

Softball from page C1

one and struck out two. Andrea Hillsey was 2-for-3 and drove in the winning run with a two-out single. Lisa Copeland had an RBI double earlier in the game.

Compware opened the tournament Saturday with an 11-1, five-inning win over the Lakeland (Wis.) All-Stars. Brubaker and Buckless combined on a no-hitter, with Brubaker pitching the first three innings. She fanned seven and walked one.

Becca Land was 3-for-4 and scored two runs. Hillsey hit a two-run triple and also scored twice.

Copeland, who had three RBI with a bases-loaded double, and Lauren Monterey had two hits each. Both scored two runs each. Brubaker threw a two-hitter with eight strikeouts and no walks, for five innings in the second game — an 8-0 defeat of Athletics Foot from Racine, Wis. Buckless pitched the last two, allowing one hit.

Hillsey and Dana Falvo drove in two runs apiece. Brandy Dills and Conlin Peterson one each. Beth Carr walked twice and scored two runs.

In the winner's bracket final, Compware needed 10 innings and the international tiebreaker to overcome the Manicas, 3-2. In the top of the 10th, Carr was sacrificed to third by Katie Albert and scored on a ground ball to second by Land.

The Manicas loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the 10th, but the game ended with a groundout to Hillsey at shortstop.

Hillsey was 2-for-3, and Dills had an RBI double. Brubaker pitched the last four innings and got the win in relief of Buckless, allowing one hit and two walks (one intentional in the 10th).

Compware (43-10) will compete next in the National Softball Association national championship tournament July 29-Aug. 3 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

NFWB tops champion

Even though it didn't advance beyond pool play, NFWB-Ultimate Precision was the only team to defeat the eventual champion in the 16-and-under

Brighton softball tournament. Ultimate Precision came from behind to give the Toledo Lady Irish their only loss, 4-3.

NFWB didn't have a hit until Melanie Grewe hit a lead-off triple in the sixth. She scored the first run on a single by Katina Vitanis.

Ultimate Precision scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to win. Grewe's two-out, two-run single was the game-winner.

NFWB won two of three games in pool play, including a 5-1 victory over the Oakland Merchants.

Ali Ault scattered five hits and was the winning pitcher in both games. She struck out seven and didn't issue a walk against Oakland. She fanned three and walked just one versus Toledo.

Grewe was 3-for-4 and scored two runs in the Merchants game. Brittany Maxey hit a two-run single, and Lindsey Emmett chipped in two hits.

Ultimate Precision dropped an 8-5 score to the Grand Rapids Blaze, which created a three-way tie for first place in the pool.

The Lady Irish advanced to the next round based on a tiebreaker of fewest runs allowed. Toledo allowed 11 runs, NFWB 12.

Leslie Schrock hit a two-run single and Maxey had an RBI single versus the Blaze.

Diamonds stay perfect

The Farmington Hills Diamonds improved their record to 12-0 in the Girls Incredible Fast-Pitch Softball League's American Division Tuesday.

The Diamonds swept a doubleheader from the visiting Livonia Gators at North Farmington, 8-4 and 20-0.

Lindsey Taub pitched a three-hitter in the first game, striking out seven and walking six. Christy Hendrickson had a run-scoring single.

Kristen Schrock tossed a no-hitter in the nightcap while recording six strikeouts and five walks.

Kristy Reinhardt hit a home run and a single; she had two RBI. Krissy King had three hits and one RBI, and Christina Columbo hit a two-run triple.



Diamond dangles: The NFWB-Ultimate Precision 16-and-under girls fast-pitch softball team consists of (front row, from left) Melanie Grewe, Diana Gustkey, Angie Lochen, Ari Ault, Jenelle Welling, Lindsey Emmett, (second row) manager Rob Schrock, Ali Ault, Katina Vitanis, Randi Taub, Brittany Maxey, Jamie Swartz, Leslie Schrock and coach Bruce Emmett. The team won the Third Annual NFWB Tournament.



State champs: The 14-and-under Compware girls fast-pitch softball team consists of (front row, from left) Jessica Brubaker, Brandy Dills, Dana Falvo, Becca Land, Katie Albert, Andrea Hillsey, (back row) coach Tom Hilsey, Kristen Buckless, Lauren Monterey, Lindsay Zienert, Beth Carr, Conlin Peterson, Lisa Copeland, coach Al Land and coach Dave Brubaker. Not pictured is Kristen Cullen. Compware won the National Softball Association state championship and an Amateur Softball Association regional tournament.

Baker from page C1

ly, Baker said he no longer had the same enthusiasm to coach.

"Ordinarily, at the end of the season, I'm tired and want some distance from the sport," he said. "I had been slower to recover the passion one needs to coach, and this year it wasn't coming back."

"It was gnawing at me. Instead of looking forward to the season, I was looking at it more as something that would have to be dealt with, scheduled properly or overcome."

"I tended to be looking at the negatives instead of the positives. The pendulum had swung and I felt like I needed to step away. I was growing a little tired of it, and I wanted to be available to do other things with my own kids."

Baker said that point was brought home to him last week when he left a basketball scrimmage briefly to drive his daughter to her softball game.

"I came back to the scrimmage and saw the players' parents there supporting them," he said. "It was a striking illustration that I'm not performing the right role."

Baker said he wanted to emphasize his decision was not a reflection on the current group of Mercy players or done in response to any individual player.

The advent of the season is really what it took for me to realize how deeply I feel about this," he said.

"I talked about it with my wife, and we felt I owed it to Mercy to tell her at once. It wasn't right to go through the season less than wholeheartedly."

"The program is on sound footing. All the preparations have been made for the coming season, and a fresh burst of enthusiasm might better serve the kids."

Malinowski said she was shocked by Baker's decision but, after listening to him explain, understood his reasons behind it.

"He's built a great tradition here; it's going to be very hard to replace him," she said. "His record and success speak for themselves."

"Anywhere you go, everybody knows who Larry Baker is. I had a gentleman tell me 'Basketball and Mercy go hand-in-hand, don't they?' I said, 'Well, that's Larry; he's built this program.'"

While the timing might be inconvenient, Malinowski said she wasn't upset by it. "After all his contributions and all he's done, when he says he just can't do this again, what can you say?" she said. "At least we have a few weeks. It's not like it's the last day (before practice starts)."

"I told Larry I'll do everything I can to see the Mercy tradition

continues."

Baker's teams won two Class A championships (1977 and 1982) and were runners-up on three occasions — the last time in 1991. The Marlins also won 19 district and 11 regional titles.

The come-from-behind victory over four-time defending state champion Flint Northern in the '92 finals ranks as one of Mercy's greatest accomplishments during Baker's tenure.

"That was an unbelievable experience — the very epitome of achievement," Baker said, adding the Marlins overcame a 19-point deficit in that game. "It's a wonderful, wonderful memory."

"I'm just as proud I didn't miss a practice; I was at every game. I had a lot of great associations with great individual athletes and coaches, and I've really cherished those, too."

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The City of Farmington Hills Purchasing Division will solicit sealed bids during the next forty-five (45) days for the following products and/or services:

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Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Central Services Department. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specifications.

The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk

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SPORTS ROUND UP

SORROWS FOOTBALL TRYOUTS

Boys entering the fourth through eighth grades who are registered members of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church or of a bordering parish are eligible to try out for the school's Catholic Youth Organization football teams.

Tryouts and conditioning (without pads) will take place Aug. 11-15, starting at 6 p.m. each night at the Sorrows athletic field at 10 Mile and Power roads in Farmington. Full equipment practices begin on Monday, Aug. 18.

The Sorrows Saints will have varsity (seventh and eighth grades) and junior varsity (fourth, fifth and sixth grades) teams.

Participants are required to have physicals dated after April 15, 1997, and proof of medical insurance.

Coaches would like to hear in advance from boys who are interested.

Varsity candidates should call head coach Ugo Ahato at (248) 478-5880, and JV candidates should call head coach Tom Schiavi at (248) 478-3325.

ADULT HOCKEY SIGNUP

The Farmington Hills Adult

Hockey Association is now accepting registrations for the fall and winter season.

Programs will be offered in three divisions with six over-48 teams, 12 over-30 teams and 10 over-20 teams.

All teams are drafted so as to provide an equal balance of talent on each team.

Each team will play two games a week during the season with a minimum of 44 games during the season. The registration fee is \$100.

Registration forms are available at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. Registrations will be accepted until Friday, Aug. 1, or a division is full.

The fall and winter season will start on Monday, Sept. 8, and continue until mid March of 1998.

For more information call (248) 471-6004.

MARLINS NEED COACHES

Mercy High School needs a varsity girls basketball head coach and a girls junior varsity tennis coach for the 1997 fall season.

If interested call Nancy Malinowski, Mercy athletic director, at (248) 478-2836 or fax-a resume to (248) 476-3691.