Warholak, Royals Clash In Showdown

It'll be showdown time Thursday in the National Division of the Greater Livonia Connie Mack baseball league.

Something must give. The title could be at stake.

That's because Crowe's Royals and Warholak Uniroyal Tires clash at Thurston at 6 p.m. in what has to be the "game of the season."

Well, at least, the biggest game in the division.

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THE TEAMS have been running one two with Warholak (Redford Union) setting the pace by a half game over the Royals (Bentley High).

Crowe's Royals unquestionably will pitch Ken Gawkowski, an ace from Bentley, against Warholak.

Gawkowski was at his best in hurling a 3-0 no-hit victory over Novi's B and V. He struck out 15 batters. Only six outs were accounted for either on infield taps for flies.

Meantime, Joe Berg, Al Hernandez and Bob Walden each lashed out a first of hits for the Royals. One of Hernandez' blasts knocked in a run.

The other two markers came in on a single by Paul Sevonty.

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DANNY BLAZOK, who pitched for St. Agatha during the school season, held Tom's Service to a pair of hits in pitching a 3-0 shutout. He allowed only two hits.

Craig Sylvester drove in what proved to be the winning runs after Jim Whaley belted in two and Curtis one as Garden City West nosed out the Livonia Optimists, 4-3.

The victory went to Jim Fitzgibbon, who like losing pitcher Brian Dinsmore, gave up six hits. Dick and Dan Boehm each socked in a run for the Optimists. The other marker came home on an error.

Bill Moon, of Northville Reef, joined the shutout society with a 5-0 verdict over American Sentry. He allowed two hits and fanned three.

Four Northville runs came in the same inning.

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ANOTHER TWO-HIT shutout saw Coleman and Moss of Farmington subdue Gates Realty from the Plymouth area, 6-0.

Harvey Sell turned in the masterpeice on the mound, fanning seven. He didn't walk a batter. He had a no-hitter going until the fifth inning.

Jim Ciperoni went three for three for the winners. He knocked in four runs, two of them with a double in the second inning. He sacrificed in a run in the fourth and knocked in another with a single in the sixth.

Joe Combs and Dan Delling had two hits each for the winners. In addition Delling drilled in two runs.

Tom Kaseta of Ratigan (Franklin High) achieved still another two-hit shutout in stopping Di Ponio. He fanned five and was in complete charge all the way.

Five runs in the third inning helped to decide the issue. Gary Allen had two singles while Paul Sopsich collected a single and double for the winners.

In another shutout masterpiece it was Thurston over Churchill as John Munson, the All-Observer prep pitcher, chalked up a one-hitter. He fanned five.

Dennis Benedict and Scott Stacy each drove in two runs with a single and double apiece. Three runs in the fourth gave Thurston a big margin and the Townshippers went on from there to win easily.

Sandlot Schedule

CLASS A

Wednesday — Garden City vs. Detroit ITM, Garden City; Northwest vs. Redford Wonderland Lanes, Cass Benton; Livonia Hubert vs. Soper's Clark, Perrin. All games at 6 p.m.

Sunday — Garden City vs. Wonderland Lanes, Garden City; ITM vs. Soper's, Cass Benton; Hubert vs. Northwest, Haggerty. All games at 1:30 p.m.

ADRAY LEAGUE

Wednesday — Darin vs. Hubert, Ford, 6 p.m.; Redford vs. Holcomb Industries, Ford, 8:30 p.m.; Plymouth vs. Waterford, Bell Creek, 6 p.m.

Friday — Northville vs. Holcomb, Northville; Hubert vs. Plymouth, Plymouth; Redford vs. Westland, Haggerty. All games at 6 p.m.

Sunday — Darin vs. Plymouth, Plymouth, 1:30 p.m. Hubert vs. Redford, Ford, 4 p.m.; Northville vs. Westland, Ford, 8:30.

CONNIE MACK LEAGUE

NATIONAL DIVISION

Thursday — Garden City East vs. Plymouth Elks, Plymouth; American Sentry vs. Novi B and V, Northville; Royals Warholak, Thurston. Games at 6 p.m. Northville vs. Tom's Service, Ford, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday — B and V vs. Warholak, Thurston; Franklin vs. Northville, Northville; Garden City East vs. Royals, Garden City Park; Plymouth Elks vs. Tom's Service, Plymouth. Games at 6 p.m.

AMERICAN DIVISION

Thursday — Churchill vs. Chesley Industries, Ford; Gates Real Estate vs. Garden City West, Garden City Park; Thurston vs. DiPonio, Franklin; Optimists vs. Coleman and Moss, Bentley; Ratigan vs. Hubert Realty, Stevenson. Games at 6 p.m.

Saturday — Coleman and Moss vs. Churchill, Ford Field; DiPonio vs. Hubert, Stevenson; Gates vs. Ratigan, Franklin; Thurston vs. Livonia Optimists, Bentley; Chesley Industries vs. Garden City West, North Farmington. Games at 6 p.m.

IT WAS TOUCH AND go for a few seconds at the Detroit Race Course when the two-year-old filly, Well Ann, decided to go in the opposite direction. When jockey K. Albert Gaddis finally straightened her out, and she was placed in the starting gate, she didn't have any trouble proving the fact that she was ready for the five furlong sprint, winning by four lengths.

Wonderland Wins Fifth Straight In A League

These are happy days for Redford Township's Wonderland Lanes baseball team.

Five games...five victories for Wonderland in the second round of the Greater Livonia Class A League.

What's more, when Wonderland went against ITM of Detroit, the first-round kings, in a head-on collision Sunday night, it was 1-0 for the Townshippers in as exciting a game as the Ford Field sandlot diamond has seen in a long time.

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THEN TO MAKE matters all the more interesting, Redford came back Monday night with a 2-0 verdict over Soper Clark's Service.

The double triumph in weekend action shot Redford to a two-game lead in the "A" chase.

Roger Coryell bested Bob Kuhnle of ITM in the 1-0 spectacular. Coryell gave up five hits, his rival only three.

The only run was scored in the fifth inning when Jerry Pompa singled, was moved to second on Dave Smigielski's sacrifice and to third on an error giving Coryell life.

Then Reg Barringer dropped a perfect squeeze bunt to send in Pompa.

Bob Smoots pitched the shutout over Clark. He allowed only two hits.

Terry Rothwell knocked in both the Redford runs. He belted in Leland Bjerke who had walked in the first and taken second on John Hornyak's grounder that was fumbled.

In the third inning, Hornyak singled, took second on a passed ball and scored on Rothwell hit.

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LIVONIA'S HUBERT Realty also emerged with a double victory over the weekend to hike its second-round record to three wins against two losses.

Bob Chidister hurled a 6-2 decision over Garden City as Gary Krupinski drove in three runs with two hits and Chidister singled in a pair of runs.

Mike Shearer was the losing pitcher and allowed four hits.

Walt Cuppettilo singled in Greg Macy with the first Garden City run while Bob Lanh knocked in Shearer with the second.

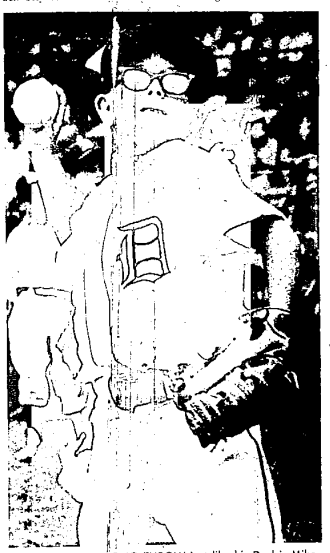
Then it was **Hubert over ITM, 4-1, as Rick Konik hurled the route, fanned seven and allowed only five hits.**

Hits by Gary Krupinski, Roger Frayer and Jay Schwalm led to the first Hubert run in the second inning. In the fifth two errors and hits by Chip Rose and Konik brought in two more runs.

Garden City lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to Northwest when two singles and a squeeze bunt decided the game in the eighth inning.

Losing pitcher Bob Payne allowed only four hits and fanned 14.

Larry Lopez was hit by a pitch. Dave Carrollo walked and Rick Clack singled for the only Garden City run in the first inning.



MAKING A LONG THROW just like his Dad is Mike Kaline, eight-year-old son of Outfielder Al Kaline, during the practice session prior to the annual duel between the Dads and the Sons.

observing sports

"Take me out to the ball park,
Take me out to the crowd
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks
And we'll all root, root, root for the home team....."

There are those who say this little tune has lost some of its impact.

That baseball isn't the game it used to be....less interest, duller games, inferior players.

Baloney.

LET'S REPEAT THAT: BALONEY.

Baseball hasn't slumped. Baseball interest hasn't faded away.

Football and basketball and hockey may have gained in interest. Horse racing is way up, too!

But from where we sit baseball still is our National pastime. It's still the game that has more people talking most of the time.

And, to say that baseball enthusiasm has dwindled is nonsense.

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IT MAKES NO difference....be it a schoolyard field in Garden City or Southfield or Livonia or Redford Township or Westland or Farmington or Plymouth...or the more plush Tiger Stadium in Detroit or the even more swank Astrodome in Houston...baseball still is KING.

It's still the game which produces exciting moments...one after another.

And the unexpected and the unbelievable.

Like that game at Tiger Stadium last week when Dalton Jones of the Tigers hit a grand-slam homer, yet wound up with only a single...and in that same game the umpires cleared the Boston dugout and told all the extra players to go to the clubhouse and wait there, just in case they might be needed.

Who says baseball is dull?

It's the game most of us understand the best. It's a simple game, really.

Throw the ball...try and bat it...throw it...run around the bases.

There aren't too many complications in the way of rules to baffle the fans. At least the confusing rules don't come very often, so the player and the fan isn't left in the dark on what has transpired.

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THE BUSINESS of a runner passing another on the bases is a rare occurrence indeed. I don't remember ever having encountered it either at Tiger Stadium or in the hundreds of games I've umpired.

The natural question that came up after the umps allowed only three runs to score on the play is what would have happened had there been two out when Jones committed his "boner" and thus became the third out.

A couple of hours after the game was over, we ran into the two men who knew the answer best....Johnny Rice and Larry Napp, the senior umpires that evening at Tiger Stadium.

Somebody asked Rice, who had worked the plate, what he'd have ruled had there been two out.

He raised his hand and denoted a zero. No runs because the Tiger who was on third when the play had started hadn't reached home when the Jones incident took place.

This is one of those "time" plays, where the ump must be on the alert to ascertain whether the runner hits the plate before a teammate is tagged out for the third out.

Of course, you must remember, that when the third out results from the failure of the batter-runner to reach first safely, NO runs can score.

But Jones had reached first, so there was a different situation in effect. Besides there weren't two outs when he hit the ball.

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THERE WE GO again, drifting off to baseball rules. We always seem to get there, at least when a strange play pops up.

But, that's baseball for you. Excitement and sometimes intrigue and when a team like the home team starts to move and win, well, they quickly become the talk of the community.

You talk baseball whether you're five years old or 80...or 100.

I'd say that more people are familiar with the names of the Tigers than they are with an equal number of names on the Lions or the Pistons or the Red Wings.

Of course, it helps to have 162 games broadcast and 40-50 on TV.

And to have writeups in the papers almost the year around.

But, that kind of treatment for any venture just doesn't happen. Baseball has worked for a long time — over a century now — to gain the status it has.

Sure the games has had its slumps. Everything does.

But, if you'll look around now, you'll find:

1 -- More kids playing baseball than ever before.
2 -- Crowds at a record peak.
3 -- Interest at a record high.
4 -- More star players performing than ever before.

Baseball....it's wonderful!

Quarter Horse Show Slated

The Michigan Quarter Horse Association will present its third horse show, Sunday July 26 at the Farm Council Grounds on the Saline/Ann Arbor Road.

June Mitchell of Town Creek, Ala. will be the judge and events will start at 8 a.m. and will continue throughout the day.

Halter classes will be held in the morning, at which time horses with the best conformation, character and manner will be selected.

The afternoon classes will consist of action classes such as cattle cutting, barrel racing, and reining, in addition to youth activity classes.

During the afternoon, Tom Nowatzke, a Detroit Lions football player and quarter horse enthusiast, will crown the Michigan Quarter Horse Association Queen.

Food and concessions will be handled by the "Good Samaritans", and profits from their efforts will go to a charitable organization.

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