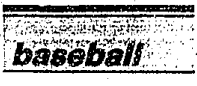


Pitching puts Canton in favorite's role



REDFORD BISHOP BORGESS

- Head coach: Norm Brunassa, first year.
- League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
- Last year's overall record: 21-20.
- Titles won last year: Class D district champs.

Notable losses to graduation: Steve Coloff, first-team All-Area catcher; Craig Karamanick, second-team All-Area pitcher.

Leading returnees: Joe Brunassa, senior shortstop; Dave Crosby, senior catcher; John Kasper, senior pitcher; Dave D'Angelo, senior pitcher; Charles Norris, senior outfielder/pitcher.

Promising newcomers: Dan Dooley, sophomore outfielder; Tom Coak, sophomore second baseman/pitcher; Shawn Thompson, freshman pitcher.

REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL

- Head coach: John Satter, ninth year.
- League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
- Last year's overall record: 23-11.
- Titles won last year: Class A district champs.

Notable losses to graduation: John Gots, first-team All-Area utility man; Kevin Rogers, first-team All-Area shortstop; Larry D'Amico, catcher; Mike Dorock, pitcher.

Leading returnees: Lee Hutchinson, senior pitcher (19-9 career); Chris Tomasi, senior outfielder; Tom Hill, senior third baseman; Mike Kelly, senior catcher; Chris Johnson, senior outfielder; Mark Stanforth, senior pitcher; Paul Pirocchio, junior shortstop; Keith Boyz, junior pitcher/second baseman.

Promising newcomers: Brett Welling, junior first baseman; Ryan Dale, junior pitcher; Peter Eberz, senior first baseman.

Satter's '89 outlook: "I think we can be as good as last year, but the pitching could be better with Hutchinson and Boyz back. Defensively we'll be pretty good, but our hitting is questionable."

REDFORD ST. AGATHA

- Head coach: Ray Fracassi, fourth year.
- League affiliation: Catholic League (C-D Division).
- Last year's overall record: 15-18.

Notable losses to graduation: Dave Crisp, second-team All-Area catcher (33-8); Tim Wilson (.373); Jason Tonil, pitcher (7-0); Ray Anderson, pitcher (5-3).

Leading returnees: Tom Berry, senior pitcher/outfielder; Matt Haran, senior pitcher/infielder; Marc Salas, senior second baseman; Rick Fowler, junior pitcher/outfielder; Jason DiPinto, junior catcher/outfielder; Bobby Picano, senior shortstop; Pat Cylkora, senior pitcher.

Promising newcomers: Tim Reamer, senior catcher; Wayne Herold, senior first baseman/pitcher; Bryan Wagoner, senior outfielder.

Fracassi's '89 outlook: "We committed too many errors in the middle of the diamond last year (team total of 102). This year we've worked hard on that. It looks like we've improved dramatically with Salas at second and Picano at short."

Wilson can make the transition. It can help steady our pitching. Fowler and Berry — those are the two guys who have to carry us through the league season."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

- Head coach: Bernie Carbo, first year.
- League affiliation: Metro Conference.
- Last year's overall record: 12-7-1.

Notable losses to graduation: Joe Jentzer, second-team All-Area utilityman; Joe Whitehill.

Leading returnees: Rich Roy, senior third baseman/pitcher; Chris Foss, junior shortstop; Don Gieman, senior catcher; Jeff Guick, senior second baseman; Dave Perry, senior pitcher; Ron Popolizio, senior outfielder; Andy Wright, senior outfielder.

Promising newcomers: Andy Perry, sophomore pitcher/shortstop.

Carbo's '89 outlook: "We have a good defensive team and good speed, but like everybody else, where's the pitching? It's like where's the beef?"

"I'm going to play everybody — all 16 players — in the first three games. Now I feel like Sparty (Anderson)."

"We have some good athletes. Roy has a good glove and Wright can hit. Hopefully we'll outscore the opposition."

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

- Head coach: Herb Ostlund, 11th year.
- League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).
- Last year's overall record: 4-17.

Notable losses to graduation: Chris Day.

Leading returnees: Scott Kenny, senior pitcher/outfielder; Mike Barrett, senior pitcher; Dave Perco, senior pitcher/shortstop (co-captain); Dale Coler, senior catcher (co-captain); Jim Hauerzeder, senior second baseman.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

- Head coach: Gerry Olick, 12th year.
- League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).
- Last year's overall record: 12-8.

Titles won last year: WLLA Western Division co-champs with Walled Lake Western (7-2 each).

Notable losses to graduation: J.J. Swindell, second-team All-Area catcher; Tim Hapler, second-team All-Ohio catcher; Mike Jancoski and Steve Olson.

Leading returnees: Joe Ransley, senior outfielder (320); Darren Ljtvno, senior third baseman; Dan Murray, senior pitcher.

Promising newcomers: Craig Overholt, junior pitcher/infielder; Tad Dennis, junior pitcher/infielder; Gordon Bucher, senior outfielder; Jeff Bynno, junior outfielder; Brian Bart, junior catcher; Jeff Graham, junior first baseman/pitcher; Scott Markonovich, junior infielder; Mike Wiers, senior third baseman; Tom Mack, senior relief pitcher.

Olick's '89 outlook: "We have a whole new team. Last year we were an all-senior team."

"Ransley is our leading returning hitter. He's worked hard and has good speed. Bartz could be a good one."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

- Head coach: Dick DeVries, first year.
- League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
- Last year's overall record: 13-9.

Notable losses to graduation: Dave Houghtry, first-team All-Area outfielder; Todd Fracassi, second-team All-Area infielder.

Leading returnees: Dan Piergalli, senior catcher; Mike Delmonte, senior pitcher/shortstop; Scott Kosowal, senior pitcher/shortstop (All-Lakes); Jason Cotton, junior outfielder (All-Lakes DH); Rob Charrko, senior outfielder; Jim Daurbach, senior first baseman; Paul Namel, senior pitcher/infielder.

Promising newcomers: Joe Avola, senior third baseman/pitcher; Brian Piegornik, junior outfielder/catcher; Doug Wasserman, junior pitcher/infielder; Bo Diamond, junior second baseman.

DeVries' '89 outlook: "I think we'll be a pretty good hitting club. Defensively, we're adequate. Pitching is a question mark. If it holds, we'll be all right."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

- Head coach: Norm Hoess, 23rd season.
- League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
- Last year's overall record: 21-8.

Titles won last year: WLLA overall (14-2) and Lakes Division co-champs (9-1 each) with Plymouth State; also Class A district champs.

Notable losses to graduation: Clint Straub, first-team All-Area pitcher (Western Michigan University); Chris Scherf, Pat Feyll.

Leading returnees: Bryant Satterlee, All-Lakes Division first baseman/catcher/pitcher; Paul Hayes, senior shortstop; Jeff Elkins, senior outfielder; Jerry Koester, senior outfielder/pitcher.

Promising newcomers: Mark Johnson, junior pitcher; Bobby Lawrence, junior pitcher; Eric Stover, junior pitcher/catcher; Brian Stephenson, junior pitcher; Jerry Shippy, junior second baseman; Casey Klingbeck, senior second baseman; Tom Luton, senior outfielder.

Hoess' '89 outlook: "We're hunting for pitching. Last year our pitching covered us. In the past few years we've been blessed with guys like Steve Wiers, Bill Barber and Chris Straub. Now we're going to pitch by committee."

GARDEN CITY

- Head coach: Bob Dropp, 24th season.
- League affiliation: Northwest Suburban League.
- Last year's overall record: 18-8.

Notable losses to graduation: Seven starters including Jeremy Klot, first-team All-Area infielder.

Leading returnees: Co-captain Bob DuBois, senior catcher, second-team All-Area (.424 with school record 42 hits); Dave Morrow, senior outfielder; Ron Latimer, senior infielder; John Zaitseks, senior pitcher; Dustin Adkins, senior pitcher; Darin Clark, senior pitcher.

Promising newcomers: Nate Hines, junior pitcher; Mick Newport, junior pitcher; Tracy Robinson, senior infielder/pitcher; Joe Gorski, junior outfielder; Bob Radford, junior infielder; Matt Ward, junior first baseman; Paul Donohue, junior third baseman; Doug Day, junior catcher.

Dropp's '89 outlook: "I'm cautiously optimistic. A lot depends on our relief pitching staff. Our JV squad had 12 wins last year and our underclassmen will help."

REDFORD UNION

- Head coach: Chris Vangosa, first year.
- League affiliation: Northwest Suburban League.
- Last year's overall record: 20-8.

Titles won last year: NSL championships.

Notable losses to graduation: Rick Roberts, senior pitcher; Joe Delgaury, senior catcher/relief pitcher; Lee Tappo, senior pitcher/outfielder; John Burdick, senior catcher; Kevin White, senior right-hander (6-1); Dan Lanzoni, junior shortstop; Joe Boso, junior outfielder; Dan Williams, senior first baseman; Chris Warzocha, senior pitcher/relief pitcher.

Promising newcomers: Shane Smith, junior pitcher/relief pitcher; Dale Montry, senior infielder.

Vangosa's '89 outlook: "I'm confident the kids know the roles they have to play. If they can understand the team concept, if we stay together as a team, we should do well. Fundamentally we're sound."

REDFORD THURSTON

- Head coach: Emil Majeski, 24th season.
- League affiliation: Tri-River League.
- Last year's overall record: 19-15 (8-8 in Tri-River).

Notable losses to graduation: Dave Stephenson (first baseman at 3-47) and Frank Rochas (3-13).

Leading returnees: Wayne Vestor, senior pitcher/outfielder (.330 and 3-42 ERA); Mike Lucy, senior pitcher/outfielder (3-02); Tim Wojcik, senior catcher (2-08 and 1-01); Brian Hoffmann, senior first baseman (injured last year); Kevin Matkovich, senior pitcher/outfielder (3-17); Rob Charrko, senior second baseman; John Dury, junior pitcher; James Zalowski, junior infielder; Jim Stephenson, junior outfielder.

Promising newcomers: Brian MacLean, infielder; Kevin Farris, pitcher/infielder; Bill Ferri, pitcher; Jason Miller, pitcher; Jaka Matziano, infielder; Bob Berenger, first baseman/relief pitcher; Ron Barry, outfielder; Steve Kosa, outfielder.

Majeski's '89 outlook: "We have a lot of power in our lineup with Lucy, Wojcik and Kosa."

"Yesterday is a good lesson and a throw a no-hitter for us last year."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

- Head coach: Jim Chornowski, 19th year.
- League affiliation: Wolverine A League.
- Last year's overall record: 20-4.

Titles won last year: Wolverine A champs.

Notable losses to graduation: All-Area and All-State outfielder Mike Heard (4-12 with five homers); Dave Abner, second-team All-Area pitcher (7-1); Kevin Bocco, pitcher; Doug Fern, All-League catcher (3-17); Ron Wojewicki, All-League third baseman; Dave DeSmet, Bob Deaton, Mike Cockfield and Jerry McGaughey.

Leading returnees: Brian Papp, senior third baseman; Wally Wicky, senior pitcher (4-0 with 0.85 ERA); Jason Mitchell, relief pitcher (5-1) and short-pitcher/outfielder; Rob Puckett, outfielder; Christian Desk, second baseman.

Promising newcomers: Brent Papp, junior outfielder; Joe Coughlin, sophomore shortstop; Jamie Smith, senior pitcher; Todd Tatum, junior pitcher.

Chornowski's '89 outlook: "We have question marks in left field, catcher and first base. We have a lot of second-year JV players. I think we'll be in the hunt, but my opinion is tempered by the number of holes we have to fill. Last year we overcame our defenses, but this year we'll have to build our arsenal for runs. We have now power to speak of."

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

"It's a familiar refrain, especially among area high school baseball coaches."

"If we get the pitching, we'll be right in there."

It's beginning to sound more like a broken record, particularly in Oberlin.

If pitching is the key, then Plymouth Canton, led by Mike Salak and a talented cast of backups, should lead the Chiefs to the Western Lakes Activities Association crown, something which has eluded them the past three years.

Westland John Glenn, under coach Norm Hoess, is going for a piece of its fourth straight WLLA crown.

Hoess has the bats, but is not sure about the pitching, which he says "we'll do by committee."

The Cougars have an outstanding hitter back in Bob Stubbs, but Dropp admits, "a lot depends on our rebuilt pitching staff."

PITCHING IS ALSO the key for Wayne Memorial's hopes of a fourth straight Wolverine A League crown under veteran coach Jim Chornowski.

The school, which produced current Detroit Tiger Pat Sheridan, will be banking on speed and defense.

One area school which should be definitely in the hunt is Redford Thurston.

The Eagles have a couple of big sticks in Mike Lucy and Tim Wojcik.

And if Wayne Vester gets some backup help on the mound, the Ea-

gles could be making another run at the state Class B championship.

Coach Emil Majeski brought home the crown in 1984 and is optimistic about his team's chances in the Tri-River League, minus Taylor Kennedy phenom Steve Avery, a fireballing left-hander now in the Atlanta Braves' organization.

With Avery, the third pick overall in last June's Major League Amateur Draft, graduated and gone, Thurston's title bid should be clear, with Taylor Center as an obstacle.

In the Catholic League's tough Central Division, Harper Woods Notre Dame is a slight favorite, but don't count out the Redford Catholic Central Shamrocks, who brought the state Class A title home in 1987.

COACH JOHN SALTER does have pitching, led by four-year starter Leo Hutchinson, along with a capable No. 2 man in Keith Bozky.

If the Shamrocks hit, they'll be challenging in the post-season.

CC, in fact, got the early jump on area schools, sweeping a season-opening doubleheader last week against Detroit Benedictine.

Who are the new coaches in the area?

Former major leaguer and Livonia Franklin grad Bernie Carbo takes over for Mike Shaner at Livonia Clarenceville. Dick DeVries is in for Jim George at Livonia Stevenson, while Vangosa replaces Ross at RU. See team-by-team analysis.

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