

## SPORTS

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MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1993

FARMINGTON  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE

## Bulls win tournament

The Bloomfield Bulls red team defeated the Rochester Rockets to win the Sandy Koufax Division (13-14) of the Heritage Baseball Invitational in Rochester May 31.

The Bulls were 8-1 in the 16-team tournament sponsored by the North Oakland Baseball Federation.

After losing 12-4 earlier to Rochester, the Bulls survived the losers bracket and defeated the top-seeded Rockets in back-to-back games, 8-2 and 10-5.

Team members are Kevin Bilbia, Southfield; Andy Budor, Farmington Hills; Nick Donovan, Livonia; Ferguson, 14; Mike Swietak, West Bloomfield; Nick Gerrard, Wixom; Eric Hardin, White Lake; Matt Kline, Bingham Farms; Dustin Kuk, Livonia; Adam Tamburelli, Highland; Cody Thornton, Walled Lake; and Gus Zigouras, Redford.

The Bulls are coached by Larry Swietak, Dan Gerhardt and Tom Gerhardt.

## Cobras have solid start

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras, a new entry in the Little Caesars Pee Wee Reese (11-12) Baseball Federation, began its first season with a 2-0 record.

In their first game, the Cobras outlit the defending champion Michigan Merchants and won 17-16.

Dave Lusky was the winning pitcher and helped his cause with a home run. Mike Sopo and Mike Gleeson had three hits each.

The Cobras trounced the Northville Pirates 17-1 in their second game. Lusky earned the victory again with relief help from Sopo and Jason Melvin.

Sopo had a double, triple and home run, and Gleeson had a pair of doubles. Third baseman Ryan Modica was a standout with the glove.

## Royals 2nd in tourney

The South Farmington Royals were runners-up in the Heritage Invitational for ages 9-10 baseball teams on Memorial Day weekend.

Following wins over the Lake Orion A's (8-5) and Rochester Rams (3-4), the Royals lost to the eventual champion Fraser Bulldogs (10-2).

South Farmington beat the Rams again (10-7) to earn a rematch with the Bulldogs but lost 5-4 in the finals.

The players are Nate Miholec, Jim Kay, Kevin Temerowski, Brad Barenite, Matt Williamson, Tim Halsted, Nick Hippler, Matt Lee, Zach Labomascus, Mike Lee, Matt Whitmer and Zach Green.

Ray Thompson manages the team. The coaches are Bob Green, Kevin Miholec and Bob Barenite.

## Baker chosen for tourney

Tom Baker, a senior at Plymouth Salem, has been selected to compete in the Puma Cup Invitational, one of the top soccer all-star tournaments for high school seniors.

Baker is one of 16 players from the Midwest chosen for the three-day tournament, which will be June 10-13 in Oneonta, N.Y.

Baker was named the Mr. Soccer by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association and was a member of the 1993 Parade All-America High School Soccer Team.

## Wolves capture state

The 1976 Michigan Wolves won the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association championship with a 4-0 triumph over Wayne/Westland.

The squad of 16- and 17-year-olds will represent Michigan in the 12-team Region II Tournament June 25-30 in Springfield, Mo.

Area team members include Tino Sceluna (Redford Township) and former Redford Catholic Central players Rich Walsh and Adam Borchert.

The Wolves are coached by Paul Sceluna (Farmington Hills) and Dominic Sceluna (Redford).

## Kapla showcases talent

Scott Kapla, a freshman at Eastern Michigan University, is one of four Michigan players selected to play in the National Amateur All-Star Baseball Tournament, showcasing the country's top 100 16- to 18-year-old players June 24-27 in Battle Creek. The title game will be televised on ESPN.

Kapla, a Canton native who graduated from Redford Catholic Central High, will play on the American Amateur Baseball Congress national squad.

## Payne wins boxing title

Cal Payne of Livonia won the Western Boxing Association heavyweight championship Saturday night in Yakima, Wash. Payne stopped Bobby Crabtree in the sixth round of a scheduled 12-rounder. Payne is 11-3-1 overall as a professional.

"It's the best I've seen Mr. Payne fight in a long time," Livonia Boxing Club manager Paul Soucy said. "He had it all put together."

## Marlins squeeze past Raiders

Farmington Hills Mercy won a district championship in softball Saturday by defeating North Farmington, 4-3.

BY NEAL ZIPSER  
STAFF WRITER



In a day full of surprises, no one was more shocked than Farmington Hills Mercy softball player or Glenda Lee.

The Marlins and North Farmington were knotted at 3-3 in the bottom of the seventh inning Saturday in the championship game of the Southfield district, but Mercy was threatening with the bases loaded and no outs.

The Raiders had intentionally walked Mindy Mrazan to load the bases and set up a force at the plate, but the only runner that mattered was Lee at third base. Everybody knew the importance of Lee's potential tie-breaking run but Lee herself.

"I had no idea what the score of the game was; it wasn't on my mind," she said.

The first pitch to Erin Wiehe scooped past North catcher Amy Kelman. Lee raced for home and slid under the tag of Melanie Cheney to give the Marlins the district championship, 4-3.

"I realized when everybody jumped on me and we won," Lee said. "It was the biggest run I ever scored."

Mercy advances to the Walled Lake Central regional and will play the winner of the Rochester district Saturday at noon.

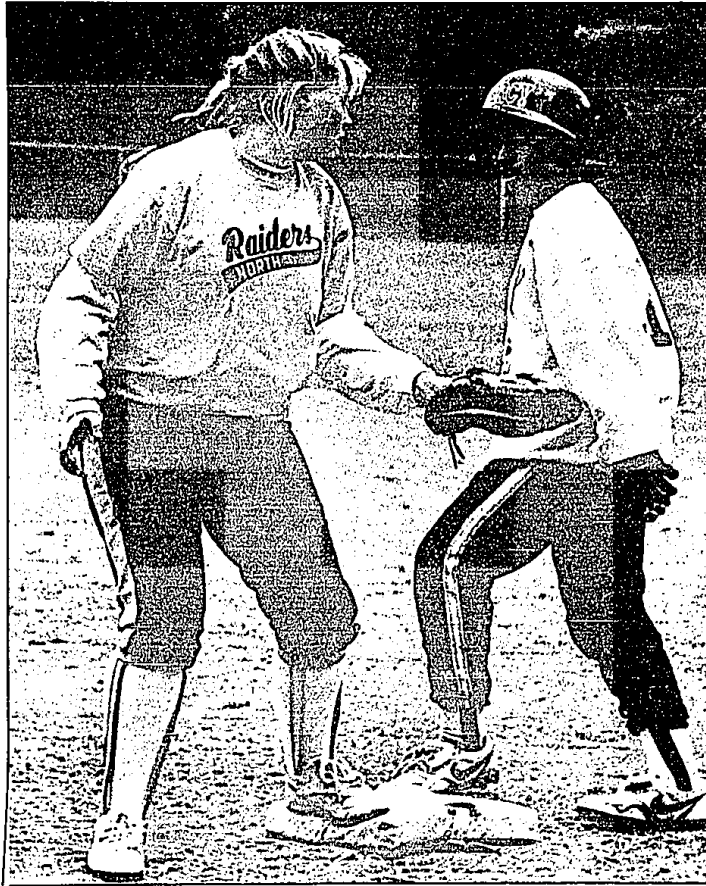
The day was full of the unpredictable, including the weather. What was supposed to be a balmy, 75-degree day turned out to be cold and windy.

Timing didn't prevent Mercy from recapturing the district — a feat it accomplished two years ago. The Marlins were eliminated last season from postseason play in a predistrict game by Redford Union.

Not many gave Mercy a chance to win the district, as the Marlins entered the day with a disappointing 7-22 record.

After Mercy beat Farmington Hills Harrison 6-4 in its semifinal game, the Marlins had to prepare to face the Raiders. North was coming off a surprising 12-9 mercy of Redford Union (16-8), the only team in the district with a winning record.

See SOFTBALL, 2C



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

District final action: North Farmington's Courtney Carlson checks Mercy baserunner Kim Sanders in the district final, which the Marlins won 4-3.

## Blazers topple No. 2 Chiefs in final

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

As the leadoff batter, Lisa Rozum has scored plenty of runs for the Livonia Ladywood softball team, but none more important than the one she scored Saturday.

Rozum raced home following an error for the only run as the Blazers shocked Plymouth Canton 1-0 in the championship game of the Class A district tournament at Salem.

"I was thinking I'd better run faster, because the game is on the line," said Rozum, a sophomore who lives in Canton. "I think the adrenaline carried me most of the way. It was the best run from third to home I've had."

Ladywood (21-11-1) advances to the regional tournament at Plymouth-Canton to play the Ann Arbor

## SOFTBALL

Pioneer district winner Saturday.

The loss was filled with irony for the Chiefs (31-6) and all-state pitcher Kelly Holmes, who threw a perfect game through six innings.

She still ended her career throwing a no-hitter without a walk, but the Blazers capitalized on three errors (all in the seventh inning) to win the game.

"Kelly was outstanding today; everything was working for her," Canton coach Jim Arnold said. "She even looked a little faster today. She really wanted this game."

Rozum and Melissa Campeau started the top of the seventh for Ladywood with bunts and reached base on errors. A dropped ball at first on

Campeau's bunt allowed Rozum to take third, and an overthrow at third opened the door for her to score.

"The breaks went our way this time instead of theirs," first-year Ladywood coach Lisa Parsons said, recalling a 4-2, eight-inning loss to the Chiefs in the Canton Classic.

"We knew we had to put the ball in play. The last time we struck out 14 times. We put pressure on them to play defense, because you just don't hit off (Holmes). The last time they sat back and let Kelly strike everybody out."

Holmes, who finished with 958 career strikeouts, fanned the first six Ladywood batters and assisted on five of the next six putouts. But the Blazers started swinging harder and making better contact as the game progressed.

"I started them bunting and slapping at the ball to give them confidence and it helped," Parsons said. "Once they found they could touch the ball against her, they weren't as intimidated as the last time."

"The last time they said they were scared going up there because she throws so hard. (The patient strategy) showed she's human and we didn't have to be afraid."

Winning pitcher Mary Jo Kelly was nearly as effective for the Blazers, throwing a four-hitter and walking three. Both pitchers struck out eight.

Kelly allowed just one hit through five innings, but the Chiefs got two and threatened in the sixth, in which Rozum had a game-saving catch in center field.

See BLAZERS, 2C

## Shamrocks earn district championship

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

After surviving Class A district challenges, Redford Catholic Central's baseball team was able to shift its attention to Saturday's regional, in which the Shamrocks will battle the Temperance-Bedford district winner at Temperance-Bedford.

But before they pack their bats and gloves and tuck their glowing district title memories away, it might behoove them to keep in mind how they made it there.

Pitching first. Defense second. And some timely, if not overpowering, hitting.

John Salter, CC's coach, was well aware of all this. He allowed himself to think ahead to the state championship weekend for a moment, saying, "Just live more."

That's how many wins the Shamrocks will need to win the championship. But then Salter quickly backed up: "We've got the math all figured out. The problem is getting there."

Another lesson his players might take with them to Temperance-Bedford: While the scores of Satur-

day's district games at Dearborn High School, 6-0 over Dearborn Fordson and 9-3 over Dearborn Edsel Ford, might indicate easy wins for CC, the reality was somewhat different.

The Shamrocks prevailed over Fordson in the opener thanks to Brian Paluk's superb pitching. Paluk pitched six innings, allowing two hits and two walks while striking out 12 to run his record to 10-2.

But the game was close until the late innings. CC didn't get on the board until the top of the fifth, when Aaron Babics doubled, was sacrificed to third and scored on Dave Kapla's sacrifice fly.

The Shamrocks got a second run in the sixth on Juan Sanchez's triple and Jeff Gutt's sacrifice fly. They didn't break it open until the seventh, when they scored four times. Andy Slankster singled in one run and Brian Hicks singled in two more. Hicks, with two singles, was CC's only player with multiple hits.

The game against Edsel Ford was a bit easier, and Salter knew why. "We did swing the bats better," he acknowledged. "But that was a young pitcher they had out there."

It's true; the Thunderbirds' sophomore righthander, Todd Tobin, was overmatched. He went all six innings but was never in command. All nine runs were earned; they were scored in three three-run innings (the first, fourth and sixth). He surrendered 14 hits and two walks, striking out two.

"We only have one pitcher," explained Edsel Ford coach Karl Dobronski, "and he (Joe Kaniewski) pitched in the first game (a 3-1 win over Dearborn). (Tobin) is our second-best pitcher."

Dobronski was hardly unhappy. His team finished 8-13 after a 2-11 start. "We played pretty well," he said of the loss to CC. "If they don't get three runs in the sixth, it's only 6-3."

Kaniewski was limited to 10 innings in the district tournament by state rules; had it been close in the late stages, Dobronski would have considered bringing him in against CC.

See SHAMROCKS, 3C