

Monday, June 11, 1979

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FHS softballers are eliminated in regional clash

By TOM BAER

Dee Cifaldi pitched two strong games last Saturday to lead Dearborn Heights Annapolis to the state Class A regional softball championship at the Southfield Civic Center.

Cofach John Sisson's Annapolis team, now 20-2 overall, advances to the Class A state finals next Saturday morning at Southfield High School.

Cifaldi, who owns a 16-1 record, was the winning pitcher in the regional final as Annapolis downed a strong Redford Union club, 9-5. Annapolis made the final by eliminating Plymouth Salem, 6-2, earlier last Saturday. RU outlasted Farmington High, 12-11, in eight innings in the other semi.

The final matched two excellent pitchers in Cifaldi, who tossed a seven-hitter at Salem, and RU's Marge LaRue, who went the distance against Farmington.

RU touched Cifaldi for 10 hits. She walked two and struck out two, including hard-hitting Jo Halstead for the last out of the game. LaRue, who was lifted with none out in the fifth, allowed seven hits, fanned one and walked seven.

Annapolis opened the scoring with a five-run third inning. Sue Siemess provided the big blow, a two-run triple. RU wasted a scoring chance in the fourth. Sheila Quinn tripled but was out trying to score on a wild pitch -- but then came back to score four runs in the fifth and one in the sixth.

RU's TRACY Roegner singled in the fifth and scored when Michelle Roeding smacked a long triple to right center. Redding scored on Stacy Hunter's bloop single over first base. Quinn then unloaded another triple, which drove in two more runs. Quinn, however, made the third out trying to turn her three-

bagger into a homer.

Betty Owens opened the RU sixth with a home run. Coach Bob Green's Panthers had the bases loaded in that frame, but a double play ended the threat.

"Redford Union is a good solid hitting club," Sisson said. "They really impressed me."

Annapolis managed an unearned run in the fifth, and three more runs on three-straight bunt singles and a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

In the RU-Farmington game, winning pitcher LaRue allowed nine hits, struck out three and walked nine. Losing pitcher Jeanne Zukowski (7-4), went the distance, allowing nine hits, fanning one and passing nine.

RU won the game in the bottom of the eighth as leadoff batter Halstead clouted a tremendous home run to right center.

Farmington's Denise Goyette drove in two runs with a triple, and teammate Sue Carruthers doubled home two more runs.

THE ANNAPOLIS-SALEM game was a pitching duel between Cifaldi and Salem's Jan Boyd, who led the team's late-season surge after coming off an injury.

Cifaldi gave up seven hits, fanned two and walked four. Boyd, who finished with a 5-3 pitching record, allowed 11 hits, struck out two and walked two. Annapolis scored all four runs in the fourth inning. Salem scored a run in the third and added another in the fourth.

Salem's Nan Horwood went three for three and scored a run. Teammate Cheryl Sobkow doubled and scored a run.

With the regional losses Salem bowed out at 7-10, Farmington finished at 10-8 and Redford Union ended at 13-9.

Redford Union catcher Jo Halstead and Farmington's Kay Deeg collide in a close play at the plate. Deeg was safe, but Farmington lost the game, 12-11. (Photo by Randy Borst)

Rice, Cranbrook dominate All-Area tennis team

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Boys' tennis has always been one of the most popular and successful prep sports in this area.

The caliber of play in the Observer & Eccentric area has been so exceptional that this spring's all-area squad has been expanded to 15 singles players and three doubles teams.

In all, 21 high school netters are honored this season -- 19 of whom come from the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Before recognizing these fine individual athletes, a look at some of the team accomplishments would be appropriate.

BROTHER RICE AND CRANBROOK head this year's all-area squad, as each club placed five members on the elite team.

Rice won the tough Southfield-Lathrup regional circuit to a third-place finish in the Class A state meet. The Warriors also won the Catholic League crown and the Holland Invitational.

Cranbrook has an equally successful season, winning its own Class B regional before finishing as the state runners-up to powerhouse East Grand Rapids.

Detroit Country Day had another outstanding season, placing second in the Class C-D state meet behind perennial state champions University-Liggett. Country Day netters advanced to the final round and placed second in six of the seven positions. The Yellow Jackets placed two of their members on the all-area team.

Rochester Adams, the only team outside the Birmingham-Bloomfield area to get players on the squad, tied for league honors in the strong Metro Suburban Activities Association. Adams placed first in the Waterford Mott regional and finished 10th at the state meet.

Birmingham Seaholm won the Southeastern Michigan Association title but never got a chance to go to the state meet. The Maples finished fourth in the tough Southfield-Lathrup regional, missing qualification to the likes of Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills Andover and Lathrup. Seaholm, however, placed three members on the all-area team.

Lathrup had a young squad this season and didn't place anyone on the all-area team. The Chargers tied Adams for league honors, however, and tied Andover for second place behind Rice in regional competition. Lathrup placed 11th in the state.

Andover was an undefeated league champion in the Greater Oakland Activities League and fin-

ished 16th in the state. The Barons placed three netters on the all-area squad.

Troy Athens, third-place finishers in the MSA with a 4-5 dual meet record, nonetheless won its own regional but did not place in the state meet. Athens didn't get a netter on the honor squad.

ALTHOUGH FARMINGTON-AREA netters were shut out on the all-area squad, the North Farmington Raiders were the top team in that city, winning the Northwest Suburban League crown.

Blase Keating, Bill Harahan and Carlos Moravek each received all-area recognition, representing Rice's first, second and third singles positions, respectively.

Keating, a senior, played all four years on the Rice varsity. He was a

co-captain of the 1979 squad.

Harahan, only a junior, was a regional winner but fell in the semifinals of the state tournament. Moravek is a fine freshman who finished with a 20-2 record at third singles.

Cranbrook landed three singles players on the all-area squad -- Bill Holmes, Brad Wayburn and Howard Wolpin. Holmes, the only senior on the Cranes young squad, won the state Class B title at the second-singles position.

Wayburn, a sophomore, went to the state finale before losing at third singles. Wolpin, likewise, finished as the state Class B runner-up, at fourth singles.

Country Day's two singles players include Glennys Merritt and Keith Setireff.

Merritt, a two-time all-area selection, is considered by many as the

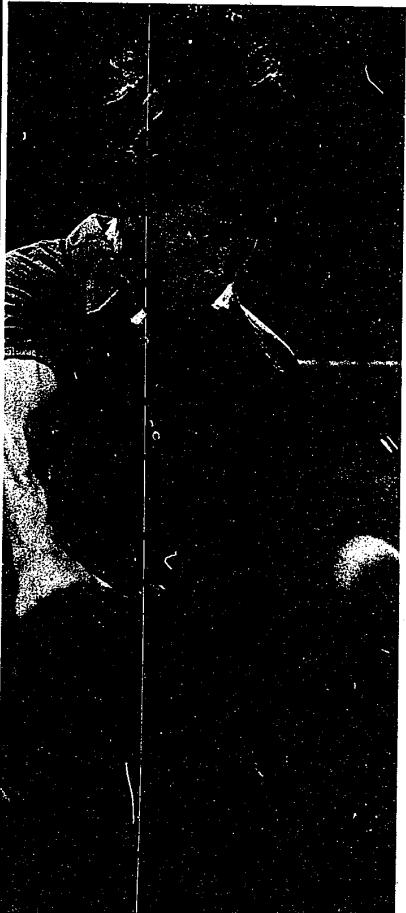
top junior-level player in the area. The nationally ranked senior co-captain was the most valuable player for the Yellow Jackets this year en route to his state runner-up status. He plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania next season.

Soliroff, only freshman, was the Class C-D state runner-up at third singles. He finished with a dual-match record of 11-3.

Rochester Adams' two fine singles players, Brian Veillette and Martin Buhl, are a welcome addition to the all-area squad.

Veillette, another repeater from last year's honor squad, won the MSA title as the first singles player. He also won regional honors before advancing to the state quarterfinals.

Buhl, another MSA winner at (Continued on page 2C)



Rice's Blase Keating was one of five Warriors honored on this year's All-Observer & Eccentric tennis squad. Keating played the first-singles position for Rice. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)



Adams' Brian Veillette earns All-Observer & Eccentric tennis honors for the second straight season. Veillette was recognized as one of the top first-singles players in Oakland County this season. (Staff photo by Mindy Saunders)