

# Tigers Have Five New Faces On '68 Squad

Although they came within an eyelash—one game—of the American League pennant a year ago, the Detroit Tigers are expected to stand pat for 1968.

As the new campaign dawned 24 hours late at Tiger Stadium Wednesday with the legendary lineup circuit champion Boston Red Sox serving up the opposition, five new faces are added to the Detroit uniform.

One was infielder Tom Matlack, who actually saw some action with the Tigers in 1967, he finished with the team after laying with Toledo during the bulk of the campaign.

The other "strangers" to

Tiger Stadium all are pitchers—Dennis Ribant, Les Cain, John Warden and Darrell Patterson.

Of the four new hurlers, only Ribant boasts a previous major league background. The Tigers got him from Pittsburgh who earlier had obtained him from the New York Mets.

DETROIT IS home to Ribant. He pitched on the city's sandlots as a teen-ager and also almost was hired a job with the Detroit Red Wings.

However, he decided on a baseball career over one in hockey and winning a job on the Tigers, Ribant admits, is

"the happiest thing that ever has happened to me."

Cain, Warden and Patterson all distinguished themselves in the spring exhibition season which ended last Saturday when Detroit beat the world champion St. Louis Cardinals, 4-2, to gain a 14-15 standing in the final Grapefruit League festivities.

Gone from the Tigers are such old reregals as Fred Gladding, Johnny Podres and Jerry Lampe.

Gone, too, is Leanne Green, who was rushed up from Toledo in June and made a vital contribution to the Tigers in their dramatic chase for the flag.

Green has gone back to Toledo after training with the Tigers in the spring.

THE SQUAD manager Mayo Smith brought home for Wednesday's opener—delayed from Tuesday because of the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King—listed 11 pitchers, two catchers, seven infielders and five outfielders.

Cain, Warden was among the flycatchers to make it back to Detroit. For sometime it had been rumored that the Tigers might cut off onetime Brownian favor of rookie Wayne Comay, who hits from the right side, a department in which the Tiger bench is slightly weak.

But when Smith made his final cut last Saturday, he picked Brown over Comay, sending the latter to Toledo where he can play every day.

For the first time in many years, all the major league teams are starting with 25 players, the maximum they can carry during the thick of the season.

Each club was allowed 28 men for the first month of the season. But the rule was changed, effective with 1968 play.

Despite the 24-hour postponement, Smith planned to pitch Earl Wilson against Boston in the opener.

"He won the job in training camp, but I should change," Smith said when the Tigers flew into Detroit Sunday afternoon.

BOSTON MANAGER Dick Wilson had indicated originally he would lead off with newly acquired Dick Ellsworth. But with the change in starting days, it was expected the Sox would lead off with Jose Santiago, once their 1967 star.

The odds-makers have installed the Tigers as the team to beat with either Baltimore or Minnesota as the runner-up. Chicago, California and Boston should battle it out for the next positions.

In the National League, there's no doubt about who'll win. Everybody predicts a repeat winner for the St. Louis Cardinals.

After Wednesday's opener, the Tigers were to face Boston again Thursday afternoon. The Chicago White Sox invade Tiger stadium Saturday and Sunday for single encounters.

The Saturday game starts at 2:15 p.m., Sunday's at 1:30.



STEVENSON'S DAVE MASTNY scrambles for every inch as he leaps 19' 9 1/2" to win the long jump in the opening track meet of the year between Stevenson and Bentley.

# The 1968 Tigers

- WHO'S WHO ON TIGERS**
- PITCHERS** — Earl Wilson, Dennis McLain, Jim Nunn, Mickey Lolich, John Hiller, Fred Lusher, Dennis Ribant, Pat Dabson, Les Cain, Darrell Patterson and John Warden.
- CATCHERS** — Bill Freehan and Jim Price.
- INFIELDERS** — Norm Cash, Eddie Mathews, Ray Oyler, Dick McAuliffe, Dick Tracewski, Don Wert, Tom Matlack.
- OUTFIELDERS** — Al Kaline, Jim Northrup, Willie Horton, Mickey Stanley and Gates Brown.

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# Farmington Star Nears Relays High Jump Mark

It's not how many, but how good they are that counts.

The area high schools were represented by only a small delegation of performers last Saturday in the Spartan Relays outdoor track carnival at Michigan State University.

Nonetheless, the contingent from Observerland did well.

John Mann of North Farmington, cleared 6'4" to win the high jump and set a school record. He had held the former North Farmington mark of 6'1".

Mann tried 6'7" at East Lansing, but missed in an attempt to equal the relays mark.

Rick Randall, of North Farmington, stepped to a fourth place finish in the mile in 4:22.7, to rock another Haldy record. He had held the North Farmington varsity mark of 4:23.

and a seventh-place scorer in Fred Howell in the pole vault and the high hurdles, respectively.

Farmington came up with a fifth in the shuttle hurdle relay with Russ LaFever, Chris Brown, Dave Bush and Mike Bernier carrying the Falcon colors.

The meet ended the indoor season for the thrillseekers, who now turn full attention to participating outdoors.

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JUST LIKE opening day for the Bengals in their first drill on the home grounds, Ray Oyler swings a bat while waiting for pitcher to deliver the ball.

TWO REDFORD UNION school records also went by the boards.

John Morris of RU was timed in 8.8 seconds on placing second in the 70-yard high hurdles. He surpassed the RU standard of 9.4 set by Al Malbach a few years ago.

RU's two-mile relay failed to place, but still knocked six seconds off the school record with a time of 8:52, compared to the old time of 9:15. Jim Lagana, Dennis Keeney, Bill Kuhn and Bob Junk formed the quartet.

Bentley produced a fifth-place finisher in John Plumley

# Wayne Routs GC East In Track

Wayne Memorial High tracksters spoiled the season opener of Garden City East with a one-sided, 78-25 victory.

Bernie Wasilewski provided the lone bright spot for East when he won the two mile run in school record time of 10:17, one of the two firsts for Garden City.

Mike Brenemour tied for first in the pole vault for the only other winning effort. He cleared 10 feet to dislodge Wayne's Jim Keller.

Steve Vince, with victories in the high jump, high hurdles and low hurdles, and Tom Ressor, who won the long jump and the 100-yard dash, were the top performers for Wayne.

The Results:  
SHOT PUT—Won by Hopper (W); 2, Zieleski (E); 3, Zieleski (E). Distance 43' 11".  
LONG JUMP—Won by Ressor (W); 2, Damesworth (E); 3, Workman (E). Distance 18' 7".  
HIGH JUMP—Won by Vince (W); 2, Brenemour (E); 3, Crowell (E). Height 5' 8".  
POLE VAULT—Tie for first Brenemour (E) and Keller (W);

3, Cline (W). Height 10'.  
TWO MILE RUN—Won by Wasilewski (E); 2, Torres (W); 3, Bertuch (E). Time 10:17. (School record)  
800-YARD RELAY—Won by Wayne (Ressor, Righetti, Ward, Tapp). Time 1:35.5.  
MILE RUN—Won by Dance (W); 2, Zieleski (E); 3, Johnson (W). Time 4:39.1.  
120-YARD HIGH HURDLES—Won by Vince (W); 2, Kingery (W); 3, Crowell (E). Time 16.1.  
800-YARD RUN—Won by Drotar (W); 2, Hamm (W); 3, Jedyak (E). Time 2:02.2.  
340-YARD RUN—Won by Ward (W); 2, Beard (W); 3, Kalmeyer (E). Time 55.2.  
100-YARD DASH—Won by Ressor (W); 2, Damesworth (E); 3, Tapp (W). Time 10.4.  
180-YARD LOW HURDLES—Won by Vince (W); 2, Kingery (W); 3, Crowell (E). Time 21.3.  
220-YARD DASH—Won by Righetti (W); 2, Damesworth (E); 3, Chojo (W). Time 22.8.  
MILE RELAY—Won by Wayne (DeMara, Hamm, Johnson, Armes). Time 3:47.6.

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# Livonian Rear Commodore Of Boat Club

Edward V. Offer, 30107 Bentley, Livonia, has been elected Rear Commodore of the Edison Boat Club for 1968. The club is an employe organization of the Detroit Edison Company.

Offer, a member of the Club or 19 years, has also served as Secretary (1967) and Treasurer (1966) of the group. He is a regular participant in the factious race, Class E, with its Mistress II and local races.

Offer is a Safety Coordinator at the Edison Company where he has been employed for 19 years. He is also vice chairman of the supervisor's division of the Greater Detroit Safety Council and member of the executive committee of the Michigan Heart Association.

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