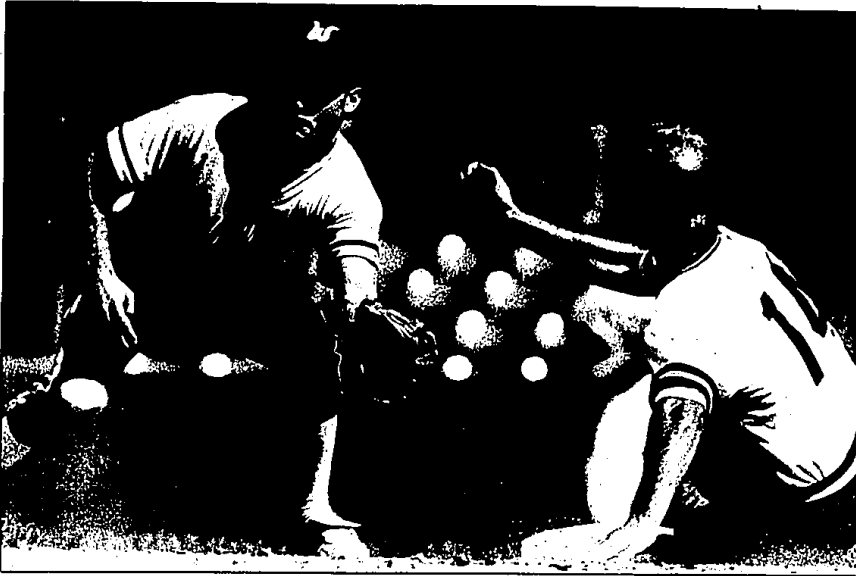


Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Brian Smolinaki, representing Walter's Home Appliance on the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League All-Star team, awaits the

throw as Paul DiPillo steals second base. The Detroit Adray League stars won the game 10-2.

Livonia stars' pitching falters

By Brad Emons
staff writer

baseball

The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League pitching staff walked the plank Wednesday and got swallowed up by their Detroit counterparts in the annual Adray All-Star Game at Tiger Stadium, 10-2.

Five Livonia pitchers combined for 10 walks, giving Detroit all the help it needed to avenge last year's surprising 4-0 loss.

"You can't walk those guys (Detroit) because they can hit," said John Moraitis of Little Caesars. Moraitis managed the Livonia All-Stars for the third consecutive year. "You hope the pitching can hold you in there, but we knew they were strong."

MANAGER BOB Atkins of first-place Adray Appliance played down the fact the Detroit Adray League had something to prove after losing last year.

"I just told our kids that their kids were coming in with a mission. I told them they wanted to win the ball game."

"Livonia has a good ballclub, but pitching was the difference. And anybody can tell there's a difference in the leagues because we have more Division I players."

THE DETROIT LEAGUE is made up of players primarily from state's major universities including Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Michigan State and Detroit.

The Livonia League, saddled with eight resident players per team, relies on small college, junior college and even high school players.

But the way things started out, the Livonia All-Stars played big-time.

Leadoff batter Chuck Hammon-tree, who played at Westland John Glenn High and most recently Henry Ford Community College, led off with a sharp single, stole second and third, and scored on a wild pitch by Adray Sound's Jeff Tanderys (U-M).

Livonia made it 3-0 in the top of the fourth when Chris Looney singled, took third on a perfectly executed hit-and-run single by Tony Aiken and scored on a double steal when catcher Greg Alexander of Adray Appliance threw wildly into center field trying to get Aiken at second base.

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Wiska wants a title to cap his career

IT'S BEEN FUN. That's the first thing Jeff Wiska wants to make clear about his initial season playing Arenaball. Prior to the opening game, he said playing this indoor, eight-man variety of football was the most enjoyment he'd gotten out of the game since his high school days at Redford Catholic Central.

The next thing he wants you to understand is that he probably won't be back.

"I've had fun and I've stayed healthy," said the Farmington Hills native. "But I just don't think I'm accomplishing anything career-wise."

Wiska, a 6-foot-3, 250-pound offensive/defensive lineman with the



C.J. Wiska

Detroit Drive, earned his degree in business management from Michigan State, where he was an All-Big Ten performer at offensive guard.

HE'S 28 now and played in three pro leagues (the USFL and NFL are the other two). But the money just isn't enough to keep him playing.

"If I can make \$300,000 a year, I'll do it, no matter what," he explained. "But making what I'm making here when I could put my degree to use making about the same money and be working toward my future — well, I'd rather be doing that."

In Arenaball, pay scales are set. Players get bonus money based on individual performance and their team's playoff performance. All totaled, Wiska figures to earn about \$25,000 this season.

That's a mere pittance by NFL standards. But then again, as Wiska pointed out, Arenaball "isn't the NFL."

WHICH FOCUSES on another

reason Wiska has apparently decided not to return. Life in the NFL is hard, extremely challenging both physically and mentally. For an offensive lineman, every game is a war, with arms, legs, fists, fingers and every other portion of the anatomy thrown recklessly into the fray.

Often, what separates good linemen from bad is intensity. It can allow a player to ignore pain and fatigue in dogged pursuit of a goal.

Arenaball isn't the same for a player like Wiska. There are only two offensive linemen (a guard and a center), which makes blocking less pivotal. A team need not win the war in the trenches to win the game.

And, although Wiska hesitated to admit it, he's had problems maintaining his intensity.

"You don't get fired up for this like you would lining up against a (Mark Gastineau)," he said, referring to the New York Jets former all-pro.

With challenges like that absent, combined with the relatively small pay, Wiska figures it's time to do something else with his life.

"LET ME put it this way," he said. "If a guy's 28 and his aspirations are to play arena football, you've got to wonder about the guy."

Wiska, though, has enjoyed his season of Arenaball. And with De-

troit's winning streak extended to seven games with Friday's 46-17 pasting of New York, and the playoffs starting Friday (the Drive host Pittsburgh in the semifinals at 8 p.m.), the game may intensify.

"New York tonight and New England last week didn't have anything to play for," said Wiska after Friday's victory. Both New York and New England were already out of the playoffs when they met the Drive. "We can't let down now."

The Drive finished second in the league with a 9-3 record, behind Chicago, which beat them twice early in the season. Those losses could be enough to inspire Wiska, should the two teams meet for the championship.



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Lost Code (right) with jockey Craig Perret aboard wins the Michigan Mile easily ahead of Mansotti (left). The crowd of 12,673 wagered \$144,271 on the 10th race. The winning time was 1:50.4.

Lost Code leaves imprint on Mile

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Lost Code made it a lost cause both at the pari-mutuel windows and for the competition Saturday at \$300,000 Michigan Mile at LaBroke-DRC.

In one of the most mismatched Miles of all time, the 4-year-old brown colt of the Wendover Stables, in Maryland picked up an easy \$180,000 for its 4 1/2-length victory over second-place finisher Mansotti. (Mansotti was third and Protect Yourself gained fourth.)

By winning his sixth race in seven starts, Lost Code also surpassed the \$1 million mark, putting him among the top 20 thoroughbred money winners of all time.

"I don't want to offend anybody, but I thought coming down here (to LaBroke) was the biggest check I've ever received," said 36-year-old trainer Bill Donovan. "When I looked at the other entries (only six in the

horse racing

field), I didn't see how he couldn't win."

And while the Michigan-bred De Joan tried to make things interesting by going out in front after the first quarter, more attention was being paid to the tote board where one brave soul put down \$24,000 to show on Lost Code.

LOST CODE went out as a 1-9 favorite, returning 10 cents on a \$1 wager. The final numbers bet on the colt were \$24,000 to win, \$12,100 to place and a whopping \$67,100 to show.

Reaction to his win, his knockout of DRC took a back seat on the 10th race. The crowd of 12,673 was a record for the

watched the 1 1/4-mile race in nearly 100-degree heat, were treated to an impressive performance by the colt, which solidified its claim of being one of the top five handicap horses in the country.

"He was just awesome again," Donovan said. "The heat was a great concern and he's a bleeder, but we gave him three cold water baths in the afternoon to bring his body temperature down."

Jockey Craig Perret, who calls Lost Code "a special horse," was not worried about the quick quarter turned in by De Joan.

"I just want for the ride and he did all the work," Perret said. "The horse was very relaxed — good and mellow. When the horse broke (De Joan) made a barrel, I just said, 'Let him go.'"

"THE HEAT WAS a concern, but he always runs hard. He can give

you a quarter of a mile at any part."

"He's been beautiful to ride — just a lovely animal. He's matured from being a kid to a fine-tuned athlete. He's very controllable."

Lost Code may race against pacesetter Bet Twice again, perhaps later this year at the Breeders Cup.

The 37-year-old Perret, originally from Louisiana, is also the regular rider of Bet Twice, which captured the 1987 Belmont Stakes and beat Lost Code by a head this spring at the Pimlico Stakes.

Perret said there is only a "half-length difference" between the two.

"Both are great horses and it's tough to separate them," he said. "Once the gate opens, Lost Code wants to go. He likes to see how fast he can go. I've seen him lay back and take things as they come."

Perret said he didn't want to overstate his claim that it's the two

horses met again. Donovan, however, is convinced Perret has made a difference.

"CRAIG SEEMS to relax him more than the other riders we've had," said the trainer. "He (Lost Code) just seems to be getting better and better."

While Donovan is unsure where Lost Code will run next, DRC officials hope to ensure that another mismatch does occur in the future.

LaBroke just missed bringing in another top 10 horse, Californian Reddy, but the DRC officials were figures in their bid when the State Racing Commission delayed their decision about the west coast horse's use of Lasix, an anti-bleeding medication.

By the time the matter was decided, trainer Craig Perret was already in California. Perret said he had to go to California to see his horse's trainer, Bill Donovan.

"Lasix is a touchy subject in every state and there should be uniform rules," said DRC racing secretary Allan Flever. "Sometimes it takes something like this to get something changed."

WITH RACING commissioner WILLIAM L. Rahn, a political appointee of Gov. James Blanchard, in the hospital for nearly six months, deputy commissioners Thomas Duray and Barbara A. MacKenzie (daughter of former UAW chief Douglas Fraser), have pronounced cautiously during their reign after replacing Bill Ballenger, who was appointed by the Michigan administration.

"It's been an on-going problem that never got the Commissioner's attention and we had to step in for it," Flever said. "It doesn't like the situation. It's unfortunate."

Perret said he had to go to California to see his horse's trainer, Bill Donovan.