

Kimball ruins Lahser's baseball hopes

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Just one more miracle? Not this time. The Cinderella season for the batsmen from Bloomfield Hills Lahser ended Monday afternoon, but not before a four-run seventh-inning rally. The Knights from Royal Oak Kimball (21-7), a perennial baseball power,

eventually hung on for the district crown, defeating the Knights from Lahser, 7-5, at Royal Oak's Memorial Park. Taking advantage of late-inning wildness by the eventual winning pitcher Dave Kopf, Lahser erased what seemed to be a comfortable 7-1 Kimball lead in the final stanza before falling.

Football Vikings plan registration

The North Farmington - West Bloomfield Vikings, a boys' youth football team, will register players for the upcoming season from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at St. Colman's Catholic Church, 32500 Middlebelt Road, near 14 Mile, Farmington Hills. The Vikings offer tackle football competition for boys ages nine to 13 (as of Dec. 1) who live in Farmington Hills or West Bloomfield.

There are three age-weight groups: pony (ages nine and 10, 60-65 pounds), junior varsity (ages nine through 11, 65-90 pounds) and varsity (ages 10-13, 85-125 pounds). Cost is \$45 per player. Physical examinations will be given at the registration. Practice begins Aug. 11. Additional information may be obtained by calling Steve Patterson at 661-0689.

"It's nice to win - it wasn't easy," said Kimball coach Frank Clauser. "But when you get to the district finals they shouldn't be easy." Clauser knows what he's taking about when it comes to state tournament action. His teams have competed for the district championship for 10 straight years, and Kimball has won eight of them. This also marks the eighth straight season Kimball has won 20 or more games in one season. The Knights take these credentials into regional action Saturday at Pontiac's Jaycee Park.

FOR LAHSER, a 9-12 squad in fourth place in the Metro Suburban Association, it was an expected, but unfortunate, way to end the season. The Knights put together two hits, three base-on-balls and used a Kimball error to score the four late runs that had the Knight fans hollering at the end.

Lahser advanced to its surprising place in the district finale behind the sharp pitching of John Sillick. He two-hit a good Birmingham Seaholm squad in the pre-district and also two-hit respected Birmingham Brother Rice in the district semifinal on Saturday.

But Sillick was never a factor in the championship, because he could pitch only three more innings, according to the state rule which says a pitcher may hurl no more than 10 innings per week in state tournament action.

Lahser coach Bob Vesch had hoped to survive the first four innings before bringing Sillick in, but pitchers Mike Rom, Mike Kaline and Dave Mitchell couldn't hold off the Kimball charges.

"They (Lahser) only had that one good pitcher and that hurt them," Clauser said. "They didn't have anybody to come back with."

Kimball held a 4-0 lead after the four innings and a 7-1 lead after six innings,

thanks to wild pitching and many Lahser fielding mistakes.

In all, Lahser committed six errors. The three pitchers walked a combined total of five batters and Kimball stole five bases - four in the first inning.

"It was just too many mistakes - too many errors in the middle (innings)," Lahser coach Bob Vesch said. "You have five errors (actually six), and you can't very well win."

with the bases loaded.

Mitchell, who led Lahser's five-hit attack with two hits, delivered the big blow in the seventh inning with a two-run single.

Brian Browne registered two of Kimball's seven hits.

The score could have been worse for Lahser if it wasn't for three outstanding outfield plays. Left-fielder Bill Lee rifled down a runner at home plate in the first inning, while center-fielder Mike Corradi and right-fielder Kevin Cathpole both made driving catches for outs.

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With the perfection of the automatic scorer during the past season, bowling has become the most automated of all sports.

No other game has undergone so many changes as the game of toppling the tenpins. Most everything about the game has changed except the length of the lanes. They have remained at 60 feet, six inches. But all else has changed.

The old foul judge who used to sit in a special box on the wall has given way to the electric eye to detect fouls. The old time pins that were a block of solid

maple have been succeeded by laminated pins with plastic coating. The automatic pinsetter has replaced the pinboys who toiled in the pits and set the pins on pegs.

Even the old time cone of chalk at the approach to help the bowler dry his or her hands is gone into the limbo of forgotten things and has been replaced with warm air vents. And the overhead ball return is no more. The ball is now returned through a tunnel under the floor. Other games have changed, too. The

shape of the football was altered to make it easier to throw than to kick. It used to shaped like an egg.

Baseball has undergone few changes. The baselines are the same distances. From time to time they floated around with the ball. But, in the main, baseball is still the same old game that was played when the major leagues organized. Golf clubs have changed, too, but not the game.

SOME OF THE nation's top pros will invade the western courts next week to compete in a major pro-am tournament at Cherry Hill Lanes.

According to Ted Hochstein, owner of Cherry Hill, the event will spread over three days, starting on Friday, June 13. The first day will be devoted to the pros and the juniors. The qualifying round for the major pro-am is set for Saturday, and the main event with the top pros and the qualified amateurs will battle it out on Sunday.

AT SUPER BOWL they are getting ready for the sweepstakes that will be limited to bowlers with averages of 199 and under. It is set for June 22 and a large field has been assured.

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