

Top of the card for Southfield fighter

By TOM BAER

Dan Humphrey, a Southfield resident who has established himself as a promising amateur boxer, will display his talents in the main event of an amateur boxing show next Wednesday (June 25) in Southfield's Beechwood Arena. The 10-fight show begins at 8 p.m.

Humphrey, who won the Class D 165-pound southeastern Michigan Golden Gloves championship last March, will fight Mike O'Hara of Flint in a five-round top-of-the-card bout on Wednesday.

Humphrey, 18, has been fighting for less than a year, but he's been working hard and has an impressive record: four wins and one loss and the Golden Gloves title to show for it.

Three of his four victories have been by knockouts.

Emanuel Steward, who trains Humphrey at the Kronk Gymnasium in Detroit, is optimistic about his fighter's chances.

"Dan's a flashy fighter, a real exciting boxer to watch," Steward said. "He throws unpredictable punches. You never know from where his punches are going to come. He throws them from unpredictable angles."

"He's basically a flashy boxer, and very tricky. I guess that's the best way to describe him—tricky. This is where he scores a lot of knockouts. They'll just be boxing along, and then Dan'll pull some off-the-wall stuff. He'll crack a punch which nobody expected, and boom! The fight'll be over."

HUMPHREY DECISIONED Robert Janicke of Troy in the Class D Golden Gloves three rounds at the State Fairgrounds in March. Since then he's been training hard, mostly at Kronk Gym and the Southfield Athletic Club.

"Dan's boxing about five rounds every night and then running two miles after that," Steward said. "He's running a lot to keep his legs and keep him in shape."

"He's been sparring some of the top professional boxers at Kronk by the way."

Humphrey has become something of a celebrity at amateur boxing shows with his shock of golden hair and his ring antics.

"He enjoys fighting," Steward said. "He's basically a very egotistical guy. He likes to hear the crowd screaming and cheering. He's a natural for that. This what'll take him a long way."

"He's a colorful fighter. He gets in the ring with his long golden hair flopping. He's jumping up and down and pounding his gloves together. The crowd gets hysterical."

Steward doesn't know much about O'Hara. "He's tall and he's strong and he's mean," but there'll be a revenge motive for Humphrey.

IN AN AMATEUR bout at Livonia last March, O'Hara beat Fred Belshaw. Humphrey's best friend and schoolmate at Birmingham Groves High. "Danny wants to fight him (O'Hara) because O'Hara whipped his best friend," Steward said.

Belshaw, who also trains at Kronk, is on the card himself next Wednesday. He'll be fighting Robert Schmidt of Flint in a three-round preliminary bout.

"Belshaw's strong and mean—just the opposite of Danny," Steward said. "Belshaw is real aggressive. He's the type of guy who just never stops coming at you."

The other eight fights haven't been arranged yet, according to Leo Metz, an Oak Park boxer who is promoting the show.

Tickets at \$5 for ringside, \$4 for general admission and \$1.50 for children under 12 may be purchased at the Beechwood Arena is located on Beech Road south of Nine Mile Road.



DAN HUMPHREY Golden Gloves champion will be the main attraction at an amateur boxing show set for Wednesday in the Beechwood Arena



A Farmington player is out at second during last week's game against Southfield. (Photo by Craig Newman)

Observer & Eccentric SPORTS

10A(S.P) Monday, June 23, 1975

Farmington newcomers help stop Berkley, 2-0

There are some new faces on Farmington's American Legion baseball team this summer, and manager Wally Christensen hopes the newcomers will merge with the veteran talent to form a team which has a chance to win the 18th District title.

So far, Christensen's hopes have been fulfilled.

Farmington defeated Berkley, 2-0, last Friday thanks to newcomers Bob McKenna and Mike Majeske. McKenna, who pitched at Catholic Central, worked five full innings against Berkley and allowed just three singles. He retired the first 10 batters before Berkley's Kirk Saller singled in the fourth.

"He has a good head," Christensen said. "He has good control and he moves the ball around a lot. He's young, too—just 17 years old, so he'll be with us for two years."

Majeske, who played at Milford Lakeland High, came through with the big blow, an RBI triple in the second inning.

Farmington scored twice in the second. With one out, catcher Jay Cummings walked. He scored when Majeske's long fly ball drifted over the left fielder's head for a triple. The next batter, Dick Radatz, lined out to center field, but Majeske scored on the sacrifice fly. Then Jim Setz walked, and McKenna grounded out to end the rally.

FARMINGTON WASTED a threat in the fourth. With one out, Cummings singled. Majeske walked and Radatz was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Berkley starter Dave Smith was yanked in favor of Bill Trappas, who struck out Jim Holton and McKenna.

Farmington's Tim Hammer, a stand-on last year's Legion team, relieved McKenna in the sixth inning. Berkley had a mild threat in the sixth. Mark Belitski walked and went to second when Hammer misplayed Bud Yanus's grounder.

But Hammer pitched out of that trouble and then breezed through in the top of the seventh, striking out the side.

Earlier last week, Farmington defeated Southfield, 3-2, in the season opener. Mitch Thomas (two-run single in the sixth inning) turned out to be the big hit.

I think they're becoming a team already," Christensen said. "Everybody's working together and everybody's sharing in the victories. I plan to play a lot of people this year. I carry a full roster—18 guys. I played in the regional Southfield and I used to beat against Berkley."

Farmington plays next on Wednesday (June 25) at Royal Oak. The game begins at 6 p.m. at Kimball High.

Farmington's double header with Waterford Chief Pontiac, which had been scheduled for June 15, was rained out. It will be played on Saturday (June 28) at Drake Park.

Rochester's Burton shines against Detroit

By RICHARD GOLD

A fraction of an inch.

That's how close Rochester's super southpaw Jim Burton came from recording his first major league victory Monday night at Tiger Stadium.

Burton, called up by the Boston Red Sox from their AAA farm club at Pawtucket a week ago, held the Tigers to a mere six hits in nine and a third inning. He gave up two runs, both earned, walked three and struck out three.

The game went 12 innings before the Red Sox finally won, long after Burton had retired to the showers.

"Sure I was disappointed," said the 25-year-old former Rochester High ace. "I should have won the game. But I'm satisfied with my performance. I had good control and I didn't make many mistakes."

BURTON held the Tigers hitless until the third inning when rookie catcher John Wockenfuss unloaded a long home run into the left field seats. For the Tigers only run in regulation play. After that, the Rochester rookie held the Tigers to three hits until the 10th frame.

Nursing a 2-1 lead on Jim Rice's roundtripper in the top of the 10th, Burton yielded a single to Mickey Stanley after falling behind him 2 and 0. Wockenfuss sacrificed Stanley to second and Tom Verzyr drove him in with a single to finish Burton for the night.

"I shouldn't have fallen behind Stanley," said the U of M graduate. "I missed with two curves to start him off. Instead I should have just thrown the fastball for strikes."

Nonetheless, Burton said he felt his performance helped him. "I pitched well. Most everything was hit to right field and what they pulled wasn't hit with authority. I had good control and worked the outside of the plate."

He added, "Every good game I pitch enhances my chances of staying up here. The first few games are really important. I don't want to just come up here for a cup of coffee. I want to stay and be a starter."

Burton stressed the mental side of the game. He said, "Pitching is a game of constant adjustments. You have to know yourself and what you

have every time you go out on the mound. You have to be able to make adjustments immediately. Concentration and knowledge of the hitters is essential if you want to stay in the big leagues."

THE THRILL of the big leagues hasn't quite worn off for the Red Sox rookie. "All my life I've dreamed about being in the majors although it wasn't until the scouts came around in college that I had really thought I had a chance of making it."

He continued: "I'm not quite relaxed yet. In AAA I was pretty comfortable because I had been there a year. But up here, I'm still a little unsettled."

"There's a delicate balance to pitching. You have to be entirely relaxed and then at the right moment your body has to explode. Once you're relaxed, everything falls into place."

But being nervous is part of the game for Burton. He commented, "Every time you pitch you have to be on edge a little bit. You have to be up for the game."

Burton who had his own contingent of fans Monday night, started his first game for the Red Sox in Chicago a week ago Thursday. The White Sox handed him his first defeat, though, knocking him out of the box in the sixth inning. In his previous start, at Pawtucket, he had pitched a no-hitter. Thursday's loss did not diminish his confidence, Burton explained. "I know

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