

Forfeits tighten Legion race

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The 18th District American Legion baseball race has tightened considerably.

Ferndale was sailing along comfortably atop the league's standings until last week. Legion officials have taken away two Ferndale wins and given them to Waterford Chief Pontiac.

Ferndale's record, as a result of the league's action, falls to 12-4, still good enough for first place. Royal Oak (10-5) and Bloomfield Hills (11-6), along with Farmington and Waterford (both 9-5), suddenly find themselves in the chase.

FERNDALE'S FORFEITS were the result of a protest filed by Waterford

head coach Fred Grendal. After Ferndale had swept a double-header from Waterford earlier in the season, Grendal alleged that Ferndale coach Annis Joseph failed to present his roster prior to the games, a violation of league rules.

The District 18 Rules Committee upheld Grendal's protest and awarded the games to Waterford. Joseph subsequently appealed the ruling to state League officials in Lansing. The state upheld the district's initial ruling.

"I've coached high school and I've coached at Macomb Community College and I've always, always, followed the rules," said Joseph. "I never even got a copy of the district rules until after I complained about the protest. I had a copy of the American Legion

state rules and that's what I followed.

"The thing that bugs me is that the kids are the ones who suffer. Waterford did not beat us on the field. All they got was paper victories. The actual victories are ours."

The Ferndale players took out their frustrations on Berkley and Oxford last week.

RICK ROSS, who threw a no-hitter earlier this season against Millford, blanked Berkley 9-0 to earn his second win against one loss. He scattered six hits, but was aided by three double-plays.

Boss helped his own cause by knocking in two runs with a pair of singles. Brian Elyas added a two-run home run for Ferndale.

Ferndale proceeded to pummel Oxford in their next outing 13-1. Jeff Davis (5-1) was the beneficiary of Ferndale's heavy hitting. He yielded only two hits and fanned six.

Ross, Chris Lau, and Glen Campbell led the hit parade for Ferndale with two hits apiece. Ross knocked in three runs, Campbell two and Kevin Balch one. Troy Franklin, after rapping a triple his first time up, was hit by pitches in his next three at bats.

AUBURN HEIGHTS

After winning its first four outings this season, Auburn Heights has dropped 10 league games in a row.

Their most recent coming at the hands of Waterford, 8-2. Scott Lane was the story of that game. The Waterford hurler fanned 12 Auburn hitters and surrendered just three hits. Shawn Hare, Matt Nosewicz and Craig Stempowski were the only Auburn hitters to reach base.

Tim Orveaugh suffered his third straight loss of the season for Auburn.

There is a silver lining, of sorts, for Auburn Heights. In non-league action, the team has won two of three. They split a double-header with Brighton two weekends ago, winning the first game 3-1 with Dave Penny getting the win, and dropping the nightcap 3-2. Steve Sparks' dramatic three-run homer in the bottom of the seventh gave

Auburn the victory in the opener.

Last week, Auburn took a non-league contest against Cranbrook, 5-4.

TROY-BIRMINGHAM

Second-place Royal Oak received a jolt from Troy last week, losing 4-3.

John Merana came to bat in the bottom of the seventh inning with two out, the game and his 10-game hitting streak on the line. Merana promptly rifled a base hit to left to score teammate Mark Marvin with the winning run.

Scott Watson, in relief of Paul Lobos, got the win for Troy. His record is now 5-0.

John Draper had two hits. Troy is now 7-8 on the season.

FARMINGTON

Mark MacDonald's Farmington team regained its winning touch, taking two of three last week, after defeating Berkley 4-1 Friday, the team split a pair with Waterford, winning the first 6-4 and losing the second 13-1.

Mike Hackett, with relief help from Mike Belucci, won his second start of the year against Berkley. He allowed five hits and struck out four. Belucci quelled a bases-loaded threat in the seventh to preserve the win.

Sam Buttila, hitting .375 for Farmington, hit a long triple to key Farmington's attack.

In the first game against Waterford, John Miller, Jeff O'Malley, Tim Hamel and Buttila each had two hits. Miller knocked in three runs and Buttila two. Ron Raymond (4-1) got the win and Hamel earned his fifth save.

Bob Waczinski (2-3) was the losing pitcher in the nightcap. Neil Davis went two for three in a losing cause.

STANDINGS

Here are the standings as of July 14: Ferndale, 12-4; Royal Oak, 10-5; Bloomfield Hills, 11-6; Farmington, 9-6; Waterford, 9-6; Troy, 7-8; Oxford, 5-8; Millville, 6-9; Rochester, 6-9; Auburn Heights, 4-10; Berkley, 3-11.



JOHN STORMZAND

Mark MacDonald, Farmington Legion head coach, shows his pitching form against his team in a benefit alumni game last Tuesday. The Farmington Legion alumni team was routed by the present team 9-4. The current team could muster just two unearned runs off their coach in the three innings he pitched. The event raised \$85 for the team.

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FOUNDER'S TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with Oakland Community College, will sponsor the eighth annual Founder's Festival Tennis Tournament July 27 through July 31.

Registration deadline is July 20. Participants must live or work in Farmington Hills or Farmington.

The matches will be held at OCC Orchard Ridge campus and at area high schools. The divisions are: Junior, (boys and girls 14 and under, singles); Teen/boys and girls, 16 and under, 18 and under, (singles); Adult, (men and women, 19 and over, 35 and over, and men 45 and over, singles); Doubles, (mixed, men and women).

For more information on the tournament, call 474-6115.

FIREMEN'S BALLGAME

The Farmington Hills firefighters have sent out a challenge and the West Bloomfield firefighters have accepted.

The firemen will square off at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28, at Farmington High School's north field, located opposite the Elks Club on Orchard Lake Road.

Proceeds from the game will go to the Ann Arbor Burn Center.

THE KING IS COMING

The King against Count Scary, who could ask for a better softball showdown?

The showdown will take place at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 31, at the Southfield Civic Center. The Breakfast Optimist Club of Southfield-Lathrup and Birmingham are sponsoring a benefit softball game pitting Eddie "The King" Feigler and his court against an All-Star team which includes Tom "Count Scary" Ryan and other radio personalities.

Feigler is the world's top softball strike-out artist. In his career, he has pitched 7,341 games. His record is 68-970-293. He has struck out 112,388 batters, threw 801 no-hitters.

1,716 shut outs and 227 perfect games.

If that's not amazing enough, he pitches with only three fielders behind him. He also pitches blindfolded a great deal, striking out 4,216 of the 4,319 batters he's faced in a blinded state.

Count Scary might be overmatched. Tickets, \$2 and \$3, may be purchased from the Southfield or Birmingham recreation departments by calling 354-9603 or 644-1807. Tickets are also available at the Birmingham YMCA by calling 544-9036. Tickets at the gate are \$2.50 and \$4.

ACE

Paul Hagan of Farmington Hills scored his first hole-in-one July 7 at the Clark Lake Golf Course in Brooklyn, Michigan. He shot his ace on the 145-yard par-3 sixth hole. He used a six iron.

SOUTHFIELD GOLF OUTING

Aug. 2 is the day of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing held at the Edgewood Country Club. Those interested in participating are asked to call the chamber office at 356-6400.

TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1983 Clay Court Open Tennis Championships, singles and doubles, are slated for the weekends of July 22 and July 29-31 at Franklin Racquet Club & Spa's outdoor Har-tru clay courts.

The tournament, which is expected to draw some of the best players in the Midwest, is sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association.

Open singles play for both men and women will take place July 22-24. Open doubles competition for men and women takes place July 29-31.

Entry deadline for singles is 6 p.m. July 20 for doubles 6 p.m. July 27. For more information, call Dean Snyder at 352-8000. The Franklin Racquet Club & Spa is located at 29350 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

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