

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1993

## SPORTS

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## Road run part of festival again

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Running enthusiasts in the Farmington area hope to revive a longtime tradition with the restoration of the Founders Festival race.

The run was an annual event until it was discontinued several years ago, but people like Chip Bridges and the Farmington Hills Recreation Division have made it part of the festivities again.

"We'd like to build it up and have a pretty nice run," said Bridges, who

coaches boys cross country and track at Farmington High School. "For years Farmington had a run, and it got to be a pretty big run. People have fond memories of it."

"I look at the teams that have successful cross country programs, and running is part of their community. That's what we're trying to do in Farmington, something people can look forward to year after year."

The four-mile run will be Saturday, July 17, in advance of the parade down Grand River Avenue.

The race begins at 8:45 a.m. in City Park and will take place on streets near the downtown area. Near its end, the course will take runners onto Grand River in front of spectators awaiting the parade.

Bridges, also a member of the Farmington Area Speed Team, said organizers would be pleased to have 150 participants this year, but the goal is to increase that number to 500 in the future.

Bridges said he hoped noted Farmington runners Al Van Meter and Terry Elsey, as well as recent Farmington High standouts Ben Goba and Dave Cline, would "take advantage of a race like this."

"Farmington has always been a nice running community," he said.

"The schools have always produced good talent, and we'd like to have a run that represents that talent."

Bridges, recalling that television sets were given as prizes in the 1970s, hopes to enhance the awards eventually, also.

"We want to get something going so we can go to the merchants and say, 'We have a good thing going,'" Bridges said.

The entry fee is \$10 for runners registering before Tuesday, July 13, and \$12 after that date. Runners should check in at 8 a.m. Saturday. The age groups for men and women are 17-and-under, 18-39 and 40-and-over. For information call recreation division at 473-9570.



BRAD EMMONS

## Gerish basement loaded with sports memorabilia

Bruce Gerish has his own corner of sports history right in his own home. It's Cooperstown, Canton and Springfield all rolled into one room.

Gerish, who played baseball and basketball at Plymouth Salem High and later pitched for Alma College, has amassed one of the most unique sports collections in western Wayne County.

His Northville home is filled with sticks, shoes, gloves, cards, programs, ticket stubs, bats, jerseys and balls, not to mention autographs of many of sport's most noted legends.

Here's a sample of his collectibles: Payne Stewart's golf spikes, Adam Oates' skates, the netting from Fenway Park's green monster, an Arnold Palmer original putter, a wooden seat from Tiger Stadium, an Olympia Stadium brick, an autographed photo from Red Auerbach, a hockey stick from Mario Lemieux, Gordie Howe's jersey and an autographed basketball by all the Lakers (including Magic and Kareem).

"All I want to have here is a piece of history. I really don't want to sell it," Gerish said. "I'd like to get hold of a (authentic) Michigan football helmet some day. Alan Trammell's glove is also something I'm interested in obtaining. I have his bat. I understand he's quite a collector, too."

And not to be outdone, Gerish stages an annual Legends Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

## An entertaining MC

The gregarious Gerish, who stands 6-feet-5, is of course the master of ceremonies, coordinates the ball process and designates the nominees.

Some may remember him doing stand-up comedy at local nightclubs, or as a regular during the morning drive on the Dick Puritan radio show (he does a mean Coleman Young imitation). He's also part sandlot baseball coach and father of two while moonlighting as a manufacturers rep (his real job).

The main wall of his sports shrine is now adorned with the jersey numbers with his local heroes.

A former inductee, Ron Egluff, No. 85, made it back from Denver. Donned in a tuxedo, the former Salem, University of Wisconsin and Bronco tight end was in town for his high school reunion.

This year's group of inductees covered a wide spectrum of local sports legends:

■ Tim Dillon, No. 24, quarterbacked Salem to the mythical 1974 state football title before going on to play at Miami "where he backed up Jim Kelly," Gerish panned.

Dillon, actually played defensive back as a walk-on at Miami of Ohio (not Florida).

■ Bill Fillmore, No. 13 (not to be confused with Wilt Chamberlain), where he starred in three sports at Sanford Meridian before going on to Alma College.

"Bill and his wife Kathy earned a total of 23 college letters, 22 by Kathy," cracked Gerish.

■ Brian Gilles, No. 1, ex-Salem baseball coach and standout athlete at Plymouth High during the '60s. Gilles made the U.S. Slo-pitch Softball Association All-World team (Snyder's and Choo-Choo Cor Wash) four straight years.

"Brian popularized such sayings as 'in the wheelhouse' and 'that ball was jacked,'" Gerish said. "His two favorite pitchers were Brian Wolcott and Johnny Whorstarf."

■ Rich Hewlett, No. 2, former Salem standout (1979) who started at quarterback as a freshman for Michigan against Ohio State.

Nicknamed "The Deuce," Hewlett is now an attorney in Detroit. Hewlett's day was not complete without a letter of congratulations from Michigan head coach Gary McMiller.

## An Art-filled room

As for special inductees, Gerish honored his father Art, a builder who once played baseball at Central Michigan. Art's battery-mate at Mackenzie High School in Detroit was TV-50 sportscaster Ray Lane.

Jim Tucker, a former three-sport star at Garden City West, was not in attendance, but will join the wall of fame under the moniker (HWT). The ex-wrestler went unbenched his senior year before a referee disallowed him to continue with a broken ankle.

"Jim's childhood heroes are Bobo Brazil and Ernie 'The Cat' Ladd," Gerish quipped.

Gerish also announced next year's inductees. "We had 96 this year on the ballot," he said. "The list continues to grow. There were some tough choices."

Former Michigan glidders Bob Thornbladh and Rob Lytle are next up, along with Gerish's wife Jennifer, and baseball coaches Bill Klenk (Alma College) and Bob Atkins (Redford Union and Adray Appliance).

The ceremonies will also include another legend by the name of Churchill, not the high school or Sir Winston, but a guy named Brian.

## Sox whip baseball opponent

The South Farmington Sox socked it to Livonia in a Sandy Koufax baseball game Thursday, 19-9.

The winners registered 20 hits, with Chuck Archambeau going 4-for-4 to lead the way. He also had five RBI and scored two runs.

Tommy Mondoux, C.J. Ghanann and Jerry Yatooma followed with three hits each. Mondoux also scored four runs and had one RBI. Ghanann three runs and four RBI. Yatooma three runs and two RBI.

The Sox' heavy hitting included runs by Archambeau and Ghanann. John Daguanno (three runs) and Paul Mitchell added two hits each.

Mondoux pitched two innings apiece in the six-inning mercy game. Mondoux left with the Sox (14-1) leading 6-3, and South Farmington increased the lead to 10-7 with Yatooma on the mound.

## ■ CONNIE MACK

North Farmington-West Bloomfield 1 rallied from an early deficit to defeat Ypsilanti 8-5 in a Connie Mack baseball game at West Bloomfield High School Thursday.

Ypsilanti led 4-0 after the first half inning. NFWB scored the next eight runs, including a four-run third inning to tie a 5-4 lead.

Mike Johle was 4-for-4, had one RBI and scored a run. Dan Fyden's two hits were a two-run homer in the fifth and a run-scoring double in the fourth.

Doug Gaughan, John Heller and Jeff Ross added one RBI each. Ross knocked in the run with a single; Gaughan and Heller hit sacrifice flies.

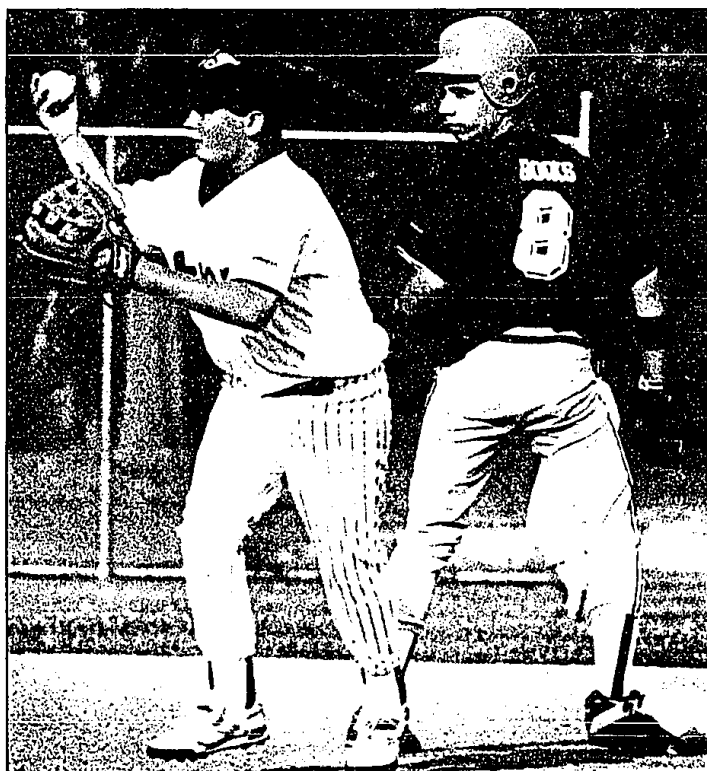
Marcus Sarnovsky pitched six innings to get the victory. He gave up four of six hits, walked four and struck out three. Mark Rutherford won the award in relief.

NFWB is 7-1 in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation and 17-5 overall.

## ■ PEE WEE REESE

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras overcame an 8-1 deficit in the third inning to give the Bloomfield Bulls their first loss in Pee Wee baseball last week, 12-11.

Mike Sopo delivered a bases-loaded, three-run single during a six-run



SHARON LEMICK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Not what it seems: Livonia infielder Steve Cichy appears to offer proof of the out, but South Farmington's Michael Books was ruled safe.

fourth. Mike Gleeson, Rob Sparks and Sopo had two hits apiece. Brian Grotman contributed an RBI single.

The Sox (16-2) whipped Plymouth 21-10 in their next game. Gleeson and Josh Gad-Harf had three hits each, including a home run by Gad-Harf.

Dave Lusky, Jason Melvin, Ryan Modica and Sopo chipped in two hits each. Lusky, Sparks and Gad-Harf combined on the pitching.

The Sox also were 4-1 and finished second in the NFWB tournament. The top hitters were Sopo with 12

hits, Adam Fazio nine, Melvin and Sparks eight each. Milan Gandhi had a key hit to win the second game.

Lusky, Sopo, Gleeson and Sparks handled the pitching. Other teams participating were Garden City, Lakes, Southfield, Westland, Waterford, Southgate and South Farmington.

## ■ AMERICAN LEGION

Errors contributed to consecutive defeats for Farmington Post 346 last week.

The team made seven in the second

game of a doubleheader Wednesday and lost 10-9 to Auburn Hills, and five errors Thursday led to an 11-6 loss to Clawson.

Post 346 began the Auburn Hills twinbill with a 6-3 victory. Jason Fischer pitched 6½ innings for the win, and Dave Watkins retired the last batter on a flyout to center field with the bases loaded.

Derek Lindsay had two hits and three RBI. Brock Goff two hits and two RBI. Andy Sih added an RBI

See BASEBALL, 2C

## Walter's remains in LCBL playoff contention

Walter's Appliance kept its Livonia Collegiate Baseball League playoff hopes alive Wednesday with a 10-3 victory over Del-Wal at Ford Field.

Walter's, which won the LCBL playoff championship in 1992, finished second in the All-American Amateur Baseball Association national tournament last year, improved to 9-13 overall. The win, coupled with Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury's 1-0 win Thursday over Westland Federation, leaves Walter's and Westland tied for the fourth and final playoff spot with 16 points each.

Westland (9-11) still has the inside track at the playoffs with 10 games remaining compared to Walter's eight remaining games. (Friday's results will appear in Thursday's editions of the Observer.)

Walter's enjoyed a 15-hit attack to back up the combined five-hit pitching of starter Mike Zielenksi and reliever Ryan Grabetz.

Chuck Coleman went 4-for-4 with four RBI, including a two-run triple in the second that highlighted a five-run inning. Jim Solak was 3-for-4 with three RBI and Zielenksi and Jeff Schaffer (Livonia Franklin) each contributed two hits.

Zielenksi earned the win, allowing two runs, one walk and three hits before leaving after 4½ innings because he was a "dehydrated landscaper," according to coach Mike Keller — referring to Zielenksi's daytime job.

Ryan Grabetz allowed two hits and one run in 2½ innings of work.

Derek Wirebaugh was the losing pitcher, allowing eight earned runs in 4½ innings. Andy Duncan led Del-Wal with two hits.

## Hines Park wins 2

First-place Hines Park regained some luster after a recent slump with back-to-back complete-game pitching victories. Scott Kapla (Redford Catholic Central and Canton) threw a four-hitter Wednesday to lead Hines Park past the Tecumseh Green Giants, 4-1, at Ford Field and Jeff Paluk (Plymouth Salem) followed with a three-hitter on Thursday to beat Westland Federation, 1-0, at Westland John Glenn.

The win improved Hines Park to 19-3-1 (39 points) and moved the team closer to clinching first

place with six regular-season games remaining.

Kapla moved his pitching record to 6-0, striking out six and walking only one against Tecumseh. Tom Davey (Plymouth Salem) and Gary Pierce (John Glenn) each went 2-for-3. Davey had an RBI and Pierce, battling a recent batting slump, scored two runs. Ed Gundry and Jason Riggs added RBI singles.

Hines Park scored its only run Thursday against Westland on consecutive doubles by Heath Fowler and Tracy Ewald in the fifth inning.

Westland's hard-luck pitcher Danny Taylor suffered the loss despite allowing only four hits in six innings. Pierce made a pair of outstanding defensive plays at shortstop in the fifth inning to help keep Westland off the scoreboard.

Westland had runners on first and third in the seventh after Hines Park committed two infield errors. Paluk then delivered a wild pitch but the game ended on a double play when a Westland player was thrown out at home plate and another at third base, trying to advance on the wild pitch.

Paluk fanned eight and walked only two to improve his pitching record to 7-1.