4 Teams Alive In Les Anders Tourney

It's semifinal time in the Les Anders baseball tourney with the games set to go off Monday (May 29) at Ford Field in Livonia.

The area powerhouses are no where to be seen with the 16 team battle narrowed to four. Last year's winner Redford Union was ousted by a Bishop Borgess squad that boasts a 15-9 overall record.

The 6 p.m. game Monday pits Wayne Memorial against Borgess with Farmington and Stevenson meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The winners will meet for the championship on Tuesday (June 6) at Ford Field with opening pitch scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

WAYNE has knocked off Farmington Harrison and Thurston to move into the semifinals while Borgess got by Clarenceville and RU.

Borgess Coach Jim Brisky sees his baseballers taking it all.

Borgess could just take it all if it gets by Wayne. The other semifinal matchup features Inter-Lakes foes in Farmington and Stevenson.

BOTH TEAMS have been playing up and down baseball and are surprises in the tourney in that they have gone this far.

Stevenson zipped past St. Agatha and throttled a favored Garden City West squad, 7-0, behind the four hit pitching of Bob Bialy.

Farmington toppled Bentley and squeaked by John Glenn to move into the semifinals and it appears that Coach Richard Roy will be calling on Jim Harte in Monday's contest.

THE FALCONS stand at 7-7 and Stevenson at 8-5 with a share of the conference crown with Walled Lake Central.

Borgess has been said to be as good as its pitcher Reese Dobrick. If his performance against Garden City West was any indication . . . Dobrick could be the key to the tourney in a championship bid against the winner of the Farmington-Stevenson game.

Tips Churchill, 5-3

Franklin Crushes Thurston

Franklin High played the role of the spoiler in the Northwest Suburban baseball conference.

One game remained to round out the league schedule and this a make-up between Thurston and Livonia Franklin.

Thurston needed a win to stand as co-champions with Birmingham Groves at 7-3 but Franklin didn't see eye to eye with the Eagle's thinking and scored its fourth league win to finish with a 4-6 conference mark.

Thus, Groves won the league title as Thurston lost to Franklin, 3-1.

Thurston went with its ace in senior Mark Miller while Franklin relied on Jamie Knapp. The Patriot sophomore handcuffed Thurston with only three hits in scoring his third win against one setback.

Miller didn't do so bad on the mound with a five hitter to his credit along with five strikeouts. He did run into difficulty with seven bases on balls. Jeff Waterstone and Dan Longeway collected three apiece.

KNAPP gave up two walks and struck out two and made just one mistake . . . a gopher ball pitch to Thurston's Bill Fraser to lead off the seventh.

Franklin loaded the bases in the first on walks to Waterstone and Karney Derderian. Steve Crowe was hit by a pitch but Miller bore down and got Kevin Palmer to strike out and Wayne Darragh to pop out to get out of the jam.

The Patriots finally broke loose in the top of the third with three runs on four of their five hits. Gar Frantz singled and scored on a three-bagger by Crowe. Palmer singled in Crowe for the second run and scored after a walk to Longeway, and a triple by Dave Hollandsworth.

That was it as far as Franklin's offensive punch was concerned but it was all Knapp needed as he kept the Eagle bats in check to the bottom of the seventh.

Fraser connected on his round tripper. Knapp kept his poise and got Ghannam to fly out, walked McLain but got Dave Harding to fly out and Mark Holben to ground out to end the game.

FRANKLIN continued its winning ways with a non-league win over Churchill, 5-3.

It was the first pitching assignment for Franklin's Dave Watkins, he didn't get the win but kept the Charger bats in check.

Tim Griffin and Dennis Watson followed Watkins on the mound with Griffin getting the win. Churchill collected its three runs on six hits.

Junior Ken Wood and sophomore Dave Panzoff worked for Churchill with Panzoff getting the loss in relief. Franklin boomed out eight hits, had two walk twice and went down to the tune of strikeouts eight times.

CHURCHILL struck first in the third inning off Watkins with Dave Brubaker safe on an error, advancing to third on a ground out and scoring on a sacrifice by Brian Kelly.

The Chargers made it 3-0 in the fourth with two runs on two hits. Henriksson tripled and scored on another three-bagger by Rick Dreher. Dreher raced home on a sacrifice by Al Leirstein and it was 3-0 Churchill.

Franklin finally put it together in the fourth with three runs on two hits to notch it at three-all. Frantz was hit by a pitch and Crowe tripled him home. Palmer knocked out another triple to score Crowe.

That made it four triples in the inning, two by each team.

Palmer tallied on a passed ball and it was tied going into the fifth.

Churchill failed to score but Franklin came right back with two more runs on three hits.

WITH ONE OUT, Waterstone and Derderian collected back to back singles and Frantz walked to fill the bases. Crowe singled in Waterstone with the tie breaker and Palmer hit into a fielder's choice to score Derderian with the insurance run.

Churchill was far from calling it quits. Ron Hanraney walked, moved to second on a passed ball and with one out, Coach Hellier replaced Griffin with Watson.

Doug Lloyd drew a base on balls in a pinch-hitting role and moved to second on a passed ball to put the tying run at second with only one out.

Watson got Kelly to fly out to right field and struck out Bob Blaies to end the game with Franklin moving its overall record to 11-9.

observerland sports

Plymouth KO's Belleville, 6-3; RU All Smiles

Plymouth knocked off front-running Belleville, 6-3, in Suburban Eight baseball action and Redford Union couldn't be happier.

Belleville and Edsel Ford were in a tie for first with 7-3 records and RU was next in line at 6-4. Edsel Ford continued its winning ways but coupled with an RU win over Trenton, the Panthers have now moved into a second place tie with Belleville at 7-4.

Plymouth stands off the beaten track with a 5-6 record in the conference and 6-10 overall.

Steve Robb and Lary Graves worked on the Plymouth mound with Graves picking up his first win in relief. Robb hurled four innings, allowed five hits and one run, walked one and struck out three.

Graves pitched the final three innings and gave up three hits and two runs. All three runs scored against the Rocks were unearned.

JERRY COLE and Vern Cowen went the distance for Belleville with Cowen taking the loss in relief.

With no score in the top of the fourth, Belleville had runners on first and second with two outs. Tim Vance blasted a double to left to score both runners.

Plymouth's Tom Laffey made known to his teammates that the first runner had missed tagging third base.

THE APPEAL PLAY was made and the runner ruled out and the game moved into the bottom of the fourth with no score.

"We stole two runs from them," said Plymouth Coach Wayne Sparkman. "And our bench assignment came through with a bigee."

Pete Jenner put Plymouth up by two on a four-bagger with Jim Grimmer on first but Belleville came back in the fifth with two of its own to notch it at two all.

Cole singled, Larry Farr walked, and Cowen was hit by a pitch to fill the bases. Then with two outs, Ken Berra grounded one to second. The ball was booted and thrown away and two runners scampered home.

The contest opened with a steal in the fourth inning.

BELLEVILLE moved up by one in the sixth with Vance safe on an error, stealing second and scoring on a one-bagger by Farr.

Plymouth exploded for four in the sixth to put the game away. Grimmer and Ron Egloff singled and Graves was safe on an error with Grimmer scoring. Graves stole second and Dave Hees laid down a perfect suicide squeeze with two strikes.

Belleville made a play on Egloff at the plate with everybody safe. Dan Hees connected on a sacrifice fly and Graves scampered in with Dave Hees scoring the final run on a wild pitch.

First Opponents

During the 1972 baseball season, Wayne State University will meet Ashland, Saint Johns (N.Y.) and Spring Arbor for the first time in history and face Akron for the first time since 1951.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

It's time to move over folks and make room for Wolverine Raceway officials to celebrate the first million dollar handle for a harness track in Michigan.

Judging from the program Racing Secretary Ron Giehls has put together for Saturday, this has to be the night when the track makes its biggest move ever. It appears from this viewpoint that if Wolverine doesn't make the million (tonight) Saturday, then it won't do it during the current meeting.

All along the talk has been that Albatross combined with "Good Ol' Times" night will turn the trick on June 16. The reason behind the thinking is that Albatross produced the first $900,000 night last fall when racing in the Matron three year old pace.

It could be but it's our thought that Albatross won't have the same appeal this year as in 1971. Then 'The Bird' had an appeal to all who wanted to see the wonder horse perform with the hope that it would break all track records.

As it turned out, the track wasn't that fast and Albatross wasn't at his best and didn't shatter any record even though he attracted a crowd large enough to wager an all-time high of $924,444.

ALBATROSS is still the fastest pacer in modern history but he isn't racing as often this year as last season and thus isn't racing as often this year as last season and thus isn't in the spotlight as much. For sure, his appearance will pack the stands and "Good Ol' Times" will draw thousands of others taking advantage of the dime hot dogs and nickel soft drinks.. but we'll stand on our thought that a program such as tonight will bring the million as quick if not quicker than Albatross.

Imagine a harness racing program at a Michigan with purses totaling $56,000 for 10 events and all overnight races. That's what is slated for tonight at Wolverine.

There isn't a bad race on the entire program which includes $10,000 invitational, two preferred events with $6,300 for each and a conditioned invitational which has a value of $8,000.

And that's only a part of the story. There are six other mile events with pursing ranging from a floor of $2,300 to a ceiling of $5,400.

The Monroe Pace, which has the $10,000 pot of gold, attracted seven starters including: Bramble Hall, the west coast speedster who won a week ago; Windy Way, another newcomer from California; Korkie Woolen, who checked in from the west with a string of victories; Trench Coat, handled by Tom Wilburn a recent arrival from the Pacific Coast; and three of the best from Wolverine in Shiaway Lad, Game Gene and Tricky Dale.

THE COMPETITION is so keen that such horses as Local Time, Keystone Aaron, Knox Patch, Gaviland, and Blaze Pick dropped back to conditioned invitational and preferred.

For instance the lineup in the $8,000 pace includes: Apropo, only pacer to better 2:00 at Wolverine this year, Aksen Hanover, Scram, Yankee Creed, Keystone Aaron, Local Time, Blaze Pick and Knox Patch.

That in the first of the two $6,300 preferred lists Darn Vita, Johnny G, Peppy Relco, Knox Abbe, Chief Okemos, Dodge Acres Cleo, Skipper Time and Cavalier!

In the second are: Gaviland, Perley Hanover, Prince Knox, Spring's Pride, Mighty Fire, Bedford Jet and Kimtruder.

Any one of the preferred races could well top a normal Saturday program at any of the area harness tracks. That's what makes this program the best ever presented in Michigan.. the one, that weather permitting, could well be the night Wolverine passed a million.

TWO $20,000 RACES are carded over the weekend as Hazel Park moves into the heart of its longest meeting.

Saturday's 10 race program will feature the Lansing Stakes for Michigan-bred three year olds at 6½ furlongs. The nominations closed with 22 horses named and about half that number are scheduled to go to the post.

The Cutter, owned by Red Bob Farms, is the favorite. The colt has had five starts this year with two victories and one third to his credit.

Among those expected to be in contention are Picoco, a winner at Churchill Downs and Frank Carlin's Bold Music who had been considered as a Derby entry. Tattle Mar who won a stakes at Hazel Park and Mrs. J.W. Smith's Marg Wood are others in the field with a chance.

Monday's Decoration Day program will be headlined by the $20,000 In Memorian Handicap for three year olds and up at one mile.

Topping the entries is an eastern favorite, Archie Spears, who has won just under $44,000 at Belmont, Pimlico and Aqueduct. In 10 outings this year he has three wins, one place and two thirds.

Another top contender will be Gage Line, who in the last two years has collected $125,000 in purses. Thus far in 1972 at Oakland and Liberty Bell he was in the money seven out of 10 times with four wins and three seconds.

Red Clark who won two weeks ago is entered as is Royal Pussy Cat. Troubled Area is expected from Chicago where he won his last three at Hawthorne. He won four and was second three times in 10 races.

Varsity Debut

Sophomore guard Mike Robinson made his varsity basketball debut at Michigan State this season with 25 and 29-point efforts in his first two games.

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