



Sports



Coach thinks Tigers are as good as anybody else

By STEVE SVETOVICH
Special to The Dallas Post

"I think the Tigers are as good as anybody and better. We're improved with the additions to our club. We're favored, and justifiably so. I think our chief competition will come from the Yankees and Toronto in that order," observed Detroit Tiger first base coach Dick Tracewski, a Peckville resident.

The Tigers acquired five players who should play important roles in the 1986 season without giving up a key player in return. Fleet outfielder Dave Collins was acquired from the Oakland A's for Barbaro Garbey. Collins is expected to supply speed at the top of the order.

Dave LaPoint, a 26 year old southpaw was "stolen" from the San Francisco Giants for pitcher Juan Berenguer, catcher Bob Melvin, and Alex Sanchez. Catcher-DH Dave Engle came from the Minnesota Twins for last year's spring phenom Chris Pittaro. Third base prospect Darnell Coles, 23, was acquired from the Seattle Mariners for pitcher Rich Montealeone. Bill Campbell, a 13 year veteran reliever, was signed as a free agent to bolster the Tiger bullpen.

Tracewski talked candidly about the newly-acquired players.

"Darnell Coles is a bright young player, but our current third baseman, Tom Brookens is a lot better than a lot of people give him credit for. I'll bet on Brookens to win the job. We acquired Dave Engle because we needed second string catching. Engle can play against lefthanders and let Lance Parrish DH. He's been a good hitter over the years.

"Dave LaPoint was a little overweight last season," Tracewski added. "He changes speeds well. He's a tough kid. He's aggressive and he attacks the hitters. He's got a good breaking ball and straight change.

Dave Collins will be a significant contact hitter on our club. He adds speed on the bases. We can run with him. Bill Campbell was a stopper in the American League before and pitched well for St. Louis last year. We lost some games in middle relief last year. He'll help us. He's a real "Gamer" and can get lefties out."

LaPoint joins a starting rotation that includes Jack Morris (16-11), Dan Petry (15-13), Walt Terrell (15-10), and Frank Tanana (12-14, 10-7 with the Tigers). The talkative Tracewski feels that pitching will be the Tigers strongest asset in 1986.

"Our starting pitching depth is our strongest asset," Tracewski said. "We're very optimistic about our pitching and the entire ballclub."

Tracewski feels that in shortstop Allan Trammell (.258, 13 home runs 57 RBIs), second baseman "Sweet Lou" Whitaker (.279, 21 home runs 73 RBIs), catcher Lance Parrish (.273, 28 home runs 98 RBIs), and centerfielder Chet Lemon (.265, 18 home runs 68 RBIs) the Tigers have the best club "up the middle" in baseball.

"These four players didn't perform up to expectations last year, particularly on defense. These guys are our key. They have to play defense for us to win. No one can match us up the middle," the baseball expert revealed.

Tracewski, born in Eynon, Pa., played eight years in the big leagues. He played his first four seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1962-65 and his last four years with the Tigers from 1966-69. He participated in three World Series as an infielder in 1963 and 1965 with the Dodgers and in the Tigers 1968 championship season. He got a base hit in his first World Series at bat in 1963 against the Yankees' Whitey Ford - his greatest thrill.

(Steve Svetovich, a Scranton resident, is a freelance writer.)

STRIKES AND SPARES

Following two weeks vacationing in the Southland, it's time to get back to the progress made by the leagues at Bonomo's Sports Center in Dallas. From the reports turned in while I was away it appears the keggers (men and women) have been doing quite well.

In the Idetown Compacts League the Firebirds and Aries are fighting it out for first place with latest results showing Aries in front by just a few points. Hot on their heels are the Corvettes and Capris, contending for top spots.

High games rolled were Connie Doty 221 (512), 190 (528); Dean Doty 201-202 (547); Jerry Roan 538, 520; Jack Berti 523; D. Kolenkewicz 186, 174; M. Pazuchanics 170; Sharon Mathers 175-209 (542); A. Edwards 530.

East Dallas men continue to lead in the Back Mountain Church League with Maple Grove and Trucksville B trying hard to overtake them. High rollers for the past three weeks were Gary Mazer 573, 527; Glen Mazer 536, 515; E. Higgins 535; C. Kazokas 212 (554), 538 and 512; L. Newhart 516; T. Metz, Sr. 216; J. Cobleigh 563, 526, 528; R. Witkowski 528, 225 (547), 522; C. Goble 225 (517); R. Warner 526; B. Roberts 538; B. Williams 537; R. Fielding 522; R. Stair 524; H. Shupp 539; W. Terry 525 and J. Mitchell 510.

In the Ladies Imperialette League Schmid's Amoco continued in the lead for the second half with Mahaffey Oil hot on their heels gaining four points on the leaders in the past three weeks. Mahaffey's M. Neifert continues with an over 160 average but losing ground as she failed to roll in the 500's. B. May upped her average to 172 by hitting 179-187 (520), 174-189 (513) and 180 (479). Other high scorers were S. Johnson 170-180 (487), 183, and 188 (519); K. Scavone 221 (483), 171; J. Clark 187 (514), 171; J. Mekeel 172 (506); L. Bolton 189 (488); D. Barbosa 187 (505) and P. Gordon 173-178 (503).

Back Mt. Inn and Back Mt. Sporting Goods compete for top spot in Bonomo's Major League, both teams moving in and out of first weekly while Monk Plumbing and Brown's Oil creep up quietly a game at a time. Back Mt. Inn men hitting high games are K. Spencer 222 (569), 533 and 503; F. Spencer, 221-230 (608); F. Cornell 212 (533), 226 (619); S. Vigoito 217 (551), 520,

510; K. Orkwis 220 (598), 538; Back Mt. Sporting Goods high rollers were S. Wickard 209-238 (639), 228 (572); H. Garris 552; R. Harned 246 (524), 216 (549); L. Coolbaugh 236 (587), 544; D. Wickard 204-201 (538).

Other high scores were hit by R. Bonomo, Jr. 532; Glen Mazer 233-220 (612), 211 (531); Gary Mazer 212 (585), 533; B. Varner 223, (549), 535; F. Ranelli 212 (569); C. Kazokas 549, 510; M. Whiting 533, 213 (522); T. Doughton 525, 216 (555); A. Wendel 541, 205-248-221 (674), 231 (597); F. Adams, 220, 224, 229, (536); J. Steele 214 (560), 214 (566); S. Bonomo 532; K. Youngblood 521; L. Wolfe 523; D. Johnstone 523; J. Yanchick 214 (558); Bo Searfoss 520, 538; E. Harris 536; B. Harris 537, 526; F. Tregan 516; R. Bonomo 546, 537, 535; Jerry Roan 529, 542; D. Eddy 567; P. Mathers 538, 212 (543).

The big lead held by Fashion Vending in the Ladies Country League has been cut to one game by Bonomo's Sports Center, who has picked up eight wins to Fashion's five. Grotto Pizza took eight points to continue moving up as did G.H. Harris. Gordon Insurance picked up six points while Castlettes managed only one point while dropping 11 the past three times out. High scorers in the league the past three weeks are D. Zurinski 211 (509), 200 (480); J. Haefele 176-175 (509); F. Alla-baugh 476; L. Maciejczak 192 (496), 181-171 (491); L. Cyphers 181; K. Scavone 177 (485), 178-173; N. Ide 479; R. Gula 178, 184, 181 (496); J. Lamoreaux 190; K. Kalafsky 189 (470); L. Kapson 178; and R. Carroll 149.

In the Bowlerette League Franklin's lead Hoagie Bar by one game with Brent Long in third just one behind. Tom Reese holds up the bottom by only one game less than Long. High games were few with F. Perry 170; M. King 171; R. Gula 177-195 (502); N. Crane 179, 189 (500), 173 (481); M. Reese 183, 170; J. Miller 181; N. Moser 472; M. Brown 175 (483), 172, 171 (480); C. Badman 177; D. Long 182 (463).

Three weeks bowling in Our Gang League shows Alfalfa with a 9-3 record; Butch with 7-5; Porky, Worms, Spanky and Chubbie each with 6-6; Buckwheat and Farina 4-8.

High scorers for the women were D. Hudak 209 (513), 185-214 (520), 178; Jo Besecker 211; Doris Smith 173, 185. Hitting for the men were V. Hudak 202, (528), 520; B. Searfoss 524; E. Dingle 515. Also hitting high singles for the women this past week were R. Busch 174; Millie Dingle 176.

Larry Lavelle rolled 279-222 (679) in Bonomo's Mixed League to lead Larry's Harem in shutting out Whatever's. Nancy Ide hit 182 for Whatever's.

Our congratulations to Steve Vigorito who took first in the "No Tap" tournament the weekend of March 15 & 16, and to Sue Tereska who came in second. Steve took home \$300 and Sue \$150. To all the lesser money winners also congratulations and to all who entered "Better luck next time". The tournament is a lot of fun and "anyone" can win.

If you haven't tried "Moonlight Bowling" now's the time to make the attempts.

Motorcycle tour benefits Geisinger

Take to the road and help the kids at Geisinger. A motorcycle tour on Sunday, May 18, will raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, airing from Geisinger May 31 and June 1, on WNEP-TV, Channel 16.

The 75-mile route will tour the covered bridges of Columbia County. Participants can begin anytime between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., May 18, at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. The tour ends at the PP&L Riverlands Park in Berwick. All participants receive a T-shirt, and local motorcycle dealers have donated many prizes to be awarded throughout the day.

Bob Logue Motor Sports in Williamsport has donated a 1984 Honda Spree motor scooter to be given away the day of the tour. Tickets for the drawing are available through the Geisinger Medical Center's Development Office, Danville, Geisinger-Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre and Bob Logue Motor Sports.

All tour proceeds will benefit

Geisinger's Children's Hospital Center as part of the Children's Telethon.

The telethon, produced by the non-profit Osmond Foundation, is the only national telethon where 100 percent of the funds raised remain in the local community. Last year, Geisinger's telethon raised more than \$518,000 to benefit the children of northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

The tour is coordinated by Ber-

nard Bredbenner, the Montgomery Area Community Coordinator for the telethon. His daughter, Carrie, was last year's poster child, and his 24-week-old son, Gordon, is currently a patient in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Applications for the tour are available at area motorcycle shops or other businesses. For more information, contact Mr. Bredbenner at (717) 547-6313.

Football teams sought

The Wyoming Valley Jr. Football Association is actively soliciting for additional football teams to join the Wyoming Valley Jr. Football Conference.

Teams interested may contact Tom Zabroski, 474-9159; Ed Dudick, 826-0684; or Frank Swanberry, 822-1720 or 829-6527.

Rogers

(Continued from page 11)

day, I felt a great burden had been lifted from me, although, I'll admit, it didn't look like it. I had dodged the bullet of commitment once again and, although I know that sooner or later my time will arrive, at least it won't be fired from the ludicrous-inspired gun of physical fitness. John, Bogey, Clark and Bob would be proud.

(Rick Rogers is a sports columnist for The Dallas Post.)

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