

Milt Wilcox making most of retirement

By LeAnne Rogers
staff writer

It has been nearly three years since former Tiger pitcher Milt Wilcox retired from major league baseball but his involvement in sports hasn't decreased.

Wilcox hosts a sports television program on the PASS cable television station, runs business promotions featuring sports personalities, operates baseball camps, is involved in horse racing and breeding and will soon provide color commentary for cable television broadcasts for Toledo Mud Hens games.

ONE BIG adjustment of retirement, ending the extensive travel required from baseball players, was a mixed blessing, according to Wilcox.

"Not traveling was a big adjustment after 19 years. You get to see a lot of friends you made in other places."

"But now I can enjoy the summers off and play golf, be with my kids. I couldn't do that before."

When his daughter, now 19, was growing up, Wilcox said he was gone so much that he missed much of her childhood.

Since his retirement, he said he has been able to spend more time with his 13-year old son.

"The first year or so I had a bit of trouble adjusting," Wilcox said of his 1986 retirement from baseball.

"I stayed away from the ballpark, probably too much. I felt like I'd want to pitch. It's still in your blood."

AFTER TWO shoulder injuries in 1984 when Wilcox played for the World Series-winning Tigers, he said he never really was able to come back. He retired after playing half the 1986 season with the Seattle Mariners.

"When I got out of baseball, I said I'd like to be a broadcaster. They didn't seem to work too hard."

After spending 1 1/2 years doing a cable sports talk based in Dearborn, Wilcox said the show was picked up by PASS in 1987.

"We've really gone on to do all kinds of sports and talk with all kinds of sports figures."

"We have also expanded from doing one-on-one interviews. We do a show each month from Milan Dragway."

Tiger fans also have seen Wilcox on the pre-game Tiger Roundtable discussions on WDIV-TV.

"I enjoy doing that and a lot of people see it. I have close ties to the Tigers. That's where I played the longest," said Wilcox, who joined Detroit after playing with the Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians and Chicago Cubs.

"But now I can enjoy the summers off and play golf, be with my kids. I couldn't do that before."

— Milt Wilcox

FORMER AND current Tigers players are prominent in the Wilcox baseball camp, aimed at players 7 to 17 years old.

Gates Brown and Jim Northrup spend a great deal of time at the camp, Wilcox said, with appearances for photos and autographs by active players like Alan Trammell and Matt Nokes.

"About 85 percent of the kids we see are playing organized ball somewhere but only about three or four of the kids will actually know the fundamentals."

"The camp emphasizes the fundamentals. The right way to hold a ball and how to think before you hit."

WILCOX HAS maintained close ties with baseball for his promotional business, providing sports figures for business openings and other related functions.

"It's really grown."

"I found out how hard it was for business people to make contact with professional sports figures for promotions."

In addition to Tigers players, Wilcox said the business has expanded outside the Detroit area and to include non-baseball celebrities such as Pistons center Bill Laimbeer, Cincinnati Bengals quarterback "Boomer" Esiason, Red Wing Lee Norwood and former St. Louis Cardinal Lou Brock.

Another sports venture for Wilcox is horses, which he first became involved with in 1982 at Detroit Racing Course.

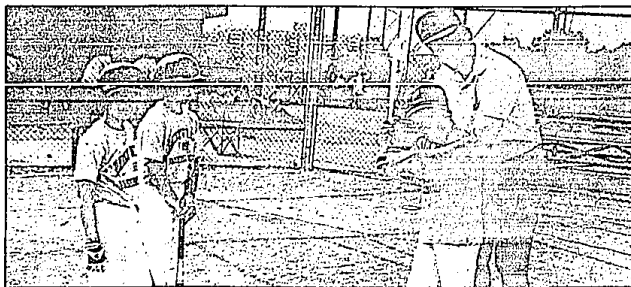
"I grew up in Oklahoma but I wasn't a cowboy. I didn't like horses as a kid."

"A guy invited me to jog horses at DRC and it was a great feeling to control a big animal like that."

With brood mares and stallions, Wilcox said his horse breeding activities have become almost a full-time job.

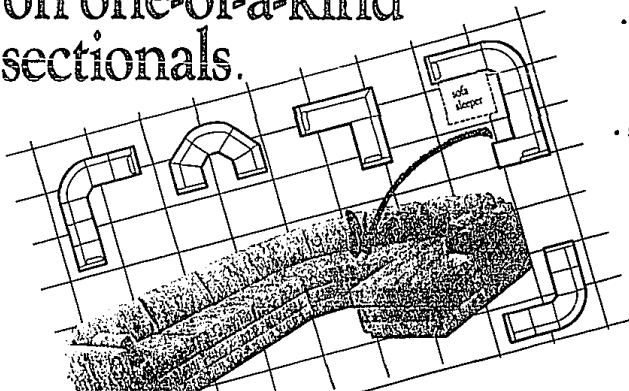
If all these activities weren't enough, Wilcox said he was considering an offer to play baseball in a senior league based in Florida during the winter months.

"I did quit playing neighborhood softball because I decided I wanted my golf swing to be better than my bat swing."



Scott Carver (left) and Matt Benfer, both of Livonia, are on deck as former Detroit Tigers pitcher Milt Wilcox gives Jason Mallix, also of Livonia, help with his batting.

Once-a-year savings on one-of-a-kind sectionals.



Brent FURNITURE
Designs for Living

1914 Telegraph (1/2 Mile N. of Square Lake)
Bloomfield Hills • 338-7716

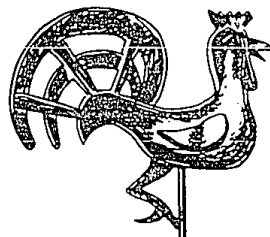
126 E. 14 Mile Rd., Clawson • 583-1475
(Showroom & Clearance Center)

Open Mon. & Thurs. 10-9, Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10-5:30
(Not subject to prior sale)

- Design a made-to-order sectional arrangement for your room and save!

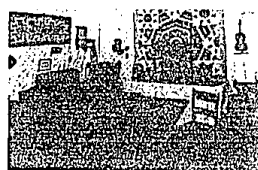
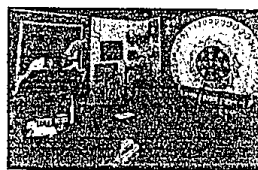
30% OFF

- Select from 1000 fabrics and dozens of pieces, including incliners and sleepers
- Receive delivery in just 35 days
- Sale ends JULY 24th



Ann Arbor Antiques Market

5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road., Ann Arbor, Michigan
OUR 21st SEASON



**SUNDAY
JULY 16**

5:00am - 4:00pm
Third Sunday of the Month
(except November)

Over 350 Dealers in Quality Antiques & Select Collectibles

All Under Cover

All items guaranteed as represented.

Locator service for specialties and dealers; on site delivery and shipping service.

FREE PARKING
ADMISSION \$3.00

SEE CLASSIFICATION 702 ANTIQUES

For further information contact
M. Brushur, Manager
P.O. Box 1512, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

CARE House gains grants

The Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland Inc. (CANC), has received \$50,000 from the Skillman Foundation and \$10,000 from McGregor Fund for a special project entitled CARE House.

CARE (Child Abuse Resource Effort) House will coordinate the response to child victims of sexual abuse. "Many times children are victimized by the way professionals respond," says Meg Mittel, executive director of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council.

"CARE House is unique in that professionals will work together towards reducing the number of inter-

views, reducing the traumatization to the child and increasing the rate of prosecution of offenders."

The Skillman Foundation makes grants in the areas of Children, Youth and Young Persons, Basic Human Needs, Community-wide Collaborative Efforts, Culture and Arts and Education.

The McGregor Fund is a general purpose philanthropic corporation organized "to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind." Priorities for McGregor Fund include homelessness, partnerships and cooperative efforts which address critical issues facing greater Detroit and education.

CHIMNEYS

Cleaned
Screened
Repaired
New

Roofs

• Repaired
• Re-Roofed
• New
• Leaks
• Stopped



Senior Citizen Discount

Karney Dorderian's
CROWN CONTRACTING, INC.
43220 8 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48250

427-3981

LICENSED • INSURED • GUARANTEED
SINCE 1952