

The Court Jester

BY BILL CAMERON

Don't you get frustrated when you keep feeling beat in the first round of every tournament you enter? You feel that nobody loves you. I get the same feeling when my weekly column disappears. It usually happens when I have something important to announce.

Such as the Livonia Tennis Club singles championships held this past weekend at Stevenson High School and other tournaments which I'll soon mention.

Anyway, it was interesting to note the two top seeds, both teaching pros, Jim Thompson, of Westland, and Dean Snyder, of Farmington, met in the finals, won by Thompson 6-4, 6-4. Jim defeated former winner Dave Ward 6-2, 6-1 in the semis and Snyder ousted fast rising Tom Simons 6-4, 6-3.

In the women's bracket, Nancy Ryan, another teaching pro, battled her way to the finals by defeating Mary Frandsen 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in the semis and then taking another three-setter from Pat Hurick, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the finals.

It was a day of close matches as the women's losers bracket found Elaine Beck, of Southfield, winning a third set tie-breaker from Barb Reinke, of Northville, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6.

What impressed me about all the finalists was their mobility, particularly the

Plymouth Hoping For Final Surge

Plymouth Bidwell knows it has just one shot remaining to get into the Adray baseball playoffs and Coach Wayne Sparkman knows better than anyone that he can't afford to lose a game in the third and final round.

The first round saw Redford edge Plymouth with a 6-2-1 record against Plymouth 6-3. Bidwell slipped to a 4-5-1 mark the second round.

It's now into round three and Plymouth nipped Dearborn, 5-4, and blanked Farmington, 4-1. Bidwell then fell victim to four unearned runs and wound up in a four-all tie, with Birmingham Varsity Shop.

Sparkman called on three pitchers against Dearborn. Larry Graves started and went five innings, giving up two runs on two hits, three walks and seven strikeouts.

John Owens was the sixth man, giving up two runs on one hit, four walks and no strikeouts. Mike Smock finished it, and picked up the win, giving up one hit and striking out three.

Three tournaments coming up quickly. The Livonia Parks and Recreation novice tournament this weekend at Stevenson High School. Open to youth and adults who have never won a tournament, the Livonia city meet for youth and adults residing in Livonia, the Plymouth-Canton Open on Aug. 4, at the Canton Township courts.

The Livonia Y Women's Tournament has been postponed until Aug. 25. The second session of the Women's Summer League in A, B, & C will begin July 29. Get your entry in now.

Dearborn tied it up in the top of the seventh. Owens walked Ron Thomas, Renko doubled and Chelebek walked. Follow walked to force in Thomas.

That was all for Owens and in came Smock who was greeted by a single by Gillingham with Renko scoring to tie it at four-all.

Smock then bore down and struck out the next three to halt the rally.

Hanson took over the Dearborn pitching chores and Plymouth went to work to push across the deciding run.

Smock came back with a starting assignment against Farmington Sinoala and picked up a four-hit, 4-0 victory. He walked four and struck out two along the way.

Rick Pauline and Paul Ja-

was booted and in came run No. 3.

Steve Robb rounded out the infield error chart with a hot at first on a slow roller.

Plymouth tied it a four-all in the seventh. With one out, Graves and Grimmer singled and Kovacs doubled in Graves.

Owens found it easier the final four innings, retiring Birmingham 1-2-3.

Plymouth, which wound up leaving nine runners on base, sacrificed to second by the fifth. With two out, three straight singles by Dan Hees, Graves and Waller made it 4-1.

The sixth saw Plymouth slice it to one. With one out, Lane walked but was forced at second with Robb safe at first. Owens followed with a swinging bunt and with two out, a passed ball moved the runners to second and third.

Greg Lane then let one get away at short with Kevin Keys safe at first and another run scored. Freemuth followed with a grounder to second baseman Waller that

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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Joe Adamsky, the 37-year-old Ohioan who made patrons at Wolverine Raceway aware of his ability as a driver, came within a hair's breadth of becoming the first reinsman to sweep both features at Northville Downs.

Joe did win two races and his first second in his third start of the evening Saturday... the second place came when Whirlaway was closing fast on Erlana's Valley but didn't quite make it.

Erlana's Valley, top performer for Livonia auto dealer Bill Brown, overtook Whirlaway as the field turned into the stretch and then had to go all out to win in 2:03.3. It will be recalled that Erlana's Valley won a standout during the winter in the Jackson-at-Northville meeting, winning the \$10,000 finale of the late closing program.

Whirlaway, coming off a 2:02.3 victory a week earlier, couldn't hold off the five-year-old in the drive to the wire.

The story was a bit different in the \$5,000 invitational where Adamsky had Ark Time flying in the final furlong to pass Prince Knox and save off the late rally of Dave Butler to win by a long margin.

It was Ark Time's second win in 11 starts this year behind Easy Ivy, H.T. Luca and Erlana's Valley a week before.

Prince Knox, racing secretary Harry Peterson is hoping Driver Dave Farber has her pacers back in top shape and other material.

There will be buying, selling and trading of hobby items associated with baseball and other sports, including cards, autographs, pictures, pins, buttons and yearbooks.

Seventy display tables will be open to the public on July 20 at 6 p.m.; July 21, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and July 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Former Detroit Tiger Walter "Hoot" Evers will be the guest speaker, July 21 at 7:30 p.m. with a special auction of Evers' memorabilia for charity.

for the weekly featured Saturday events.

Bea had to scratch Emerald Scar Saturday and couldn't enter Easy Ivy, the fastest horse at the track, in the invitational. Both horses came down with a virus and may not be back for the remainder of the meeting which ends on July 30.

A BIG MOMENT came for Livonia Jack Richards and his wife Mary, last Friday when 14-year-old Livonia Boy won his second start of the year.

Jack has been holding the aged pacer out of competition until the summer weather was really hot.

The conditions weren't quite right when Livonia Boy faced the starter a week earlier. But everything was perfect Friday and the oldtimer had his tail switching and his ears cocked up when it took the lead midway through the backstretch and went on to three-year lengths in 2:07.

At the ripe old age of 14 Livonia Boy is nearing the end of his racing career since standardbred stars barred from racing when they become 15. That's why the Richards were so proud... the only horse they owned that won more than \$100,000 is still capable of beating those longer distance. List, owned by Mrs. Joe W. Brown of New Orleans, was making a bold bid in the stretch and could be the one to beat.

New Yorker Petrograd accustomed to the warm turns at Belmont Park, was blocked twice in the mile. The additional sixteenth may be just what the eastern colt needs for a better showing. Petrograd was seventh in the Trial.

A field of 12 is expected for the Stakes and track management is looking forward to the largest attendance of the meeting.

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