

# Festival tournament set for Drake Park

It's Farmington Festival Softball Tournament time this weekend with a strong field of 10 area slo-pitch clubs vying for the sixth annual "tournament" championship.

Observer & Eccentric Sports Editor Tom Donoghue, tournament director, reports that the field has been sliced to 10 this year in comparison to the 14 last year.

Assemany, the defending champion, will kick off tournament play this Friday against Steinhaus Open at 8 p.m. All games will be played at Farmington's Drake Field.

It will be Metro Bank against the old Farmington Lims Club (now called Berry's) in the following game at 9:10 p.m. Country Lanes plays Kerns & Wolverine at 10:20 p.m.

Saturday morning competition opens at 9 a.m. with the Farmington Jaycees playing Len's Dry Wall. The Automatic Parking-Steinhaus City game comes next at 10:30 p.m.

The winners' bracket will then narrow down, as well as the losers' bracket with the final Saturday game at 8:40 p.m. between the two unbeaten.

Losers bracket picks up Sunday at 11:30 p.m. with 12:40 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. games to decide the winner of the losers' bracket. That team will play the victor of the final Saturday night clash — the winner of the winners' bracket.

The championship contest is slated for 3 p.m. If necessary, the two final clubs will contest again at 4:10 p.m. if the losers' bracket

team tops the winners' bracket club.

The Festival queens will be on hand Sunday to present the trophies to the first and second place teams. An all star team and most valuable play will be selected.

This is the sixth year for the slo-pitch tournament. Farmington Jaycees won it in 1969, and the Knights of Columbus took it in 1970. Steinhaus won it in 1971, Farmington Lims in 1972 and Assemany landed on top last year.

There will be a refreshment stand at Drake Field for all hungry and thirsty softball lovers.

## Sting Rays win again

Led by triple winner Al La Forest, the Michigan Sting Rays won the first-annual Lincoln Park Invitational Swimming meet last weekend. The meet was sponsored by the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union (AAU).

The Sting Rays, which represent Farmington Hills, compiled 368 points and won 88 individual medals. Runner up Pontiac Swim Club had 297 points.

LaForest won three events in the 11-12 year age group. He topped the 50-meter freestyle (.32.7), the 50-meter butterfly (.37.2), and the 50-meter backstroke (.38.0). Kevin Ortnor was a double winner in the eight and under group, taking the 25-meter freestyle (.16.6) and the 25-meter butterfly (.20.7).

Other individual winners, all in the 9-10 age group, included Tom Remmord (.35.8) in the 50-meter free, Vicki Goodman (.46.1) in the 50-meter fly, Dave Weatherford (.42.6) in the 50-meter backstroke, Dana Anderson (.46.8) in the 50-meter breaststroke, and Matt Cashin (.46.8) in the 50-meter breast.

Coach Mark Holdridge's Sting Rays also won eight of the nine relay events.

# Birmingham stars in Federal finals

The Birmingham Federal League team were to have faced Davison Wednesday night to determine the District 4 little league championship.

Davison disposed of the North Farmington/West Bloomfield Giants 2-1 on a two-hitter.

"They just put their hits together," Giant manager Clarence Landry said.

The Giants' lone run was scored when pinch runner John Pastor crossed the plate on three passed balls.

LOOKING stronger as the tournament play progresses, the Birmingham Federal League All-Stars knocked Southfield's American South tourney team out of competition, 11-2.

Birmingham's Dan Murphy picked up the win, striking out 11 and allowing only four hits.

Three errors by Southfield in the first inning let Birmingham pick up a comfortable five-run lead.

Rick McKibben proved to be the big bats for Birmingham, scoring seven of the 11 runs.

THE FEDERAL Little Leaguers made short work of Southfield's National East team Monday night, dumping that club, 8-3.

Mike Weber was on the mound for Birmingham, striking out 12 and narrowly missing a no-hitter.

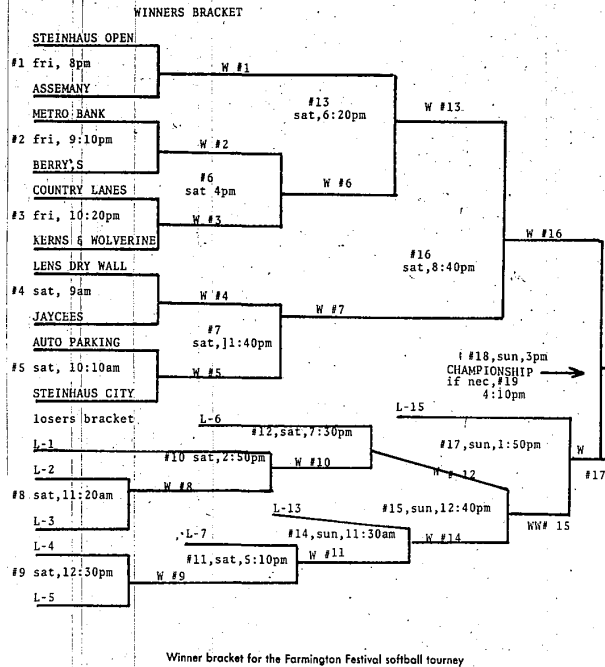
Southfield threatened to end Birmingham's tourney hopes when it took the lead in the third inning on an error by the first baseman.

Weber got the first two Southfield batters, but ran into trouble when he walked Flood and then Prappas.

BOBBITT'S ball got by the first baseman and went spinning into the right field corner, allowing two runs to score.

But Birmingham bounced back on a triple, a double and a triple to pick up three runs in the Birmingham third inning.

Birmingham picked up an additional four runs in the fourth inning to insure the victory.



# Ruth star team ousted in tourney

By DAN SPICKLER  
The all-star team of the South Oakland Senior Babe Ruth league was eliminated in state tournament play over the weekend.

"I thought we had a really good team," said manager Jim Daniell. "But the guys let everything go with too many errors."

Oakland lasted only three games, losing its opener 5-4 to North Dearborn on Saturday, followed later in the day by a 6-5 victory over West-Seven.

SUNDAY THE team lost its second contest in the two-game elimination play at Lincoln Park 4-0 to St. Joe's of Southwestern.

Gary Gleason of Berkley No. 1 took the loss on Saturday. Rob Ledbetter in relief of his Birmingham teammate, Steve Mahler, took the win against West-Seven.

Southfield's Ron Silberstein pitched on Sunday and although losing, did a fine job, according to Daniell.

"THERE WAS a difference between us and some of the other teams, but that is no excuse for all the errors," Daniell said, referring to the fact that Oakland had practiced together only three times, while some of the other teams played together all season long.

"We really didn't get an opportunity to show how good we are," the manager said. Three and four years ago Oakland's all-stars placed second in the tournament at the state level.

Local action isn't totally over in Senior Babe Ruth. The league tournament, which Daniell describes as more relaxed and informal, begins this weekend. "I hope I have enough players to field a team," he said. "Many have made vacation plans."

## Colt tourney set for NFHS

North Farmington-West Bloomfield will host the Colt state baseball tournament July 25-28 at North Farmington High School.

In addition to NFWS, the tourney will include South Farmington and Bay County. In regional play last weekend, coach Jack Brown's South Farmington team defeated Southgate, 10-0, to make the state tournament.

Tournament pairings: South Farmington vs. Bay County, Thursday (July 25) at 5 p.m.

NFWS vs. Winner of Game No. 1, Friday (July 26) at 3 p.m.  
Loser of Game No. 1 vs. Loser of Game No. 2, Friday (July 26) at 5:30 p.m.

Winner of Game No. 2 vs. Winner of Game No. 3 at noon on Saturday (July 27) for championship.

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