

Holzer Ford receives good pitching in sweep

Outstanding pitching from Brett Loomis, Tom Cotter and Larry Wendt, triggered a sweep of the Arbor Wendy's Sunday, 7-2 and 5-1, in Livonia Collegiate baseball Sunday at Ford Field.

Loomis went the distance in the opener, striking out 12 and allowing five hits and five walks. Holzer got four wins in the first, three when Wendy's misplayed Scott Draper's grounder. Keith Sukiewicz singled Draper's home, Scott Peterson added a solo home run and Kevin Ritter — who had three hits — doubled in another run.

In the nightcap, Cotter got his first career start for Holzer and responded with a four-inning, three-hit performance. He fanned four, Wendt relieved in the fifth and retired the next nine batters in order. Eric Engel drove in three Holzer runs and Wendt, Sukiewicz and Peterson had two hits apiece.

ON FRIDAY, Holzer split its two games, beating Wendy's 5-1 but losing to Walter's Appliances 15-10 at Ford Field.

Dan Kopitzke fired a three-hitter in the win over Wendy's, striking out nine. Steve Morziman knocked in two runs with two hits and

Peterson added two RBI on a base hit and a sacrifice fly.

In game No. 2, Walter's struck for nine runs in the fourth to beat Holzer. Six errors proved costly to Holzer. Charlie Weaver started and took the loss, giving up five walks and hitting two batters in 3 1/2 innings. Wendt blasted a two-run homer and Jeff Henry added a solo shot for the losers.

Engel drove in three runs, Ritter added two RBI and Peterson was two-for-two, with two walks and a run batted in.

IN GARDEN CITY CLASS A Baseball League action May 26, Sheridan Square defeated Freehance 5-1 behind Todd Kissel's one-hitter in the first of two games. Kissel walked none and fanned four. Terry Bonner was four-for-four with four RBI for Sheridan, and Tracy Bonner collected two hits.

In game No. 2, Sheridan whipped Freehance 9-5 in eight innings. Terry Bonner's two-run double highlighted a four-run, eighth-inning Sheridan rally. He finished with two hits and two RBI. Mark Vyse had three hits and two RBI for Sheridan, and Joe Podzikowski added two hits. Recover Scott Purr was the winning pitcher.

Pitching to decide regional

By Dan O'Meara and C.J. Rieck staff writers

There's no question what the key factor will be in deciding the Class A baseball regional at Wyandotte's Memorial Park Saturday: pitching. Which-ever team gets it can count on advancing to the final four in Lansing next weekend.

Pitching is what got the four contestants — Plymouth Salem, Taylor Kennedy, Franklin and Redford Catholic Central — into this far. On Saturday, Kennedy and CC will play at 10 a.m., followed by Salem vs. Franklin. The winners meet for the regional championship at approximately 3 p.m.

Salem has received strong pitching performances from Todd Marion and Fidelis Cashe; Kennedy counts on Steve Avery; Franklin's T.J. Kramer and Henry Miller have both been solid in post-season play; and CC has succeeded with Greg Haeger and Doug Martin.

"It all depends on pitching," said Franklin coach Gerry Cullin. "If your pitcher goes out and starts giving up base hits, or if you start booting the ball, you're going to lose."

PATRIOT HURLERS Kramer and Miller, both senior right-handers, have kept their opponents off the bases in hurling their team into the regionals. Franklin has a modest 15-10 mark for the season, but Kramer (6-1) and Miller (4-1) are a combined 10-2. Kramer carries a 1.45 earned run average; Miller's is 2.78.

Kramer no-hit Detroit Mumford in a pre-district 7-0 win, then handuffed Redford Union with a two-hit 5-0 triumph in Saturday's district opener. Miller pitched in a five-hitter in a 6-5 come-from-behind Franklin win over Detroit Henry

Ford that clinched the district crown.

Franklin's success has surprised Cullin. "We've got a young team, a lot of juniors and only four kids back from last year," the Patriot coach said. "Our team batting average is over .300, but we sure haven't run the bases well."

"Our pitching's been the thing. It's pretty much made it for us. If you can keep the other team down, it builds momentum for you."

THE REBUILT Patriots have improved as the season has progressed. All four infielders were at new positions to start the year, with senior Paco Chavez moved to first base and juniors Mike Wenzelak at second and Tim Napier at shortstop and senior Pat Greener playing third. Junior Jay Swindell is the catcher.

All five have hit well. Chavez boasts a .350 average, with Napier at .342, Swindell at .324, Wenzelak at .319 and Greener at .317. Greener and senior center-fielder Mike Wenzelak (.443 average) lead the team in runs batted in with 21 apiece. Junior outfielder Scott Canfield is batting .426 with 17 RBI.

What could hurt Franklin's chances is its penchant for inconsistency. "We've played some real solid ball and turned around and played some very crummy ball," Cullin noted. But there has been one bright note, according to Cullin: "Pitching-wise, we seem to be getting stronger each week."

Franklin can't allow itself any lapses against first-round region foe Salem. The Rocks have a 22-4 record behind Marion, a senior right-hander, and Cashe, a junior left-hander, and strong hitting led by senior outfielder Tim Dowd (.494) and Marion (.493). The two teams split a double-header during the regular season.

"If Kramer has a good day, we can win," Cullin said.

FOR THE SHAMROCKS, pitching has been a constant. Haeger is rated as one of the best prospects in the state, but he's probably headed for University of Michigan on a baseball scholarship. He is also one of CC's top hitters with a .350 average.

But Shamrock coach John Salter credited the team's hitting, instead of the pitching, with its state tournament success. "We've got eight, 15 and nine runs in our tournament games," he said. "You get that and it takes the pressure off your pitching."

One big reason for CC's recharged plate performance is its league. In the Catholic League, the Shamrocks follow a three-balls-for-a-walk, two-strikes-for-a-pitchout rule. That favors the pitchers, Salter said.

"When you play 3-2, you've got to go up there swinging," he said. "In the state tournament, hitters can be more selective. Our hitters look at it as kind of a bonus."

One of the team's hottest hitters is senior Gil Garcia. In Saturday's 15-0 romp over Detroit Cody and 9-8 upset of Westland John Glenn, Garcia was five-for-seven with eight RBI.

OTHERS WHO have enjoyed outstanding seasons as junior outfielder and right-handed hitter Matt Cannon (.348), senior center fielder Bob Malleck and shortstop Vince Morin.

Still, the oldest of baseball adages says a team wins with pitching and defense. The Shamrocks, who carry a 21-1 record, have both.

Haeger, a left-hander, and Martin, a senior right-hander, lead a talented mound corps. But Martin is suffering from a bad back; his status for Saturday is uncertain. If he is unable to pitch, his spot will be taken by either Garcia, a left-hander; Joe Mackiewicz, a right-hander; or Leo Hutchinson, a left-hander.

sports shorts

BASEBALL TRYOUT

The Major League Scouting Bureau will conduct a tryout camp at Eastern Michigan University June 17. Players between the ages of 16 and 23 are asked to bring their own uniform and equipment for the 9 a.m. start.

American Legion players should bring a letter of permission from their coach or post commander. Several major league scouts and college coaches are usually in attendance. Any questions should be directed to University of Michigan scout Jim Terrell at 517-435-5668.

SELECT SOCCER

Tryouts for the Western Suburban Soccer League's Farmington-Farmington Hills Select soccer team will be Wednesday, June 10; Sunday, June 14; and Wednesday, June 17, for boys and girls.

Tryouts will be conducted at Drake Field (12 Mile and Drake) for the following birth years: 1974 through 1978. The times will be: 6:30 p.m. for 1977 and 1976; 7:30 p.m. for 1974 through 1978.

The cost is \$5 and includes a T-shirt. Players should bring a clearly marked soccer ball and be dressed to play.

The select team concept is new to the WSSL, and teams will only be formed if there is enough interest at each age level. For information, call Doug Roessler at 476-2087.

RUNNING CAMP

Applications are being accepted for the weeklong Mercy Running Camp to take place from Sunday,

Aug. 2, through Saturday, Aug. 8, at Brighton Recreation Area. The \$30 cost includes food, room and a T-shirt. A \$30, non-refundable deposit is required, with the balance due Friday, June 24. Checks should be made payable to Gary Servais and sent to him at 3550 Thomas, Berkley, Mich. 48072.

Camp highlights will include two workouts Monday through Friday, an individual race Saturday, guest speakers, several athletic contests and a pizza-and-movie night at mid week. Participants should have a physical examination and be in reasonably good shape.

SOCCER TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Little Caesar's Premier Soccer League will be Saturday, June 13, for boys and Sunday, June 14, for girls at Bicentennial Park, Field No. 9.

Times and age levels for the boys tryouts will be as follows: 9 a.m. under 11; 11 a.m. under 10; 1 p.m. under 14; 3 p.m. under 12; and 5 p.m. under 13.

The girls tryout times are as follows: 11 a.m. under 16 (born 1972-73); 1 p.m. under 16 (born 1973-74); 3 p.m. under 13; and 5 p.m. under 12.

For information, contact Kathy Coyne at 471-4204.

Girls born in 1974 and '75 who want to play for a Premier soccer team are asked to call Frank Carey (459-0824), Joe Barberio (455-7443) or Marilyn Goff (459-1804).

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"(Dowd) showed himself to be one of the finest players in the state," he added. "When Tim Dowd takes over on the field, it's wonderful to watch; it's like the spark that ignites the team."

In addition, senior shortstop Jerry Sumner, who had six home runs last year but hadn't hit any this season until Saturday, homered in consecutive innings, driving in three runs.

That was another indication, according to Gravin, the Salem bats are connecting at the appropriate time.

"IT WAS JUST a matter of time," he said of Sumner's hitting. "Here he's been struggling, and he rose up in his capabilities. I'm just glad he decided to make it the district final." Gravin, of course, is counting on

CORRECTION

On page 12 of the Builders Square section that appeared this week, the accessories, for the SOLEN TRACTORS should have listed a 48" MOWING DECK for the 18 H.P. Tractor at \$379.00, and a 36" MOWING DECK for the 11 H.P. Tractor at \$243.00. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

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there being a carry-over effect to Saturday's action, and, from what he's seen lately, it appears the Rocks are beginning to peak late in the season.

"In one statement, that's the way to say it," Gravin said. "We're catching fire at the right time. We've had a great season, but catching fire at state tournament time is great."

"It's the whole team, too. There was so much electricity in the dug out (Saturday), you couldn't sit still."

Salem also received quality pitching from its one-two combination of juniors Todd Marion and Fidelis Cashe in the district tournament. Both pitched five hits and struck out eight in the final and opener, respectively.

MARION IS 6-1 with a 1.60 earned run average, and he has 43 strikeouts in 43 1/3 innings. But, more impressively, he has walked only nine batters all season.

Cashe, 5-2 with a 2.53 ERA, is the team's strikeout artist, having fanned 62 batters in 31 innings.

"Fidelis is capable of being unbeatable," Gravin said. "He has not been hit all year."

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