

Mays champ will receive Tiger praise

The South Farmington Blues 10-and-under baseball team will be recognized along with other Little Caesars champions before the Detroit Tigers game on Sunday, Aug. 20.

The Blues won the Willie Mays Division in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation and will receive their team and individual awards during the ceremony at Tiger Stadium.

The Tigers are scheduled to play the Minnesota Twins in an afternoon game that day.

The Blues, who also won the state championship July 21-23, competed in the Willie Mays East-Central Regional last weekend in Fort Wayne, Ind.

South Farmington lost its first two games in the double-elimination regional tournament — 9-1 to Canton/Jackson (Ohio) and 6-6 to Findlay (Ohio).



10-and-under Blues: Members of the South Farmington Blues 10-and-under baseball team are (front row, from left) Bobby Houchins, Kyle Miller, Matt Okopny, Greg Pearn, Chris McDoniel, Matt Cebula, (middle) Chris Chesney, Andy Wingert, Nick Vitanis, Robert Whipple, Michael Kish, (back) coaches Mike Kish, Bob Okopny, manager Bob Houchins, Cary Whipple, Ken Chesney and Tom McDoniel.

Mantle Blues out after two losses

The Mickey Mantle baseball season ended sooner than most people expected and the South Farmington Blues had hoped.

After winning their first two games, the Blues lost back-to-back games Saturday to Westland (6-5) and the Pennzill Indians of Macomb County (11-6) in the district tournament at Plymouth Salem.

Westland scored twice in the top of the seventh inning to take a 6-4 lead and win the game despite being out hit 10-4.

Four errors and seven walks proved costly for the Blues, who battled back to tie (4-4) after falling behind 3-0 in the first inning.

C.J. Ghanann had two hits and scored two runs for the Blues. Tim Morris, who pitched six innings and took the loss, had two doubles and Adam Smerecki two hits, including an RBI single in the seventh. Tim Miller also had a run-scoring single.

South Farmington out hit the Indians 10-5, but nine walks and more errors hurt the Blues. A

BASEBALL

five-run fifth inning by Macomb broke a 5-5 tie.

Luke Humphreys, Miller and Justin Bright had two hits each, and Mike Fisher hit a two-run homer. Humphreys also scored two runs, and Miller had two RBIs.

Paul Mitchell pitched three innings for the Blues, Humphreys two and Wes Cornwell one.

Humphreys led the team with a .516 season batting average and also had 24 RBIs.

Bright was the leader in runs scored (33), walks (26) and stolen bases (26). His average was .391 and on-base percentage .563.

Miller hit .380 with a team-leading 32 RBIs, four homers, five doubles and three triples.

Ghanann hit .373 (and scored 30 runs), Greg Call .355 and Cornwell .352. Zack Cornwell, a tournament draftee, hit .455 with two doubles in the district.

The Blues finished 20-7-1.

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714 tournament average, which included five doubles in a 10-for-14 performance. Flancbaum was 7-for-7 in the championship games.

Kevin Lamb batted .615 and Ben Darga .365. Matt Pety recorded four runs with Matt Waskewitz and Lamb contributing three RBIs each.

Lamb won NFWB's first game with reliever Darga recording a save. Flancbaum and Pety combined for a two-hit shutout against Indiana.

Key contributions also were made by Matt Clark, Andy Stanila, Matt Richard, Evan Rodriguez, John Gadszicki, Tony Roe and Jeff Marx.

NFWB won the Memorial Day (Detroit) and Independence Day (Farmington Hills) tournaments as well as the Mustang district and state titles.

Flancbaum led NFWB with a .469 season average. His 30 runs scored, 30 hits and 13 doubles were team highs.

Lamb batted .425 and led the team with 21 RBIs. Pety, Waskewitz, Richard, Marx and Roe batted over .300.

Lamb led NFWB pitchers with six wins and 37 strikeouts. Darga had five wins and Flancbaum four.

Darga and Pety led the team to saves with three each. Pety had a team-best 1.97 earned run average.

NFWB is coached by Terry Lamb, Randy Rodriguez and former Detroit Tigers pitcher Dan Pety.

Eagles best at Oxford

The South Farmington Eagles (ages 9-10) once again displayed their talents as they defeated the competition in the Oxford Tournament July 29-30.

Eric Howard was perfect at the plate with a 1.000 average. Brian Boaler hit .714. Neil Starnberg and Bryan Smith .587. Anthony Falsetti and Bryan Paul .500. Ryan Anderson .416. Chris Hanson .345. Joe Russo and Greg Hocking .300.

The Eagles, who had a .571 tournament team average, began with a 14-0 win over Brandon.

Paul, Starnberg and Falsetti combined to pitch a no-hitter, and Brian Grewe's catch in center field was the top defensive play.

The second game resulted in a 12-1 win over Roman, which was limited to three hits.

The Eagles played good defense in the third game to beat Lake Orion 14-0. Danny Deig and Chris Walsh were the defensive stars.

Davison was no match for the Eagles in the championship game as South Farmington won 17-1.

Ryan Anderson's off-balance catch behind first base and Walsh's diving catch at shortstop helped secure the win.

The Eagles allowed just seven hits and made just three errors in four tournament games. Paul, Starnberg, Falsetti and Howard did the pitching.

The Eagles, who finished with a 19-4 record, were coached by Joel Grewe, Joe Falsetti, Greg Anderson, Bob Hocking and Richard and John Paul.

Niners tops in tourney

The South Farmington Niners won the Mustang Division of the Oxford Invitational July 29-30 with a 4-0 record.

The Niners defeated L'Anse au Loup 10-3, Clinton Valley 15-7, Goodrich 13-1 and Oxford 13-5 in the championship game.

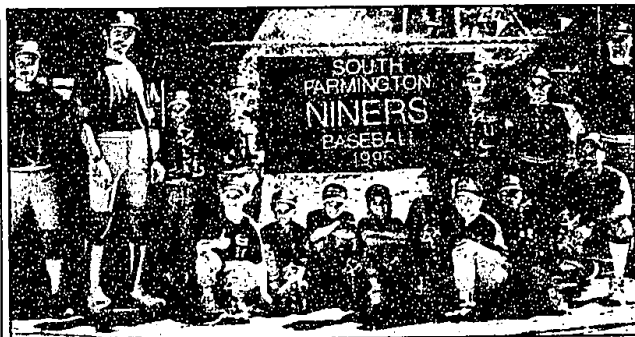
The consistent hitting of Jeff Fischer (1760), Anthony Volpe (1880), Sean Brennan (1845), Tim Kalczynski (1880), Aaron Pauling (1880) and Eric Zatklin (1880) provided the necessary offense.

The Niners relied on youth on their defense. The Hinesy of Brian Engelstein at first base, Kalczynski (second), Michael Monterey (shortstop), Zatklin (third) and Pauling (catcher) provided solid infield play along with pitchers Fischer and James Berling.

The outfield support came from Andrew Bailey, Tyler Farnas, Brennan, Fischer, Starnberg and Volpe. Andy Brown, Robbie Pryor and Kilo White were stout for the field tournament.

The Niners were managed by Al Zatklin. The coaches were Terry Fischer, Ken Starnberg and Kevin Volpe.

Niners mine gold (medal)



Tourney champs: The South Farmington Niners are (kneeling/seated, from left) Sean Brennan, Jason Stirling, Tim Kalczynski, Eric Zatklin, Andrew Soley, Anthony Volpe, Jeff Fischer, manager Al Zatklin; (standing) coaches Ken Stirling and Terry Fischer, Aaron Pauling, Shant Bagdasarian, Michael Monterey, Tyler Farrant and coach Ken Volpe. The Niners won the Oxford Invitational.

Consultants earn trip to Johnstown

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Decision Consultants Inc. pitcher Dan Pydyn wanted to earn a trip to Johnstown, Pa., and he wasn't going to let one of his collegiate teammates get in the way.

Pydyn threw a four-hitter in a 7-2 victory Sunday over Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury in the championship game of the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League playoffs at Livonia's Ford Field.

Pydyn and Hines Park starting and losing pitcher Craig Benedict happen to be teammates at Madonna University.

"It was great, tough on my arm, but when you're rolling along you don't want to come out of there," said Pydyn, who walked two and struck out four in his first nine-inning stint of the year. "Craig is a good friend of mine, but I'm excited about going to Johnstown. It's all I wanted all season."

DCI scored three runs in the fifth inning, highlighted by a two-run home run by Greg Klemptzky, to build its lead to 6-1 and send Benedict to the bench.

DCI, which finished second behind Hines Park in the regular-season standings, advances to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association national tournament starting Aug. 12 in Johnstown.

The LCBL's past winner has had to win a regional the last two years to qualify for the national tournament. The LCBL champion receives an automatic bid this year and coach Mike George is probably relieved since his team at Madonna have gotten close but never won an NAIA regional.

Leadoff batter Jeff McGavin and cleanup hitter Craig Petersen had three hits each. McGavin, Petersen, Klemptzky and Aaron Jones, the league's Most Valuable Player, reached base four times each.

George also gave assistant coaches Joe Saunders and Frank Corj much of the credit. Could it be luck, too?

"We wouldn't have gone this far without those two," George said. "Frank is a real daring third-base coach, he'll squeeze bunt, hit and run. It took a while for the kids to buy into our system, playing for a run at a time, but they've adjusted and are playing well."

The only discouragement for

George was knowing Benedict was the losing pitcher.

"Benny's a class kid and I'm just glad I have him at Madonna," George said. "People say 'He's wearing different colors in the summer, but I love him to death.'"

Pydyn beat Hines Park once in relief during the regular season, but failed to win in three starts

against coach Dave Carroll's team.

But DCI pitchers handcuffed Hines Park hitters throughout the playoffs. After winning the first-round game against Michigan Honig's 4-3, on Friday night, Joel Hillebrand threw a four-hit shutout in a 6-0 win over Hines Park on Saturday.



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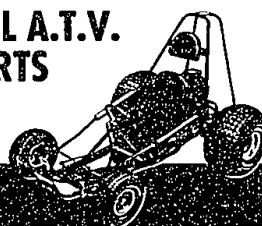
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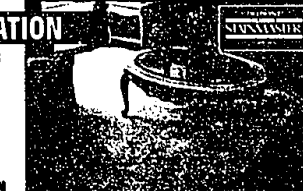
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