

Long homer dooms FHS

By TOM BAER

Farmington High School's softball team, the area's most enduring spring sports team, was hanging in there against Redford Union last Saturday in the state Class A regional at the Southfield Civic Center.

Farmington and Redford Union were knotted at 11-all after the regulation seven innings. Farmington, of course, had hopes of overcoming RU and going on to face Dearborn Heights Annapolis in the regional final.

But those hopes were dashed when Jo Halstead, RU's burly catcher, slammed the first pitch of the eighth inning for a long home run to win the game and eliminate coach Vestus Spindler's Farmington club from post-season competition.

A tremendous hit, Halstead's clout went between the center and right fielders, starting a female fan sitting on the ground about 350 feet from home plate.

"I knew there was no way we were going to keep her (Halstead) from scoring when I saw that ball go between the fielders," Spindler said. "I was concerned about her the whole game. I knew she had the power. I was holding my breath every time she came up."

Losing pitcher Jeanne Zuborski, a sophomore, worked the whole game, giving up nine hits — only one by Halstead, and five by right fielder Micki McAlin. Zuborski, who finished with a 7-4 pitching record, struck out one and walked nine.

"OUR PITCHER wasn't with it the whole game," Spindler said. "She was getting behind the batters a lot, and she just didn't have the velocity on the ball like she usually does."

Farmington, which trailed most of the game, took a two-run lead by scoring four runs in the seventh inning after two were out. Sue Carruthers led the comeback with a double, which drove in two runs.

But RU came back to tie it at 11-all with two runs in its half of the seventh. McAlin knocked in one run with a single, and Patti Rutledge scored the other run on a wild pitch.

Winning pitcher Margie LaRue, who worked the entire game, held Farmington scoreless in the eighth to set the stage for Halstead's heroics. LaRue gave up nine hits, struck out three and walked nine.

Farmington finished with an 11-8 overall record, including a 10-8 victory in eight innings a week earlier in the Class A district final on the same civic center diamond.

Redford Union, with LaRue still on the mound, went on to drop a 9-5 decision to Annapolis. Winning pitcher Dee Cifaldi, who owns a 16-1 record, went all the way, giving up 10 hits, striking out two, and walking two.

LaRue, who was lifted in the fifth with one out, allowed seven hits, fanned one and walked seven.

Annapolis made the re-

(Continued on page 3B)



Farmington's Kim Rogers drops a throw at first base. (Photo by Randy Borst)

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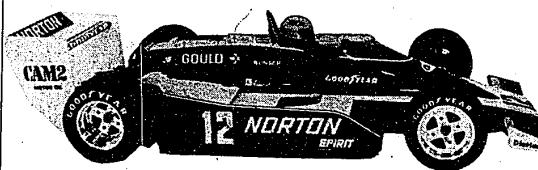


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