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Pitching shows promise

Little Caesars improves

By TOM BAER

Farmington Little Caesars, a new entry in the tough Livonia Adray League this summer, got off to a shaky start at the beginning of the season's baseball. But better things could be coming for manager John Stenson's Little Caesars squad if some of its recent games are any indication.

Recordwise, Little Caesars had a disastrous June, winning just one game and losing 18. But the team has shown promise in its July outings.

For example, Caesars' Bill Mathews pitched a three-hitter to help his team trounce Redford Adray, 7-0, last Thursday.

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Observer & Eccentric SPORTS

Monday, July 12, 1976

(P) 11A

at Redford Township's Bell Creek Park. On the same date, Caesars dropped a 10-9 decision to Livonia Wendy's Restaurant at Henry Ford Field. The split gave Caesars a 3-11 record in Adray games this summer.

Mathews, a left-hander who pitched for Clarkson High School's baseball team last spring, lifted his Adray record to 2-4 with the win over Redford. He displayed "a good mixture" of pitches, striking out seven and walking three.

Mathews has a good mixture of pitch — a fastball, a real good knuckler and a more-than-adequate curve," Stenson said. "You have to have a good mixture to survive in Adray baseball. He's also big, about 212 pounds and six-foot-one, so he has all the tools to become a good pitcher."

At Clarkson High, Mathews always pitched in the shadow of Steve Howe," Stenson added. "But Bill always had to pitch the rubber game. He always had the pressure on him."

HITTING WASN'T a problem for Caesars in either game last Thursday. Against Redford, Caesars rapped out 10 hits. Mitch Thomas was the individual star, leading four singles in four trips to the plate. Caesars scored two runs in the third inning. With two out, Ron Silberstein walked and took second when Thomas singled. The runners then executed a successful double steal and scored on Gus Palek's single. The winners added three more runs

in the fifth. Silberstein and Thomas reached on singles before Randy Witten drilled a long home run to right field. Caesars closed out the scoring with two runs in the sixth. Thomas knocked in one of the runs with his fourth-straight single.

Two Redford players, Randy Rodriguez and Ted Musko, touched Mathews for triples, but the Caesars pitcher worked out of trouble both times.

In the Wendy's game, the lead changed hands four times before the Livonia squad scored a run in the fifth inning. The game was halted after five frames because of a curfew on three walks and a single to win the game.

Witten went three for four and drove in four runs in a losing effort. Silberstein and Jim Vogt each had two hits and knocked in two runs. Losing pitcher Tim Hammer worked the entire game, striking out three and walking seven.

Caesars has been getting some hitting and fielding help from Silberstein, who was a pitching star during his high school days at Southfield Lathrup. He joined the team after its fourth game and has provided "a lot of hustle," according to Stenson.

Non's doing a great job at shortstop," the manager said. "He really needed that key man in our infield. He has a lot of hustle, and he gets on base a lot. He's also a real leader, a little older and more mature than some of our players."

Little Caesars plays next on July 14 against Redford Adray. The game begins at 4 p.m. at Bell Creek Park.

Federation leaders nip Farmington '9

Rochester held on to first place in the Suburban Federation League by beating the Farmington Reds, 2-1, in 10 innings last Thursday.

Rochester, which leads the league with a 6-1 record, rapped out seven hits, including the 10th-inning single which won the game. With one out in the last inning, John Shely singled and took second when the batter, Joe Uria, was awarded first because of catcher's interference. Jim Cupples then singled, and Shely came home with the winning run.

Winning pitcher Mark Martin worked 7 1/2 innings in relief, allowing two hits, striking out eight and walking two. Jim Brough, the starting pitcher, lasted 2 1/2 innings, striking out none, walking three and hitting a batter.

Farmington, which had four hits, opened the scoring with a run in the third inning without the benefit of a hit. Chris Curtis and Dan Maron drew walks. Curtis took third on a passed ball. Maron was cut down trying to steal second base, but Curtis scored on the play.

Rochester led it in the sixth inning when Greg Dubala drove in a run with a single.

Rochester's victory overshadowed a fine pitching performance by Farmington's Mike Mayeske. He struck out 10 and walked one. The loss left Farmington with a 6-3 regular record, good for second place. Farmington and Rochester will play again on Tuesday (July 13) at 4:30 p.m. at Oakland University.

Village wins swimming meet

Village Swim Club shattered five team records in defeating Farmington Glen, 206-277, last Thursday in a Northwest Suburban League meet. The victory lifted coach Larry Driver's Village team to 3-1 light season.

In the 15-17-year-old competition for boys, Village's Dave Smith set records in the 100 and individual medley, 1:50.77, and the 50-yard butterfly, 38.2. Teammate Bill Dunn, swimming in the same age group, established a team standard in the 50 backstroke, 32.1.

The MacMillan sisters, Sue and Lisa, accounted for Village's other two records. Sue won the 15-14 year 100 IM in a record 1:14.6, and also won the 50 fly in 33.9. Lisa set a record in the 11-12 year 100 IM of 1:12.9 and then won the 50 freestyle in 30.5.

Other Village double winners, Lisa Hoss, girls, 15-17 group, 100 IM, 1:05.7, and 50 fly, 38.2; Kurt Macree, boys, 11-12 group, 100 IM, 1:25.9, and 50 fly, 38.7; Nancy MacMillan, girls, 9-10 group, 50 fly, 38.5, and 50 free, 31.8; and Marilee Konezal, girls, 7-8 group, 25 backstroke, 22.0, and 25 free, 18.1.

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