

Southfield Legion Starts Play Under New Coach

It was play ball starting Saturday for Southfield's American Legion baseball team.

The team is back in action with two new coaches and some new players after appearing last fall Southfield would drop out of the 17th District after a rubarbo over an eligibility ruling.

Veteran Southfield manager Will Oliver had felt that his team received "a raw deal"

and he wanted no further part of continuing.

But everything was smoothed out during the winter and Southfield plunges into the new season with a strong lineup comprised of players from Southfield and Brother Rice High.

FOR SATURDAY'S opener at Walled Lake then Sunday's doubleheader home opener against Farmington at Southfield High, it was possible the Southfield Legion team might

be short its representatives from Brother Rice.

Rice was involved in the state regional Saturday at Royal Oak and if the team stayed alive and qualified for next Saturday's state semifinals, none of its players could play on an outside team until its prep schedule was completed.

The head coach of Southfield's Legion team is Fred Goldberg, by profession a counselor at Southfield High. He'll be assisted by Greg

Slivka, another Southfield High teacher, and they also hope to get some aid from Dick Radatz, one-time relief pitcher ace of the Boston Red Sox, who resides in nearby Farmington.

Goldberg is no stranger to coaching. He formerly coached in Detroit's Catholic League and for many years has worked with summer basketball programs in the Detroit area.

HE EXPLAINED why the Southfield Legion team is

restricted only to boys from Southfield High and Brother Rice.

"It's a shame why we must exclude Southfield Lathrup," he said. "But this is not our doing."

In the Legion, we can draw only from schools with a total enrollment of 3,000 students. If we picked Southfield and Lathrup, we'd be far over the limit."

The Southfield team is sponsored by Post 407 of the community and Goldberg

calls it "one of the best posts around when it comes to baseball."

Said Goldberg: "They really treat us royally and make sure that we are first-class all the way."

Most of last year's players who helped Southfield come within an eyelash of the Legion title are back.

They include Steve Gombor, the young pitching star at Brother Rice; ex-Rice shortstop Denny O'Rourke, who attended Michigan State

this past year, and third baseman Gary Mazza, who's now in school at Albion College.

Returnees from Southfield High are outfielder John Solberg, one of the Legion league's top hitters; outfielder-pitcher Al Davis, Mark Ditchfield at first base, and Rick Stabile, a standout at second.

Goldberg also expects to have outfielders Dan Damiani and Kevin Milliken, catcher Gary Martin and pitcher Bob

Brown from Rice available as soon as their team winds up in the state prep tournament.

Shortstop John Manchell of Southfield also has indicated he'll be out for the Legion team.

Teams in the 17th District will play a doubleheader each Sunday and twilight games at 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Fridays beginning this week.

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Cagers Gave Jays Biggest Thrill

Another school year had gone by the boards, athletically and otherwise, at Southfield High.

There was still some unfinished business for athletic director Ed Bryant to handle, but unfortunately Southfield's hosting of the state Class A regional baseball tournament Saturday, didn't involve the school that means the most to Bryant.

"All in all," said Bryant, "it wasn't too bad a year for us in athletics. We had our ups and downs. And, in between, we didn't do badly either."

BRYANT PULLED forth his various records, those which now go into the history file to detail with bygone years what has happened in sports at Lahser and 10 Mile.

"The biggest thing that happened to us in sports during 1970-71," said Bryant, "I guess that's easy to answer. It was the 45 games in a row our basketball

team won before finally losing."

The 15-0 start smashed the previous high for a Blue Jay cage team—a record that had stood at nine in a row.

No Southfield team ever had jumped off to such a glorious beginning, although as the Blue Jays later realized, happiness sometimes comes at what happens at the end.

While Southfield did win the Southeastern Michigan Association basketball title, the Blue Jays disappointed in the state tournament.

Although among the top-ranked teams in Michigan, Southfield failed to survive the second round of the districts played in its own gym.

The No. 2 highlight at Southfield? Bryant thought a little.

"I think it would be a toss-up between our football victory over Southfield Lathrup and our golfers winning the league crown (the only other flag the Blue Jays won during the school year)."

"Lathrup didn't lose again after we beat them, so I guess that victory had to be a notable feat in football," Bryan continued.

"Overall, we didn't do badly in football. Our 6-3 record was very respectable as we finished third in the league."

THE GOLFERS had a fine season, losing only once in the regular season before finally taking the league crown.

It was a big year, too, in which some individual records went by the boards, particularly in football.

Robert Peterman set a career mark when he upped his pass receptions to 32, to break a previous record set by Ron Brewer.

Then there was the rushing of John Solberg, who wound up with 104 yards to shatter the mark set by Ted Simmons, the most illustrious of all Southfield prep athletes in the school's history.

Simmons now is starring for the St. Louis Cards in the National League.

Southfield came up with a third title during the year. It came in skiing where the Blue Jays competed in a special schoolboy conference and led by Ken Kato, Chris Hibbler and Rottenberg came out on top.

As usual, graduation will take its toll of standout athletes this week.

Peterman, who starred in football, basketball and baseball, is stepping on to attend the University of Kentucky.

Brad Allen, all-star basketball player for the last two years, is heading for Central Michigan.

Solberg, who sparkled in football and baseball, has his eyes on Western Michigan.

It's the end of the prep line for Rick Strauss, a wrestler who placed fourth in the 165-pound division in the state meet last winter.

So long, too, to Bill Srock, the left-handed pitcher who a

year ago made big headlines when he pitched two no-hitters within a week.

DESPITE the departure of several stars, Bryant sees a big athletic year in 1971-72 for Southfield.

"I think we'll be very decent again in football," he said.

"We had the best reserve cross country team in the county last fall in Oakland County. That's bound to help us in both cross country and track."

"We're improving rapidly in swimming and wrestling. If we can find a big man in basketball, we'll be tough again."

"And, we're coming along in baseball and didn't do badly this past season in tennis."

The millage vote, which is upcoming in Southfield, may have its effects on the Southfield high sports program.

"It could result in some coaches changes and maybe some minor cutbacks. But we think we'll be back as strong

as ever in our varsity sports," Bryant concluded.

As an after thought...

"Hey, don't forget we beat

Lathrup four out of six meetings during the year; that's our most bitter rival," Bryant said.

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IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR

Have you ever heard of a bowling match being postponed because of the wind? Sounds like a joke, doesn't it?

Well, it was no joke to bowlers at Merri-Bowl Monday night when the leagues across the entire 48 lanes had to call off activity when wind blew down power lines.

With the lines down there was no electricity to provide lights and no power to run the automatic pinsetters and the ball returns.

There were no foul lights and bowling was out of the question.

As a result the summer leagues will extend their schedule one full week to make up for the "wind" postponement.

It was the first time, according to veteran bowling officials, that league matches had to be postponed because of wind damage.

ONE OF THE oldest and most dedicated sponsors in the metropolitan area—Charlie Helin, of Helin Tackle—will be without a team in the all-star leagues next season.

For years he sponsored teams in both the men's and women's circuits. First, the men's team faded from the scene and now the women's long captained by Maxine Cruchon, is leaving the Bowlerettes and the Ladies Major Leagues.

COMPETITION in the Ladies Major League, long considered one of the strongest circuits in the country, will be much keener next season and for a very good reason.

The Motown Record team that won the Bowlerettes championship in its first bid, last fall, has been awarded the franchise in the Ladies Major caused by the withdrawal of the Helin team.

Motown not only topped the Bowlerettes, but won the actual pinfall crown in the Women's State Tournament.

TONY LINDEMANN, former captain of the famed Stroh team who has been one of the pillars in the Westland Classic, had decided to "take it easy."

He has turned over the Alexander-Horning franchise in the All-Star Classic to Pat Janucci, and will spend next winter just being a spectator.

At least that is his plan.

His closest friends are willing to wager to won't remain on the sidelines very long.

JAN SCHEBER rolled a 215 Tuesday in the Super-Stars at Westland and it was not just an ordinary 215.

It was the highest game she ever bowled and high for the league this summer.

In the Ladies trio new highs also were recorded.

Kay Wickline posted a 201 to set the pace and Jane Martin fashioned a 543 to top the 24-team loop.

A WOBBLY NO. 10 pin

Plan Summer Cage Schools

The fourth annual Southfield basketball schools will be staged from June 21-July 15 under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation department.

The school will be held at the Southfield High school under the guidance of coach Don Kaump and Bill Foley, until recently the coach at Detroit Catholic Central.

Classes will be held Monday through Friday for 90 minutes each. Boys in grades seven through nine will attend from 9-10 a.m., with 10th-12th graders from 10:30-noon.

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Wayne State University freshman slugger Ken Madeja set school records for hits (30), homers (6), extra base hits (14) and total bases (60) and equaled the school's triples mark (4) during the 1971 season.

deprived Larry Boncher of one of his goals in the summer league at Country Lanes.

After games of 227 and 235 he had visions of a 700 series.

Coming into the final frame of the third game he still had the vision—then it happened.

On an apparently good hit the No. 10 pin wobbled but wouldn't fall and he had to settle for a 233 finish and a 695 series.

Walter Olaszewski and Pat Roberts took top honors in the Kings and Queens. Walter (fashioned a 63) and Pat landed on top for the ladies with a 551.

Meanwhile in the Men's Tuesday league, Ron Laird put together games of 217, 167 and 221 for a 605. It was his first series in double century figures.

Outfielder-pitcher Al Davis was the only Southfield High baseball player named on the 1971 All-Southeastern Michigan Association team. He is a senior.

Royal Oak Kimball placed five, and Birmingham Seaholm four.

Paul Heffner, an outfielder, and Rick Stabile, a shortstop, were named as honorable mention choices from Southfield.

'Snow Bowl' Team Meets

Michigan's famed 1950 "Snow Bowl" team which went on to a Rose Bowl victory held its 20th reunion recently along with a gathering of the 1921 Michigan football team.

Team members were honored guests at Michigan annual 'M' Day Outing here.

The 1950 Wolverines defeated Ohio State 9-3 in that memorable blizzard at Columbus.

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Peterman Is Voted Top Senior

Roger Peterman, a three-sport star in football, basketball and baseball, was honored Friday as the top graduating senior at Southfield High School.

Peterman was awarded the Dave Wieland trophy which honors the memory of a former Southfield High athlete who was killed in an accident.

Peterman played three years on the three varsity teams at Southfield. He closed his football career with 32 receptions, an all-time school record.

He has accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Kentucky.

Jays' Davis All-Star Selection

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