

# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/953-2139 night line: 953-2104

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## Mid-Am captures softball tourney

The Mid-America Mustangs won their second softball tournament in as many weekends Sunday when they captured first place in the Milford USSSA World Qualifier for 15-and-under girls.

The Mustangs defeated the Clinton Valley Travelers 8-5 in the championship game of the double-elimination event.

Mid-America led 8-1 before the Travelers scored four times in the sixth inning without a hit.

Cindy Lehnis (Canton) had an RBI triple and Jenny Sever (Farmington) a sacrifice fly to put the Mustangs ahead in the bottom of the first inning.

Lehnis had another RBI later on a sacrifice fly, and winning pitcher Stacy Sinke (Canton), Kate Strahan (Plymouth), Jamie Cook (Westland) and Julie Jones (Belleville) drove in single runs.

In THE Clinton Valley seventh, the Travelers had two baserunners with no outs, but shortstop Lehnis got two assists on putouts at second and third base. The game ended with a groundout to relief pitcher Tara Wasiak (Canton).

Karen Jose (Livonia) and Strahan had two hits apiece, and Sinke allowed only four in the first six innings.

Mid-America earlier merited the Travelers 16-1, sending Clinton Valley into the loser's bracket. Final where it eliminated Garden City and earned the right to face the Mustangs again.

Cook was 4-for-5 with three RBIs.

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Eve Claar, a graduate of North Farmington, is one of five area players selected to participate in the annual all-star basketball games Saturday. Carrie Walton of Mercy also was chosen.

## Coaches pick Walton, Claar for all-star tilt

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Observerland will be well represented Saturday in the annual Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan all-star games at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

Five area players — four girls and one boy — have been chosen to participate in the games, which showcase 40 of the top players from around the state in the four classes.

Plymouth Salem's Sarah Ruete, North Farmington's Eve Claar and Farmington Hills Mercy's Carrie Walton will play in the Class A girls at 3 p.m. Kyra Woodard of Redford Bishop Borgess was chosen for the 1 p.m. Class B-C-D contest.

Salem has the distinction of sending two players, while Jake Baker, taking part in the Class A boys game at 7 p.m. The B-C-D game is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Livonia Franklin girls coach Dan Freeman will be honored during the program as Class A coach of the year in the future.

"I'VE WATCHED all-star girls games since their inception, and the competition just gets better and better," said Mercy coach Larry Baker, who is president of the BCAM.

"When people go to understand why the national champions (Tennessee) and other bigtime women's programs recruit our state, as well as the bigtime men's programs,"

Walton and Claar will play on the same Blue team with Birmingham Marian's Trina Govan and Detroit King's Markita Aldridge, who led the Crusaders to the state championship

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and was named Miss Basketball. Claar, who will play for Central Michigan next season, will be in familiar company since she plays on the same AAU team — the 15-and-under state champion Metro Defenders — with Govan and Aldridge.

"We've been together for a while and practicing for five months now," said Claar, who has played three scoring touch since the season was over.

"I definitely think we have an advantage over some of the other girls in that sense. We've been conditioning and playing games. We haven't let up since the season was over."

The trio will leave for Tennessee and the AAU national tournament, which starts June 27, after the all-star game.

CLAAR WAS A prolific scorer at North, averaging 25 points last season and finishing her career with a school-record 1,262 points. She could get the chance to demonstrate her scoring touch since individual skills often dominate in all-star games.

"Playing with people like Markita and Trina who know I like to shoot," will help in that regard, Claar said. "I'm sure Markita will be looking to showcase her passing ability and, hopefully, she'll be looking to get the ball to me."

Walton finds herself on the same team with a former opponent in Govan. Their teams are Catholic

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## Total Travel makes gain in league baseball race

Total Travel is not challenging for first place in the Livonia Collegiate baseball circuit, but the Farmington-based club certainly played like league leaders after going 2-1 over the weekend.

On Sunday, Central Michigan University's Scott Nielson tossed a five-hitter in a 9-1 victory over Fleger & Fleger in the second game of a double-header played at Livonia's Ford Field.

Nielson walked only one batter in going the distance.

Fleger & Fleger starter T.C. Rapis (Madonna University), who gave up six runs, suffered the loss.

Don Maxwell, Gary Devine, Kevin Young and Mike Mackle collected two hits apiece for the winners.

Devin, the Farmington Harrison High graduate, knocked in three runs, while Maxwell clubbed a solo homer.

Aaron Mach paced Fleger & Fleger with two hits.

In the first game, Total Travel and Fleger & Fleger battled to a 3-3 draw through nine innings (called because of a time limit).

Craig Murray (Harrison HS) and Henry Ford CC pitched all nine innings. He scattered eight hits, walked six and fanned five.

Dave Wood came on during the final five innings for Fleger & Fleger, allowing just two hits.

Young (Farmington HS) and CMU had two hits for Total Travel, including a solo homer.

Rob Puckett (Wayne HS) and Henry Ford CC went 3-for-3 with two walks and an RBI. Matt LeMieux (Clarenceville HS) added two hits.

Fleger is 5-6-1. Both teams won on Friday. Total Travel dumped Little Caesars in a game played at Ford Field, 5-2, scoring three runs in the top of the seventh to break a 2-2 deadlock.

Back-to-back triples by Steve Pollock and Mackle won it for Total Travel.

Young led Total Travel with two hits, while Earl Johnson and Kevin Crociata countered with two apiece for Caesars.

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#### LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Friday, June 21: Dewal vs Fleger & Fleger, 5:30 p.m.; Walter's Appearance vs Little Caesars, 8 p.m. (both games at Livonia's Ford Field); CPOA Canucks vs Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury, 6 p.m. at Canton High; Total Travel vs Wendy's of Ann Arbor, 6 p.m. at University of Detroit-Mercy.

Sunday, June 23 (all double-headers): Dewal vs Walter's Appearance, noon at Redford; Central Park, Total Travel vs Fleger & Fleger, noon; Little Caesars vs Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury, 5:30 p.m. (both at Livonia's Ford Field); Wendy's of Ann Arbor vs CPOA Canucks, noon at Windsor's Holy Redeemer Seminary.

Wednesday, June 26: Walter's Appearance vs Total Travel, 5:30 p.m.; Little Caesars vs CPOA Canucks, 8 p.m. (both games at Livonia's Ford Field); Dewal vs Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury, 6 p.m. at Canton High; Wendy's of Ann Arbor vs Fleger & Fleger, 6 p.m. at Washnaw Community College.

and game at Ford Field. Fleger collected 13 hits, with LeMieux leading the way with three. Puckett, Fracassi, Lee Tappy (Redford Union) and Cory Monry added two apiece. Tappy had a solo homer.

Brent Hayward was the winning pitcher, giving up one hit while fanning five over three innings.

WALTER'S 6-10, DELWAL 8-0: The clash of the LCLL leaders Sunday at Ford Field produced a split.

Delwal rallied to win the opener in nine innings as Ron Holla contributed an RBI single and Vince Sacco singled in two more to hand Walter's reliever David Houghtly the loss.

Leo Hitchinson (Redford CC) and Eastern Michigan worked 8 1/2 innings to pick up the win. Paul Mancini came on to get the final two outs to earn the save.

The University of Michigan-bound Holla, a Brighton native and recent draft pick of the New York Yankees, collected two hits along with Jason Ahee and Jason Valente.

Chris White (North Farmington) clubbed a two-run homer in the fourth, while Mike Brooks (Livonia Church) added two hits, including a solo homer in the third. Joe Brusseau (Redford Bishop Borgess and Madonna) also had two hits.

In the second game, Walter's took five innings to mercy Delwal, as Brusseau, Jerry Koester (Westland) and Henry Ford CC) and Jeff Fendell (Church) contributed two.

apiece. Eric Slover (Glenn and Henry Ford CC) knocked in a pair of runs.

Bob Bullock, the winning pitcher, allowed just three hits over five innings. Coby Garner suffered the loss.

Walter's is now 9-3-1 overall, while Delwal fell to 8-3-1.

Both teams were victorious on Friday. Walter's clipped Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury, 7-1, behind the combined six hit pitching of Anthony Chandler (three innings) and White (four).

Rob Kowalski (Plymouth Salem and Madonna) took the loss for Hines Park.

Craig Overalls (Livonia Franklin and Henry Ford CC) led Walter's with two hits, including a three-run homer in the second inning.

Eric Sumpter (Michigan State) added two hits and four RBIs. His two-run double in the fourth sparked a seven-run surge.

University of Detroit-Mercy's Mark Dube and Dan Crane added three hits apiece. Sacco also contributed two RBIs.

Winning pitcher Tim Bruce improved his record to 3-0. He struck out six over five innings, before giving way to Paul Mancini and Crane, each of whom worked scoreless innings.

CAESARS 7-4, HINES PARK 1-6: Catcher Mark Stokes' dramatic two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh gave Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury the split Sunday in a twinbill at Canton High.

In the nightcap, Caesars erased a 4-0 deficit on a three-run homer by Rich Roy, followed by an RBI single by Earl Johnson, scoring Joe Hanesley (Franklin and Hillsdale College), who advanced to second on Adam Haver's pinch-hit single.

Sean Henkel, who pitched six innings for Caesars, walked the first Hines Park batter to open the seventh. He was relieved by Roy, who was promptly greeted by Stokes' blast.

Ted Logan, in relief of Mark Sulak and starter Keith Boryk (six innings), earned the victory in 1/3 of an inning. Henkel took the loss.

Bill Bates had two hits in a losing cause, while Brian Grady had two for Hines Park.

In the opener, Bates, the Grand Valley State standout, pitched 6 1/2 innings to gain the victory in T-1 Caesars' triumph. Lou McKaig (Madonna) came on to get the final two outs.

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