



RU VICTOR — Panther Tim Beal hits the wire in the 440 yard dash with a time of 0:53.4 in the Farmington-RU-Borgess track meet. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

'Ifs' Plague Tiger Opener

By W.W. EDGAR

Seldom has any major league team awaited the opening of the baseball season with more "ifs" than the Tigers who are scheduled to meet the New York Yankees in the home inaugural next Tuesday ... if the strike is ended.

When the Tigers finished as runner-up to the Baltimore Orioles last September the hue and cry had to do with the

absence of a fourth starting pitcher to maintain a regular rotation.

"If we can come up with that fourth starter," it was said, "things will be a lot different."

But now, with the spring training behind them the "ifs" have multiplied.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW of them that are running through the minds of the fans — and the Tiger officials.

If the strike hasn't taken the edge off their prime condition.

If Willie Horton and Manager Billy Martin have buried the hatchet and found a way of life in a spirit of togetherness.

If Mickey Lolich and Joe Coleman can come through with big years again.

If Norm Cash can carry on for another out-standing year at first base.

If Al Kaline can escape injury and carry on as part of the platooning system.

If Bill Freehan's back doesn't bother him and he can assume most of the work behind the plate.

These are just a few of the ponderables. There may be many more, including the attitude of the players and the reaction of the manager and officials as an aftermath of the strike.

WITH ALL DUE credit to Lolich, who won 25 games last year, and Coleman, who won 20, it is doubtful if either or both can repeat. Between them they won close to half of the Tiger victories a year ago and that's a big order to expect in another year.

Horton again is a bit temperamental and prone to injury. He was in a slump in spring training and escaped injury — but he is one of those unfortunates who are susceptible to injury.

Cash is fighting advancing years as a baseball player. He went all out a year ago to prove he still was capable of playing major league ball. It could be that he is going to the well once too often.

The same is true with Al Kaline. Al is a great competitor, but he has reached that stage where he must conserve his energy and needs rest periods. The others in the outfield — Gates Brown, Mickey Stanley and Jim Northrup can do the job when called upon.

The infield, outside of first base, is well set with Dick Macaulliffe sharing second base with Tony Taylor, and the "gits" from the Washington Senators a year ago — Ed Brinkman and Aureli Rodriguez — should have good years at shortstop and third base.

Now, tie all those "ifs" together and balance them against the Orioles, minus Frank Robinson, and you can form your own opinion regarding the Tigers chances.

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What A Finish! RU, Farmington Tie

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

The story of the Bishop Borgess, Farmington, and Redford Union track meet was nearing an equilateral triangle with the last event in the 440 relay the deciding factor.

The victory was up for grabs with Borgess holding the slight edge. The Spartan cindermen needed only a second place in the 440 for an overall win but the unexpected happened.

RU was dashing off to an unchallenged first and Borgess was in second, 15 yards ahead of Farmington going into the fourth and final exchange.

Borgess timing was off and the baton exchange was completed out of the zone by a mere six inches, and Borgess was disqualified and hopes of a surprise upset vanished.

When the RU finished with 53% points for a first place tie with Borgess third with 49.

It was a satisfying afternoon for Farmington Coach Jerry Young and RU Coach John

MacKenzie but for Borgess Coach Steve Strauch, it was a rewarding experience.

"I think Farmington and RU thought us a weak sister," said Borgess Coach Strauch. "Here we took on two of the stronger teams in the area and we gave them a run."

REDFORD UNION walked away with the relay honors. The Panthers won the 880 in 1:33.5; the mile in 3:41.7; and the 440 in :45.7.

Dave Schoof, of RU, captured two firsts with top billing in the 120 high hurdles and the high jump. Schoof clocked in at :15.4 in the high hurdles with Mark Sopko and Mark Cesarz of Borgess next in line and reached a height of 6'2" in the high jump.

Farmington's Nat Durham also peaked to 6'2" but Schoof had fewer misses and captured the first. RU's O'Grady and Falcon Chris Haase tied for third at 5'8".

The other individual winner for the Panthers was Beal in the 440 yard dash. The RU sprinter ran :53.4 for first ahead of Farmington's Sandy Campbell.

Farmington captured five of Borgess with a :22.5 showing. Falcon Mike McGuire easily won the two mile event at 10:05.9. Rick Dennis Cummings also reached 11'1" for Borgess but had more misses.

Jim Nuttall was clocked in the mile at 4:44.5 for a first with teammate Kim Day second and Doug Kruecher and Mark Oiler of Borgess third and fourth.

FARMINGTON'S MARK TIMMONS sprinted to a first in the 100 yard dash with a 10.1 showing. Tom Burke, of RU, was in second with Al Nemzek of Borgess in third.

Timmons also won the 220 yard dash ahead of Neil Falls of Borgess with a :22.5 showing. Falcon Mike McGuire easily won the two mile event at 10:05.9. Rick Dennis Cummings also reached 11'1" for Borgess but had more misses.

Borgess sported four individual winners with Craig Lantto pacing the quartet with a first in the 880 run. Farmington placed second and third with Mike Mansfield and Ron Maniewski in the running.

GREG BATTLE scored a Borgess first in the 180 yard low hurdles at :20.9 with teammate Jim Doherty a close second. Farmington's Durham ran third.

Spartan musclemen

Campbell (F); 3-McCarthy (BB); 4-Strauch (BB); Time :53.4

120 LOW HURDLES: 1-Battle (BB); 2-Doherty (BB); 3-Durham (BB); 4-Edsinger (RU); Time 15:05.9

220 YARD DASH: 1-Timmons (F); 2-Falls (BB); 3-Prince (RU); 4-Edsinger (RU); Time :22.5

MILE RELAY: 1-Redford Union (F); 41.7; 2-Bishop Borgess; 3-Farmington; 440 RELAY: 1-Redford Union (F); 45.7; 2-Farmington (F); 3-Borgess; 3-Borgess which finished second disqualified - SHOT PUT: 1-Cudde (BB); 2-Tulloch (RU); 3-Christen (RU); 4-Schwartz (F); Distance (F): 34.0

LONG JUMP: 1-Wieland (BB); 2-Campbell (F); 3-Holmes (RU); 4-Sander (RU); Distance 18'8"

HIGH JUMP: 1-Schoof (RU); 2-Durham (F); 3-Edsinger (O'Grady (RU) and Haase (F); Height 6'2"

POLE VAULT: 1-Durham (F); 2-Cummings (BB); 3-Broquet (RU); 4-Bloomington (RU); Height 11'0"

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Bulldogs Tuck In Tail; Churchill Explodes, 8-0

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Newspapers

Livonia Churchill christened its '72 baseball season with a shutout victory over crossstown rival Bentley, 8-0.

The Chargers collected eight hits and utilized 10 walks and four Bentley errors en route to a non-league win for Coach Roger Frayer.

Churchill's left-handed pitcher Bill retired the Bulldogs one-two-three in the top of the first and then the Chargers went to work.

Third baseman Bob Blaies opened the Churchill attack with a base on balls and promptly stole second base. Mick Crom followed with a walk and a passed ball put runners on first and third with nobody out and Bulldog pitcher Bob Couch was in a jam.

Roy Henriksson ripped a single off second base bringing in Blaies with the opening run and Brian Sherman stepped up. Sherman swung late on a fast ball but drilled it over the right-fielder's head. When the throw finally came back to the infield, Sherman was on third with a triple and Churchill was up by three runs.

COUCH settled down and whiffed the next two Charger batsmen but walked Ernie Comini and Bruce Van Wagner to fill the bases. The Bulldog right-hander found his mark again and struck out the next hitter to retire the side but Churchill was on the move, 3-0.

Bentley's All-League left-fielder John Gents faced a single to start the second but was doubled up on a Crom to Henriksson to Sherman combination.

The biggest threat Bentley could muster off Churchill's Miller was in third when Tom Worniak singled and Couch was safe on an error advancing Worniak to third. This was to be the farthest a Bulldog would prowl and Churchill pulled off another double play to end the threat.

CHURCHILL capitalized on three Bentley mishaps in the bottom of the third and combined with a Rick Decher single, sent three more runs across the plate to lead, 6-0.

Joe Kearney went to work for Bentley to start the fourth and Henriksson responded with a leadoff double and later scored on an error after walks to Dreher and Jim Foster.

Coach Frayer kept to his game plan and replaced Miller with another hurler in Ken Wood. Doug Platt managed the lone Bentley hit off Wood in the final three innings that saw the Charger pitcher strike out four and walk none.

FOSTER opened the bottom of the sixth with a standup double and was followed by Comini and Van Wagner who each received a base on balls to fill the bases.

A fielder choice nailed Foster at the plate but Comini bounced home with the eighth and final run on a fielders choice by Crom and Churchill was on top, 8-0.

Bentley failed to muster any sort of an attack in the top of the seventh.

Churchill's second baseman Henriksson was the sparkplug in the offensive attack with three hits in three at bats and Crom paced the defensive

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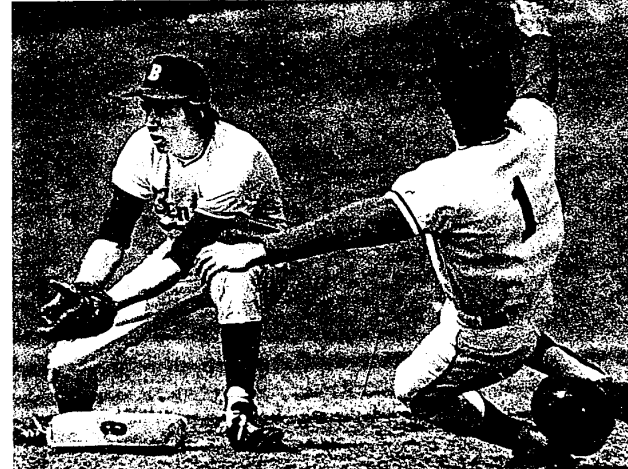
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CHURCHILL STOLEN BASE — Charger Bob Blaies slides into second ahead of the throw to Bentley's Tom Worniak. Blaies walked

to open the Churchill first inning and scored on a single by Roy Henriksson. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Thurston Zips By Lincoln Park

Thurston opened the '72 track season on a bright note with nine firsts in a 60 to 55 victory over Lincoln Park.

Bill VanAlsten and Rick Westphal were the triple winners as VanAlsten scored a distance of 46" for a first. Craig Boyak scored a Thurston first in the long jump with a distance of 18'6".

Low Torralacci captured the other Eagle first with a time of :42.8 in the mile run.

MEET RESULTS
SHOT PUT: 1-Thurston (F); 2-Brown (F); 3-Schoof (RU) Distance 42'2"

LONG JUMP: 1-Boyak (F); 2-Hall (F); 3-Schoof (RU) Distance 18'6"

880 RELAY: 1-Thurston (VanAlsten, Glines, Wandy, Westphal) Time 1:38.4

880 RUN: 1-Emore (F); 2-Yops (LP); 3-Bandett (F) Time 2:08.8

HIGH HURDLES: 1-VanAlsten (F); 2-Craws (LP); 3-Wee (F) Time 1:18.8

MILE RUN: 1-Torralacci (F); 2-

Wiene (LP); 3-Espinosa (LP) Time 4:52.8

100 YARD DASH: 1-Westphal (F); 2-Hendrie (LP); 3-Jacobs (LP) Time 10.8

440 RUN: 1-Kline (LP); 2-Drake (F); 3-Gibson (F) Time :54.1

LOW HURDLES: 1-VanAlsten (F); 2-Hall (LP); 3-Kane (LP) Time 21.0

2 MILE RUN: 1-More (LP); 2-Battle (F); 3-Gibson (F) Time 9:52.0

220 RUN: 1-Westphal (F); 2-Krene (LP); 3-Wandage (F) Time :24.0

MILE RELAY: 1-Lincoln Park, Time 4:45.8

440 RELAY: 1-Lincoln Park, Time 4:45.8

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