

## ST. MARY'S

FROM PAGE B1

Park left fielder Ryan McCarthy overran the ball and Brennan trotted home to make it 2-0.

After shortstop Kyle Miller was hit with a pitch to lead the bases with nobody out, Brandon Wilkins (2-3) knocked home another run with an infield single and Jeremy Leber's sharp single to center made it 5-0. Leber went 2-2 with three runs and two runs batted in.

In his second at bat of the inning, Sisson tripled home another Eagle before the frame was over.

"When everybody starts hitting the ball, it's contagious," said Sisson, a senior who took a .344 average into the game. Although he and his teammates were excited about how they took charge against Comstock Park, "we're not going to relax until we get one more win."

St. Mary's starting pitcher Mark McDaniel, who threw a shutout on Tuesday in the state quarterfinal against defending state champion Monroe Jefferson, had a bit of a shaky

first inning himself.

The Panthers picked up two runs on four hits, both crossing the plate on a double to right by Kyle Wells. But if not for a fine running catch toward the foul line by St. Mary's right fielder Leber, the eight-run lead McDaniel started with would have suddenly been cut in half.

McDaniel settled down after that, winding up with no walks and eight strikeouts, many coming on his sharp-breaking curveball.

St. Mary's, meanwhile, really took control with four runs in the third and five in the fourth. McDaniel and Larson ripped doubles in the third, with the latter clearing the bases.

Aaron Dieterman hit two successive Eagle batters with pitches to key the fourth-inning rally, but it was a two-run single to center by Castine that opened up the 15-run lead for St. Mary's.

According to MHSAA rules, games can be called by the mercy rule if a team leads by 15 runs after three innings and 10 runs after five. That rule does not apply to championship games.

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## Top senior athletes

Marcus Woods and Maggie Condeni were recipients of the Buller Award, recognizing them as the outstanding male and female athletes in the Harrison High School Class of 2003. Woods was an all-state running back in football and a member of Harrison's championship track and field team. Condeni was an all-area player in basketball and volleyball. Woods will play football at the University of Missouri, and Condeni plans to play volleyball at nationally renowned St. Clair County Community College.

## BASEBALL

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2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored. Brian Bosler had one RBI and scored two runs. Eight of nine starters had a hit for Farmington.

Houchins took over on the mound with his team trailing, 3-1. He pitched the last three innings, holding Clarkston to one run on two hits and a walk.

In the second game, Farmington scored two runs in the first inning and got in the second. Clarkston got a run in the first.

Joe James pitched a complete game to earn the victory. He gave up three hits in the first inning and just one more after that.

Bosler had an RBI single in the first inning, and Anthony

Volpe drove in the other run with a sacrifice fly.

In the second, Justin Droste hit a leadoff double; Mike Kish followed with an RBI single and Andy Brown a double that scored Kish.

Chesney, who was 6-for-8 in the doubleheader, was the only player with two hits in the nightcap.

"One year we start off like a house on fire; other years we have a slow start and come on at the end," Christensen said.

"It looks like we have the makings of a good green machine again. We are hitting, and that's what counts."

"It's good to have some boys back like Houchins, Bosler and Chesney who've gone away to school and are coming back to play. They're a good nucleus; they'll help the young kids."

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## SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

"She hit that ball well," Falvo said. "The toughest play for a center fielder to make is the one hit right at her."

Carolyn Kobasic started the Escanaba eighth with a single, was sacrificed to second, moved to third on a rare wild pitch and scored on Braun's flyball.

Mercy's Dana Frantz retired the first nine Escanaba batters, but the Eskymos began the last five innings with a leadoff single and had six hits overall.

"We've had a lot of close games," Escanaba coach Rusty Bluse said. "We've seen a lot of that. We weren't real sharp in the beginning, but our kids played with poise."

"I felt, if we went to extra innings, we stood a better chance. We've used to this and the kids had a chance to see their pitcher."

Kobasic also singled to start the sixth, and pinch-runner Lisa Gartland scored from third on Braun's two-out double over the left fielder's head.

"Sometimes it takes a while for the bats to come around, but they always do," Braun said. "I knew we needed a hit, so I dug in and tried to hit it as hard as I could."

"She's a four-year starter; she's our horse," Bluse said of

Braun. "She's the one who carries us. When it comes to a clutch play, she's the one we go to."

In the first inning, Mercy's Carly Tracey hit a two-out single and scored when Roman's flyball fell in short right field and the Escanaba catcher dropped the ball on an attempted play at the plate.

But the Marlins (29-3) had just one other hit the rest of the game. Kelli Ferrara reached on an infield error in the third and a slap single in the sixth.

Otherwise, Escanaba pitcher Lesley Noel held the Marlins in check, striking out 10. Neither pitcher issued a walk. Frantz had seven strikeouts.

"I was trying to get our batters to focus in and start competing, to focus on every pitch," Falvo said.

"It seemed we flattened out after the first inning, and then we were hanging on by our fingernails. We were playing hard; it just didn't happen."

While the Marlins, who hit only one ball out of the infield in the last seven innings, seemed to stagnate at the plate, the Eskymos got stronger as the game progressed.

"This is a game of emotion with girls," Bluse said. "You have to keep the emotion in your dugout."

"Each inning (the Marlins) seemed to get quieter and quieter, and we picked it up."



TON HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy senior third baseman Sarah Roman makes a play on a bunt in the fifth inning Friday of the state semifinal game with Escanaba.

"They were playing us pretty shallow (in the outfield). I thought, 'Goodness, gracious; give us some respect.'"

As a pitcher, Noel also gets better as the innings pass, according to Bluse.

"She was way behind a lot early; she had a lot of 2-0 and 3-1 counts," he said. "The whole thing reversed as the game went on. In a lot of tournaments, her best game is the second game."

"She kept our hitters off balance the whole game," Falvo said. "Give them their due. (The Eskymos) came up with

clutch hits when they needed them."

Mercy made its fourth straight appearance in the state semifinals and has lost its last game in Battle Creek each time. The Marlins were state finalists last year.

Mercy loses four seniors, all of whom were starters - Anna Schneider, Tracey, Roman and Erin Agency - but returns five other regulars, including Frantz.

"She was 22-2 for the year and brought us to this game," Falvo said of the sophomore pitcher. "All I can say is the best is yet to come."

CITY OF FARMINGTON  
2003 SUMMER TAX STATEMENT  
PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Farmington Summer 2003 Property Tax Statement is payable from July 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003 without penalty. Thereafter, a 4% penalty will be added.

City Hall offices will be open for payment of taxes 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday except for the following:

Friday, July 4, 2003

For your convenience, a depositary is located in the City Hall lobby.

Applications for deferment of 2003 taxes are available at the City of Farmington Treasurer's office. If your income for 2002 did not exceed \$25,000 and you are a paraplegic, quadriplegic, senior citizen, eligible serviceman, eligible widow, blind or totally or permanently disabled, your application must be filed with the City of Farmington Treasurer's office not later than September 15, 2003. Deferred Summer Taxes may be paid without penalty until February 28, 2004.

By law, if the last day for payment falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the last day will be extended to include the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

PATSY K. CANTRELL,  
City Clerk/Treasurer

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