

## WARRIORS

FROM PAGE B5

to think we can play better than that.

"Have we played better than that over the season? Yes. It's just that's part of these championship games. Champions step up on the days they're supposed to step up, and their guys stepped it up a little more than we did."

West Ottawa (31-4) made the most of its first title-game appearance.

The Panthers, who defeated top-ranked Jenison in the regionals after losing both games of a doubleheader to the Wildcats late in the regular season, took control with a pair of unearned runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Junior shortstop Brian Baker put down a well-placed drag bunt for a single and one out later Scott Sommerville reached on an error. Senior left-hander Matt Petry struck out cleanup hitter Norbie Reyes, but catcher Brian Overway and Nykerk followed with RBI singles to give West Ottawa a 2-0 lead.

The Panthers chased Petry (10-1) in the bottom of the second.

Petry, who had eight complete games and a miniscule 0.34 earned-run average, yielded leadoff singles to C.J. VanWieren and Dan Kleinm. VanWieren stole third and scored West Ottawa's third run on a fielder's choice by Baker.

Starting shortstop Dan Lentz took the mound after Petry hit Nate Reyes with a pitch and retired the next two batters on grounders to escape a second-and-third jam.

"I think these guys definitely swing the bat better than Fort Huron Northern, taking nothing away from Northern," Riker said in reference to Petry's complete-game effort in the quarterfinals.

"I think Matt had good stuff; again he was ahead in the count in certain situations, but sometimes you've got to say, 'Hey, they beat our best and hats off to them.'"

Lentz was effective in 3 2/3 innings of relief, allowing one run, two hits and a walk, but Brother Rice's high-powered offense sputtered much of the afternoon.

The Warriors stranded a runner in the third inning and two runners in the second, fourth, sixth and seventh innings. Nykerk scattered eight hits over seven innings with five strikeouts and one walk.

"One of the differences was



Matt Petry of Brother Rice has a disheveled look after being picked off base Saturday in the state final.

their pitcher," Riker said. "He really stepped it up and got the out where he needed to, just like Mike Kirschenheiter did for us (in Rice's semifinal win over Portage Central)."

"Nykerk bucked down when he needed to and hats off to him. He pitched a great game today and hats off to Ottawa. They were a better team than us today."

"If we could have got one or two more hits in timely situations, it would have made a big difference," he added. "And that's what they got. They got some timely hits and, early on against Matt, they weren't fooled too much."

"They came out and put the pressure on us defensively. They pushed a few across early, and then we were scrambling from behind the whole time after that."

Brother Rice manufactured a run in the top of the fourth without the benefit of a hit. Junior catcher Doug Pickens reached first on an error, advanced to second on a passed ball, moved to third on Cody Nolan's groundout, and scored when VanWieren booted Max Kelmigian's grounder at third base.

The Warriors used a two-out rally in the fifth to close within 3-2. Petry, who went 3-for-4 and scored a run, singled to center and moved to second on Pickens' single. Nykerk then uncorked two wild pitches and Petry came around to score.

A selected piece of art, valued at \$1,000, will be awarded at a drawing to be held on Friday, June 27. (Entry blanks available to everyone, no account or purchase required.)

Sommerville.

Brother Rice didn't go quiet by its last at-bat. The Warriors put two runners on with two outs - Petry slammed a ground-rule double and Nolan walked on a full-count pitch - but Kelmigian hit a fly to left fielder Justin Caserta for the final out.

Steve Antonietti and Vytas Ray contributed two hits apiece to Brother Rice's eight-hit attack, and Pickens went 1-for-4 with a run scored.

Baker had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run, and Nykerk went 2-for-3 with two RBIs for the Panthers.

The Warriors lost to only three teams this season. The others were Chicago Brother Rice in a doubleheader and Dearborn Divine Child in the Catholic League final, 1-0.

"They know people are going to come after you because you play at Rice, and you're going to always have to play your best," Riker said.

"They learned that early on in their careers, so when they were juniors and seniors they knew what they had to do to finish as a champion. And they fell a little short, but I think they'll grow and they're going to better people for it."

"These guys have a special place in my heart, because some of them played four years for me. That's what hurts."

Brother Rice will be a team to watch next season since seven players who saw action Saturday are underclassmen. That includes Pickens, who led the Warriors in most offensive categories. He had 11 home runs and 55 RBIs.

## Errors cost Post 346 in loss to Chief Pontiac

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Chief Pontiac scored five unearned runs and rallied to defeat Farmington Post 346 in an American Legion baseball game Monday, 5-4.

Farmington had a 4-2 lead, but Pontiac scored twice in the bottom of the fifth to tie and once in the sixth to win it.

Pontiac led the deciding run with the help of two errors and a groundout. Post 346 had a total of six errors.

Farmington (5-2) scored the first run of the game on Justin Droste's RBI groundout in the second inning.

Post 346 regained the lead, 3-2, with two runs in the fourth. Danny Doig had an RBI single and scored the go-ahead run on an error on a ball hit by Dan Williams.

Farmington took a two-run lead in the fifth when Andy Brown doubled and scored on Chris Chesney's single.

Andy Brown pitched all six innings, allowing six hits and one walk while striking out three.

On Sunday, Farmington split a doubleheader and a pair of slugfests with host Berkley, winning the first game, 19-9.

## BASEBALL

and losing the second, 18-13.

Chesney hit a grand slam and was 3-for-5 with six RBIs in the opener. Droste also was 3-for-5 with a double; he drove in five runs and scored three.

Mike Kish and Brian Bosler were 2-for-5. Kish hit a two-run homer and had four RBIs; Bosler scored four runs and had two RBIs.

Farmington had 13 hits and received 15 walks. Jake Ghanann also had two hits and two RBIs, and Dave Justice scored three runs.

Joe James was the winning pitcher in relief. Over the final four innings, he limited Berkley to one run on two hits and a walk. He struck out six.

In the nightcap, Farmington had an 8-2 lead after four innings but gave up 16 Berkley runs in the last three innings.

Farmington was still on top going into the seventh, 12-10, but Berkley scored eight runs in the top half to take the lead.

Bobby Houchins was 3-for-4 with two RBIs. His two-run homer gave Farmington a 12-10 lead.

Eric Zatkun, Ghanann and Bosler had two hits and two

RBI apiece. Droste extended his hitting streak to six games.

On Friday, Brown recorded 12 strikeouts and pitched Farmington to a 12-5 victory over visiting Royal Oak. He scattered six hits over seven innings and walked one.

Farmington led 5-0 after two innings and added five more runs in the bottom of the fourth for a 10-1 lead.

Ghanann, who had two hits and four RBIs, and Houchins hit two-run homers.

Chesney and Brown also had two hits apiece; Chesney knocked in three runs and Brown one.

Post 346 is idle until Saturday when it plays a doubleheader at Auburn Hills.

"The Green Machine hasn't sputtered, but we put some holes in its defense with some leaks," Farmington coach Wally Christensen said.

"If not for some walks and errors, we'd be 7-0 right now."

"Brown had tough time (Monday). In three innings, it took four outs to get them out and four really hurt. But we played a good team. Chief Pontiac is an excellent team."

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## Concealed wins 16-under Blues Invite

## BASEBALL

Concealed Security rolled through four straight opponents last weekend to win the South Farmington Blues Invitational for baseball teams 16-and-under.

Jeff Richard (West Bloomfield) tossed a three-hitter the championship final Sunday as Concealed blanked Michigan Elite of Grand Rapids, 11-0, at Founders Park.

Richard, who struck out 13 and walked only one, is 2-0 on the year.

Concealed, 9-0 overall, also got a big offensive effort from Eric Vojtkofsky (Wayne), who went 3-for-4 with a double. RBI and three runs scored.

Evan Sharpley (Marshall) and Ryan Shay (Garden City) each added two hits. Mark Pironello (Livonia) also knocked in a run.

Grand Rapids finished 3-0 in pool play as did Concealed, which also defeated Northville in a six-inning mercy, 14-2; St. Clair Shores, 7-2; and

Birmingham in a six-inning mercy, 15-1.

In Sunday's victory over Birmingham, Concealed had a total of 13 hits, three from Sharpley, who also had two RBIs.

Digger Towse (Charlotte) added two hits, including a homer and three RBIs.

Vojtkofsky collected two RBIs, while Matt Walters (Wayne) added one.

Shay (1-0) pitched the first three innings of shutout baseball before giving way to Max Bell (Goodrich), who went three innings, and Will Jostock (Lapeer), who finished up. The three combined on a two-hitter.

In Game No. 2 on Saturday, three players collected two hits apiece in the win over St. Clair Shores including Shay, Towse and Szpyrka (West Bloomfield). Towse also

knocked in two runs. Both of Szpyrka's hits were doubles.

Nick Vandike (Commerce) went the first five innings, allowing four hits and two runs to raise his record to 2-0. Brandon Garner (Melvin) added a save by going the final two innings.

Concealed opened pool play Saturday by clobbering Northville as Steve Karhefske (Detroit) allowed two hits and two runs. He struck out six four innings.

Relievers Garner and Shay each pitched an inning to close out the victory.

Offensively, Sharpley led the way three hits, including a homer, and five RBIs. Vojtkofsky and Towse each contributed two hits and two RBIs, while Karhefske finished with two hits and an RBI.

Concealed returns to action in the Mayor's Tournament, which starts tonight and runs through Sunday in Battle Creek.

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## Art Appreciation Evening & Customer Appreciation Day (Open to Everyone)

Thursday, June 26 - 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

View art exhibited by local artists, in conjunction with Art Leaders Gallery. Enjoy wine & cheese refreshments. Meet the staff of Peoples State Bank.

Artwork on display will be available for purchase.

A selected piece of art, valued at \$1,000,

will be awarded at a drawing to be held on Friday, June 27.

(Entry blanks available to everyone, no account or purchase required.)

Friday, June 27 - 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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