

Raiders finish with big win

North Farmington finished its softball season Tuesday with an impressive, 6-0 win over visiting Plymouth Canton in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game.

The Raiders, who lost in the predistrict round, finish with a 17-5 record. Canton is 20-3 and will play Saturday in the district tournament at Ann Arbor Huron.

North senior Jennifer Lydon pitched a three-hitter and a complete game in her high school finale. She struck out seven and walked three. Lydon, who was 14-4 this year and 24-13 in her varsity career, also had two hits and three RBI. Her two-run double in the first inning off losing pitcher Shannon Murphy was the winning hit.

North's five seniors had at least one hit. Andrea Boreice had two and Terri Graca, Eve Clear and Dana Botwick one apiece. Clear also scored two runs, and Graca and Katie Bohne had one RBI each.

"After the (pre-district) game we played against South Lyon, which was a total embarrassment, today was the way we could play," North coach Dave Bruns said. "On a day like today, we could beat anybody. The other day we could have lost to anybody."

"You have to be pretty happy with 17-5. These are the girls I've had a chance to work with for two or three years. When I came here, we were getting beat on, and now we're doing the beating on."

Murphy pitched two innings for Canton and gave up two runs on four hits. Kelly Holmes worked the last four, allowing four runs on four hits and three walks. She struck out two.

Canton had three hits, including doubles by Danielle Mortiere and Renee Dory. Murphy got the other hit.

FARMINGTON EDGED Northville 6-5 in a WLAA crossover game Tuesday to finish with a 12-13 record. The Falcons took a 3-1 lead in the first inning and led 6-2 before the Mustangs rallied with three runs in the seventh.

Cory Wojcik went the distance for Farmington and got the pitching win. Northville outbatted the Falcons 9-7, but Wojcik struck out six and walked just three.

Paul Hansen had a run-producing double and two stolen bases, and the scored two runs. Angela Farr hit a two-run single, and Jenny Sever had two hits, including a double.

Patriots capture WLAA crown

By Bill Parker
staff writer

The temperature was hot, but Jenny Mayle was hotter.

Mayle, Livonia Franklin's left-throwing right-hander, kept defending Western Lakes Activities Association softball champs Walleye Central scoreless through seven innings Tuesday as the Patriots won the WLAA championship with a 4-0 victory.

On a humid day with the temperature flirting around the 90-degree mark, Mayle smoked the Vikings, limiting Central to just three hits, striking out seven and surrendering no walks in recording the victory.

"Jenny is an outstanding pitcher," admitted Franklin coach Joe Epstein. "If she moves the ball around she's a tough tough. She is as fast as anyone around. Today was one of her better days. She was quicker than usual today and she had to be because (Central) is a very good hitting team."

Central coach Gordon Glennie echoed similar praise for Mayle. "Outside the Waterford girls (Mayle) is one of the better pitchers in the state," Glennie said.

Franklin, which won the WLAA Western Division title with a perfect 10-0 league ledger, stands 19-5 overall and meets Northville Saturday in the opening round of the Southfield district tournament.

Central won the Lakes Division championship with an 8-2 league

Softball

record, but was eliminated from post season play with a predistrict loss. The Vikings finish the season at 15-10.

FRANKLIN SCORED twice on three hits in the top of the first inning. The Pats sealed the win with an insurance run in the third and another in the seventh.

With one out in the first, Wendy Rynkiewicz and Tracy Parenti sparked the Franklin rally with back-to-back singles to rightfield. After a pop-out and a walk, Jenny Murray gave the Patriots the lead she's a tough tough. She is as fast as anyone around. Today was one of her better days. She was quicker than usual today and she had to be because (Central) is a very good hitting team."

Parenti opened the third with a single, stole second, moved to third on a ground out and scored on an infield single by Murray. Franklin picked up its final run in the seventh when Emily Skura opened the inning with a walk and scored three batters later on an infield single by Jenny Mascarello.

Murray finished with three hits and three RBI in four trips to the plate while Mascarello and Parenti had two hits each.

"We set three goals at the beginning of the season and this was the second," Epstein said. "We wanted to win the division and we did, and

we wanted to win the league and we did. Our third goal is to win a district title. After that you have to get a break. We've got two of our three goals at the present time and we're looking forward to Saturday."

JUNIOR CARRIE Cassiniki pitched a strong game for the Vikings, fanning five and walking three while allowing 10 hits. Cassiniki also had one Central's three hits with a lead-off single in the bottom of the first inning.

Sophomore Jodi Osburn and freshman Laura Drapal had Central's other hits — both singles. The loss was a disappointment for Glennie, but the veteran coach remained proud of his team.

"It's disappointing, but we're a young team and the girls never gave up," Glennie said. "After that (league opening) loss to North Farmington I told the girls we could still make the (league) championship game and here we are."

"I told the kids we have nothing to be embarrassed about because we had a great season."

Rockets are league champs

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The way Westland John Glenn coach Norm Hoenes sees it there's no time like the present to win a league baseball championship.

Due to the uncertain status of the school district's millage and athletic future, the Rockets' 9-4 victory over host Plymouth Canton in the Western Lakes Activities Association final was especially meaningful Monday.

"With the pay-to-play program, we might not have baseball next year," Hoenes said. "The guys played with that in mind all year. It might be the last one for a while. It's like senior year for everyone, including the coach."

Glenn, ranked No. 2 in Class A and 23-2 overall, got six good innings from winning pitcher Aaron Scheffer and timely hitting to defeat the Chiefs (21-4).

The sophomore hurler allowed eight hits and five walks, but he was solid until the sixth when Canton got two more runs on four hits. Lawrence Scheffer ended the inning with a strikeout and retired the side in the seventh.

"HE'S LOOKED pretty sharp all year," said Hoenes of Aaron Scheffer, who struck out two and also hit a batter. "I don't think he's had a bad outing all year. He's beaten (Plymouth) Salem and these guys, so he's pretty much our ace."

"If our starter can get us into the sixth, Lawrence can go the last two and he's as good as anybody (in the role of closer). We feel if we get four runs ahead, we can always bring in Lawrence."

Canton senior ace Scott Kennedy had an uncharacteristic outing in which he was wild at times. In six innings, he gave up eight of Glenn's 10 hits, walked nine and struck out five while taking the loss. Frank Learned pitched the seventh.

"You cannot give John Glenn a three- or four-run lead," Canton coach Fred Chrysay said. "John Glenn deserved to win, no doubt about it. And we deserved not to win it, no doubt about it."

Hawks lose consolation

Plymouth Salem scored three runs in the fifth inning and five more in the sixth Monday to coast to a 9-2 baseball win over host Farmington Hills Harrison.

The Rocks, 21-6 overall, used four pitchers. Scott Rogers, the second of four, earned the win with two innings of no-hit relief.

Jeff Bellate, Dan Hutchinson and Eric Nielson also shared time on the mound.

Mike Pesel was the losing pitcher, allowing the first Salem run and lasting only the first three innings. The Rocks took a 4-0 lead with three runs in the fifth and led 9-0 after 5 1/2 innings.

Scott Bright was 3-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI for the Rocks. Bright drove in Tom Davey with the first Salem run in the second inning. Davey was safe on an error, stole second base and scored on Bright's single.

In the sixth, Ed Gundry had a two-run single and he later scored on a double by Nielson. Scott Niemi and Rogers each singled home a run in the three-run fifth inning.

"(The Rockets) played defense and were opportunistic. We hit the ball but not in the clutch. We didn't play defense and pitching didn't respond."

The offensive display was typical for Glenn, which prides itself on its hitting ability.

ANDY GAGNE, Lawrence Scheffer and Mike White had two hits apiece. Scheffer also walked three times, including an intentional pass, in five trips.

After Kennedy walked Gagne and Scheffer in the first inning, John

Ward ripped a two-run double.

Canton tied it in the bottom half with the help of three Glenn errors — each team committed four overall — but the Rockets went ahead to stay with two runs in the second. A run scored on Greg Tamas' sacrifice fly and another on Gagne's single.

Glenn clinched the victory with a five-run sixth. Following walks to Gary Pierce and Gagne, Lawrence Scheffer boomed a two-run double to left-center. The other runs resulted from an error, a passed ball and a single.

"We were fairly patient and we've been swinging the bats like that all year," Hoenes said. "We're not a real talented group except with that number all year, and we stayed with it one more time. We haven't struck out a lot this year for as hard as we swing the bats."

In the Canton half of the first, Mike Stafford had an infield single and raced around to third base on consecutive throwing errors. Todd Pnielwiski singled to score Stafford and later scored on the third miscue of the inning.

THE CHIEFS stranded 10 runners, which included leaving the bases loaded in the fifth with Glenn up 4-2. Scheffer got pinch-hitter Brian Tiell to strike out swinging to end that inning.

Canton had half its hits in the sixth, scoring twice to make it 9-4 on Stafford's RBI groundout and Pnielwiski's RBI single. Pnielwiski and Jason Riggs had two hits apiece for the Chiefs.

"When they had to have a hit, they got it," said Crissey of the Rockets. "We hit the ball alright, but pitching and defense win. (Scheffer) gave a gutsy performance and hung in there."

"I don't think the loss detracts from the 21 wins and the division championship. I just wish we could have represented our side a little better."

In the district tournament Saturday at Ann Arbor Huron, Canton plays Adrian and 10 a.m., and Glenn has a rematch with Salem at 1 p.m. The winners play at 4 p.m.

All-American 2-1 in tourney

The All-American Sports Center modified softball team won two games and lost one in a tournament played in Port Huron over the weekend. All-American beat Chippewa Cleaners 9-1 and followed with a 15-6 win over Switzer. All-American lost to Viking Lakes 10-3 and did not play another game in the tournament because of rain and other commitments.

Each opponent was from Port Huron. In the win over Chippewa Cleaners, Jerry Stazel got the decision in tossing a five-hitter. Stazel normally pitches for A.J.'s in the Livonia League, but he was picked up for the weekend tournament. Jim Dillon had two triples and was 3-for-3 at the plate with a pair of RBIs.

Dan Pierce was 2-3 with a home run and four RBI, and Brian Tiller also batted 2-3.

Stazel was the winner in the second game as well. All-American's 13-hit attack was sparked by Chris Slater, who had a grand slam and six RBI in a 3-3 performance. He also scored three runs.

Dillon was 3-4 with three RBI while Dave Drubaker and Mile Kesson were 2-3 apiece. Doug Kirkpatrick belted a two-run double. Dillon, Slater and Ron Wandzel each collected two hits in All-American's only loss. Dillon had a two-run homer.

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