

# Thurston conquers Class B

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

It's something Emil Majeski and his team will cherish forever. Thurston High School did what seemed impossible two months ago, capturing the state Class B baseball championship with a thrilling 2-1 victory over previously No. 1-ranked Wyoming Park, a team which finished with a 32-3 record.

It was pure elation for the Thurston coach, his team and their loyal backers Saturday at Eastern Michigan University's Briggs Field.

The school celebrated its first-ever state title.

"This is an amazing ballclub," said Majeski, the 10-year veteran of the coaching ranks. "They've been battlers all year and they've kept their composure."

Thurston had numerous opportunities to crack under pressure, but senior pitcher David Kress saved his best outing for last.

**THE HARD-THROWING** right-hander pitched a masterful game, allowing just five hits while striking out six.

After giving up three straight hits and a run in the second inning, Kress yielded only one hit the rest of the way.

"I feel I had my best stuff today," said Kress, who was plagued by elbow trouble earlier in the year. "But we played good defense and that's the name of the game."

The Eagles played flawlessly all afternoon, a far cry from Friday's 7-6 semifinal win over Grand Rapids Christian. In that game, Thurston made six errors.

"Everybody had the jitters Friday," said coach Tiedt DeMarco. "But once we came here (to EMU), coach Majeski told us to keep a level head and not get down on the umpires."

Besides Kress, who finished the season with a 7-5 record, there were many other heroes Saturday.

One of Friday's stars, Greg Somerville, made a great throw from left field in the second inning to keep Marty Richards at third.

## baseball

**IN THE THIRD**, DeMarco made a sliding catch to rob Steve Jenkinson of a base hit. Meanwhile, shortstop Dave Diabak and second baseman Mike Maurin grabbed everything that came their way.

But it was John Bilchak's clutch two-run double in the first inning, scoring Kress and DeMarco, which provided the final margin of victory.

"I've been around a long time, but I'm most happy for the team," said Majeski. "The difference is that these guys pick each other up. It was a great team effort."

Wyoming Park right-hander Jim Hazlett, who suffered his first loss, pitched well in his own right. He gave up just four hits and walked three.

"I thought maybe both teams would score more runs," Majeski said, "but Kress was the man of the hour."

"He was the one who was pressured to go to Florida (over Easter vacation), but I have a rule that you have to stay if you want to play. He stayed with us and look — we won the championship."

**IN FRIDAY'S** semifinal at Ypsilanti High School, Somerville and Bilchak made the clutch plays to give Thurston a one-run triumph over Grand Rapids Christian, a team which bowed out at 19-10.

Somerville, a 5-foot-5, 138-pound stick of dynamite, pitched and hit the Eagles to victory.

He helped his own cause with an RBI single in the third to give Thurston a 1-1 tie. All told, the Eagles exploded for five runs in that inning. The key play came when Grand Rapids catcher Todd DeKok overthrew first base, trying to nail DeMarco, who had struck out. The overthrow brought two Thurston runners home. Kress also contributed to the surge with an RBI single.

Trailing 5-1, Christian got a run back in the fourth on a Thurston error. Grand Rapids knotted the count at 5-5 with three more runs in the fifth as the Eagles made another costly infield mistake.

But in the sixth, Somerville put Thurston ahead to stay when he doubled home Brian McGrath and Sam Amato.

**THAT LED** to a hair-raising finish in the bottom of the seventh.

Bilchak, playing first base, robbed lead-off man Jim Vos of a hit with a Dave Bergman-like stop.

"That first baseman made a heck of a play," said Christian coach Dick Vandorff, whose team made five errors. "If he doesn't make that play it's a two-base hit."

## Western shocks Bishop Gallagher

The Gabriele brothers ganged up on No. 1-ranked Bishop Gallagher last Saturday to bring the state Class A baseball title to Walpole Lake Western.

Western stunned heavily-favored Gallagher 9-8 in the championship game at Eastern Michigan University.

Dan Gabriele, the all-state junior right-hander, pitched the final three innings for the Warriors. Despite losing Western's early lead by virtue of a tape-measure, three-run homer in the sixth, Dan got credit for the win.

He can thank his brother. After Gallagher forged an 8-8 tie, Mike Gabriele

With one out, losing pitcher Jim Klunder, then, rapped his second straight single to keep things alive for Christian.

Brother Dan Klunder then drilled a shot to Diabak, whose throw from short was scooped out of the dirt by Bilchak for the second out.

Jim Timmer then brought Klunder home with a single and went to third when the throw from the outfield sailed into the box seats, placing the tying run (Timmer) on third base.

Despite his team's sixth error, Somerville stayed cool on the mound and was rewarded. He got DeKok out on a slow tapper near the mound to end the game.

GREGG's a gutsy pitcher," said the Thurston coach. "Most pitchers would have given up. And look who gets the hit to win the game."

Somerville finished the year with an 8-0 record. He and his teammates won seven straight tournament games to finish with a 17-9-1 overall record.

single home pinch runner Brian Altherr with the winning run in the top of the seventh. Altherr was running for catcher Dave Barton, who led off with a walk.

Dan Gabriele mowed Gallagher down in order in the seventh.

Western, which finished fourth in the Western Lakes Activities Association, entered the state tourney with a 10-11 record. It finished 17-11 and state champs.

Gallagher, ranked No. 1 in the state and as high as No. 23 in the nation according to USA Today, finish at 33-4.

## West takes 2 of 3 in BCAM cage festival

It was not a particularly good afternoon for the East squads, but it was a tremendous afternoon for high-school basketball in the state of Michigan.

The 5th annual Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan All-Star Festival attracted 1,376 fans to Western Michigan's Reed Fieldhouse in Kalamazoo last Saturday.

The fans saw the West all-stars take two of the three contests.

The only victory for the East came in the girls' game. The East, led by Yvonne Thompson's (Flint Northern) 15 points, hammered the West 71-48.

The two Overland players — Livonia Bentley's Laurie Day and Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy's Sarah Basford — played well. Day contributed seven points, four re-

bounds and an assist in 19 minutes of play. Basford scored four points, one rebound, one assist and one steal in 21 minutes.

**IN THE** featured attraction, the Class A all-star game, the West clipped the East 119-112. Eli Parker (Pontiac Central) led the West with 22 points. Mr. Basketball, Demetrius Gore (Detroit Chalmers) led the East, and all other scorers, with 24 points.

Tom Domako represented Overland nicely with six points and five rebounds in 19 minutes of play. The Livonia Stevenson grad is heading next fall to Montana State.

The West ruled the Class B-C-D contest 95-80. Kevin Haverdink (Hamilton) and Craig Chappell (Wyoming Rogers) led the West with 14 each.

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## Records fall in Woodbrooke swim victory

The Woodbrooke Hills Swim Club opened the Northwest Suburban League B summer swim season with a record-shattering 305-264 win against Farmington Glen last Friday night.

Woodbrooke's Katie Kraus set a pool record in the girls' 9-10 (age bracket) 50-meter butterfly with a 37.37 clocking. Rich Hampe also set a record for boys 15-17 with a 58.89 in the 100-meter freestyle.

Both Kraus and Hampe were double-event winners for Woodbrooke. Other double-event winners were Kristin Kraus, Jeff McCaffrey, Cindy

Cramer and Margie Cramer.

For Farmington, Lauren Weary, Chris Inch, Pam Holdridge and Jim Vik each won a pair of events.

**IN OTHER** Northwest Suburban Swim League action Friday, Beechview beat host Kendallwood 321-239.

Andrea Roeflein, Wendall Tucker, Elizabeth Tucker, Todd Farabee, Roxanne Bennett, Mike Joe Abunassar and Scott Farabee all were double-event winners for Beechview.

Attention swim club team managers: The Observer Newspapers would like to publish the results of your summer meets. To keep us informed, please send us your results. Include score, team records, meet highlights, double-event winners and single-event winners. Send them to the Farmington Observer in care of the sports desk, 36251 Schoolcraft, 48150, or drop them off at the Farmington office at Farmington Road south of Grand River. Please do not phone in results.

final game. It took a pair of goals from Darren Murray and one each from Kevin Gilmore and Brian Fredrick to nip Country Day 4-3.

After the championship contest, first-year coach Murray was honored with the coaches' Man of the Year trophy.

## Sorrows captures 2nd lacrosse crown

Trailing 2-0 at the half, the Brehan Junior High lacrosse team from Farmington Hills Out Lakes of Sorrows scored four unanswered goals to defeat St. Hugo 4-2 in the state championship game played May 26 at Detroit Country Day.

The win marked the second straight season Sorrows has brought home the state lacrosse title.

Bill Hoogerwerf scored twice while teammates Darren Murray and Mike Sullivan scored one goal apiece.

Sorrows, coached by Dave Murray, finished the season at 12-2, 9-1 in the league.

**MURRAY** CREDITED his defense with shutting down St. Hugo's in the second half. He landed defensive specialists Joe Heciano, Chris Dixon, Rick Brochhaus, Brad Whitlow and Dave Sobchek.

Goalie Matt West turned back 12 Hugo shots while Dan Rice controlled the midfield for Sorrows.

The team had a major struggle in the state semi-

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