

Thursday, August 14, 1980

(F)18

It's world series time for NF-WB sluggers

By TOM BAER

North Farmington-West Bloomfield's Sandy Koufax baseball team is facing "a pretty big deal" in the words of its manager, Carl Childress.

NWB, which recently won the state Koufax (13-14 year old) championship, has earned a berth in the American Amateur Baseball Conference Koufax World Series in Knoxville, Tenn.

NWB plays Puerto Rico at 3 p.m. Thursday at Billy Meyers Stadium, the home of Knoxville's minor league base-

ball team. If NF-WB wins that game, it will play again on Friday.

"This is a pretty big deal," said an excited Childress after his squad won the state tournament in Battle Creek. "I mean it's the world series of all 13- and 14-year-olds in the AABC.

"Right now, these kids are on top of the world. They didn't have it all that easy in Battle Creek, but they refused to roll over and play dead. They're proud kids. They don't give up easily."

Before state tournament play, Childress picked up four players from

eliminated Koufax teams. The added players are outfielder Mike Cindrich and pitcher-first baseman Tim Michalic, both of the Plymouth Salem entry; pitcher Jack Jenkins of Warren; and pitcher-outfielder John Rogers of Redford.

NF-WB lifted its season record to 33-4 with a 2-0 shutout of Dearborn Fairlane Sunday in the finals of the state tournament. Winning pitcher Childress, the coach's son, made it nine-straight wins, allowing five hits and striking out three.

"THERE WERE a lot of fine defensive plays to back him up," the manager said. "Our left fielder, Cindrich, made a tremendous catch with his back to the infield and then threw back to second base for the double play."

NF-WB, which had five hits, scored both runs in the fifth inning. Cindrich reached first on an error, stole second and scored on Todd Williams' line-drive single to center. Williams then stole second and scored on Bob Butler's hit.

NF-WB opened the tournament by beating Battle Creek Fraternal Order of Police, 10-2, in a five-inning game. Winning pitcher Rich Goldberg, who won two tournament games to boost his record to 6-1, allowed one hit in four innings and struck out eight.

Eric Kahkonen and Williams each had two hits for the winners.

NF-WB's next victim was Detroit Police Athletic League, 9-7. Zac Childress, the winning pitcher, worked the first three innings before being yanked in favor of Jenkins.

The winners tore up the PAL pitching for seven runs in the first inning. Butler batted twice in the stanza, leading off with a double and then coming through with a bases-loaded two-bagger.

In the third inning, John Connors blasted a leadoff home run, which cleared the left field wall over the 350-foot sign. "It turned out to be the key hit because PAL came back to score seven runs," Childress said.

NF-WB NEEDED 10 innings to overcome arch-rival Westland in the next round. Butler drove in the winning run with a single to center.

Butler, who had three hits and scored three runs, was one batting star, and Goldberg (five hits, three runs) was another. The winners produced 14 hits.

NF-WB raced to a 6-0 lead by the fourth inning, but Westland came back with nine runs in their half of the fourth. Then NF-WB rallied with a run in the fifth and four more in the sixth.



Eric Kahkonen makes a play during a recent practice.



Todd Williams, a key player in North Farmington-West Bloomfield's baseball success, takes some batting practice. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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Bonaventure Speed Club skates to another crown

By TOM BAER

The Farmington Hills-based Bonaventure Speed Club gained its second-straight roller skating national championship last weekend in Lincoln, Neb., and coach Virgil Dooley lost his voice in the process.

"I'm just now getting my voice back after all the yelling I've been doing," said Dooley from his Livonia home as he packed for a short vacation — a few days away from the speed skating team and the Bonaventure Skating Center he manages.

And the coach had plenty to cheer about at the nationals. Bonaventure burned up the flat, 100-meter oval in Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium, winning five division titles and establishing eight national records.

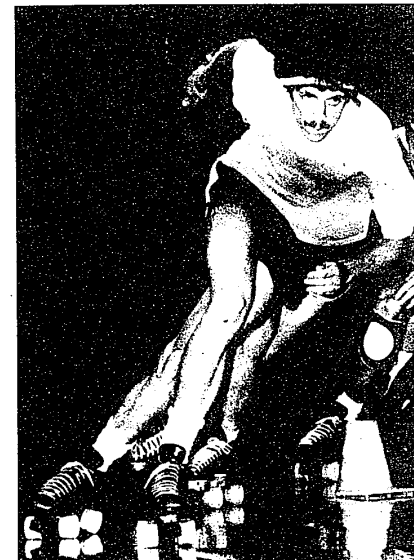
Bonaventure finished first with 200 points. High View Skating Club of Louisville, Ky., placed second. "We went there thinking we had a chance to repeat," Dooley said. "But in this sport everything depends on when they peak. We'd been having some pretty sloppy practices, but I guess the excitement of being in the nationals pulled them up."

Two of Dooley's best skaters are senior (18 and over) competitors Rob Dunn and Chuck Jackson. Both were outstanding in the nationals. Dunn, a 20-year-old Mt. Clemens resident who's been on roller skates since age 7, won the senior men's division. He set records in winning the 1500-meter (2:50.8) and the 5000-meter (9:53.3) races and placed second in the 3000-meter.

JACKSON, 19, of Westland combined to repeat as champ senior two-man 5000-meter relay with a record time of 9:15.4. Dunn and Denise McLeod of Livonia teamed up to win the senior 3000-meter mixed relay in 5:43.1, another record.

Bonaventure's 400-meter mixed relay (Kathy Katovich, McLeod, Jackson and Dunn) established another record with a winning time of 7:24.8. Sue Dooley, the coach's wife, Katovich, Tammy Griffith and McLeod combined to win the four-lady 4000-meter relay with a record 7:40.5.

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Rob Dunn helped Bonaventure Speed Club win its second-straight national championship by winning the senior men's division. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Tennis is Self-Actualizing

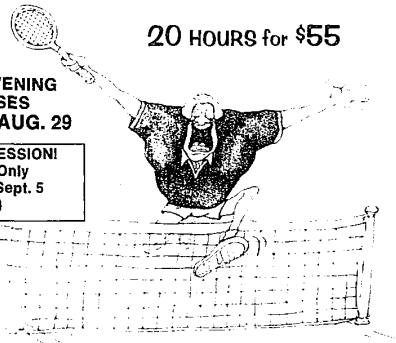
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