

Sponsors Hope It Opens Door For Area League

Approve Varsity Hockey For 4 Livonia Schools

Livonia's schoolboy hockey players should write a letter of thanks for a job well done to officers of the Livonia Hockey Association.

It was just five or six months ago when the LHA invited members of the Board of Education to attend a pair of puck programs which involved teams made up of players from Livonia's four high schools—Bentley, Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson.

The thought behind the programs was to show the board members how well the schoolboy sports performed under the supervision of volunteer coaches. In simple language, what the LHA officers and members tried to accomplish was selling a varsity hockey program to the trustees.

The LHA apparently did an excellent job, for the school board Monday approved adoption of an interscholastic ice hockey program for the Livonia senior high schools.

AS ADOPTED the teams would start play next December and conclude by early March including possible tournament play.

During the two exhibition programs last winter, the LHA brought in such schoolboy powers as Trenton, St. Benedictine and Catholic Central, each of which has sponsored varsity hockey sextets for several years.

The LHA had little trouble making arrangements, since all of the teams had played at

Livonia's Ford Field arena several times in the past two years. Matter of fact, St. Benedictine was one of the members of a Catholic League that played weekly contests at the Arena two years ago.

The Livonia Board's approval included the following assumptions:

- 1—Rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association would be strictly observed.
- 2—The policies and procedures of the Livonia Board will be observed in the conduct of the program. This means that no city championships are currently permitted in any of the nine sports and will not be allowed in hockey.
- 3—The experience in Livonia with interscholastic hockey will follow a pattern of spectator interest and of overall cost at least as favorable as that of many other school districts that have adopted hockey over the past several years.
- 4—The regular interscholastic schedule would be comparable in length to the other winter sports of swimming, wrestling and basketball and not exceed a total of 16 or 18 regularly scheduled games plus state tournament play.
- 5—The coaching responsibilities will be similar to those handled by coaches of varsity wrestling and swimming.
- 6—There will be no junior varsity ice hockey program.

7—Arrangements will be made by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation for time at the Ford arena for Bentley and Stevenson High Schools and at the Devon-Air-Woods ice arena for Franklin and Churchill High Schools between mid-October and mid-March of each year. Provisions also will be made for all games to be played at Ford Arena which has a seating capacity of more than 1,500.

8—Each student participant will probably be expected to provide equipment, including practice helmet, shin, shoulder, and elbow pads; skates and goaltenders.

9—The average life of a hockey uniform is about three to five years. Thus the initial

outlay for new school equipment could be amortized over a period of not more than four years.

10—The admission prices will be the same as those charged by other schools engaged in hockey, probably \$1 per person.

11—Each team will practice twice each week for a period of 1½ hours and play one game, probably on Fridays. Practices will probably be held in late afternoons, beginning no later than 4 p.m. Practice days and game time will be rotated among the four schools.

THE BOARD'S decision came after a lengthy study of the costs and estimated maxi-

um income from a program for the four senior highs.

The survey showed that no school contacted had an income that exceeded all of the expenses, particularly when transportation costs were included. The admission fees generally were \$1 for adults and from 50 cents to \$1 for students.

Using Trenton's experience for three years as a pattern for income expectations, the board anticipates receipts of \$1,000 to \$2,000 from each school in the first year; \$1,500 to \$2,500 in the second, and \$4,000 for an exceptional season.

Trenton reported total income of \$1,350 for the first

year; \$1,640 for the second and about \$2,500 for the third year when it had one of the top hockey teams in Michigan.

Although the question of organizing a high school league that would include teams from schools in Western Wayne County, Washtenaw and Oakland counties went unanswered, it was believed the board would approve such a program if presented.

At the moment the administration of the four Livonia schools is busy getting answers to the following questions:

Are there enough qualified coaches available at the salary offered?

Will the schools provide quality equipment for students who can't afford to provide their own?

Who will have charge of coordinating the schedules for the four teams?

Should the schools send out fliers immediately to others in the area sponsoring hockey as to whether it would be feasible to organize a new league immediately?

THE ACTION OF the board is expected to have a tremendous impact on other Livonia school districts where pressure has been applied to the school boards for an organized hockey program.

This pressure has hit such districts as Plymouth, Garden City, Farmington, Southfield and Northville.

And Livonia could be the place where all will turn to for playing space—with two ice arenas, it could become the hockey center of Western Wayne County.



Tigers' Bill Freehan Appears Certain All-Star Star

Freehan Leader In All-Star Poll

The votes are coming in. Barring an upset, barring a change in the early pattern of the ballots, Bill Freehan of the Tigers will lead in the American League's All-Star team for the seventh straight year.

The first returns indicate that Freehan should be a runaway winner again in the selections to pick the starters for the annual mid-summer baseball classic which will be held on July 14 in the new Cincinnati Stadium.

Modestly, Freehan isn't too much concerned at the moment of how the voting is going.

He becomes eligible to rejoin the Tigers Wednesday and already has been named to face the New York Yankees at Tiger Stadium.

All the indications are that a crowd of 50,000 will be there. While the spotlight shines on McLain—win or lose—Freehan knows he could be the middle guy.

After all, he did write a book, which is now on the market, and he did say some things which weren't exactly flattering about McLain.

“What will the fans say?” some have wondered when Freehan steps out to confer with McLain in a tight spot.

Is it possible that McLain will fire back at Freehan? Freehan thinks that the importance of each game will prevent any flareups between McLain and himself.

McLAIN HAS SAID that it won't worry him about what has happened...that he must now be more concerned about today—and tomorrow.

Denny McLain is coming back from a half-year suspension.

a local boy who made it big in his hometown.

He was born in Detroit and although he moved with his family to Florida and played his high school sports in St. Petersburg, he came back to attend the University of Michigan for two years before signing a handsome bonus with the Tigers.

He had starred for Michigan in his sophomore year in football and baseball before the Tigers picked him.

The rise to the majors came fast. He spent just two years in the minors.

Starting in 1963, he became the No. 1 Tiger catcher...a job he's held ever since. He's now worked 1,000 games behind the bat for the Tigers.

Overall, he's averaged 262 for the Tigers at the plate. He's had one .300 season.

But Freehan is noted as a player who comes through when the going is toughest.

HE'S ONE of the most solid catchers in the majors, regularly winning the award that goes to the one who commits the fewest errors.

Sandlot Schedule

- CLASH: Sandusky-Garden City vs. Hubbard; Garden City-West; Holland-Lanes vs. ILM; Hagers; Northwest vs. Superior; Cass-Benton All games at 10 p.m.
- MUNDAN-NORTHFIELD: Garden City, Ford, 6 p.m. ILM vs. Hubbard; Garden City, Ford, 8:30 p.m.; Woodland-Lanes vs. Superior; Thurston, 6 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY: Garden City vs. ILM; Garden City-West; Woodland-Lanes vs. Northwest; Bell Creek; Hubbard vs. Superior; Cass-Benton All games at 8 p.m.
- ADRIAN LEAGUE: Sandusky-Holland vs. Farmington; Holland-Industries, Ford, 6 p.m.; LeRoy-Hubbard; Holland vs. Garden City; Ionia, Ford, 8:30 p.m.; Westland vs. Plymouth; Plymouth, 10:30 p.m. Southville.
- IN ANOTHER TIGHT GAME, Livonia Optimists defeated Dipono, 1-0. It was the Optimists second close game in as many starts.

Sports Briefs

The winners picked up only two hits off losing pitcher Wayne Spense. He also had six strike outs.

Bentley High Tackle Signs Tulsa Letter

Allen Covert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Covert, 32109 Balmoral Drive, Livonia, has signed a letter of intent and will attend the University of Tulsa in the fall.

Sports Briefs

Rich and Ron Sapi, Michigan State senior football linemen, were awarded the Spartans' top two student-athlete honors in 1970. Rich received the Big Ten Medal of Honor and Ron was presented the Chester L. Brewer Award, each a citation for class room and field accomplishment.

Taylor Paces Warholak Win

Kirk Taylor, former Redford Union star, paced Warholak Tires to a 4-3 win over Plymouth. Elks with hitless relief pitching and an extraordinary single that drove in the winning run.

The winners were also helped by a home run from R. J. LaRoux and two hits by Dave Martin in the eightinning National League Connie Mack contest.

In another tight game, Livonia Optimists Club defeated Dipono, 1-0. It was the Optimists second close game in as many starts.

The winners picked up only two hits off losing pitcher Wayne Spense. He also had six strike outs.

The only score of the game came in the second inning with Kirk Ramsey getting the winning hit. The Optimists again played tight defense. Winning pitcher was Bill Dunkin.

COLEMAN MOSS defeated Chelsey-7-4 in another Monday night contest. For the winners the homerun ball was the difference.

Dan Relling hit a two-run blast in the first and also had a run-scoring single. Mike Collier also hit a two-run shot, his coming in the fifth inning.

After the three-run first inning by Coleman Moss Chelsey never could catch the winners. Tony Himmelspach took

Ted Nasiatka Fires An Ace At Hilltop

Ted Nasiatka, of Westland, found he had used the right club at the right time Thursday while playing the Hilltop course in Plymouth.

Ted took a six iron on the 140-yard No. 6 hole, hit a perfect shot and then gazed in amazement as the ball hit the edge of the green and rolled in the cup for an ace.

He was playing with Ed Judd and Pete Borovich.

Top Record

Wayne State University junior left-hander Gordon Beck (Detroit-Denby) established a school record with 83 strikeouts in 1970 while freshman

Ted Nasiatka Fires An Ace At Hilltop

right-hander Doug Konecny (Detroit-St. Ludislaus) added 75 to also top the former record of 65 by Ed Kraas in 1963.

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