

Strong Pitching Molds Team Into Winner

Tigers Becoming Serious Contender

More and more it begins to appear that the Detroit 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, "day lock really working in our favor."

The big things in the Tigers' favor has been their pitching. Thanks to stellar efforts from 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

committing an error in Detroit's favor at just the proper moment.

"WE'LL TAKE 'em anyway we can," said Smith as he bustled the Tigers off to Chicago for a weekend series before the club returned to meet Boston in eight games Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Tiger Stadium.

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

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

His mates fell behind, 1-0, and then rallied, thanks to a two-out 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.

Don Wert followed with a single and Detroit was in front, 2-1.

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

McAlin got stronger as the game went along and faced only one slight jam when the Twins put two on with two out in the

eight. But McAlin retired pinch-hitter Harmon Killebrew on strikes.

How do the Tigers win 'em? Take the first game of last Tuesday's doubleheader with Minnesota. Jim Price, working in Bill Freehan's place behind the bat, singled in two runs despite the fact he has been batting under .200.

Then Price doubled and scored on winning pitcher Pat Dobson's single.

But the way the Tigers won the second game, 3-2 was robbery at its best.

Detroit's first run resulted from an error. The Tigers tied the score at 2-2 in the eighth on a single by Mickey Stanley, an error, a balk and a single by Norm Cash.

Then in the ninth, a wild throw on an attempted double play enabled Tom Matchick to walk home with the winning run.

Livonia's Joe Sparna once more didn't get much hitting support from his mates as the victory went to John Miller working in relief. The Tigers

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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 this week in Livonia's Conale 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 Interlake 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.



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 Whitener with the partially constructed pro shop and clubhouse in the background. (Below) A weary, warm Kurt Wolf and his mother stop for refreshments during a round on a humid afternoon.



OBSERVER Sports News

Muny Course Takes Fancy Of Livonians

Livonia's new Whispering Willows golf course has caught the fancy of area players.

Opened 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 Whitener, 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," Whitener said.

According to Whitener, the greens are ready for play on the back nine. However, the fairways still aren't set to endure the pounding they must take when play begins on them.

Several of the area's top pros have praised the Willows, Whitener 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's listed at 3,022 yards and par 37 for the girls.

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

"It 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.

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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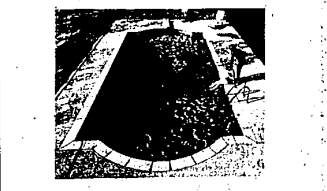


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