

Big game results in mismatch

The big showdown never materialized Tuesday at Plymouth Ice Arena, when the Falcons... the only unbeaten team remaining in the Metro Summer Hockey League...

It figured to be a battle down to the final buzzer. It wasn't the Falcons broke a 1-1 tie early in the second period and just kept rolling, all the way to an 11-2 victory. The win kept the Falcons on top of the MSHL's Baker Conference with a 5-0 record...

HOCKEY

The Broncos did do one thing: They kept Falcon sniper Jesse Hubenschmidt, from Redford-Detroit Catholic Central, from doing serious damage. Hubenschmidt had been on a tear, scoring five goals Sunday to boost his total to a league-best 14.

He got just one against the Broncos, but David Scott and Dan Hunt picked up the goal-scoring slack for the Falcons. Scott rattled the Broncos for four goals (he now has 12 for the season) and an assist, while Hunt collected three goals and three assists.

Brian Calka added four assists for the Falcons, while Mike Chalk, Mike Kingery and Troy Trainer contributed a goal and an assist apiece. Bill Trainer scored both Broncos goals.

The Falcons' Tom Taylor and John Trainer combined in goal to stop the Broncos' attack.

Spartans 11, Huskies 3: The Spartans built a 7-1 lead by the 3:20 mark of the second period and coasted to an easy win Monday at Plymouth.

Tony Tuzolino led the Spartan offense with three goals and two assists. Josh Wiesend had two goals and an assist. Mike Schmidt had two goals, and both Dane Esterline and Larry Leo got a goal and an assist. Brady Pilsot and Pat Dokki scored single goals, and Chris Frescoln had two assists.

The Huskies got goals from Todd Kessler, Dave West and Brian Hamilton.

Casey Ostic and Robert Harrison teamed in goal for the Spartans to limit the Huskies to three goals.

Wolverines 8, Wildcats 5: When the Wolverines win, it's usually three players who do the bulk of the scoring. That was the case Monday, when they defeated the Wildcats at Plymouth.

Scott Golentak poured in three goals and added five assists, with brother Paul Golentak contributing three goals and three assists, and Scott Lock chipping in with two goals and three assists for the Wolves. No one else had more than a single assist.

The Wildcats, who pulled to within 6-5 on Bob Nagy's second goal with 2:52 to play before surrendering two empty-net goals in the final 41 seconds, also got two goals and an assist from Antoni Buliga.

NFWB rallies to win its own tourney title

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield all eight-year-old baseball team took advantage of a seventh-inning rally in the title game to win the NFWB 4th of July Tournament with a 7-6 victory over Thorn Hill (Toronto). Drew Kahle scored Mike Tassoni with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning of the championship game as NFWB posted the thrilling victory and avenged an opening-round 12-9 loss to Thorn Hill.

NFWB rebounded from the opening round loss to post a 25-21 triumph over South Farmington I. They beat South Farmington II, 14-9, in the quarterfinals and dumped South Farmington I, 22-21, in the semi's when Dan Richard drove in Matt Friedman with the winning run in the bottom of the sixth.

The other members of the team are Jeff Petry, Brad Lovick, Brandon Burton, Vincent Sarafa, Kevin Sack, Daniel Chatila, Harrison Silverman, Skyler Raymond. The team is coached by David Friedman and Jim Tassoni.

Coach finds niche instructing younger players

BY STEVE KOWALSKI STAFF WRITER

Lou Pironello decided to coach a 10 and 11-year old baseball team this summer instead of the 17 and 18 year old team he's had the last several years.

What Pironello is finding is coaching kids nearly half as old can be twice as rewarding. Not that Pironello, a Livonia resident, didn't enjoy some of his past teams, which have always played under the sponsorship of his company Concealed Security Systems. In fact, last year's Concealed Security team won a regional and advanced all the way to the Connie Mack World Series in Farmington, N.M.

But he's finding his new endeavor to be more rewarding, knowing that 9 and 10 year olds are very impressionable. Pironello's youngsters have been quick learners, celebrating the Fourth of July weekend with a championship at the DeDonatia Firecracker Classic at Halmich Park in Warren.

The Concealed Security Dodgers are 28-9 overall and tied for first place with North Farmington West Bloomfield in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation League with a 14-3

record. "Not to take anything away from Connie Mack baseball or coaching experiences at Farmington High and Madonna University, because there are many fond memories and good friendships there, but coaching my son Mark and the other 10 year olds on this team is much more enjoyable than I ever expected," Pironello said. "The determination and extra effort these little guys give is amazing. They always give 100 percent, run everything out, they dive for balls they can't reach and root loud for their teammates. They are fun to watch. It's baseball in its purest form."

Because most of Pironello's players only previous experience has been in house leagues, where leadoffs, bunting and steals are not allowed at such a young age, it was important to get ready for the season before going outdoors. Pironello picked his team from indoor tryouts during the winter when teaching fundamentals and basic baseball rules were as important as selecting talent.

This was another difference from coaching Connie Mack

BASEBALL

players, who spent their off-season dealing with their high school coaches.

"Not only did we break down the mechanics of fielding, throwing and hitting, but we had to teach them how to lead off, steal a base and how to hold runners on base," Pironello said. "It all seems weird to me because they have learned so much in just one season. Truthfully, the 10 year old is much easier to instruct and correct than the 18 year old. Any bad habits they have are easy to remove."

Making the all-tournament team at last week's tournament were Brian Dutton (Redford), Shaun Murray (Redford), C.T. Rigley (Redford), Kyle Miller (Farmington Hills), Anthony Volpe (Farmington) and Jason Krug (Redford).

The Dodgers beat Dublin, Ohio, 9-1, in the championship game behind the one-hit pitching of Krug, a recent addition to the team. Krug finished out his commitment with his house league team in Redford before joining Concealed Security.

He had six strikeouts and one

walk before suffering a sprained ankle running out a grounder to first base. Miller pitched the final inning.

Murray and Dutton each went 2-for-3 to lead the Dodgers. Volpe had two RBI while going 1-2.

The most suspense took place in the semifinals, where the Dodgers beat Tri-County, 6-5. Tri-County brought a 40-2 record into the tournament.

The Dodgers broke a 5-5 tie in the bottom of the sixth. Dutton struck out, but the catcher dropped the pitch and Dutton advanced all the way to third when the throw to first base from the catcher went into right field.

Krug's single just inside the line scored Dutton with the winning run.

Defense is what helped Concealed set up the winning rally. Tri-County loaded the bases on a pair of singles and a walk with no outs in the top of the sixth. But a line shot was caught by Andrew Soley (Farmington) at second base and he threw to first baseman Greg Hocking (Farmington) to complete a double play. The next batter struck out to end the threat.

In the fifth, Tri-County loaded the bases against Rigley, who bore down and got the next two batters on strikes to end that threat without a run scoring.

The Dodgers received RBI doubles from Krug and Dutton and an RBI single by Volpe earlier in the game.

The Dodgers advanced to the playoff round after finishing pool play with a 3-1 record. They started with a 12-1 four-inning mercy win over the Rochester Yankees. Krug was the winning pitcher with a three hitter. Miller was 3-4 with three RBI and Rigley was 2-4 with one RBI.

Volpe was the pitcher of record in a 10-1 win over the Ann Arbor Braves, which also ended in a four-inning mercy. He struck out three and allowed four hits. Miller was 2-3 with two RBI and Murray was 2-2 as the Dodgers jumped ahead with nine runs in the first.

The Detroit Glints handed the Dodgers their first defeat, 10-7. The Dodgers finished pool play with an 11-1 win over the St. Clair Shores Indians. Mike Monterey (Farmington) and Livonia's Philip Mabey combined on a no-hitter.

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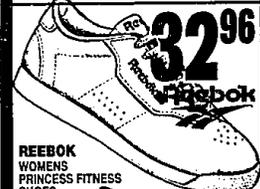
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