

Mr. Joes moves into nationals

It's on to Iowa for local Class A softballers

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Three has been Mr. Joes' lucky number this year.

The Class A softball squad sponsored by the bar near the corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway finished third in a tournament hosted by the City of Southfield earlier this summer.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Joes finished third at the more prestigious American Softball Association's state tournament in Oak Park.

By placing third in Oak Park, Mr. Joes qualified for the 12-team, five-state Great Lakes Regional Tournament contested the weekend of Aug. 12-14 in Stevens Point, Wis. The top three finishers from that tournament qualified for the national ASA tournament which will be held over the Labor Day weekend in Waterloo, Iowa.

So, where did Mr. Joes finish in Wisconsin? That's right... in third place.

It's always a surprise when you do

well in a tournament because you have to have the right breaks," said Mr. Joes' coach Steve Mosshart.

"We've been fortunate that we get good defense out of our players and that we play well during these tournaments. We didn't think we could ever get this far (to a national tournament) even though we've always thought of ourselves as a pretty good team."

"YOU TAKE one step at a time, and with each tournament it seems to raise your level of ability," he said. "We're real happy to be going because we're a good, sound team. It will be fun to see what kind of competition awaits us out there at the nationals."

Mr. Joes won three of its five games at the regional tournament. In fact, Mr. Joes won its first three games which meant they were automatically qualified for third place before the final rounds started on Sunday.

Mr. Joes' opponent the opposition 28-14 over the first three games. The wins were over A.A. Boos of Toledo (3-2), de-

fending regional champion Sports Source of Wisconsin (19-9) and Bud Light of Wisconsin (8-3).

"We went out and partied a little Saturday night because we knew we were already qualified for the national tournament," said Mosshart. "We didn't play very well on Sunday."

Mr. Joes lost to Century Engineering of Grand Blanc, 12-9, then was eliminated by Sports Source, 16-12, on Sunday.

"We feel strongly that defense is the primary reason why you win games and it held true this time — at least until Sunday," he said. "We practice defense. We lost to Century Engineering — the team that eventually won the tournament — on six unearned runs which is very uncharacteristic of us."

PITCHER DON Fradette, who at 6 feet 4 inches and 230 pounds is the team's biggest player, led Mr. Joes in the Wisconsin tourney with a hefty .641 batting average. He was also named runner-up as the tournament's most

valuable defensive player.

Outfielder Bill Vandike (.625), Mosshart (.600), the shortstop, and Jim O'Brien (.570) were the team's other top hitters in Wisconsin.

This is only the second year that Mr. Joes has been together.

Mosshart, originally from Cleveland, moved to Southfield three years ago and started playing basketball in the men's league. It was there he met a few athletes and discussed forming a softball team.

"We're basically a young team... all of us are athletes and all of us have played various other sports," he said. "We felt if we could get some good athletes we could adjust to any position on the field."

Mr. Joes won the City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Men's Class A slow-pitch softball title last season. This summer Mosshart's team played

in the Novi Open League where it finished with a 15-2 record (the two losses were by forfeit).

Mr. Joes has compiled a 28-6 overall record this season, including the five tournament games over the weekend. Assuming they get the financial backing, Mr. Joes is now looking forward to improving that record over the Labor Day weekend.

"We want to represent Southfield and the state of Michigan in the best possible light," said Mosshart. "We're not sure of our financial situation. If we can put together the funds required for a trip of this magnitude then we'll go."

Just for the record, Mr. Joes participated in last year's ASA men's state softball tournament as a class B team.

And, do you know where Mosshart's team finished? That's right: third.



Steve Mosshart
Iowa bound

Mr. Joe's players come from all areas

Mr. Joes softball team is composed primarily of players from Southfield and Farmington. However, there are players from other parts of the Observer & Eccentric coverage areas in Wayne and Oakland counties.

Following is the team's roster (by alphabetical order):
Jim Caverly (Southfield), third base;
Dave Collins (Southfield); Steve Dempsey (Farmington Hills), outfield; John Fecko (Southfield), outfield; Don Fra-

dette (Farmington Hills), pitcher; Dave Fullerton (Plymouth), first base; Jim Grassie (Farmington Hills), catcher; Brad Heetland (Farmington Hills), infield; Mark Johnson (Livonia), outfield; Pat Miracle (Redford), outfield; Steve Mosshart (Southfield), shortstop; Jim O'Brien (Redford), outfield; Tim Quill (Beverly Hills), outfield; Rick Roy (Southfield), infield; Tom Schneider (Southfield), infield; Bill Van Dike (Redford), outfield.

Hills recreation sponsors kayak racing

Looking for a new and interesting way to have fun? Try wave pool kayaking.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, in conjunction with the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Canoe and Kayak Club, is

sponsoring a day of kayak slalom racing, Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Oakland County wave pool.

If you've never seen or heard about the wave pool, it's a swimming pool that creates its own 2 1/2-foot waves. The pool is located on Scott Lake Road

in Waterford.

Kayakers will be able to compete in the following events: one- and two-man deck canoes, men's and women's divisions novice and open kayaks. These are fun-oriented events. You need not be an expert to participate.

FIRST- and second-place awards will be given in each event. All competitors will be given participation awards

courtesy of Perception Kayak Inc. There will also be two prize drawings for all competitors.

There will be a \$5 fee assessed for the first event, \$2.50 additional for the second. Participants are eligible only for one canoe event and one kayak event.

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