

Rainouts To Determine Kingpins In Mack League

The regular season ended, but with major question marks as far as the Greater Livonia Connie Mack baseball league was concerned.

Was Thurston or Hubert Realty the champion in the American League?

Would it be Crowe's Royals or Redford's Warholak Tire as the kingpin in the National Division?

Rainouts games which have to be made up will decide the two-division pennants and determine which team goes on to the Mack regional tournament to be staged in Flint and either at Livonia or Ann Arbor.

In the American League, a rainout, caused by wet grounds, forced Thurston to remain idle Saturday while Hubert Realty of Livonia downed Farmington's Coleman and Moss, 6-3.

Thus, Thurston and Hubert are in a virtual tie until Thurston plays off three postponed games which would ultimately determine the championship.

As far as the National Division was concerned, everything hinged on a makeup game that the Royals were to play against Garden City East Tuesday night.

A VICTORY for the Royals would give the team a record of 16 wins against two ties and the flag since Warholak has finished with a 16-1-1 mark. If East were to beat the Royals, the crown would go to Warholak.

The makeup games carried other significance, too.

All teams finishing with 500 records or better will go into league playoff to determine the league crown and settle the ultimate entries for the state recreation and inter-city tournaments.

Both the Royals and Warholak scored shutout victories Saturday night.

The Royals (Bentley High) downed the Plymouth Elks, 7-0, by scoring seven times in the fourth inning as Dave Rice went the route for the winners, allowed one hit and fanned 15.

In the fourth, Jim Erwin

started things with a single. Bill Rice was safe on an error. Then Garry Battie, Dave Rice and Pat Seventy singled in succession.

Ken Gawkowski followed with another single and so did Joe Berg. After Mike Perino walked, Al Hernandez delivered a sacrifice hit. Erwin and Bill Billee up again. Both walked and Battie socked a sacrifice fly to close out the fireworks.

ALEX DUMAS, making a

rare pitching start for Warholak, fired a shutout against Franklin. He struck out three, walked four and allowed only two hits while Dave Martin led the way with a pair of hits and two RBIs.

Warholak's first run was unearned. Walks to R. J. LeRoux and Kirk Taylor, followed by Martin's double led to two runs in the fourth inning. Kirk Taylor was hit by a pitch, stole second and scored on an error for the marker in the seventh inning.

Hubert stayed even with Thurston by downing Coleman and Moss as Mike Gee went the distance for the winners. He struck out six and didn't allow a walk.

HUBERT, WHICH IS actually the varsity from Stevenson High, counted all its six runs in the fourth inning.

Sta Rose began things with a triple and scored when Garry Croskey was safe on an error. Jim Crom followed with another triple that sent in Croskey.

David Gregor and Jerry Boehm singled and then Gee was safe on a RBI fielder's choice. Steve Kuhlman singled for two more runs to complete the assault.

Livonia's B. J. Ratigan* exploded for an 8-1 win over Garden City West as Tony Kaska allowed four hits for Ratigan.

The winners' piled up 13 hits with John Grills and Rob Holmwood each getting three and Kaseta, Frank Spasarek and Gary Allen belting two apiece for Ratigan.

Allen, Grills and Holmwood each knocked in two runs.

Pay McHugh had two hits for Garden City West.

THE LIVONIA OPTIMISTS turned back Chesley of Farmington, 9-3, as Brian Dinsmore went the distance for the winners.

Bob Sitkasukas had two hits and drove in two runs for the Optimists. Dan Boehm socked in two runs with one hit, as John Wollschied.

Joe Himmelspach's triple to drive in two runs was the big blow for the losers.

Novi's B and V won over Northville, 8-1, with Lee Snow the winning pitcher. Van Wagner, McMillan and Dale each had two hits for B and V. Terry Hill had two for Northville.



GOING ALL OUT to make it to third base is Bill Rice, of the Royals, who beats the throw to Plymouth's Dave Hees with ease. The Royals continued their winning ways and remained in contention for the league championship with a victory. (Observer photo by Gerald Gazda)

Prep Stars Shine In Adray Action

What happens to All-Observer area high school baseball stars?

Do they rest on their laurels?

Hardly, as reflected this summer in the Greater Livonia Adray League.

Take the case of four Livonia boys who are on the Hubert Realty team, which has been battling with Redford in the third-round of the Adray competition which is due to end this week.

knocked in two more runs and hits by Rob Holmwood and Ficano led to the final pair of Hubert tallies in the game.

Scott Jentz and Brown knocked in the runs for the losers.

Redford and Plymouth staged a ding-dong battle before Redford finally beat it out under some dramatic conditions in the last of the sixth.

The teams were battling darkness when Redford came to bat in the sixth on the short end of a 4-3 score.

Hubert brought in another Plymouth run in the fourth before Redford tied it when Bill Holmes walked, went to third on Himmelspach's single and scored on Kirk Taylor's double.

Plymouth regained the lead in the fifth when Jon Cederberg walked, was sacrificed along and scored on Cunningham's hit. Plymouth then loaded the bases but couldn't score again.

DURING THE spring, Bob Ficano and Stu Rose were Observer first team stars at Stevenson High. Jim Erwin and Al Hernandez, meanwhile, won similar honors at Bentley.

A year ago, the All-Observer choices included Jerry Dettler from Stevenson. Now they're all bright lights on the Adray team.

Other Observer stars, meantime, have been glittering in the league, too. Like Kirk Taylor from Redford, Union at Redford, Plymouth's Howie Schryver and Dale Rumberger for Plymouth, Farmington's Joe Himmelspach, Redford's and 1969 ace Greg Main and Our Lady of Sorrows for Redford.

And there have been others, like Redford's Bill Howe and Dale Bjerke, Garden City West's Pat McHugh, etc.

"It just proves that the boys don't lose their baseball smarts as soon as the high school season ends," says Ron Heller, the Franklin High baseball coach, who during the summer has handled the Hubert teams in both the Connie Mack and Adray Leagues.

The Observer stars arose in union Friday in games in which Hubert downed Holcomb of Farmington, 9-3, and Redford rallied to beat darkness to down Plymouth, 3-1.

Dettler, seldom used as a pitcher, showed his versatility, by holding Holcomb to a pair of hits.

Meantime, Vicoa socked out a pair of his Hernandezes a triple and two RBIs, and Dettler a single which accounted for two runs.

Bill Howe tripled in Bara with Redford's first run in the first. Plymouth came back with two runs when Pat Cunningham singled. Schryver walked and Bob Kellman was safe on a fielder's choice.

A sacrifice fly by Larry Wasalski and two walks accounted for the runs.

A walk to Dennis Becker and hits by Kellman and Rumber-

ger brought in another Plymouth run in the fourth before Redford tied it when Bill Holmes walked, went to third on Himmelspach's single and scored on Kirk Taylor's double.

Plymouth regained the lead in the fifth when Jon Cederberg walked, was sacrificed along and scored on Cunningham's hit. Plymouth then loaded the bases but couldn't score again.

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Mich. Open Wide Open This Year

The 1970 Michigan Open Championship will be just that - wide open this year.

In an effort to get as many golfers as possible to attempt to qualify for the Aug. 20-23 event at Bedford Valley Country Club, the Michigan Section PGA Tournament Committee has revamped its exemption categories.

A record \$10,000 in prize money will be split over 40 places as the section's most prestigious tournament is held in Battle Creek for the second year in a row. "The change in the exemption categories will open up the event," said PGA Tournament Chairman, Sal Pomante Sr., of Spring Lake.

"The tournament is an open you shouldn't have too many exemptions."

Biggest changes include:

The tournament is open to all male golfers who are residents of the State of Michigan prior to entry deadline. Last year a minimum resident rule of six months was in effect.

Past Champions of the Michigan PGA Championship, Michigan Amateur Championship and Michigan Public Links Championship are no longer exempt from qualifying unless they have won their respective events within the last five years.

Only Class A professionals are exempt from qualifying.

Last year all Michigan PGA members in good standing except Class J were permitted to skip qualifying and move right into tournament competition.

The reduced qualifying exemptions will permit close to 90 spots to be filled for the 1970 Championship. This number is up approximately 50 places over the openings last year.

After 28 Years ... His 1st Ace

Lee Cover of Livonia finished his golf round on a very happy note by aceing the 220-yard ninth hole at the Bob-O-Link golf course Monday. Cover, who has been at the game for 28 years, used a 3-wood to score his first hole-in-one. He finished with a score of 34 for the round.

Tennis Tourny Scheduled

The Livonia closed tennis tournament, for residents of Livonia only, will be staged starting Friday by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation.

There'll be singles and doubles competition for men and women and boys and girls in all age brackets. For additional information call Roger Kinney, 425-1148.

Old Pro

Acting coach for Michigan State's soccer team in 1970 is Payton Fuller. All-America selection in 1961 while a Spartan undergraduate.

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Sandlot Schedule

ADRAY LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY -- Northville vs. Redford, Ford Field, 6 p.m.; Plymouth vs. Farmington Holcomb, Ford, 8:30; Westland vs. Garden City Darrin, Bentley, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY -- Redford vs. Holcomb, Redford Union; Livonia Hubert vs. Garden City Darrin, Garden City Park; Westland vs. Plymouth, Plymouth, All games at 6 p.m.

CLASS A

WEDNESDAY -- Garden City vs. Redford Wonderland, Garden City West High; Soper's Clark vs. ITM, Haggerty; Northwest vs. Livonia Hubert, Cass Benton. All games at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY -- Hubert vs. Wonderland, Ford, 6 p.m.; Garden City vs. Soper's, Ford, 8:30; ITM vs. Northwest, Haggerty, 1:30.

WEDNESDAY -- Hubert vs. Garden City, Ford, 6 p.m.; Wonderland, Haggerty, 6 p.m.

Soper's vs. Northwest, Ford, 8:30; ITM vs. Wonderland, Haggerty, 6 p.m.

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