



Eddie Feigner, the legendary pitcher for the King and His Court, can still hum the softball after 44 years on tour.

Fans flock to see The King

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Along the fence and out into the outfield, the people gathered. They waited with curiosity, perhaps like the days of the Wild, Wild West when a famous gunslinger would come to town.

The King and His Court didn't let them down.

Instead of firing bullets, though, the 65-year-old gentleman with a crew cut was flinging a softball past batters Friday at Canton Softball Center.

A team from Pat Boyle Chevrolet was the foil for Eddie Feigner and his four-man squad's antics.

Lightning and the threat of rain cut the program short but not before Feigner was able to show off his repertoire of trick pitches that has brought more than 17 million people out to see him perform in the last 44 years.

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Players from Boyle Chevrolet wondered the same about some of

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Feigner's pitches. Feigner tossed them from behind his back, between his legs, from second base and while blindfolded. He possesses more than 30 pitches in his arsenal.

THINGS DIDN'T start off well for The King and His Court, which features Gary West, Craig Van Prooyan and Roger Goode. Curt White of Boyle Chevrolet led off with a double.

No problem. On the first pitch to the next batter the catcher, Van Prooyan, picked off White with a perfect throw to second base.

White didn't have a good night. He had to stand in the batter's box while Feigner uncorked some underhand fastballs while wearing a blindfold.

"The catcher told me 'Watch it. He's getting old. He doesn't know where it's going,'" White said. "It was scary."

When he wasn't throwing sinkers, Feigner dipped into some baseball banter. Van Prooyan relieved Feigner on the mound for one inning, striking out the side.

"Hey, Gary," said Feigner, calling to his third baseman Gary West after Van Prooyan unleashed a wicked strike. "You know what that was?"

"What?" "His Linda Ronstadt pitch." "His Linda Ronstadt pitch?" "Yeh," said Feigner. "Blew by you."

AS THREATENING clouds and lightning grew near, Feigner decided

to call an end to the game. He then gave a quick demonstration of the different pitches he's perfected through the years, including the windmill, the figure eight and the dead ball which floats to home plate.

Feigner has lost a bit of zip from his fastball that once clocked more than 100 miles per hour, but he's still as crafty as ever, striking out batters at will.

The show is one of thousands The King and His Court has performed in more than 100 countries. Proceeds from the game at Canton Softball Center went to Caring Athletics Team for Children's and Henry Ford Hospitals.

After the demonstration, Feigner sat down in the dugout as old and young alike lined up for autographs from the legend. Several adults recalled seeing The King before.

"I saw you play 20 years ago in Jackson," said one older gentleman, shaking The King's hand.

Brad Collier, 13, Ryan Hart, 9, and Rob Hart, 11, all from Canton, weren't even born then. But they enjoyed the performance.

"It was excellent," Collier said. "I liked his trick pitches. He's funny, too."

sports shorts

● RUN THROUGH HILLS

The Farmington Hills Recreation Division will sponsor the Run Through The Hills on Sunday, Oct. 8, featuring a 1.6-kilometer and a 10-kilometer run. Both runs will begin at Heritage Park, on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads. The 1.6K will begin at 9 a.m., the 10K at 9:30 a.m. The course will weave through the streets of Farmington Hills. The fee for the 10K run is \$10. The fee for the 1.6K and all 18-and-under participants is \$8. Register at the Farmington Hills City Hall at 31555 11 Mile between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The fee also includes a race T-shirt.

● LONG-DISTANCE RUN

Dr. Ronald Michaelson of Farmington Hills became one of 20 runners — and the lone Michigan participant — Monday to embark on a 24-hour-a-day run across the United States. The course extends from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. and is completed in 15 days will break the world transcontinental record. The purpose of the run is to permanently fund ADAPT (American Drug Abuse Prevention Team). ADAPT will be a national substance abuse information center benefiting individuals and communities throughout the United States.

● MACKER NEWS

The Four-S-Crew, a quartet of Farmington Hills youths, captured second place in its age division at the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Oakland University on

Aug. 28-29. The team consisted of Anthony Burke, 19; David Brooks, 17; Darin Burdotti, 17; and Christian Stockdale, 15.

● CHEERLEADING COACH

Our Lady of Victory School in Northville needs a coach for its grade school cheerleading team. This is a paid position, and the hours are flexible. Call Eileen Dunn at 349-1493 if interested.

● SOCCER TRYOUTS

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association will conduct open tryouts in all age groups for its 1990 girls Olympic Development Program on Fridays, Sept. 15 and 22, at Bicentennial Park in Livonia from 5:30 to 8 p.m. each date. The age groups trying out will be under-14 (1976-77), under-15 (1974-75) and under-18 (1972-73).

All players in the state of Michigan are eligible to try out for this program. The fee for on-site registration is \$50. Players must bring water, a soccer ball, shin guards and two head-shot photos. For information call Kathy Coyne at 522-0296.

● Tryouts for the Michigan select teams for the TEAMS/USA Europe-

an Select Youth Soccer Tour will take place as follows:

Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. at Midland Soccer Complex, and 5 p.m. at Canton Soccer Complex; Sunday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m. at Green Acres Elementary in Warren; Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. at Lansing Francis Park, and 5 p.m. at Ramona Field in Portage.

Teams will be chosen for men 18-under, 16-under and 14-under and women 18-under. Tryouts are open to all players, who need only attend one tryout date.

● COACHES NEEDED

Farmington Hills Mercy is looking for a freshman basketball coach and an assistant softball coach. Applicants should send a resume to Suzanne Brown, athletic director, 23200 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, 48018, or call her at 476-2535.

● Walled Lake Consolidated Schools has coaching vacancies in the following areas: skiing (Central), boys swimming (Western), diving (Central and Western), JV boys soccer (Western) and gymnastics (Central). Candidates should send their resumes to Robert Atkins, director of athletics, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, 48098, or call 624-6604 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Boyle Chevy finishes 7th in nation

Curtis Richards, the pitcher for the Pat Boyle Chevrolet modified men's fast-pitch softball team, was named to the All-America team after his ballclub finished seventh in the 58-team national tournament Labor Day weekend in Decatur, Ala.

Richards pitched 43 innings and posted an earned run average of 0.14. While allowing 38 hits, he struck out 10 and walked 11. Al White of Plymouth, who played for a Miami, Fla., team that took runner-up honors, was the other All-America pitcher.

Boyle Chevrolet, winning four of six games, opened with a 4-0 victory over JLS Construction of Staten Island, N.Y. The game was delayed because of rain and didn't begin until 3:15 a.m. Saturday.

In a three-run third inning, Dave Brubaker ripped a two-run double, and Richards, who was 2-for-3, also doubled to score a run. Tim Bowden hit a sacrifice fly for the other run.

Boyle Chevrolet won its next two games, 8-2 over Ralph Jones Insurance of Decatur Saturday afternoon and 13-1 over Chiro Network of Baton Rouge, La., Sunday morning.

ROD ARQUETTE was 2-for-4, which included a first-inning grand slam after three consecutive walks, against Ralph Jones. Don Dreher hit a two-run double and Steve Dawson an RBI triple.

It was Keith McManaway's turn to produce the grand

slam in the game with Chiro Network, again after three straight walks from the opposing pitcher. McManaway was 3-for-3 with five RBI.

Richards was 2-for-4 and had two RBI. Bowden hit a pair of sacrifice flies for a pair of RBI and Brubaker hit a run-producing double. Arquette also had two RBI with a single and bases-loaded walk.

Boyle Chevrolet suffered its first loss when Comb's Cardinals of Raleigh, N.C., claimed a 3-1 victory Sunday evening. Boyle loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh with no outs but failed to score. Bowden was 2-for-3, and Curt White drove in the team's lone run with a fielder's choice.

Boyle stayed alive in the tournament, beating Doctor Gray of Erie, Pa., 6-4 Sunday night. White had a big game, knocking in four runs with a double and a triple. Dawson also was 2-for-3, and McManaway singled to score another run.

Boston-based Red Hat eliminated the Michigan team 5-4 in nine innings on Monday morning.

In the bottom of the seventh, Jeff Campbell's RBI single and Dawson's RBI double tied the score 4-4. Campbell was 2-for-4 with two RBI. Bowden also was 2-for-4 and Arquette had one RBI.

In the last seven years, Boyle Chevrolet, known as FGS Raiders until this season, has finished among the top 20 teams in the nation every year with the exception of 1986. The team was third in 1983 and 17th last year.

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- UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS (MISSOURI)—18-3-1 ranked #13 nationally
- UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA (FLORIDA)—11-6-2 ranked #8 nationally
- SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY (CALIFORNIA)—10-8-1 ranked #19 nationally

THE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.—Youth Select Tournament

9:00 a.m.—Rochester Adams H.S. vs. Country Day H.S.

11:00 a.m.—Brother Rice H.S. vs. DeLaSalle H.S.

1:00 p.m.—University of Tampa vs. Sacramento State University

3:00 p.m. Oakland University vs. University Missouri-St. Louis

7:00 p.m.—Tournament Banquet at Oakland University

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.—Youth Select Tournament

11:00 a.m.—Troy Athens H.S. vs. Kalamazoo Central H.S.

1:00 p.m.—Sacramento State University vs. University of Missouri, St. Louis

3:00 p.m.—Oakland University vs. University of Tampa

5:00 p.m.—Presentation of Trophies and Autograph Session

6:00—6:30 p.m.—Youth Tournament Championship Games

THE ADMISSION

Children	\$1.00
Youth Soccer Players	No charge
High School Age	\$2.00
Adults	\$4.00

Tickets and Information:

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Athletic Department
370-3190

Tickets will be available at the gate

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