

Tartars get GLIAC honors

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

One is the new kid on the block while the other has been around the same one so many times, he can count the cracks in the sidewalk.

At any rate, Wayne State's Kevin Diaz and Hillsdale's Randy Baringer both found spots on the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) baseball first team. For that, they're both happy.

Diaz, a sophomore pitcher for the Tartars, made the all-GLIAC select squad for the first time. The Redford Bishop Borgess product was 4-2 with a 2.92 earned run average, which was second best in the GLIAC.

Diaz also started in four games, which is four more games than was originally planned. Before the season, WSU coach Angelo Gust had Diaz pegged for residency in the bullpen.

Baringer's address was at the plate as Hillsdale's leading hitter this season. Baringer, a Redford

Catholic Central graduate, hit .347 this season to earn his third all-GLIAC first team selection in four years.

ONLY AS A sophomore, when he hit a paltry .360, Baringer didn't make the all-GLIAC first team.

"There must have been an excellent shortstop playing that year or something," surmised Baringer, who made the second team instead.

Baringer, who played both shortstop and second base this season, never hit below .300. In his junior year, he batted .415 in the GLIAC.

Which was a lot better percentage than Hillsdale's. The Chargers' winning percentage in the GLIAC hovered well below that this season, registering a 1-16 conference mark. It wasn't the most ideal way for Baringer, who was captain, to end his four years at Hillsdale.

"It's still an honor (to be selected to the all-GLIAC team), but I was more concerned with team accomplishments, especially this season," said Baringer, whose team finished

15-27 overall with only three seniors. "I really wanted us to finish with a winning season."

For Diaz, in terms of team accomplishments, things aren't a little better. WSU finished third in the GLIAC, where it was picked in pre-season polls, with a 10-8 conference mark behind Ferris State and Saginaw Valley.

DIAZ, WHO'S picked up a nasty curve, was 4-1 in GLIAC play. The transformation from a relief pitcher to a starter was a learning experience for the right-hander.

"I'm more relaxed as a starter," said Diaz, who registered 28 strikeouts in 27 1/3 innings work this season. "I go out there with the attitude, 'This is my ball game to win or lose.'"

Also, Diaz crossed the line between being just a thrower and being a pitcher. This season, he learned how to set up hitters with off-speed pitches.

Arm problems, mainly a tender el-

bow early in the season, helped accelerate the process. Diaz needed to save his fastball and throw it only when required.

Baringer was also beset with arm trouble at the beginning of the season, which for a shortstop is comparable to an airplane minus a wing. The hot-hitting infielder didn't let it curtail his hitting, though.

BUT BARINGER believes a good glove and a good bat go hand and hand.

"I'd like to think I'm a complete player," said Baringer. "I like to hit, but I don't feel good at the plate unless I'm fielding well."

Judging by his batting average, Baringer must have fielded well enough to dance to the plate. His prowess was well known around the GLIAC.

"He's a smart hitter," said Diaz. "Everytime he was up in a key situation, the coach always called time and came out to the mound and said, 'He's a smart hitter. Be careful.'"

Raiders bumped from title chase

girls track

The showdown for the Western Lakes Division girls track championship Wednesday turned into a huge letdown for North Farmington.

Livonia Stevenson and the Raiders entered the meet unbeaten in league competition, but Stevenson came away with the title, 79-49.

"I expected a very close meet, and it was for a while," said Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg.

But Stevenson went 1-2-3 in both hurdle events and pulled a surprising sweep in the 1,600-meter run to put the Raiders to rout. Stevenson won 10 of the 16 events.

North's Nancy Cothran won both the shot put (32-4) and discus (105-11). Tammy Spengler won the high jump (4-7) and Terry Spengler won the 200 (27.1). Noelle Nagy won the 400 (1:04.4).

North (4-1, 6-1) also claimed the 800 relay (1:50.2). Stevenson is 5-0 in the league, 7-

1 overall.

FARMINGTON closed its dual meet season with a win Wednesday, bettering Walled Lake Central, 68-60.

Patti Matthews garnered firsts in both the shot put (30-5) and discus (105-7), two of just six Falcon firsts.

Julie Lawton won the high jump (4-9), Lori Casaroli won the 300-meter low hurdles (50.1), Jo Fox the 100 dash (13.6) and Nicole Jolley the 3,200 (12:14.0).

The Falcons close the dual season at 4-2.

FARMINGTON HARRISON lost its dual meet finale to Livonia Churchill Wednesday, 75-53.

Churchill dumps Harrison in dual

Livonia Churchill handed the Farmington Harrison boys track team a 98-40 defeat Wednesday.

Aaron Yavarski won two events for the Hawks: the 200-meter dash (24.0) and the 400 (53.2).

Chris Hart won the 3,200 (10:29.0) and Brian Soeder the long jump (19-10 1/2) for the Hawks. Harrison finishes the dual season with a 4-3 record.

NORTH FARMINGTON beat Livonia Stevenson Wednesday, 73-64, to close out its dual season at 3-3.

Chris Wojtowicz, Scott Selzer and Kirk Armstrong were double winners for the Raiders. Wojtowicz won both hurdles: the 110-meter high (16.2) and 300 lows

boys track

(42.2). Selzer won the 100 (11.3) and 200 (23.8). Armstrong won the 1,600 (4:24.2, a North record) and the 3,200 (10:09.6).

Chad Henry won the high jump (5-9) and Marc Brown the long jump (19-4). North also won the 400 (45.5) and 800 (1:36.8) relays.

FARMINGTON closed out its season with a 90-47 win against Walled Lake Central. The Falcons (6-0 in the league, 8-0 overall) are the Western Lakes Division champions.

Adray Kings face tough road

By Brad Emons
staff writer

It may take a lot more work and effort if the Adray Kings plan to wear their crown another summer in the much-improved Adray Class A baseball circuit.

"I'm optimistic we have another strong team," said Kings manager Larry Haddock, "but it's going to be tough to repeat because the others have improved. In fact, they've already improved."

The Kings, who went 41-4 overall last season en route to league and district AABC (American Amateur Baseball Congress) honors, are 1-1 so far this season after losing 3-2 Friday night to Delaware Cal.

Rounding out the six-team circuit

are the Expos, Detroit Center Tool, Laird Brothers and Donczak's.

This season the Kings will rely on many of the same players who helped the area team to a fourth-place finish in the state AABC tournament.

The pitching staff remains intact with the return of right-hander Scott Combs, a Kalamazoo College product who was the team's MVP with a 10-0 record.

ALSO RETURNING is right-hander Mike McDonald, formerly of Redford Catholic Central High and Siena Heights College; right-hander Jeff Varga of Aquinas College and left-hand reliever Jay Hanson, formerly of Eastern Michigan.

baseball

Haddock has shored up his pitching staff with the return of lefty Dan Funkhouser, a Plymouth Canton High School product back after a one-year sabbatical. Another Aquinas grad, right-hander Tim Komros, is a newcomer to the bullpen.

Dave Slavin, no stranger to area baseball fans, is the new catcher. The Plymouth Salem High School grad is batting .370 at the University of Missouri.

The infield remains intact: Clint

Scollard (Aquinas) at first base, Dean Fraciel (Aquinas) at second, Randy Baringer (Hillsdale) at shortstop and veteran Steve Raymond at third.

All four infielders are graduates of the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League (LCBL). Baringer, also of CC, was recently named to the All-Great Lakes Conference first team for the third time in four years.

THE KINGS possess a hard-hitting lineup, led by veteran Jim Roseau and Mike Williamson, the team's top two hitters and run producers.

Williamson, a Livonia Franklin High School product, just returned from a spring stint at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Rounding out the outfield will be Livonia Adray graduate Greg Kuzia, who played part-time last season; and Tim Fotoda (Kalamazoo College).

The six-team league will be involved in a 30-game schedule, divided into two 15-game halves. The Kings return to action at 6:30 p.m. Friday against the Expos at Livonia's Ford Field.

Junior A team seeks home

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Is Plymouth going to get a Junior A hockey club?

It's a possibility, according to Les Vita, the general manager of the Hennessey Engineers of the North American Junior Hockey League.

"We're talking to Plymouth this week," said Vita, who is moving the club from Redford. "Their rink is pretty loaded (with activity). We've narrowed the choices down to Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, Lincoln Park, Allen Park, Ecorse and Plymouth."

Vita said the move out of the Redford Arena was forced by rising costs. The Engineers were paying up to \$85 an hour to play games at Redford, according to Vita. He said other ice rinks were asking \$50 to \$65 an hour. The team needs a minimum of seven hours of ice time per week.

The Plymouth Cultural Center ice can be rented for \$60 an hour according to assistant parks and recreation director Tom Willette.

Hole in one

Manny Rotenberg of Farmington Hills scored his first hole-in-one in 40 years of golfing last Saturday, along the 160-yard No. 4 hole at Knollwood Country Club. He used a 5-iron.

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