

Sports

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Observerland team includes Devine, White

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

THE BEST BASEBALL team in the state came out of Observerland this year, so it figures the 1991 All-Area team features some of the best high school talent in Michigan.

Class A champion Plymouth Salem placed three players on the first team — pitcher Scott Rodgers, catcher Dan Niemiec and shortstop Ed Gundry — and John Gravin was named coach of the year.

Western Lakes Activities Association champion Westland John Glenn and Plymouth Canton, runner-up to the Rockets in the WLAA and Salem in the district tournament, have two first-team selections each.

Gary Pierce and Lawrence Scheffer represent Glenview while Scott Kennedy, a hard-throwing pitcher with great potential, and Jason Riggs do the same for the Chiefs.

This year's honor squad also includes Dave Roman, Livonia Franklin; Chris White, North Farmington; Gary Devine, Farmington Hills Harrison; and Scott Kapla, Redford Catholic Central.

Rodgers and Niemiec were first-team, all-state players in Class A, and Devine was on the elite Class B squad.

Devine is the only repeat performer on the all-area team. He and Riggs were also honored with first-team berths in football last fall. Niemiec was on the all-area baseball second team a year ago.

Gravin's teams have won district titles in four of the last five years, and this time the Rockets went all the way, winning the school's second state championship since 1975.

Salem's eight post-season victories (over Ann Arbor Huron, Ypsilanti, John Glenn, Canton, Wyandotte, Catholic Central, Great Point North and Rochester) gave the team a final record of 27-6.

"All you can say is: I guess this was our year," Gravin said.

ALL-AREA TEAM
Scott Rodgers, senior, Salem, pitcher: Rodgers excelled on the mound, leading the Rockets to the state championship, but he also played right field and was a key batsman.

Rodgers, who will attend Kent State University on a baseball scholarship, was 13-2 with a 1.22 earned run average, in 80 innings, he struck out 119, walked 45 and allowed 49 hits.

"Without a doubt, Scott Rodgers was the man for Plymouth Salem baseball this year," Gravin said. "Nobody makes it through the state tournament without a great pitcher. Not only was he great, but he was dominating."

"He proved to any doubters he was one of the best in Michigan. In the last two weeks, I think he was the best. We had a great team around him, but the guy who is 60 feet, six inches away from home plate is the one who has to get the job done."

The three-year varsity player hit .305 and batted in 27 runs. He had 27 hits in 74 chances, scored 22 runs and posted three home runs and eight doubles.

"If Ron Hols (of Brighton) is the player of the year in the state, Scott Rodgers is a close second," Gravin said.

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| 1991 ALL-AREA BASEBALL TEAM | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| FIRST TEAM | | | |
| Pl — Scott Rodgers | Phy. Salem | Ph — Scott Kennedy | Phy. Canton |
| CA — Scott Niemiec | Phy. Salem | Ph — Gary Pierce | Phy. Glenview |
| Ph — Chris White | N. Farmington | Ph — Ed Gundry | Phy. Salem |
| Ph — Gary Devine | Farm. Harrison | Ph — Lawrence Scheffer | Phy. Canton |
| Ph — Jason Riggs | Phy. Canton | Ph — Scott Kapla | Redford CC |
| COACH OF THE YEAR | | | |
| John Gravin | Plymouth Salem | | |
| SECOND TEAM | | | |
| Pl — Makoto Iwata | Lutheran Wald. | Ph — Jeff Belske | Phy. Salem |
| Ph — Jeff Belske | Phy. Salem | Ph — Mark Rutherford | Liv. Churchill |
| Ph — Joe Vondracek | Redford CC | Ph — Tom Denny | Phy. Salem |
| Ph — Mark Rutherford | Liv. Churchill | Ph — Jeff Williams | Garden City |
| Ph — Tom Denny | Phy. Salem | Ph — Mike Wrogonson | Phy. Canton |
| Ph — Jeff Williams | Garden City | Ph — Dan Gaudin | Redford CC |
| Ph — Mike Wrogonson | Phy. Canton | Ph — Rob Shorley | Red. Thurston |
| Ph — Dan Gaudin | Redford CC | Ph — Ken Bazy | Liv. Clermontville |
| HONORABLE MENTION | | | |
| Salem: Scott Bright, Jeff Coleman, Kevin Cragg, Eric Nelson, Dan Hutchinson; Glenview: John Ward, Mike White, Aaron Scheffer, Andy Grogan, Greg Tamas, Ken Tennant; Canton: Mike Stafford, Jason Crain, Todd Frieswal, Frank Learned, Harrison; Mike Pendi, Andrew Smith, Dan Hight; Franklin: Mike Gager, Mike Berry, Churchill: Mike Brooks, Bill Morris, Mike Thomas; Bob Coppola; Stevenson: John Kebabian; N. Farmington: Mike Jofa, Mark Tempie, Andrew Margolick; Farmington: Mike Sney; Redford: Bob Karmine; Dennis Pironello; Steve Ross; Redford Union: Brian Thies, Brad Van Dike, Steve Zimanski; Garden City: Chad Perley, Nick Marafie; Lutheran Westland: Jason Zelenak, Eric Schroe, Dan Hoelt; Wayne: Jason Weimann, Brian Burgess, Joe Limorio, Joe Coughlin, Doug Leverenz; Plymouth Christian: Marshall Handcock, Gavin Balch; Claraville: Kendrick Harrison; Jeff Monahan; Tony Malonowski; Thurston: Jason Lanco, Jeff Lanco, Rob Delany, Tom Lewinski, Kevin Stephenson, St. Agatha: Bryan Winsor, Jared Kresnak; Bishop Borgess: Dan Doolley. | | | |



Gary Devine of Harrison awaits his turn at bat in the all-star game. Devine made the all-area team for a second consecutive year in baseball, the second sport in which he was so honored as a senior.

South makes history

The South Farmington girls A softball team made history June 22 and 23 in the Clinton Valley Youth Tournament at Liberty Park in Sterling Heights, becoming the first 15-and-under team in the organization to win a tournament game.

South Farmington finished in second place with a 3-2 record, losing to Garden City in the championship 8-7.

The historic first win had South beating the Mid-America Marvels 19-11. South Farmington had 19 hits, with Kim Roe, Kathy Schneider and Carolyn Temporelli leading the way with three each.

In its next game, South Farmington pounded 21 hits and routed the Clinton Valley Travelers 17-5 in a mercy-shortened game.

Roe, Schneider and Temporelli again had three hits apiece and so did Wendy Novak and Krista Snow. Novak's hits included a triple, and Temporelli belted a two-run homer.

The highlight of the game was a pair of back-to-back homers — a two-run shot by Maggie Chavez, followed by Lori Hubble's solo blast.

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South Farmington's first loss was a 15-8 setback in competition with Garden City. South led 6-6 going into the seventh inning, but Garden City scored nine times to win the game.

South had seven hits, and Schneider was the only player with more than one, going 2-for-2.

The loss dropped South Farmington into the loser's bracket where it played the Travelers again. The rematch was much closer, but South prevailed once more 3-1.

Schneider's pitching and good defense limited Clinton Valley to six hits and one walk. The South Farmington outfield of Hubble, Snow, Jenny Dussler and Teresa Lindemuth kept the Travelers from mounting a rally.

The championship game was a see-saw contest until the end. Garden City took a 4-1 lead into the fifth inning, but South scored four times to take a 5-4 lead.

Garden City answered with four runs in its half of the fifth before South climbed back to within one (8-7) with single runs in the sixth and seventh innings.

Temporelli had three of South Farmington's 13 hits while Hubble, Novak and Schneider had two apiece. Garden City had 14.

The South Farmington girls A roster includes Jodie Barfinger, Jennifer Hannawa, Natalie Koczara, Suzanne Major, Erin Mouy and Erin Hubble. The team is managed by Jim Foster, who is assisted by coaches Jim Hubble and Lee Snow.



Scott Rodgers
Ply. Salem



Scott Kennedy
Ply. Canton



Scott Niemiec
Ply. Salem



Dave Roman
Liv. Franklin



Chris White
N. Farmington



Ed Gundry
Ply. Salem



Gary Pierce
John Glenn



Gary Devine
Harrison



Lawrence Scheffer
John Glenn



Jason Riggs
Ply. Canton



Scott Kapla
Redford CC



John Gravin
Ply. Salem

Mustangs 3rd in Smokey Baker

After a fine start in the Smokey Baker National Invitational Tournament, the Mid-America Mustangs softball team saw its offensive production decline on the second day and settled for third place.

The Mustangs won their first three games on Saturday, June 29, but scored only five runs in two games Sunday and were ousted from the double-elimination event.

Mid-America, a 15-and-under girls team with players from Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Canton, Westland, Garden City, Walled Lake and Belleville, suffered its first loss in an 8-2 outcome against Touch of Class from Middleton, Ohio.

The Mustangs had only four hits, one apiece by Karen Jose, Julie Jones, Leslee Dickerson and Sarah Rowe. Michelle Bohneke and Jessica had one RBI each.

Mid-America led 1-0 after three innings, but Touch of Class was ahead 5-1 by the end of five. Losing pitcher Stacy Sinko allowed 15 hits but no walks.

THE MUSTANGS were eliminated by the Cincinnati Strokers, a team they had beaten 8-6 the previous day. But the Strokers prevailed 14-3 this time.

Cindy Lehnis had a home run and two RBI to lead the Mustangs, and Kade Strahan was the only Mid-America player with two hits.

The Strokers led 3-2 at the end of one inning and extended their lead to 11-2 after five. Jenny Sever was the losing pitcher, allowing 12 hits and four walks.

The Mustangs began the tournament Saturday by beating the Young Guns from Fort Thomas, Ky., 9-5. Mid-America rallied from a 4-2 deficit with four runs in the fifth inning and three in the sixth.

Lehnis hit a three-run homer, and Tara Wasiaik, Jose and Sinko were 3-for-4. Wasiaik, who had a double and a triple, had two RBI and Jose and Sinko one each.

Sinko, the winning pitcher who scattered eight hits and walked one, also scored a pair of runs. Bohneke and Sever contributed to the victory with two hits apiece. Bohneke also knocked in a run.

THE MUSTANGS won their second game 15-6 over the Cats from Trenton, Ohio.

One of Sever's two hits was a solo homer, and she scored three runs, too.

Bohneke, Jamie Cook and Jennifer O'Donnell had three hits apiece. Bohneke also had two RBI and scored a run, while Cook and O'Donnell

scored two runs and had one RBI each.

Strahan and Fields clipped in two hits apiece. Strahan had three RBI, and Fields scored two runs and had one RBI. Jose scored two runs, and Lehnis had two RBI, too.

Wasiaik didn't walk anybody while giving up nine hits. Mid-America was down 6-3 after three innings but rallied with two runs in the fourth, four in the fifth and six in the sixth to win going away.

The Mustangs took their third straight victory Saturday with the 8-6 win over the Strokers.

MID-AMERICA had no hits and no runs while falling behind 4-0 after four innings, but the team staged a two-out, five-run rally in the fifth. The Strokers tied 6-6, but the Mustangs won it with two runs in the bottom of the seventh.

Bohneke was 4-for-4 and scored two runs, and Sever's lone hit was a bases-loaded triple. Lehnis had two hits, scored two runs and, along with Jose, Rowe and O'Donnell, had one RBI. Sinko was the winning pitcher.

The Mustangs were host for the Canton NIT last weekend and will compete in the USSSA state tournament July 20-21 at Liberty Park in Sterling Heights.

AJ's in command

AJ's Lounge won the showdown with Primo's Pizza for first place in the Livonia Modified Fast-Pitch Softball League last Monday, 6-5.

Plymouth-based AJ's, which broke a 4-4 tie with two runs in the top of the seventh inning, is 9-0 and Primo's 8-1.

Brian Dismore, Pat Malone and John Rathwell had two hits apiece, and Dismore and Malone drove in two runs each.

Jerry Stazel and Curtis Richards combined for the pitching win. Richards struck out the final batter with the tying run at third base in the bottom of the seventh.

IN OTHER games, All-American Sports Center blanked ALT 15-0. Pulice Bros. Construction whitewashed Crestwood Lounge 7-0. Total Foods whipped Suburban Door 15-1, the Marauders nipped Mid-Joy Inc. 8-7. Malarkey's Pub crushed O'Connell Industries 13-0

and Bedon Electric defeated Papa Romano's 8-3.

All-American of Farmington Hills finished third in the 16-team Bushey's Masters of Modified Tournament June 29-30 in Midland.

The team won its first three games, 7-3 over Prince Walter's, 22-8 over Miken and 17-4 over Copen Brigade. All opponents were Midland teams.

Curt White was the winning pitcher in all three games, allowing an average of five runs on six hits and six walks.

Bob DeBenedict hit a two-run double in the first game, Dave Brubaker tripped in a run, and Doug Kirkpatrick and John Longridge had one RBI each with a single and a groundout, respectively.

JIM DILLON paced the second win with four hits and five RBI, and Brian Tiller was 4-for-4 with

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