

SPORTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1994

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Diamonds divide

In a season-ending crossover double-header, the North Farmington Diamonds topped the Livonia Franklin Lasers 10-7 in the opener, but got blitzed 15-0 in the nightcap of their Incredible Girls Fastpitch Softball League Thursday at Franklin.

The Diamonds concluded their summer season with a 7-11 record. The Franklin Lasers ended 10-8.

In the opener, Kathie Collins was the winning pitcher for the Diamonds. Mickie Spias earned the save, surrendering one run on one hit in one inning of play.

Lynette Velasco had a hit and two runs batted in, Amy Finkel had two hits and an RBI. Spias had a hit and scored twice, and Lindsay Wood had a hit and an RBI for the Diamonds.

The second game was another story. It was stopped by the time limits after four innings, with the Diamonds hitless as well as scoreless. Spias suffered the loss, but six Diamond errors contributed heavily.

The Stingers won the first game, 8-4. Aon was a thorn in the Stingers' side all night, collecting four hits — including two triples in the second game. Her first highlighted a four-run rally by the Fantastics in the second inning; it came with the bases loaded.

Maureen Carolan was the winning pitcher for the Fantastics, settling down after a shaky first inning (during which the Stingers scored four runs on two hits) to surrender just two more hits. She walked five and struck out one.

In the first game, Aon had two hits and scored a run by stealing home. Heikkinen was the losing pitcher, allowing five hits and five walks while striking out six in five innings.

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Cobras collect an 'Incredible' title



The Canton Cobras gained their second championship in three years in the Incredible Girls Fastpitch Softball League, this time by defeating the Northville Niners in Thursday's championship game.

BY C.J. RISK
STAFF WRITER

For the first time Thursday evening, Jim Arnold was caught unprepared.

Fortunately for his team — the Canton Cobras — it came after the game, and the championship in the Incredible Girls Fastpitch Softball League, had been decided.

Arnold fell for the most overused sports trick of the past decade: He got dunked, drenched by his jubilant players who gossiped him into posing with them for a team photo after they had stopped the Northville Niners 3-0 in the title game, played at Canton HS.

"I didn't think you'd fall for that," said one of the Canton players' parents said to Arnold after the soaking.

It was about the only thing that didn't go according to Arnold's plan. Cobra pitcher Jackie Nicastri was nearly untouchable, tossing a two-hitter and striking out 10. She walked the first batter of the game, Melissa Petrovsky, and she reached second base — which was as far as any Niner baserunner advanced.

And no others got a free pass, either. It was the only walk issued by Nicastri.

The final play of the game summed up Northville's fortune. Jenny Friable singled with two out, the second hit of the game for the American Division champions (they finished 12-6) — and then she was caught off base as she rounded first.

"We've been playing good ball, we have some good athletes," said Arnold after the victory, which allowed the National Division champion Cobras to finish their incredible season with a 15-2 record. "We played quite a few ballgames this year, and we played in a couple of good tournaments."

What Arnold was looking for in the Cobras was something that would help his Canton high school players improve. He found it.

"The kids came together as a team," he said. "They built some character."

How the Cobras scored their runs proved that. The first was a gift, courtesy of the Niners. Jenny Sikora singled with one out in the second, Canton's first hit of the game.

The ball got past Northville right-fielder Courtney Bartel and Sikora raced around second, heading for third. When the relay throw got past Northville third baseman Mandy Sabo, Sikora trotted home with the game's initial run.

More sloppy defense resulted in a second Cobra score in the inning. Amanda Welton reached base when centerfielder Friable dropped her fly ball, allowing Welton to reach second. A wild pitch by Andrea Moretti — who pitched an otherwise strong game — moved Welton to third, and Amy LaGros's groundout scored her.

Amy Price scored the final run for the Cobras, opening the fourth with a walk, stealing second, reaching third on an error by Petrovsky and scoring on Welton's two-out single.

The Cobras managed just four hits off Moretti, with Sikora getting two of them. But they made just one error and only one Niner walked — two big reasons they claimed the championship.

Which wasn't really that important, according to Arnold. "The summer program is there to have fun," he said. "I'm not as hard on them in the summer as I am in the spring."

Of course, he wouldn't mind a few of those dunkings to end the high school season, either.

Top seed advances in opener

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League's regular season and defending champion Hines Park Lincoln Mercury lived up to their top billing Friday at Ford Field.

Manager Dave Carroll's team opened the 1994 playoffs with a 3-3 victory over Little Caesars, as right-hander Craig Benedict threw a complete game.

Benedict, who prepped at Plymouth Canton High and was Madonna University's ace as a freshman this spring, whitewashed a shaky start to earn his fourth-straight LCLBL victory.

Benedict gave up two runs in the first inning and one in the third, but settled down and held Caesars scoreless the rest of the way.

"I didn't want to take Craig out early, the only way he was coming out was if he had given up a couple of more runs," Carroll said. "Once he got into a rhythm, there were a lot of groundouts and fly balls."

"He did a nice job."

Caesars, which out-hit Hines Park 8-5, couldn't capitalize with runners on base.

They scored twice in the opening inning on a double by Dave Roman, an RBI single by Chris Campanella, and an RBI single by Brian Theobald.

Hines Park got a run back in the second on a homer by Heath Fowler.

Caesars put another run on the board in the third to go ahead 3-1, but couldn't score off Benedict in the fourth with runners on second and third and no outs.

Trailing 3-1, Hines Park rallied for four runs in the fifth.

Jason McLanaghan, a smooth-fielding shortstop, clubbed a two-run triple. Matt Horvath added an RBI single to put Hines Park on top, 4-3.

Fowler and Horvath then pulled off a double steal to give Hines Park a two-run cushion.

McLanaghan's fielder's choice participated.

Here are the members of the first team: Jeff Schaffer (Livonia Franklin), catcher; Walter's, pitcher; first base, Westland Federation; Mike Davis, second base, Westland; Robin Roberts, third base, Hines Park Lincoln Mercury; Dave Roman (Livonia Franklin), shortstop; Little Caesars; Jason McLanaghan, outfielder; Hines Park; Brian Barnes, outfielder; Hines Park; Ben Hurst, outfielder, Wendy's; Ed Gundry Jr. (Plymouth Salem), designated hitter, Hines Park.

Here are members of the second team: Heath Fowler, catcher; Hines Park; Brian Burmaster, first base; Wendy's; Chris Kirksey, pitcher; second base, Hines Park; Joe Vozneski (Redford Catholic Central), third base; Westland; Dan Taylor, shortstop; Walter's; Mike Poci (Farmington Hills Harrison), pitcher/outfielder; Delwal; Matt Green, outfielder; Delwal; Mike Zielenak.

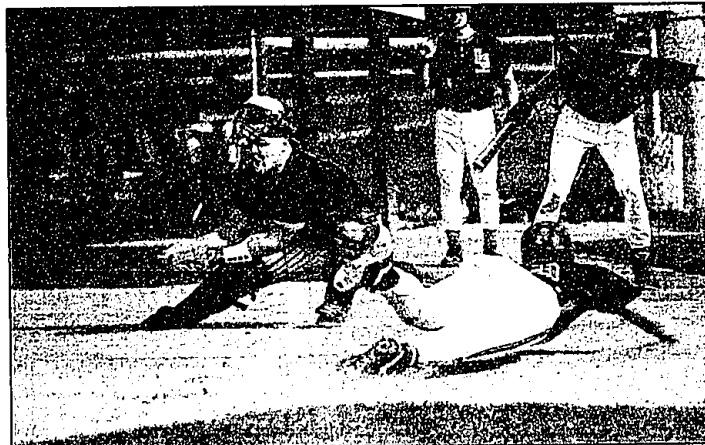
The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League will host an all-star game at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Livonia's Ford Field.

The game will feature the first-team all-stars against the second-team all-stars. This is a change in format from previous years when an LCLBL all-star team met an all-star team from another league.

The LCLBL all-stars have played the Lansing all-stars the past two years.

The LCLBL coaches selected the first two teams by secret ballot.

A name noticeably absent from the game will be Delwal third baseman Kelly Dransfield, a University of Michigan player, who joined the team midway through the season. Dransfield made an immediate impact, batting .396 (10-for-25) with a league-high six home runs and 32 RBIs.



Game of tag: Little Caesars' Dave Roman eludes the tag of Hines Park catcher Heath Fowler in Friday's first Collegiate League playoff game, which Hines Park still managed to win.

Majestics swept

An error by the Farmington Majestics in the bottom of the seventh inning allowed Stephanie Nelson to race home with the winning run for the Livonia (Churchill) Gators in an 8-7 triumph in the second game of their season-ending Incredible Girls Fastpitch Softball League double-header Thursday at North Farmington.

The Gators won the opener, too, by a 10-5 margin.

Jessie Jenkins was the winning pitcher in the second game, allowing six hits and seven walks in six innings, striking out five. Dawn Pertulla had three hits and two runs batted in, and Nelson scored three times for the Gators, who finished 14-4.

The Majestics had tied the game at 7-7 by scoring four runs in the top of the sixth.

In the first game, Alicia December got the pitching win for the Gators, giving up five hits and seven walks in six innings, striking out seven. December also had three hits and scored three times; Shannon Mialak had two hits and Jennelle Mazaria had a hit and scored three times.

The Majestics finished the season at 13-5.

Physically fit

Five of the 22 children the Farmington Hills Recreation Division took to the Detroit Metropolitan Youth Fitness Finals at Kennington Metro Park Thursday finished in the top three.

Which is noteworthy, indeed. David McGuigan placed first in chin-ups, setting a new meet record with 14.

Also finishing first was Donna Malchic in the running long jump. Samantha McComb was second in the softball throw, and Stacy Schroeder and Anthony Desobrick were both third in the running long jump.

A total of 36 communities competed in seven events.

Corporate Macker back

The sixth annual Oakland University Ous Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament returns to campus Aug. 27-28, and with it comes the Corporate Macker, making its second appearance.

The Corporate Macker will be played completely on Aug. 27. Corporate players receive T-shirts, sponsor recognition in the Macker program, and winners receive trophies.

All proceeds go to the OU athletic department. To register a corporate team, call Leslie Epp or Stacy May at Events Marketing, (313) 540-5000.

But hurry — registration deadline is Aug. 5.

Anybody wishing to submit items for the Farmington Sports Scene can send it to sports editor Dan O'Meara, 30011 Shadeland, Livonia, MI 48150, or call FAX to him at (313) 951-1755.

BASEBALL

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE FINAL STATISTICS

(minimum 50 at-bats)

LEADING HITTERS

NAME	AB	R	H	AVG
McLanaghan (FP)	51	28	549	
Roberts (FP)	66	29	438	
Vandenberg (FP)	87	38	437	
Sampson (CC)	51	22	431	
Gundry (FP)	69	31	416	
Hicks (CC)	61	33	407	
Taylor (FP)	94	38	404	
Peard (CC)	72	29	403	
Fowler (FP)	65	29	400	
Burns (FP)	67	28	368	
Reynolds (WF)	66	29	379	
Theobald (CC)	63	20	377	
Davis (WF)	78	28	368	
Holman (CC)	80	22	365	
Rutherford (CC)	82	19	365	
Roman (CC)	80	29	363	
Holton (CC)	78	27	360	
Gardner (WF)	85	30	353	
Schaffer (WF)	91	32	352	
Campanella (CC)	89	31	348	

HOME RUN LEADERS

1. Dransfield (Del), 6; 2. McLanaghan (FP), 4; 3. (tie) Roman (CC) and Hicks (CC), 3; 5. (tie) Fowler (FP), Peterson (WF), Peard (CC), 2.

RB LEADERS

1. Schaffer (WF), 30; 2. (tie) McLanaghan (FP) and Gundry (FP), 26; 4. Holman (CC), 25; 5. Roberts (FP), 24; 6. Fowler (FP), 23; 7. Peterson

RUNS SCORED

1. Gundry (FP), 34; 2. Burns (FP), 27; 3. McLanaghan (FP), 25; 4. (tie) Vandenberg (WF), Taylor (WF), 22; 6. (tie) Peterson (WF), Reeder (CC) and Hicks (CC), 21.

STOLEN BASES

1. Peterson (WF), 17; 2. Peard (CC), 12; 3. Green (Del), 10; 4. Miller (CC), 9; 5. (tie) McLanaghan (FP) and Taylor (WF), 7.

LEADING PITCHERS

(minimum 50 innings)

NAME	W-L	IP	ERA
Reynolds (WF)	5-1	43	2.12
Peard (CC)	3-2	35	2.21
Hayden (CC)	3-3	45	2.35
Barnes (FP)	5-4	40	2.47
Wakeland (WF)	7-3	74	2.2
Pydyn (CC)	8-2	55	2.93
Moz (Del)	4-2	40	3.26
Rutherford (CC)	4-2	45	3.42
Black (CC)	3-2	37	3.59

STRIKEOUTS

1. Wakeland (WF), 63; 2. Rutherford (CC), 42; 3. (tie) Roman (CC) and Peard (CC), 40; 5. Pydyn (CC), 36; 6. Hayden (CC), 38; 7. Peard (CC), 36; 8. (tie) Barnes (FP) and Lerner (FP), 33; 10. Kirksey (FP), 30.

Collegiate league all-stars preparing for a clash

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Dransfield will be a home-run derby prior to the start of the all-star game and Dransfield is expected to participate.

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pitcher/outfielder, Walter's; Brian Hicks (Redford CC), designated hitter, Garden City.

The first-team and second-team pitchers will be divided among the two teams.

The pitchers named to the first team are: Tom Wakeland, Westland; Terry Hayden, Delwal; Brian Puhk (Redford CC) and Craig Benedict (Plymouth Center), Hines Park; and Eric Butler, Walter's.

Additional pitchers include Gary Moss, Delwal; Mark Rutherford (Livonia Churchill), Little Caesars; Josh Vase, Caesars; Brandon Herwin, Wendy's.

The Garden City Collegiate association ended Wednesday as the Parks & Recreation Commission upheld the LCLBL's decision to ban the first-year team from the four-team playoffs, co-director Gary Grey said.

Garden City finished in second place with an 11-1 record but was ruled ineligible.