

# Canton stays with leaders

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The good news in this: "Good teams find a way to win." On Monday in an important Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division softball double-header, Plymouth Canton did just that.

It did not come easily, nor was it pretty, this 4-3, 10-9 sweep. A rainout of their game scheduled for April 23 at Northville forced this to be a twinbill, making an already mentally-fatiguing week even more overburdening. The Chiefs hosted — and won — their eight-team Canton Classic last Saturday, and Wednesday was the annual emotion-packed game against Plymouth Salem.

All good reasons why Canton wasn't up to par against Northville, which, of course, makes the sweep all the more impressive.

"That was probably one of our worst games, defensive-wise," said Chiefs' coach Jim Arnold of the second game, in which Canton committed seven errors. "But that's the good thing — they showed a lot of character."

The first game turned on a single swing of the bat, by team captain Liz Elsner. With Canton trailing 2-1 in the top of the fifth (Northville was home team in this game) and the bases loaded, Elsner connected to send a shot to the fence in left. Her blast, which turned out to be just a sin-

## IN GIRLS SOFTBALL

gle after she missed first and had to go back to tag it, drove in three runs and gave the Chiefs a lead they would not relinquish.

Laura Stewart turned in an impressive mound performance. Arnold went with Stewart and, in the second game, Jenny Fisher or after ace Gretchen Hudson experienced bad problems following Saturday's tournament. Stewart improved to 5-2 on the season, allowing two earned runs on three hits and three walks, striking out 10. Maureen Emaus took the loss for the Mustangs.

Elsner finished with two hits, including a double. Canton scored its first run in the fourth on a walk to Melissa Brown, two stolen bases and a passed ball.

The second game was a wide-open affair, one in which the Chiefs trailed until the fifth. They scored five runs in that inning to turn a 6-3 deficit into an 8-5 lead — and they couldn't maintain that, even with Hudson pitching in relief. Northville scored three runs in the top of the sixth to go up 9-8, but Canton answered with a two-run sixth to retake the lead.

The fifth inning was the key. Paula McKernan started the rally with a single; Brianna McNicholas walked and Angela Neu singled, leading the bases loaded. Her single, scoring

one run and narrowing the gap to two. After Anna Keil struck out, Becky Mize grounded into a fielder's choice to make it 6-6.

Hudson followed with a run-producing single to tie it, and Jenna Perino knocked in the go-ahead run with a base hit. Carrie Kovachevich's RBI double made it a two-run lead for Canton.

Kovachevich finished with two hits and four RBI. Elsner, Nou and Hudson each had two hits (Nou had a triple) and an RBI, and McKernan had two hits, including a double.

Although four Northville runs scored during her two innings on the mound (only two were earned), Hudson was the winning pitcher, pushing her record to 10-0. Fisher, who returned to pitch the seventh, allowed one earned run in five innings and got the save.

The Mustangs were in a position to tie or go ahead of Canton in the Western Division standings, but the double loss dropped them to 4-3. The Chiefs are 6-1 in the division and 22-2 overall.

In a dramatic final game, the Chiefs combined their own clutch hitting with some sloppy fielding by Lincoln Park to win their own Canton Classic, beating the Raispliters 4-3 in the title game Saturday at Canton.

Gretchen Hudson was the winning pitcher, allowing three earned runs on six hits and six walks. She struck out two.

# Wayne Memorial drowns River Rouge, 10-0

Three seniors talked two goals apiece Monday as host Wayne Memorial killed a 10-0 Michigan Conference Blue Division girls soccer win over visiting River Rouge.

Tasha Cronenwatt, April Smith and Nicole Stano each scored twice for the Zebras, who improved to 6-1 overall and 4-2-1 in the Mega-Blue.

Cronenwatt also collected a pair of assists for Wayne, which enjoyed a 7-0 halftime edge.

Kristina McCall, Tish Todera, Nancy Bednars and Jenny Clark contributed one goal apiece.

Goalkeepers Jenny Sheppard and Amanda Bleske combined for 10 shutouts. Rouge had wins in six Mega-Blue matches.

Sarah Peck, who scored Glenn's first goal, assisted on the second.

On Friday, Brandy Novicki scored a hat-trick and Erin Perovich added one as host Dearborn Heights Crest-

## IN GIRLS SOCCER

wood defeated the Warriors, 4-2. Lutheran Wauwatosa trailed 3-1 at half.

Angie Matthews and Amy Kamrath each had a goal.

"ROCHESTER 6, CHURCHILL 2: On Saturday, the host Falcons scored four unanswered goals in the second half to post the nonleague victory.

"We just gave up too many odd-man rushes and too many opportunities," Churchill coach Chad Campuzo said. "They were able to capitalize on most of their quality chances."

Kerston Conklin and Michelle Eszra scored first-half goals for the Chargers.

"REGINA 3, LADYWOOD 4: Harper Woods Reglin trailed a 1-0 halftime deficit with three goals over the final 40 minutes Saturday to beat host Livonia Ladywood (2-3-1, 0-7-1) in a Central League Central Division matchup.

Melissa Harkins scored from Katie Roum in the first half for the Blazers.

Coach Jill Legoson also singled out the efforts of midfielder Andrea Schimmel and Jonnie Bartokovic.

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