

Pitcher nears career milestone

North Farmington senior pitcher Beth Danielewicz had hoped to reach 1,000 career strikeouts in a district softball tournament Saturday.

She recorded 10 during a 6-5 win Thursday over Clarkston, giving her 233 for the season and leaving her just 10 shy of the 1,000 mark.

The game had been suspended after seven innings on a previous date with the score tied 5-5. Jehan Hindo scored the winning run in the top of the 12th inning on a base hit by Emily Jaffe.

After making an over-the-shoulder catch in short right field the previous inning, Hindo led off the 12th with a single and was sacrificed to second by Suzanne Johns.

Danielewicz was the winning pitcher.

The host Raiders lost a regularly-scheduled game to the Wolves Thursday, 6-0.

SOFTBALL

Three pitchers combined on a one-hitter for Clarkston. Rachel Abruzzo had the lone North hit.

Danielewicz pitched just two innings and left with the game still scoreless, because that was all coach Dave Brubaker wanted her to work. The loss went to Monica Hayworth.

Both teams finished 11-10 in the Oakland Activities Association Division I. The Raiders (18-17) had the edge over the Wolves, having won two of three games between the teams.

North dropped a division doubleheader to Troy Athens Wednesday, 10-4 and 17-7.

Amy Berke was 3-for-4 with one RBI in each game. Bryan Allen had three RBI with a bases-loaded double in the opener.

Danielewicz and Lindsay Smith were 2-for-3 in the nightcap. Johns, Hayworth and Katie Boland chipped in one hit and one RBI apiece. Lori Tapper also had an RBI with a fielder's choice.

Abruzzo was the pitcher of record in the first game, Hayworth the second.

Trojans whip Wildcats

Plymouth High's first experience in the Division III girls softball tournament was not a pleasant one.

Livonia Clarenceville improved to 10-13 Wednesday with an 18-2, three-inning mercy rule victory over the host Wildcats, who fielded an all-freshman squad.

Clarenceville scored five times in the first, nine more in the second and four in the third. The win moved the Trojans into Saturday's district semifinal against Dearborn

Heights Henry Ford Academy at Plymouth.

Winning pitcher Ashley Mauer allowed four hits, walked three and struck out three in three innings. She also helped out with the bat, going 2-for-2, including a double and two RBI.

Clarenceville had a total of six hits, but also benefited from 13 walks.

Ashley Myree had two RBI and scored three runs, and Marissa Martin also had two RBI and scored one run.

ATHENS 10-17, FARMINGTON 4-7: Troy Athens wrapped up regular-season play Wednesday with this sweep of Farmington.

Pitcher Colleen Cupples went the distance to win the opener, striking out eight. She added her own cause at the plate with a home run triple.

Julia Pickett picked up three hits and drove home three runs for the winners.

Game two lasted only six innings as Sarah Herberholz led the way by slugging four hits, driving in three runs and scoring twice. Cupples added three hits.

SOCCER

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chances. They were right on top of us. They pressured us the whole time."

To start the second half, the Falcons (9-6-2) were better at possessing the ball and appeared to be outplaying the Wildcats. But everything changed when Herman scored the second Novi goal at 25:31, firing a hard shot from the right side that Kelly was unable to stop.

The first goal was a little questionable if she was off-sides," Montgomery said, "but the second was just a beautiful shot. I saw one spot where the ball could go, and the girl put it right there."

With the Wildcats holding a 2-0 lead, the stress of which O'Leary spoke began to dissipate, though the Falcons stayed in the game and continued to play well.

"That does have an impact," Montgomery said. "They were more confident and could take more risks. We had to play hard-

er and take a few more chances.

"(The Wildcats) just know where their players are on the field at all times, and they go to the ball hard. That's a good, good team."

O'Leary said he saw the Falcons in four games during the regular season and was not surprised by the quality of their play.

"We said they were a very underrated team and could very well beat us," O'Leary said. "They play in a better league than we do; so when you start comparing records it's not fair."

"I give them all the credit in the world. We knew they would give us a good game. We were ready for that."

Kristen Pietila, who moved from midfield to defense to utilize her speed against the Novi forwards, received individual praise from Montgomery along with Erica Rose, Lindsay Evans, Joyce Rose, Kelly Hay and Maggie Vaillancourt.

"We knew we would have to play our very best game and (Novi) would have to falter a bit," Montgomery said. "But I'm pleased with the way we played at the end of the season."

Redford Union punishes Trojans, 15-0

Redford Union coach Mike Taylor was a little concerned about how his team would hit the baseball, considering the Panthers hadn't played in nearly a week.

The answer was just fine, thank you, as the Panthers rolled to a 15-0 win over Clarenceville on Wednesday, that also featured three pitchers combining on a no-hitter.

"We just hit," Taylor said. "I figured we'd start jumping at it and popping the ball up, but we stayed back in the box and hit line drives through the infield and in the gaps."

As for the pitching, Chris Rigley got credit for the win, improving to 8-3, but he, Matt Thieleman and John Hageman teamed up for the four-inning no-hitter.

Rigley had five strikeouts in two innings, Thieleman had two — allowing the lone base runner with a walk to the Trojans' Mike Saylor in the third inning — and Hageman had one.

BASEBALL

Clarenceville's Chris McWhinnie took the loss, going all four innings, giving up 14 earned runs, 17 hits and three walks.

Chris Meyers led RU's hitting attack by going 4-for-4 with three doubles and five RBI. Rigley was 3-for-3 with two RBI. Rigley also scored four runs and Meyers three.

Thieleman was 2-for-3 with an RBI, David Hillson 2-for-4, Hageman 2-for-4 with a double and one RBI, Billy Suchyta and Tom Sweeney had a double and two RBI apiece.

"After having a week off, it was nice to see us hit the ball," Taylor said. "I was anxious to see how we hit and we responded."

REDFORD CC 8-7, CANTON 1-0: Redford Catholic Central came up with a pair of errors for a winning hand on May 24, taking a pair of seven-run wins over Canton.

CC improved to 21-6 overall, while Canton

fell to 15-12. Jeff Schultz (7-2) did a solid job on the mound in the opener, scattering three hits over four innings, with a walk and a knockout. Drew Amble finished up, holding the Chiefs to four hits the rest of the way to go with a pair of strikeouts.

Rich Bremer took the loss for the Chiefs, giving up 11 hits and striking out four. CC jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning and didn't look back as Kate Reppas' two-run double opened up the scoring.

Anthony Sabo was 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Reppas added another hit.

Matt Kay had the only run for Canton with his sixth-inning homer. Andy Howald was also 2-for-4.

In the second game, Mike Montenegro (5-1) used a four-hitter to earn the shut out. He also fanned five and didn't walk a batter in going the distance. Shawn Little took the loss for Canton, giving up three runs, four hits and two walks.

Eric Volkofsky was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and an RBI for CC, while Schultz was 1-for-3 with a walk and two RBI.

Dave Nicollotti, Jake Powers, Ryan Powell and Jon Western all had singles for Canton.

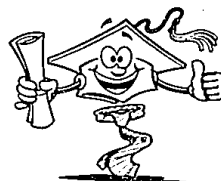
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