

Pythons perfect in tourney

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Pythons won the 9-year-old division of the Oxford Invitational July 29-30 by going undefeated (4-0) in the round-robin tournament.

In the opening game, the Pythons defeated Clinton Valley 7-8 when first baseman Eric Lubanski, facing a two-out, two-strike situation in the bottom of the seventh inning, hit a bases-loaded triple.

Four NFWB pitchers combined for a two-hitter. Andy Baum picked up his first of two tournament victories, and right fielder Adam Vieder made a diving catch to thwart a late-inning Clinton Valley rally.

In the second game against host Oxford, Jon Marshall was the winning pitcher in an 11-1, three-inning mercy.

The game featured an unassisted double play by Baum, the left-center fielder.

The Pythons outscored Troy 21-11 in their third game. Third baseman Brandon Schram led the offense with three hits, and shortstop Bret Borock contributed two.

Jeff Richard was the winning pitcher with relief help from teammates Lubanski, Borock and Schram.

NFWB's fourth game on July 28 against the South Farmington Niners ended after three

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innings with the Pythons ahead 12-2.

Lubanski had three hits and second baseman Scott Szpyrka launched a three-run homer. Baum earned his second pitching decision.

The tournament victory was NFWB's second of the summer. The Pythons have an overall record of 11-2.

NFWB's only losses were to a predominantly 10-year-old team in the district tournament at Walled Lake in which the Pythons finished second.

"We are extremely proud of our boys," NFWB co-manager Paul Lubanski said. "Co-manager Mel Borock and I hope to keep this team together for many years. We have no doubt, as they mature, they'll become even better; it's really exciting to ponder their potential."

Lakers alive in tourney

The Kensington Valley Lakers started 2-0 in the American Amateur Baseball Association regional tournament in Battle Creek last week.

John Steiger pitched a complete game as the Lakers opened play Wednesday with a 3-2 win over the Adrian Lookouts.

Steiger struck out eight and walked two. Aaron Lawson and Tom Willerter had two hits and scored one run each.

In the second game later the same day, the Lakers defeated the North Oakland Stars 3-1.

Bob Mason went the distance, allowing four hits and striking out six. Lance Siegwald had a two-run single in the fourth to put the Lakers on top.

The double-elimination tournament continued through Sunday.

Kensington Valley advanced to the regional by posting a 5-0 record and winning a district championship July 26-28.

Willerer pitched a one-hitter and struck out nine as the Lakers edged Mount Clemens 2-0 in their third district game.

Joe Niestroy drove in the first run with a single, and Siegwald scored the second on a squeeze bunt by Billy Morris in the seventh inning.

The Lakers used a five-run first inning to beat the Detroit Hornets 6-2 and make Art Hoffmeyer the winning pitcher. Lawson, Siegwald and Brent Anderson had two hits each.

In the championship game, the Lakers had to overcome a 5-2 deficit to defeat Mount Clemens 7-5.

Sam Marneau benefited from another five-inning inning - this time in the fifth -- to become the winning pitcher.

The Lakers led the bases with a shortstop Can and two singles by Anderson and Siegwald. Don Widajewski followed with a two-run double.

Lawson reached on an error to lead the bases again, and Willerer followed with a walk to force in the tying run.

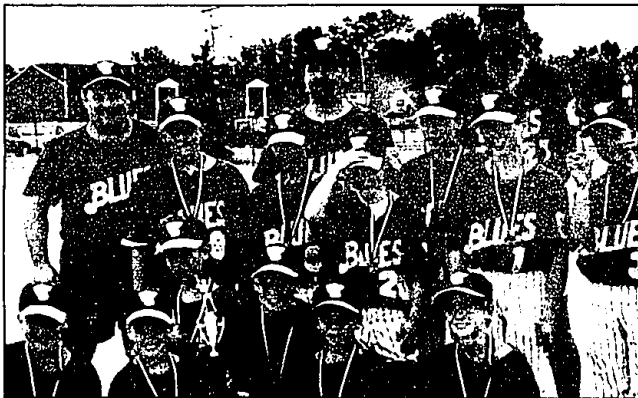
The winning hit came from former North Farmington first baseman Eric Pierce, who smacked a two-run double to put the Lakers in front 7-5.



9-year-old champs: The NFWB Pythons baseball roster consists of (front row, from left) Jon Karmo, Eric Lubanski, Adam Vieder, Steve Peterson, (second row) coach Walter Schram, Josh Kay, Brandon Schram, Scott Szpyrka, Jeff Richard, co-manager Paul Lubanski, (third row) coach Rick Burkhardt, Bret Borock, Jon Marshall, Brad Burkhardt, Andy Baum and co-manager Mel Borock.



Fabulous fifteens: The South Farmington Blues 15-year-old baseball team consists of (front row, from left) Jon Marchel, Josh Davis, Sean Quay, Brendan Etue, David Pesci, Mark Cole, coach Larry Cole, (back row) coach Dan Avery, Zak Burton, Mike Fisher, Mike Hoad, coach Jerry Marchel, Charlie Auery and Bobby Austin. The Blues won the Homeplate Tournament in St. Clair Shores on July 21.



The South Farmington Blues 10-year-olds won the Homeplate Tournament last month. The team members are (kneeling, from left) David Rora, Tim DePaulis, David Justice, Sean Brennan, Andrew Anderson, Eric Zathin, (second row) coach Russ Justice, Shant Bagdasarian, Aaron Pauling, John Rochow, Jeff Fischer, Andy Brown, Tim Kalczynski, (back row) coaches Hugh DePaulis and Terry Fischer.

Collegiate all-stars top Adray squad

Greg Ryan had a memorable night, leading the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League All-Stars to an 11-9 victory over Adray DeSana in an exhibition game July 28 at Ford Field in Livonia.

Ryan, who just completed his freshman season at Eastern Michi-

gan University after starring as a prep at Dearborn Divine Child, went 4-for-4 and nearly hit for the cycle.

The first baseman/outfielder from second-place Decision Consultants, Inc., clubbed a fifth-inning grand slam, a double and a pair of singles.

Chris Kirian of first-place Hines

Park Lincoln/Mercury added a three-run homer. Shortstop Brian Kalczynski of Farmington (Hines Park) contributed a pair of doubles.

LCBL All-Star coaches Dave Carroll and Gary Pierce, both of Hines Park, used five different pitchers against the Class A team from Wyandotte. Starter Mark Fleming (Hines Park) hurled two scoreless innings to pick up the win.

DCI pitchers Joel Hillbrand and Mitch Jabczynski split the next four innings, giving up a total of five runs.

Joel Fabris (DCI) pitched a scoreless seventh, while Brian Reynolds (Hines Park) came on to work the final two innings. He was the victim of three errors, giving up four runs, including three in the eighth that were unearned.

DeSana's Mike Giacomantonio led a 10-hit attack, going 3-for-5 with a pair of homers.

Meanwhile, Hines Park leaves Friday, Aug. 9, for the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnston, Pa. The tournament is for 20-and-under teams.

Pierce moved to fill three openings on his roster, tabbing Kevin Uzarski, a left-handed hitting outfielder and pitcher from Little Caesars, along with Hillbrand, a right-hander from Madonna University.

He is awaiting word on Ryan, who can play center field or first base. AAABA first-round action begins Saturday, Aug. 10, with eight games.

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was not surprised with Fields' hitting prowess.

"We're strong all the way through the lineup, we don't have the same lineup, we like to mix things up, it all depends on the pitching," said Riley, whose

team improved to 41-20. "We juggle our seventh, eighth and ninth guys a lot in the order. He (Fields) has good speed and power."

"I thought their pitcher (Cook) was very effective. He kept the ball around the plate all day and that often is the key to winning."

First baseman Mike Fisher, a pick-up player from the South Farmington Blues, got Livonia Travel rolling with a two-run homer in the first inning.

Vancouver got one back in the third on a Cole Saban RBI single.

In the bottom of the fourth, Vancouver took a 3-2 lead on an RBI single by Casey Jones and an RBI double by Fields.

Livonia knotted the count at 3-all in the fifth when catcher Chris Woodruff reached base on an error and later scored on an error.

But Fields stepped up and hit a dramatic homer in the sixth.

"Some teams underestimate the No. 9 hitter, but I don't think they did in this case," Riley said. "Every team here is a good team, so you can't pick up any tendencies."

Dixie entered the matchup with Livonia Travel sporting a 40-14 overall record. The Thoroughbred League champs won the Versailles, Ky. regional. Nine players from from Lafayette High School in Lexington.

"It was just one of those games where hitting becomes contagious and we just got the ball rolling, said Dixie manager Jon Hudson.

After a scoreless first inning, Dixie exploded for eight runs in the second, five coming with two-out. A costly Livonia Travel infield error led to the explosion.

"If you can keep from giving up a big inning, especially in a World Series, it means a lot," Hudson said. "We've been scoring runs in bunches all year, but Doug Brassfield came up with a key punt and that's what started it."

It was 11-1 after four innings as Rabe went to his bullpen.

Avery and Fisher finished up. Nick Turner led Dixie with three hits, including a pair of doubles, and three RBI. Austin Kearns also had three hits, while Donald Gillespie, Jason Miles (off the bench), Chris Wilke and Brassfield added two each.

Travel scored a run in the fourth when Casey Rogowski reached base on an outfield error and later scored on a wild pitch.

In the fifth, Travel scored three times.

Derek Fox sacrifices fly scored Ryan Wimering. Rogowski added an RBI single and Bob Malek scampered home on an infield error.

Winning pitcher Jeromy Rogers went all seven innings, allowing just five hits.