

On the Homefront

Each week a different business-person, artisan or professional who lives or works in Lansing will share some aspect about his or her occupation that may be useful to Lansing residents. Interested in sharing your skills? Call us at 533-7963.



By John West

If you are a New York Yankee fan, and there are thousands of us up here in the hinterlands, the joy of winning the World Series is probably still with you. After all, 18 years is a long time to wait for final victory.

Since I am an Area Scout for the Yankee family, I probably had most of an official interest in what happened and viewed the action with more interest than many fans would care to. Oh yes, my seat was as far from Yankee Stadium as anyone else in the area. The closest I got was my living room TV set.

How do I feel the victory came about? Let me tell you first of all what I base my credentials on. I'm certainly not a brilliant baseball analyst. I have no mystic power to see things in a ball game that others do not see. I also don't know all the reasons that caused all the actions I observed.

However, for the past eight years I have witnessed nearly 120 games each season -- nearly 1,000 games since 1989. Even a fool like myself can absorb a lot of knowledge in a routine of that sort.

Here is my final analysis. The Atlanta Braves entered the series with one of the best starting rotations in the history of baseball: Smoltz, Maddox and Glavin. They are certainly as sound a group as Baltimore's Jim Palmer, Mike Cuellar and Dave McNally of the 1970's and Cleveland's rotation of early Winn, Herb Score and Bob Lemon in the mid 1950's. All of these pitchers were 20-game winners going into their World Series.

The Yankees countered with a three-man starting rotation. Andy Pettit appeared very worn out at the end of the season with two poor outings against Baltimore and Texas. David Cone is still not throwing with the same velocity that he had before his April operation and Jimmy Key was coming off a hot and cold season.

After losing their first two games to Smoltz and Maddux, the future looked dim in Yankee land. But there was hope. Hope because the Yankee style of baseball was the one type that could beat powerful pitching.

Remember that this was the season of the home run. One major leaguer after another topped his past records in home run production. Teams broke records -- that is,

almost all teams **but** the Yankees.

As these home runs busted out all over, players swung from their heels. They garnered all their power in their long exaggerated swings. They went after bad pitches and lost their intense concentration on ball contact. They struck out a lot and hit many long, useless fly balls to the deep outfield.

The Yankees, on the other hand, held the league lead almost all year with precise hitting - not power. They patiently worked pitchers to the full count, then fouled off pitch after pitch and wore opposing pitchers out by the fifth or sixth inning. They drew constant walks; cracked singles to all fields; played hit-and-run; and, in general, just nibbled away at pitchers until they drove the opposing pitchers to the showers wondering what had happened to them.

At this point, the team turned to their other offensive weapon - their bull pen. In this case, however, the bull pen became an offensive weapon because it led the Yankees to victory.

I believe that the relievers were only beaten once when leading going into the ninth; only three times with the Yankees ahead going into the eighth inning.

What a magnificent job they did. Mariano Rivera threw 96mph pitches with the slow ease of a knuckle-ball pitcher. John Wetteland came in in the ninth and ran nearly all counts to 3 and 2. Before he got done he had all the Yankee fans chewing their finger nails. Somehow or other he always came out on top.

The most important point of all was that the Yankees were covered with champagne in their locker room when it all ended.

Victory at last!

John West was an administrator with the Cornell Athletic Department for more than 30 years. He lived on Cherry Road in Lansing for 23 years and now lives "just over the frontier" in the Town of Ithaca. He currently scouts Central New York and Cape Cod for the New York Yankees.

Saturday Auction To Help CNY Dream Factory, Aids Work & Battered Women

Three Tompkins County human service organizations will be the beneficiaries of this Saturday evening's gala auction at the Statler Hotel. The auction is being organized by Cornell graduate students in the Hotel School's "Master of Management in Hospitality" program.

The students' efforts will benefit the Children's Dream Factory of Central New York (based in South Lansing), AIDS WORK of Tompkins County and the Tompkins County Task Force for Battered Women as well as an internal CU scholarship fund for minorities and students from developing countries. Last year's auction raised more than \$15,000!

The Children's Dream Factory of Central New York provides funds to help critically ill children fulfill a special dream. "We want kids and their entire families to put the pain and therapy aside for a time to fulfill a sick child's secret dream," said chapter president Jeff Clark, of South Lansing.

Thusfar, the Dream Factory has helped eight local, critically ill children live their dreams. Some have chosen to go to Disney World; others have simply wanted to see a grandparent's home they'd never visited. Contact the Dream Factory at POB 92, Lansing, 14882 if you know of a critically ill child who has a dream.

Since 1985, AIDS WORK of Tompkins County has provided individual counseling, case management and support groups to people with HIV as well as AIDS-prevention education to the community. AIDS WORK may be reached at 272-4098.



DREAMS CAN COME TRUE - The entire Arden family, of Trumansburg, accompanied Tianna to meet Robin Hood at the Magic Kingdom.

The Tompkins County Task Force for Battered Women helps adults and children who are in abusive situations. Support groups, emergency shelter and counseling are among the free services provided by the Task Force through their 24-hour 277-5000 hotline.

The auction will be held from 5-8:00 pm Saturday at the Statler Hotel on the Cornell campus. Admission is free and complimentary hors d'Oeuvres will be provided.

READER CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS: The Town of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting bids for the 1997 seasonal operation of the Myers Park concession stand. Interested vendors must obtain a specific bid package by calling the Town Parks and Recreation Department at 533-7388. Bids are due in our office at 29 Auburn Road, Lansing no later than Monday, November 25. (11/14)

DAYTIME DAYCARE IN SO. LANSING 5 days a week to fit your schedule. Call Margaret at 533-4699. (11/21)

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU! Can't be home when the repair person, plumber or electrician needs to get in? I will let them in and wait until the job is done. Marc's Waiting Service. 272-8329

6 SPINDLE-BACKED CAN CHAIRS - 4 in excellent condition. 533-7963. (11/28)

87 CADILLAC SEDAN DeVILLE - No Rust, New Engine, 82 K miles, \$6,000, 533-4168. (11/14)

THE BRANCHES - New Lansing restaurant seeking applications for wait staff, salads/prep cook and dishwashers. Experience preferred. 277-4718 or stop in person at the old Golden Garter after 1:00 pm.

STOP IN! Pizza, subs, wings, Delivery available, Lou's Carry Out, Peru Road, Groton, 898-3200. (11/14)

LANSING APARTMENT FOR RENT 1-Bedroom \$340 plus utilities S.W. Property Management, Inc. 533-4755. (11/14)

75 Volkswagen Super-Beetle - 4 speed, transaxle and motor good; body rusted \$300 obo 533-4974. (11/14)

TECHNICAL DRAWING/ BLUEPRINT BIN - Metal Atlas vertical filing system on rollers \$25 533-7963. (11/21)

COME BROWZE at "THIS & THAT Antiques and Collectibles". Peru Road and South Street, Groton. (10/31)

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

All classifieds are \$4.00 for 10 words or less. Additional words or abbreviations are 20 cents each. Please call 533-7963 with your credit card or send payment by mail to the Lansing Community News, 204 Wilson Rd., Lansing 14882-9065.

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 Raymond W. Tuhro
 2025 East Shore Drive
 607-533-4787

Lakebreeze Pizzeria

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The **UNITED WAY** OF TOMPKINS COUNTY supports the
 Lansing Drop-In Center
 Lansing Older Adult Program
 Lansing Recreation
 Lansing Youth Services
 & over 100 other programs that serve our community and Tompkins County.
 Support our **UNITED WAY**