets the rules properly.

One thing an ump quickly finds out is that most players, most managers and coaches and most parents DON'T KNOW the rules. Or the major ones.

Sometimes, if you're lucky, you can get away pulling a fast one...the you meaning an ump.

We'll never forget an early game in our career. We were at Palmer Park in Detroit and handling an American Legion game alone.

It seems one team set up a pinch-hitter. The manager forgot to notify the scorer or the umpire.

The opposition screamed. So the young ump walked to the scorer and said:

"Did he report?"

The scorer replied: "No."

"Okay," countered the ump, "the batter's out."

Well, that made the third out of the inning and the final out of the game and everybody left the premises. There was no protest.

But, here was a case where the batter's team had a protest. The ump goofed.

There's no way you can call a guy out for not reporting. In some leagues, like the majors, they might fine the manager, but that's as far as they can go.

Once the batter steps into the box, once the pitcher delivers a pitch, the batter is officially in there...whether he or somebody reported his presence.

MANY THINGS COME up in a game that require a knowledge of the rules.

Let's start with a runner on second and one out. The batter bounces one to short, who bluffs the runner back to second and then throws the ball into the stands.

Now, where does the umpire send the runner, who was on second, and what about the batter-runner?

Easy, award each two bases. The runner from second scores, the batter-runner goes to second.

It's in the rule book. On a throw that goes out of the field of play, all men advance two bases from the start of play.

One exception, though. That's when a pitcher tries to pick a man off first or third and throws the ball away.

One base is all anybody gets in such a situation...if the pitcher makes his throw from the rubber. But, if he steps off the mound, he becomes an ordinary fielder and the runners must now get two bases each.

So, you must be sharp!

OKAY, HERE'S another one to remember.

A batted ball bounces over the fence in fair territory. How many bases for the batter?

Just two.

It's a homer, of course, when the ball clears the fence in flight.

Yes, but what if the outfielder backs against the fence, touches the ball and deflects it over the fence in flight?

That's a homer, too. Lucky batter.

IF YOU'RE AN UMP, you have to prepare yourself for what might be considered a trick play. But it really isn't.

The bases are loaded. One out.

The batter belts a clean hit to right. Two score, but the third man is retired at third or the plate. It really makes no difference.

Then the first baseman of the team in the field calls for the ball. He noticed the batter-runner had failed to touch first. An appeal play is made, the ump agrees...the batter-runner is called out.

The side is retired. How many runs would you allow?

None.

Crazy, you say. Not really. The rule book says no runs can score on a play when the third out results from the batter-runner being retired before he reaches first base.

Since he missed the base, he's not considered to have reached the base.

Simple, eh?

OH, YES, IF AN UMP is working a game by himself, don't tell him he must stand behind the mound when there's a runner on base...or don't tell him to stay behind the plate.

He can operate from anywhere he desires. The book tells him that.

But the pay is the least. You do it...mostly, for the love of the game.

By GEORGE MASKIN  
Observer Sports Editor

After three seasons of sitting on the sidelines the Detroit Red Wings will be in the thick of things Wednesday night when the National Hockey League playoffs begin.

What's more, if the experts

are to be taken seriously, the Wings could surprise in the chase which leads to the Stanley Cup.

The Wings wound up the regular season in third place in the Eastern Division in a race that produced the closest fight in the history of hockey.

It was a race, too, that pro-

duced a farcical and weird finish.

THERE WAS T.L.: finale between the Wings and New York Rangers in which New York scored nine times and at one stage pulled out its goalie in order to try and add to its scoring production.

The Rangers knew their only way to make the playoffs was to beat Detroit and also score a flock of goals so that they could have more goals than Montreal in the event New York finished tied with the Canadiens for fourth place.

And, that's exactly what happened as the Canadiens lost

to Chicago, 10-2, when in the late stages Montreal pulled its goalie and Chicago scored at will.

So, now it's Detroit vs. Chicago, New York vs. Boston, St. Louis vs. Minnesota and Oakland vs. Pittsburgh in the first round.

The fact that the Wings and

Chicago were the two hottest teams in the league in the final six weeks of the season stamps their winner (all series will be the best out of seven) as the team which should go on to take the Stanley Cup.

The Wings have good success against the Hawks and only last week when Detroit needed a victory, the Wings

roared past the Hawks on their home ice.

THE FIRST TWO games of the Wings-Chicago series are booked for Wednesday and Thursday in the Windy City and both will be carried on Channel 50 television.

Then the scene will shift, to Detroit for Saturday and Sunday. Extra games, if needed, will be played Tuesday at Chicago, Thursday in Detroit and either Saturday or Sunday (depending on television) in Chicago.

The four-game barrage in five days worries manager-coach Sid Abel of the Wings, who makes his home in Farmington.

For one thing, he's concerned with the fact it'll leave such veterans as Gordie Howe, Alex Delvecchio, Frank Mahovlich and Bobby Baun little time to rest up.

Also there are some bruised members on the Wings, who in their final 18 games lost only three times.

But Abel has something going for him, psychology.

He has let it be known that this will be his last year as coach.

"I want to go out a winner," he has proclaimed.

It's certain that he'll keep reminding the Wings of that little point.



SPRING IS HERE and so is baseball. Familiar sight of the area baseball fields is that of youngsters with old mits and equally as old baseballs playing catch. Then, too, they're thinking of the Tiger home opener Tuesday. (Observer photo by Dennis Pajot)

## Prep Schedule

## BASEBALL

Wednesday — Bentley at Thurston, John Glenn at Garden City West.

Thursday — Redford Union at Franklin, Walled Lake Central at Plymouth, Stevenson at Dearborn.

Friday — Franklin at Bentley, Crestwood at Churchill, Plymouth at Dearborn, Garden City East at Garden City West.

Saturday — Bentley at Redford Union (2 games), Royal Oak Kimball at Thurston (2 games).

## TRACK

Wednesday — Franklin at Stevenson.

Thursday — Churchill and Kettering at Northville, Robichaud at Bentley, Walled Lake Central at North Farmington, Glenn at West.

Friday — West Bloomfield at Clarencville.

Saturday — Farmington and Redford Union at Mansfield Relays.

Tuesday — Clarencville and Milford at Brighton, Churchill at Bentley, North Farmington and Southfield at Redford Union, Garden City West at Garden City East, Romulus at Glenn, Edsel Ford at Stevenson, Thurston at Roseville.

## TENNIS

Wednesday — Thurston at Bentley, Cherry Hill at Glenn, Wayne at Stevenson.

Thursday — Franklin at Bentley, Walled Lake Central at Plymouth, Thurston at Garden City East.

Friday — Crestwood at Clarencville, Churchill at Glenn, Monday — Glenn at Ypsilanti.

Tuesday — Milford at Clarencville, Churchill at Crestwood, Dearborn at Stevenson, Thurston at Detroit Ford.

Wednesday — Trenton at Bentley, County Day at North Farmington, Plymouth at Allen Park, Glenn at West.

## GOLF

Thursday — Stevenson at Plymouth.

Friday — Franklin at Redford Union.

Monday — Bentley at Allen Park, Plymouth at Redford Union, West at Glenn, U of D at Borgess, Thurston vs. Franklin and N Farmington at Western.

Tuesday — Wayne vs. Churchill at Whispering Willow.

## Hazel Park Entries

FIRST, 100 YD. MILE  
Frank Mahovlich (H. Walled Lake)  
Lewie (H. Walled Lake)  
M. G. Harnett (H. Meridian Jr.)  
John Haddell (H. Dearborn)  
Bryan Harnett (H. Dearborn)  
John Spangale (H. Dearborn)  
Ken C. H. (H. Dearborn)  
Ken C. H. (H. Dearborn)  
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SECOND, 100 YD. MILE  
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## Carbo Has Big Start In Majors

It was just four years ago the All-Observer baseball team listed Bernie Carbo of Livonia Franklin at third base.

A resident of Westland, Carbo had starred during the previous summer playing sandlot baseball in Livonia. He was a member of the Free Press League team.

At the end of his prep career, he was so highly considered, by the professional scouts the Cincinnati Reds made him their over-all No. 1 selection in the draft.

They shipped him out, for experience and last season he was a slugging star in the American Association.

HIS REWARD: a chance to play with the Reds this season.

He was in the starting lineup for the Reds Monday when they won their 1970 opener against the Montreal Royals.

Carbo won't soon forget his first opening day in the big leagues.

He cracked a homer and a single, scored one run and, of course, knocked in another. His drives came off ex-Tiger Joe Sparna, who makes his home in Livonia.

At Franklin High, there's reason to be happy, too.

Carbo has become, perhaps, the school's most famed alumnus.

Sports Briefs.

Wayne State University and Ferris State College raced to a rare fall indoor track meet tie during the 1970 season.

Richard Milazzo (Cromack, L.I., N.Y.), an All-American fencer in foil at Wayne State University as a freshman in 1969, posted a 42-4 dual meet record in his weapon in 1970, the second highest win total in WSU records.

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## After 3 Years East Rebuilds On The Diamond

For Coach John Kulazenko at Garden City East High, it's something new. For the first time in three years he must rebuild his baseball team.

The loss of seven starters has left Kulazenko in a tough way in his bid to produce a fourth straight Mid-Wayne League baseball champion.

FOR THREE YEARS he had the likes of John Chute, Kevin Wilkinson, Bob Kroll, Rick Lang and Tim Whitson.

But they're gone now and he must form a unit around five players who played a year ago, and a fine transfer student and products from the reserves.

It'll be a tough job, but we might surprise a few people," said Kulazenko, who like other prep baseball coaches is groaning because of the bad spring weather conditions.

Most times, schoolboy coaches get a chance to conduct outdoor practices during Easter vacation.

But last week's snow kept East and the other area teams indoors and jeopardized chances of starting their schedules this week.

"We haven't even had one infield drill outdoors," lamented Kulazenko Monday as he surveyed the scene.

A healthy Rick Orlandoni encourages Kulazenko as much as anything else. Orlandoni starred as an East pitcher two years ago and was voted on the All-League team.

Ex-Prep Coaches

Churchill

It wasn't too long ago Roger Frayer was a crewcut prep athlete in Livonia.

Then he went on to play at Central Michigan University.

The summers found him back in Livonia playing baseball with Livonia's Class A baseball team.

Now, it's home sweet home for Frayer. He's the coach of Churchill high's baseball team which is scheduled to begin its 1970 schedule at Fordson Monday afternoon.

Fred Price has been named to coach the Churchill track team while Luther Bird guides the golfers and Walter Yach handles the tennis squad.

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