

Sports

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Local diamond teams celebrate titles

MacDonald MVP for softball champ

Mark MacDonald considered it the highlight of his softball career to have been named the most valuable player of the 1991 Founders Festival tournament.

MacDonald, who grew up in Farmington Hills, helped lead his Copper Mug team to the championship with five straight wins last weekend.

The final game resulted in a lopsided, 27-4 victory Sunday over defending champ Shotz of Farmington Hills, which defeated MacDonald's team in the final last year.

"It's a big honor for me, growing up in Farmington, and a highlight of my career, happening in my hometown," said MacDonald of his MVP selection. One of six Copper Mug players to make the all-star team, MacDonald was 9-for-12 at bat, drove in nine runs and was a defensive standout at third base.

COPPER MUG teammates Sam Gatto, the winning pitcher who hit a three-run homer in the championship game, Kurt Russo, Tim Proben, Carl Knight and Tommy Vaughn were all-stars, too. Russo was 15-for-19 at the plate, Proben 16-for-19 and Knight 9-for-14. It was the second year in a row Vaughn had been named an all-star.

Other team members are Jeff Wiska, Don Fredette, Jim Grassle, Joe Brown and Pat Miracle of Farmington/Farmington Hills and Tom Bagnasco, Jeff Clemeney, Matt Ferguson and Keith Heiman.

In the final, Copper Mug batted around in the first inning, sending 15 men to the plate, and led 11-0 at its conclusion. Fredette was 5-for-5 in the game.

"Vaughn and Proben made some nice defensive plays in the final, and Gatto pitched a heckuva game," MacDonald said. "He had his knuckleball and curveball working in the wind, which wasn't easy to do."

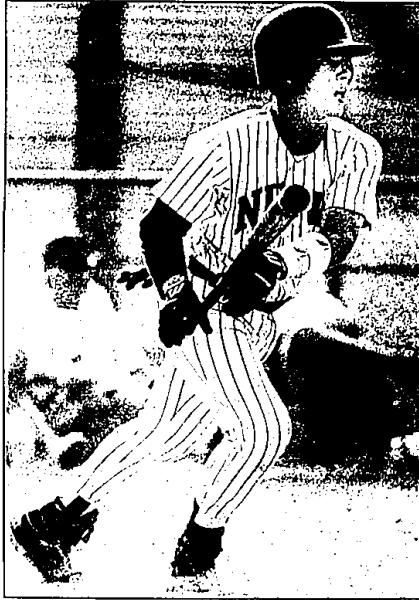
Copper Mug opened with a 16-4 victory over Peterson Glass and won its next two by a combined score of 21-1. The team advanced to the final with a 19-10 win, rallying from a three-run deficit in the sixth inning.

MOST OF the Copper Mug players are home-run hitters, but the team played all its games in open, fenceless parks and had to alter its hitting style.

"We had the big guys to hit home runs, but we hit base hits and adjusted to the field instead," MacDonald said. "We made the plays when we had to and had a lot of fun. We had a riot."

"A compliment to me as coach was the head of the Founders Festival saying he had never seen a team that good and show as much class and sportsmanship."

"We are an intimidating team size-wise, but we didn't go out to crush anybody. We just wanted to have fun."



Mitch Rivet connects to drive in a run Thursday in NFWB's win over Southfield. NFWB finished the regular season undefeated.

NFWB puts capper on perfect season

Mitch Rivet's diving catch helped save a game Wednesday, and four pitchers combined on a three-hitter Thursday to wrap up a perfect season for North Farmington-West Bloomfield 1 in the Mickey Mantle Division of the Little Caesar's Amateur Baseball Federation.

The dramatic 9-8 triumph over Westland Federation at Westland John Glenn High School and 8-1 trouncing of the Southfield Eagles at West Bloomfield High Thursday allowed NFWB to finish its league season at 20-0 — the first perfect slate in league play in six years.

It also gave NFWB a bye into the eight-team AAABC Regional Tournament July 31-Aug. 4 in Coldwater. The eight regional teams will be from Michigan and northern Indiana.

THE DIVING catch made by right-fielder Rivet (from Birmingham Groves) against Westland came on a hard hit by Jason Tapp (Redford Catholic Central). There were two out in the bottom of the seventh, and Scott Kapla (also from CC), who had tripled with one out, was on third with the tying run.

NFWB trailed Westland 2-0 going into the fourth, but a pair of four-run innings turned things around. Leadoff man Charlie Goode ignited NFWB 1 with three hits, while Doug Gaughan (West Bloomfield), Mike Jehle (North Farmington), Craig Peterson (Millford) and Derek Fox (Birmingham Brother

Rice) had two apiece.

Jehle knocked in three runs; Gaughan and Peterson had one RBI each.

For Westland, Kapla, Bret Walter and Scott Zielinski each had triples. Tapp led with three hits; Kapla, Walter and Kevin Kern had two. Trailing 9-2, Westland pushed across six runs in the sixth, but fell a run short.

Peterson was the winning pitcher, surrendering two runs in five innings. Kapla was the loser.

THE WIN assured NFWB 1 of at least a tie for first place and eliminated Westland — which finished the league season at 17-3 — from first-place contention. A day later, NFWB 1 secured its perfect record in league play with its victory over Southfield.

Fox started and got the pitching win, allowing just one hit in the first three innings while striking out four. The Eagles' only run was scored against Dave Ettlinger (West Bloomfield) in the fifth, still, Ettlinger fanned five in his one inning. Jason Farrell (West Bloomfield) and Jay Davey followed Ettlinger to the mound.

The NFWB 1 bats were too much for the Eagles. Fox doubled in two runs in the second and John Heller (Detroit Country Day) tripled in two more in the third. Both had two hits in the game. So did Scott Lard (North Farmington), to go with his one RBI. Southfield's Pete Frommeyer (CC)

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Hawks '74 team prevails at regional

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

The Livonia YMCA Premier Soccer Club has a regional champion.

The Michigan Hawks '74, a girls under-17 team coached by Tom Coyne, captured the U.S. Youth Soccer Association's 12-team Region II tournament Wednesday in Sioux Falls, S.D. with a 2-0 victory over Ohio North at Tamar Park.

The Hawks are one of four teams advancing to the USYSA Nationals, which kicks off next Thursday at Tranquility Park in Omaha, Neb. The Michigan State Champions open the four-team tournament against Texas. The other matchup pits teams from California and New Jersey.

"This is great because we've worked for it

six years," Coyne said. "It's been our goal because it slipped by us the past two years."

Natalie Neaton, who attends Detroit Country Day School in Birmingham, scored what proved to be the game-winning goal on a header in the first half.

Kristen Westveier (Troy) added an insurance goal in the second half.

Goalie Kristi McGough (Troy Athens) recorded her third tournament shutout as the Hawks dominated from start to finish in the 105-degree heat. Their defense allowed just one shot on net.

THE HAWKS opened tournament play with a 3-0 win over a wild card entry from Missouri, followed by a 2-1 tie with Nebraska and a 5-0 triumph over Missouri's state champions.

soccer

In the tournament's pivotal matchup, the Hawks defeated long-time nemesis Ohio South (Beechmont Blitz), 2-0, on goals by Ragen Coyne (Livonia Stevenson) and Kara Nance (Rochester Adams).

The Blitz had beaten the Hawks the past two years in regional play, including a 1-0 victory last year.

"The kids were really geared up to play," Coyne said. "Just a great effort by every-

body. Technically and tactically they were superb. The kids were surprised."

Coyne called Neaton a "runaway freight train up front."

"She created havoc with their defense," said the Hawks coach, who credits assistant coach Brian Borde with designing an effective game plan.

Borde is an Olympic Development coach and head coach at Ann Arbor Huron High. "He came on board with us about a month ago and he's done wonders," Coyne said.

ROUNDING OUT Hawks' national-bound contingent: Tracy Merrell, Alecia Smith, Lisa Thomas and Shannon Wilkerson, all of Stevenson High; Dana Pososki, Livonia Churchill; Patty Shea, Livonia Franklin;

Amy Werthman, Plymouth Salem; Kim Popyk, Farmington; Julie Dwyer and Jennifer Root, Rochester; Molly Ferguson, Birmingham Marian; Lisa Grace, Troy Athens.

In other Region II action, the Michigan Magic Wolves '74, an under-17 boys team coached by John Boots, lost its championship final Wednesday to Kansas, 1-0.

The Magic Wolves reached the final with a 1-0 win over Pegasus on a goal by Marcus Codnik (Warren DeLaSalle).

The Michigan Hawks '79 girls under-12 squad, coached by Mary Kay Hussey, reached the semifinals before being ousted.

The Livonia YMCA's under-16 and under-19 girls teams, along with its under-16 boys squad, were all eliminated in early round play.



Steve Brady of Farmington accepts a check for \$12,800 from AAA marketing director Marty West after winning the Michigan Open in Traver-

City earlier this month. Brady is the club pro at Detroit Golf Club.

Brady has bunch to look ahead to as professional

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Having won the Michigan Open earlier this month, Steve Brady of Farmington Hills hopes there is another big pay day in his future.

The 32-year-old Brady, who earned \$12,800 for his victory on July 3 at The Bear in Traverse City, qualified for the Michigan Bell Showdown next month on the same course.

The four-man tournament pits the winners of the four Michigan section events — the PGA, the Open, PGA match-play and the Yamaha Classic — in a skins-format competition.

Though it's unlikely, Brady could take home \$18,000 if he was to win every hole. The winners will be \$500 per hole for the first six, \$1,000 for the next six and \$1,500 for the last six.

"Maybe this year will be just as good," said Brady, recalling his most profitable victory when he earned \$15,000 for winning the Lake City

golf

(Fla.) Classic in 1987, defeating Robert Wrenn by one stroke.

BRADY, WHO moved to Farmington Hills in March from his native Saginaw to be the pro at Detroit Golf Club, has played the Michigan Open every year since 1980, the last 10 as a professional.

He came close to winning in 1984, losing by a shot to Randy Erskine, formerly of the Washtenaw Country Club.

"It was a matter of time," Brady said. "I felt I had a good chance at winning it this year."

Brady was in command from start to finish. He shot a two-under 70 the first day and led by a stroke. Brady had his best round the next day when he carded a 69 to extend his advan-

tage by two strokes. His score climbed to 73 on the third day, but he maintained his three-stroke lead.

"That was a tough day to play," Brady said, referring to the conditions. "If you shoot 73 on that course, you're still not giving up too many strokes. Anytime you're near par on The Bear it's pretty good."

Brady shot 71 on the final day to win by four strokes over Todd Greenlee, the assistant pro at Meadowbrook Country Club. Ken Alford, the assistant at Birmingham CC, made a run at Brady the last day, and Greenlee was within a stroke at one point.

"BUT I KEPT plugging along," Brady said. "If they got close, I made a few putts, a few birdies, to stay ahead of them."

Brady, a former All-American at Saginaw Valley State University in 1980, had one of his best years in 1984. Besides the near-miss in the

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Majestics sweep softball twinbill

The Farmington Hills Majestics swept a softball doubleheader Thursday from the Farmington Fantastics to remain undefeated in the Commercial Carpet Corporation Girls Fast-Pitch League, 10-0 and 16-5.

Krista Miller pitched a one-hitter in the first game for the Majestics (4-0) and Erin Wiehe was 3-for-3, including an RBI double.

Katie Kenny's bases-loaded double was the big hit of the second game. Kathy Miteravich was 2-for-2, and Debbie Dietken was the winning pitcher.

The Livonia Commanders lost their first game while splitting a twin bill with the Farmington Hills Diamonds, and the Canton Cobras swept a doubleheader from the Livonia Lasers to force a tie for second place with the Commanders. Both teams are 3-1.

The Diamonds won the first game 9-3 behind the one-hit pitching of Karen Seremet. Michelle Romig had two hits and one RBI, and Erin Proctor also

drove in one run.

The Commanders rebounded with a 15-3 win in the nightcap. Tracy McManamon was the winning pitcher and had two hits as did teammates April Switala and Niki Italia. One of Italia's hits was a solo homer.

Colleen Baker was the winning pitcher in both games as the Cobras swept the Lasers 10-1 and 19-1. Tina Schafer and Nicole Sequin had two hits and one RBI apiece in the first game.

Sequin had two hits again in the nightcap, both for extra bases (double, triple). Renee Dory slammed a two-run homer for the Cobras, and Heather LaGrow also had two hits.

The standings are: 1. Majestics and Livonia Spitfires, 4-0, 3. Commanders and Cobras, 3-1, 5. Diamonds and Salem Shags, 1-3, 7. Lasers and Fantastics, 0-4.