

# Engineers Ice Compuware, lead in playoff

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

The Hennessey Engineers are beginning to relish this underdog role. In a wild series that included three overtime games, coach A.J. Baker's Engineers surprised the Fraser Falcons four games to one in the North American Junior Hockey League's first-round playoffs last week. It was a series they weren't supposed to win.

Now the upset-minded Engineers are trying to buck the odds against Compuware in a series which ultimately will decide the mythical state championship. It boils down to a best-of-five battle for pride since both teams are qualified for the national tournament that Compuware will host later this month.

The Engineers, who finished third to league champion Compuware during the regular season, drew first blood in their opening game Tuesday at Compuware Arena in Oak Park, 4-3. The game-winning goal was supplied by Southfield's J. Jewett.

The next game will be played 7:30 p.m. Friday at Plymouth Arena, then moves back to Oak Park for a 3:15 p.m. meeting Saturday.

"WE WERE supposed to lose four straight in Fraser (to the Falcons) and we are the underdog again

## hockey

here," said Jewett, who played high school hockey last season at Southfield. "To come in here and beat them means a lot."

"We were all pumped up coming off that series against the Falcons. We know that the national tournament is important. But we want to win this too. It's always better to beat Compuware because they're kind of like the main rival."

"We've had some good games against them this year," he said.

After a scoreless first 20 minutes each team scored twice in the second period.

Compuware's goals came from left wing Brent Ketznerberger and center Mike Boback. Engineer goals were tallied by Eric Kapelanaki and alternate captain Larry Pilut, who scored on a power play with just two seconds left in the period. Pilut tipped in Todd Tamburino's blast from the point and the goal seemed to spark the Engineers in the final period.

They came out and controlled the first 15 minutes of the last period and went ahead on Pilut's power play goal at the 11:16 mark. Jewett



Engineer goalie Dave Church withstood a late Compuware rally in Tuesday's best-of-five series opener, won by the Engineers 4-3.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

was alert around the net in giving his team a 4-2 lead at the 15:02 mark on assists from defenseman Kirk Priestkorn and forward Bob Mlynarek.

"The puck was in the opposite corner and I was hanging out in front of the net," said Jewett. "I saw the shot from the point and got the rebound. I saw the upper corner of the net and just had to put it in."

"It's about time. . . I had a little

dry spell there for a while," he said. "It felt good to get a goal."

A MINUTE later, however, Compuware's Mark Olson tipped in Southfield resident Joe Snover's shot to make it a one-goal game.

Sparked by Olson's goal, Compuware controlled the rest of the period. Coach Andy Weldenbach pulled goalie Mike Gilmore with less than a minute left and had a couple of good

scoring chances but failed to click.

"You'd have to point to (Pilut's goal) as the turning point," said Baker. "He was our second-leading scorer this year, but he's by far the catalyst of our team."

The win at Compuware now gives Hennessey Engineers the home ice advantage in the series. Hennessey can win the NAJHL's state title by merely winning its two home games in Plymouth.

"This win has to compare to our first win against the Falcons. That was a one-goal game at their place," said Baker, whose team had a 2-7-4 overall record this year against Compuware. "We'd like to take this thing in three games. We're going to give it our absolute best shot on Friday and come back here and play hard."

"They have to win three of the four games now," he said.

# Staff changes, renovations mark 3rd Ladbroke season

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

The Detroit Race Course in Livonia, in its third year of ownership by Ladbroke of Great Britain, has undergone another makeover in preparation for Friday's season opener, the first of 119 thoroughbred horse racing dates scheduled for spring and summer.

When the gates open at noon and the first race kicks off at 2 p.m., there will be a lot of changes, some more noticeable than others.

• Bill Bork, 53, is the new track president, succeeding Donald Drew, who departed in January for Ak-Sar-Ben Race Track in Omaha, Neb.

Bork left his job as executive vice president and general manager of operations for three tracks owned by the Ogden Corp.

From 1974 to 1984, Bork served as president and GM for the Penn National Race Track in Grantville, Pa., where he was responsible for establishing television account wagering via cable TV. He also was instrumental in a state tax reduction and passage of off-track betting in Illinois.

• DRCS NEW racing secretary is Allan Plevier, who succeeds Bennett Parke.

Plevier has scheduled a total of nearly \$2.3 million in stakes races for the two racing meets, March 27 through Sept. 7 (119 days) and Sept. 9 through Nov. 22 (56 days).

The highlight of the stakes program is the 39th running of the Grade II \$250,000-added Michigan Mile handicap, slated for Saturday, July 11. Another attraction is the second running of the \$75,000-added Michigan Budweiser Breeders' Handicap, Saturday, Aug. 22.

Among the major Michigan-bred races are the \$50,000-added Michigan Breeders' Governors' Handicap (three-year-olds and up) on Saturday, June 27 and the \$40,000-added Michigan Oaks (three-year-old fillies) on Saturday, June 6.

## horse racing

• Since 1985, when Ladbroke purchased the track, over \$4 million in renovations have been made. Most recently, some \$550,000 has been spent to refurbish the first floor clubhouse.

The new clubhouse includes the sports teletheater, sporting three giant screens and seating for 250 people. The track racing surface also has been upgraded along with the sound system and stable areas.

• THREE NEW WAGERS have been added to the betting format with the dawning of the "Super-Tri" and expansion of the "Twin-Trifecta" on the third and fifth races. The bettor must pick the first three finishers in correct order in the first half, then correctly choose the first four across the finish line in the second half in order to cash in.

The "Pick-5" is an expansion of the "Daily-Double." Bettors must correctly pick the winners of races No. 7, 8 and 9 to win 100 percent of the money pool.

The third new wager is called "Superfecta," where bettors have to correctly choose the first four horses in order to win.

• Opening day will feature a variety of promotions:

The first 8,000 paid patrons will receive a mini-vacuum cleaner. Also featured will be the debut of the "Spin and Win," a takeoff on the popular Wheel of Fortune TV program where patrons will have the opportunity to win cash or an AMC motor vehicle of their choice. And in the second straight year, the track will sponsor a Best Dressed Ladies contest, an extension of Ladbroke's weekly contest held each Sunday evening during last year's meeting.

The Detroit Mounted Police will kick off the festivities at 1:15 p.m.

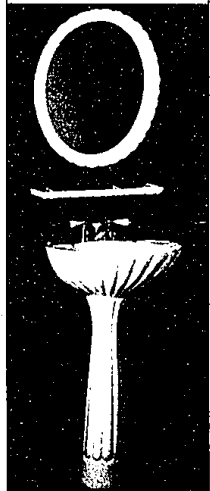
SATURDAY'S FAMILY DAY card (wife and children under 12 will be admitted free) begins at 1 p.m. (post time), featuring celebrity handicapper Peter Kules, who will talk at the Teletheater at 11:30 a.m. The opening of the new children's playground is also slated and a free silver-plated Thunder Roy ring will be given to patrons (with vouchers). Five key ring numbers will be chosen after the eighth race with \$1,000 available to the lucky winners.

Sunday's card, beginning at 6 p.m. (post time) is ladies day. All ladies will be admitted free.

Admission prices are \$1.50 (general admission), \$1.25 (senior citizens) and \$4 (clubhouse).

General admission parking is \$1.50, preferred grandstand, \$2.50; preferred clubhouse, \$3; and valet, \$4.50.

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