

Tigers take tournament title



Classic winners: The South Farmington Tigers won the 8-and-under championship in the South Farmington Baseball All-Star Classic July 8-9. The eight-team tournament included four from South Farmington, a pair of NFWB teams and one each from Novi and Westland. The members of the Tigers team are (front row, left to right) Cody Larsen, Matt DeFore, Nick Vandenburg, Nick Tomski, (middle row) Nick Sinning, Maclin Malloy, Danny Killeen, head coach Jim Larsen, assistant coach Jeff Tomski, (back row) Joe Kujawski, assistant coach Chester DeFore, Garrett Felowski, Trevor Kujawski, Grant Bostwick, Kameron Clingman, assistant coach Thad Bostwick and coach Gary Sinning.

Panthers produce winning effort



Baseball champs: The North Farmington-West Bloomfield 11-year-old Panthers came out of the losers bracket to beat the host team from Elba twice and win a tournament championship. Drew Adamiec and Craig Sacha pitched back-to-back victories for the first-place Panthers. The team members are (kneeling, left to right) Jon Debellis, Greg Hochenbrocht, Adamiec, Sacha, Steve Astrein, Ian McCalpin and Justin Roinitzky; (middle row) Erich Herzfeld, Alex Marion, Jonathan Ottarson, Ben Weiner, Avery Neuman and Nick Padoir; (back row) coach Craig Astrein, manager Frank Sacha and coach Chuck Adamiec.

Hornets sweep another DH

Both Leeb pitched a one-hitter for the Leo's Coney Island-Farmington Hills Hornets Wednesday in a Girls Incredible Fastpitch Softball League game.

She struck out 10 and walked two as the Hornets defeated the Livonia Lancers at North Farmington, 6-3.

Leeb swept the doubleheader and improved its record to 7-1 as Kristin Schrock threw a three-hitter in the nightcap, which the Hornets won, 5-3.

The Hornets had just two hits in the first game, which lasted five innings due to a

time limit. The Lancers made five errors.

Lee's Kristen Ternes had an RBI single, and Liz Ghannam had the other hit. Abbey Cleland walked twice and scored two runs; Jacqui Snylie and Erin Held scored one run each.

Schrock had 11 strikeouts and walked four in the second game. She also doubled and scored a run.

Hendler Sinawi had an RBI single; Leeb and Held had the rest of Leo's four hits. Jenny Mustek walked twice and scored a run.

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but because I had the chance to go in with my old high school coach," said Bjerke, who now lives in Novi and runs Total Baseball in Wixom. "It's nice seeing him go in and sharing the moment with him and a lot of his former players."

Several of Atkins former players were at Comerica Park on Monday to share the moment with him.

"A lot of the kids were there and that was nice of them to come in for this," said Atkins. "I know they're much older now and shouldn't be called 'kids' but they'll always be my kids. People like Bill Fohey and Kirk Taylor came in from Dallas, guys like

Bob Green and Gary Bevington and Bill Howe came in for this. I was very lucky."

Atkins was most proud of the fact that in his 16 years of coaching at RU, 30 players went on to play in college, five played professional baseball and two — Fohey and Ricky Clark — played in the major leagues.

And he is as quick to credit assistant coaches like Bjerke, Stu Rose (now at HFCC) and Milo Karhu for his success.

"We had some great quality kids," said Atkins. "It was a great ride and I was lucky enough to be a part of it. I was blessed because I had outstanding assistants. Mile and I are

still great friends and were a perfect meld. Lee was a great assistant coach and so was Stu."

In addition to his high school stints and his time at UDM, Atkins coached football and was the athletic director at RU, won the AAABA national title in 1978 and assisted in running the Adny League for 25 years.

When he stepped down at UDM in 1996, he headed for retirement in Cheboygan, where he still lives, and never looked back.

"It was time to do something else," said Atkins. "It was time to fish and golf. Marty (his wife) and I packed up the car after that last game and took off.

She's probably seen about 2,000 games with me. She's been all over. But we beat Michigan State in that last game on May 12, and zippity-do-dahed up here."

He hasn't had the urge to coach or help since, although he did relish a trip to Ford Field a few weeks ago with his children.

"We stopped to watch a game and it was like old times," said Atkins. "I'm just tickled pink that the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League made a comeback. Kids who want to be baseball players in college and have dreams of playing at a high level have to have good competition."

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