

East High Adds to Baseball Dynasty

The baseball record compiled by John Kularenka in his 13 years of coaching at Garden City East High School must rank it the best in the state — in fact, the country.

Seven times — including this spring — Kularenka has led his charges to the championship in their league.

The eight other times East finished in second spot.

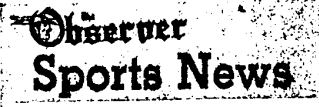
What's behind Kularenka's success secret?

"You'd have to say that we just have a lot of boys who are dedicated to baseball," he said after East downed Riverview, 6-2, to wrap up the Mid-Wayne League flag with a 9-1 record.

Riverview was the only challenger to East in the closing stages and had a chance to share the crown when the teams collided. But George Dobosy flipped a two-hitter and his pitches erupted for six runs in the second inning to settle matters.

"We have a great community when it comes to baseball — and, of course, other things," added Kularenka.

"Our boys do well in Babe Ruth, Connie Mack and Free Press League action every summer. Several of them



Page 2B ★ Wednesday, June 7, 1967

go downtown (to Detroit) and do a job there with their standard Class D teams which go on to win championships.

"The kids around here love baseball. They work at it from the start of the season to the finish ... and they want to be coached."

In the East drive to the 1967 crown, Dobosy shared pitching honors with Marvin Martin, another senior, who had a 5-0 loop record. Dobosy was 4-1 and amassed a sensational earned run average of .050.

In the offensive department, Joe Huber and Mike Sparkman led the way. They're also seniors.

East put together five hits with a walk and an error in pushing over six runs in the one inning against Riverview.

There was one out when Sparkman started the explosion with a single. He stole second and scored on Hu-

ber's single.

Monte Hackman's double knocked in Huber and Dobosy was safe on an error. Kevin Wilkinson walked to load the sacks.

Then it was a single by Rick Clark and a triple by Martin which wrapped up the wild inning and brought East's final record for the season to 13 victories against only four losses.



RUNNERUP AWARD — It goes to Redford Union, coached by Bob Atkins, left, after bowing to Bentley, 2-1, in finals of Les Anders Memorial Baseball tournament. Dick DeVries of Livonia Optimist Club makes the presenta-

tion. Optimist Club, along with Livonia Recreation Department and Observer newspapers, helped to sponsor the tournament.

RU Blanks Rocks, Ties For Pennant

They'll have to provide a new trophy for the 1968 baseball champion in the Suburban Six League.

Redford Union retired the cup for which the teams have been battling for almost a decade by blanking Plymouth, 9-0, to tie the Rocks for the 1967 loop pennant, each with 73 conference records.

It marked the third time in six years under coach Bob Atkins that Redford Union has ruled in the loop. Three titles — either outright or shared — were required to put the trophy out of circulation for keeps.

Dale Bjerkie, the sophomore sensation at RU, coasted along to down Plymouth. He gave up only one hit — a first inning single to rival pitcher, Dan Camp. Thereafter only three Plymouth batters reached base, one on a walk, another via an error, the third when he was hit by a pitch.

Redford Union bounced ahead in a hurry when Rod Ferguson walked, stole second and scored on a single by Kevin Fox.

Then in the second inning, Bill Fahay was safe on an error and Bjerkie singled. Both advanced on a passed ball and scored when Ferguson struck out. But the ball got away from the Plymouth catcher, who then threw wildly, permitting Ferguson to slide all the way to third. Bob Fritz singled to send Ferguson across.

The Townshippers piled up four more runs in the fourth. Ferguson again started matters with a walk.

A single by Fritz and another single by Fox brought over two runs. Leland Bjerkie followed with a single. Glen Buckingham walked, and Howe reached first on an error and Fahay doubled before the inning was over.

In the sixth inning, Rick Beckerling slapped a homer to wind up the scoring and end the season for both teams on a happy note.

Fritz and Fox each had two hits for the winners.

Plymouth had entered the game needing only a victory to sew up an outright pennant.

Plymouth Bentley Top Loop Stars

Three players from Bentley and three from Plymouth were named on the all-Suburban Six League baseball team.

Named from Bentley were Greg Macy at first base, Ed Ryan at third and outfielder-pitcher Bill McAlpine.

Selected from Plymouth were John Gillis at second base, Prochaska, centerfield, and pitcher Dan Camp.

Larry Kaneko, Allen Park, at short stop; Lance Sheffler, Trenton, catcher; Bruce Baron, Belleville, outfield; and Bill Ray, Belleville, pitcher, rounded out the first team selections.

Paul Springer, Birmingham junior, captained the Wayne State University rowing team to a 4-2 record during the 1967 season.

AUTO RACING
FLAT ROCK SPEEDWAY
FLAT ROCK, MICH.
Wednesday, June 14
(Race starts 7:30 p.m.)
100-LAP FLAG DAY
INVITATIONAL
LATE MODEL CARS FROM
ALL OVER MIDWEST
VERSUS FLAT ROCK
FAVORITE FASTEST
QUALIFY
P.M.
Dash, Heat, Final & Come
Out
High-backed, open quarter-mile
ADULTS \$3 — Children, 6-12, \$1
782-2400



STATE MEET BOUND—Ken Bollin and Kim Carlson of Bentley shot for high stakes this weekend when they vie in doubles in the state Class A tennis tournament at Kalamazoo. Bill Kethler and Larry Bock of Thurston also will be represented in the doubles competition at Kalamazoo.

Courage Pays Him Well

Maybe we have said it before. It certainly bears repeating.

Nothing thrills a high school athletic coach—or for that matter any teacher—more than to see graduating students move up the ladder of life.

A telephone call the other evening certainly exemplifies what it means to a coach when one or more of his proteges makes an impression outside the high school.

The caller was Bill McDonald, the football coach at Thurston high.

We hadn't heard from "Mac" since the close of the 1966 season. But the more way he introduced himself at the other end of the line made us realize that something "big" had happened to him.

Perhaps McDonald had been promoted to an assistant principal or head principal ... Or maybe he'd signed to coach in a college ... or, perhaps, he had become the father of a new set of quadruplets. None of these. Nor had he inherited a half million dollars.

Nonetheless, McDonald couldn't have been happier. Five of his boys had received scholarships to attend college.

There were familiar names like Dan Harris, Barry Simescu, Paul Santangelo, Reggie Barringer, and then there was Johnny Mutch.

McDonald was excited for all of "his" boys, most of whom had starred in other sports and under coaches at Thurston, as well as on McDonald's grid forces.

But the name of Mutch ... that meant something special to McDonald.

"Mutch has been accepted at Ohio University

on a full-ride deal," McDonald declared. "You remember about Mutch, don't you?"

We certainly did. Mutch was the kid who showed up for football as a sophomore in 1965. He

Observing SPORTS

By George Macklin

was a lanky boy and McDonald and his staff immediately tabbed Johnny as a standout for the future.

Before Mutch could play one game for Thurston he hurt his knee. He missed the entire 1965 season.

There were operations ... there were gruelling exercises ... there was a lot of sweating by Johnny.

Mutch had set himself on playing football for Thurston in 1966. The fortunes, however, weren't kind to him.

Mutch again hurt his knee. Not only didn't he play as a junior, but the doctors told him that his football career was through.

There was more surgery ... more painful exercises to redevelop the knee ... more sweating it out.

In August of '67, Coach McDonald, Mutch, the boys' parents, the doctors all huddled. What about the knee?

Specialists entered the scene and made every test possible. Their decision: "The knee is as good as new."

Johnny Mutch could report for fall drills.

And when on that hot day in August, McDonald assembled his forces, the happiest of the lot was Mutch. He pranced around and danced, like never before, even when his favorite girl was close by.

Three days after practice began, Johnny returned home from practice and complained of a pain in his right side.

The pain intensified. So a doctor was called. "In a matter of moments, Johnny went to the hospital again ... this time for an emergency appendectomy."

Johnny was sick at heart. So was his coach ... and many others.

But within a couple of weeks, Mutch was back on the football field. First he took it easy. Then, after the doctor said "okay," Mutch began full-scale workouts.

Ex-Falcon Honored at 'M' in Track

ANN ARBOR—A group of 25 Michigan freshman tracksters earned their frosh pins this season. Athletic Director H. O. (Fritz) Crisler announced.

Those receiving awards included Laurence Armstrong, Lachine, Que. Can. ad; Warren Bechard, Brantford, Ont. Can. ad; Tom Clark, Grand Rapids, Mich. Can. ad; G. Solomons, Erie, Pa. Can. ad; Anderson Freeman, Detroit, Mich. Can. ad; Gary Gold, Cleveland, O. Can. ad; James Green, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Can. ad; Leon Grunstein, Cleveland Heights, O. Can. ad; John Harton, Dearborn, Mich. Can. ad; Kenneth How, Cokesville, Ont. Can. ad; Douglas Johnson, Lansing, Mich. Can. ad; Mark Knepper, Elyria, Ohio, Can. ad; Anthony Kraft, Dearborn, Mich. Can. ad; Terry Mahn, Stamford, Conn. Can. ad; Paul Mayer, New Richmond, Wis. Can. ad; Brian Moore, Detroit, Mich. Can. ad; Geoffrey Petrask, Lancaster, Pa. Can. ad; Allen Rindfuss, Niles, O. Can. ad; Ira Russell, Detroit, Mich. Can. ad; William Rye, Kalamazoo, Mich. Can. ad; Errol Seston, Kingston, Jamaica, W. I. Can. ad; Sharrow, Harper Woods, Mich. Can. ad; Ronald Shortt, Farmington, Mich. Can. ad.

West Riddles School Mark

Four school records went by the boards but Garden City West's track team could do no better than settle for a fourth-place tie in the Tri-River League championships.

Southgate repeated as champion with ease, running up 72 points. Shafter followed with 57 points with Kennedy third with 48.

Then came Cherry Hill with 35, West and Lowrey with 23 each, Crestwood 24 and Riverdale 18.

Two of the West records came in the relays.

Mike Alexander, Craig Kenner, Bob Herrick and Bob Fodor combined for a 1:32.9 clocking in finishing second in the 880-yard race.

In the mile relay, West took third as Herrick, Dave Wilson, Steve Sweda and Mike Sinta hit the line in 2:23.7, another new school standard.

Sinta accounted for West's only championship in the finals as he hit the wire in 1:59, another new school record.

The fourth West mark was set by Fodor when he finished second in the 220-yard dash in 23 seconds flat.

Other West points were scored as follows:

Two Mile: Bill Casper ran third.

Pole Vault: Mark Witt brodt placed sixth.

Low Hurdles: Scott Frazer took sixth.

High Hurdles: Jim Robertson ran sixth.

100-yard dash: Alexander took sixth.

Butcher actually finished his requirements last summer at Pikeville, but since the college holds graduation ceremonies only once a year, his "big" day has been delayed until Sunday.

Butcher, who came to the Pistons from the Knicks in 1963-64, was named the team's head coach late last season.

Falcons Shatter Track Record

Gave trackmen a hot day and they'll really go to town.

This was the story in the annual Oakland County championships in which Pontiac Central took top honors while Farmington tied for ninth place with 15 points and North Farmington picked up five points.

While their efforts were restricted, the delegations from Farmington and North Farmington distinguished themselves.

The Farmington contingent cracked three school records and equaled another.

Two of the Farmington marks were set in the relays as the 880-yard unit clocked off a 1:31.0 clocking, the fastest turned in by an Observer area team this season.

Nonetheless, the Falcons had to settle for third place as Tom Atwell, Chris Brown,



ROSS SMITH

"Down Under" Star Mike Hines and Del Cornwell sprinted across the line six-sixths of a second under the former school standard.

In the mile relay it was

(Continued on Page 3B)

(Continued on Page 3B)

What's ROGER PECK

Roger Peck is the NEW CHEVROLET DEALER in Farmington.

GR 4-0500

Formerly Bill Root Chevrolet