

# South, Garden City Advance To LL State Finals

An All-Observerland state Little League baseball final? It could happen this weekend in Bay City when the cream of Michigan's Little Leaguers—the final four teams—square off starting Friday night in the semifinals with the two winners clashing Saturday for the crown.

And, where do two of the four finalists come from? No place than from Observerland.

ONE IS DEFENDING state champion South Farmington which last year reached the national regionals before bowing out one game short of winning a spot in the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

The other is the Garden City Federals bidding to give Garden City its second state champ in five years.

Garden City is scheduled to meet the Kalamazoo-Grand Rapids sectional champ in the first game of the semifinals at Bay City's Daseo Field at 5 p.m.

The second semifinal will match South Farmington against the Alpena-Bay City sectional winner.

As is all Little League competition, there is no throw unless you win. One defeat knocks a team from further competition.

All Little League tournament teams are comprised of all stars representing the various leagues.

**SOUTH FARMINGTON** already has made history. It became only the second team ever to win the District Four title two years in a row and the second to win the playoff between the District 4 and 7 kings by blanking Richmond from the Port Huron area, 2-0. Garden City, after winning

the District 5 crown, clipped Grosse Pointe Woods, 5-2, in the playoffs.

To win a spot in the state meet, South Farmington had to win five times with Kevin Verner pitching three of the victories and Tom Harmon the other two.

In all, they have allowed only one run in tournament play.

**GARDEN CITY** captured six games to qualify for the state with Walt Krol hurling four triumphs and Steve Matthews two.

The South Farmington-Richmond playoff at Southfield Sunday was a scoreless duel until the bottom of the fifth as Verner matched Richmond's Brian Veach, although each team had chances to score.

In the bottom of the fifth South Farmington finally broke loose. Dave Heberholz singled to deep short and went to third when Andy Ponke lined a double off the left fielder's glove.

Then Tom Harmon lifted a sacrifice fly to center on which Heberholz scored. A balk sent Ponke to third and he scored when Jim Simmons bounced out to the first baseman.

Verner had to pitch out of a tough jam in the top of the fifth.

After the first two men singled, he struck out the side for the third time in the game. He wound up with 13 strikeouts, fanning 11 in a row at one stage.

South Farmington missed chances in the first four innings, once loading the bases.

Fine defensive plays marked the game, prompting South Farmington manager Dick Torgian to say afterward:

"Richmond was the finest defensive team we have played this season."

## Redford Warholak Battles For Mack Crown

Another baseball pennant flies over Redford Union High.

This time it's the Trenton District Connie Mack flag, which RU's summer team, known as Warholak Unroyal Trex, carried off last week by winning four straight without a loss to qualify for the state Mack tournament starting Thursday at Marshall.

In the opener, Warholak will go against Lincoln Park-Adray, which beat Redford's Thurston team, 4-0, in the Lincoln Park district finale.

Warholak won the Livonia League divisional title during the regular season and during the high school Redford Union shared the Suburban Six League title.

**THE TOWNSHIPERS**, guided in high school and on the sandlots by Bob Atkins, enjoyed superlative pitching as Randy Ferguson chalked up two wins to bring his year's total to 23 and Bill Booker and Bill Duncan chalked up the other two victories.

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**WARHOLAK MADE** it into the finals without a blemish. After Ferguson got the Redford team off on the right foot Thursday by beating Southgate, 4-1, Warholak continued with a 5-3 win over Trenton and then blanked Hamtramck, 8-0, Saturday.

The Warholak-Trenton game was a scoreless duel until the fifth when Redford erupted for all its runs.

Bill Herbert, Steve Friedman and Glen Richmond singled to load the bases. A squeeze play produced one run before Bill Duncan walked to re-load the bases. R. J. LeRoux and Bill Booker singled in a run each, another

came in on a double steal and Al Hernandez closed the uprising with a run scoring single.

Duncan, who started for Redford, hurled flawlessly until Trenton got to him in the bottom of the fifth for three singles and a walk and two runs.

Booker came in, got the fire out and then Mike Johnston worked the final two innings in relief for Warholak and kept Trenton scoreless.

Booker pitched the shutout against Hamtramck. He gave up three hits, struck out six and walked three and put Warholak ahead in the first

inning when he socked a homer.

**THAT'S THE WAY** matters stood until the fourth when Warholak exploded for five runs on five hits.

Warholak cashed another run in the fifth and sixth before the game was stopped.

The long ball has featured the Redford's attack and it was no different in the game against Grosse Pointe.

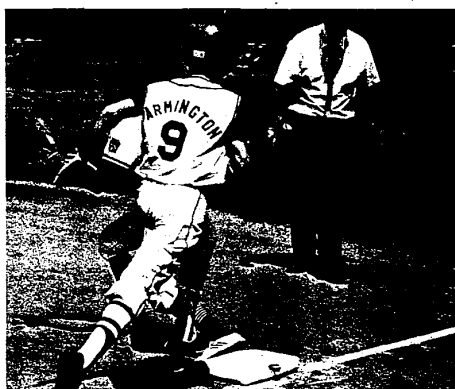
Rob Taraskavage and Dan McGuire each socked two-run homers. Paul Black was aboard when Taraskavage hit his and Taraskavage was on when McGuire connected.

For Taraskavage it marked his eighth homer in six games.

Along with McGuire, Taraskavage has connected with Matthews, Krol and Jeff Chomic on circuit smashes in the tourney parade. The latter hit one with the bases jammed in one of the district rounds.

Krol allowed only three hits and fanned 14 in the Grosse Pointe game. He also scored the fifth Garden City run when he walked and came around on three errors.

If both South Farmington and Garden City win Friday, they'll play for the title Saturday with the winning team then advancing into the first phase of national competition.



**SAFE AT FIRST** is South Farmington's Jim Simmons after beating out a snapper to second. It was South's zeal in running out every hit that enabled it to defend its championship. South will start defense of its state title over the weekend in Bay City. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

## Southfield Legion Wins Mack Tourney

The odds were against Southfield's American Legion baseball team.

Having lost the first game of the Connie Mack District

playoffs at Ann Arbor, it was strictly an uphill fight from there on.

But Southfield arose, came

back and with a double conquest of Detroit West 7 in Sunday's finals, it won the district and also a spot in the state Connie Mack tourney which starts Thursday at Marshall.

Southfield will play the Pennfield district champ in the first round Thursday morning.

## Southfield Colts Are Perfect Hosts

Southfield-Lathrup turned out to be a perfect host in the sectional Col League baseball tournament this past weekend at the Southfield Civic Center.

The winners lashed out 13 hits and had eight more baserunners via walks and three more on errors.

Greg Dwight and Steve Wilkinson scored the only runs of the game for the losers.

Illinois then bounced back to win twice on Saturday, first from Mt. Pleasant, 5-1, and then from Birmingham, 8-5.

All the teams enjoyed themselves. They couldn't have asked for better playing conditions or more ideal weather.

On top of that host team, Southfield-Lathrup, didn't share the playing honors, which for the S-L team itself proved unfortunate.

Steve Morrison hurled the victory in the game against Mt. Pleasant as Duane Gustafson had two hits. Gustafson had three hits and Mike Tischer a triple and

single and three RBIs as the Illinois visitors stopped Birmingham's winning ways, 8-5, to gain the finals.

Birmingham Nationals carried off the title by trouncing the Chicago visitors, 13-4, in Sunday's final.

Jerry Keller had two hits and Bill Spinning turned in a winning pitching job as Birmingham qualified for the sectional tournament at Murray, Ky., starting Thursday.

**SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP** played in only two games, the minimum. It lost first to Birmingham and then was eliminated by Stokie-Chicago, 15-2.

"We're young in Col League play," one Southfield-Lathrup official said. "We're not making excuses, but this might have had something to do with the way we played."

The Southfield team bowed to Birmingham by only one run, but was never in contention against the strong team from Illinois, which was still smarting after losing its opener by a run to Mt. Pleasant.

Special buses will carry fans to and from the three pre-season games as well as the seven regular season home games.

The "Football Flyer" coaches will start arriving at Wonderland Center two hours and 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time and will depart when loaded.

Southfield-Lathrup managed only five hits and three walks against the Illinois champs. Five different S-L pitchers tried in vain to hold down the slugging Stokie bats.

Wonderland Center will again host DSR "Football Flyer" service to and from Detroit Lions' home games, at Tiger Stadium, during the 1971 season.

Round trip fare will be \$2.50, except for the Sunday, Aug. 22, Lions vs. Colts game, which will be played in Ann Arbor. Fare for the Lions' Ann Arbor game will be \$3.50.

Round trip tickets for each game will be sold at Wonderland Center by DSR personnel.

The "Football Flyer" service begins with the Saturday, August 14, Lions vs. Bengals game, which will be played at 8 p.m.

Wonderland Center is located at Plymouth and Middlebelt Roads.

Freddie Webb singled and Hickerson walked and there was Rose again. Bang! Another homer, this one good for three runs.

After Mark Tressler walked, Gee followed with his circuit smash to fatten the Hubert lead.

## Hubert Whips Patriots In Class D Final, 11-3

The arm of Terry Laird from Clarencville and the bat of Tim Rose added up to an easy 11-3 victory for Livonia Hubert Realty over the Livonia Patriots in the finals of the Livonia Connie Mack-Class D baseball playoffs.

Hubert moved into the State Recreation regionals while the losing Livonia Patriots also won a tournament slot—going to the Inter-Cities at Dearborn Heights, which started Tuesday.

Laird hurled the distance. He allowed seven hits and was able to coast along because Rose socked two homers and drove in five runs. Mike Gee also lashed a two-run homer during the proceedings at Ford Field.

Rose's first blast came after Randy Hickerson singled in the first inning.

Then Hubert exploded for five runs in the third inning. Fred Webb singled and Hickerson walked and there was Rose again. Bang! Another homer, this one good for three runs.

The tourney involved all teams which posted a .500 record during the regular season, excluding the three divisional winners which automatically qualified for district Connie Mack playoffs.

THE STAKES in the Mack playoff series carried more than a title. As the winner,

Rob Hollandsworth, losing pitcher who lasted only three innings, singled in the Patriot's first run in the first inning.

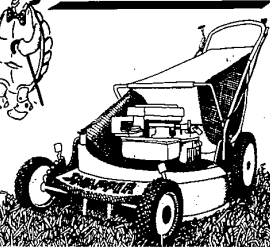
Frank Groger managed Hubert and Ron Heller the Patriots. During the regular Mack season, both teams played in the International League.

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