

Fear Not For Tigers--Northrup Leads Comeback

Fear not for the Detroit Tigers. They CAN come back. There were many who started to feel sorry for them when they lost three straight in Cleveland. Detroit's hold on first place

had shrunk to 5 1/2 games and things were beginning to look bad with two more games left in Cleveland. But with the chips down, the Tigers stormed back to win the second half of Sunday's doubleheader, 4-1, and then blast the

Indians, 14-3, Monday night. As a result Detroit went east for a two-game series with a 7 1/2 game lead over second-place Cleveland and their pennant story looking very bright.

ACTUALLY THREE hits told the story in the two KEY games. Dick "Reservoir" delivered a three-run homer in the Sunday game to settle matters. Then on Monday, Jim Northrup cleared the bases twice with grandstand homers -- the fifth

and sixth of his career -- to tie a major league record. Northrup's first clot turned a 3-2 Detroit lead into a 7-2 edge and before the fifth inning was over the Tigers had added two more runs and Don Wertz had no trouble reg-

istering his 15th victory against two losses. Northrup's second slam came in a stunning later. At the rate McLain is going, he appears a cinch to win 25 games, maybe 30 this season. He's likely to reach the all-star break; a week from Sun-

day, with 15 or 16 wins to his credit. Catcher Jim Price also slammed a homer in Monday's game against the Indians. There was one painful note for the Tigers. Third baseman Don Wertz was hit on the head by a pitch and might be out of action for a few days.

Thereafter Dennis Ribant and John Wyatt kept the Tribe quiet, but Lou "Frost" Anderson did Tigers all the way and wound up with his 15th victory of the season. With their hold on first place slashed to 5 1/2 games, the Tigers finally snapped their three-game losing streak by capitalizing on a miscue, as they have so frequently this season, to triumph, 4-1.

Livonian's Grand Slam Puts Redford On Top

Call it dramatics... whatever you wish. The score read 0-0. It was the bottom of the final inning as Livonia battled Dearborn Heights in a Class A game at Ford Field.

There were rained thunderstorms in the air. One was out and Livonia had loaded the bases. Butch Bowen had singled and moved to second on a sacrifice. Then Bill Pelham

and Roger Frayer walked to join the sacks. Up came Paul Portney, one-time Dentley High player who started in recent years at Alma College. He's now on vacation from graduate school at North-

western University. One swing from Portney... and the game was all over. The ball sailed far over the left-fielder's head... into the bushes beyond the scoreboard. Everybody scored and Liv-

onia walked off the field 4-0 victor. UNTIL PORTNEY'S smash, pitchers Tom Balister of

Livonia and Bob Fair of Dearborn Heights had been locked in a thrilling duel. Balister gave up one hit in the game -- a third inning single to Tom Wojewala. He struck

six and walked only one. Fair had allowed one hit until the final inning -- a single by Pelham in the second inning. The loss was only the second suffered by the Heights in the second round of the "A" action and knocked the team out of first place -- at least for the moment.

Dearborn now stands 5-2 while Redford has a 1-1 mark. Livonia is third at 4-2-1.

Sandlot Schedule

CONNIE MACK LEAGUE
THURSDAY
 AMERICAN -- Morral vs. G.C. West at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.; Farmington-Columbus-Moss vs. Livonia-Rick at Ford Field, 8:15 p.m.; Livonia Optimists vs. Big Red Realty at Bell Creek, 8:15 p.m.
 NATIONAL -- Mickey vs. Blue Bird at Thurston, 6:30 p.m.; Service at Plymouth-Rick, 6:30 p.m.; Sparrows vs. Allen-Perry at Ford, 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY
 AMERICAN -- Livonia Optimists vs. Redford Painters at Ford, 6:30 p.m.; Livonia Allen vs. Northville Red at Ford, 6:30 p.m.
 NATIONAL -- Big Boy at Plymouth-Rick, 6:30 p.m.; Redford at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.; Allen-Perry vs. Phillips at Ford, 8:15 p.m.; AMERICAN -- Morral vs. Coleman-Moss at Thurston, 6:30 p.m.; Garden City West vs. Redford Painters at Ford, 6:30 p.m.; Livonia Optimists at Ford, 8:30 p.m.
FREE PRESS LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY
 Redford vs. Dearborn Heights at Thurston, 6:30 p.m.; Cardinal Decorating vs. Red at Ford, 8:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
 Redford vs. Red at Northville, 6:30 p.m.; Dearborn Heights at Garden City, 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY
 Dearborn Heights vs. Cardinal Decorating at Ford, 8:30 p.m.
SUNDAY
 Garden City vs. Cardinal, Ford, 9 p.m.; Garden City vs. Redford Optimists at Wallaceville, 6:30 p.m.
CLASS A
WEDNESDAY
 Garden City vs. Plymouth at Bell Creek, 6:30 p.m.; Dearborn Heights at Wallaceville, 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY
 Plymouth vs. Redford at Thurston, 3 p.m.; Livonia vs. Dearborn Heights at Wallaceville, 6:30 p.m.; Dearborn Heights at Ford, 8:30 p.m.; Dearborn Heights vs. Westland at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.

OBSERVING SPORTS

By George Maskin

Because of a man's love for boys and for baseball and because of the players' love for the man and their desire to play, Redford Township has an entry this summer in the Greater Livonia-Free Press League.

What's more, the Townshipers have to be one of the best dressed teams in sandlot baseball anywhere in the United States.

They came forth the other evening in sparkling white new uniforms.

Since the team has no sponsor, the question was natural:

"Who's footing the bill?"

Fletcher Tom Fleszer, fresh from his freshman season at the University of Michigan, pointed across the field.

"There's the guy," he said, directing his finger at Manager Bob Atkins, who in recent



ADMIRING NEW SUITS are: (from left) Rod Ferguson, Bob Holmes, Bill Holmes, Reggie Barringer and Coach Bob Atkins. All Atkins has to do now is raise the money needed to pay for the uniforms.

years has built baseball powers at Redford Union High School and who now has been promoted to the school's job of head football coach, as well.

NO MAN HAS WORKED harder trying to build prep and sandlot baseball than Atkins.

At the moment he has two summer teams going -- the Redford contingent in the Free Press League and the Earl Morrall nine in the Connie Mack-Class D loop.

His Morrall team is virtually all Redford Union -- boys still in school and just out.

The Free Press team encompasses boys from the entire Township -- those who have attended Redford Union, Thurston and Catholic schools in Detroit.

"Yes," admitted Atkins, he had put up the money for the new uniforms.

Something like \$700.

But that's just one item in the expense of fielding a team like the Townshipers boast -- a team which for the past two years has won the league and outside Free Press titles and the right to compete in the All America Boys' tournament at Altoona, Pa.

Baseballs and bats run into the hundreds of dollars, too, not to forget umpires, travel and what have you.

"THE PLAYERS ALL know our position," Atkins said, "and they all are going to work this summer to help make the books balance."

Atkins declared that "we have kicked around" several items.

One thought is to issue \$5 stock certificates in the team.

"We just think that some of our supporters would like to feel they have an extra interest in the team, even though they won't get the money back, per se, or collect any interest."

Atkins' idea.

Fleszer chimed in with some other suggestions.

"We understand it's possible to make some money washing airplanes out at Metro and Willow Run Airports," the pitcher said. "A bunch of us may go out there and work."

"Or we may launch a door-to-door campaign in the Township to collect papers, books and what have you that might bring us some extra money."

In the meantime, Atkins doesn't seem to be worried about the money. He's more concerned about the team winning -- and that it has.

Fleszer paid his summer coach a special compliment.

"He's a college coach working on a high school level," said the young right-hander who hopes to win starting spot on the University of Michigan varsity next season.

"He's teaching boys on this team stuff that we're learning in college."

THE TRIALS and tribulations -- financially speaking -- encountered by the Redford team have become a major concern on the sandlot baseball team.

Time was in the Detroit area when there were numerous sponsors for such teams. But little by little they have faded out there.

Perhaps, the cost of fielding teams has soared to the point their backers no longer can foot the bill.

Or, it may be that backers don't think they're getting enough publicity or returns for their money.

We can't agree with the latter, especially when one puts up the cash to support a team of teenagers.

There's no telling just how much good his money is doing to keep boys from straying off the center path in life.

Frazier Wins
 NEW YORK -- It was easy going for Joe Frazier in defense of his version of the world heavyweight championship. Frazier, who is recognized as the king in five states -- one New York -- scored a technical knockout over Manuel Ramos when the latter decided he had enough after two rounds.

Troubles Keep Mounting For Farmington Team

Life isn't getting much better for the Farmington American Legion baseball team. After finally posting its first victory last week, Farmington hit the skids again over the weekend for three more.

First it was to Clarkson by a 3-2 score and then to Southfield's 18th District League leaders in both ends of a doubleheader, 10-6 and 8-3. Clarkson was outblitzed 12-7, but managed single runs in the first, fifth and seventh innings.

Both Farmington runs were registered in the second inning when Tom Snyder opened with a homer. Ross-Palton singled, stole second and came in on Rick Drapsalski's single.

Snyder and Dennis Perry each lashed out three hits for Farmington as Drapsalski suffered the loss. He deserved a better fate.

PERRY AGAIN had three hits while Bob Hanke collected a pair in the opening game against Southfield.

Farmington scored four times in the fifth inning when Terry Severe was safe on an error. Perry walked, Drapsalski and Hanke singled and Mark Kujawa doubled.

In the fifth, Perry singled and hit provided Southfield with its winning margin in the second game.

Farmington tallied twice in the second inning of the nightcap on singles by Hanke, Drapsalski and Ron Weber. The latter's blow drilled in the runs.

In the fifth, Perry singled, stole second and scored on Don Thomas' hit.

Farmington now has a 1-9 record on the season while Southfield is unbeaten in eight starts.

Farmington Manager Harry Kujawa remains optimistic. "We have a young team," he says. "We'll start to jell and win one of these days soon."

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