



Derek Darkowski's collegiate baseball career has taken off like a rocket in his first season at Michigan State University. The redshirt freshman has become one of the team's ace hurlers.

## Darkowski riding crest as collegian

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

Talk about rags to riches. "I went from redshirt to reliever to starter," said Derek Darkowski, capitalizing his career as a Michigan State baseball player. A redshirt freshman from Plymouth Canton, Darkowski gambled that he could make it in the Big Ten when he enrolled at MSU and got a tryout as a walk-on.

But he never dreamt success would come so quickly. "I was supposed to be a reliever," said Darkowski. "When they recruited me, they said I'd throw 20 innings in spot relief. Michigan State hasn't had a freshman starter in a long time."

Two things changed that. First, the Spartans got a new pitching coach last year in Dan O'Brien. Second, O'Brien figured his staff needed another left-handed starter.

Darkowski fit the job description. "They wanted a left-hander who could throw strikes and off-speed stuff," he said. "Someone to set up the guys who throw hard the next day."

**DARKOWSKI PROVED** more than just a setup pitcher, however; through 45 games he was MSU's leader in wins, with a 5-2 record. His earned run average was 5.21, but that's deceiving. Opponents hit just .238 against him, lowest on the staff among pitchers who have thrown at least 15 innings (he has 46 1/3 innings, second on the staff).

Off-speed is defined by Darkowski. In high school, he said his fastball was clocked "around 70 miles an hour" — far from fast enough to land a scholarship from a major university. The only NCAA Division I school that showed any interest at all was Western Michigan.

But Darkowski liked MSU, and after his tryout in the fall of 1987 the Spartans decided to redshirt him and take another look. By the time his

### baseball

sophomore year rolled around, the situation had changed.

Darkowski pitched for Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League last summer, and he was impressive enough to get a scholarship offer from Western Michigan. When Darkowski phoned MSU coach Tom Smith and told him he was transferring to WMU, Smith offered him a scholarship. "I couldn't be happier," said Darkowski. "I've learned so much since I've come here."

**ONE LESSON** he's absorbed is he'll never be another Nolan Ryan. "Every time I try to throw too hard, our pitching coach tells me, 'Don't throw harder, throw smarter.'"

"That makes sense. Unless you throw 80 miles an hour, you've got to outthink the hitters."

There's still other lessons to learn. Although he's improved his fastball to 62-63 mph, he admits "I'm the slowest thrower on the staff, except for one other guy." And yet, Darkowski claims, "I throw more fastballs than anyone. Probably 80 percent of my pitches are fastballs."

He gets away with it because he has an excellent curve and a developing change-up, and because he can place his pitches — not as well as he'd like to (he has issued 31 walks, an average of almost six a game), but pretty well.

"I think I can improve my concentration and spotting the ball," said Darkowski. "You have to be able to put the ball wherever you want it, whenever you want it."

So far, Darkowski has been able to put the ball where he wants it often enough to become MSU's top starter. And that's far beyond last summer's expectations.

## Chiefs walk past Hawks in softball

Continued from Page 1

Holly Hinzmann suffered the loss, giving up seven hits and walking seven. Michelle Myers' solo home run in the third inning and double in the fifth highlighted Glenn's offensive show. Christina Hoffman was 2-for-3 with one RBI for the winning team, which stranded 12 runners.

Salem routed Farmington 13-1 Wednesday in a game called by the 10-run mercy rule as Hinzmann picked up her sixth win.

Ann Mundinger and Betsy McAllister each went 3-for-4 at the plate, leading Salem's 12-hit attack. McAllister drove in two runs and Mundinger knocked in a single tally.

Jenny Jencks' two-run double and a two-run single by Jo Wiklund led a nine-run first-inning eruption by the Hawks.

Lisa Rockafellow took the loss on the mound for Farmington. She gave up nine hits and six of eight walks issued by two pitchers.

**FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY** got credit for a pair of 7-0 forfeit wins Friday against Redford Bishop Borgess because the Spartans weren't able to field enough players.

Mercy is 13-7 in the Catholic League, 21-10 overall.

**CANTON 23, HARRISON 11:** After a slugfest start Wednesday, Plymouth Canton bombarded the host Hawks, scoring 19 runs in the last three innings of the six-inning game.

The Chiefs benefitted from Harrison's five errors and 22 walks, and they collected 19 hits.

Kim Schulte had four hits, scored four times and had one RBI. Stacey Thompson, who picked up the win in relief of starter Jennifer Vanooteghem, had two hits, three RBIs and scored four runs.

Beth Racer knocked in three runs on two hits and scored twice. Karen Keenan had a two-run homer for Canton, and Allison Flakamp had two hits and one RBI.

The Chiefs, who were rained out Friday against Livonia Franklin, are 6-2 in the Western Division, 9-3 in the W-LAA and 15-6 overall.



Dana Botwick of North Farmington reached third base safely on this play Friday. Farmington's Michelle Miller had hoped it would be otherwise.

## North celebrates win

The North Farmington boys track team severed a long-standing losing streak Thursday against Farmington, running past the host Falcons 73-44. North, 2-2 overall, improved to 2-1 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Farmington slumped to 1-6 overall, 1-2 in Lakes action.

North led 33-12 after winning all the field events before the Falcons made a comeback and kept the meet competitive.

North led only 69-64 going into the 1,600-meter relay — the meet's final event — but Craig Stoe, Brad Armstrong, Joe Schmidt and Jason Kocembo gave the Raiders the final bulge, placing first in 3:40.8.

"The kids were excited about it," North coach Bill Pinnett said. "It's good beating them after so many years, and coming down to the mile relay made it real exciting."

Zaim Cunnula, Rich Holsington and Kocembo won two events each for North.

Cunnula's titles came in the shot put (49-2 1/4) and discus (141-3), and Holsington won the high jump (5-3) and long jump (18-1 1/4). Kocembo placed first in the 1,600-meter run (4:44.8) and the 3,200 run (10:05.8).

Armstrong won the pole vault for North, clearing 10-6, and he also ran a leg in the winning 800 relay, teaming up with Schmidt, Tyson Richardson and Jerry Dolak to finish the race in 1:38.5.

North's other individual titles belonged to Jim Carrier, who clocked 16.6 in the 110 hurdles, and Schmidt, who won the 400 dash in 54.5.

Lament Hardge paced the Farmington charge, winning the 100 dash (11.3) and 200 race (22.9). Gene Tokraks, who finished the 800 run in 2:08.3, and Wooster, who clocked 44.2 in the 300 hurdles, had the Falcons' other first-place finishes.

Farmington's 400 relay outfit of Hardge, Dave Wise, Keith Shorter and Kevin Koshowsky gathered a first-place finish in 4:45.8, and Steve Walter, Brad Moore, Gene Tokraks and Matt Langdon claimed a title in the 3,200 relay, clocking 8:53.9.

## Falcons avenge defeat

Continued from Page 1

"He's lost a couple of real tough games," Kansman said. "He's been pitching well; he'll probably start Monday when we play Harrison. I think they'll throw (Craig) Murray, and it should be a good game."

Salem made five errors, three coming in the bottom of the fourth inning when the Falcons scored three times and erased a 2-0 advantage for the Hawks. A dropped ball at the plate, another error by the catcher on a first-and-third steal and an overthrow by the first baseman on an attempted force at the plate led to the scoring.

Tom Noonan scored Salem's first run, racing home from second when the throw on Scott Niemiec's bunt pulled the first baseman off the bag. Niemiec knocked in the second run with an RBI groundout.

Chris Adams had a double for one of Farmington's six hits, and Adams, Gary Shelp, Kevin Young and Eric Miller scored the runs. Kevin O'Leary doubled for Salem.

Leading pitcher Scott Rodgers went 5 1/3 innings before Rob Kowalski took over. Rodgers struck out eight but gave up five hits and four walks.

Salem and Plymouth Canton, which was rained out Friday against Livonia Franklin, play at 4 p.m. Wednesday in a pre-district matchup. The Hawks will be the host team.

Wesley Gilles was named most valuable player on Wisconsin's tennis team before her season was over.

Gilles, a senior from Plymouth (Salem), was chosen for the award by the Badgers' coaches and players. The team's No. 1 singles player, Gilles was in Gainesville, Fla., last week for the NCAA Championships.

Both Gilles and partner Elaine Demetroulis qualified in doubles and Gilles made it in singles. In doubles, the Badger duo was 12-13 for the season and ranked among the top four in the Midwest Region.

In singles, Gilles was 23-13 and it was uncertain if she would gain a berth in the 64-entry NCAA tournament. Gilles is ranked 61st in the nation in singles. Wisconsin finished the season ranked 25th nationally.

Field Reysa, a sophomore at Kalamazoo College from Farmington (Harrison), was named to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association second team in softball. Reysa, a pitcher, was sixth in the MIAA in earned run average at 1.59 and allowed just eight walks in 36 innings. She had a 3-4 record for 5-1 Kalamazoo.

Henry Miller, a sophomore at Wayne State from Westland (Livonia Franklin), was one of the few bright spots for the Tartar baseball team. Miller led 1988 with a 2-5 record and two team bests in earned run average (.33) and hits pitched (59) and strikeouts (59). He had a string of 23-straight scoreless innings mopped May 6 against Oakland University. A game he won 7-3 on a three-bitter. The Tartars were 18-4-3 overall, 6-12 in the Great Lakes Conference.

Erica Zonder, a freshman at University of Michigan from Farmington Hills (North Farmington), was a highlight for

the young Wolverine golf team. Zonder was second in scoring for U-M with an 83.0 stroke average, and was the Wolverines' low scorer at the Big Ten meet with an 89-84-85-128. A total of 341 placed her 37th overall. Unfortunately, U-M — a team consisting of three freshmen and three sophomores — finished last. Zonder was the team's low scorer in five of 11 tournaments.

Bob Tatro, a junior at Ferris State from Garden City (Dearborn Divine Child), was instrumental in the Bulldogs capturing a second-straight Great Lakes Conference baseball title. Tatro, a catcher-designated hitter, hit .397 with five doubles, three homers and 20 runs batted in. He tied for the team lead in RBIs. Ferris was 14-37 overall, 11-17 in the GLIAC.

Jill Abamonte, a freshman at Ohio Wesleyan from Garden City, was a member of the Bulldogs' first-place 400-meter relay (91.40) at the NCAA women's track championships. The Bulldogs won their first league title, scoring 209 points — 100 more than runner-up Allegheny.

Steve Walke, a sophomore at Eastern Michigan from Plymouth (Canton), has helped the Huron baseball team stay above .500 by hitting .315, with three doubles, two triples, two homers and 18 hits. Going into last week's game, EMU was 25-23 overall, 11-11 in the Mid-American Conference.

Norm Dickson, a junior at University of Detroit from Livonia (Redford Catholic Central), was averaging 80.9 strokes for the Titan golf team, third best on the team. Dickson has been U-D's low scorer twice, with a 79 at the Tiffin (Ohio) Invitational and with an 85-75-160 at the Bay Valley Intercollegiate.

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**INVITATION TO BID**

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for Elevator Renovation at Harrison High School until 1:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 24, 1989 at the Lewis Schumacher Administration Center, 22100 Shawansee, Farmington, Michigan 48024, addressed to Beverly Hausman. They will be publicly opened and read on the same date. For additional information or site visit, contact Robert Kutscheich at (313) 474-2296.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany our bid proposal form which may be obtained from our purchasing department.

JANICE HOLNICK, Secretary  
Board of Education

Published May 11 and 18, 1989

**CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)**

A Special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 20, 1989, in Meeting Room A, 13400 Liberty Street, Farmington.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Tupper.

**PRESIDENT:** Campbell, Hartsack, Richardson, Tupper, Yoder.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager Deamian.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the recommended 1989-90 budget.

Council was informed of the various aspects of the proposed General Fund budget for 1989-90.

Council discussed the reorganization of the clerical staffing for the City Treasurer, the City Clerk's and the City Assessor's offices.

Council also discussed staffing levels and proposed equipment acquisitions for the Public Safety Department and tentatively agreed to continue participating in the Auto Theft Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**RICHARD L. TUPPER, Mayor**  
**JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk**

Published May 15, 1989

**CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)**

A Special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 25, 1989, in Meeting Room A, 13400 Liberty Street, Farmington.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Tupper.

**PRESIDENT:** Campbell, Hartsack, Richardson, Tupper, Yoder.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager Deamian, Director Billing.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue reviewing the recommended 1989-90 budget.

Council was informed of combined sewer overflow permit requirements and was required within the Farmington-Evergreen sewer District. Council was further advised that possible corrective measures will be necessary in the City's sewer system and must be completed within the next five years.

The City Manager discussed the possible combined sewer correction program to be completed in approximately two years.

Council continued reviewing the Public Services portion of the General Fund budget.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**RICHARD L. TUPPER, Mayor**  
**JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk**

Published May 22, 1989