

Pitcher loses no-hit bid, but Hines Park prevails

Steve Hornberger was just two outs away from a no-hitter, but Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury had to hold on for 5-4 victory over Little Caesars in a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League game June 14 at Ford Field.

Hornberger, a lefty from Brighton and member of the Central Michigan University baseball team, held Caesars hitless for 6¹/₂ innings before Aaron Racey broke up the bid with a single.

Racey then advanced to second on a balk and Hornberger proceeded to give up three straight singles to Aaron Babier, Scott Carden and Aaron Cagano, accounting for two runs.

Jason Schniers then greeted reliever Brian Reynolds with a two-run double, closing the gap to 5-4.

Reynolds, however, got the final out to preserve the victory.

Kevin Uzarski, the losing pitcher, gave up six hits, two walks and three balks in six innings. All five runs were unearned as Caesars committed three errors.

Stacy McCollum had a three-run double to spark a four-run fifth for Hines Park. Brian Kalczynski added two hits and an RBI. John Papp also added two hits.

On Sunday, first-place Hines Park improved to 11-0-1 by sweeping a pair of one-run games from Michigan Honig's

7-6 and 6-5, at Ford Field. Papp had two hits and two RBI in the opener, while Kalczynski and Chance Beam also collected two hits apiece.

Chris Hesse, the starting pitcher, worked 6¹/₂ innings to pick up the victory. Mark Fleming went the final 1¹/₂ to earn the save.

In the nightcap, Hines Park rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh to pull out the win.

Scott Barrett's RBI single tied it and McCollum came through with the game-winning RBI single.

Barrett and McCollum each finished with two hits.

Jerry Noszewski, who pitched the seventh, notched the win. Darric Terry started, working 4¹/₂ innings before giving way to Fleming.

DECISION 9-3, CAESARS 3-4: Decision Consultants, Inc. (6-3-1) and Little Caesars (4-8) split a double-header Sunday at Ford Field.

Decision collected 11 hits and took advantage of five Caesars errors to win the opener.

Chris DeSitter went 2-for-5 with a pair of RBI for the winners. E.J. Roman added a triple and double, while Greg Ryan and Jason Rice also contributed two hits apiece.

Brian Cotner went 3-for-3 for Caesars.

Match Jacobynski, the winning pitcher, went six innings, allowing three runs (all unearned). He struck out five, walked one and allowed just four hits. Joe Fabris finished up.

Alex Wozniak, the first of three Caesars pitchers, allowed six runs on eight hits over four innings.

Adams is Class A bridesmaid again

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

Reaching the Class A baseball state final in consecutive seasons is a tremendous accomplishment, but Rochester Adams left Battle Creek's Brown Stadium late Saturday night with a familiar empty feeling.

The Highlanders' bid for the 1996 crown, and a shot at avenging last year's title-game setback, fell short once again.

Unranked Mount Pleasant dashed Adams' championship hopes this time as the Oilers raced to a four-run lead after five innings and coasted to a 7-3 win.

Adams completed another successful season with an impressive 29-7 record, but third-year coach Andy Lamkin and his players were understandably emotional following the game.

The Highlanders dropped a 7-4 decision to Grand Ledge in the 1995 final, and a senior-led group regarded this season as a mission to avenge that defeat.

"These kids are going to feel less than satisfied; I can tell you that," Lamkin said. "They worked extremely hard all year long for this. To get here once and lose is bad enough, but to

BASEBALL

get here twice with the same kids and lose is devastating. They don't deserve this."

Unranked Adams, which had a nine-game winning streak snapped, hit the ball hard. But the Highlanders had just six hits, and the three runs were well below their average.

Michael Anderson, a senior right-hander, made a sidearm delivery, scattered four hits over the first five innings and struck out three. Anderson (11-1) received closing help from junior ace Jeff Dringile, who allowed a run and two hits during the final two innings for a save.

"We didn't know a lot about Adams except they had some strong hitters and they proved that tonight," Mount Pleasant coach Luke Epple said. "They hit the ball very hard at times and didn't get anything for it."

(Anderson) didn't have it at first, but he settled down and pitched pretty well."

Mount Pleasant (31-4) collected just six hits off three Adams pitchers, but all were timely. The Oilers, who won their final

18 games, also benefited from nine walks, five wild pitches and two Adams errors.

Adams stranded 14 base runners Friday in a semifinal victory (7-2) over Grrosse Pointe South and continued the trend in the top of the first inning Saturday. The Highlanders loaded the bases with two outs, but senior Dan Lambert's hard liner was chased down by right fielder Chad Varga for the third out.

The Highlanders had just three players reach base over the next four innings while Mount Pleasant began to take control.

The Oilers, an 8-3 winner over defending champion Grand Ledge in the semis, opened the scoring with two runs in the bottom of the third off previously undefeated Tim Donohue (10-1). The lead grew to 4-0 in the fifth with an RBI single and a triple that barely eluded Lambert's glove in deep left field.

Donohue yielded four runs on five hits and walked six in 4¹/₂ innings. He successfully worked out of third wounded jams in the third and fourth innings, but the senior right-hander struggled most of the night with his control.

Mount Pleasant tacked on three more runs in the sixth

against relievers Derek Giordano and Bill LaRosa.

Adams scored two runs in the top of the sixth on Lambert's sacrifice fly and junior second baseman Tim Bellefleur's RBI single. LaRosa scored on a wild pitch in the seventh.

"We wanted this so bad this year," said senior first baseman Tim Czarnecki, who went 1-for-4 and scored a run. "We came here this weekend to win two games, and there's no way to accept another loss like this."

"We still had a great season, but it's not the best season that we could've had unless we had won this one."

ADAMS 7, GP SOUTH 2: Czarnecki recorded his second complete game victory in four days as the Highlanders rallied past the Blue Devils Friday.

South (23-15) took a 2-1 lead into the top of the fifth before the Highlanders erupted for six runs over the final three innings.

Adams tied the game in the fifth as 2 on Lambert's two-out RBI single that scored pinch runner Todd Lutzar. The Highlanders added two runs in the top of the sixth, the first coming on Brandon DeCouture's RBI single to left, and three more in the seventh.

Senior pitcher Chris Wassen, a Dream Team selection as a junior, scored what proved to be the winning run in the sixth. Wassen had been sidelined since May 9 after undergoing shoulder surgery. He also pinch ran twice and stole a base Saturday.

Donohue (strike), Bellefleur and designated hitter Brett House contributed two hits each.

DeWitt bounces OLSM from state tournament

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

The season-long dream of a state baseball championship for Orchard Lake St. Mary's came to a nightmarish end Friday in Battle Creek.

The third-ranked Eagles were pounded by hard-hitting DeWitt 10-1 in the Class B state semifinals at Bailey Park.

"That's a good hitting team; we just didn't play as good as we could have," said St. Mary's coach John Willis. "That's not to take anything away from them. They're a good team and they played a good game."

"It's just kind of disheartening, the way it turned out. You come up here and lose 2-1 and it's underhand and bad. But to get smacked around like that is kind of disheartening."

St. Mary's pitching duo of junior Dylan Putnam and senior Chris Andrzejak, which had combined for a 22-1 record and 16 shutouts entering the game, couldn't keep the Panthers off the bases.

After DeWitt went ahead 9-0 following a seven-run rally in the fifth, Willis turned to his No. 3 pitcher, Kevin Bilbia, who hadn't seen any action in a month or month-and-a-half. Combined, the three allowed 11 hits, walked seven batters, threw three wild pitches and fanned 10. Defensively, St. Mary's committed three costly errors.

DeWitt, meanwhile, played error-free baseball. Senior Mike Ashley, went 5¹/₂ innings, fanned three, allowed seven hits and

walked just two. Junior reliever Sean Merrill closed the game.

The Panthers, who had scored 296 runs while racking up a 33-7 record, wasted no time in putting some runs on the board. Senior leadoff batter Brock Iannhart (3-for-4) drove the second pitch of the game off the fence in left field for a stand-up double. Ashley (2-for-4 and two RBI) helped his own cause with an RBI single. Junior Matt Dodson scored moments later on a wild pitch and the Panthers led 2-0.

DeWitt put the game out of reach in the fifth inning when it sent 12 batters to the plate. The Panthers scored seven runs on six hits, two walks and two errors.

"If we're going to get beat, I would rather have a team hit the ball so we can field it, but today we couldn't even field it," said Willis.

St. Mary's scored its lone run in the bottom of the sixth inning. Junior shortstop Jack Broderick (2-for-4) led off with a double and scored on a double by junior Sterling Minter (2-for-3).

DeWitt wrapped up the scoring in the top of the seventh on a double by Iannhart and an RBI single by senior Rob Bobeda.

"All in all we had a pretty good season, but today is the season," added Willis. "You can go 200-0 and come up short of a goal and that's what's tough. We worked all year to get to the championship game and win it. We won the league and went to Tiger Stadium and that was nice, but we came up two games short of our goal."

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