

RU Beats Stevenson To Win Anders Tournament

By R.T. THOMPSON

Although playing in a county fair atmosphere with lights of carnival rides from the Livonia Jaycee Livonia 21 Festival surrounding the playing field and even cutting down the area of the normal diamond, Redford Union's Panthers turned their fourth appearance in the finals to an 8-5 victory over Livonia Stevenson to win the seventh Les Anders Memorial baseball tournament.

There was a holiday spirit on Ford Field, one that made it impossible to get a home run

since ground rules for the cut down field changed every hit that got beyond the outfielders into a double.

Despite the handicaps, the tournament was labeled the best in history and a crowd of more than 1,500 was on hand to alternately cheer and groan for their favorites.

RU benefited by some misplays by a nervous Stevenson team which gave up five runs in the first two innings before settling down and giving the Panthers a real scare in fourth and fifth innings to pull up within a run of tying the count.

THAT'S WHEN RU took advantage of Coach Bob Atkins' patented squeeze play tactics totally two times to ice the victory.

"I guess you'd have to say that we finally shook off our role of a bridesmaid," said a happy Atkins as he and Captain Bill Booker received the championship trophy.

"This was our fourth appearance in the finals and I had some qualms whether we were going to make it this time or not. It gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction to finally win a

tournament which we consider to be one of the toughest in the state.

"We're still in the thick of the fight for the title of the first state championship tournament but we have always wanted to win the Anders, and now we have."

It took some brilliant hurling by southpaw Randy Ferguson to hold off a scrappy Stevenson team which surprised by getting into the championships.

But coming from behind and beating the odds has become a tradition for the Spartans who

gained the quarterfinals of the state basketball tournament and pressed powerful Pontiac Central for three periods before fading.

Ferguson, who recorded his 15th victory, whiffed nine, issued one free ticket and yielded nine hits...seven in the fourth and fifth frames when the Spartans collected all of their runs.

RU STARTED out as if it was going to turn the game into a rout. A walk to Jay LeRoux, followed by an infield out and successive hits by Bill

Booker, Bill Herbert and John Varvany netted two runs in the opening inning.

The big blowoff came in the second when the Panthers batted around and boosted the lead to 5-0.

It was a nightmare for the Spartans who saw starting pitcher Nelson Cady hit three successive batters and give up a two run single to LeRoux before southpaw Bob Bialy was called in from left field to take over the chores.

Bialy allowed another run before settling down and allowing only four hits during the remainder of the game.

He had three strikeouts, gave up two walks and hit one batsman.

Ferguson was coasting along without too much trouble until the fourth when he was nicked for three hits by Stevenson had two runs.

IT STARTED when Mike Gee singled with one out. Mark Macy forced Gee at second. Bialy singled to right and went all the way to third when the outfielder booted the ball, Macy crossing the plate. John Lewis sent Bialy across with a sharp liner to

center and Stevenson was only behind, 5-2.

Glenn Richmond scored from third for RU in the fifth on a perfect squeeze bunt by Mickey Robinson and it was 6-2.

The Spartans stormed back in the bottom of the fifth to move within a run of tying the score on a three run outburst.

Ferguson fanned Don Finn and Mark Macy forced Gee at second. But Tom See singled and stole second. Frank Geluso sent him across with a sharp liner to center. He moved to second on Gee's single. Macy scored Geluso on a bopper in front of the plate and was safe when the throw missed at first. Bialy aided his own cause with a bouncer through the box, scoring Gee and making the score 6-5.

Ferguson whiffed Lewis to end the uprising.

THAT WAS the end for the Spartans as Ferguson struck out three of the seven batsmen to face him in the sixth and seventh.

Meanwhile, Richmond doubled with two out and two in the sixth to send Bill Herbert over the plate.

The eighth run came in the seventh when Mickey Robinson was safe on an error, went to second on a passed ball and to third on an infield out.

Ferguson sent him to third on a sacrifice bunt and then LeRoux finished the job with a squeeze bunt that found Robinson darting across as Bialy made the throw to first.

Richmond was the big gunner for the victors with two doubles. LeRoux contributed a double and a single and Booker two singles.

Bialy had a perfect day for Stevenson, cracking out three singles in as many trips to the plate.

Holmes Named Coach Of Year

By GEORGE MASKIN
Sports Editor

It's that time of the year to pass out the spring sports bouquets.

When it comes to track and the coach-of-the-year in Observerland, step forward Bob Holmes of Livonia's Franklin High School.

The 32-year-old Holmes turned a school, pretty much unused as far as track had been concerned, into one of the area's powers.

Franklin went 8-0 in dual meets, won the Northwest Suburban League and the Belleville Relays titles and placed third in the regionals.

Along the way, Franklin performers smashed six school records.

"THINGS JUST fell in place," said Holmes who has



from injuries. We were healthy all along."

Holmes sees the Franklin team doing well again next year.

"We were basically a young team this past season, so all looks well for us next spring."

The biggest loss will be that of Mike Jinnet, one of the finest quartermilers in the state.

Holmes, himself, formerly ran track and cross-country and played basketball first at Mumfords High and then at Wayne State in Detroit.



BIG MOMENT FOR RU. There were smiles everywhere as Randy Ferguson (black jacket) Coach Bobby Atkins and Captain Bill Booker receive the Les Anders Memorial trophy from Livonia Recreation Commission chairman Norm

Stalzer. The Panthers had just defeated Stevenson, 8-5, to win the championship on their fourth trip to the finals. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

'Happiest Moment' For Atkins

By GEORGE MASKIN
Sports Editor

Three times doesn't spell "OUT" for Bob Atkins, the baseball coach at Redford Union High School.

Instead, it spells "the beginning..."

Atkins and his RU teams had failed three times to win in the Les Anders Invitational baseball tournament after reaching the final game.

"We were like the perennial bridesmaid," Atkins was saying.

And, then, last Wednesday, it was Redford Union which downed Livonia Stevenson in the title game.

"The showing of this team has really surprised me," Atkins declared.

WINNING THE Anders came on the heels of Redford Union's sharing the Suburban Six League title with Allen Park and in between RU's qualifying for Saturday's semifinals in the district Class A tournament at Detroit's Butzel Field.

ATKINS SINGLED out three players for providing his leadership, the enthusiasm and the hustle which made the difference.

First there was Bill Herbert, a centerfielder-pitcher.

"Bill had the best year with the bat that any kid ever has had for me in high school," said Atkins. And it should be noted that Atkins has had some stars over the years.

Herbert went into Satur-

day's district play batting .430. He had 39 hits to his credit and had hit safely in 22 out of 27 games.

RU never has had a .400 hitter for the entire regular season. In addition he won seven times and lost only once on the mound.

Next comes Bill Booker, the team's No. 4 hitter. He's a first baseman who had pounded the ball at a .320 clip.

He hit safely in 20 of the 27 games and in all 10 of RU's

league games...the latter another RU first.

"Here were two boys who showed the other kids on the team that 'nothing is achieved without enthusiasm and hustle,'" said Atkins.

THE THIRD STANDOUT, of course, is pitcher Randy Ferguson, who, in beating Stevenson in the title game, chalked up his 12th decision of the season against only two losses.

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Lenny Dicks Named C'ville Top Athlete

Lenny Dicks, who played three sports to earn 11 letters, was voted Clarenceville High School's most outstanding all-around athlete.

Dicks received that trophy and tied for another trophy as the outstanding football player in the Clarenceville Athletic Boosters Club annual recognition banquet.

It took three ballots among the coaching staff to pick Dicks, said Athletic Director Chuck Thompson, but there was some consolation for that younger Dicks beat-Rick Stearns.

Stearns two days later was selected outstanding senior athlete at the school's honors convocation.

TO WIN his trophies, Dicks played four years of football as a linebacker, guard and tackle; wrestled for four years, winning conference and league championships in the 165-pound class; and was catcher on the baseball team for three years.

He missed some of his senior year in wrestling and the entire senior baseball season with a separated shoulder that required an operation.

Stearns, to earn the outstanding senior athlete award, played football; was runnerup in the state in the floor



LENNY DICKS

exercise for the gymnastics team; and qualified in the high jump event in the state track meet.

FOURTEEN athletes received "most valuable" trophies in their sports at the banquet. They were: John Johnston, cross-country; Ron Weller and Dicks in football; Janice Mills and Cheryl Ransom in synchronized swimming; Debbie Wilson in girls gymnastics.

Chip Meyrelles and Phil Halstead, basketball; Karl Sjogren in swimming; Chuck Wehner, wrestling; Rob Struk, gymnastics; Gary Selock, tennis; Larry Stein, track; and Terry Laird, baseball.

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