

Adray outlasts foe in 19-inning marathon

Baseball excitement? There was plenty of it at Ford Field last week when Livonia Adray and Wendy's duelled 19 innings in the deciding game of the Livonia Adray League playoffs.

Livonia finally prevailed, 4-3. The contest actually was played during parts of two days. The battle started shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday and didn't conclude until 12:15 a.m. Thursday.

Most of the crowd of nearly 1,500 stayed until the very end.

Livonia, managed by Ron Heller, will leave later this week for the All-American Amateur Baseball Association championships in Johnstown, Pa.

"That was the longest game I've ever been associated with," said Heller. "It was a tremendous game, just a super game."

Wendy's had lost its first game of the double-elimination playoffs to Griffin, then rallied for three consecutive wins, including a 17-9 victory over Livonia.

Wendy's, managed by Pat Ruvalo, scored one run each during the first three innings in the title game, but was held scoreless the rest of the way.

The way Wendy's had been hitting the ball in recent games led Heller to believe that it was curtains for his team at that point.

"But the kids never gave up," he added.

Livonia scored the tying run in the bottom of the ninth inning and the winning run in the last of the 19th.

Jim Wilson walked to start the mini-rally in the 19th and moved to second base on a single by Tom Deacon.

Scott Riley then hit a bouncer to second baseman Tom Zwolan, who threw to shortstop Mike Martin to force Deacon out at second base. Martin's relay to first base in an attempt to complete the double play was in the dirt, eluded Dan Dempsey and allowed Wilson to cross the plate.

With that ended the longest game in Livonia Adray League history and also one of the best.

Livonia had scored the equalizing run in the ninth on walks to Otis Manning, Jeff Sergison and Malcolm McLean and a sacrifice fly by Joe Emery.

Heller saw his troops notch their first two runs in the seventh inning. Steve Popp was safe on an error, Wilson tripled to right center field and David Frey singled.

Wendy's scored a run in the first inning on a single by Dave Croakey, a stolen base and a single by Martin.

Wendy's recorded its second run in the second inning on a lead-off triple into right center field by Zwolan and a sacrifice fly by Steve Nowak.

The third run came the very next inning when Martin was safe on an error, stole second base and scored on a single by Dan Dempsey.

Both teams had their chances to score prior to the 19th inning.

Livonia's Malcolm McLean was thrown out at the plate in the 16th inning by Wendy's centerfielder Dave Croakey. Catcher Dave Hostetter made the tag.

Livonia also had two men on with only one out in the 18th inning and couldn't score and squandered a lead-off double by Otis Manning in the 13th.

Wendy's put two runners on the bases during the 15th and 16th innings,

but couldn't bring any home.

Scott Riley, who relieved Scott Dawson on the mound for Livonia in the 18th inning, was credited with the pitching victory.

Dawson, amazingly, pitched the first 17½ innings. The right-hander struck out six and walked two. Dawson received a tremendous ovation from the crowd when he was replaced on the mound by Heller and moved to left field.

Mark Baker, the third of three Wendy's hurlers, sustained the defeat. He pitched 1½ innings.

Ed Lewicki worked 11 innings. He struck out nine and walked nine.

Zwolan started the game and went 7½ innings.

"It was a tremendous game and a very heartbreaking loss," said Ruvalo. "It was a great game in my opinion. It's too bad that both teams can't go to Johnstown."

"I can't fault our pitching. They did a wonderful job," Ruvalo continued. "They (Livonia) did a good job, too. I know we have the best hitting in the league and they just held us in."

"I thought we had it wrapped up in the ninth," said Ruvalo. "After getting the first batter out, Lewicki changed his motion (and walked three batters). I don't know what happened."

Frey led Livonia's hitting attack with a double and a pair of singles in nine trips to the plate. Manning, McLean, Dawson and Popp all contributed a pair of hits.

Wilson drew five walks and Manning was issued three passes.

Zwolan cracked three hits for Wendy's and Croakey added two.

"I felt sorry for them," said Heller. "They played a tremendous game against us. I hate to see them lose the game on an error."

"It's hard for me to digest, but harder for the boys to digest," said Ruvalo. "Both teams played well enough to win. I'm sorry it wasn't us."

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IN THE POCKET

By W. W. EDGAR

If you are a follower of the all star bowlers, you will need a scorecard to keep track of them when the season opens later this month.

While most of the teams are set there are still some rumormongers and the shakeup has been the heaviest in years.

The shift in personnel is not only in the two men's all-star circuits, but also in the makeup of the women's teams.

While tension always is strong at the start of the season, the teams have been practicing and will taste competition for the first time in the John Gavis Sweepstakes at Thunderbowl Aug. 27.

This always is the season opener and the Allen Park site also will be the scene of the Tuesday Bonanza loop opening the following night.

TIM HENRY rolled the high single game for the summer in the men's trio at Woodland Lanes when he posted a 277 and it came amid a lot of thrills.

He piled up seven strikes in a row, then spared, and finished with

another string of five strikes. In the Family Doubles, Mardex Kelley, who carries a 138 average, came through with a 513 on games of 183, 222 before slumping to 108.

Kris Hatley showed the way in the Guys and Dolls league. With a 167 average, she had a 202 in 542.

The men had a close race when Paul Gravel, with an average of 150, had a 192 in 503 to beat out Vern Maracle by a single pin. Vern, who carries a 147 average, had a 183 in 502.

THE TEAM of John Moreno, Rick Gephart and Vince Quinn won the roll-off for the championship of the Trio League at

Wonderland Lanes.

Morens posted a 587. Gephart followed with 657 and Quinn added a 622 to conquer the team of John Landuti, Arch Ellerholz and Charles Schollendag.

THE TEENAGERS put on quite a show at Merri-Bowl during the week. Pam Wyley turned in a 235 for high single and Kevin Darksdale had high series with 668. His closest rival was Pat Novotni who fired a 612.

RANAE ADEE will have reason to remember her showing last week in the Streakers league at Westland Bowl.

She opened with a 178, followed with 207 and closed with 215 for 600.

2 football trips

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department is planning a Green and White Special — transportation to and tickets for two Michigan State University home football games on Sept. 8 against Illinois and Sept. 15 against Oregon.

The price, \$14 per person per game, includes reserved seat for the game and round-trip transportation from the Farmington Hills City Hall to Spartan Stadium in East Lansing. For additional information, please call Jeff Farland at 474-6115.

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