

Batteries give charge to all-area team



Southfield pitcher Craig Mathews (foreground) joins All-Area players (front row from left) Southfield-Lathrup's Randy Carey, North Farmington's Eric Carrier and West Bloomfield coach Larry Reichle; (second row from left) Southfield's Bob Graham; Detroit Country Day's Richard Goldberg and Orchard Lake St. Mary's Paul Kasper; (back row from left) Rochester's Ron Fox; Orchard Lake St. Mary's Mike Ignasiak; Rochester Adams' Matt Nosewicz and Terry Allen.



Todd Krumm
West Bloomfield



Chad Switzer
Birmingham Groves



John Trouba
Rochester

Reichle named coach of year

Larry Reichle had a good feeling about his West Bloomfield baseball team, but he had to have some doubts when the Lakers started the season with a 1-3 record.

What transpired thereafter, was 21 victories in 22 games — including a string of 16 which went right through the Class A State Championship game with Midland Dow. And the Lakers literally went right through Dow, with two eight-run explosions on route to an easy 19-3 victory.

In leading the Lakers to championships in the Greater Oakland Activities League, the district and regional tournaments as well as the state crown, Reichle was selected by his peers as the O&E All-Area Coach of the Year. West Bloomfield won 21 games against four defeats.

"We just had a fantastically exciting season, and these memories we can keep the rest of our lives," Reichle said. "You work all year at being the best. And it's a great feeling to be the best."

West Bloomfield's success came after the inauspicious start. When the Lakers were 1-3, a team meeting was called, and whatever went on behind closed doors paid off.

"We just changed our attitude," Reichle said. "After we lost three of our first four, we had a meeting. We reached down inside of ourselves. We were playing as nine individuals up to that point."

"Once we started playing as a team, there was no stopping us. These guys just played well together. They were money players. They were a clutch team. With every big game, they played better."

all-area baseball

FIRST TEAM		
PLAYER	SCHOOL	YEAR
Craig Mathews	Southfield	Sr.
Bob Graham	Southfield	Sr.
Paul Kasper	St. Mary's	Sr.
Paul Wenson	Farmington	Sr.
Chad Switzer	Groves	Sr.
Eric Carrier	N. Farmington	Sr.
Jeff George	W. Bloomfield	Sr.
Matt Nosewicz	Adams	Sr.
Terry Allen	Adams	Sr.
Randy Carey	Lathrup	Sr.
John Trouba	Rochester	Sr.
Ron Fox	Rochester	Jr.
Richard Goldberg	Country Day	Jr.
Mike Ignasiak	St. Mary's	Jr.
Todd Krumm	W. Bloomfield	Jr.
Larry Reichle	W. Bloomfield	Coach
SECOND TEAM		
Paul Lobos	John Merana	Troy Athens;
Dennis Pecar	Mike Cloutier	Birmingham Groves;
Janowski	John Collins	Richard Ville — Cranbrook;
Zang	Farmington;	Jay Bobel, John Kiriake — West Bloomfield;
Mike Carithers	Jeff Tabling	Southfield-Lathrup;
Semenikowski	Rochester Adams;	Jon Sonbay — North Farmington.
HONORABLE MENTION		
Rob Patterl	Dave Austin	Bob Butler —
West Bloomfield;	Ron Ladziak	Ed DeBoon, Pat Hughes — Troy;
Daniels	Jeff White	Cranbrook; Brett Bohatuk, Mark Sackett — Birmingham
Seaborn;	Chris Dante	Jeff Anderson, Jon Draper — Troy Athens;
Mayer	John Husband	Birmingham Groves;
George Clark — Detroit	Country Day School;	Pat Donovan, Jim Talbot — Orchard Lake St. Mary's;
Eric Donaldson	Dave Framak	Matt Lewry — Bloomfield Hills;
Scott Draper	North Farmington;	Jeff Wayne, Dan Boyd — Avondale.

Hurlers gun down foes; catchers rip at hefty pace

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

baseball

There's a surplus of pitchers and catchers on the O&E All-Area Baseball Team, and throughout the season; these batteries were forever ready.

Of the 15 players earning spots on the first team, five split duties between the mound and other positions. The five — Southfield's Craig Mathews and Bob Graham, Orchard Lake St. Mary's Mike Ignasiak and Paul Kasper, and West Bloomfield's Todd Krumm — together posted a 38-7 record with 68 earned runs allowed in 307 innings of work, good for a 1.55 ERA.

Three players who worked behind the plate — North Farmington's Eric Carrier, West Bloomfield's Jeff George, and Birmingham Groves' Chad Switzer — combined to hit a hefty .469.

Other first-team players selected by coaches were John Trouba and Ron Fox of Rochester, Terry Allen and Matt Nosewicz of Rochester Adams, Richard Goldberg of Detroit Country Day School, Paul Wenson of Farmington, and Randy Carey of Southfield-Lathrup.

West Bloomfield's Larry Reichle was voted coach of the year after leading the Lakers to the Class A State Baseball Championship.

IGNASIAK had the best statistics of the pitchers as the junior was 8-0 and did not allow an earned run in 64 innings. He helped the Eagles post a 19-9 team record by striking out 110 batters and allowing just 23 hits — all singles.

"I know he'd be one of our top two pitchers, but I had no idea he'd end up with the season he ended up with," coach Sandy Peters said. "He just loves the game of baseball."

KASPER was another strong pitcher for the Eagles. A senior, Kasper also played "in the outfield. As a hurler, he posted a 7-1 record and a 0.71 earned run average. He struck out 75 in 49 innings, and allowed just five earned runs.

"Paul did exactly what I thought he would," Peters said. "He was a strong pitcher. He wasn't hit very hard — he only gave up 18 hits — but they seemed to come at the right time for the other teams. Our pitching was tremendous this year, and those two guys are to thank for it."

MATTHEWS AND GRAHAM helped the Blue Jays post a 17-13 record as they won 13 games between them. Mathews was 9-3 with a 2.08 earned run average. He pitched 90½ innings and struck out 167 batters. As a hitter, Mathews, a senior who also played shortstop, hit for a .404 average with 28 runs batted in. In 109 at bats, he never struck out.

Graham won four games against two losses, and fanned 31 in 38 innings. The senior centerfielder hit .408 with 21 RBI and eight extra base hits.

"Bob and Craig were our co-most valuable players," coach Cliff Dubowski said. "Without them, we never would have finished where we did."

KRUMM was a driving force during West Bloomfield's state championship season. The senior righthander logged 10 of the Lakers' 22 wins, and one of the four losses. His earned run average was 2.49, and he fanned 64 in 67½ innings. Krumm, who also excelled at shortstop, hit at a .415 clip, and set a school record with 33 runs scored.

"He did a super job getting on base," Reichle said. "His on base average was .469, and he was just awesome on the mound. He had two big saves for us in the tournament, and that kept us in it."

GEORGE was the backbone of the Lakers' team. Offensively, he hit .405 and set a school record with 31 RBI. George scored 23 runs, hit four doubles, three triples and four home runs.

"He was the key to us winning the state championship," Reichle said of his senior backstop. "He was a real clutch hitter, as you can judge from his RBIs. And he was a real tiger behind the plate. He has a super strong arm."

SWITZER played most of Groves' 16-11 season ailing, but still managed to hit .462 in 83 at bats. He unknowingly played with a kidney infection, and still drove in 25 runs. Switzer had eight extra base hits and scored 24 runs.

"He was a pretty good ballplayer," coach Jim Crosby said. "He did it all for three years. He complained of a back

problem most of the year, and we treated it as such. After the season, we found out it was a kidney infection. He's just a super defensive player and a real good hitter."

CARRIER hit at a robust .551 clip for the Raiders, and drove in 21 runs during the 10-10 season. Carrier, who gunned down 12 of 16 runners attempting to steal, had seven extra base hits.

"He caught every inning of every game in two years for us," coach Jerry Maxwell said. "He was our captain and MVP. He was the biggest guy we had; he always got the clutch hit. He was a moose behind the plate. I've had four all-league catchers in a row, and he's as good as any of them."

TROUBA, a senior first baseman, hit .468 with 33 RBI, three doubles and five home runs. He was a leader by example for Rochester, which finished the season with a 15-13 record.

"He's been our No. 4 hitter since he was a sophomore," coach Mike VanDam said. "He has a real good size, and was a big target at first base. He's a real strong kid, and a quiet leader. He was a leader by demonstration more than yelling and screaming."

FOX, a junior shortstop, was Rochester's lead-off man. He made the most of the opportunity to get things started by collecting 42 hits and 30 walks. Fox scored 39 runs, hit three doubles and six home runs during his .488 season.

"As a lead-off hitter, he got on base quite a bit," VanDam said. "And if the eighth and ninth batters got on base, we knew he could get them in. He was a real asset to us."

GOLDBERG was a junior third baseman who did some work on the mound, but his biggest asset came from his offensive punch. In 86 at bats, Goldberg hit .409 with four doubles, two triples and 17 RBI during Country Day's 12-8 season.

"He added a lot to the team, not only getting on base, but with his leadership as well," coach Frank Orlando said. "He's a winner, and a tremendous value to our team."

NOSEWICZ, a senior third baseman for Adams, helped the Highlanders post a 17-10 record with his speed and defensive ability. He stole 18 bases, and hit at a .412 clip. Nosewicz drove home 15 runs, and had seven extra base hits.

"He was one of our two speedsters who could make things happen," coach John Guerrieri said. "He was a good leader as a captain, and a real good defensive player."

ALLEN was the other Adams' speedster who "could make things happen." As a lead-off hitter, the senior hit .405 with 13 RBI and eight extra base hits. Allen scored 16 runs and stole 17 bases. As a centerfielder, he did not make an error in 33 chances.

"Defensively, he was the whole outfield," Guerrieri said. "If the ball was anywhere in his area, he would scramble for it. When he got on base, he got himself into scoring position for Matt to get the RBI. They (Allen and Nosewicz) were a good one-two punch."

CAREY, a senior catcher, played every game for the Chargers, despite being hampered by a shoulder injury which sometimes limited his role to that of a designated hitter. The three-year starter and Lathrup's MVP and captain hit at a .329 clip and drove in 13 runs during Lathrup's 11-12 season.

"He played most of the season with a shoulder injury," coach Bob Marten said. "He was hitting .523 midway through the season, but it came down mainly due to the injury. He was our team leader and by far the best ballplayer."

WENSON, who was selected to play in the Michigan State All-Star Baseball game last week, had a 4-4 pitching record with a 1.97 earned run average.

The senior from Farmington also was a key figure with the bat as he hit for a .330 average.



West Bloomfield catcher Jeff George hit at .405 clip this season and was a "tiger behind the plate," according to coach Larry Reichle.

GARY GABNEY/staff photographer