

Eligibility Problem Hits Adray Baseball League

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

The Adray baseball league is taking a tumble and nobody wants to make the first move back to the drawing board. Adray has four leagues in Michigan for boys ages 16 through 20. Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, Detroit and Ann Arbor have leagues with the Ann Arbor circuit evolving around Oberlin.

Managers are allowed to pick up four outsiders to round out a 15 man roster. An outsider is classified as any player living outside the city the team is representing in the state of Michigan, just as long as he does not live in a city that does have another Adray team.

But a stipulation does exist that allows a player living in an area where an Adray team exists to play for that team as long as he receives a release from that manager.

The residency question has become a very sticky situation as some coaches are placing the desire to win above the "health" of the leagues.

For years the suburbs were robbed of good ball players as Detroit teams usually made a clean sweep of the better kids. But the Detroit Adray and Ann Arbor loops finally agreed upon a pact where they would

not grab ball players from each respective district.

TWO SEPARATE cases have popped up and nobody wants to make a decision on what is right and what is wrong.

The powerful Redford Adray team coached by Pat Sheridan has Detroit's Ford on the roster. Redford Adray is in the Ann Arbor league and Ford hurled in the opener Sunday against Northville in an 8-1 victory.

Sheridan claims that Ford who plays ball for Eastern Michigan University has been a resident of Ypsilanti the past eight months and is living in Ypsilanti and thus is up for grabs even though his parents live in Detroit.

"Ford is living in an apartment in Ypsilanti," said Sheridan. "He votes in Ypsilanti, pays rent and has a driver's license there."

"I know a lot of people don't like the idea of him playing for me since he has played ball in Detroit the past few summers, but as far as I know... he is a legal resident of Ypsilanti and we can have him on the roster as an outsider."

"It's really a shame to have to blind players to play on a certain team just because of residence," added Sheridan.

The other incident is just the opposite but a little more clear. A player admits living in Wayne, in the jurisdiction of the Westland Burger King team in the Ann Arbor league.

THE PLAYER is 16-year-old Dave Milton who also played for Eastern Michigan University.

"Milton is a resident of Wayne but does not want to play for the Westland Adray team," said Larco Coach Al Favro. "His parents don't like the setup in Westland and they don't even want him to play there."

"Why should he be forced to play somewhere he doesn't want to?" added Favro. "They should change the rules and make it open in all leagues."

FAVRO has played three games already but unlike

Redford Adray, he is holding back on playing Milton until there is a definite ruling.

There is no way Favro wants to be involved in any type of forfeta.

"I have an attorney working on the case now," concluded Favro.

So a fight is now on between Detroit and Ann Arbor with Adray President Perry Deacon sitting tight.

Livonia's Department of Parks and Recreation Summer Baseball Supervisor Bob Schwarzwald is caught in the middle. He heads the Ann Arbor contingent and has received numerous complaints on both cases.

"All I want is a ruling and I will abide," said Schwarzwald. "I am willing to listen to anybody to tell me how to prove whether the kid is living in Detroit or Ypsilanti."

"Everyone wants Perry Deacon to make a ruling but he won't," added Schwarzwald.

"Everyone knows Favro runs the Detroit league and even though the Milton case is a direct violation, he'll probably get away with this incident... but the Ford case I don't know how to rule."

"MITON is now living in Ypsilanti for the sole purpose of being able to play for us in Detroit," added Favro. "Any player living in Ypsilanti can be grabbed by any Adray team as an outsider as Ypsilanti does not boast an Adray team."

"Once I receive a written protest, I will act on the problem," said President Deacon. "It will then be brought before a protest committee and a ruling made."

"Both cases are violations but I will not act until I receive a written protest," added Deacon. "I am all for letting the matter go and just considering the entire incident an even trade."

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| FRANTZ, Franklin | 61 | 27 | 16 | .442 |
| WARD, Griggs | 39 | 17 | 9 | .436 |
| RAY, GC East | 55 | 22 | 16 | .400 |
| BROWN, St. Agathe | 51 | 20 | 8 | .392 |
| WHALEY, GC East | 36 | 14 | 9 | .388 |
| KELLY, Churchill | 34 | 13 | 6 | .383 |
| McHUGH, GC West | 79 | 30 | 15 | .380 |
| PERINO, Bentley | 65 | 28 | 27 | .377 |
| PALMER, Franklin | 32 | 12 | 6 | .375 |
| DREHER, Churchill | 51 | 19 | 7 | .373 |
| SEVONTY, Bentley | 70 | 26 | 12 | .371 |
| DAMIANI, Rice | 60 | 22 | 12 | .367 |
| DAVIS, Burgess | 66 | 31 | 18 | .366 |
| PERINS, GC West | 66 | 24 | 6 | .364 |
| ANLEITER, GC East | 50 | 18 | 11 | .360 |
| GENTZ, Bentley | 85 | 30 | 12 | .353 |
| JOHNSTON, RU | 77 | 24 | 14 | .351 |
| ORR, GC East | 56 | 19 | 14 | .346 |

The Court Jester

by BILL CAMERON

"How does that guy win?"

"What a silly looking serve!"

Look at those weird strokes.

"He's unorthodox."

The above are just some of the descriptions heard this past weekend about one of two players in the Livonia Tennis Club Tournament.

Naturally, the quotes came mainly from the losers, but they had a point to make. How often have we seen a player with unusual strokes knock off better players who seem to have "classic" strokes?

They have developed a style of their own. Usually they are self-taught, never having had a lesson, but you find they play seven days a week.

You've seen them. The ones with the strange looking serves are the ones I enjoy watching. They start by doing a few big gyrations and seem to wave at you with their racket before they hit the ball. You're so mesmerized by this technique, that you haven't yet realized that the serve is landing in your court rather consistently.

Now I figure this guy has spent a lot of time watching some belly-dancer and has figured out a method of distracting his opponent. If I were him I'd be careful.

Which leads me to my next point. The great Tony Wilding once said: "Perfect style, inexhaustible stamina, even the best strokes are of no avail if the brain that governs the hand is not taking stock of strategic positions and planning moves by which winning coups may be achieved."

This is called strategy or generalship. Good players don't just hit the ball for the sake of returning it. They utilize spin, change of pace, depth and angles, and anticipate their opponents' moves.

A good chess player plans several moves ahead. The same holds true for tennis. You may not have the most classic looking strokes on the court, but you are consistent and you have a plan.

You have one great shot in your repertoire and your objective is to get to use that shot as often as possible. How can you move your opponent around to feed you that shot? Think about it next time you're on the court. Mail your results to Believe It or Not.

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SOFTBALL STANDINGS

| Team | W | L |
|-------------|---|---|
| Livonia | 3 | 0 |
| Farmington | 1 | 1 |
| Plymouth | 1 | 1 |
| South Lyon | 1 | 1 |
| Northville | 0 | 1 |
| Walled Lake | 0 | 2 |

SCORES

South Lyon 3, Farmington 0
Plymouth 7, Walled Lake 3
Livonia 5, Plymouth 4

SUNDAY'S GAMES
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Walled Lake vs Livonia, 8 p.m.

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