

# D.C.I. clinches title; Rams close in on 2nd

Livonia D.C.I. can start making post-season playoff plans. D.C.I. clinched first place in the Collegiate Division of the Arday Metro Baseball Association with a 2-0 win on Saturday over Hines Park to earn the automatic berth to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association national tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

D.C.I. had a 15-10-1 record and 31 points heading into Wednesday's season finale against the Warren Reds, the second place team in the Arday Division.

**ADRAY METRO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION STANDINGS**  
Arday Division: 1. Arday Kings, 18-9-0/30 points; 2. Warren Reds, 16-0-0/32; 3. Windsor Stars, 13-10-1/27; 4. Windsor Selects, 6-20-1/13.  
Livonia Collegiate Division: 1. Livonia D.C.I., 15-10-1/31; 2. Michigan Rams, 13-11-2/28; 3. Hines Park, 12-11-2/24; 4. Livonia Arday, 5-20-1/10.

## RECENT RESULTS

Federation regional in Louisville, Ky. after a 9-6 win over D.C.I. Sunday at Livonia Ford Field.

The Rams were 13-11-2 for 28 points heading into their season finale on Wednesday against Downriver Arday. Hines Park,

July 26: Rams 9, D.C.I. 6; Livonia Arday 4, D.C.I. 2; Hines Park 10, Livonia Arday 10; Arday Kings 13, Windsor Selects 12; Windsor Stars 15, Arday Kings 14.  
July 28: Hines Park 2, D.C.I. 1; D.C.I. 2, Hines Park 0.  
July 24: D.C.I. 5, Windsor Selects 0; Hines Park 3, Windsor Stars 2.  
July 23: Rams 6, Arday Kings 2.  
July 22: Arday Kings 5, Hines Park 4; Livonia Arday 12, Windsor Selects 7.

12-13 for 24 points, was the only team that could catch the Rams and it could only do so with a double-header sweep over the Warren Reds on Wednesday night and a loss by the Rams to Downriver Arday.

That would place both teams

in a tie for second place with 28 points and set up a one-game playoff between the two teams to determine the NABF regional representative.

In the win against D.C.I., Josh Axelsson earned the pitching victory in relief of starter Tom Willeher.

D.C.I. had taken an early lead, scoring five runs, three unearned, off Willeher in two innings.

Axelsson allowed no runs on four hits with eight strikeouts in the last four innings. The game was called after six innings due to the league's time limit.

The Rams scored four runs in the second inning and five more to take the lead.

Kevin Prader had two hits and scored two runs with an RBI to lead the Rams. Matt Pike was 1-for-4 with two RBI and Todd Miller (Farmington Hills/Madonna) 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Aaron Lawson (Farmington Hills/Harrison/Wayne State) was 1-for-4, including a double, with

a run scored. Rick Green was 1-for-4 with a run scored and Joe Seestadt 1-2 with two runs scored.

Luke Humphreys (Redford Union/St. Mary's College) was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Lance Siegwald was 1-for-3 with three RBI.

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## Conz comes home for Flat Rock race

Call it the hectic life of Brian. During the week he drives bulky semi-truck rigs around Detroit on the midnight shift.

On the weekends, he's Brian Conz of Livonia, a 32-year-old rookie trying to make his way on the American Racing Car Association Bondo/Mar-Hyde Supercar Series.

This weekend it's a homecoming of sorts.

On Friday, he'll take his Chevrolet Lumina to the 375-mile short track at Kili Koro Speedway in Xenia, Ohio.

Then on Saturday night, he'll return to his racing roots — Flat Rock Speedway for a 25-mile event.

Third in points among rookies on the Bondo Mar-Hyde Series, Conz has a dream to race against the big boys at the rescheduled Firecracker 400, set for October in Daytona, Fla.

"If everything goes right I hope to be there," said Conz, a Bent-

ley High School graduate who is married with two children. "It takes the same restrictor-plate motor we have on the Mar-Hyde."

Depending on the size of the track, Conz races three different 1998 models — a Chevy Lumina, Pontiac Grand Prix or Chevy Monte Carlo.

The cars get up to Winston Cup speeds of 190 MPH. Conz's No. 6 car is owned by Gerald Smith of Boaz, Ala. and Wayne Peterson of Pulaski, Tenn.

"We got together when they didn't have a driver at Talladega, and I jumped in," said Conz, who won his first race in 1988 in the Street Stock Division at Flat Rock.

His pit crew includes Westland's Ron Cowie, a catch can man, and Mike Knie of Farmington Hills, a crew chief who handles the front tires.

He is currently 11th in the Supercar Series point standings

with 1,700. Frank Kimmel leads with 2,930. Andy Belmont, the rookie Conz is chasing, is sixth with 2,220.

Model series Rookie of the Year in 1992. He won the Michigan Cup race in '95 and began driving on the ARCA Bondo/Mar-Hyde Supercar circuit in '96 with his first race at Michigan International Speedway.

All told, Conz has five ARCA wins, five runners-up and 92 top 10s.

His grandfather, Clyde Parker, is a former ARCA driver who finished in the top 10 six consecutive seasons.

Last weekend at Pocono (Pa.), Conz took 15th out of 35 drivers. His best finish is 13th.

"I think Brian drives smart," co-owner Smith said. "He knows he's got a car that will lead, and he knows when his car isn't good enough to contend. Then he transfers that knowledge to the

track and uses it for the best possible finish."

"Brian has some things to learn about racing, but I believe that he has great potential and ability."

His biggest obstacle is money — sponsorship to be exact. Frederick Thompson, Inc., a trucking firm, adorns his No. 6 car along with Advance Novelty of Livonia, Shooters Sports Theater of Fraser, Mothers, and Rogues & Associates.

But Conz and his owners realize it takes more cash to be successful and stay on the circuit.

"I believe Brian is a little hard-headed, but the kid can definitely drive a race car," co-owner Peterson said. "Brian drives hard every lap, whether he's in first or 40th. He never gives up. I think Brian has great potential and with the right financial backing, will become a well-known car driver and have a long career in racing."

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