

Whips Churchill In Finals, 8-2

Northville Crowned Tourney Champion

With a crowd of more than 2,000 looking on, Northville High whipped surprising Livonia Churchill, 8-2, in the championship finals of the sixth annual Les Anders Memorial tournament at Ford Field in Livonia.

Neither Northville nor Churchill was considered a threat when the 20 team tourney opened two weeks ago but the Chargers from Livonia upset powerful Livonia Stevenson, 3-1, in the quarterfinals and tough St. Agatha of Redford Township in the semis, 4-0.

At the same time, the Mus-

tangs topped Livonia Bentley, champion of the Suburban Six League, 4-0 in the semis.

BIG MAN in the Northville drive to the tournament title was Pitcher Fred Holdsworth who blanked Bentley and then turned in a brilliant relief job in the championship contest, fanning five in the final 2 1/3 innings.

For his performances in four tourney games, Holdsworth was the unanimous choice as "most valuable" player.

Churchill, a surprise finalist since it was playing in the event for the first time and

has a squad of juniors and sophomores, had a bad case of jitters in the finals, committing a total of nine errors that led to five of the Northville scores.

THE MUSTANGS SERVED notice in the opening frame that they were out for a victory by scoring three times.

But disaster struck in the third when the Mustangs tallied three times in the third aided by a curving liner that went through Rightfielder Dennis Kolakowski.

Bach started the inning with a single. Adams sent him third with a smash to center. Utley grounded out, Adams going to second and Bach hold-

ing. Tom Singer slashed a line drive to right which Kolakowski appeared to have in his glove. But the ball curved away and he slipped as he lunged for it and the ball rolled past.

Before it was recovered, Singer had raced all the way around, scoring behind Bach and Adams. That made the score 6-2 and was more than enough for the victory.

Bach, who handed out nine free tickets, filled the bases in the fifth and Holdsworth came in from left field to put an end to the rally. He fanned

Gordie Miller to end the inning.

That was the final threat of the Chargers who nicked Holdsworth for one of their two hits in the sixth before he struckout the final batter in the inning and the side in the seventh to end the game.

La Tue belted a homer for Northville in the sixth to make the score, 7-2, and Singer tallied the final counter in the seventh on a single and two errors.

Mills and Adams were the big guns for Northville with three hits each. Roy Henricks-

son and Kolakowski collected the two Churchill bingles.

BOTH NORTHVILLE and Churchill won by identical 4-0 scores in the semifinals.

Bentley's Suburban Six League champs felt the sting of Northville while St. Agatha, another surprise—from the standpoint of going so far—was turned back by Churchill.

Holdsworth flipped the shut-out for Northville. He stopped Bentley on three hits while fanning 15 and walking one in on Terry Mills' single. Then hurled Bentley to the league

title and into the Anders semis.

Gary Subkowiak was the winning pitcher for Churchill. He allowed four hits, fanned nine and walked one while the loss was tagged on John Mater.

Northville scored once in the second when Bernie Bach singled, Steve Utley walked and Tom Singer singled. In the third after Rick Lareu walked and stole second, Bach delivered an RBI single.

Dave Coe walked in the fourth, stole second and raced in on Terry Mills' single. Then

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Roger Frayer Named 'Coach Of Year'

By GEORGE MASKIN
OBSERVER SPORTS EDITOR

The "baby" team...and the "baby" coach, who grew up in a hurry.

That was Churchill High in baseball -- the team which surprised by reaching the finals in the sixth Les Anders Invitational baseball tournament without the presence of a senior on the squad. That's because there are no seniors in the school and won't be until the fall.

What's more Churchill Coach Roger Frayer won't be 23 years old until next June 23.

HE'S THE YOUNGEST member of the Churchill faculty, and often there are co-eds who flirt -- or at least try to flirt with Frayer in English class, his major teaching subject.

But baseball and sports are his first love, next to his wife, Beth, whom he met and married at Alma...and brought back to Livonia where she

teaches second grade at the Hull Elementary School.

Frayer, hailed as the coach-of-the-tournament for his accomplishments with an unsung Churchill team in the Anders Invitational, truly qualifies as "a home-town boy who came back to make it big."

He was born in Hamtramck, but at the age of three moved with his parents to Livonia.

FRAYER BLOSSOMED into a star athlete during his high school days at Franklin.

He played football, basketball, and baseball and was

named on the All-Oberway area team in baseball in 1965.

Then he went on to Alma College to star for four years in football and baseball.

He was one of few athletes to attend college anywhere to be named the captain of two varsity teams.

In football, he helped Alma one stretch win 17 straight games. He played as a defensive back. In baseball, he was all conference as a catcher both in his junior and senior years.

While at Alma, he kept com-

ing home each summer to play sandlot baseball with Hubert Realty where he was one of the team's stars.

He's now in his fourth season with Hubert, but this will be his last, he says. Come next spring, he plans to take his Churchill team into the Connie Mack program and guide them during the summer months.

NOBODY FIGURED Churchill would cause any trouble in the Anders tourney. "How could they?" the experts were saying.

After all, Churchill had only a 5-4 regular-season record. It was a team devoid of much experience and no seniors.

"I kept telling the fellows we didn't need seniors to win," said Frayer. "When we beat Franklin in the second game (the score was 4-3), the kids really knew that I wasn't telling them a fib."

Churchill then rose to beat Stevenson, 3-1, in what probably had to be the biggest victory any Churchill team has fashioned thus far.

Stevenson had won the Inter-Lakes League title and there was a slight "family" rivalry going, especially with George Van Wagner coaching Stevenson and his son Bruce, the catcher for Churchill.

And there was Jim Croom playing for Stevenson and brother Mickey for Churchill.

The younger fellas got the last laugh as it were.

"THIS WILL be a great shot in the arm for Churchill athletics," added Frayer, who also serves as the school's backfield coach in football.

"It'll prove to the kids that we have arrived on the sports scene in Livonia and in the area.

It didn't take Roger Frayer long to arrive either -- as a coach.

You see, this was only his first year as a head coach...his first year at Churchill.



STANDOUT PLAYER in the tournament was Pitcher Fred Holdsworth of Northville. His performance against Livonia Bentley in the semifinals was termed as one of the finest ever for a schoolboy pitcher in Observerland. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Big Smiles Tell Story...



HAPPY VICTORS! Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara presents the championship trophy of the sixth annual Les Anders Memorial baseball tourney to Captain and Pitcher Fred Holdsworth of Northville, while his smiling mates look on. (Observer photo by Vince Wittek)

... Sad To Be A Runnerup



NOT SO HAPPY and still glum over the 8-2 loss to Northville High in the championship finale, Churchill Captain Pat Welch and Coach Roger Frayer (right) accept the runnerup trophy from Robert Hatcher, president of the Livonia Optimist Club. The Optimists, Observer Newspapers and the Livonia Recreation Department are co-sponsors of the annual tournament.

Redford's Pitching Sparkles

Redford Township's Wonderland Lanes came up with some outright pitching in getting off to a fast start in the Greater Livonia Class A baseball League.

After gaining a shutout victory in its opener, Redford followed up with a 7-1 win over Detroit Soper and then blanked Garden City, 8-0.

Tom Fleszar, ex-University of Michigan star gave up only a fourth-inning single in beating Soper. Bill Howes and Terry Rothwell led the Wonderland attack. Each had two hits and drove in three runs.

Dale Bjerk, former great at Redford Union and fresh from Eastern Michigan University, scattered three hits in blanking Garden City.

Mark Carrow homered, Reg Barringer tripled and Gary Schaffer doubled and singled to knock in four runs to lead the winners.

Redford scored three times in the third when Carrow homered after Barringer tripled. Then Schaffer and Gary Birkett singled for another marker.

In the fifth, Rothwell singled, Schaffer walked, Bill Bashara singled in two runs and Bjerk singled for another run.

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