Pitching staff holds the key for Crusaders' baseball season

Bigger and, hopefully, better. That's what Madonna University's baseball team is aiming for, Coach Greg Haeger, now in his seventh season, took a larger team on the apring trip this season (28 players compared with 22 last season); the Crussders' 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 20-23 overall, are gone: Wile Hayes, Corey Famer, Jersmy Stevens and Eric Williamson.

The Crussders went 13-11 in

The Crusaders went 13-11 in

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

Returning from that team are two solid starters in Joe! 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 lefthander from Farmington (Redford Catholic Central) who went 3-3 with a 3.68 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 pitche/third baseman and a righthander from Lhonia Stevenson who pitched last season (1-3 record, 33 2/3 familiags, 5.88 ERA). Then there's Devin Cole, a senior righthander from Lhonia 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 WHAC in saves last season with siz. New pitching prospects include senior righthander Sterling Minteer, 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, Minteer gave lit at y during fall baseball. "He looked good in fall ball," said Haeger, adding Minteer throws in the upper 80s. Other prospects include Dan Duffer, a 6-4 junior righthander from Farmington Hills (CC) who as tate title. He attended Michigan State, then decided be wanted to play again. Bobby Hooching, a freshman righthander from Farmington H.S., and Luke Anderson, a jun-

ior lethander from Kellogg CC, could figure in the mix, too. While pitching may be a question, Maclona's position players are solid. The leaders are Mintzer, who will play in the field when not pitching; Chris Woodruff, a senior letfledder from Livonia (CC) who led the team with a .358 average and 13 doubles, as well as 27 RBI; Brian Williams, a sophomore centerfielder from Livonia (CC) who his .311; Matt Rigley, a junior eather from Redford Union who his .264 with 11 doubles and 13 RBI; Eric Lightle, a junior from Livonia Churchill who hit .260 with fire whith 10 wholes and 15 RBI as a designated hitter last season; and Mario D'lierin, a senior second baseman who started since his freshman season (hit .211 last season).

Gone from last season are first season are first season in the Pruchnik (307, 16

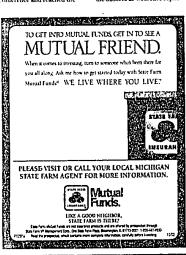
Need ideas for adding cash to treasury?

RBI) and shortstop Neil Wildfong, Lightle is expected to replace Pruchnik at first; at short, newcomers Dave Nester (Taylor Kennedy) and Scott Miller (Parmington Hills/OLSM) are vying for the

Miller (Farmings) are vying for the starting alot.

Rigley is set at catcher, and Minuzer will be at third or, when he's pitching, it could be Rabe. Woodruff, Williams and Cole give Madonna a soil or turning outfield with Joe Greene, a sophomore from Southgate Anderson who are sometical to the company of the cole of the col of the cole of t

mound."
Which leads to one other 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 WHAC season is concerned, it's difficult to tell this early, indiana Tech and Spring Arbor are always tough, but I Haeger believes the better teams may have slipped some and the leaser teams have improved. I think the conference has leveled out a bit,' he said.



THE SENIOR ALLIANCE

The Senior Alliance requests proposals to provide the following services to persons age 60 and older in Western and Southern Wayne County:

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Service Period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2006. Bidders must provide service in one or more of the following communities:

Allen Park
Allen Park
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Huron Township laketer Jincoln Park Livonia Melvindale Northville Northville Northville Northville Twp. Hymouth Plymouth Twp. Redford Twp. River Hunge

Please submit a letter of intent indicating the services you are applying fur by Friday, March 21, 2003. Request for Proposal applications will only be given to organizations that have submitted a letter of intent to:

The Senior Alliance 1950 Second Street, Suite 201 Wayne, MI 48184 ATTN: Contracts Administrator

For more information call (734) 722-2830 ext. 2058.

bowling league doesni?

There are some very creative ways that leagues can addeash to their treasury for the banquet, the 50-50 drowing is used to buy the bagels and continuous adding more cash to the point money or outling to an enjoy before and during or outling to the members with some tends to the point money or outling bowling.

Ten Pln

Ten yer very eavy to sell, save to to money using the book, which is good for discounts at local restaurants and various userchanta and various userchant

Many leagues have incorporated

Incorporated a system of seeling 50-50 tickets to members, the proceeds to be usefor anything they with. 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 bowline.

you younger readers).

ing.
The senior men's leagues at
Mayflower Lanes run a 50-50
all during the season. It's used

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 50-30 can generate, Cerolyn Gleich of Entertainment Pund Raising has the yerfect answer for you. By selling Entertainment books as an organization, your league can qualify and the group realizes a tidy profit from the books that are sold.

(248) 627-2989 for more information.

Standris 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 kldabuilder leagues, to like the ball with both hands. She was a little nervous in the 10th frame and said to herself breather before the last ball - which gave her a nine-coupt.

count.

She did have a little helper with her, however; Andrin 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 This season mark the 25th anniversary of the Brown Family Mixed League. When it was first organized, a newspa-per 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 com-posed of mostly second genera-tion Brown family members, their friends and/or extended familles.

their friends and/or extended familles.

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

Not at all, "Kaiby Brown Johnson said, "We have a ciose family that sees a lost of each other anyway – and we all bowl."

This is one league that even

bind.

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

It's just like a family plenic every other week. Who carres 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.



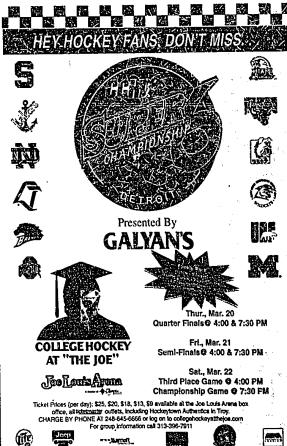
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