

Bill Hartfiel "Saturday, May 8 will be the day everyone really galvanizes."

The fund-raising drive will be a door-to-door effort in the greater Minnetonka area. Businesses and other organizations wishing to make



BILL HARTFIEL (left) informed **Bob Thomas** of progress in the drive to make Bennett Park a model recreation area.

(SUN photo by John Sherman)

Ralph Turtinen



Pancake breakfasts usually are a tremendous amount of fun, excellent opportunities to visit with people you haven't seen for a long time, easy on the pocketbook and helpful to worthwhile organizations.

We'd like to draw your attention to the "baseball breakfast" at Wayzata Junior High on Sunday.

For a buck-and-a-half you can enjoy cakes, sausage, juice and beverage, or feed your entire family for \$6.00.

Proceeds, in this case, go to American Legion baseball and Senior Babe Ruth. Money raised at this event normally takes care of sponsoring both programs in Wayzata.

Hours are flexible enough to accommodate virtually anyone. The food will be ready at 7:30 a.m., and serving will continue to 1 p.m.

According to Gordy Engel, Wayzata's sportsman-about-town, the young baseball players enjoy their work, at least many aspects of it.

PRIME JOB is flipping the cakes, and that duty normally goes to seniors who've worked their way up through the ranks. The "rookies" are charged with busing dishes, setting tables and other such duties. Good cause. See you there?

program is our volunteer work force," Hartfiel states. Volunteer fund-raisers are encouraged to attend training sessions Saturday and Sunday at the Minnetonka Methodist Church (Highway 101 & Lake Street Extension).

If the Trojans' offensive attack continues in that manner (like the Twins exploded in the ninth inning against the Yankees Sunday), Wayzata could prove to be a definite threat.

It will be interesting to view the results of the Drake Relays in Iowa, this weekend.

Better yet it would be nice to be with track enthusiasts like Ridgemount Principal Bruce Halgren, former Iowan John Pierson and their families who annually make the trip to Des Moines to watch this event.

Bruce, a former Gopher track star used to compete in the Drake.

This year they'll be cheering, among others, the efforts of Dave Gaither, former Wayzata High School hurdler, who has been performing particularly well for the Minnesota thickclads this season.

HAVEN'T seen the movie yet, but friends of mine who have, claim "Bad News Bears" is particularly comical.

Former youth baseball coaches say they really can relate with all the ball players on the screen, and no doubt the coaches and parents. This is as good a time as any.

Urban directs ETLI program

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles spotlighting adult volunteer efforts in the East Tonka summer baseball and softball programs.

By JOHN SHERMAN

Bob Urban, president of the East Tonka Little League for the 1976 season, is well-known and thought of throughout the Minnetonka area. In addition to his baseball ties, Urban is active in the Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association.

As the largest of East Tonka's three summer ball programs, the Little League will have between 562 and 567 participants. This compares to a sign-up of 150 players in Babe Ruth Baseball and 414 in girls' softball.

Serving boys ages seven through 12, the Little League is divided into four levels: Major League, National League, American League and T-Ball. The best 10, 11 and 12-year-olds play in the Majors, East Tonka Little League's top talent showcase.

WITH 18 BOARD MEMBERS, 37 managers, 37 assistant coaches, 37 team mothers and (at last count) 562 boys to direct, Bob Urban's work is continuous. He started in the program as a coach, then moved up to the highest league office when his interest increased.

"We have added five teams this year," Urban notes. "T-Ball is for seven and eight year olds. All of the nine year olds will play in the American League. The National and Major Leagues are for 10, 11 and 12 year olds."

URBAN IS CONCERNED that every boy in the program get a chance to participate. "I am proud we have something in our program other Little Leagues don't," he says. "In our National League every boy must play two of the first four innings. In the Majors 11 and 12 year olds must play two of the first five. Ten year olds who are drafted by Major League teams must play at least one inning in Majors each week. They will also have an opportunity to play in National League games."

Seventy percent of the 10, 11 and 12 year olds who signed up this year tried out for Major League ball. This is an unusually high number.

THE ETLI PRESIDENT estimates 284 games will be played at Bennett Family Park between May 15 and July 20. He jokes about rain-outs, but realizes at the same time that too many of them could hurt. The week of July 4 has been left open for make-up games.

Opening Day (May 15) will be highlighted by the annual Little League festivities. A special guest speaker (as of now not known) will be on hand to kick-off a program that includes a full slate of games on all fields.

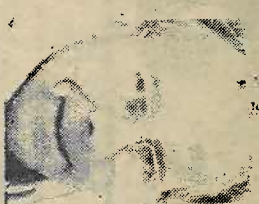
President Urban notes, "We will have a bus parade on opening day starting from Groveland School." This is an East Tonka tradition; a means for exposing the boys to the surrounding community.

Pleased to have Bennett Family Park as league headquarters, Urban says, "People who drive by our park and say, I want to be part of that."

BOB IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER of Tonka Rec, the organization promoting the development of Bennett Family Park. He stresses, "Bennett is a total family park. It is not just for Little League, Babe Ruth and girls' softball."

As a community focal point, Urban sees Bennett as a super resource with great potential. Through his involvement in Tonka Rec he has worked closely with Bill Hartfiel in coordinating the Bennett project.

Urban is a busy man, but he always seems to find time to lend a helping hand to youth athletics. He is ready for a hectic, yet fun-filled summer.



John Barnes

BIG TEN TENNIS came to Minnetonka May 14, 15 and 16. That will be the weekend of the annual Big Ten tourney, a "first" ever in the Twin Cities for this prestigious event. Hosting the tournament will, of course, be the University of Minnesota and its fine coach, Jerry Noyce. Held for many years at Madison, Wisconsin, it's the Twin Cities turn to present some outstanding tennis for area buffs.

NORTHWEST Tennis and Swim Club is the site with action starting Friday morning, May 14, the time for preliminary singles and the start of doubles competition. Quarter-final doubles, preliminary and quarter-final singles will end the first day's excitement.

Saturday, both singles and doubles semis will take place at 1 p.m., with the finals Sunday at 1 p.m. for both the singles and doubles.

At least two All-Americans will be competing over that long weekend — Francisco Gonzales of Ohio State and last year's number one Big Ten player and Michigan's Eric Fiedler as number three singles player in the Big Ten.

The Gophers, third-place finishers in the tournament last year at Madison, should give a good account of themselves with such Bob Arnis, Mark Brandenburg, Bill Stark, Mark Nammacher, Steve Benson and Tom Nelson. An added sign of the Gophers' excitement.

Coached by Rich Fletcher, Mound is anchored quite firmly at first singles by Mark Luger, a kind of tennis-oriented buff. At second and third singles are Mike Boylan and Greg Maeratz. From another tennis family comes Steve Woodrich along with the

ETLI to host Richfield teams

The East Tonka Major Little League teams will kick off the 1976 season with a series of exhibition games against East Richfield clubs Saturday, May 15, at Bennett Park.

Interspersed between the inter-league major games will be local clashes between East Tonka National Little League teams.

Here is the schedule:

11:30 a.m.

Hanns Bus (ET) vs. Los Bravos (R), Bennett 1.

Ty Abel (ET) vs. VFW (R), Bennett 2.

Wayzata Bank & Trust (ET) vs. Klier's (R), Bennett All-Purpose.

1:30 p.m.