

Koufax team ousted in Dayton

Salem Crestwood Dodge ended its Sandy Koufax League (13- and 14-year-olds) baseball season in Dayton, Ohio, by finishing third in the National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF) World Series over the weekend.

Salem, coached by Ron Riedel, finished a fine summer with a 23-10 overall record. Riedel's squad opened play Saturday in 95-degree heat with a 7-0 win over eventual winner Bay Shore, N.Y. Crestwood Dodge then fell to host Miamisburg, Ohio, 8-6, in a rain-shortened five-inning game. Dodge was eliminated Sunday by Bay Shore, 5-3.

"We didn't have a good tournament," said Riedel. "It was not one of our better performances defensively."

In three games I was not used to seeing the errors we made. We just went flat. The defense just wasn't there as it had been all year."

Riedel, however, called it "a great season."

"We had a great bunch of young men," he said. "They were the type of kids who listened."

Riedel said, "Our pitching came through, and we were fortunate to get through the first one."

Right-hander Barry McNamara tossed a three-hitter against Bay Shore in the opener despite seven fielding errors by his teammates. He struck out eight.

Crestwood Dodge racked up a 15-hit attack.

SALEM'S Eric Hartnott, Todd Riedel, Tim Michalik, Mike Janovsky, Mark Landini and McNamara each collected two hits for Salem. Scott Anderson came through with a big two-run triple in the fifth inning to break the game wide open. Landini and Mike Cindrich also smacked triples.

The error-prone Crestwood squad continued to struggle in its second round clash with Miamisburg. Michalik pitched for Salem and hurled six innings before umpires halted play because of rain.

Salem, the home team in the game, was not able to bat in the bottom of the sixth and consequently the score (8-6) reverted back to the score at the end of five innings.

Miamisburg outlast Salem, 8-5, collecting six runs in the first inning. Crestwood Dodge countered with two in its half and tied it up in the third with four runs.

Miamisburg, though, tallied two runs in the fifth to win it.

Bay Shore totaled just three hits in beating Salem on its second try.

Salem raced out to a 3-1 lead after one inning, but Bay Shore battled back, scoring three runs in the third and one in the fourth.

Crestwood pitcher Chris Mowens suffered the loss. He hurled all seven innings.

Caesars tumble in district

Despite being eliminated from the Connie Mack district baseball tournament Sunday at Pontiac Jaycee Park, Canton Little Caesars coach John Gravin was not at all disappointed.

"It was the best game of the tournament," said Gravin, after the Detroit Eagles downed his team, 3-1.

"Speed was the determining factor," said the Canton coach. "I'm just delighted. Our kids played well and we were beaten by a good team."

The lightning-quick inner city squad did not run at will against Caesars. The Eagles, however, stole bases when it counted the most.

Detroit tallied one run in the first and added two more in the fourth to take a 3-0 lead.

Canton pitcher Dan Funkhouser, a left-hander, suffered the loss. In seven innings he allowed only four hits and three walks.

"It was by far Funkhouser's best game of the year," said Gravin. "It's the best he's thrown."

Two Funkhouser walks led to the first Detroit run. Using his effective move, Funkhouser picked off three Eagle runners before being called for a balk in the third inning.

"That kind of shook up Danny," said Gravin. "I protested. I thought the other coach made the call."

DETROIT then put together three consecutive singles and two thefts in the fourth to push across two runs.

Canton tallied its only run in the sixth when Dave Meador walked, followed by consecutive singles by Jeff Stemberger, Gary Kucher and Shawn Hopper.

Stemberger and Steve Schumacher combined for four of Canton's five hits.

Canton's most serious threat came in the first inning when Jim Anderson, who was picked up from the Salem Elks, was robbed of an extra base hit

down the left field line with two runners aboard.

Canton opened the tournament Thursday with a 3-2 win over Bloomfield Hills. Caesars then made it two straight early Friday with a 12-3 win over Cranbrook.

Clarkston-Transig handed Caesars its first loss late Friday, 10-9.

Saturday's games were postponed until Sunday because of rain.

Bloomfield Legion captured the crown with a 3-1 triumph late Sunday over Transig.

Caesars finished the season with an 18-6 record.

Wolves kickers triumph, 3-0

You might not think that arms and hands would be as important to a soccer player as a pair of well-coordinated feet.

Craig Pickard proved otherwise last weekend, leading the Livonia Wolves to a 3-0 victory over the Macedonians in a Detroit Soccer League game.

Pickard scored one goal with a throw-in and assisted on the other two goals with well-placed throws from the sideline to teammates streaking toward the net.

"The way he throws the ball in can't be matched," said Joe Mancini, coach of the Wolves. "I've been watching soccer ever since I was about 5 years old and I've never seen the ball thrown in like him."

A throw-in is awarded a team when an opponent kicks the ball out of bounds over the sideline. A player must

keep his both feet planted and use both hands to throw the ball back inbounds.

Pickard's throwing range is nearly 40 yards, Mancini said. "He can throw the ball in farther than some people can kick," Mancini said.

Dan Naurato scored the Wolves first goal at the five-minute mark. Pickard threw the ball over the defense from the left sideline and Naurato, charging from the right, found the net with a kick from 12 yards out.

There was a long dry spell for both teams after Naurato scored early in the proceedings. Chip Stencil took a throw-in from Pickard 33 minutes into the second half and booted the ball into the cage to give the Wolves a 2-0 advantage.

Four minutes later, Pickard scored on a throw-in.

Actually, it's against the rules to throw the ball directly into the net. However, once a throw-in is touched, it may go into the net.

Macedonians' goalkeeper just grazed the ball with his fingertips as it sailed into the net.

Mancini passed plenty of praise around to everyone.

"The defense was tight. Dave Gray (goalkeeper) turned in a brilliant performance. The midfield always plays

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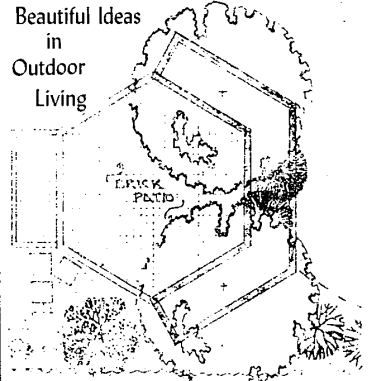
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