

Legion team has good start

The ballplayers on the Farmington Post 346 American Legion baseball team continue to be successful just as they were in the recent prep season.

With a team comprised of Farmington and Harrison high school players, coach Wally Christensen's ball club started the summer schedule with three straight wins.

The high school teams had a combined record of 49-16. Harrison was the Western Lakes Activities Association champion, and Farmington was a quarterfinalist in the state tournament.

In the American Legion opener June 14, Farmington pounded the visiting Rochester Rampage in five innings, 12-2.

Matt Zatkis pitched the first two innings and left with a 12-0 lead. In earning the win, he gave up one hit and struck out four. John Waisanen pitched two innings and Joe James closed it out.

Brad Barenie sparked an 11-run first inning with a grand slam in his second at-bat of the inning. He also tripled and scored a second run.

Chris Chesney had two hits, scored two runs and had one RBI. Justin Gerwatowski hit a two-run double and Nick Hippler a two-run single.

After being rained out Friday with the Rampage, Post 346 won two games Sunday from the Auburn Hills Bombers at FHS.

BASEBALL

Tony Luttmann pitched a complete game in the opener, allowing six hits and three walks while striking out eight in a 7-1 victory.

Bob Houchins went 3-for-3 and scored two runs. He got Farmington going with a two-run double in the first inning.

Barenie drove in two runs with a pair of sacrifice flies; Chesney and Kyle Burcar had RBI with a base hit and a fielder's choice, respectively.

Another run scored when a ball off the bat of Preston Picard was misplayed for an error. Drew Stanton also scored two runs.

Post 346 downed the Bombers in five innings in the second game, 22-1. Farmington had a 17-run first inning — a first in Christensen's 41 years as coach of the Legion team.

Jake Ghannam was 4-for-4, scored three runs and had one RBI, and Barenie was 3-for-4, knocked in four runs — he has 10 RBI already — and scored three times.

Gerwatowski and Luttmann chipped in two hits and two RBI apiece, Burcar two hits and one RBI.

Burcar also scored three runs; Bernie Brown, who had a bases-loaded walk and a single, and Brian Bosler had two RBI and

scored two runs each.

Houchins pitched two innings and was the winner. Waisanen worked the next two and James was the closer again.

PANTHERS ARE TOURNAMENT CHAMPS: The Farmington Hills-based Michigan Panthers also had a fast start to a new season, winning the St. Clair Shores Home Plate Sports Center Invitational June 15-17.

In the opener Friday, the 18-year-old Panthers defeated Allen Park American Legion, 20-1.

Geirrel Gray and John Roessler, both of Adrian, were perfect at the plate, and Matt Clark (Farmington Hills), who caught all 26 tournament innings, was 3-for-4 and had four RBI.

Den Daw (Bellefonte) and Kris Clark (Farmington Hills) scored two runs apiece and contributed three hits. Pitcher Adam Millinger (Ypsilanti) allowed only three hits for the victory.

In a key game early Saturday, the Panthers prevailed against the Lincoln Park Rails, 4-1.

Kyle Crepeau (Waterford) broke open a close game with a two-run triple, and Rich Heggstrom (Farmington Hills) hit two singles.

Winning pitcher Will Kennedy (Westland) scattered eight hits in going the distance for the Panthers.

Crepeau's grand slam and the pitching of Steve Antonietti (Farmington Hills) sparked the Panthers to a 9-0 win over the Madison Heights Thunder. Antonietti threw a one-hit shutout, striking out 13.

In the championship game, Nick Crist (Adrian) clinched a 7-0 win over the Michigan Black Wolves with a two-out, two-run single in the seventh.

Seul Bosquez (Adrian) had a timely RBI single in the fifth, and Tom Rossano (Farmington Hills) scored two runs. Eric Thelen (Adrian) pitched a three-hit shutout and struck out eight.

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renewed effort and commitment.

But, as someone else suggested to Falvo last week, the third time could be the charm.

Luck of the Irish?

Well, not exactly. Since the Marlins were on the short end of the score Friday, nobody can make that claim.

But seated near me in the bleachers at Bailey Park were two older gentlemen whom I gathered had done some umpiring — one was there to critique the game officials for the Michigan High School Athletic Association — and they seemed to think the Marlins might have a lucky ace in the person of Molly O'Malley.

When the junior leadoff batter

was introduced at the start of the game, they were amused and quite taken by her very Irish-sounding name and the way it rings with alliteration.

"Her parents were thinking when they gave her that name," one of the men said.

"With a name like Molly O'Malley, how can you go wrong?" asked the other.

Of course, they had no idea who their audience was, but I gave the thumbs-up sign when they looked my way for affirmation.

O'Malley did her best to help her team and bring the Marlins some good fortune, by the way.

She had only hit — a bunt single — off Kettering pitcher Jessica Brubaker in the bottom

of the seventh and scored her team's lone run to force an extra inning.

Future Hall of Famers?

If and when Farmington High School decides to make additions to its new Sports Hall of Fame, here's two names to consider:

■ Paul White, who was a basketball scoring machine three decades ago, is believed to be the school's all-time leading scorer and attended Florida State on an athletic scholarship.

■ Jason Buha, who was the Class A individual state golf champion in 1992, was an All-American Duke University, was briefly on the PGA Tour and currently plays on the Buy.com Tour.

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