

Rain puts damper on LCBL schedule

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

While doubleheaders were being postponed because of rain Sunday afternoon at Ford Field and Westland, John Glenn, another twin bill was played 15 minutes away at Garden City Park.

Consider it a blessing from Mother Nature for the Garden City Collegiate team.

Garden City benefited, winning a doubleheader against Little Caesars, 10-7 and 11-6.

That Garden City Park was playable at all amazed coaches on the LCBL.

At Ford Field, Walter's Application and Delwahl started the firstinning of Game 1 before the unpreserved started the doubleheader.

A doubleheader at Glenn between Westland Federation and Wendy's never got underway.

Garden City coach Fred Holton was thrilled since his team won for the third straight time to move to 6-9 and remain in the hunt for one of the four playoff berths.

Maybe they should rename it Garden City Beach.

"Our field holds a lot of water, 'cause when it's dry, it's just powder," Holton said. "And after the game started, we had a light mist for about 10 minutes and that was it."

Garden City and Delwahl are tied for fifth place behind Walter's, which is 6-8 with a game in hand.

"It put me back in the hunt with 15 games to go," Holton said of the first-year team. "Six and nine is not bad. I'd like to play

.500 ball for the season. I'd be happy."

Bad weather has stalled most teams, more now so than Westland Federation.

With the washout Sunday and another two days earlier against Wendy's, coach Joe Vondracek's Westland team remains at 10-4 and falls from first place.

Hines Park Lincoln Mercury has vaulted into first place with an 11-3 record and 22 points, followed by Westland and Caesars, each with 20 points. Westland has played five fewer games than Caesars, the only team not to have a postponement.

Westland has games rescheduled for July 7, 12 and 14, all against Wendy's at John Glenn High School.

"When it rains 3 inches like it did in that period of time, it will cause everyone some problems," Vondracek said.

LCBL commissioner Gary Gray said all the postponements are "a major headache."

Games have been rescheduled already for July 11 and 18 at Ford Field.

"You need to reschedule umptimes, fields, and there's not a lot of open dates," Gray said. "This is more postponements than we've had in some time."

Here are summaries of the games that were played:

■ GARDEN CITY, 11, UTR. CAESARS 7-4: Little Caesars' Matt Holton (1-1) pitched a one-hitter, allowing one home run in the firstinning of Game 1 at Garden City, but it was mostly downhill from there Sunday. Coach John Morris' team had two runs in the first and the second, four in the third and two more in the fourth to

give winning pitcher Justin Black (Garden City, 3-0) enough support.

Jason Holton (Garden City), Brian Hicks (Hedford Catholic Central), Mark Rutherford (Westland Federation), Matt Holton and Jack Herbst and two hits each. Holton drove in three runs, Rutherford and Herbst had two runs and Hicks had one run.

Holton had two walks and scattered five hits to improve to 2-2. Ryan Thobold hit a two-run homer.

In the second game, Brett Miller, Holton and Taylor collected two hits each and Garden City broke away with a seven-run second and inning. Miller and Holton had two RBI each and Taylor had one.

The winning pitcher was Dan Pudyk, who scattered seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

■ MARSHAL, 10, GARDEN CITY, 4: On Monday at Ford Field, Jason Garwatski (Livonia Franklin) pitched a one-hitter to give Caesars the shutout win.

With Caesars ahead 2-0, Garwatski pitched a one-hitter into the sixth inning, striking out two and allowing two walks.

Dennis Stachek (Franklin) was 3 for 3 with two runs scored and Jason Siemers also scored two runs and had two hits.

■ HINES PARK, 4, DELWAHL, 4: Only nine players showed up for Hines Park in Monday's game at Ford Field.

The rest thought the game was played at Henry Ford Community College, coach Dave Coughlin said.

Hines Park used six pitchers in other positions, and Dennis Stachek (Franklin) was the lone run in the firstinning of Game 1 at Garden City, but it was mostly downhill from there Sunday. Coach John Morris' team had two runs in the first and the second, four in the third and two more in the fourth to

Writer bids farewell to area lanes



AL HARRISON

It's like saying goodbye to an old friend.

But how do you say goodbye to a 48-lane bowling center? West Bloomfield Lanes, opened by Larry Sisson in 1978, has been sold to the Barnes & Noble Co., which will soon open the largest bookstore in the world.

The last ball will be thrown Friday, July 1.

West Bloomfield Lanes was

unique. Under the innovative

leadership of Sisson, this center

became one of the nation's busi-

est and led the nation in day-

time traffic according to Bruns-

wick Corp. statistics.

They also led the way in char-

ity events, leading the state evey-

year in the BCA Bowler's

Charities. According to Sisson,

the success of West Bloomfield

Lanes was due to his employees

who "helped me as much as I

helped them."

Terry Tucker has been a

blessing as the beverage and as-

sistant corporate party planner.

Last year, West Bloomfield

Lanes had 4,087 league custom-

ers. Add to that the uncounted

open bowlers and the idea soon

hits that the loss of this house

will leave a huge void in this

part of Oakland County. Where

will all these people go to enjoy

their sport?

Laura Burns has been work-

ing with other area establish-

ments to place as many of their

customers in suitable times and

places as possible. Many leagues

have been going on since they first opened such as Michigan Bad, Aircraft, Compuparts and B'nai Brith Pilgrim Lodge to mention a few.

They also came up with some

innovative leagues such as Michigan

Bad Bowlers League and the

Flex a Bowl which attracted 197

bowlers who would bowl weekly

when they could find time, re-

port scores on the honor system

and work within a league sys-

tem, including a weekly sheet.

There were many celebrities

who bowled here, including

sports figures such as Bill Laim-

beer, Isiah Thomas, Gordie

Howe, Sergei Fedorov, Shawn

Burr, Bob Probert, Alan Tram-

nell and Wayne Gretzky. Lady

Pro bowler Cheryl Daniels and

Aleta Sill practiced there.

Sisson only had one formula

for success and that was to

keep the customers happy."

In the final week, all who

bowled at West Bloomfield

Lanes are invited to come in and

bowl for free. There's unlimited

bowl for all until the doors

close and that's Sisson's way of

saying goodbye. Don't be

surprised if a new place opens to

replace West Bloomfield Lanes.

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