

Caesars advance in Connie Mack tourney

By BRAD EMONS

Canton Little Caesars stayed alive in the Connie Mack state district baseball tourney at Pontiac Jaycee Park by winning two of three games during the first two days of play.

Caesars met the Detroit Eagles in a must-win encounter Saturday morning. Complete results of the tournament will appear in Thursday's Observer.

Pontiac-Transign handed Canton its first loss of the double-elimination tourney late Friday afternoon, 10-9. Caesars had opened play with a 3-2 win Thursday over Birmingham, and then defeated Cranbrook, 12-3, in a game halted after six innings because of the tourney mercy rule.

Canton had its chances against Pontiac, but fell short by one run. Caesars trailed 10-4 after five innings and then rallied with three runs in sixth and two in the seventh.

"We had the bases loaded each of the first three innings," said Canton coach John Gravin. "We could have blown it open early, but got only four runs."

Dave Meador, Canton's slick-fielding first baseman, had a field day at the plate. He hit a two-run homer against first Steve Schumacher aboard to cut the Pontiac lead to 10-6. Al Lipinski then reached base and scored on a throwing error.

CAESARS THEN sliced the margin to one run and threatened with two runners on base before yielding the fi-

nal out.

"We made some mental mistakes," Gravin said, "but I was real proud of the way our kids came back."

Bob McCarrick slammed the door on Canton during the third, fourth and fifth innings. The Pontiac pitcher had to be removed in the sixth because he used up the allowable 12-inning limit during a two-day span.

Pitcher Jim Jimmerson, who was picked up by Canton from the Plymouth Elks, lasted only three innings before giving way to Elks' teammate Greg Elmes. Jimmerson allowed nine runs, including a three-run homer by Kevin Krause.

Schumacher and Dreher combined on four of Canton's six hits. Pontiac collected 13. Meador added an RBI sacrifice fly to give him three runs batted in against Pontiac.

Against Cranbrook, he went 3-for-4 and scored three runs.

Canton broke loose for three runs in the fifth and five more in the sixth to put the game away.

Lefty Dan Funkhouser buried the first five innings to pick up the win. He got relief help from Jimmerson in the sixth.

Schumacher led off with a triple against Cranbrook and scored on a throwing error. Al Lipinski then walked and later scored on Meador's RBI single. Meador crossed home on sacrifice fly off the bat of Jeff Stemberger as Canton raced out a 3-0 lead after one inning.

CRANBROOK GOT two runs back in the third, but Canton conferred with a single run in the fourth as Funkhouser singled, reached second on an error and scored on Paul Dobry's suicide squeeze bunt.

Schumacher and Dobry each had two hits as Canton collected 13.

Lipinski, a righthander, scattered eight hits in beating Birmingham in the tourney opener.

Canton managed only two hits — one

an RBI single by catcher Frank McMurray in the first to score Schumacher.

Dreher scored Canton's final two runs. He walked in the third and later scored on a passed ball. The Caesar

second baseman then scored all the way from first on a head-up running play on an infield error off the bat of Gary Kucher.

"Oon made a perfect head-first slide at the plate," said Gravin.



Birmingham's Rob Murphy (No. 10) slides safely into second base as the throw eludes Canton Caesars second baseman Steve Schumacher. Caesars won the Connie Mack state district baseball opener, 3-2. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

Area players pace winners

Elks win twice in tourney

The Plymouth Canton Elks won two games on Friday to remain in the winners bracket of the NABF Mantle Junior Tournament on the Elks' home field.

The host team whipped L'Anse Creuse, 7-0, in a midday battle and nipped a tough Allen Park squad, 3-2, in the nightcap.

Kevin Shaw, acquired from North Farmington, led the Canton charge when he scattered nine hits against Allen Park in the evening contest.

The Elks backed up Shaw with one of their finest defensive efforts of the season. They took advantage of it as he failed to strike out any Allen Park batters.

"Shaw gave us a great effort," said Canton coach Dave Racer as his team's record improved to 22-2.

"It was a super effort from everybody. We really played heads-up ball. We're in great shape as far as pitching goes because both pitchers went the distance."

Allen Park started the scoring in the opening inning as Chris Seychel led off with a double and scored when catcher Billy Hanis threw out Kevin Schmidt on an attempted steal.

CANTON TIED the score at 1 in the top of the third when Fred Rumberger led off with a single and advanced to

third on an error by the Allen Park second baseman. Rumberger scored when Keith Stone hit into a double play.

Allen Park got a run back in the bottom of the third when Seychel doubled and scored on Schmidt's single.

Dave Malek walked to start off the fifth inning and was moved to second on another Rumberger single. Scott Bricker hit into a fielder's choice and moved Malek to third. Stone drove him home with a single to center.

With men on first and second and two out, Dale Sklar, another former North Farmington player, hit a shot to deep center field. John Recker made a tremendous over-the-shoulder catch before ramming into the centerfield wall to save at least two runs.

Designated hitter Steve Johnson ripped a double up the alley in left-centerfield to lead off the seventh in-

ning. Johnson moved to third on a throwing error by the shortstop Tony Demarti. Malek promptly hit a sacrifice fly to deep centerfield to score the deciding run.

"It was a helluva ball game," said a happy Racer. "We've knocked out two of the top teams in the tournament (L'Anse Creuse, 21-3, and Allen Park, 21-2)."

"Scott Bricker played a great game both offensively (two hits) and defensively. We played two super games today."

IN THE opening game, Dan Smith pitched a two-hit gem for the Elks to power them past a baffled L'Anse Creuse team, 7-0.

"He mixed his pitches effectively," said Racer of Smith. "Danny was tired in the second and third innings but he came back strong."

Net tourney settled

Area netters stole the show last week in the fifth annual Schoolcraft College Junior Tennis Open.

Plymouth's Chris Gilles, a nationally-ranked U.S.T.A. girls 14 and under player, captured the Schoolcraft girls 17 and under crown with a 6-1, 6-4 triumph over Northville's Holly Sixt.

Gilles, the No. 1 seed, doped Lisa Parquette in the semifinals, 6-0, 6-1.

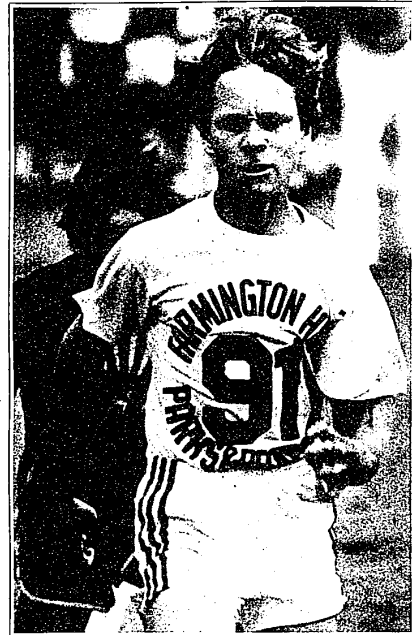
Betsy Moon of Plymouth teamed up with Gilles to win the girls' doubles title. They defeated Vickie Sterling of Canton and Marlene Dillow of Northville, 6-2, 6-2.

In the girls 14 and under final, Lisa Maggio of Plymouth defeated Breita Johnson of Northville, 6-2, 6-1. Maggio reached the finals with a win by default of Beth Roberts of Ypsilanti.

John McCarthy of Livonia, an incoming senior at Detroit Catholic Central, captured the boys 17 and under crown with a 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 win over Eric Topless of Ann Arbor. McCarthy gained the finals with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Plymouth Salem's Scott Crespo.

In the other semifinal, Topless beat Plymouth's David Kennedy, 6-4, 3-6, 6-0. Canton senior-to-be Kreg Kinnel and Ann Arbor's John Restuccia won the boys' doubles title with a 6-2, 7-5 triumph over McCarthy and Dean Nascimben of Livonia.

Northville's Tom Spade captured the boys 14 and under championship with a 6-0, 2-6, 6-1 triumph over Scott Burrell of Livonia.



Paul Robbins finished fourth in the 50-yard dash.

Athletes shine at Metro Meet

(Continued from Page 1C)

naries plus a couple of semifinals," said Bageris, who accompanied the team to Belle Isle. "That's a lot of people to beat out."

Sportsmanship and conduct were important in the fitness meet. The teams were shooting for the John J. Considine Award, emblematic of good sportsman-

ship, conduct and appearance.

Inkster was announced as the winner of the Considine Award last Thursday.

"Of course I'm disappointed that we didn't win the Considine Award," Bageris said. "We always shoot for that. Our kids were real sharp, I thought. But I guess Inkster was better."



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PAT FLANNERY, City Clerk
 Publish August 4, 1980

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