

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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Aspiring archer targets Olympic goal



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington is one of the top young archers in the country, having finished second in national competition last week in her age group (15-17). O'Donnell, who compet-

ed last month in the Olympic Sports Festival, will spend the next year honing her skill at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

O'Donnell among nation's top talent

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

As she skillfully draws the arrow through the bow, Jennifer O'Donnell's sights are set not only on the target but also a greater ambition.

The 15-year-old Farmington girl hopes to make the 1992 Olympic team as an archer and already has made much headway in that direction.

O'Donnell's pursuit of the Olympic dream takes a committed step next month when she begins a yearlong stay at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Following a summer in which she competed in the Olympic Sports Festival, O'Donnell leaves Sept. 2 and will remain there until next August. The former Farmington High student will receive concentrated instruction from national coach Nancy Myrick while attending school in Colorado.

"I'm excited about it because it will give me more opportunities to train out there," she said. "It will help me to train for the Olympics and realize what it will take to make the team."

HER FATHER, Jack, himself an archer who bought his daughter her first bow three years ago, had some reservations about agreeing to let her go to Colorado Springs.

"I had mixed feelings about it," he said. "She's only 15 and it's the first time she's been away. But it's what I felt she needed if she was going to go after the Olympics in '92 — the intense training she wouldn't get here."

"From that standpoint, I said yes. From a father's standpoint, I said no. But I think she'll do fine, and she has my blessing."

For having been involved in archery a short time, O'Donnell has risen rapidly to become one of the best in the country in her age group (15-17), winning the majority of state and regional tournaments she has entered.

Earlier this year, she placed second in the Junior Olympic Archery Development indoor nationals and fourth in the JOAD outdoor nationals. In May, she was one of six archers chosen for the North team at a pre-festival competition in Indianapolis.

Then came the big event — the Sports Fest — on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., and O'Donnell improved her score in the trials by 70 points at the weeklong Olympics competition in late July.

"My concentration was much better at the time," she said. "I had trained more for the Festival than the trials. It was harder during the trials, because I was still in school and didn't have as much time to shoot."

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Appliance puts halt to Walter's streak

By Brad Emons
staff writer

JOHNSTOWN, PA. — In yet another game flooded with runs, Detroit Adray Appliance eliminated Walter's Home Appliance in the fifth round of the All-American Amateur Baseball Tournament Wednesday at Point Stadium, 13-11.

The Livonia franchise, however, finished one of its most successful runs in 14 tournament appearances, bowing out with a 3-2 record. Detroit, which features several Ob-serversland high school products, is one of five teams still alive in the 22-team field with a 4-1 record.

"We were proud to be here and of the way we represented the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League," said Walter's manager Mike Keller. "We did a good job by winning three games. The coaching staff and our sponsor are proud of each individual player."

It was only the second meeting in AAAA tournament history between the two franchises. Livonia Adray nipped Adray Appliance, 2-1, in 1986.

But with pitching at a minimum for most of the teams in the field, many tournament games resembled football scores.

Livonia jumped out early, 4-3, but Detroit came storming back on a two-run homer in the third inning by ex-Westland John Glenn High stand-out Clint Straub, followed by a grand slam homer by catcher Joe Sommer, sparking a seven-run fourth to make it 12-4.

But Walter's would not quit, as Art George, the team's top hitter in the tournament (12 for 22) hit his third AAAA homer in two days, a grand slam, to cut the deficit to 12-5 in the seventh.

Joe Sturtz, who led Livonia with 10 RBIs, then hit a homer over the 58-foot-high screen in left field to make it 12-9. The homer came in the top of the eighth.

Detroit scored a run in the bottom of the inning on a single by Tim McConnell, a double by Mike Stefanski (formerly of Redford Union High) and an RBI groundout by Lance Sullivan (Livonia Churchill High).

In the top of the ninth, Damian Hull singled and George doubled (his third hit of the day). Third baseman/catcher John Gots, who went 10-15 in tournament play, brought home one run on a groundout. Rick Rutledge brought home Walter's 11th run on another groundout to end the scor-

baseball

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— Mike Keller
Walter's manager

ing, but not before Detroit was forced to bring in ace Pat Bojoun to get the final three outs.

"This has always been a hitters' tourney and not a pitchers' tourney," said winning Detroit manager Bob Atkins. "You just have to have enough pitching to stop people."

For the second time in three games, Detroit reliever Ryan Raymond couldn't stop people. Each time he was greeted by a grand slam.

"It was unfair to Ryan because I brought him in both situations with the bases loaded," Atkins said. "I should have had him in there before George came up. It was no surprise to me. I've seen Art George do that for two years now at the University of Evansville."

"And give the whole Livonia team credit. They represented themselves well and 'Stuck' (Livonia manager Mike Keller) did a nice job with that group."

Livonia pitchers Randy Buchler, the starter, and reliever Derek Darowski, each had a rough go against Detroit. Only right-hander Steve Owens, who allowed one run over the final 4 1/3 innings, was able to keep the Detroit bats quiet.

Buchler gave up a two-run homer to Straub, who is 5-for-10 as a spot starter, including two homers in five tournament games.

Appliance knocked off New York, 12-10. Meanwhile, Walter's used the Redford Thurston High connection, George and pitcher Chris Kloe, to

beat hard-hitting Maryland State, 11-1, at Vo-Tech High Field.

Both were pickups from Little Caesars team in Livonia.

Kloe, a right-hander, turned in a masterful performance, scattering eight hits, while striking out six and walking just two.

George led Walter's, going 3-for-5 with a pair of homers.

"Kloe kept them off balance all day," Keller said. "That was a big one there. We talked before the game, and what we wanted out of him was six innings. He gave us that and more."

Kloe said his experience last year playing in Johnstown (for Caesars) was beneficial.

"I pitched against New Orleans (always one of the top teams) last year, and I got smoked," Kloe said. "I learned that I had to keep the ball low."

"With the short field here (Vo-Tech), I knew they (Maryland State) would be trying to take it out of the yard. I was turning over my fastball. Keeping it low was the secret."

Livonia put Maryland State "to sleep," as Kloe put it, scoring four times in the first and two in the second.

George, batting second in the lineup, hit a homer to deep center off Maryland State starter Eddie Luers in the first.

In the second inning, George hit another in almost same spot.

Afterward, George said he never had hit two homers anywhere in his sandlot career, not even little league.

"I've had only two homers my entire college career," said the University of Evansville junior. "The first one (homer) was a 2-0 fastball that he (Luers) grooved. The second was a hanging curveball."

"I just try to put it in play. With two strikes I try to protect and beat it into the ground and try and beat it out."

George, however, wasn't only Livonia player to beat Maryland State with his bat.

John Gots, Marty Wolfe and Jeff Pendell each collected two hits.

Pendell had a pair of RBI doubles, while Houghtby singled in a pair of runs in the first.

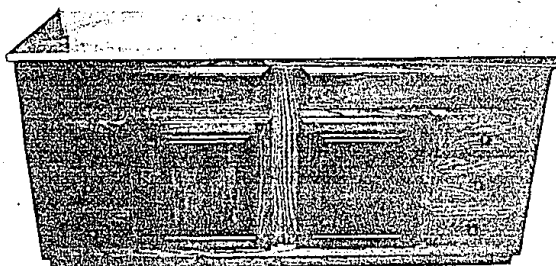
DETROIT WON A slugfest Tuesday against New York (12-10). Detroit also won on Monday, 11-6, against Coke.

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