

Les Anders Tourney Opens Saturday

By ARTEE

It's baseball tournament time again . . . and after a lengthy snarl between members of the Livonia Recreation Commission and the sponsors of the annual Les Anders Memorial tournament, play will start Saturday for the 16 teams and continue until June 6 before a champion is crowned.

There was a question for a time whether the Livonia commission wanted the tournament to continue. It rejected the plea of the sponsors to permit play at Ford Field on the grounds that the diamond had been resodded and needed additional time to be in top shape for the summer campaign.

The tournament committee asked permission to play the semifinals and championship games under the lights at Ford Field.

THE REASONS were that the last two rounds of the seven-year-old tournament drew as many as 3,000 spectators under the lights and probably wouldn't draw more than a few hundred if played on other diamonds.

However, the recreation commission remained firm in its stand and for a time it appeared as if the Anders championship game would

be played at some other spot in Observerland than Livonia for the first time.

Then at a time when plans were being made to play the entire tournament away from Livonia, the commission, through Recreation Director John Dufour, announced a change of heart and decided to allow the semis and finals on the resodded Ford Field.

Bob Schwarz, who handles summer baseball for the Livonia DPR, will be tournament manager again and handled the first round drawings.

THE BIG question at this time is whether Redford Union, which had a 11-3 record Monday, will be able to defend its championship. The records show that no team has been able to repeat in the seven years of the meet.

Coach Bob Atkins has another powerful outfit, one that figures to make a strong bid for the Suburban Eight League conference crown even though all three of its losses were to league foes.

The Panthers have a real battle ahead in the initial tourney test, going against a Plymouth team which has had a deceiving in- and - out season.

The Rocks, under Coach Wayne Sparkman, have presented a big puzzle . . . they have been tough against all competition but haven't been

able to put things altogether in a single contest. Sparkman has seen his team throw games away on errors, on pitching mistakes and then came the big climax last week when a home run pitch resulted in exactly that in the final inning to cost another game.

The RU-Plymouth game is slated for 3 p.m. Saturday on the RU diamond and appears to be just one of several standouts on the opening program.

WAYNE Memorial, which may make a strong bid for a second championship in the meet, tangles with an up and coming Farmington Harrison crew which is bidding for the Western Six crown.

Harrison has shown enough on occasion to make it a favorite in the league. Other times the Hawks have been anything but champions.

In tourney play, it is a club like Harrison that can soar to the heights and stay there for the entire meet. It has happened before in the Anders and might well happen again.

The Hawks have a bit of a break since the opening game is slated Saturday at noon on the Harrison field.

THURSTON, a top contender in the Northwest Suburban League, opens its tourney bid in a meeting with league rival North Farmington. The Eagles are favored in this one although anyone that follows North Farmington knows that the Raiders are always at their best when the odds are against them.

Thurston has pitching power and some powerful hitters and could well move into the semis of the upper bracket.

The lower bracket lists such strong teams as Garden City West, Franklin, Churchill and Farmington. The Falcons, on the basis of their play a year ago, loomed as one of the early contenders for the Inter-Lakes and Anders crowns.

But two or three star players transferred from the school last fall when it appeared as if the Farmington School District was going to drop all sports.

As it turned out, the district was able to continue the normal sports activities . . . but the youngsters had transferred and their absences are being felt by the Falcons this spring.

Farmington takes on Livonia Bentley in its opening test Saturday at noon on the Bentley field and the result could be one of the top contests of the day.

BENTLEY has been very rough at times and so had Farmington. So what happens when two rough customers meet? Drop off at the Bentley diamond Saturday and see for yourself.

And you might as well make it an afternoon for Churchill faces John Glenn at 3 p.m. on the same field in what looks like another duel between a pair of evenly matched clubs.

Franklin and Garden City West are slated for the noon opener on the new Plymouth High diamond, Canton Center at Joy Road, with Livonia Stevenson locking with a stubborn St. Agatha nine in the 3 p.m. nightcap.

All in all it looks like a full day of interesting baseball and then the winners advance to the quarterfinal round the following Saturday.

The pairings:

FIRST ROUND (Saturday, May 13)

- 1 - Wayne Memorial vs. Farm. Harrison, noon at Harrison
- 2 - N. Farmington vs. Thurston, 3 p.m. at Wayne Memorial
- 3 - Clarenceville vs. Bishop Borgess, noon at Redford Union
- 4 - Plymouth vs. Redford Union, 3 p.m. at Redford Union
- 5 - Bentley vs. Farmington, noon at Bentley
- 6 - Churchill vs. John Glenn, 3 p.m. at Bentley
- 7 - Franklin vs. G.C. West, noon at Plymouth
- 8 - Stevenson vs. St. Agatha, 3 p.m. at Plymouth

SECOND ROUND (Saturday, May 20)

- 9 - Winner 1 vs. Winner 2, noon at Thurston
- 10 - Winner 4 vs. Winner 4, 3 p.m. at Thurston
- 11 - Winner 5 vs. Winner 6, noon at Franklin
- 12 - Winner 7 vs. Winner 8, 3 p.m. at Franklin

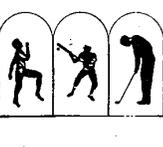
SEMIFINALS (Monday, May 29)

- 13 - Winner 9 vs. Winner 10, 6 p.m. at Ford Field
- 14 - Winner 11 vs. Winner 12, 8:30 p.m. at Ford Field

CHAMPIONSHIP (Tuesday, June 6)

- 15 - Winner 13 vs. Winner 14, 7:30 p.m. at Ford Field

observerland sports



Eagle Hurler Handcuffs CC On No-Hitter

It was Mark Miller's afternoon to shine in a Thurston baseball uniform.

The 6-2, 206 pound senior, handcuffed Catholic Central with a no-hit pitching performance but it wasn't all sunshine. In fact the score was notched at two all going into the top of the seventh.

But Thurston pitcher Ben Fontana saved the day with a 400 foot blast to right center for a home run and Miller won his no-hitter, 3-2.

It was a shaky day behind the plate for Thurston with sophomore catcher Mike Donoghue called up from the reserves to substitute for Mike Robinson who was receiving treatment for a jammed shoulder.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL scored in the bottom of the first to take a 1-0 lead. John Hartsell struck out but the ball got by Donoghue and Hartsell

was safe at first. Two passed balls moved the Catholic Central runner to third where he promptly dashed home on another passed ball.

Thurston came back in the top of the fourth with a run of its own. Bill Fraser singled and stole second. John Roy was hit by a pitch and on a double steal, Fraser was out at third with Roy moving to second. Don Murdock followed with a single and Roy scampered home to tie it at 1-1.

Fraser opened the Thurston sixth with his second single and Roy bunted his way on to move Fraser to second. Dave Harding uncorked a two-bagger and Fraser raced home with what looked to be the deciding run.

But in the bottom of the sixth, Catholic Central went to work without a hit. Ed Fowlish walked and Hartsell was hit by a pitch. A double steal saw

Fowlish thrown out at third but a throwing error resulted in Hartsell crossing home with the tying run.

Fontana ended any thinking of an extra inning contest with his home run on one ball, one strike pitch in the top of the seventh.

MILLER STRUCK OUT the side in the bottom of the inning and the no-hit gem was his.

The Thurston hurler struck out 14, walked two and hit three Catholic Central batsmen, with not one ball hit past the infield.

The Eagle battery of Miller and Donoghue settled into a working combination with the sophomore catcher settling down to catch a no-hitter in his varsity debut.

Thurston pushed its overall record to 6-5 with a 4-1 mark in the Northwest Suburban conference.



THURSTON PITCHING ACE -- Eagle hurler Mark Miller tossed a no-hitter against Catholic Central in a non-league 3-2 victory. Catholic Central didn't get one ball out of the infield. (Observer photo)

Farmington Hosts 19 In Regional

Farmington High is one of 10 regional sites for prep track Saturday, May 13, with 19 schools in competition.

The Falcons have won the regional the past two seasons but Coach Jerry Young sees it as a real struggle this time.

Oak Park is favored in the 440 and 880 relay with the fastest times in the state. Livonia Franklin and Bishop Borgess are expected to clean up in the sprints with Detroit Cooley right behind.

Schools competing in the Farmington regional are: Stevenson, Churchill, Franklin, Bentley, Thurston, Redford Union, Farmington, Harrison, North Farmington, Southfield, Southfield Lathrup, Oak Park, Detroit Redford, Mumford, Henry Ford, Cooley, Catholic Central, Bishop Borgess and U.D.

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Preliminaries start at 10 a.m. with finals at 1 p.m.

Four area schools find themselves in competition at the Ypsilanti regional. John Glenn, Garden City East, Garden City West and Plymouth join 14 other schools with preliminaries going off at 10:30 a.m. and finals at 1 p.m.

Falcons Finish 2nd At Ashley

Ann Arbor Huron captured top honors in the 16 school Waldo Ashley Relays with 56 points, but Observerland schools weren't far behind.

Farmington placed second with 42½ points. Stevenson was sprinted fourth with 27½, Churchill eighth with 17, Glenn ninth with 12, Southfield Lathrup tied for 11th with five, and Farmington Harrison brought up the rear basement with two points and 14th spot.

Area schools scored six firsts with Churchill and Farmington capturing two apiece.

Farmington's Nat Durham won the pole vault with a meet and field record of 14'4". His teammate - Kevin Rathiff placed fourth at 12'0".

Ron Fedraw of Stevenson took honors in the shot put with a toss of 52'10". Lathrup's Matt Hepler finished second at 51'8½".

A John Glenn squad of Murton, Berger, Kirst, and

Lockwood scored a first in the distance medley relay with a time of 10:38.6. Stevenson finished third and Harrison fourth.

FARMINGTON SPRINTED to 440 relay honors with Elliot Goldbaum, Kevin Rathiff, Charles Wilson and Mark Timmons clocking in at :44.3.

Churchill's Dennis Kuris beat Farmington's Mike McGuire in the two mile run with a first place time of 9:38.9. McGuire finished at 9:44.6, with Stevenson's Kevin Malty fourth at 10:15.5.

Churchill also won the heavy relay, not counted in the scoring with Stephenson, Wilson, Dilura and Allen hitting the wire at 1:50.3.

NEIL BOWLEY of Stevenson and Jim Honke of Churchill placed third and fourth respectively in the high jump with a leap of 6'2".

The four mile relay saw Churchill place second,

TEAM STANDINGS	
Ann Arbor Huron	56
Farmington	42 1/2
Dearborn Fordson	37
Stevenson	27 1/2
Waterford	22
Pontiac Northern	21
Westfield Lakes	18
Churchill	17
John Glenn	16
Bloomfield Andover	8
Kettering	6
Southfield Lathrup	5
Waterford	3
Huron	2
U.D. Central	1
U.D. Western	0

Marathon announces its first annual "Spring-is-here-and-isn't-it-grand" celebration and massive Pepsi sale.



39¢ (plus deposit & tax) buys you a six-pack of 8-oz. bottles of Pepsi from any participating Marathon dealer with the purchase of 8 or more gallons of gas. Look for the station's Pepsi poster, and share an effervescent toast to Spring with us.



Our company is our dealers, bless 'em all.

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