

DiPaola hurls, hits NFWB to triumphs

Derek DiPaola was twice a hero Saturday for North Farmington-West Bloomfield's Connie Mack baseball team.

He was the winning pitcher in the first game and had the game-winning hit in the second as NFWB swept a double-header from Birmingham, 11-1 and 11-0, in the North Oakland County League.

The ballclub then made it a clean sweep, coming back on Sunday to win 13-4 over Wayne Ford No. 2 in the Palladium League.

DiPaola threw a one-hitter at Birmingham in the six-inning opener, striking out three and walking three.

NFWB, 16-4 in Connie Mack games and 10-9 overall, scored four runs in the first inning and led 10-0 before Birmingham got on the board. Jack Herberholz singled home the winning run.

BOB FEKETE went 4-for-4, including a triple and a double, and had two RBI. Jay Marcoux was 3-for-3 and drove in five runs with a pair of two-run singles.

Herberholz and Shawn Wynn were 2-for-2 with two and one RBI, respectively. Greg Orman had a three-base hit, and Mike Petcchell also had an RBI.

NFWB had to rally in the late innings to win the second game, and it did so despite committing six errors, a number that would have ensured defeat in other games.

But a four-run sixth cut Birmingham's lead to 10-9, and NFWB won it with two runs in the seventh. Rick Rachner walked and Marcoux doubled to put runners at second and third to start the seventh. Then, with two out and DiPaola facing a 3-2 count, he doubled to right-center field with the game-winning hit.

Wall, 6-0, was the winning pitcher, entering

in relief of Seth Petty in the second inning.

BIRMINGHAM jumped to a 7-1 lead off Petty, but Wall managed to hold in the opposition over the last 5½ innings despite allowing six hits. He walked only one, however, and struck out five.

Wall also was 3-for-3 with four RBI, DiPaola and Herberholz 2-for-4 and Rachner 2-for-3 with three RBI. Jerry Hakala added an RBI double.

"Even though we had our problems defensively, I was really proud of the kids," NFWB coach Rich Rachner said.

On Sunday, NFWB trailed 4-3 against Wayne, but back-to-back, five-run innings in the fifth and sixth enabled it to win going away.

Wall, Petty and Orman paced NFWB's 13-hit offense with two apiece. Both of Petty's hits were doubles, and Wall had two RBI.

Petcchell had three RBI on a two-run double and a groundout. Herberholz and Howard Potocsky knocked in two runs each and Orman and Jamie Hill had one apiece.

Potocsky and catcher T.J. Orman, who was the backup for his brother and starting pitcher Greg, had been called up from the NFWB Mickey Mantle team.

THE LEFT-HANDED Greg Orman, who usually plays first base, got the pitching nod and threw three scoreless innings. He gave up four hits and two walks, and he struck out four.

Petcchell worked the fourth but was chased with no outs in the fifth, giving up four runs on two hits and four walks.

Marcoux, another southpaw, blanked Wayne in the last three innings for the win and his first decision. He fanned six and walked one.

South rolls to victory

The game-breaking hits belonged to Dave Skown and Rob MacDonald as South Farmington extended its season record to 15-1 Saturday.

Skown, the big first baseman from Novi, and MacDonald, the catcher from Harrison High School, belted bases-loaded doubles in South's 11-0 victory over Huron Valley in non-league action.

South struck first when Skown uncorked his big hit in the first inning and scored on Brian Townsley's base hit.

But Huron Valley was leading 5-4 entering the bottom of the fourth when South broke loose for seven runs.

MacDonald's double was the key hit, coming on the heels of a two-run single by Joe Jentzer. Skown had an RBI single that scored MacDonald.

Skown was 2-for-2 with four RBI. Townsley 3-for-3, MacDonald 2-for-3 with three RBI and Leo Devine 2-for-3.

Joe Whitefoot raised his record to 4-0 with the pitching victory. He gave up 10 hits in six innings, and all six Huron Valley runs were earned.

But he persevered, striking out eight and walking two before Jason Lichtman took over in the seventh.

Craiger claims 3rd title

For the third consecutive year, the Craiger-Pee-Wee Reese baseball team won the annual Million Dollars in the 15-and-under division.

The team was led by Charlie Winkler, who hit for a .419 average and had three home runs and three doubles.

One of his homers ended an extra-inning game against Riverview and propelled Craiger into the tournament final. Craiger went on to defeat the hosts representing 7-1 and win the title.

Other offensive stars were Dan Winkler (.456), John Lahti (.409), Dan Bowman (.375) and Douglas Dault (.287).

Defensive gems were turned in by Eric Marcotte at second base. An outman in center field and Mike Rathewicz in right field.

The pitching staff was anchored by Scott Vallmont, who recorded a team-leading 11 strikeouts in 10 innings.

Craiger was coached by John Lahti and Ray Robinson, with assistance from Schmitt's sons, Todd and Tim.

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South reigns in district

Dennis Madden's bat and pitching arm were vital to South Farmington's winning effort in the Bronco district baseball tournament last weekend.

After suffering its first loss Sunday, 11-6, at the hands of Westland in the double-elimination event, South came back to win the rematch 14-11 in the final.

Madden was the winning pitcher, working the last two innings in relief, and he also had a home run in each game.

Jon Sikosky contributed a three-run single to the victory. Steve Treachaud had a triple and three RBI and Jeff Moncman hit two triples.

In its first two district games, South defeated Wayne Ford 12-8 and invoked the mercy rule with a 13-2 whipping of Bloomfield.

Other members of the team, which was scheduled to play its first game in the state tournament in Lansing on Wednesday morning, are Kevin Affenbaugh, Mack Cantor, David Hensel, Brian Kalcynski, Scott Menser, Jamey Palazetti, Joe Pesci, Jeff Rospieski and Mike Williams. Bronco baseball is for 11- and 12-year-olds.

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS (As of Tuesday, July 19)									
Team	W	L	T	AB	R	H	AVG	ERA	SV
Little Caesars	20	2	0	78	36	500	.268	3.45	1
Tom Hutzler Ford	18	7	0	78	36	500	.268	3.45	1
Walter's Appliances	12	12	1	78	36	500	.268	3.45	1
Huron Valley	12	12	1	78	36	500	.268	3.45	1
Ann Arbor Wendy's	9	15	0	78	36	500	.268	3.45	1
S. Lyon Londo	2	21	1	78	36	500	.268	3.45	1
BATTING LEADERS (All games)									
Player	AB	R	H	AVG	ERA	SV	W	L	SV
Doming (Caesars)	20	4	10	.500	3.45	1	1	0	1
Tom Hutzler (Huron)	20	4	10	.500	3.45	1	1	0	1
Walter's (Caesars)	20	4	10	.500	3.45	1	1	0	1
Doming (Huron)	20	4	10	.500	3.45	1	1	0	1
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