

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1995

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Cobras visit Cooperstown

The NFWB Cobras 14-year-old travel baseball team defeated Cooperstown (N.Y.) at Cooperstown on June 2, 11-5.

Playing in front of visitors to the Hall of Fame Museum, the Cobras scored five runs in the second inning and four in the sixth to clinch the victory.

Mike Sopo led the offensive attack by going 3-for-3. Adam Fazio, Joe Morris and Blake Boesky had two hits apiece.

Zach Burton, Morris, Matt Kelmigian, Mike Gleeson, Marc Boggio and Dave Lusky took a turn on the pitching mound.

Defensively, Jim Miller, Josh Gad-Harf and Jason Melvin helped to keep the Cooperstown team in check.

In games closer to home last week, the Cobras defeated the Commerce Rams 10-0 and Waterford 4-3 in the Little Caesars Federation.

Burton pitched a no-hitter in the Commerce game. Fazio had three hits, Melvin and Kelmigian two each.

Morris recorded 11 strikeouts against Waterford while helping his cause with a second-inning RBI triple.

The Cobras added victories over Grove City (Ohio) and the Columbus (Ohio) Pirates last weekend, 13-9 and 7-4.

Boggio and Melvin were the big hitters against Grove City with four apiece; Lusky and Sopo added two each, and Burton got the pitching win.

Lusky, Burton and Morris combined pitching efforts to beat Columbus in extra innings. Boggio and Gleeson paced the offense with two hits each.

Blues have win streak

The South Farmington 14-year-old baseball team ran its Little Caesars Federation record to 7-0 Monday with a 4-0 win over Waterford.

After finishing second in the Softball City Memorial Day Tournament, the Blues have won seven straight over Windsor (5-1), Lincoln Park (16-5), Commerce (3-0), Allen Park (9-5), the West Bloomfield Bulls (11-10 and 6-2) and Waterford.

The most exciting game to date was the come-from-behind, 11-10 win over the Bulls. The Blues had trailed 10-5.

Brent Zak delivered the tying and winning RBI with a two-run single in the bottom of the sixth inning. Brenden Elus was the winning pitcher.

The other team members are Blake Ashley, Charlie Avery, Bobby Austin, Evan Feldman, Steve Jackson, Ryan Kravetz, Jonathan Marchel, Sean Quay, Anthony Toney and Robert Wittenberg.

The Blues are coached by Dan Avery with help from assistants Jerry Marchel, Jeff Feldman and Jay Kravetz.

United they stand

Livonia Youth Soccer Club United, an under-16 girls soccer team coached by John Boots and managed by Denise Fedrigo, will represent Michigan in the U.S. Soccer Association Midwest Regional, June 24-28, in Blaine, Minn.

United, made up primarily of players from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area, competed in the girls under-16 division in the Illinois Division of Little Caesars Premier League.

Members of LYSC United include Anne Fedrigo, Melanie Siler and Nicole Tobin, all of Livonia; Sara Kloosterman, Farmington Hills; Shawn Chipelewski, Garden City; Jenny Parnell, Canton; Jaime Bera, Jenny Long, Jill Swartz and Amy Simpson, Troy; Jenna Lewis and Jackie Clark, Rochester; Kristin Baja, Northville; Javia Miahler, Amy and Marcy Abner, Brighton; Leah Garn, Milford.

Michigan Hawks 1st

Supporting a record of 8-0-1, the Livonia Y '83 Michigan Hawks recently captured the outdoor spring premier league title with a 3-2 win over the Birmingham Blazers.

Members of the '83 Hawks, who will represent the U.S. Youth Soccer Association regional championships, June 24-28 in Blaine, Minn., include Katie Beaudoin, Cheryl Fox, Lindsay Gusk, Leslie SA Knapp, Christina Lewis, Stephanie Stachura and Carly Wadsworth, all of Livonia; Lori-anna DeDonno, Farmington Hills; Natalie Shakers, Birmingham; Susan Parnell, Canton; Bloomfield Township, Emily Carbot, Carrie Kluska, Missy Winn and Jessica Zwiesler, all of Northville; Angela Maille, Novi; Abbie Shepherd, Milford.

Ohio Invite champs

Michigan United, an under-12 boys team sponsored by the Wayne-Westland Soccer League, captured the Gold Division, June 10-11, at the Findlay (Ohio) Invitational.

Outscoring their opponents 11-2, the '83 United won preliminary games against the Holland (Ohio) Pacesetters, the Oregon (Ohio) Swire Bay-siders and the Findlay Kick (2-0 in the finals).

They also tied the Lorain (Ohio) Shooters.

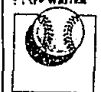
Members of United include Cory Calcross, Scott Cooper, Jason Kurlick, Jon Gardner, Brian Kasta, Kevin Kelly, Ryan Miron, Ryan Newber, Kyle Pitt, Doug Radcliffe, Matt Reddick, Trevor Rice, John Stink, Tony Stierglia, Donnie Warner, and Brad Wolfe.

The team is coached by Dan Rios. He is assisted by Pat Radford and Dave Radcliffe.

Shamrocks advance to state semis

In the final analysis, Redford Catholic Central got just what it needed in Tuesday's Class A baseball quarterfinal. And Plymouth Salem got everything it didn't need.

By C.J. RUSAK
STAFF WRITER



The fourth inning was half over. With Redford Catholic Central coming up for its turn at the plate, it seemed all the good fortune legend attached to the Shamrocks might be required to make them winners in this game.

At that point, Plymouth Salem had six hits off CC ace Justin Stankewicz. The Rocks had gone with their No. 3 pitcher, Ted Bentley, and he had allowed just two hits and a walk through three innings.

However, even though the offense favored Salem, the scoreboard did not: It was tied 1-1.

But it was only a matter of time, right? Stankewicz was coming off two days rest; he would soon tire and topple. And Salem had its ace, Justin Marcia, warming up in the wings. Salem coach Dale Rumberger had steadfastly refused to start Marcia on two days rest, but he was available for a few innings of relief.

Only a matter of time...

The Shamrocks didn't wait for luck. They took matters into their own hands in the bottom of the fourth, striking for five runs on the strength of two clutch hits and several Salem miscues.

It was more than the Rocks could recover from. CC (now 25-8) rolled to an 8-3 triumph, earning a trip to the Class A semifinals Friday in Battle Creek.

Salem bows out at 25-8.

"In the end, you'd have to say our defense hurt us," said Rumberger.

Poor timing didn't help, either. One mistake led to another for Salem, and the Shamrocks were only too happy to take full advantage of them.

Bentley started things off badly for Salem in the fourth by walking Garett Burch. Bill Styles, Salem's normally surehanded shortstop, made matters worse by allowing Marty Wilk's easy grounder to bounce through his legs. Bentley multiplied the problem by walking Jason Couture, loading the bases with none out.

That brought Kevin Thomas, CC's freshman center fielder, to the plate. "I was looking for a fastball, because he wasn't getting his curve over," Thomas recalled. "I mistimed the pitch on a 3-and-1 count and he gave me the same thing on 3-and-2, and I hit it hard."

Hard and to the right spot. Thomas' line drive rolled all the way to the fence in right-center field, and Thomas rolled all the way to third base.

See SHAMROCKS, 5C



BILL THRELLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

High five: Redford Catholic Central senior Mike Homant of Farmington Hills is greeted by teammates after scoring the team's first run Tuesday.

Rumberger family on same side this time

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The last time Redford Catholic Central and Plymouth Salem met in a state tournament baseball game, the Rumberger family couldn't lose.

Dale Rumberger was an assistant coach for Salem and his son, Aaron, was a junior outfielder and designated hitter for the Shamrocks when the two teams collided in a 1991 Class A regional final hosted by Dearborn High School.

Salem held on to win, 5-3, and three games later was crowned state champion after a 4-1 victory over Rochester.

"I remember telling Aaron, 'No matter what happens, I'm going on to Battle Creek (to coach Salem or watch his son play in the Final Four),' " recalled the elder Rumberger.

On Tuesday, it was all or nothing for the Rumbergers.

Rumberger, elevated to head coach this year after the retirement of John Gravin, and his younger son Ryan, a sophomore designated hitter for Salem, battled CC in a

Class A quarterfinal game at Milan Middle School.

And, again, now a junior at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, wore his allegiance on his sleeve as he watched from the stands. He was wearing a No. 27 Salem junior varsity jersey worn by his brother last year.

The Shamrocks scored five runs in the fourth inning and went on to defeat Salem, 8-3, to advance to the Final Four for the first time since 1989.

"Saturday night, we were sitting

around at home after we found out Salem would play CC and I'd be going to cheer for?" Aaron said.

"And I said, 'Family comes first.' I'm glad the Rumbergers are on the same side today, and I am so proud of my brother. I hated that day (four years ago) so much. My stomach was doing flips all day."

Aaron doesn't have fond memories of his only at-bat that afternoon.

See FAMILY, 4C



JIM HADDLETT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sprint stars: Harrison's Jason Granger (left) races against state's Brent Washington in the 100-meter dash at the Observerland meet.

Hawks put 5 athletes on all-area track team

By BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Lutheran High Westland's Mike Unger couldn't ask for a better season from his boys track team.

The Warriors' coach watched his team win just about everything in sight, going undefeated in dual meets (13-0 record), along with titles at the Ram Relays, the 16-team Monroe-Jefferson Invitational and Metro Conference championship (third in a row).

Lutheran Westland also captured its first-ever Class C regional title.

For his efforts, Unger has been named 1995 Observerland Coach of the Year.

"We have about 50 kids on the team and that's about one-third of the boys in our school," said Unger, who has been head coach eight years and athletic director for nine. "We go around, ask, and then encourage them to come out as freshmen. But we basically let them do whatever they want."

"Anybody who has ever come here has never really run track before."

Unger, a native Detroit, ran track/cross country, and played football at Detroit Lutheran West High.

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He spent two years at Henry Ford Community College before moving to Concordia Teachers College (Seward, Neb.) where he was a distance runner.

Unger holds a master's degree in education from Wayne State.

"We didn't really try to win the regional, but it just happened that way," Unger said. "Our main goal was to get as many people as we could to the state meet."

Area coaches gathered recently in a meeting to select the top three performers in each event. This year's team is led by Redford Union standout Tom Kessel, who finished second in the 800-meter run at the state Class A meet.

Introducing the 1995 All-Area Boys Track Team:

ALL-AREA TEAM

John Spelsky, Redford CC, shot put in the Catholic League championship. Spelsky won the event with an area best toss of 51 feet, 8 inches.

The junior was also individual champion at the Observerland and Oxford Relays, as well as region S-A and Operation-Friendship champs.

See ALL-AREA, 6C