



THE ROMEO OBSERVER *SPORTS*

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Above, a pitcher from the Mount Clemens Regulars pitches to a Northville Eclipse player during the Vintage Base Ball Game on Saturday, May 17.

(Observer photo by Mike Nicley)

Vintage base ball game

SCHEDULES

Parks/Recreation

School Sports

*Games are home
Varsity schedules
(unless specified)*

No Schedule
Currently Listed



gets start from Tiger great

by Cheryl Ciske
Observer Special Writer

Jeff "Cartwright" Tomsha has dreamed of catching a baseball pitched by former Detroit Tiger pitcher Mickey Lolich since he played little league as a youth. On Saturday, May 17, the 54-year-old catcher from Sterling Heights had his dream come true.

Tomsha took the field with his team, the Mount Clemens Regulars, to play against the Northville Eclipse as part of a vintage base ball game held at Romeo Lions Field during the community's third annual Victorian Festival.

Lolich, a resident of the Washington Township area, threw out the first pitch - underhand, of course - to coincide with the other rules from the 1860s being followed.

"I was on vacation with my family in Port Austin when I saw the Mount Clemens Regulars play," said Tomsha. "They needed an extra player. Like every other young boy, I had dreams of being a baseball player and, so I played. That was five years ago."

Bleacher seats were available; but, most spectators brought blankets in hopes of dodging the impending raindrops in order to cheer on their favorite team and be one of the "cranks," or crowd.

"I like the camaraderie this game offers," said Mike "Tater" Ludwig, a "hurler," or pitcher for the Northville Eclipse. "It's base ball the way it used to be. Players (or ballists) congratulate each other for a well-struck ball. You just don't see that type of sportsman-like behavior in baseball, today."

Handmade uniforms and bats, the use of no gloves and balls caught on the first bounce from the ground<fair or foul<were considered an out, are just a few of the differences "cranks" noticed when watching the game.

"This was probably the coolest way I've ever seen base ball played," said Brandon Vath, 11, of Romeo. "One day, I'd like to play base ball like this. The rules are different."

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