

Cake course?

Not if it involves WLAA playoff format



C.J. RISAU

Newsflash: A class will be offered to all high school seniors, beginning this fall. The subject of study: league playoff formats.

The class objective: deciphering said formats.

OK, the idea for such a class is mine alone. But it wouldn't be so bad. It would teach kids that, first and foremost, nothing is written in stone.

Everything can change, and it likely will.

If you believe such a class would be a cake of a course designed to boost athletes' grade-point averages, think again. Einstein would have been hard-put trying to explain the Western Lakes Activities Association's baseball playoff format (that is, if

he could have understood it himself).

As I approached Plymouth Salem coach John Gravelin prior to the start of Wednesday's WLAA championship, he could only nod and say, "Well, three different newspapers had three different pairings for today's game."

Some — all right already, it was us — had Salem playing Canton. Others had the Rocks meeting Livonia Franklin. And some even had it right: Salem vs. Northville.

That's what happens when more than one team shares the same record. Coaches go looking for ways to break the ties amicably, with little loss of blood.

The harder they look, the more they scratch, the more the confusion mounts.

Put it this way: Although Salem lost just one game in the WLAA all season, there was some dispute whether the Rocks should be in the championship game. Indeed, Westland John Glenn coach

Norm Hoenes thought his team would be playing for the title after the Rockets ripped Salem.

Why? Because the two teams had the same Lakes Division tiebreaker still in use as the second-game-winner-goes (when two teams finish with the same division record, the team that won the second meeting places higher).

But that was voted out at the last league coaches' meeting. It was replaced by the team-with-the-better-conference-record-goes formula. Glenn lost three times in the WLAA; Salem lost just once.

Got that? If you do, call me and explain it.

Better yet, I know quite a few coaches who would appreciate an explanation. From everything I heard, all last weekend the Canton players were under the mistaken impression that they would be going against Salem for the WLAA title.

And none of the Northville players thought they would be there, according to Chuck Apligan — who happened to pitch for the Mustangs in the championship against Salem.

Now here's the fair warning: If you thought the Salem-Clinton tie-breaking format was a bit difficult to comprehend, stop now.

Go back.

Read no further.

Because in the Western Division, it wasn't two teams tied for first. It was three. Northville, Canton, Franklin. They split in head-to-head competition, the first tiebreaker.

After that . . . well, suffice to say Canton and Franklin lost out to Northville because the Mustangs did better against the better

teams in the league.

Or something like that.

Now, I could be hauling out my soapbox to scream for some sort of comprehensive policy governing all league playoffs. I could be demanding a formula that — well, asking for something any college graduate (not just those with masters degrees) could understand would be too much for the coaches, at the very least, can figure out.

After all, the WLAA softball coaches never knew their races were being determined by the same new tiebreaking formula adopted by the baseball teams.

More than a few were upset with the various WLAA athletic directors who made those alterations without consulting any softball coaches.

But no soapbox. No table-thumping.

I told myself I'd look for something positive. Which is why I'm where I am — proposing a puzzle of a class for high school kids (I suggest it be limited to seniors only, by the way; maturity is necessary to handle such frustration, and besides, there's no reason to corrupt our youth).

Studying playoff formats would help students understand the complexities of the world, where rules are plentiful and understanding isn't. Figuring out the formats would only be part of the class, of course; making them understandable to others would be an advanced class goal.

And any student who could do both of the above, and then make it acceptable to the majority of WLAA coaches, would certainly get an A.

As the last argument in favor of such a class, I offer this: Did you realize that in the WLAA, division results mean everything in baseball and softball and soccer and football, but nothing in basketball or swimming or golf?

And tennis is kind of a combination deal.

BASEBALL

STATE TOURNAMENT DISTRICT BASEBALL DRAWS

CLASS A
at GARDEN CITY PARK
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Wayne Memorial vs. (B) Romulus, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Westland John Glenn vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Garden City vs. Belleville, 10 a.m.; championship final approximately 12:30 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Brighton regional vs. Northville district champion.)

at REDFORD UNION
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Southfield vs. (B) Farmington, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Redford Union vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; North Farmington vs. Farmington Hills Harrison, noon; championship final approximately 3 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Royal Oak-Kenilworth regional vs. Rochester Adams district champion.)

PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS (Seed)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Plymouth Canton at (B) Plymouth Salem, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Livonia Franklin vs. A-B winner at Salem, 11 a.m.; Livonia Churchill vs. Livonia Stevenson at Canton, 11 a.m.; championship final approximately 1 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Brighton regional vs. Ann Arbor Huron district champion.)

at REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Redford Catholic Central vs. (B) Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: A-B winner vs. Dearborn Canton, 10 a.m.; championship final Dearborn Equal Ford vs. winner of first game, approximately 12:30 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Temperance-Beaumont regional vs. Wyandotte district champion.)

CLASS B
at DEARBORN HEIGHTS CRESTWOOD
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Dearborn Divine Child vs. (B) Dearborn Heights Rockhurst, 3:30 p.m.; (C) Dearborn Heights Crestwood vs. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Inkster vs. A-B winner, 9:30 a.m.; Redford Thurston vs. C-D winner, noon; championship final approximately 2:30 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Warren Woods-Tower regional vs. Warren Woods-Tower district champion.)

at MADONNA UNIVERSITY PARK
Saturday, June 4: Livonia Clarenceville vs. Westland vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary, 1 p.m.; championship final approximately 4 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Riverview Gabriel Richard regional vs. Riverview Gabriel Richard district champion.)

at DEARBORN HTS. FAIRLAKE
Friday, June 3: Royal Oak Shrine vs. Southfield Franklin Road, 3:30 p.m.; Redford St. Agatha vs. Dearborn Arlene Christian, 5 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: championship final, approximately 1:30 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Wyandotte Mount Carmel regional vs. Warren Bethesda Christian district champion.)

at WESTBORO LAKE
Saturday, June 4: Westwood Huron Valley Lutheran vs. Plymouth Christian Academy, 10 a.m.; Ann Arbor Greenview vs. Westwood Lake, noon; championship final, approximately 2 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Adrian-Lansdale Christian district champion.)

SOFTBALL

STATE TOURNAMENT DISTRICT SOFTBALL DRAWS

CLASS A
at GARDEN CITY PARK
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Wayne Memorial vs. (B) Romulus, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Garden City vs. Belleville, 10 a.m.; Westland John Glenn vs. A-B winner, noon; championship final, approximately 2 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Brighton regional vs. Northville district champion.)

at REDFORD UNION
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Redford Union vs. (B) Farmington Hills Harrison, 3:30 p.m.; (C) Southfield vs. (D) Farmington, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: North Farmington vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Farmington C-D winner, noon; championship final, approximately 3 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Royal Oak-Kenilworth regional vs. Rochester Adams district champion.)

PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS (Seed)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Livonia Franklin at (B) Plymouth Salem, 4 p.m.; (C) Livonia Ladywood vs. (D) Livonia Churchill at Plymouth Canton, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: A-B winner at Salem, 10:30 a.m.; Livonia Stevenson vs. C-D winner at Canton, 10:30 a.m.; championship final:

CLASS B
at DEARBORN HTS. CRESTWOOD
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Dearborn Heights Annapolis vs. (B) Dearborn Divine Child vs. (C) Dearborn Heights Rockhurst, 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Redford Thurston vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Inkster vs. C-D winner, 12:30 p.m.; championship final, approximately 3 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Warren Woods-Tower regional vs. Warren Woods-Tower district champion.)

at LIVONIA'S TOWN FIELD
Saturday, June 4: Lutheran High Westland vs. Redford Bishop Burgess, 10 a.m.; Livonia Clarenceville vs. Detroit Dominican, 1 p.m.; championship final, approximately 4 p.m. (Winner advances Saturday, June 8 to the Riverview Gabriel Richard regional vs. Riverview Gabriel Richard district champion.)

at DEARBORN HTS. FAIRLAKE
Friday, June 3: Royal Oak Shrine vs. Southfield Franklin Road, 3:15 p.m.; Redford St. Agatha vs. Dearborn Arlene Christian, 5 p.m.

GRAND OPENING

ADJUSTABLE BED SALE

Sale Price **\$799.00** Twin Size

LOWEST Prices of the Year

FULL & QUEEN SIZE ON SALE TOO!

AMERICAN ADJUSTABLE BED CO.
29004 W. 8 MILE RD.
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48336
1-800-478-8070
Mon.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-3
Other hours by appt.

If you love to relax or suffer with Chronic Back Pain, Respiratory Allergies, Circulation Problems or HAZEL KNEES, see the adjustable bed Experts in our bedding department. Just a touch of a button raises or lowers your upper or lower body effortlessly, and you'll be amazed how responsive an adjustable bed is.

COME IN OR CALL

IN NEED OF A

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER

LENNOX

FREE ESTIMATES
525-1930
UNITED TEMPERATURE
6919 Madsonet • Livonia

BUILDING N.A. MANS CENTERS
BUILDING KNOW-HOW SINCE 1902

4 Store Garage Sale!

Saturday & Sunday June 4 & 5, 1994
at all N.A. Mans locations!

N.A. Mans is cleaning out its garage and bringing you the greatest deals! Don't miss the best garage sale of the season!

CABINETS
Bertch • Homecrest • Starmark • Encore and many more!

Bathubs • Kitchen Sinks • Faucets

WINDOWS
Andersen • Hurd • Marvin
Peachtree • Vinyl

DOORS
Oak Pre-Hung's • Birch Pre-Hung's
Exterior Steel Doors

LOADS OF LUMBER
Cedar Decking • Treated Decking
Construction Grade Lumber • Plywoods
Masonite Siding and other lumber items!

Carpets and Tile Remnants available at the N.A. Mans Canton Floor Center!

UNCLAIMED SPECIAL ORDERS and more!

ALL ITEMS ARE FINAL!

FREE Coffee, Donuts, and Refreshments will be available.

CANTON - Do-It Center
4190 Ford Road, Canton, MI 313-981-5800

MONROE
2754 N. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 313-241-8000

NEW BOSTON
34500 58th Road, New Boston, MI 313-753-9746 OR 313-913-1317

TRENTON
3300 W. Jefferson, Trenton, MI 313-676-3000

N.A. MANS HOME DESIGN CENTER
4190 Ford Road, Canton, MI 313-981-4485
Kitchens & Bath Showrooms 313-981-5800
Creative Floors 313-981-3582

Not all items pictured may be available at the Chicago Sale.

The only thing as pleasant as buying a Saturn is leasing one.

We hope you've heard how *unstressful* we try to make it for you when you visit a Saturn showroom. (Because who needs *more* stress, right?) Anyway, we take the same approach to leasing as we do to everything else. So if leasing a Saturn is better for you than buying one (and we can help you figure that out), then great. The only important thing is to find out how pleasant *driving* a Saturn can be.

The Saturn SC1
202/Month 1,000/Down 36/Months

The Saturn SL
175/Month 1,000/Down 36/Months

The Saturn SW1
202/Month 1,000/Down 36/Months

SATURN OF ANN ARBOR
500 Autowall Drive
313-769-3991

SATURN OF FARMINGTON HILLS
24730 Haggerty Road
313-473-7220

SATURN OF NORTH
8400 Dixie Hwy. at I-75, east 93
313-620-8800

SATURN OF PLYMOUTH
9301 Massay Dr., I-75 & Ann Arbor Rd.
313-769-3991

SATURN OF SOUTHFIELD
29929 Telegraph Road
313-334-6001

SATURN OF TROY
1804 Maplelawn, Troy Motor Mall
313-643-4350

SATURN OF SOUTHGATE
16600 Fort Street
313-246-3300

SATURN OF WARREN
7830 Conventions Blvd., 131st & Van Dyke
313-979-2000

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMPANY. A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAR. ©1994 Saturn Corporation