

# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

Thursday, July 14, 1988 O&E



(F1D)



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Jay Marcoux puts the ball in play Monday against Wayne Ford, but North Farmington-West Bloomfield didn't get enough hits in the

10-2 loss. NFWB came back Tuesday with a 6-5 win over Ferndale.

## NFWB reaps benefit from strategy change

Captain Rich Rachner's decision to conserve the energy of his North Farmington-West Bloomfield baseball club and focus attention on North Oakland County League games paid off Tuesday night.

NFWB fought off a late rally by Ferndale to claim a 6-5 victory and boost its Connie Mack record to 13-3. But the host team jumped in front 6-0 after four innings only to have Ferndale come up with five runs in the last three innings.

NFWB, which seemed to have resolved its defense problems on Sunday, had a relapse in the sixth inning when it committed three errors and allowed the opposition to cut the gap to 6-3.

Winning pitcher Mike Petchell cruised through five innings and threw a three-hitter for six-plus innings, but he was relieved by Seth Petty after issuing a leadoff walk in the seventh.

FERNDALE PICKED up two more runs on two hits and a walk off Petty, but he got out of the jam and preserved the win with Ferndale's potential tying and winning runs on.

Petty also was 2-for-3 with a triple and an RBI, and Jack Herberholz, who drove in two runs, and Derek DiPaola were 2-for-3. Bob Fekete, Mike Mackie and Todd Kaluzny had the other RBI with a squeeze bunt, sacrifice fly and single, respectively.

NFWB, 15-8 overall, didn't fare as well Monday in a Palmino League game, dropping a 10-2 decision to Wayne Ford. Rachner has elected to rest the majority of his regulars in

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the Palmino contests, however.

DiPaola got credit for both RBI, drawing a bases-loaded walk and driving in the other run with a groundout. Herberholz, who was 2-for-3, Rick Rachner and Petchell accounted for NFWB's four hits.

On Sunday, NFWB put a stop to its recent slide by sweeping a double-header from Bloomfield Hills in the North Oakland County Connie Mack League.

In the course of the two games, NFWB made only one error, stemming another trend that had contributed to its troubles.

NFWB HELD OFF a seventh-inning rally to beat Bloomfield Hills 7-6 in the opener, giving DiPaola his second win.

The winners saw a 7-2 lead dwindle to one run in the bottom of the seventh before Brian Miller came on to get the last out.

DiPaola, who pitched the first 6 1/2 innings, held Bloomfield Hills to three hits but allowed 14 walks. He struck out six.

"He pitched himself into a jam and always pitched himself out of it," Rachner said.

The first of two batters to face Miller reached base on the lone error, but the miscue allowed the fifth and sixth runs to score.

NFWB's defensive play included Mike Mackie's diving catch at third base and center fielder Rick

Rachner's running grab when Bloomfield Hills had the bases loaded with two out in the second inning.

OFFENSIVELY, PETTY and Herberholz were 3-for-3 with one RBI, and Greg Orman and Miller each had a triple and one RBI.

In the nightcap, Shawn Wall raised his record to 5-0 with a six-hit performance. NFWB gave him immediate support with a three-run first inning.

Wall went all the way, striking out three and walking four. In the field, he got a big assist from shortstop Bob Fekete, who pulled the team out of a tight spot in the bottom of the seventh.

Bloomfield Hills had men at first and second with two out when Fekete dived to stab a hard-hit ball between short and third. After back-handing the ball, he rolled over and threw to second for the game-ending out.

"The defense was as sharp as a tack," Rachner said. "It was really proud of them to come back after two weeks of frustration in which the defense had come apart."

"The defense was as good as we've played since the first week of the season," he added.

IN THE FIRST inning, Miller ripped an RBI double, and Rachner followed with a two-run homer, racing around the bases and beating the throw to the plate with a diving effort.

Petty's RBI groundout scored the fourth run in the second inning. Orman was 3-for-3.

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## Caesars maintains lead over Holzer Ford

Little Caesars continued to maintain its grip on first place in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League, sweeping three games over the weekend at Ford Field.

The wins gave Caesars an 18-3 record, three games up on second place Tom Holzer Ford of Farmington Hills (See league statistics).

On Sunday, Caesars swept a double-header from Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury of Plymouth-Canton.

Rom Jamula fired a no-hitter in the opener, as Caesars scored an 11-0 win in a game shortened to five innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

Jamula, who played high school baseball at Taylor Center, struck out five and allowed just four base runners (two walks and two hit-batsmen).

Offensively, Jeff Gorman, Derrick Dowling and Art George collected two hits apiece, sending former Westland John Glenn High ace Bill Barber to the showers for an early exit.

In the second game, Thurston High products George and Chris Kloc collected two hits each in a 5-5 triumph. George, who plays for the University of Evansville, tripled twice.

WINNING PITCHER Tony Yandura survived a two-run homer by Joe Bob Wenson (formerly of Farmington High) and a two-run homer by Tony Aiken.

Wenson, Aiken, Chris Siler and Bob Files each collected two hits in a losing cause. Pitcher Mike Sulak took the loss.

On Friday, Gorman's three-run pinch-hit homer in the fifth inning carried Caesars to a 6-3 triumph over Wendy's of Ann Arbor.

Shawn Uszaski added two hits in the victory.

Kloc, a right-hander, scattered seven hits over seven innings to pick up the win.

Timmy Kobayashi and Mike Karunas each had two hits in a losing cause.

Meanwhile, Tom Holzer Ford had an equally productive weekend, sweeping three straight including a double-header Sunday

against host Wendy's, 6-0 and 10-1. Holzer has now won nine straight.

Former North Farmington High ace Tom Cotter twirled the shutout in the opener. The Central Michigan University student tossed a three-hitter while fanning nine in upping his record to 3-2.

RICK TAVORMINA, a former Glenn standout now at the University of Detroit, paced the offense, going 3-for-4. Kevin Ritter and Keith Dutkiewicz added two hits apiece, while Andy Fairman drove in a pair of runs. Scott Peterson walked three times.

In the second game, pitcher Dan Hillard allowed just three hits and walked only two in squaring his record at 2-2. Hillard struck out eight.

Fairman belted his league-leading sixth homer of the year, a three-run shot, in fifth. Ritter had a two-run homer, his fifth of the season, in the third. Steve Rudelle and Dutkiewicz added two hits apiece. Dutkiewicz also drove in two runs.

In a game Friday at Ford Field, Holzer Ford downed Walter's Appliance of Livonia, 9-2, as Eastern Michigan University signee Kevin Koeche scattered six hits, walked two and fanned six in gaining the win.

Offensively, Fairman, Tavormina, Ritter and Bob Tatro contributed two hits apiece. One of Fairman's hits was a two-run homer.

Tavormina, a shortstop, collected three RBI while Fairman added two.

KEN GENDJAR drove in both runs from Walter's, including a solo homer in the seventh.

David Houghtby was the losing pitcher. Walter's bounced back on Sunday at Ford Field, sweeping a twin bill from South Lyon

Livonia, 11-1 and 2-1.

In the nightcap, outfielder Mike Rudin (formerly of North Farmington High) preserved the victory by gunning down the potential tying run at the plate in the top of the seventh.

Rudin then knocked in game-winning run

with a single in the bottom of the seventh.

Ed Shepler started the inning with a single. Houghtby came on as a pinch runner, going to third on John Stockdale's single before racing home on Rudin's hit.

Former Redford Catholic Central standout Bob Mallock scored in the second on a Londo error for Walter's only other run.

Steve Owens, the winning pitcher, allowed eight hits and two walks in going the distance.

IN THE FIRST game, Walter's sent 11 men to the plate, scoring seven times in the second to win going away.

Back-to-back homers by Mickey Katscher, a three-run shot, and Rudin, sparked the uprising.

Shepler collected three hits in four at-bats for the winners, while Rick Karcher contributed a double and two-run homer. Houghtby also collected two hits.

## Michigan Mile won't get desired dream matchup

By Brad Emone  
staff writer

A dream matchup for Saturday's 40th running of the \$300,000 Michigan Mile at Ladbrooke DRC apparently has fallen through.

A duel between Lost Code, considered one of the country's hottest thoroughbreds, and Cutlass Reality, one of the west coast's top horses, will not come off.

In last week's National Thoroughbred poll, conducted by 45 media representatives from across the country, Lost Code was rated No. 2, while Cutlass Reality was ranked No. 8.

According to DRC officials, the New York-based owners of Cutlass Reality, a 6-year-old California, decided that it was not in the horse's best interest to be flown into Detroit on such late notice.

The dream matchup could have been Ladbrooke's biggest coup since British-owned casino group took over the Livonia track five years ago.

Some last-minute maneuvering by State Racing Commission, at the request of Ladbrooke DRC Vice-President and General Manager Michael Mackey, granted Cutlass Reality a late reprieve after being rebuked last week because he could not adhere to a "technicality" in Michigan rules.

IT APPEARED that Lost Code had no competition available for the

### horse racing

Mile until Cutlass Reality was granted the waiver, which allows the use of lasix, an anti-bleeding medication.

Under Michigan law, lasix may be used if the horse bleeds in front of a state veterinarian.

California racing rules carry no such stipulation. The use of lasix does not have to be reported in front of a California state vet.

In effect, Cutlass Reality has bled only before private veterinarians in California.

Thus, the discrepancy in the two states' rules.

But on Tuesday, the Observer learned that Ladbrooke officials budied with officials at the Office of the State Racing Commissioner in Plymouth to work out a "waiver" plan for the California horse.

"We're equally as stringent, but if California thinks it's OK, we should be in compliance," said an official from the State Racing Commission. "We're doing everything we can to take one last look at our rules. We would like to bring the best horses here, if possible."

Hollywood Park (Calif.) and race in a \$150,000 event there on Saturday.

Cutlass Reality, has captured two major Grade 1 starts in California, including the \$500,000 Hollywood Gold Cup and the \$250,000 California Stakes. His last two wins have come over the likes of Alysheba, Ferdinand and Gulch.

DRC FANS, however, will be in for a treat with the running of Lost Code, which is rated only behind Pleasant and Belmont stakes winner Risen Star.

Because of the presence of Lost Code, there were only 24 nominees, the lowest in the history of the Mile. Many ducked away from the 4-year-old, which has captured five of six outings in 1988, including a 7 1/2-length victory in the Massachusetts Handicap over Waquoit, which captured last year's Mile by a record 7 1/2 lengths.

Lost Code has racked up career earnings of \$1.9 million. The colt also put the financially-troubled Donovan Family out of the red and comfortably back into the black.

Lost Code was groomed in Wendover Stables in Maryland and has been based at Monmouth Park in New Jersey.

The Donovans, who bought the club-footed horse for the bargain price of \$30,000, had to borrow money to enter him in his first stakes race in Alabama, but the investment

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