

North Upsets Thurston, 6-5; Tightens Loop Race

It's something that can always happen in sports — a lesser light arising to beat a mighty team.

That's the way it was Monday when North Farmington with only a 2-6 league record rallied in the last of the eighth inning to score twice and edge Thurston, 6-5 in the Northwest Suburban loop title chase.

The loss was Thurston's second against six wins and moved up the race a little when

Oak Park turned back John Glenn, 8-6, while Franklin went 10 innings to double Birmingham Groves' title hopes, 5-4.

OAK PARK is tied with Thurston for the lead, but North Farmington has a chance to be a double giant

killer for the week by beating Oak Park Wednesday.

Such a result would virtually wrap up the title for Thurston. North Farmington rallied for three runs in the sixth inning to tie the game at 4-4 and then after Thurston went ahead in the top of the eighth, the Raiders struck for two runs on a walk to Mike Patrick, an error putting Arnie Kahkonen aboard, a single by Dave McCoy, two infield outs and a walk to win the game.

Thurston had tallied twice in the first inning on singles by John King, John Keenan and Dennis Poppenger, a grounder and an error. In the fifth, singles by John Murison, Gordon Exzes and Bob Graustein produced two more runs.

North Farmington had counted in the fourth when Doug Valassis singled, went

around to third on two wild pitches and scored on an error.

In the sixth, Mike Collar singled, Patrick doubled, Kahkonen singled, Dave McCoy delivered a sacrifice fly and then an error helped to bring the teams even.

Thurston regained the lead in the top of the eighth when Steve Kreager, who hurtled the route for Thurston, walked, stole second and scored on King's single.

Kreager fanned eight and walked five while John Combes whiffed 10 in his winning effort for North Farmington.

SPARKLING RELIEF pitching by Tom Waring featured Franklin's win over Groves. He fanned nine, walked two and allowed only one hit in 3 2/3 innings of work after replacing Rob Hollandsworth.

Franklin scored quickly when Gary Allan homered in the first inning. John Grills singled, Briggs singled and Joe Files' doubled for the last two Glenn runs.

Oak Park scored three in the third, four in the fifth and one in the seventh.

Briggs had three hits for the losers.

Observing Sports By GEORGE MASKIN

Hair, Hair!! Who's Right?

In this day of man letting his hair down like his female counterpart, one thing has surprised us...99% of the schoolboy athletes have stayed old-fashioned. Their hair remains trim and neat and short!

Just why it should be that way, when so many others in the schools have taken on the "new" look, is not the easiest question, perhaps, to answer.

But there are those who contend that the athletes remain the way they always have because of the grip their coaches hold over them.

In short, the preps respect their coaches. If coach says, "Cut your hair," or "Don't smoke," the athletes under his command do so.

They know that the penalty could be a stiff one...banishment or suspension from the team.

Yet, the matter of hair seems to have become a big issue around the Farmington school district, based on what we read in the Farmington editions of our Observer newspapers.

The story is that one young gentleman reported to tennis...and he had a feminine hair-do. He was told to conform with the haircuts of the other boys.

The young man hollered, went home and the next thing, according to what we read, his grooming became an issue for the Board of Education.

And, the next thing, which is the current item we understand, the coaches, athletic director and two other officials in Farmington are in the midst of re-writing the athletic code which the senior and junior high athletes in Farmington have followed for almost 10 years.

And, the boy, well, he never did play tennis. He came back and told the coach, he was dropping off the team.

BUT HE HAS CREATED A stir which has upset many connected with Farmington schoolboy sports.

One coach told us:

"This thing has major ramifications. At least, it could have."

You must remember that the schoolboy athlete comes out for a team on his own. Nobody pressures him...unless maybe it's somebody at home.

"He knows that playing for his school is something special. That makes him something special."

He knows that he must give more of himself than the average student. That's because besides doing his regular school work, he tackles the extra work which is attached to sports. And, believe me, when you figure the conditioning, the practicing, etc., it's plenty.

"He knows, too, that he must meet certain scholastic requirements. Unless he's eligible by making certain grades, he can't play."

He knows, too, that there are certain rules that govern a team...on the field and off. He knows, for example, he can't smoke or drink or be found with drugs. He knows, too, he must set an example by his dress...and that's where the neat hair-do comes in."

The coach paused:

"It's vital to the success of any team that the coach inculcates discipline. Unless he does, well, everybody's in trouble."

ANOTHER PAUSE:

"Sure, there are professional athletes (a Joe Namath) who come out with mustaches, beards and long hair. But they're a different breed. They're playing for money. They're entertainers, too. Our kids aren't."

Another pause:

"A coach finds himself in a very responsible position. In certain aspects, what he does boils down to his individual judgment."

"This holds true for the way his athletes look...as well as play. And if what is good for 1,500 other young men, it should be the same way for just one youngster."

No sooner did the conversation end than the phone rang. Another area coach was on the phone...a coach who has turned out champions in football and baseball in recent years.

His team suddenly has started to lose a few games...and the reporter wondered why.

"Well, we've had some illness and injuries...and we also had to leave one boy home because he violated some of our rules."

"Damn it, if the kids are going to tell us what they're going to do...if we don't have discipline, we're ruined...all of us."

THE BETTER HALF of the Maskin household happened to overhear both conversations. She knows about discipline...and it's importance...not only because she's handled three of our own offspring but because she happens also to be a high school teacher -- and a darn good one her superiors report.

"Discipline...my how important it is," she declared.

"Look at this book...and how it finishes...how a youngster, at this sitting grandma, finds grandma's manner of handling a certain matter differs from the child's mother's."

"The youngster asks grandma: 'Must I do it your way?' The answer is: 'Yes, in my house, you must.'"

That's where discipline enters the picture. If, perhaps, a youngster who differs with his coach or teacher wanders home and mom and pop countered: "Well, if that's the rule, you must follow it," there'd be a better world today.

Instead, too many parents it seems strike up in anger and condemn what the teacher or coach does. There may be times when such action is justified. Most times it isn't.

WITHOUT TRYING to interject a personal story, our No. 2 son is a member of the Detroit Pistons scoring crew. He gets to work every game as a scorer, statistician, timer, or something.

Being around 20, he figured he could show up for games with an open shirt, no jacket and his hair slightly long.

An order came down:

"Doug, either wear a tie and a jacket and cut your hair or don't bother to sit at the table at the next game."

Three days later...at the next game...Doug was back at his usual chair. His hair was cut, he wore a tie and he came with a jacket.

A coach minus this necessary discipline might find one of his athletes deciding to play in another school's uniform...or what about a cheerleader who would rather wear a see-through blouse than a regular uniform...or the kid in the band who might wear a mini-skirt in preference to the school uniform?

Back up the coaches...back up the teachers. They're doing what's best. They have your youngster's interests deep in their thoughts.

3-Hitter Helps West Win

A three-hit pitching effort by Pat McHugh carried Garden City West to a 5-1 victory over Riverside in a Tri-River League game.

McHugh fanned six and didn't walk a batter.

West scored in the second on a walk to Jim Simmons, a single by Jim Whaley and a walk to Steve Pummil that filled the bases. Then, after Tim Herbst was safe on a fielder's choice to allow one run, Paul Kalif cleared the sacks with a triple.

In the sixth, Simmons

Tourney Schedule

ALL GAMES AT FORD FIELD

Wednesday - Wayne vs. Plymouth, 6 p.m.; Garden City East vs. Redford Union, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday - Livonia Churchill vs. Riverside, 6 p.m.; North Farmington vs. Sorrows, 8:30 p.m.

Friday - John Glenn vs. Bishop Borgess, 6 p.m.; Livonia Bentley vs. Wayne-Plymouth winner, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday - Clarenceville vs. Redford Union - Garden City East winner, 1 p.m.; Garden City West vs. Northville, 3:30 p.m.; Stevenson vs. Thurston, 6 p.m.; Franklin vs. Riverside-Churchill, 8:30 p.m.

Monday (May 25) - St. Agatha vs. North Farmington - Sorrows winner, 6 p.m.; Farmington vs. Crestwood, 8:30 p.m.

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Sports Briefs

Michigan State football teams have won more than 65% of the games played in their 73-year history.

Pam Baglin (Lincoln Park), Wayne State University freshman, placed third in the 1970 Indoor National AAU Women's mile run.

John Young, a first baseman in the Tiger minor league chain, led the Florida State League in 1969 with a .325 average. He was the first Lake-Land player to win the batting title since official averages have been tabulated, beginning in 1936.

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