

# Pitching staff holds the key for Crusaders' baseball season

**BY C.J. HAGER**  
STAFF WRITER

Bigger and, hopefully, better. That's what Madonna University's baseball team is aiming for. Coach Greg Haeger, now in his seventh season, leads a larger team on the spring trip this season (22 last season); the Crusaders' first game was Friday against Northwood (Fla.) University in Homestead, Fla.

There are areas of improvement from a year ago. But the pitching will be a question mark. Four of the top six pitchers from a year ago, when Madonna was 10-23 overall, are gone: Mike Hayes, Corey Farmer, Jeremy Stevens and Eric Williamson.

The Crusaders went 13-11 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and reached the

NALIA Region VIII Tournament, but they lost their first two games.

Returning from that team are two solid starters in Joel Halliday, a 6-foot-3 junior righthander from Redford Union who was 5-3 last season (4.05 earned run average), and Mark Cole, a 5-9 senior left-hander from Farmington (Redford Catholic Central) who went 3-3 with a 3.66 ERA.

Haeger, who is bringing in 11 new players, has some options he thinks will offset the pitching losses. One is Roy Rabe, a senior pitcher/third baseman and a righthander from Livonia. Stevenson who pitched last season (1-3 record, 3.23/3 innings, 5.88 ERA). Then there's Devin Cole, a senior righthander from Garden City who was 1-2 last season on the mound and played the outfield as well. And sopho-

more Adam Kline, a righthander from CC who led the WHIAC in saves last season with six.

New pitching prospects include senior righthander Sterling Minter, a 6-6 Orchard Lake St. Mary's graduate who was outstanding at third base last season, batting .318 with five home runs and 28 runs batted in, both team highs. A pitcher in high school, Minter gave it a try during fall baseball.

"He looked good in fall ball," said Haeger, adding Minter throws in the upper 80s.

Other prospects include Dan Duffey, a 6-4 junior righthander from Farmington Hills (CC) who hasn't played since helping CC win a state title. He attended Michigan State, then decided he wanted to play again. Bobby Houchins, a freshman righthander from Farmington HS, and Luke Anderson, a jun-

ior left-hander from Kellogg CC, could figure in the mix, too.

While pitching may be a question mark, Madonna's position players are solid. The leaders are Minter, who will play in the field when not pitching; Chris Woodruff, a senior leftfielder from Livonia (CC) who led the team with a .358 average and 13 doubles, as well as 27 RBIs; Brian Williams, a sophomore centerfielder from Livonia (CC) who hit .311; Matt Rigley, a junior catcher from Redford Union who hit .264 with 11 doubles and 13 RBIs; Eric Lightle, a junior from Livonia Churchill who hit .260 with five homers and 15 RBIs as a designated hitter last season; and Mario D'Herin, a senior second baseman who's started since his freshman season (hit .221 last season).

Gone from last season are first baseman Joe Frichnik (.307, 16

RBIs) and shortstop Neil Wildong. Lightle is expected to replace Frichnik at first; at short, newcomers Dave Nester (Taylor Kennedy) and Scott Miller (Farmington Hills/OLSM) are vying for the starting slot.

Rigley is set at catcher, and Minter will be at third or, when he's pitching, it could be Rabe. Woodruff, Williams and Cole give Madonna a solid returning outfield with Joe Greene, a sophomore from Southgate Anderson who saw some action last year (.242, five doubles, four RBIs) as the fourth outfielder.

"Position player-wise, we're a good team," said Haeger. "We have a very nice offensive team coming back. And we have six or seven guys who have the capability of leading 20 bases each."

We lost two pitchers (Farmer and Hayes) during fall ball that

we thought we'd have back, and that will hold us back a bit. We have a lot of inexperience on the mound."

Which leads to one other important addition: pitching coach Rick Berryman, who last year was coaching Redford Union's baseball team.

Berryman is well-respected as a pitching coach and, if he can develop some of the new arms on the Crusader staff, this could indeed be a special season.

As far as the WHIAC season is concerned, it's difficult to tell this early. Indiana Tech and Spring Arbor are always tough, but Haeger believes the better teams may have slipped some and the lesser teams have improved. "I think the conference has leveled out a bit," he said.

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Published March 2, 2003

## Need ideas for adding cash to treasury?

**N**eed more money? What about bowling leagues? There are some very creative ways that leagues can add cash to their treasury for the purpose of financing an end-of-season banquet.

Adding more cash to the point money or outfitting the members with some new "ducks" (clothes, for you younger readers).

Many leagues have incorporated a system of selling 50-50 tickets to members, the proceeds to be used for anything they wish.

In my Sunday Goodtimers League, the 50-50 drawing is used to buy the bagels and cream cheese, which the members who still have teeth can enjoy before and during bowling.

In my Sunday Goodtimers League, the 50-50 drawing is used to buy the bagels and cream cheese, which the members who still have teeth can enjoy before and during bowling.

to build the scholarship fund in the annual Senior/Youth Challenge event. This year, there was \$5,000 generated and given to the youth winners.

If your league or organization needs more money than the 50-50 can generate, Carolyn Gleich of Entertainment Fund Raising has the perfect answer for you.

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Contact Carolyn Gleich at (248) 637-3999 for more information.

Andria Lamberger of Westland scored a nice 299 game in the Match Play Trio League at Cherry Hill Lanes a couple weeks ago. She began bowling years ago in kids' bumper leagues, rolling the ball with both hands.

She was a little nervous in the 10th frame and said to herself "breathe" before the last ball - which gave her a nine-count.

She did have a little helper with her, however; Andria was eight months pregnant at the time. She just doesn't know if the little helper is a boy or a girl.

This season marks the 25th anniversary of the Brown Family Mixed League. When it was first organized, a newspaper ran a feature story about it (Feb. 4, 1978). Although some of the faces have changed over

the years, the family name and league are still intact.

Nowadays the league is composed of mostly second generation Brown family members, their friends and/or extended families.

"They started at Woodland Lanes in Livonia but moved to Wayne Bowl a few years ago. The old article stated, "Family teams are unusual enough, but a family league sounds extremely difficult."

"Not at all," Kathy Brown Johnson said. "We have a close family that sees a lot of each other anyway - and we all bowl."

This is one league that even has an elected chaplain. His job is to keep the peace between cousins, settle the differences between aunts and (try to) settle all disputes, while hoping to keep the noise down a decibel or two.

It's just like a family picnic every other week. Who cares if it rains; they just have a lot of fun.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director with the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839.

**Ten Pin Alley**

Al Harrison

selling 50-50 tickets to members, the proceeds to be used for anything they wish.

In my Sunday Goodtimers League, the 50-50 drawing is used to buy the bagels and cream cheese, which the members who still have teeth can enjoy before and during bowling.

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Deceased's Estate

Estate of THOMAS M. RYAN, deceased Date of birth November 20, 1913.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The deceased, Thomas M. Ryan, who lived at 3333 Glynco, Southfield, Michigan 48073 and died October 8, 2002.

Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to M. Marion Ryan, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, at his last domicile (residence) at 1202 South Telegraph, Farmington, Michigan, and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Personal Representative: M. Marion Ryan, 2184 Merrill, Apt. 105, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073 Phone (248) 268-5018

Attorney: Charles C. Little, P. 18678, 800 West Long Lake, Suite 200, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5004 Phone (248) 543-1925

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