

2 Area Baseballers Drafted In 3rd Round

The third round of the recent professional baseball drafts proved fruitful for two Observerland youths.

Bentley High's Pat Perino and Plymouth's Lary Graves were selected in the third round.

PERINO, a 19-year-old '72 Bentley graduate now attending Henry Ford Community College, was picked up by the California Angels.

GRAVES, an 18-year-old '72 Plymouth High grad, was drafted by the Detroit Tigers.

Perino attended Divine Child through his junior year in high school before transferring to Bentley where he hit .373 and made All-Suburban Eight as a senior.

Pat was drafted as an infielder by California. He played his summer ball on the Crowe squad in Connie

Mack and Griffins Sport in Adray.

"I have never even been approached by any scout," said Perino after learning of being drafted. "My dad heard about it on the radio and called me at home."

"If the offer is good, I'll be signing right away," added Perino, who plays shortstop and third base.

Graves had to be the surprise draftee, not so much for being so high up in the draft but for being drafted as a pitcher.

THE PLYMOUTH GRAD, now attending Washtenaw Community College, didn't pitch that much for Coach Wayne Sparkman's club at Plymouth and never made the move to the mound in Adray.

Graves attended Allen Park High through his junior year where he made All-Suburban Eight as a

third baseman and shortstop.

"The Tigers wanted me to sign last fall," said Graves, who wants to wait a year before signing. "I haven't really pitched much but the Tigers tell me that I have a live arm, whatever that is."

"LARY WAS MY TOP reliever," said Sparkman. "He is still green on pitching fundamentals but I guess the Tigers see something in him."

When Lary found out he was drafted, he immediately called his former coach.

"I told Mr. Sparkman I was drafted and he got all upset," said Lary. "He said the army couldn't grab me now. I laughed and then explained."

Graves hit .296 his senior year on 21 hits in 71 at bats and chalked up a 1.35 earned run average in 31 innings worked. He gave up 19 hits and six earned runs, striking out 40 and walking 20.

Tiger's Steady Eddie Rewrote Record Book

No major league shortstop ever fielded better than Ed Brinkman did in 1972, if fielding statistics are to be believed.

Brinkman, who started all of the Tigers' 156 games last season to lead the league in games played, literally rewrote the record book for his position.

STEADY EDDIE smashed five major league fielding records and set an American League mark in 1972, winning the first Gold Glove of his 11-year career.

Included among his fielding feats were the major league marks for:

1-Most consecutive errorless games by a shortstop (72).

2-Most consecutive errorless chances accepted by a shortstop in a season (331).

3-Fewest errors in a season by a shortstop in 150-or-more games (7).

4-Highest fielding average for a shortstop in 100-or-more games (.990).

5-Highest fielding average for a shortstop in 150-or-more games (.990).

Brinkman's 331 error-free chances are also an American League record regardless of the number of seasons. Buddy Kerr of the Giants holds the major league record for the most consecutive chances accepted by a shortstop—285, but he accomplished the feat

over the course of two seasons, 1946-47, in 70 games.

Kerr's 68 errorless games during that span was the major league record until the sure-handed Tiger won 72 games without a miscue in 1972, May 21-Aug. 4.

Brinkman had 107 putouts and 224 assists between his third error (high throw to first on Alex Johnson's ground ball in Detroit May 20) and his fourth bobble (wild throw to first attempting to double up Chris Chambliss at Cleveland Aug. 5). Ed made only three more errors the rest of the year to finish with seven, two below Larry Bowa of the Phillies, his nearest rival in the majors.

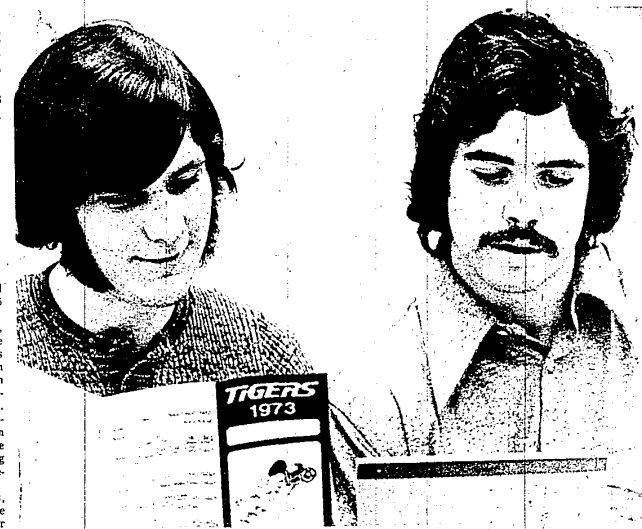
Bowa also held the major league records for highest fielding average by a shortstop in 100-or-more and 150-or-more games (.987), which he set in 1971 and tied in 1972. Brinkman eclipsed those marks by handling faultlessly

728 chances (495 assists and 233 putouts) out of the 735 he accepted in 1972.

Through he batted only .203, Ed was not an easy out. He smacked seven home runs and, despite hitting eighth in the order all season, batted in a career-high 49 runs—fifth-highest RBI total on the club.

His productive pokes accounted for the winning run in five games which were decided in the seventh inning or later, including three game-winners in extra innings.

With those credentials, there is no wonder the likeable Brinkman was selected Tiger of the Year for 1972 by the Detroit baseball writers and finished ninth in voting for the American League's Most Valuable Player.



BASEBALL DRAFTEES -- Lary Graves (left), '72 graduate of Plymouth High, was drafted by the Detroit Tigers and Pat Perino (right), '72 grad of Bentley High, was drafted by the California Angels, both in the third round. (Observer photo)

IN THE POCKET
By W.W. EDGAR

LYLE GIBBS secretary of the Post Office League in Detroit for years, showed that he has lost none of his ability on the lanes by pacing the Senior Citizens loop at Plymouth Bowl with a 615. He had games of 194, 213 and 208.

Meanwhile, in the Junior League, Gary Burkholder was high man with a '637, thanks to an opening '279.

MARGE BASHOR took the lion's share of the honors in the Livonia Ladies Classic, when she won two individual games and then the series with a 601, 54 - 655. Her single games were 182 - 18 - 200 and 218 - 18 - 236. The other single game went to Betty Moeller with 201 - 37 - 238.

IN OTHER Ladies Classics Myrna Helle set the pace at



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