

Thursday, June 20, 2002

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Cobras 3rd in tourney

The 17-year-old NFWB Cobras took third place Sunday in the Great Lakes Challenge Tournament, which featured some of the best 18-and-under teams in the Midwest.

The Cobras lost their first game in pool play, 5-1, to Ann Arbor but bounced back with an 8-0 victory over Windsor in which NFWB's Matt Petry pitched a no-hit shutout.

Nick Vitanis, Ben Darga and Petry contributed two hits apiece. Kevin Zerbo and Darga had two RBI each.

The Cobras' next win came at the expense of the Rock River Black Sox from Cleveland, Ohio. Dan Lentz threw a complete game, giving up one hit while striking out 10 on his way to a 5-0 victory.

Bryan Smith swung the hot bat, going 2-for-3 with two triples, two RBI and two runs scored. Neil Stenberg also had two RBI with a single and a sacrifice fly.

The quarterfinal game featured two of the best pitchers in the state — Randy Frye, a fourth-round draft pick of the Seattle Mariners, and Darga, this year's Kensington Valley Conference MVP from Pinckney.

Darga set up the Cobras for a 6-3 win over Frye's Rochester Yankees.

Both teams scored twice in the ninth inning to keep the score tied, 3-3. A two-run double by Zerbo keyed a three-run 10th for NFWB.

Andy Wingert held the lead in relief of Darga in the 10th to pick up the win. Frye left the game after seven innings.

The Cobras dropped the semifinal game to Ann Arbor despite a good pitching effort by Petry, who had only one day to rest after his last pitching appearance.

The Cobras also compete in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation 18-and-under division. The team is coached by Dan Petry, Randy Rodriguez, Jim Darga and Bob Riker.

Morris shoots hole-in-one

Dianne Morris of Farmington Hills shot a hole-in-one at Glen Oaks Golf Course on May 31. It was her first ace after just four years of playing golf.

Morris used a three iron on the 124-yard seventh hole. Playing in the same foursome and witnessing the event were Cyndi Armstrong, Denise Holloway and Karen Bartolomeo.

Bucks host Cup party

Team USA, 2-0 victors over Mexico, will take an international powerhouse Germany in a World Cup quarterfinal match at 7 a.m. Friday, and the Mid-Michigan Bucks are planning a breakfast party to watch the historic match at the Yacht Club, located at Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia.

Admission is free; everyone is invited. For more information, call (734) 483-4625.

Athlete gets recognition

Farmington Harrison Junior Train Dew should have been listed among the 10 best in Observerland in the girls shot put event.

She had a throw of 32 feet, 9 inches on May 9 against Livonia Churchill. Dew was among the best in the district and received third-team, all-area honors.

Hockey Challenge at STC

Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills will be the site of the Sports Radio 1130 The Fan 21-Older Summer Hockey Challenge set for June 21-23.

The tournament will feature four divisions — 21-Older A, 21-Older B, 35-Older A and 35-Older B. Teams will play a minimum of three games that consist of three 14-minute run-time periods (the last two minutes of their period will be stop time).

All participants will receive prizes, and awards will be given to players of the game as well as each division-winning team. In addition, there will be a party at Conches Corner in Livonia with the Fan Girls and free pizza from Papa Romano's.

Results of the tournament will be tracked on www.wdfr.com. Call Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400 for more information.

(Readers can submit information for the Farmington Sports Scene by sending a fax to Sports Editor Dan O'Meara at 734-591-7279.)



Key play: Mercy players (left to right) catcher Holly Van Cleave, Tammi Karagosian, Megan Fediuk and Carly Tracey try to field a bunt by Portage's Ashley Schmieg. The play resulted in two errors and two runs scored for Northern, which won the state title with a 4-0 victory Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Marlins state runners-up;
Huskies make it 3 in row

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy coach Jack Falvo knew the Portage Northern softball team his Marlins faced Saturday would be a more formidable foe in a rematch.

STATE SOFTBALL

The Marlins had defeated the Huskies early in the season, 1-0 in 10 innings at a tournament in Dowagiac, but Northern won the more important game in June.

The Huskies captured their third consecutive Division I state championship with a 4-0 victory over the Marlins at Battle Creek's Bailey Park.

"(Northern coach Tom Hamilton) was manipulating his lineup that day, trying to find out what was working," Falvo said of the first meeting.

"I said to him, 'Hopefully, we'll see you in the finals, but I'm sure your team will be far more cohesive.' They started 1-5 and have only lost two since."

For starters, Mercy hadn't faced Northern's senior pitcher, Jackie Greer, who tossed a two-hit shutout at the Marlins, striking out nine while walking one Saturday.

Following a 65-minute rain delay in the middle of the fourth inning, Greer retired the last 12 batters in a row. Mercy's only hits were back-to-back singles by Lindsey Fediuk and Tammi Karagosian in the third.

Fediuk was out trying to steal second; Karagosian was left stranded as was Carly Tracey, who walked in the first inning. The Marlins (35-8) had no other base runners.

"She's been a bulldog," Hamilton said of Greer, who had the Marlins swinging at pitches on the inside of the plate. "She's a little rocky, but she's the type of pitcher you want on the mound in a game like this."

Mercy committed two of its four errors in the first inning and was at an immediate disadvantage, facing a 2-0 deficit.

Please see MERCY, D2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Faces tell the story: Mercy players wear a look of glum resignation on their faces as they watch the final inning of play Saturday night in Battle Creek. The Marlins lost to defending champion Portage Northern in the Division I state final.

Mercy's
coach K
honored

BY DAN O'MEARA
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During more than two decades as Farmington Hills Mercy golf coach, Vicky Kowalski has created a solid program and established the Marlins as consistent winners.

Mercy had another banner year despite losing the 2001 individual

ALL-AREA GOLF

state champion, Erin Borowiec, to graduation along with two other key players, Maureen McFawn and Katie Dinsmore.

With a more balanced team approach this year, the Marlins won their 10th consecutive Catholic League championship and nearly won their third state title in four years, finishing second to Rochester in Division I.

Mercy has placed among the top three teams in Class A and later Division I for the last five seasons.

The Marlins were led by junior Christina Cibrario, a two-time, all-area player, and seniors Jackie Shinney, Monica Pilzner and Kim Wargyniec.

"We were a true team this year," Kowalski said.

"Afterward (at the state final) you could hear people saying, 'How did they finish second? They don't have anybody up there (on the leader board).'"

"(The Marlins) showed you just need four solid players and not necessarily a superstar. I'm just very proud of our girls."

Kowalski can take a bow for a job well done, too.

She has been selected Observerland Coach of the Year for molding another Mercy winner this year.

In addition to Cibrario, other repeat first-team players are Livonia Churchill's Heidi Aittama and Kelley Parzuchowski, Livonia Stevenson's Kristen Polanski and Livonia Ladywood's Rachel Thomas.

Shinney was on the second team last year and Wayne Memorial's Amber Henn the third team.

Completing the 2002 all-area team is Pilzner.

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Saints rebound in 2002 to win CYO crown

The cliché "wait 'til next year" wasn't being used lightly when Our Lady of Sorrows' seventh- and eighth-grade blue baseball team ended the 2001 season with a disappointing 5-8 record and missed the playoffs.

BASEBALL

The Saints proved it June 9 when won the Catholic Youth Organization baseball championship, 7-3, over St. Paul of Grosse Pointe Farms at Don Massey Field in Plymouth.

"Eight of these boys took their lumps as seventh graders last season, and we told them that was OK because this would be their year," said Joe Reje, one of the three OLS coaches with John Castine and Rick Nagrocki. "Well, they took the advice to heart, worked hard all season and made it a reality."

The Saints capped their 16-2 season with the school's third CYO championship in the last four seasons by a score that mirrored their season averages of 138 runs for and 46 against (7.6 per game versus 2.9).

With seven seventh graders as starters last season, the Saints had one bad inning a game that took them out of most contests against predominantly eighth-grade competition.

"This year as eighth graders, the boys had two bad innings in 18 games," coach Castine said. "And those cost us

Please see CYO, D4



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAWN D. RIZZO

CYO metro-area champions: The members of the Our Lady of Sorrows blue team, which won the Catholic Youth Organization tournament championship, are (kneeling, left to right) Matt Reje, Jeff Petry, Jon Conover, Andy Harris and Steve Kish; (standing) coach Rick Nagrocki, coach John Castine, Tom Whiting, Jonathan Castine, Tim Nagrocki, Craig Bergeron, Zack Crawford, Nick Martz, Scott Malinowski and coach Joe Reje. Not pictured is Nick Carroll.