

sports shorts

● LAIMBEER IN TOWN

Detroit Pistons center Bill Laimbeer and his wife, Chris, will be at Harmony House Records and Tapes in Farmington Hills at 7:30 today, autographing copies of the charity cookbook "Cooking With The Champs."

The cookbook sells for \$20 and all proceeds go to charity. Harmony House is at 30835 Orchard Lake Rd.

● BIG-HEARTED FIREMEN

Farmington Hills fire fighters took second place in the Second Annual Benefit Softball Tournament in Romulus on May 12.

The \$1,500 raised by the event, sponsored by the Metro Airport and Romulus fire departments, was donated to Abused Children of Michigan. Warren won the tournament, which included teams from Birmingham, Trenton and Huron Township.

● PEOPLE IN NEWS

Redford Catholic Central grad Mike Sullivan is one of the big reasons why Notre Dame has gained its first-ever bid to the NCAA lacrosse tournament.

Sullivan, a 5-foot-8, 170-pound attacker from Farmington Hills, led the Fighting Irish this season with school-record 52 points (20 goals and 32 assists).

"What it means is obvious," said Notre Dame coach Kevin Corbin. "We're excited about the exposure and what it will do for our program."

Notre Dame, the 12th seed, met Harvard in first-round action on Wednesday.

Lacrosse is in its 10th year as a varsity sport at Notre Dame.

● SOFTBALL TOURNEY

The Novi Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a men's and women's softball tournament for Class C team and below on Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24.

All teams must be registered with the American Softball Association (ASA). For more information, call 347-0400.

● BENEFIT GOLF

A golf outing to support Big Brothers/Big Sisters, sponsored by Arby's, will be held June 11 at Bay Pointe Country Club in West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$150 and include 18 holes of golf, cart, breakfast, lunch and dinner, cocktails and a chance at prizes. Holes may be sponsored for \$300. The event is limited to 250 golfers.

For more information, call 569-0600 or 338-9281.

● SOCCER TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Vardar Soccer Club of Livonia (boys born in 1980) will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 1-2, at Whitman Field, located off W. Chicago between Farmington and Merriman roads.

For more information, call 421-0187.

The 1979 Plymouth Kicks Premier boys soccer team will have tryouts for next season's Little Caesars team 6-8 p.m. on June 4 and 5 at Edward Hines Park Field. For information call Duane Worden (459-2338), Mike Wright (453-1330) or Jack Ammons (455-1783).

Tryouts for Little Caesars (premier level) players (girls born 1978-79) will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 8 at Plymouth fields (to be announced). For more information, Greg Spinazze at 349-5855.

● BASEBALL SCHOOL

The Bernie Carbo Baseball School (ages 9-16) will hold two weeks of individual instruction June 18-22 and June 25-29 — at Drake Field in Farmington. The cost is \$75 per week. Campers meet from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Carbo is a veteran of 11 seasons in the Major Leagues and will be assisted by high school and college coach Gordie Rutherford.

For more information, call 421-4282. The school is co-sponsored by the South Farmington Little League.

● CAMP WORKERS

Farmington Hills Mercy basketball coach Larry Baker needs camp counselors to work his summer camp at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

Females graduating from high school and women college players are needed to help run the camp for high school girls. The camp takes place the week of June 25-29 with daily hours of 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Anybody interested in working the camp should call Baker at 476-8020 during the day.

● COACHES NEEDED

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools has coaching vacancies in the following areas: boys and girls head basketball at Western High School, assistant boys and girls basketball, swimming, diving and cheerleading.

Interested candidates should send resumes to Robert Atkins, director of athletics, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, 48088. They also can call Atkins at 624-6604 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

● SENIORS TENNIS

The Second Annual Silver's Super Senior Tennis Tournament will be played June 21-24 at the Detroit Tennis and Squash Club in Farmington Hills.

The tournament will consist of men's singles and doubles events in the age divisions of 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80. Entry forms can be obtained by calling the club at 661-2300. For information, call Mike Schram at the same number.

By Brad Emons
staff writer

The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League (20 and under) gets underway a week earlier than usual, beginning Friday night at two different sites.

Defending playoff champion Walter's Home Appliances of Livonia, coached by Mike Keller, will take on Tom Holzer Ford, coached by John Osborne, beginning at 6 p.m. Friday at Northville High.

The opener of a double-header at Livonia's Ford Field pits Little Caesars of Livonia against Wendy's of Ann Arbor (coached by Dr. Brian Lang) at 5:30 p.m. followed by Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury, the regular season champion, at 7 p.m.

The newcomer to the seven-team league, Total Travel Values of Farmington, coached by Richard Raehner, opens its season at 6 p.m. Wednesday against Wendy's at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Last season, Walter's made a stirring playoff run, winning the LCBL tournament after finishing fourth during the regular season.

Gale has no-hitter in softball

Lisa Gale buried a no-hitter Monday to guide Farmington to a 4-0 victory over Farmington Hills Harston in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover softball game.

Two Falcon errors prevented Gale from earning a perfect game. She didn't walk anybody and collected three strikeouts.

Angela Farr's double scored the game's first run. Farmington is 5-13 overall.

Shelly Bouwens suffered the loss for Harston, 1-14. She went seven innings and struck out five. The Falcons had four hits.

NORTH FARMINGTON pitcher Jennifer Lydon allowed 13 hits Monday as the Raiders dropped a 7-3 decision to Livonia Franklin in another WLAA crossover game.

Brenda Pierson paced the Patriots, 12-5 overall, with three hits, including a double and two RBIs.

Winning pitcher Jenny Mayle notched four strikeouts and gave up four walks. Lydon walked only one and struck out two.

Coach Mike Keller's team then made a strong showing at the prestigious All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnstown, Pa., finishing with a 3-2 record.

"WALLYBALL" should be alive and well in 1990 with the return of several players including catcher Tim Crabtree of Grass Lake, a backup this spring at Michigan State; John Gotsis (ex-Redford Catholic Central High), a valuable third baseman/catcher; Damian Hull, outfielder; Ken Droplewski (ex-Wayne High), shortstop; Jeff Pendell (ex-Livonia Churchill), second base; Chris Day (ex-Churchill), an outfielder; and perhaps Marty Wolfe, a first baseman/DH who is expected to return from Indiana University. Jason Gabel (Churchill High) will come off the bench to DH and catch.

Another starter, outfielder Joe Surta (ex-North Farmington High and Indiana U.), is out because of surgery and will not return.

The pitching staff is up in the air with the loss of last year's ace, right-hander Duff who is expected to return from Indiana University. Jason Gabel (Churchill High) will come off the bench to DH and catch.

However, Steve Owens (ex-Churchill) returns in the bullpen. He will be joined by Tom Willett (Garden City), Chad Wrona (Jackson Community College), lefty Kevin Walker (ex-Redford Union High), Steve Orr (Monroe Catholic Central High) and Anthony Chandler (Detroit Chelsey High), all of whom will fight for spots in the rotation.

"We're looking to Wrona to be big gun," Keller said. "But I won't know much about our pitching until I make the final roster cuts in July."

"I see five teams in this league fighting for the playoffs."

HINES PARK should be the favorite again to win the regular season. Coach Dave Racer has a formidable pitching staff, led by lefty Derek Darkowski (ex-Plymouth Canton High), one of MSU top hurlers this spring.

Fireballer Dennis Hamilton, lefty Brian Pasporo (ex-Canton and Hillsdale College), Geoff Allen (8-2 at Canton High) and Rob Kowalski (7-0 at Salem High) round out the staff.

Hines Park could also get an early season boost from ex-Salem All-

Stater Todd Marlon, who set the save record this season at the University of Michigan. Marlon, however, is expected to play this summer in the Michigan-Ohio Wooden Bat League.

"I was a little concerned with our pitching staff at first," Racer said. "But now I'm really pleased with what I see."

Hines Park has solid infield, led by first baseman Mike Colver (ex-Canton and Kansas City CC), second baseman Kevin Learned (ex-Canton and Madonna College), shortstops John Bonham and Bill Toraki (bot of Madonna), and third baseman/pitcher Jeremy Krol (Garden City and Madonna).

Mike Gray, a JC player who recently moved back into the area, will provide a strong bat along with backup catcher Jason Demby (Canton High).

The outfield consists of Bill Bannon (Livonia and Kansas City CC), Derek Humphries (ex-Canton and Western Michigan University red-shirt), Dennis Szczepkowski (Siena Heights College) and Jerry Bitner (starting center fielder at MSU).

Szczepkowski has been slowed by a shoulder injury.

"It looks good for us," Racer said. "Especially with all the experience."

CAESARS, which has won four of the past five LCBL titles, was hard hit by graduation.

The only returnees are pitchers Eric Linck, Jack Daniels and Mike Boyd.

One of last year's top throwers, Jim Miller, the Michigan State quarterback, is undecided about returning.

Jason Markowicz (Eastern Michigan University) and Rich Roy (ex-Clarenceville High and Madonna) round out the pitching staff.

Newcomers include outfielder Joe Ransley (ex-Franklin and Hillsdale),

catcher Adam Huey (Michigan State), outfielders Bill Bertera (ex-Clarenceville) and Andy Weighill (Clarenceville), infielder/DH Jim Stoltzides (ex-Churchill), infielder Chris Williams (ex-RU), outfielder Tim Bandfield (Saline) and shortstop Scott Hunter (Riverview).

"We have a young team, but we'll be competitive," said veteran coach John Moraitis. "We're looking for pitchers."

DUFFY'S, coached by Rey Fracassi, returns a veteran lineup.

Among the holdovers: Mike Kaczmarek, a defensive standout in right field from RU and Franklin who played the past two seasons at Henry Ford CC; second baseman Todd Fracassi, ex-Livonia Stevenson High and Henry Ford CC; shortstop Steve Mielch; outfielder Mike Swiak; catcher/third baseman Dave Crespi, ex-Redford St. Agatha High; Ted Shymanski and Chris Mussa, ex-Stevenson High.

Outfielder Tim Napier (ex-Franklin and Henry Ford CC) has joined Duffy's after playing last season for Caesars.

Among the newcomers: outfielder Rob Puckett, ex-Wayne High and Henry Ford CC; pitcher Bill Wicker, ex-Wayne High; pitcher Doug McGregor, ex-Flat Rock and Henry Ford CC; pitcher Jim Collins; and catcher Bill Flor.

The ace could be John Scheffka of Utica, who pitched in six games this spring for WMU.

Duffy's also brought in Kevin Adams, who started at third base this season for MSU.

Fracassi is optimistic about the league race and his team's potential.

"This year could be wide open," said the Duffy's coach. "I think we'll have a chance to be right in there."

The 30-game regular season ends July 29 with the double-elimination playoffs beginning Wednesday, Aug. 1.

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