

# Plymouth-Westland Battle For Title

The showdown is coming Friday in the Greater Livonia Adray Baseball League.

It'll be Plymouth Bidwell vs. Westland Cleaners at Plymouth and the third-round title will rest on the outcome.

Both stand 4-0 in the present standings.

Westland will pick up a forfeit win on Wednesday from Garden City which has dropped out while Plymouth goes against Farmington.

Then will come the head-on duel between the two teams which are fighting to join Redford and Northville, the league playoffs next week.

**THE LIVONIA** League winner will move on to state competition.

Plymouth beat Northville, 5-1, on Sunday while Westland won a wild 9-7 decision from Livonia Hubert Realty.

John Stout hurled the victory for Plymouth. He allowed five hits, fanned six and walked three.

Plymouth scored three times in the second inning on singles by Bob Wason and Howie Schryer, a fielder's choice which put Dale Rumberger on and a two run triple by Gary Croskey. Schryer homered with Wason aboard in the sixth for his third hit of the game. He also had a double and single.

Westland rebounded from a 5-0 deficit to beat Hubert which went ahead on a grand slam homer by Jim Erwin and then a solo blast by Don Opland.

But Westland scored five times in the third inning when Ken Gowkowski tripled and Phil McMillan, Pat Burke, Dan Cesarz and Steve Kuchman singled. Terry Mills doubled and Chuck Slamer walked.

Westland added two more

runs in the fourth on a walk, hit batsman, single by Mills and an error.

But Hubert rallied to tie the game at 7-7 before Westland won it in the sixth on a walk, single by Mills and an error which put Bob Briggs aboard and sent in two runs.

Briggs was the winner with four innings of relief in which he allowed four hits, fanned five and walked one. Ken Ockerman was tagged with the loss.

Mills had three hits for the winners, Erwin a homer and double for the losers.

**PLYMOUTH'S** Bidwell rebounded on Friday from a 3-0 deficit in the first inning to down Redford, 10-6.

Jeff Washington's homer and Kirk Taylor's triple started Redford off in high, but Plymouth scored four times in the third and five in the sixth to make a winner out of John Stout pitching in relief.

In the third, Pat Cunningham, Dennis Becker and Dale Rumberger singled to go along with three errors to bring in the four Plymouth runs.

In the sixth, a walk to Cunningham started matters. Stout was safe on an error, Walt Williams on a fielder's choice. Steve Chilenko singled, an error followed, then Howie Schryer singled, Rumberger walked and Gary Croskey singled.

Taylor also had a homer for the losers to finish with a triple and a homer.

**LIVONIA** Hubert slipped past Farmington, 4-3, behind the fine pitching of Rob Hollandsworth who struck out 10.

Hubert scored three times in the fourth inning with singles by Bob Ficano and Don Opland leading the big damage. Ficano also rapped a double in the winning cause.



LOOKS GOOD in here says one better to another at the Detroit Race Course where the 120-day season ends Saturday. Scenes like this are a pattern of the daily programs.



HORSES GET close inspection as they near the finish line. This shows spectators intently watching the field with little emotion.



AND THEN there are those who have had enough and pick a nice sunny spot for an afternoon nap...just like this sleepy DRC patron.

## Southfield Ousted By Champs

For the second straight year Southfield's American Legion baseball team has gone down to the final wire...and just once close.

In a showdown for the 18th District championship Sunday, Southfield came out on the short end of two games against Waterford. First it was 7-1, then 3-2.

AS A RESULT, Waterford has repeated as the district champion while Southfield despite a 16-5 record must settle for second best - a spot in the state district Connie Mack tournament at Ann Arbor next week.

Southfield found itself in a tough spot against Waterford. Coach Fred Goldberg's team had to win twice.

But Bob Carter fired a six hitter for Waterford in the opener and Southfield's hopes had gone down the drain.

What happened in the second game actually was academic. Southfield took a 2-0 lead in the eighth when Dave Casal walked, John Solberg doubled and Damiani singled. But Waterford rallied and finally won it on a two run homer by Wally Ziem off loser Bob

Brown, who allowed only three hits.

Rich Stringer suffered the loss in the first game although he allowed only three hits. Neither run was earned.

In the second game, John Fleming cashed a six-hitter when Farmington broke loose in the sixth.

Waterford used three pitchers in squeezing out the win.

FARMINGTON, meantime, split its final doubleheader of the season. After losing, 2-0, to Walled Lake, Farmington came back with five runs in the sixth inning to take the nightcap, 6-1.

Farmington had scored in the third on walks to Rich and Randy Stringer, a single by Ray Ponke and a sacrifice fly by Dan McGrath.

McGrath homered to start the sixth. Then Tony Wenson and Dan Dellinger singled. John Holappa walked, Randy Stringer singled and an error

wrapped up the scoring for Farmington.

Bill Hughes, pitching for Troy, stopped Southfield the rest of the way while Troy pushed in a run off Al Davis in the first, tied in the second and then won it with two runs in the fifth inning.

FARMINGTON, meantime, could have loaned Southfield some runs as Farmington routed Auburn Heights, 14-2.

John Fleming coasted along, yielding two hits. He belted three hits in three trips to the plate. Rich Stringer socked two homers and a single in three tries while Paul Kupferschmidt also wound up with three safeties, one a homer.

Fleming knocked in two runs with a single in a four-run second inning. Then Kupferschmidt followed with a two run homer and Stringer unloaded his circuit clouts each with a man aboard to turn the game into a runaway.

## Redford Has Perfect Mark

The regular season ended on a tremendous pickoff note in the Greater Livonia Connie Mack Baseball League.

The Plymouth Elks and Livonia Hubert battled eight innings with neither team able to score before darkness forced a halt to the proceedings.

Brad Truax, of Plymouth, turned in a neat three hitter while Nelson Cady was touched for 10 hits.

MEANTIME, Warholak (Redford Union), which now has won its division Mack title six times since 1962, scored twice in the first inning when Steve Friedman was hit by a pitch. Booker reached first on a fielder's choice, Kurt Fritz singled and an error

team to complete a perfect season.

Warholak, National League champs who will be going into district state play along with Thurston (International League) and National Pride (American League), made it 14-0 by blanking Crowe Royals, 4-0.

Bill Booker went the distance for the winners, allowing only three hits to post his fourth win. He hasn't lost.

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followed.

The error and singles by Friedman and Booker led to the final two Warholak runs.

**NATIONAL PRIDE** (Churchill), lost only once in 14 games in winning its divisional crown, turned back Northville Reef behind the fine relief pitching of Bob Phillips, 4-0.

All National Pride runs came in the second inning when Micky Crom singled and Brian Sherman followed with a home run. Then Bruce Van Wagener singled and Gordie Miller slapped a homer as National upped its record to 13-1.

Thurston and the Livonia

Patriots (Franklin High) played to a 5-5 standoff when the time limit expired before a decision could be reached at Ford Field.

Tony Kaseta went the distance for the Patriots while Thurston starter Steve Kreager lasted only three innings.

Ken Yuhasz socked a two-run homer for the Patriots while Bob Ghanum followed suit for Thurston.

The Patriots took a 5-3 lead in the second inning on a double by Rob Hollandsworth and singles by Don Opland and Ron Nisum before Thurston struck back to tie the game on singles by Larry Poma and Bill Frazier and a double by

Ken Chopek.

**TOM'S SERVICE** withstood a six-run, second inning by Garden City East to gain a 7-6 victory. Kirk Price was the winning pitcher.

Frank Giluso scored the winning run in the sixth inning on a squeeze play. Giluso had two hits - a single and a triple.

Garden City East put together four hits with four errors in its six run uprising.

Joe Jinnett turned in a brilliant one-hitter as Franklin shut out North Farmington, 10-0. He struck out four and walked three. The one hit was by Lou Doet in the second inning.

Franklin's big hit was a homer by Burke.

## Colt Finals

The state Colt League baseball meet comes off at North Farmington starting Friday.

It'll be Birmingham vs. North Farmington-West Bloomfield, which was seeded into the district title round while Birmingham, Hamtramck, Garden City and South Farmington played off at Redford Township at 2 p.m.

The District One and Two winners play at 5 p.m.

Birmingham emerged the winner at Redford Township, but the last about the action still hasn't been heard.

**SOUTH** Farmington still is burning over a 2-1 loss to Hamtramck Saturday, before Birmingham went on to beat Hamtramck, 8-0, in Sunday's deciding game.

The South Farmington team is protesting the circumstances surrounding the loss to Hamtramck.

Farmington was leading, 1-0, when a drive by a Hamtramck batter booted over the fence with a runner aboard. One umpire said it was a home run, the other a two base hit, which the rules say it was.

When the ump's finally agreed it was a double, Hamtramck players and coaches ran on to the field and an adult coach reportedly swung at South Farmington pitcher Gary Peeling.

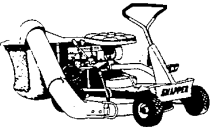
Both the coach and Peeling, who is also a powerful hitter as well as the team's top pitcher, were ejected.

Smith, irate as were other South Farmington officials, declared:

"We don't think a youngster should be penalized for something started by an adult."

Tourney officials turned down the South Farmington protest, but the team now is carrying its fight, although it won't get it too far, to national authorities.

"We think we have a good point," said Smith.

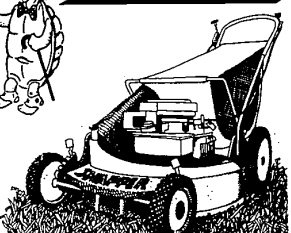


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## LL Teams Start District Play

It's playoff time in Little League District Four baseball.

The first action began Tuesday as the first of 19 teams in Oakland County began their drive which hopefully will lead to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., in late August.

There were three games Tuesday with eight on the docket Thursday to set up the District Four quarterfinals on Saturday.

Semifinals are carded next Monday and Tuesday with the championship game at Southfield on Aug. 5.

**IN THURSDAY'S** action: Southfield National East-North Farmington West Bloomfield winner vs. Beverly Hills at Bond.

Southfield National West vs. Ponton at Southfield.

Holly vs. North Farmington-West Bloomfield National American at Holly.

Davidson-Birmingham American winner vs. South Farmington National, Etan No. 1 (Birmingham).

Avondale vs. North Farmington-West Bloomfield National at Bond.

Southfield American North vs. Birmingham Federal, Etan 2.

Novi vs. Southfield American South at Novi.

Walled Lake vs. South Farmington American-Birmingham National at Etan No. 3.

All games will start at 5:30 p.m.

**SOUTH FARMINGTON** National is the defending district, regional and state champion.

The team also won in national competition last year, moving within one game of earning a trip to the World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

In all cases, all-star teams have been selected to represent the various leagues.

The tournaments are conducted on a one defeat and out basis.

The quarterfinals will be played Saturday at Etan and Bond fields at 2 p.m. The semifinals, as well as the finals, are carded for Southfield's Civic Center.