

Panthers are 3-time tourney champs



Tournament champions: The 8-and-under NFVB Panthers have won three baseball tournaments in consecutive weeks. The Panthers won the Flushing tournament June 22-24, their own NFVB tournament June 29-July 1 and the Clio tournament July 6-8. The Panthers are 12-0 in tournament play. The team members are (seated, left to right) Armen Nercesian, John Durst, Philip Heidkamp, Michael Rubenstein, Travis Hebdon and Trent Anderson; (standing) Tim McCoury, Jordan Vale, Brandon Nash, Alex Globbe, Matthew Davis and Jeremy Burstein; (back row) coach Mark Burstein, manager Kevin Nash and coach Bill Davis. Coach Bernie Rubenstein is not pictured.

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fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Post 346 gave up two unearned runs in the first inning due to two errors.

Bob Houchins went the distance on the mound for Farmington, allowing just four hits and two walks while striking out three.

"He pitched an excellent ballgame; we just didn't hit in the clutch," Farmington coach Wally Christensen said.

Luttman pitched a complete game in the nightcap, holding Milford to five hits. He struck out six and walked five.

Pardonniet went 3-for-3 and scored a run as Post 346 backed

Luttman with 10 hits. Luttman helped his cause with an inside-the-park, two-run homer in the first inning.

Brett Brown and Picard also had two RBI apiece with a single and a double, respectively.

Brown gave Farmington a 4-2 lead in the second; Luttman walked, stole second and scored a fifth run on Burcar's third-inning double.

In the fourth, Brown was hit by a pitch and Brian Bosler (2-for-3) singled, setting the stage for Picard's double.

Post 346 is at home tonight against Rochester in a makeup game, and it travels to Petoskey

for a wooden-bat tournament this weekend.

Farmington plays Royal Oak at Madison Heights Bishop Foley High School in another makeup game Monday.

"With the material I have and as many who played for me last year, it's a damn good ballclub," Christensen said of this year's team. "The biggest problem is getting them there on the same day, because a lot of them play for other teams."

"But this year we made the exception to allow it, so when it comes down to the end and the nitty-gritty we'll have the horses."

Tigers take Bronco title this time



Winning Tigers: The NFVB Tigers coached by Joe Giacomini, Clyde and Tom Manion won their division title. The squad won the Bronco Division C title after taking the Mustang Division C crown a year ago. Six of the dozen 11- and 12-year-olds played on both teams. The team members are (front row, left to right) Tommy Doherty, Ryan Morgan, Steve Colvin, (second row) Charlie Molnar, Alex Strauch, Jeff Colvin, Torrey Beare, (third row) Alex Manion, Brent Flusty, Brian Indianer, Kojo Appiah, (back row) coaches Tom Manion, Joe Giacomini and Clyde Manion. Not pictured is Eugene Vinogradov.

Rutherford arrives in time to help Ducks win

Former Livonia Churchill High and Eastern Michigan University pitcher Mark Rutherford recently joined the Long Island (N.Y.) Ducks of the Class A Independent Atlantic League and made quite an impression Thursday before 6,239 fans at EAB Park in Central Islip, N.Y.

Rutherford came on to protect a 5-3 lead against the visiting Newark (N.J.) Bears in the top of the ninth with the bases loaded and no outs. He earned his second save for the Ducks by getting a groundout followed by a game-ending double play.

Rutherford was given his

release by the last-place Pride (29-30) and signed with the second-place Ducks (31-28), the defending league champions.

Immediately after a seven-hour drive, Rutherford appeared in a closing effort for his new team, setting four batters down in order with a strikeout.



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