

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Bobby Williams, the talented son of Jack Williams Sr., who is still rated by oldtimers in the Detroit area as one of the finest drivers of trotters, is stealing the spotlight at Wolverine Raceway these nights.

Bob, who still calls Comstock Park his home even though he's busy most of the year racing in California and the Midwest, became the first driver ever to register two sub-2:00 miles on the same evening in Michigan.

More than that one of the victories was in 1:58 with Michiganbred Knox Patch — and that was the second fastest mile ever in the state. The win came in the Good Time Pace last Saturday when the son of Knox Hanover shocked a crowd of 12,671 by coming from far back in the long stretch to hit the finish line a full length ahead of Robert E. Adios.

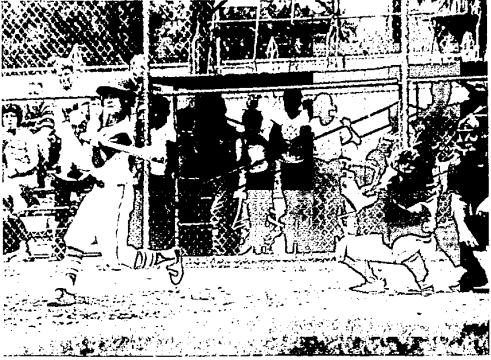
Earlier, he subbed for Gene Riegler, the cagey Greenville, Ohio, driver-trainer, and guided Bye Bye Dambirdy to a victory in 1:59.4. That clocking earned the track record set a week earlier by C.K. Adios.

But that's only part of the story. Bobby is leading the drivers with a winning percentage of 42, well ahead of second-place Pat Crowe with 31.4.

The pilot with the most victories after two weeks of the 60-night meeting is Gerry Bogniver, the 25-year-old Okanaw, who had 11 wins, his 30 starts and five thirds in his 40 starts.

IMAGINE having a two-year-old clocked in 2:00 in one heat and 1:58.1 in another and still not win either.

That's what happened to Ray Forsythe, of Birmingham, business partner of Charley Gehring, when Local Time Downs was a rich stake at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.



BELTING OUT A HIT is Kevin Hickey, of S. Farmington, as he sets up a score during the tense semifinal game against the Illinois champions Thursday in Kokomo, Ind. (Observer photo by Pam Spaulding of the Kokomo Tribune)

Holman Family Loses; Tourney Hopes Shot

You win 26 straight games... yet the season ends on a note of an unhappy note.

Which is the way the story wrote for Plymouth's Red Holman baseball team in Class E boys 14-15 years old this year.

Starting back in the spring as a unit at Plymouth East and then carrying on to the summer program, the Red Holman team had won game after game.

The total finally added up to 26 straight and a trip to Jackson Tuesday for the semifinals in the Michigan Recreation Parks Association Class E tournament.

But this time victory eluded Holman. The team bowed, 7-4, to Allen Park's Rangers and came home without getting a chance to shoot for the state title.

"We really have nothing to be unhappy about," said Manager Bob Walleto, "not when you stop to consider the overall accomplishments of this team. Yet, when you get as far as we did, well, you want to go all the way... and it hurts when you commit some errors that makes it possible for the other guys to win."

IT ALSO hurt the Plymouth boys when they realized that they jumped off to a 3-0 lead in the first inning, but weren't able to keep command.

Kevin Smith and Steve Robb slapped back-to-back singles to get Holman off and running.

Then Jeff Stringham walked and the bases were loaded.

Rob Willeto draws walk and Smith was forced in with the first run. Mark Allen then bounced and Robb and Stringham scored. That made it 3-0.

But Allen Park cashed one run in the third inning on three walks and an error and finally took the lead in the top of the sixth on a walk, a single, a two-run error and another error that led to three runs.

Plymouth came right back in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game when Steve

Crowther doubled and scored on an error.

But the homer by Joe Goethy did the damage against Holman and won for Allen Park.

ED MCINTOSH hurled the first six innings for Plymouth before yielding to a pinch hitter. Robb worked the seventh and was tagged with the defeat.

The indications are that several of the boys could be help of the Plymouth High baseball varsity within the next two years.

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 Men's tourney -- Saturday (Sept. 12), Sunday (Sept. 13) -- 36 holes.

(This tournament is restricted to residents of the City of Livonia. For additional information call Gary Whittner at Whispering Willows golf club, Newburg at Eight Mile Road. Deadline for entries is Friday, Sept. 4.)

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Gridders

To Report

Invitations to report for each fall practice have gone to 93 Michigan State varsity football players.

Coach Duffy Daugherty has called for his athletes to assemble at campus Aug. 26 for lodging assignments, physical exams, equipment check-out, and other chores.

The Spartans will appear before photographers and reporters at the annual press day Thursday, Aug. 27, and then start conditioning drills the next day. Michigan State's first game is set for Sept. 19 against Washington at Seattle.

Among the 93 players asked to report are 33 lettermen, 31 from the 1969 team that posted a 4-6 record and placed ninth in the Big Ten standings with a 2-5 mark and two from 1968.

The breakdown by class shows 31 seniors, 22 juniors and 40 sophomores. Of these, 52 hail from Michigan, and the other 41 from 20 other states.

Redbird Rally Fails In State Title Bid

It all boiled down to one game...and the Livonia Redbirds couldn't come through to cash in the golden chips — which would have meant ruling as the Michigan Recreation Parks Association's state Class F champs.

But, in consolation, there always will be realization that the Redbirds (boys) under 14 did emerge second best in the state.

The Redbirds had captured Livonia League honors and then gone on to win the district and regional in order to qualify for the state semifinals at Jackson.

Sponsored by Jack Hubert, of Hubert Realty, the Redbirds scored a 2-0 win over Melvindale in the state semis before falling to Saginaw, 9-7, in the title game.

loved seven runs in four innings. Kirk Richards gave up two runs in the final two innings.

All in all it was a bit of a letdown. Saginaw collected 12 safeties to 10 for the Indians.

Winning pitcher Bill Book had his streakout pitch working, however. He fanned 15, usually getting one in a big situation.

Saginaw scored twice in the second, twice in the third and four times in the fourth before adding one run in the sixth.

The Redbirds scored once in the second when Boiz tripled and Ernie Storm singled. In the fifth, Warren Wallis walked, Richards singled and Wallis scored on an infield roller.

STORM'S walk and a double by Brian Butler in the sixth produced another Redbirds' run.

Then in the seventh, Mickey Vaness singled, Mike Barton walked and Tom Schulz singled for one run. Boiz followed with another single that sent in two runs. Then Mark Springfield doubled in the fourth run.

Moments later, Butler singled and Springfield was cut down at home. That proved the decisive out of the inning and the game as far as both teams were concerned.

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IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

The national all-star, once the most outstanding bowling tournament in the nation, will become just another on the pro bowlers tour when the season opens next month.

This decision was reached in a meeting of the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, and it was decided to alter the format just a bit and re-name the event the U.S. Open.

Under the new format, the event will be for men only and will be limited to the first 96 entries. Aside from the 96 pro like number of amateurs will be invited for the pro-am that will open the event. After the first day it will be a matter of elimination until the finals.

The BPAA was forced into the change when interest seemed to be falling off and the event was ignored by television. Now, with network television and some special promotion the event is expected to regain some of its former stature.

ONE OF THE oldest leagues in the suburban area — the Louis D. Brandeis circuit — will open its 26th season on August 27 at Ark Lanes West.

One of the big features of the league season this year will be a tournament with the B'nai B'rith lodges of Toronto and Windsor, Canada.

There still are some openings in the league and anyone interested is asked to contact

Secretary Harry Cohen at 546-3712.

TUESDAY NIGHT will be a banner time for the Metropolitan Detroit B'nai B'rith Association. It will host the presidents and secretaries of the 18 affiliates at the annual dinner at Holiday Inn in Southfield.

Gary Alter, executive secretary of the Detroit B'nai B'rith Council, will be the main speaker.

By George Minto observing sports

Well, here we go — really, it's the coaches and their athletes — who are going anaplace.

High school football practice starts in these parts — in fact throughout Michigan — Monday morning. The varsity teams will be out and so will the Jayvees.

Cross-country teams also will be assembling and starting the chore of preparing for the tough schedules ahead when school bells begin to ring in early September.

Visiting out at Cranbrook School the other afternoon and watching the Lions go through their paces, I thought to myself: "Wouldn't it be something if every high school coach could take his charges out there (to Cranbrook) and watch the pros work?"

Such a trip might enlighten those young men who think that excelling in sports — or for that matter anything else — comes easy.

You stand out there at Cranbrook and see some of the great names of pro football — Lem Barney, Alex Karras, Wayne Walker, Nick Eddy, Steve Owens and all the rest.

These are fellows who have kicked it up the ladder from grade school to high school to college...and now the pros.

They have enjoyed all kinds of success in their football lives. Most made all-things or all-that in high school.

Several were All-Americans in college. The group includes a Heisman trophy winner like Owens and no higher distinction can come to a college football player.

YET, HERE THE LIONS were, working in their second practice of the day. It was hot and muggy...the temperature boiling around 85.

First in specialty groups, then on a mass team basis, they were going at it...for almost two hours.

And the last thing coach Joe Schmidt made the players do was run back and forth across the field several times...windprints, they call 'em.

There were many high school football kids in the audience...a few from places like Southfield and nearby Brother Rice.

These kids had to be impressed. Hopefully, they were inspired.

The big pros, the guys who make the big money, weren't loafing. They were doing what their coaches ordered. One and all realizes that without practice you can't succeed in sports.

The Denny McLain story this year should serve as a classic example on the importance of early-season drills.

Denny and the Tigers had an idea that Denny could come back from his half-season suspension merely by working out on his own and then pitching to high school athletes down in Lakeland, Fla.

This kind of preparation didn't work. It's taken Denny several starts now and several podiums to begin to show signs of the great pitcher baseball knew in the past...and the great pitcher he's destined to be again.

LITTLE WONDER, coaches like Southfield's Ed Bryant or Plymouth's Tom Moshammer have urged their football heroes to be ready for Monday's first workout.

It's important to be set both mentally and physically for that first drill.

A good many of the coaches have taken care of the physical aspect by conducting conditioning sessions and calisthenics for the last two or three weeks.

The mental is something else again. Nothing that can be done lifting weights or doing pushups can instill that certain desire, that certain eagerness that certain "drive" that's so important to make an athlete tick.

To succeed in sports you have to think the game you're playing as much as you can. You have to talk yourself into literally a frenzy for the task at hand.

You know this even holds true for game umpires or referees. The best ones aren't necessarily those who know the rules best, or who are the best at administering the game.

Officials, like players, must take the assignment facing them seriously. They must be ready and alert...which is why before any major pro or college game you'll find the referees or umps sitting in their dressing room...talking over play situations, talking over what the rulings might be if this or that happens...talking over where they should be on certain plays.

So, if there's any suggestion we might offer to the prep footballers on this eve of practice it would have to be:

"Take the game seriously. Get into shape and stay in shape. Think football all you can. Lastly, the road to fame, to glory isn't easy."

Just ask any of the Lions. They'll tell you.

THE ALL-STAR was initiated under unusual circumstances. Started as a Chicago Tribune promotion it was due to open on Dec. 7, 1941 — the day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

For a time it was suggested that the event be cancelled. But it finally was permitted to go on and Johnny Crimmins, then one of Detroit's best known bowlers, won it.

In the years that followed the battle was the peak of bowling competition in the old Chicago Coliseum. Then, during a full, the Chicago Tribune promotion it was due to open on Dec. 7, 1941 — the day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

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Several years prior to that Eddie Lubanski gained the final, but fell victim to the late Steve Nagy, then of Cleveland, in one of the greatest come-backs in the history of the event.

In dropping the women from the new format the BPAA announced that a special national event for the women is being studied and that final plans will be announced shortly.

Once dominated by Marion Ladewig, the bowling grandmother from Grand Rapids, the women's event, too, lost interest through the years. And in all that time only one Detroit — Anita Cantaline — ever rolled her way to the title.

THE BOWLING season in the Metropolitan Detroit area will open officially Monday with the staging of the John Gavis Sweepstakes at Thunderbird Lanes in Troy.

Twenty-eight of the top men's teams in the area are entered along with 16 women's teams. The event gets under way at 7:30 o'clock and will mark Stroth's first step toward another championship year.

AS IN PAST years the All-Star Classic will open its season early and is to start toppling the Tuesday night Thunderbowl in Allen Park.

Most of the teams will be intact, but, strangely, Strohs will not be among them.

For the first time in 10 years Johnny Ruggerio, the veteran captain, will not be in the Stroth line-up. He retired at the close of last season.

To replace him Stroth has gone back to a six-man team and has taken Bob Kwolek and Jack Born from the John F. Ivory team in its stead.

It will be interesting to watch the battle when these rivals meet this year.

Southfield golfer Burton Kaye found it pays to travel to Northville Township to play golf.

Kaye, 19, of 2705 Aberdeen, aced the 132-yard sixth hole with a nice iron at Brooklane Golf Club, 1/2 Mile and Shelton.

His perfect shot hit the green on the fly and bounced into the cup.

The hole-in-one helped him to a score of 39 for the nine-hole round with par at 28.

His shot was witnessed by his playing partner, Rick Siegal, 18, of Birmingham.

Golfer Gets An Ace

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