

National Pride Tips Redford For Title

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

National Pride all but clinched the Connie Mack American League championship with a 2-1 victory over Redford Warholak. A win was needed in the season finale with West Bloomfield as Pride stood at 14-1 and Redford at 13-2.

Redford still had a shot at the title but West Bloomfield Coach Carl Rowley never showed up for the Pride contest and the championship belonged to National Pride on a forfeit.

"Not one of their players showed for the game," said Pride Coach Roger Fryer. The ironic happening was that West Bloomfield handed Redford its only loss earlier in the season in a 7-1 contest. So the season ended for Redford Coach Bob Atkins with West Bloomfield the real thorn in his side... first a defeat and then a giveaway win to the team he could have tied for the crown.

The Church Hill High National Pride club finished with a 15-1 mark with Redford a notch behind at 14-2.

It's now on to the state Connie Mack playoffs at Flint South Western High School for

Pride with the opening clash on Thursday, Aug. 3, at 10 a.m. against Utica. Win or lose, Pride comes back with a 2:30 p.m. game in the double elimination tourney. A morning win will send the Churchill team against the winner of the Troy American Legion - Flint American game while a loss will match Pride with the loser.

A total of 12 teams will be in competition in the Flint Connie Mack district.

COACH FRAYER has picked up Redford's Glenn Richmond and Kurt Fritz and Phillip's Rick Frayer.

"I will be starting with our own kids who put us in this tournament," said Coach Frayer. "The kids made the choice of who to pick up, they know the toughest kids they have played against."

The Flint championship is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 5, at 8 p.m. at Flint's Lincoln Park diamond No. 1. The game that meant all the marbles for National Pride was Redford with Mike Keller and Mark Wood working the mound.

KELLER PERFORMED the first four and one-third innings, giving up three hits, one walk and striking out two. Wood hurled two and two-thirds innings, allowing no hits, walking two and striking out two. Keller got the win.

Tom Nippa and Gary Fulks checked for Redford with starter Nippa taking the loss. Nippa gave up six hits in four and one-third innings with two and two-third frames.

National Pride scored both runs in the top of the second off starter Fulks.

WITH ONE OUT, Phil Skender singled and moved to second when Bruce VanWagoner grounded out. Keller drove a shot over the right fielder's head for a three-bagger and Skender scored run No. 1.

Bob Blaines singled to score Keller and it was a 2-0 margin. Redford rebounded with one in the last of the fourth off Keller. R.J. LeRoux walked and stole second and moved to third on an overthrow. Keller bore down and struck out Lupe Bravo and got Steve Friedman to ground out. With two outs, Glenn Richmond singled up the middle with LeRoux scoring to make it 2-1.

REDFORD GAVE all indications of breaking it loose in the next inning. Mark Durance singled, Tom Nippa walked and with one out, Coach Frayer went to his bullpen for Wood.

Wood promptly walked Mike Johnston to fill the sacks with only one out. Coach Atkins called for the suicide squeeze with one of his best bunters at the plate in LeRoux.

With Durance racing towards the plate, LeRoux missed the bunt and Pride

catcher VanWagoner made the tag for the second out. Wood then struck out LeRoux to end the rally.

REDFORD gave it another shot in the last of the seventh. Fulks singled and was sacrificed to second. With one out, Wood got Kurt Fritz and Johnston to ground out to end the rally.

Pride will be carrying a 308 team batting mark into state competition along with a staff earned run average of .061 which includes six shutouts. Keller ended up with a 6-0 mark, Wood with a 4-1 record, and Gary Sobkowiak, 4-0.

ROD HAWRANEY paced all Pride batsmen with 13 for 30 for .434 with Bob Blaines the lone other 400 hitter at .421 with 22 for 52. Three other Churchill baseballers made the .300 or above grade: Steve Chilenko (.359); Brian Kelly (.359); and Mike Keller (.357).



DANCE AT FIRST -- Brent Boegler of Crowe Associates leaps high to nab a throw at first on an attempted pickoff in Connie Mack action with Plymouth's Larry Graves getting back safely. Plymouth won 8-5 and captured the league title. (Observer photo)



FINAL STANDINGS AMERICAN

TEAM	W	L
NATIONAL PRIDE	15	1
REDFORD WARHOLAK	14	2
FANCHER'S	9	6
RED HOLMAN	7	7
PHILLIP'S	6	8
W. BLOOMFIELD	6	10
LIVONIA OPTIMIST	5	10
NORTH FARMINGTON	4	12
NORTHVILLE REEF	2	12

THURSDAY'S GAME AT FLINT SOUTHWESTERN National Pride vs Utica, 10 a.m. (State Tourney Competition)

NATIONAL

TEAM	W	L
PLYMOUTH ELKS	12	2
HINES PARK	11	2
CROWE ASSOC.	10	4
THURSTON	7	7
JOHN KELLY	6	9
REDFORD TOOL	5	9
HARRISON	3	9
LAMBERT & SONS	1	13

THURSDAY'S GAME AT LUDLOW PARK at Plymouth vs LP Legion, 2:30 p.m. (State Tourney Competition)

Redford Opening With Port Huron

The stage was set and the plot thickened...

The second round Adray championship went down to position night with almost a reserved seat needed to watch Redford and Livonia Griffin make their bids for the second half title.

The pressure was on Ron Heller and his Livonia baseballers with Redford already guaranteed a playoff berth with a 9-0-1 first half championship under its belt. Livonia had finished third in the first round with a 7-3 record and matched Redford's 7-1 mark going into the season climax.

But the story was again Redford's Tommy Ford's pitching and it's Redford against Port Huron in the first round of state Adray competition on Thursday, Aug. 3, at Ford Field at 6 p.m.

Griffin Sport fell to Redford and lefthander Ford, 4-1, in the finale with Ford recording 18 strikeouts.

FORD'S TEAMMATES made only three putouts, one on a throw to the plate from the outfield to nab a runner and two on ground outs.

Otherwise it was all Ford and strike one-two and three, you're out. Only six Griffin batsmen reached base off Ford, four on walks, one on an

error and one on a hit by Pat Perino, who was picked up by Redford for touring action. Livonia Coach Heller was forced to go with Jerry Jarvela with ace right-hander Griffin Kaseta on the disabled list with an ailing throwing arm.

JARVELA went the first five innings before Dave Rice came in to pitch the final two. The duo combined for 11 strikeouts with all four runs charged to starter Jarvela.

Redford opened with one in the first to leave no doubt of wrapping up the championship. With two out, Jeff Washington doubled and scampared around when Dan O'Brien singled. Jarvela stopped the rally there with his third strikeout of the inning.

Redford made it 2-0 in the second after Jarvela got Doug Burke to ground out and Dan Malone to strike out, Denny Poppenger singled up the middle. Ford blunted his way on with Poppenger scampering around to third and Ford advanced to second when the bag was left untended.

JARVELA UNCOCKED a wild pitch with Poppenger scoring to make it 2-0. Redford came back when Livonia in the third when

Washington walked, O'Brien sacrificed him to second and Bill Herbert singled to make it 3-0.

Griffin put an attack together in the last of the third for its lone tally. Roy Henriksen took the start the frame and moved to second when Ford balked.

Jarvela became Ford's seventh strikeout victim but Bill Turkington was safe on an error when the shortstop failed to come up with the ball. Jeff Waterstone walked to fill the sacks and Pat Perino laced a single up the middle to score Henriksen.

Turkington was cut down at the plate and the Livonians saw their last attempt cut short, when Gar Frantz struck out.

REDFORD ADDED its fourth run in the fifth. Gordie Eszes singled and was nailed at the plate when Washington tripled to right center with Turkington tussling in a perfect relay. Herbert followed with a single to score Washington for the final tally.

Neither team scored after the fifth and Griffin had only one base runner after the third when Henriksen walked in the fifth. Ford struck out every Griffin batter at least once and struck out the side four

times in recording his total of 18.

REDFORD COACH Pat Sheridan is optimistic of the tourney beginning Thursday at Ford Field against Port Huron.

"We placed fourth in the nation last year behind New Orleans, Detroit, and Washington," said Sheridan. "We have the talent and potential to go all the way this year."

Redford picked up Griffin's Pat Perino and Bill Turkington along with Westland's Art Mach to round out the squad. Perino will be starting at third base with Turkington in right field. Mach will be used as a pitcher.

Ford heads the pitching staff with a 20 record with eight, 300 or above hitters in the starting lineup. The Nationals are set for Johnston, Pa. the week of Aug. 16, but Coach Sheridan is now looking for key games at Ford Field and Ypsilanti.

Livonia is the host for the first leg of the state quarterfinals at Ford Field on Thursday at 6 p.m., with the winner inaugurated in Ypsilanti at 10 a.m. on Saturday with the winner of the Mt. Pleasant-Lansing game. The loser of the Redford - Port Huron contest plays also at 10 a.m. in Ypsilanti.

Nicklaus-Trevino Centers Host Club Field

The stage is set for the 54th PGA Championship starting Thursday at the Oakland Hills Country Club in Birmingham, and the event has taken on an almost soap-opera like quality.

Will Lee Trevino once again stand in the way of a bid by Jack Nicklaus to break Bobby Jones' record of 13 major championships?

Will Arnold Palmer finally break through and win the only major title that has eluded him?

Will one of the older players triumph, as Julius Boros did in 1968 at age 48?

experience and durability of his touring colleagues? These and other questions will be answered when the battle begins at 7:30 a.m., Thursday.

THE FIRST THING to be determined is whether or not the 141 players can solve the mysteries of Oakland Hills, the scene of four U.S. Open Championships. Stretched to its full 7,054 yards and playing to a par of 70, this rolling course can be very difficult indeed.

It took a 291 for Mike Brady to win the 1922 Western Open at Oakland Hills. In 1924, Cyril Walker got past Bobby Jones with 287 in the first of the U.S. Opens played there. Ralph Guidahl managed a 281 in 1937. Ben Hogan needed 287 in 1951, and 19 years later, Gene Littler won with 281.

In the last event of significance at Oakland Hills, titles.

Bobby Nichols managed a 278 to win the 1964 Carling World Open.

TWENTY PGA CHAMPIONS will be on hand ranging from Gene Sarazen, winner in 1922-1923 and 1933, to Nicklaus who scored in 1963 and again in February 1971.

All eyes will be on Nicklaus whose bid for a modern Grand Slam was frustrated in the British Open by Trevino, whose remarkable chips, putts and luck withstood the closing 56. Nicklaus had already won the Masters and U.S. Open and talk of a Slam spurred Detroit fans to create a virtual sellout of Saturday and Sunday tickets for the PGA Championship.

If Nicklaus should win the PGA, he will match a record set in 1953 when Ben Hogan won three of the four major titles.

For the third straight summer, basketball enthusiasts in the various Shopping Centers, Inc. arenas will have the opportunity to see the Detroit Pistons in action when the team makes its appearance for a special basketball clinic at the following places:

Northland Monday, Aug. 14, 11 a.m., Terrace Area, Westland, Thursday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m., Parking Lot 1.

The demonstrators are part of the 1972 series of summertime basketball clinics being conducted in southeastern Michigan by the Pistons. The clinic program was inaugurated in the summer of 1970 with a series of 25 clinics being held in the southeastern Michigan area. It was expanded this year to 42 clinics.

The clinics are supervised by Pistons coach Earl Lloyd who took over the coaching responsibilities of the team in the early fall of 1971. He is accompanied by three or four of the Pistons.

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