

Brother Rice whips Foley to cop league crown

By BOB GROSS

There's a story about an old-time baseball player who came up to bat and found himself face to face with Walter Johnson, perhaps the hardest throwing pitcher of the time. Johnson

got a couple of quick strikes on the batter with two straight fastballs, and the batter headed for the dugout. "Hey, wait a minute!" yelled the umpire. "You've got a strike left." "You keep it," came the reply, "I don't want it."

The Madison Heights Bishop Foley baseball players must have had the same feeling Tuesday as Birmingham Brother Rice's Ed Lynch fired a three-hitter at them. Rice won the Catholic League Division A-B baseball championship game,

4-0, at Tiger Stadium.

Lynch's strong right arm was the key to the Rice victory. He threw mostly fastballs, going to a slow curve on occasion to mix the Foley batters up. Lynch struck out seven batters and walked seven.

Coach Al Fracassa was pleased with his pitcher's performance. "He (Lynch) did a pretty good job," said Fracassa. "He had the ball a little bit high but you get in Tiger Stadium and it does a little something to you."

Fracassa's Warriors demonstrated that Tiger Stadium "does a little something to you." The Warriors got only one hit, a single by Bruno Petrella in the second inning.

Petrella's safety capped a two-run inning that gave the Warriors a lead they never relinquished. Dennis Clarke led off the inning with a walk. Greg Kizek followed with another walk, and Steve Chiodo loaded the bases with still

another walk. Marty Martinez's sacrifice fly both moved the runners along and scored Clarke. Kizek scored a batter later on Petrella's single.

The Warriors added two more runs, courtesy of Bishop Foley, in the third inning. Tom Temmerman opened the inning by striking out — and ending up on first base. The Foley catcher, Matt Joseph, dropped the last strike and threw wild to first base.

Temmerman proceeded to steal second base with Lynch at bat. Lynch then hit a high hopper to John Bertl at shortstop who decided to go to third base with it. He threw wild and Temmerman scampered home with the third run. Lynch continued to second.

John Crick followed with another hopper to Bertl who decided to play it safe and throw to first. Lynch advanced to third. Then, with the count one ball and one strike, Clarke laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt, squeeze-

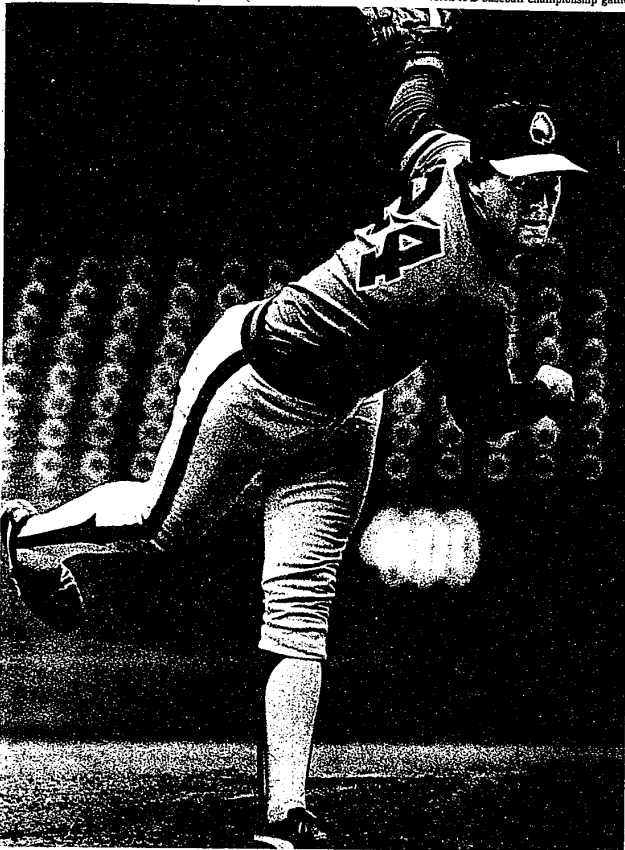
ing Lynch home.

Foley threatened in the top of the fourth. Lynch hit the first batter, got the second to pop up to Martinez, but gave up a hot shot single through the box to Tom Murphy, a resident of Birmingham. Lynch struck out the next batter for the second out, but then wild pitched the runners to second and third, and walked the fifth batter to load the bases.

Lynch got a quick strike on shortstop Bertl, but Bertl hung tough against him, lining a hard grounder down the first base line. First baseman Tom Temmerman knocked down the ball with his barehand, scooped it up and stepped on the bag to extinguish the Foley rally.

Lynch breezed through the last three innings without any difficulty.

The division title is Rice's second in as many years. The Warriors will return to Tiger Stadium on Tuesday.

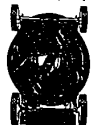


Rice's Ed Lynch fires a high, hard one during Tuesday's Catholic League victory over Madison Heights Bishop Foley. (Staff photos by Dick Kelley)

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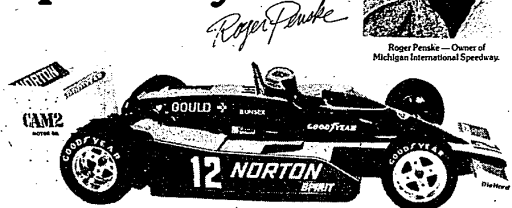
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