

Adams ace handcuffs Rice in final

BY DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

Chris Wasen was a different pitcher the second time he faced Birmingham Brother Rice, and that made all the difference for the Rochester Adams baseball team.

The junior right-hander threw a two-hitter Saturday as the Highlanders avenged an early-season loss by beating the defending state champion Warriors 8-0 at Royal Oak Memorial Field.

The victory gave Adams (25-5) its second regional title in three years and sends the Highlanders into a Class A quarterfinal game Tuesday against Warren Mott at Carleton-Alport High School.

Wasen posted his seventh straight victory since losing to Rice (32-5) in his first appearance in the team's third game of the season.

"It was pretty cold out and I struggled," Wasen said. "I was coming off an injury and wasn't throwing hard at all. My curveball wasn't working very well, and my fastball was really slow."

But the Highlanders won the more important game, added Wasen, and he led the way with

BASEBALL

his improved pitching.

Wasen recorded 10 strikeouts in the regional final, walked just one better and hit one.

He was never in any danger, certainly not after being placed in the enviable position of pitching with a 8-0 lead after only two innings.

"I was real relaxed, knowing we could hit their guys and could afford to give up a few runs," Wasen said. "I was just trying to throw strikes and get ahead of the batter."

Adams coach Tim Lamkin was able to hold his ace (Wasen) until the second game while junior Andy Renshaw pitched the Highlanders to a 7-2 win over Waterford Mott in the opener.

The Warriors, on the other hand, used their ace senior Matt Weymouth, to get past Western Lakes Activities Association champ Farmington Hills Harrison 4-1 in the first game of the tripeheader.

"I don't see that as being key at all," Rice coach Ron Kalcynski said. "That's just the luck of the draw. We have no excuses."

"You can't take anything away from the Adams victory. They played very well and did everything they had to do to win the game. They deserve to be the regional champs."

Adams took a 2-0 lead in the first inning when Daron Mikoy ripped a two-run triple, and the Highlanders chased Rice starter Angelo Palazeti in the second without getting an out.

"Our kids came in believing they could win but not really believing it," Lamkin said. "When we got that hit by (Mikoy) and the lead, they really believed they could then. That was the one that took us over the hump."

"I know this team can hit and score runs. I think we have one of the toughest lineups in the state."

Adams had five of its nine hits in the second inning, and the first three men reached base with sin-

gles. Palazeti left after issuing a bases-loaded walk to Bill LaRosa.

Chuck Vanrobays greeted reliever Mike Pisanzi with a two-run single, and Derek Giordano followed with a two-run triple. Wasen drove in the final run with a groundout.

Vanrobays, Donohue and Tim Bellestri had two hits apiece for Adams.

"When those crooked scores go up, it can be trouble," Kalcynski said. "You can handle one or two runs, but when you get those five- or six-run innings it can be tough to come back."

"I think (Palazeti) threw hard and competed. It was one of those things. Adams played very well, and all the credit should go to them."

Pisanzi held the Highlanders scoreless on just three hits after the second, but Wasen never buckled on the opposing side.

"All year long he's been doing that," Lamkin said. "He had one bad outing in the first game. The rest of the year he's been throwing great."

Shamrocks from page 1C

CC's glove work also showed. The Shamrocks turned a pair of double plays, while Southgate (17-16 overall) took itself out of a couple of potential scoring threats with poor base running.

"Our defense has been good, especially after we moved (Greg) Rogers over to second (base)," Salter said. "He and Chris Mialak (the shortstop) make all the plays. We've turned more DP's on grounds this year than I can ever remember in my 15 years."

In the semifinal, CC pounced on Southwestern starter Johnnie Rogers in the first inning, sending 10 men to the plate and scoring five runs. Senior left fielder Mike Homant keyed the uprising with a two-run double.

Junior designated hitter Garret Burch and senior right fielder Jason Couture contributed two hits apiece.

Meanwhile, starting pitcher Justin Stankewicz (7-4) threw five no-hit innings. He walked only two before giving way to James O'Connor, who finished up. In two innings, O'Connor allowed the only Southwestern hit, a scratch single by Kenny Johnson in the sixth.

"O'Connor gave us two good innings so we could save Karmey for the second game, and that really helped," Salter said.

"Stankewicz and Karmey are not strikeout pitchers, but they're effective because they mix things up and try to get ground balls."

Southwestern, which committed a total of seven errors, bowed out at 15-9 overall.

Softball from page 1C

"Pitching and defense—that's what we've been living on all along," Lakeland coach Kent Griffiths said following the traditional Gatorade shower that accompanies winning a championship. "Mindy's job is to throw strikes and the sure did that today."

Dwyer, now 25-6 overall, had a battle on her hands in the opening game against the Falcons. The Lakeland sophomore yielded just three hits, but couldn't breathe a sigh of relief until Kibner cut down Jenny Marr at the plate with the tying run in the top of the seventh.

"I didn't think it would be enough," Rochester coach Ed Wright said of the Eagles' opening-inning tally that saw Kibner cross the plate with the only run. "We had our opportunities to score, and with the defense we played, I thought we might be destined to win."

Despite the loss, Wright praised the season-long efforts of his Falcons, who wound up winners in 23 of 36 games.

"This is a very good team," Wright said. "One reason is talent and the other is togetherness. They're an unusual mix of girls, but very team-oriented and very supportive of each other."

All three games proved to be nail-biting affairs, none more so than the extra-inning clash between the Hawks and Maples. The Hawks broke ahead with single runs in the second and third frames before falling behind in the fourth on a three-run burst by the Maples. Adler's two-run single sparked the rally.

The Hawks, who finished the season 25-5, came right back in the top of the fifth to tie the game at 3-3 on singles from Holly Foster and Kelly LeCasse and a groundout by Kristen Koslarski.

The winning run came in the bottom of the eighth when singles from January Halner and Adler and a walk to Anne Sheckell loaded the bases with none out. Following a force at the plate, Wilberding's high chopper to first base plated Adler with the winning run.

"We had that one bad inning," Harrison coach Mike Teschman said of the Seaboard third. "Seaboard battled and we battled right to the very end."

Baseball from page 1C

"I thought (the umpire) called a very tight strike zone and hurt us a bit, but that's no excuse. He called it the same way for both teams. They were the better team today."

Harrison (19-6) scored in the fifth inning when Mark Cantor hit a leadoff triple and scored on Steve Beattie's two-out single.

The Hawks might have tied the score in that inning, but they left Zack Cornwell and Beattie stranded at third and second.

Rice added another run in the bottom of the fifth when Jim Taggart walked and advanced on a groundout, a steal and a wild pitch.

The Warriors lost to Rochester Adams in the regional championship game later Saturday, 8-0. The Highlanders beat Waterford Mott 7-2 in their first game.

"This has been one, if not the best, season we've had," Herrington said. "To win the Western Lakes this year, as strong as

it was, was great. We're proud of what we accomplished."

"It was frustrating to end this way, but we're probably one of the best Harrison teams," Lawson said. "We broke a lot of records and kept a real good attitude."

Lawson, who will pitch for Oakland University next year, said he will have a new catcher for the first time in five years.

Since Jake was 13, his brother, sophomore Aaron Lawson, has been his catcher at every level of baseball.

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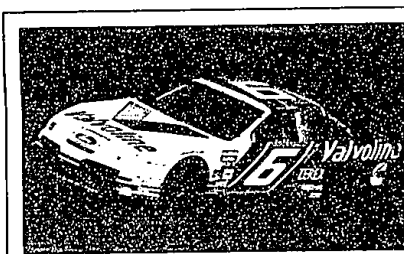
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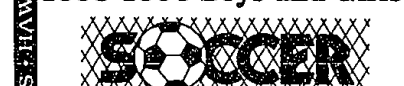
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U10 - U11
June 19 • 5:30 p.m.

U12 - U13
June 20 • 5:30 p.m.

U14
June 24 • 10:00 a.m.

U15/U16
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U17/U18
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U19/U20
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U21/U22
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U23/U24
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U25/U26
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U27/U28
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U29/U30
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U31/U32
June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

U33/U34
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U39/U40
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