

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>PROF BASEBALL</b> <b>Thursday, May 13</b> Salem at Farmington, 4 p.m. St. Agatha at Plymouth, 4:30 p.m. Farm. Harrison at Canton, 5 p.m. Church Hill at W.L. Central, 4 p.m. Franklin at Northville, 4 p.m.	<b>Friday, May 14</b> Canton at Farm. Harrison, 4 p.m. Plymouth at Baptist Park, 4:30 p.m. Farmington at N. Farm., 4 p.m. John Glenn at W.L. Central, 4 p.m. Lakeshore at Marquette, 4 p.m. Church Hill at Northville, 4 p.m.	<b>Saturday, May 15</b> Inter-City at Plymouth, 4:30 p.m. N. Farm. at Stevenson, 4 p.m. W.L. Central at John Glenn, 4 p.m. C.V. at Harper Woods, 4:30 p.m. Cranbrook at Luth. W., 4:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 16</b> (U.S. City Trolley at Ford Field) Cranbrook at Luth. W., 4:30 p.m. Farmington at Farm. Harrison, 4 p.m. Church Hill at W.L. Central, 4 p.m. Lakeshore at Marquette, 4 p.m.	<b>Monday, May 17</b> (U.S. City Trolley at Ford Field) Cranbrook at Luth. W., 4:30 p.m. Farmington at Farm. Harrison, 4 p.m. Church Hill at W.L. Central, 4 p.m. Lakeshore at Marquette, 4 p.m.	<b>Tuesday, May 18</b> Farmington at Salem, 4 p.m. St. Agatha at Plymouth, 4:30 p.m. Farm. Harrison at Canton, 5 p.m. Church Hill at W.L. Central, 4 p.m. Franklin at Northville, 4 p.m.

## Switch beneficial to WSU hurler

By BRAD EMMONS  
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There was a time when Tim Miller truly enjoyed the "ping" sound of aluminum bats.

"I loved hitting and always one of my goals coming out of high school was to hit at the collegiate level," said Miller, a former first baseman at Livonia Franklin High now turned pitcher at Wayne State University. "I pitched two years in high school, but not much, about 28 innings."

The 6-foot-4, 205-pound Miller, whose older brother Henry pitched with success for the Tartars in the late 1980s, had to be convinced he was better suited for mound duty.

"He thought he was a first baseman, but he didn't run well enough or do some of the other things you need to do to get to that next level," WSU 11th-year coach Rodger George said. "I finally said he wasn't going to do it (hit). And he resisted it, but last fall he came in and he finally decided he was a pitcher."

The right-hander, whose repertoire includes a fastball, slider, changeup and occasional curveball, now muffles the sound of aluminum.

He had a breakthrough year this spring as a junior, going 8-2 with a 2.48 earned run average as the Tartars finished 32-19 overall (most wins in school history).

WSU, 24-9 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, finished just one game out of first place behind Ashland (Ohio).

## BASEBALL

In 72½ innings this season, Miller struck out 36 batters and walked just 26. He tossed six complete games and was one of six Tartars named to the All-GLIAC squad.

"Tim threw consistently in the mid-80s (MPH) and he can hump it up to 90 once in awhile," George said. "His changeup got better and better. And he's just a great kid."

Henry Miller, a hard thrower who got a look in the Detroit Tigers minor league system, "had some influence" on his younger brother, according to George.

"Once he accepted it, it was kind of surprising to see what can happen," George said. "Yes, he surprised me a little, but he always had the potential as a pitcher."

As a freshman, Miller went 3-1 with an 8.16 ERA in 35½ innings. He pitched only 18½ innings for WSU as a sophomore, going 1-0 with an 8.85 ERA.

"To be honest, I didn't think I'd have a season like this," Miller said. "Half of our coaching staff went to Oakland University, so the pitchers were kind of on their own. I just took it one day at a time."

But with Henry nearby, young Tim got some good coaching.

"My brother taught me a lot and I've learned from his mistakes," Tim said. "I've definitely learned from him."

"Before every start he tells me to keep the ball low, throw

strikes and stay ahead in the count. Also, stay within yourself. Don't let a home run bother you or listen to guys heckling you from the bench. Just try and block everything else out."

A summer pitching with DCI in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League didn't hurt either. It had a carry-over effect.

"Last summer with DCI I was pretty successful and was able to focus on pitching," Miller said.

The only "downer" to an otherwise great season was WSU missing the cut for the NCAA Division II regional in Quincy, Ill.

The Tartars needed one more win over Ashland to guarantee themselves one of four spots in the tournament. (St. Joseph's and the University of Indianapolis also earned bids.)

"It's just too bad we came up one game short because we had a lot of fun winning this year," Miller said.

Miller will return for his senior year along with All-GLIAC pitcher Michael Newsted, a sophomore, to give Wayne State a formidable one-two punch on the hill.

This summer he'll play with DCI again and get some experience in the Pontiac Class A circuit. The exercise season major will also work a summer job at Max & Erma's restaurant.

"I'd like to get him into Great Lakes league," said George, referring to the summer wooden bat circuit.

Wait a minute, that's as a pitcher, not a hitter.

## Western Division battle looms

It was a pivotal baseball double-header for both Plymouth Canton and Northville Monday, and it was host-team Northville that came out on top — twice.

The Chiefs followed the path that had enabled them to win 16 of their first 18 games: good pitching and defense. But they had little offense, and it cost them in 2-0, 4-1 losses.

"We just didn't hit," said coach Scott Dickey, his team now 16-4 overall. "We played great defense, we just couldn't get anybody on base to bunt over or do anything with. It was tough."

The losses left Canton with a 4-3 record in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division, three games behind Farmington Harrison.

Ben Tucker was solid in the

first game for Canton, tossing a six-hitter. He allowed two earned runs and one walk, and he struck out 10. But his record fell to 5-2 — because as good as he was, Northville's Andy Borda was even better. Borda fired a three-hitter, striking out 11.

Andrew Copenhaver had two of those Canton hits, the other belonged to Joe Cortellini. All were singles.

The Mustangs got two hits from Tim Edick, a junior catcher who hurt the Chiefs in both games. He doubled in the fourth and scored the game's first run on a single. Ben Keetle slugged a solo home run in the fifth.

In the second game, Canton's Jon Johnson allowed two runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth, and that was enough to cost him his first loss of the season. He's 5-1.

The Chiefs got their only run in the top of the fourth, a rally that started with Oliver Wolcott's single. He eventually scored on Jason Evans' sacrifice fly.

Evans had two of Canton's five hits.

Johnson allowed four earned runs on 10 hits and one walk, with three strikeouts. Rob Reel was Northville's winning pitcher, surrendering just one walk and striking out five.

Edick highlighted a 3-for-3 game with a two-run homer in the fifth.

Canton did not commit an error in the double-header.

It won't get easier for the Chiefs. They host league-leader Harrison (7-0) at 5 p.m. today.

## Madonna players saluted in post-season awards

Madonna University received multiple post-season awards in both baseball and softball in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

"In baseball, Delano Voletti, a senior catcher from Westland; Daryl Rocho, a senior third baseman from Fraser; Aaron Shrewsbury, a senior outfielder from Dearborn; and Jason Brooks, a junior designated hitter from Taylor; were selected to the 16-member first team.

Rocho batted .392 with 14 doubles, 16 home runs and a team-best 70 runs batted in. Shrewsbury set a school record with 19 home runs; he batted .425 and collected 63 RBI, and established a new career hit mark of 240. Shrewsbury already has Madonna's career highs in homers, RBI, doubles and batting average.

Voletti hit .327 with 12 homers, 47 RBI and a team-best 17 doubles. Brooks' .453 batting average topped the Crusaders; he added 10 doubles and six homers.

Shrewsbury, Voletti and Todd Miller, from Farmington Hills, were also named to the WHAC's all-academic team. Shrewsbury has a 3.5 grade-point average with a major in criminal justice; Voletti has a 3.44 grade point with a sports medicine major; and Miller carries a 3.34 with a major in education.

Seven other Crusaders were honorable mention all-WHAC: Bob Hamp, a junior outfielder from Alpena (.358, six homers, 25 stolen bases); Bob Mason, a senior pitcher from Brighton (3.6, 5.40 earned run average, 43 strikeouts); Miller, a junior sec-

ond baseman (.333, seven doubles, 974 fielding percentage); E.J. Roman, senior pitcher/first baseman from White Lake (3-3 record, .323 batting average); Jeff Warholik, senior pitcher/first baseman from Alpena (5-4, 5.43 ERA, .331 average, 31 RBI); Neil Wildfang, a sophomore shortstop from Canton (3.55, 19 stolen bases); and Derrick Wolfe, a junior outfielder from Tecumseh (.383, 15 doubles, 11 homers, 34 RBI, 19 steals).

Madonna reached the WHAC Tournament finals last Friday, losing to Indiana Tech 19-17 in the title game. The Crusaders completed the season with a 25-24-1 overall record, 12-10 in the WHAC.

"In softball, Vicki Malkowski, a junior catcher from Royal Oak; Courtney Senger, a senior first baseman from Marine City; and Jen Walker, a senior outfielder from Sterling Heights; were cho-

sen to the all-WHAC first team. Malkowski led Madonna with a .453 average; she had 16 doubles, three home runs and 33 RBI. Senger hit .350 with 36 RBI, and Walker batted .360 with 28 RBI and a team-high 27 steals.

Also, Jamie Cook, a senior outfielder from Westland, and Janell Leechinger, a senior pitcher from Plymouth and Ossineke, were both honorable mention all-WHAC and all-academic all-WHAC. Cook batted .315 with 28 RBI and a .990 fielding percentage; she has a 3.37 grade point with a major in sociology. Leechinger was 20-9 on the mound with a 1.74 earned run average; she has a 3.776 GPA with a major in biology.

Under first-year head coach Al White, Madonna exceeded expectations by posting a 34-26 overall record, 16-13 in the WHAC. The Crusaders were 2-2 in the WHAC Tournament.

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