

Strong Pitching Molds Team Into Winner

Tigers Becoming Serious Contender

More and more it begins to appear that Detroit's Tigers are for REAL...that this could be their year to win it all in the American League.

They opened their biggest lead of the season this past week as they continued to thrive on winning the close ones with, as manager Mayo Smith declared, "lady luck really working in our favor."

5 Teams Battle In FP Play

Five teams will make up the Greater Livonia-Detroit Free Press baseball league which swings into action Sunday with two games at Livonia's Ford Field.

The opening pairings will match Earl Morrall of Redford Township against Northville at 8:15 p.m. while Dearborn heights meets Garden City at 8:30 p.m.

Livonia's Cardinal Decorating will draw the bye.

Redford has been the strongest team in the loop for the last two years, winning the league as well as state honors.

Free Press teams will play three times a week.

It is expected that play will begin the first week in Livonia's Connie Mack League.

Teams from Redford, Plymouth, Livonia, Dearborn Heights and Garden City will make up the Mack circuit, which is expected to be split into two divisions.

Stevenson Trio Picked

Three members of Stevenson High's Interlakes League baseball champs were named to the circuit's all-star squad picked by the coaches.

The Stevenson choices were pitcher Paul Tonnemacher, shortstop Phil Camp and third baseman Jerry Detter.

Stevenson also placed two men on the second team—catcher Rick Horstman and outfielder Chuck Sobczak.

The big things in the Tigers' favor have been their pitching.

Thanks to stellar efforts from committing an error in Detroit's favor, a half dozen sources, the Tigers have been able to succeed despite the fact they don't have a .300 hitter among their regulars.

But there always seems to be somebody who can deliver a big hit, and the opposition also has helped out a few times by

Good fortune again smiled on the Tigers Thursday when they completed a four-game sweep over the Twins, winning 3-1, to swell their lead to 5-1/2 games, biggest of the season.

DENNY MCALPIN gave the Tigers another superb pitching effort. He allowed six hits and never was in serious trouble as he posted his tenth victory.

That first to hit the mark in the American League this year.

His mate fell behind, 1-0, and then rallied, thanks to a wild error by the Twins shortstop. Detroit had two aboard in the fourth when a roller by Willie Horton skipped through the legs of Jackie Hernandez. That tied the score.

Don Wert followed with a

single and Detroit was in front, 2-1.

The Tigers' marker when Mickey Stanley singled, went to second on a sacrifice and scored by Bill Freehan's second hit of the game.

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The Tigers' marker when Mickey Stanley singled, went to second on a sacrifice and scored by Bill Freehan's second hit of the game.

Then Wert doubled and scored on a wild pitch by Pat Dobson's single.

That accounted for all the runs Detroit needed in a 3-1 victory as Dobson fanned 10 and gained his second straight victory as a starter although Daryl Patterson relieved him in the eighth inning.

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OBSERVER

Sports News

Muny Course Takes Fancy Of Livonians



BUSINESS IS GOOD at Whispering Willows, the new municipal golf course of the City of Livonia. (Above) Harold Jacobsen gets some instruction in putting from Pro Gary Whiteman with the partially constructed pro shop and clubhouse in the background. (Below) A weary, worn Kurt Wolf and his mother stop for refreshments during a round on a humid afternoon.



Livonia's new Whispering Willows golf course has caught

the fancy of area players.

After only two weeks, an average of more than 200 have played the course most days despite almost a week of rain, some 90-degree weather and the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy.

"The word is getting around that we have a fine place," said Gary Whiteman, newly named professional at Whispering Willows.

"We're getting a lot of repeat golfers, which is important."

One break that players at Whispering Willows get is that when they show up for a late afternoon round they aren't told:

"Sorry, you can't play because we have a league in operation."

SO FAR, the course has opened only nine holes.

"We should have the other nine open in August or early September," Whiteman said.

According to Whiteman, the greens are ready for play on the back nine. However, the fair-

ways still aren't set to endure the pounding they must take when play begins on them.

So far, the area's top pros have praised the Willows, Whiteman added.

"They are surprised to see a public course with such fine greens. You know our greens average around 6,000 square feet."

The course measures 3,230 yards and has a par of 36 for men. It is listed at 3,024 yards and par 34 for women.

Whiteman is planning a series of golf schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays for junior and female players.

"If all goes the way we plan, we'll have the schools in operation before the first of July," he said.

It costs \$2.00 to play nine holes and \$3.00 to play 18 on weekdays at the Whispering Willows. On Saturdays and Sundays the fees stand at \$2.50 and \$4.00.

KALAMAZOO -- Union University played its 1,000th varsity baseball game on April 5 by defeating Ohio State, 7-5.

The Tiger Schedule

SUNDAY—At Chicago, 2 games. (First on Channel 2, 2:15 p.m.).

TUESDAY—Boston at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY—Boston at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY—Boston at Tiger Stadium, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY—at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY—At Cleveland, 2:15 p.m. (Ch. 2).

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