

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Senior slugger

Jack Herberholz, one of the key hitters on the North Farmington baseball team, concentrates on the offering from the Walled Lake Western pitcher. Herberholz drove in a

run Monday as the Raiders beat the Warriors 4-3 in the first game of a double-header split. See story on Page 2D.

Murray's pitching fools Canton, 4-0

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Hey, Craig Murray, what's the key to your success as a pitcher?

"Control," Murray answered.

Say, coach John Herrington, what's the reason for Murray becoming a dominant pitcher this year?

"Control," Herrington responded. Murray had control of everything Wednesday — his pitches, his emotions and the opposing team, Plymouth Canton.

He pitched a three-hit shutout as Farmington Hills Harrison clinched a share of the Western Division title by beating the host Chiefs 4-0. Murray also struck out eight, raising his season total to 57 in 36½ innings.

"HE'S STRONG and throws a little harder this year, but mainly it's control," Herrington said. "And at this point he's got great confidence."

The latter has been as much of a factor in making Murray, who seemed to be an average high school pitcher based on his junior year, into a first-rate hurler this year.

"If somebody got a hit or two runners got on, I'd start to pitch bad," said Murray, who is 4-1 with one save. "This year I come back strong."

Though he was clearly the edge for Harrison, Murray had to rely on that inner resolve twice to get out of threatening situations Wednesday.

With the Hawks leading 2-0, Canton loaded the bases with two out in the fourth inning. Murray ended it with a strikeout.

In the Canton sixth, Murray went to a full count on Pat Hughes and was one strike away from walking the bases full. The next pitch was a strike, and Harrison moved to the seventh with Murray's shutout intact.

"WHEN I GOT in those situations last year, I would have given up and thrown some balls," Murray said. "I could have thrown this well last year if I had control."

"Plus, I've got a good catcher (Rob MacDonald) who I've been throwing to for four years. I've got a temper, and he comes out and calms me down."

Murray struck out 11 when he beat the Chiefs in an

earlier game, and Canton coach Fred Crissey thought his team would be OK if it could cut that number in half and put the ball in play.

"In the first four innings, we did fine," he said. Murray didn't have any strikeouts through three innings. "What you have to work on when a kid is throwing hard is the short stroke, and we got away from that."

"He got some runs and got some confidence. Every time we got in a situation we needed a base hit he got a strikeout."

Some people are surprised the 5-foot-10, 145-pound Murray throws as hard as he does for so long, because of his slight build. A college scout in attendance Wednesday clocked Murray's speed at 87 mph in the late innings.

UNFORTUNATELY for the Chiefs, Murray said he gets stronger as the game progresses, and the fact he had at least two strikeouts in each of the last four innings was solid evidence.

"In the first couple innings, I don't throw nearly as hard as I do later," he said. "I was hitting corners all day. I only threw 10 curveballs at the most. My fastball sails a lot and tails in to right-handed batters."

With Murray's pitching, the Hawks didn't need a lot of offense. They had six hits off losing pitcher Jeff Kugelman (5-2), who went 4½ innings. Mike Sulak pitched 2½ innings of hitless relief.

Don Justice had two RBI singles for Harrison, the first coming in the third inning when Jeff Skinner drew a bases-loaded walk and the Hawks took a 3-0 lead. A wild pitch in the fourth scored John Schaeffer, who reached on an error, and Rob MacDonald raced home on Justice's base hit in the sixth.

Harrison, which has held the edge recently in this rivalry, improved to 7-1 in the division and 10-4 overall. The Chiefs slipped to 5-3 and 11-6.

"They beat us bad for many years, but we've been successful in the past few," Herrington said. "There aren't any secrets. They have a good program, and we happen to play good baseball that day."

"I do think the kids get up for them, knowing they're playing against one of the best programs — and I always try to throw my best pitcher."

And that pitcher was Craig Murray.

Rodriguez can't coach in post-season tourneys

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Redford Catholic Central High wrestling coach Mike Rodriguez has been barred from coaching in next year's state individual and team dual tournaments under sanctions levied recently by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

In a prepared statement read Wednesday by Redford CC athletic director Robert Santello, the MHSAA has also decided to put the Shamrock wrestling program on probation for the 1989-90 season.

Rodriguez admitted he violated state rules during this year's individual Class A state tourney when Mike Gentile, a district champion, illegally wrestled at 119 pounds.

Gentile, a state contender, dropped down to 119 from 125 for the tournament. Despite being certified at the lower weight, it was later discovered that he had not wrestled the required one match at 119 during the regular season as state rules stipulate. (The CC wrestler was later

wrestling

pulled out of the tournament with Rodriguez citing injury.)

Ironically, a prepared statement made no mention of possible penalties in regards to stripping Gentile of his title.

BUT THE CC administration, consisting of Santello, outgoing principal Rev. Dennis Andrews and incoming principal Rev. Joseph Moffatt, have levied in-house penalties against Rodriguez, one of the state's most successful wrestling coaches. (He has won seven state crowns in his 32 years at CC.)

The school has put the mat program on probation for the next two seasons. The CC coach will also be required to send a letter of apology to each of the five wrestlers who competed against Gentile in the predistrict and district tourneys.

In other internal action, limits also will be placed on the CC program as far as travel, size of the squad and number of matches. Santello said that CC's participation in prestigious out-of-state meets, most notably Medina and Cleveland, Ohio, will be eliminated next season.

It was in a quadrangular meet on Dec. 23, 1988, at Cleveland (Ohio) St. Edward in which Rodriguez admitted he altered results, indicating that Gentile had wrestled at 119 against Doug Shaffer of Waverly Central (N.Y.).

But results of the CC-Waverly Central match obtained by the Observer from Ed Decker, the Waverly athletic director, showed that the two had competed at 125. (Wrestlers had until Jan. 30 to meet the one-match requirement.)

Bill Bupp, a member of the MHSAA's executive staff in East Lansing, would not comment on the penalties as of Wednesday.

Rodriguez made no statement in the prepared release read by Santello.

Davidson 3rd in tourney

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Kori Davidson didn't get much sleep Thursday night in Mission Viejo, Calif., but that couldn't stop her from producing dreamy results the following day in the Seventeen Magazine Tennis Tournament of Champions.

Davidson, 18, placed third in the Girls 18-Under field, winning her final three matches played Friday on only three-quarter hours of sleep.

Davidson, a sophomore at Farmington Hills Harrison, spent Thursday night at Disneyland and didn't get to bed until 3:30 a.m.

"I don't get tired easily," Davidson said. "My roommate (Amy Chiminello of Boston) worried more about it than I did. I don't like sleeping. It's boring."

DAVIDSON OULDN'T have had a much more exciting Friday, beginning with her second-round loss, 6-2, 1-6, 4-6, to seventh-seeded Jennifer Nasser of Arlington Heights, Ill.

She rebounded, however, in the loser's bracket later in the day, defeating Dana Evans (Maryland), Meredith Chiles (Tennessee) and Cisca Mox (Oregon), to earn her placing.

Davidson, unseeded in the 32-player tourney, opened with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 win Wednesday in the first round over Courtney Rose, of Beverly Hills, Calif.

Davidson, who finished third last year in the Seventeen 14-Under division, was pleased by her performance at the higher level.

But she was discouraged about her play against Nasser, who lost in the semifinal round to eventual champion Keri Phebus of Newport Beach, Calif.

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Kori Davidson
placed 3rd in 18-Under