

Seven Schools On Team

RU Wins 3 Berths On All-Area Nine

High school baseball has completed its greatest season in Observerland. Franklin, Stevenson, Garden City West and Redford Union emerged as league champs. Teams like John Glenn, Bentley, Garden City East and Plymouth just missed.

It was G.C. West over Bentley, 4-3, in the finals of the fifth annual Les Anders Memorial Invitational tournament. The experts generally agreed that the calibre of players in Observerland never was better, all of which posed a problem in the selection of the annual All-

Observer baseball team. THREE OF THE CHOICES were grabbed off by Redford Union. Garden City West and Stevenson each hauled down two spots while Bentley, Franklin, Glenn and Plymouth landed one man each on the "dream" squad of

11. (There were three pitchers named to the first team.) Here's a run-down on the 1968 Observer All Star Lineup: **7 FIRST BASE:** Kevin Fox, Redford Union: As versatile as they come. He played first, second and third base, outfield and also pitched.

The six-foot, 190-pounder batted .310, was on base 50 percent of the time, stole seven bases in as many attempts, knocked in 10 runs and hit in 13 of RU's 19 games. **SECOND BASE:** JIM POWERS, Bentley: One of the strongest defensive players in the district. Didn't make an error during the season. Stands 5-11, weighs 170. Key man in the doubleplay combination that sparked for Bentley. Batted .335 and knocked in 12 runs. Brother of Steve Powers, former Bentley star.

SHORTSTOP: BILL HOWE, Redford Union Sparkplug to the Redford Union team. Called by coach Bob Atkins "our real leader". Batted .368 and led team with 21 hits and 15 runs batted in. Hit in 14 games. On base 55 percent of the time. Stands six feet, weighs 160. **THIRD BASE:** RICK FILLMORE, Plymouth: This six-foot, 165-pounder barely nipped Stevenson's Jerry Deter and Franklin's Bill Hellstein in the tightest battle for a position on the Observer team. Played the hot corner "like a coach dreams," said Plymouth's Frank Fisher. Committed only two errors in two years. Led team in runs-batted in. Always came through in the clutch. Finished with .270 average.

OUTFIELDERS: DENNY FISHER (Franklin): He's only a junior, and blossomed into a star in his first year on the Franklin varsity. Batted .380, knocked in 11 runs. When needed, he helped out as a star relief pitcher on Franklin's Northwest League champs. **JIM FURAY** (Garden City West): He's six feet, weighs 185. Batted over .450 most of the season, but finished with a .400 mark. Batted 24 hits and knocked in 14 runs to lead team for second year in a row. When not in the outfield, he pitched and finished a 7-2 record. His strong arm, however, was the outfield. **DAVE FISHER** (Stevenson): Another player whose average is deceiving. Batted only .270 but regularly came through with the big hits for the Inter-lakes League champs. Was on base 18 times during the season. Stole five bases. **CATCHER:** BILL FAHEY, Redford Union Checks in at 5-11, weighs 200 pounds. Batted .317 for the season with 19 hits. Team leader in stolen bases with eight thefts. Brilliant defensive catcher who has been besieged with "offers" from major schools like Michigan, Ohio State, Central Michigan and Eastern Michigan. His aim is to sign a professional contract.

PITCHER: PAUL TONNEMACHER, Stevenson: Easily No. 1 among Observerland pitchers this season. Stands 6-4, weighs 185. Posted a 7-1 record in leading Livonia's to Inter-lakes League title. Worked total of 69 innings and allowed only two earned runs and 35 hits. He struck out 87 batters. Will probably enroll at Western Michigan in the fall. **KERRY WEBB**, Glenn: The man in Glenn's last start and second-place finish in the Northwest League. Finished with 5-1 record in league and added two verdicts in non-league's. Struck out 38 and walked only five as he finished with a 1.7 earned run average. Boasted great control, which Coach Norm Hoeses called Webb's "strongest asset." The 6-3, 175-pound Webb also starred at plate with .388 average. **BOB CHIDESTER** (G. C. West): The hero of West's drive to a share of the Tri Rivers League title and the championship in the Les Anders Memorial Invitational tournament. Pitched three victories for West in the tourney to up his overall record for the season to 9-2. The 5-8, 165-pounder worked 80 innings, fanned 85 and walked only 13. His great control featured his work, his coach Bob Drury said. Also helped with the bat by hitting .290 and knocking in 16 runs.

These Players Rated Best In Observerland



DENNIS FISHER Franklin
PAUL TONNEMACHER Stevenson
BILL HOWE Redford Union
TERRY WEBB John Glenn
JIM FURAY GC West
KEVIN FOX Redford Union
DAVE FISHER Stevenson
RICK FILLMORE Plymouth
BILL FAHEY Redford Union
BOB CHIDESTER GC West
JIM POWERS Bentley

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GEORGE VAN WAGNER, Stevenson High

Van Wagner Is 'Coach Of Year'

To George Van Wagner went a major distinction at Stevenson High School. He produced the school's first champion in sports as Stevenson rolled to the Inter-lakes League baseball crown this spring with a conference record of seven victories against one loss. Van Wagner came to Stevenson via Detroit Northwestern High, Western Michigan, Allegan and Gobles. HE'S BEEN coaching at Stevenson for two years, hiking the team's baseball record from 6-9 a year ago to 13-3 in '68, plus the title. Van Wagner brought fancy credentials to Stevenson. In high school, he played football, basketball and baseball. At Gobles he turned out the state Class D basketball champs in 1953-54. Then he went to Allegan where his cagers reached the semifinals and quarterfinals in two different years. In addition to baseball, he coaches basketball at Stevenson. Van Wagner is married and the father of four sons and a daughter. One son, Paul, played on the Stevenson basketball team during the final part of the 1967-68 season.

Observerland Baseball Selections

First Team		Pos. Second Team	
Kevin Fox (Redford Union)	1b	Len Anderson (Glenn)	1b
Jim Powers (Bentley)	2b	Larry Wasalaski (Plymouth)	2b
Bill Howe (Redford Union)	ss	Bob Krol (G. C. East)	ss
Rick Fillmore (Plymouth)	3b	Jerry Deter (Stevenson)	3b
		Bill Hellstein (Franklin)	
Jim Furay (G. C. West)	OF	Tim Malone (Bentley)	OF
Dennis Fisher (Franklin)	OF	Bill Holmes (Thurston)	OF
Dave Fisher (Stevenson)	OF	Dan Wolfman (Farmington)	OF
Bill Fahey (Redford Union)	C	Denny Hopkins (Franklin)	C
Paul Tonnemacher (Stevenson)	P	Mike McCoy (N. Farmington)	P
Terry Webb (Glenn)	P	Dale Bjorken (Redford Union)	P
Bob Chidester (G. C. West)	P	Bob Dorman (Clarenceville)	P
Coch-of-the-Year — George Van Wagner			

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