

# Smith pitches Southfield into baseball district

By TOM BAER

Southfield High's baseball team has had a mediocre (8-15) overall season and a poor (2-12) showing in the baseball-rich Southeastern Michigan Association.

But Blue Jay coach Calvin Fletcher believes his team "can beat anybody" as long as pitching ace Dane Smith is on the mound.

"I think we can beat anybody as long as he's throwing," Fletcher said. "And I think the rest of the kids on our team feel that way, too."

Smith, a senior right-hander, proved his worth last Friday by throwing a no-hitter to spark Southfield's 11-2 pre-district victory over Northville High. The victory ensured Southfield a place in its own Class A state district tournament next Saturday. Plymouth Canton, Milford and Milford Lakeland are also in the Southfield district.

Against Northville, Smith relied mostly on his fastball, striking out 13 batters. He was a wild, walking 10 and hitting two batters.

"It wasn't one of your classic no-hitters," Fletcher said. "But Northville only hit the ball four times, and two of those were bunts right back to Dane. Tony Slatin, our rightfielder, made a nice catch to save the no-hitter in the fifth. It was really the only ball hit hard off Dane. But Tony made a nice catch and doubled off a runner on first base."

Northville had a 1-0 lead going into the fourth inning, but Southfield rallied for four runs in that frame, two coming on Mark Steinberg's home run. Southfield added five runs in the seventh after collecting one in the fifth and one in the sixth.

Steinberg had two singles to go with his homer. Eric Schwartz, the Blue Jays' leadoff batter, kept his batting

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average up around .400 with a double and a homer. He knocked in four runs. Blaise Gatti, who is coming off an injury, had two hits and drove in a run, and Smith had two hits and scored a run.

The district pairings aren't certain at this time, but the opening game — possibly West Bloomfield vs. Canton — begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Southfield will play Milford at 12:30

p.m., and the finals begin at 3:30 p.m.

Canton, which entered the tournament thanks to a 3-1 victory over Farmington Harrison last Saturday, looks to be the tourney favorite with a 1-1 state ranking and a 20-3 record. But Fletcher isn't counting out Southfield.

"Our kids feel as though they're starting the season all over again," he

said. "They know they can be dangerous."

BENTLEY — LATHRUP

Mardigan went two for four and drove in a run. Bentley will advance to the Redford Union district on Saturday.

Winning pitcher Brian Justice tossed a seven-hitter and struck out eight, and teammate Tom Deacon went three for four and knocked in three runs as Livonia Bentley eliminated Southfield-Lathrup, 10-3, last Saturday in a pre-district game at Bentley.

Lathrup, coached by Bob Marten, finished the season with an 8-16 overall record — the best baseball showing, recordwise, in the school's history.

Losing pitcher Joe Silver worked 2½ innings in relief of starter Hugh Baver. Jim Wissing, who established two Lathrup records by hitting .385 and collecting 30 hits this season, had a double and a single and drove in two runs against Bentley. Teammate Steve

N. FARMINGTON — HARRISON

Winning pitcher Ron Fredericks threw a three-hitter, struck out four and walked one to pace North Farmington's 1-0 victory over city-rival Farmington Harrison in a non-league game last Friday.

North, which had only four hits off lesser Brett Homovoe, scored its run in the fifth inning as Barry Balbes' sacrifice fly drove in Jim Russell. Homovoe fanned 11 batters in five innings.

The victory put North Farmington at 18-3 overall. Both Harrison and North missed qualifying for the Southfield High district.

# North 4th in county meet

By TOM BAER

This area's boys' track teams traveled a long way last Friday, only to join the large group of also-rans in the all-Oakland County championships at Oxford High School.

Pontiac Central, one of the state's strongest Class A teams, won the title with a resounding 101 points. Pontiac North was next best with 42½, and Royal Oak Dendero had 33.

Considering the high schools in Southfield and Farmington, coach Ron Holland's North Farmington squad did the best, scoring in six events and

compiling 28 points for fourth place. Other local finishes: Southfield High, 12th place with 17½ points; Farmington High, 18th with 9½; Farmington Harrison, tied for 22nd with 7; and Southfield-Lathrup, 25th with 1½.

North Farmington assistant coach Ed Davis wasn't disappointed with the Raiders' showing.

"Our kids got quite a kick out of picking up some hardware," Davis said. "It was one of our better finishes. I mean when you're going against the Pontiac schools, especially that Central, fourth place isn't all that bad."

Mark Biehl gave North's its best finish of the meet with a second in the discus (153-6). Teammate Mike Miller finished third in the 330-yard low hurdles (2:38.0), tied for 22nd with 7; and Southfield-Lathrup, 25th with 1½.

Doran picked up a third in the 120-yard high hurdles with a time of 1:47. Paul Welch landed fifth in the mile run (4:56.7), and Bob Morden placed fifth in the pole vault (12-6).



North Farmington's Art Doran finished third in the 120-yard high hurdles at the county meet. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

## County Meet Summary

**OAKLAND COUNTY MEET**

**TEAM FINISHES** — 1. Pontiac Central, 101 points; 2. Pontiac North, 42½; 3. Royal Oak Dendero, 33; 4. North Farmington, 28; 5. Royal Oak Park, 27½; 6. Birmingham Brother Rice, 27; 7. Holly, 25; 8. Waterford Mill, 21½; 9. Clarkston, 21; 10. Bloomfield Hills Laker, 20; 11. Royal Oak Kimball, 19; 12. Birmingham Groves and Detroit Country Day, 18; 13. Oxford, 16; 14. Oak Park, 15; 15. Lake Orion and Milford, 15; 16. Farmington, 14; 17. Farmington Harrison, 13; 18. West Bloomfield, 12; 19. Farmington Harrison, Madison Heights Langhorne and Waterford Township, 11; 20. Southfield-Lathrup, 10; 21. Pontiac Catholic, 9; 22. Southfield-Lathrup, 8; 23. Pontiac Catholic, 7; 24. Southfield-Lathrup, 6; 25. Southfield-Lathrup, 5; 26. Southfield-Lathrup, 4; 27. Southfield-Lathrup, 3; 28. Southfield-Lathrup, 2; 29. Southfield-Lathrup, 1; 30. Southfield-Lathrup, 0.

**INDIVIDUAL RESULTS**

**SHOT PUT** — 1. Dave Walworth (Southfield), 45-11½; 2. Mark Rosencrans (Oxford), 34-7½; 3. Darryl Barnes (Pont. Central), 31-4; 4. Skip Balish (Oxford), 31-0; 5. Jim Brown (Waterford), 29-4; 6. Gary Polter (Pont. Catholic), 28-11.

**LONG JUMP** — 1. Derek Harper (Pont. North), 20-11; 2. Dave Walworth (Southfield), 20-0; 3. Courtney Vance (Country Day), 20-0; 4. Cedric Gonzalez (Country Day), 19-11; 5. Mark Fennell (Country Day), 19-0; 6. Darryl Taylor (Pont. Central), 18-11; 7. Andy Lyle (Groves), 18-0; 8. Mark Bell (H. Farmington), 17-11; 9. Dave Walworth (Southfield), 17-0; 10. Skip Balish (Oxford), 16-11; 11. Phil Shanks (Harrison), 16-0; 12. Rick Kolar (Clarkston), 15-0.

**POLE VAULT** — 1. Bob Gilman (Lake Orion), 12-6; 2. Scott Carpenter (West), 12-0; 3. (tie) Jim Aubrey (Holly) and Larry Varley (Holly), 11-0; 4. Bob Morden (H. Farmington), 10-0; 5. John Kaler (Dendero), 9-0.

**100M RUN** — 1. Doug Green (Milford), 6-7; 2. Kyle Kemer (Ferndale), 6-4; 3. Jon English (Holly), 6-4; 4. (tie) Al Kewachinski (Hast. Park), Mark Lee (Southfield High), Rick McKibben (Farmington High), Jack Barry (West), 6-4.

**200M RUN** — 1. Ron Lissard (Dendero), 6-32; 2. Gordon Sanders (Clarkston), 6-31; 3. Dave Schneider (Pont. Bloomfield), 6-34; 4. Matt Barnett (West), 6-33; 5. Bill Lowmide (Holly), 6-32; 6. Steve O'Brien (Holly), 6-31.

**400M RUN** — 1. Derrick Thacker (Pont. Central), 2:17 (Meet record); 2. Larry

Swick (Hast. Park), 2:17; 3. Mike Miller (North Farmington), 2:18; 4. Alvin Akles (Oak Park), 2:21; 5. (tie) Jeff Goforth (Southfield-Lathrup) and Leslee Lacerell (Pont. Northern), 2:22.

**800M RUN** — 1. Jeff Lewis (Holly), 1:53.0 (Meet record); 2. Mark Fennell (Pont. Central), 1:53.1; 3. Chuck Broad (Hast. Park), 1:53.4; 4. Don Pleterski (Holly), 1:54.2; 5. Eric Petrus (Lansing), 1:54.8; 6. Jack Kibbe (West. North), 1:57.7.

**1600M RUN** — 1. John Baker (Clarkston), 5:08; 2. Jim Russell (Kimball), 5:09; 3. Charles Peterson (Oak Park), 5:11; 4. Derek Harper (Pont. Northern), 5:12; 5. Mike Schaefer (Hast. Park), 5:12; 6. Labore O'Brien (Ferndale), 5:13.

**3200M RUN** — 1. Rick Watkins (Pont. Central), 11:2; 2. Courtney Vance (Country Day), 11:3; 3. Art Doran (North Farmington), 11:7; 4. Phil Rutledge (Laker), 11:13; 5. Derrick Thacker (Pont. Central), 11:11; 6. Chuck Aldrich (Kettering), 11:1.

**6400M RUN** — 1. Cedric Gonzalez (Pont. Central), 23:07; 2. Brad Goshen (Dendero), 23:40; 3. Steve Babcock (Kimball), 23:49; 4. Tom Pan (Holly), 24:11; 5. Brian Bensch (Oxford), 24:25; 6. Jon Omp (Pont. Central), 24:47.

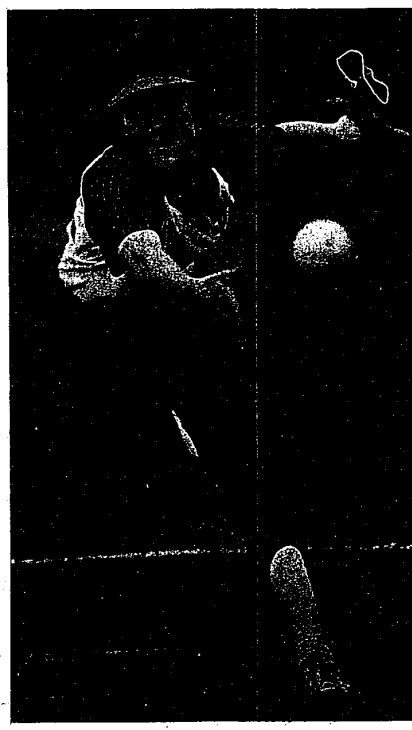
**12.5M RUN** — 1. Larry Barnett (Pont. Central), 49:30; 2. Steve Babcock (Kimball), 50:00; 3. Mike Laker (Dendero), 50:40; 4. Paul Welch (Oxford Farmington), 51:20; 5. John Yule (Walled Lake Western), 51:21.

**1600M RELAY** — 1. Pontiac Northern, 4:17; 2. Pontiac Central, 4:28; 3. Bloomfield Hills Laker, 4:43; 4. Oak Park, 4:44.

**3200M RELAY** — 1. Cedric Gonzalez (Pont. Central), 23:45; 2. Jackie Goshenberry (Pont. Northern), 23:57; 3. Larry Swick (Hast. Park), 24:4; 4. Fred Kolar (Clarkston), 25:1; 5. Chris Ray (Dendero), 25:2; 6. Ernie Walker (Pont. Central), 25:1.

**MILE RELAY** — 1. Pontiac Central, 8:23.2; 2. Birmingham Brother Rice, 8:25.2; 3. Holly, 8:27.6; 4. Birmingham Groves, 8:28.4; 5. Bloomfield Hills Laker, 8:32.4; 6. Oak Park, 8:34.

# Softballers finally triumph; coach is in a lather



North Farmington's softball team is having another dismal season, but Raider coach Dave Finney used an unusual inspirational gimmick last week to make sure his team didn't go winless.

"I had a big, bushy beard this spring, and I told the girls I'd shave it off for them if only they'd win a game for me," said Finney, who coached his club through an 8-11 1977 season, and then watched as the squad dropped its first 11 games this year.

Well, Finney had to get rid of his whiskers last week because North won its first game ever with an 11-3 showing against Garden City East in a Northwest Suburban League game. Sandy Stumpf was winning pitcher. North took advantage of 12 East walks.

"After they beat Garden City, we all tramped into the locker room, and out came the razor," Finney said. "I felt that this could be the beginning of a big turnaround for us."

Sure enough, North whipped Detroit Murray Wright, 13-3, in a pre-district

game a day later. Stumpf pitched five innings before the game was called on a mercy rule. Marsha Kitch drove in a mercy run with a triple, stole two bases and scored three runs. Doreen Gundie, Kathy Kirkendall, Ann Rodewig and Kelly Collins each had an RBI single.

Last Thursday, however, the clean-shaven magic wore off. City-rival Farmington Harrison dumped North, 16-6, in another pre-district qualifier.

Winning pitcher Barb Erickson (6-5) allowed just three hits, and struck out eight batters. Linda Bache drove in three runs with a homer. Judy Keck had two singles and two RBIs, and Erickson went three for three and knocked in four runs. Stumpf was the losing pitcher.

Harrison's victory qualified it for the Class A district tournament this Saturday at the Southfield Civic Center. Coach Saundra Rivers' Hawks will play Farmington Our Lady of Mercy at 10 a.m.

## Lathrup falls

Laura Reed, making her first start in several weeks, pitched a four-hitter to pace West Bloomfield's 5-2 victory over Southfield-Lathrup in a softball pre-district game last Saturday on the Lakers' diamond.

Reed, who had been inactive because of a back injury suffered in a softball tournament in Pontiac, lifted her pitching record to 14-0 this season with the win over Lathrup. She struck out nine and walked two.

Losing pitcher Lynn Monohan went the distance, fanning two and walking two. She also had two of Lathrup's five hits.

The loss dropped coach Ed Kammer's Lathrup squad to 6-12 on oval this spring.

**KIMBALL — SOUTHFIELD**

Southfield sophomore Pam Behrendt pitched a seven-hitter in a losing cause last week as Royal Oak Kimball bested Blue Jays, 8-5, in a Southeastern Michigan Association softball game.

The loss dropped Southfield to 3-10 overall and 1-7 in the SMA.

Behrendt, who went the distance, walked two and struck out none. Teammate Leslie Fink went two for three at the plate and drove in two runs. Behrendt had two hits in three trips and knocked in a run. Southfield had eight hits.

**MERCY — MUMFORD**

Gretchen Langes pitched a no-hitter to lead Farmington Our Lady of Mercy past Detroit Mumford, 5-0, last week in a pre-district softball game. The victory, Mercy's seventh against five losses, earned the Marlins a place in the Class A district tournament next Saturday at the Southfield Civic Center.

Langes, a junior, struck out seven and walked one. Mercy had eight hits. Diane Jones went three for four, and Diane Dietz had a hit and drove in two runs for Mercy.

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