

Canton's baseball hopes dashed

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Plymouth Canton's marvelous baseball season came to a crashing halt on Tuesday.

Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher got a three-run homer by Tom Ostrowski and a three-hit pitching performance from lefty Dan Davies to beat the Chiefs 4-3 in the Class A semifinals at Grosse Pointe North.

Gallagher, sporting a 29-8 record, will meet Flint Carman at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday for the state championship at Central Michigan University.

The Chiefs, making their second appearance in the semifinals, bowed out at 28-3.

Davies used a sharp-breaking curve ball to stymie the Canton bats. He held the Chiefs hitless until the sixth when Canton scored three runs to tie up the game.

Senior Keith Stone led off the bottom of the sixth inning with a bunt single, and teammate Fred Rumberger walked.

Pitcher Dan Smith, who matched Davies nearly pitch for pitch, then singled to right field to load the bases.

Scott Bricker grounded out, but Stone scored. And with one out, Steve Shumacher singled home two runs, sending the Chiefs' large following into a frenzy.

The next batter, Jeff Stemberger, walked. Billy Hanis then moved the runners over with a sacrifice bunt.

Davies, however, got out of trouble as Shawn Hopper grounded out.

Gallagher took a 3-0 lead in the third inning when Ostrowski drilled a Smith fastball over the short fence in right field.

THE LANCERS scored the game-winning under an unusual set of circumstances in the bottom of the sixth.

Mike Stevenson walked to open the inning and went to second on Brian Wolshager's bunt. On the play, Smith fired to Bricker at first, who was covering from second.

He and Wolshager, however, collided on the play. The ball was jarred loose as Wolshager used a forearm, flattening Bricker. Meanwhile, Stevenson walked all the way to third.

Canton coach Fred Crissey contested the call, claiming Wolshager had been guilty of interference.

"What we told the umpire is that he deliberately ran into Bricker," Crissey said. "At no time did he (Bricker) cross the bag. The runner should have been returned to first base."

Gallagher scored the game-winning when Smith, who picked off a runner at third base in the first inning, threw past Rumberger in another attempt as

Stevenson crossed home.

"We were aware of his pick-off move," Gallagher coach James Bresciani said. "Only this time the runner blocked the throw."

DAVIES WRAPPED things up in the seventh as let his fielders do the work. Canton went down in order on three straight ground balls to the left side of the infield.

A transfer from L'Anse Creuse, Da-

vies missed seven weeks of the season with an elbow injury. He returned, however, two weeks ago to beat defending state champ Grosse Pointe North 2-0, ending one of the state's longest baseball winning streaks at 37.

"He's basically a ground-ball pitcher," Bresciani said. "His breaking ball is his best weapon. They hit only one fly ball and knew Canton was a fastball hitting team."

"They didn't make the critical error and we did," Crissey said.

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