

Legion team stays red-hot

The Farmington American Legion baseball team is 11-3 — easily the best start in the club's history — and has won eight of its last nine games.

So why isn't coach Randy Meier smiling?

He's pleased with his team's start, but he can't get the Wednesday nightmare out of his mind.

"I don't even want to talk about it," he said.

Farmington took an 8-0 lead into the top of the seventh against Milford Wednesday, and lost 9-8. Four Farmington pitchers walked 10 batters in the inning. The final seven Milford runs came after two were out.

The loss spoiled a strong pitching performance by Chris Alexander. The Brother Rice product fanned eight of the first nine outs he recorded and finished with nine strikeouts. He tired in the seventh, walking five straight batters.

Tom Groux, Steve Cody and Paul Newitt each had two hits.

BUT TO Farmington's credit, they shook off the defeat and embarked on a five-game win streak.

On Friday, Mike Gabriele tossed a four-hitter in Farmington's 5-0 win against Auburn Hills. Newitt's three hits paced the attack. Gabriele and Denny Atwell each had two hits.

Farmington took a pair from Troy-Birmingham on Saturday, 14-7

baseball

and 6-0. Paul Sprainitis keyed the opener with a grand slam home run and two singles. Cody collected three more hits and Gabriele blasted a two-run homer. Art Eastman earned the victory.

The winning ways continued on Sunday. Farmington swept Redford 4-3 and 7-4.

Joe Bob Wenson, normally an infielder, pitched four innings of scoreless relief to record the win in game one. Groux, Alexander and Newitt knocked in the runs.

ALEXANDER, with relief help from Gabriele, picked up the win in game two. Dave Barton had three hits and Groux hit a two-run homer. Newitt had two hits also.

Farmington will play at Troy-Birmingham Friday night. The American Legion All-Star Game will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday at Berkeley. Farmington's Dave Barton, Steve Cody, Mike Gabriele, Paul Newitt and Denny Atwell are expected to be on the team.

LCBL title chase begins to heat up

The pack got a little tighter after last weekend's play in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League (LCBL).

First place Redford Little Caesars (9-4-1) maintains a slim two-point lead over Livonia Adray (8-5-1) and Tom Holzer Ford of Northville (8-4-1) after splitting a doubleheader with West Bloomfield, Sunday at Capitol Park.

Caesars, sparked by Tyrone Gaines' 3-for-4 showing, including a two-run homer in the sixth inning, won the first game, 7-3.

Mike Kocesi also clubbed a two-run homer in the first for Caesars.

Mike McClure led West Bloomfield with a homer in a 3-for-3 showing.

Mark Coburn, who worked the first 5 1/2 innings before giving way to Chris Kloe, was the winning pitcher. Craig Matthews took the loss.

In the second game, Matthews went 2-for-3 and knocked in the winning run in the fifth as West Bloomfield scored a 4-2 win.

Caesars took an early 1-0 lead on Mike Hart's successful suicide squeeze bunt. After West Bloomfield had taken a 2-1 lead, Caesars came back to tie it in the fifth when Gaines doubled and later scored on a passed ball.

Tim Delgado, who came on in relief in the third, was the winning pitcher. Dennis Mattison took the loss.

On Friday, Caesars took only five innings to mercy last place Ann Arbor Wendy's, 15-1. Brian Roney's pinch-hit two-run triple in the fourth proved to be the game-ender.

Harte was Caesars' offensive leader, going 3-for-3 with four RBIs. Don Taylor contributed two hits and three RBIs.

Todd Mahaney, who worked four innings before giving way to Pat Miller, was the winning pitcher. He scattered three hits and did not walk a batter.

LIVONIA ADRAY and Tom Holzer split a double-header Sunday at Ford Field.

Holzer captured the opener, 2-1, behind Dan Kopitzke's 11-strikeout performance.

Kopitzke, who outdueled Adray's Rick Rozman, scattered seven hits and held Livonia hitless over the final three innings.

Holzer scored both of its runs in the fourth on a lead-off homer by Troy Connors followed by Martin Eddy's two-out double and Chris Stout's RBI single.

Eddy and Eric Engel each had two hits for the winners.

In the second game, Jeff DePorter's three hits, capping the week with a .581 average, lifting Livonia to a 16-5 rout of Holzer.

John Poszywak, who worked the final 3 1/2 innings in relief of starter Pat McAllinden, was the winning pitcher.

On Friday, Livonia Adray and fourth place Walter's Appliance (8-6-1) battled to a 7-7 draw. The game was halted in the ninth inning by a City of Livonia curfew.

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE STATISTICS

	W	L	T	Pk
Little Caesars	9	4	1	19
Liv. Adray	8	5	1	17
Troy Holzer	8	5	1	17
Yahara's	8	6	0	17
W. Bloomfield	7	7	0	14
A.A. Wendy's	1	13	0	2

BATTING LEADERS (25 at-bats)

	AB	H	Ave.
Jeff DePorter (LA)	41	16	.430
Dwayne Bennett (LA)	31	10	.410
Craig Matthews (WB)	23	17	.395
Eric Engel (TH)	41	16	.390
Scott Kranig (WA)	31	12	.387
Zac Galsberry (LA)	31	12	.387
Kevin Cullen (WB)	32	12	.375
Kevin Ritter (TH)	35	13	.371
Bob Czupka (LA)	44	16	.364
Ed Shepler (WA)	44	16	.364
Mike Kocesi (LC)	25	9	.360

OFFENSIVE CATEGORIES

RBI leaders: 1. Jeff DePorter (LA), 16; 2. Don Taylor (LC), 12; 3. (tie) Chris Looney (LC), Martin Eddy (TH), Ed Shepler (WA) and Scott Peterson (TH), 11 each; 4. Brian Roney (LC), 10.

Extra base hits: 1. Martin Eddy (TH), 10; 2. Bob Foust (WA), 7; 3. (tie) Don Taylor (LC), Tyrone Gaines (LC) and Ed Shepler (WA), 6 each.

Runs scored: 1. Scott Walker (LA), 17; 2. Bob Czupka (LC), 15; 3. (tie) Dwayne Bennett (LA) and Paul Oster, 12 each; 4. (tie) Gil Lile (LA), Ed Shepler (WA) and Martin Eddy (TH), 11 each.

Walks: 1. Scott Walker (LA), 20; 2. B. Black (LA), 12; 3. (tie) Ed Shepler (WA) and Scott Peterson (TH), 10 each.

Slotted bases: 1. Bob Czupka (LC), 6; 2. (tie) Ed Shepler (WA) and Tyrone Gaines (LC), 5 each; 3. Paul Oster (LC) and Mike Kocesi (LC), 4 each.

PITCHING LEADERS

	IP	W-L	ERA
Todd Mahaney (LC)	22	4-0	0.32
John Poszywak (LA)	21	3-1	0.67
Tom Lile (LC)	18	1-1	0.83
Jim Robinson (WB)	16	2-0	0.78
Gary Zimolnick (WA)	20 1/3	2-1	1.03
Dennis Harrison (LC)	23 1/3	2-2	1.69
Mike Coburn (LC)	17 1/3	2-1	1.69
Rick Rozman (LA)	35 1/3	2-3	1.77
Chris Stout (TH)	15	2-1	1.87

PITCHING CATEGORY

Strikeouts: 1. Rick Rozman (LA), 31; 2. Dennis Mattison (LC), 27; 3. Don Kopitzke (TH), 24; 4. Tom Lile (LC), 20; 5. Doug Doyle (WA), 16.

single for Walter's, while Scott Weller had two singles for Adray.

Pitcher Doug Doyle worked eight innings for Walter's before giving way to Chris Semple in the ninth. Rob Ogden, Pat McAllinden and Poszywak threw for Adray.

In another game Friday, West Bloomfield blanked Tom Holzer, 9-0.

WALTER'S APPLIANCE swept a double-header Sunday at Ford Field, beating Wendy's, 13-5 and 15-3.

John Stoltis and Bob Foust each collected two singles and a triple to propel a 13-hit Walter's attack in the opener.

Cortez, Boyd and Ed Shepler added two hits each.

Greg George, the winning pitcher, tossed a four-hitter and allowed five walks.

In the second game, Scott Kranig of Walter's contributed two singles, a double and three RBIs. Teammate Scott Hills, sidelined most of last year with a leg injury, added two hits and three RBIs.

The second game lasted only five innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

Walter's pitcher Ray Samolla went the rout. He allowed all five runs on five hits.

In another game played last week, Tom Holzer drilled Walter's, 8-2.

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