

Tumble In Pitchers Battle, 3-2

Bishop Borgess KO'd In Baseball Opener



YOU CALL IT - Bishop Borgess catcher Mike Milosh dives back into first on an attempted pick off play. Lutheran West first baseman Tom Congdon makes the tag, but the umpire ruled the runner safe. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

It was opening day in the Overland prep baseball world and Bishop Borgess fell victim to first game jitters. The Spartans were pitted against the defending Class B champions in Lutheran West and committed five errors in a 3-2 setback.

Borgess hurler Gary Percha had a no-bitter on the line till the seventh and final inning. Lutheran West then put together three singles to break a 2-2 deadlock, and Borgess failed to score in the bottom of the seventh and the victory belonged to West.

Borgess didn't exactly hit the cover off the ball either... senior shortstop Mark Szpond collected the lone Spartan hit on a fluke flyball in the third inning.

SZPOND lofted a routine fly to center field and it appeared that Ron Westfall of Lutheran West had it in the well. At the last second he jumped out of the way with his glove over his eyes. The glaring sun had done its thing.

Lutheran West opened the contest with a base on balls but Percha got tough and retired the next two batters. West's Poloni then drilled one deep to center. Chuck Abernham came up with the catch of the day on a double flip and the rally was halted.

Dan Kelley started Borgess off with a walk and proceeded to steal second. Next was a home run strikeout pitcher, Dominic Manzli swished on a third strike but the ball got by the Lutheran West catcher.

He retrieved it and threw wild to third base in an attempt to get Kelley. The Lutheran West third sacker, shortstop and left fielder all fell on the play and Kelley and Manzli danced around the bases and Borgess was on top 2-0.

Jeff Miller also struck out for Borgess in the opening inning and made it to first base when the ball got by the

catcher and the Lutheran West hurler ended the first inning with five strikeouts to his credit.

THE TABLES WERE TURNED in the top of the third when Tooni and Schobor reached base on errors but it appeared that Borgess pitcher Percha was out of the jam on a two out flyball to right field.

The ball popped out of Manzli's glove and the score was notched at two all. Neither team could muster any form of an attack till the top of the seventh when Lutheran West combined three singles and an error for a one run advantage.

Borgess was completely baffled in attempting to form an offensive assault, the Spartan batsmen went down to the tune of a strikeout on 17 different occasions.

BISHOP BORGESS

| | ab | r | h | bi |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|
| Kelly, 2b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Manzi, rf | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Davis, 3B | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Szpond, ss | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Miller, lb | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kantor, if | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Abernham, cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Milosh, c | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Percha, p | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 24 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

LUTHERAN WEST

| | ab | r | h | bi |
|------------------|----|---|---|----|
| Schobor, ss | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Westfall, cf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Druckemiller, 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poloni, p | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lentz, c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lustia, if | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scott, rf | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

BORGESS 20000002
LUTHERAN WEST 00200013

MVP Cager

Bob Solomon, a 6-3 junior forward, repeated as Wayne State University's most valuable player in basketball during the 1972 season. He's the fifth player to win back-to-back Fred M. Fisher Awards since the award was established in 1950 - 51.

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Eagles Ready To Fly High With 6 Returning Starters

It should be an interesting spring at Thurston High with Emil Majeski's Eagles about to go on the prowl for the Northwest Suburban baseball title.

Thurston boasts 10 returning lettermen which includes six starters and Coach Majeski is just sorry that the list is one shy of what he expected.

Senior Bob Graustein was to be the starting catcher for the third consecutive season but has decided to concentrate on football. Graustein won acclaim this past football season as the area's top quarterback.

"I felt Bob had the makings of an All-League catcher," said Majeski. "But he has made his choice to stick with football all the way and I am behind him 100 per cent."

Football has made its move into Thurston sports in more ways than one. A total of 12 of the 18 man baseball roster played varsity football in the fall.

THURSTON is rebounding from an overall mark of 11-11 which included a 4-6 record in Northwest Suburban action. The six returning starters are all seniors: Ben Fontana, Bill Fraser, Bob Ghanam, Mark Miller, Don Murdock, and Larry Poma.

Fontana carries the heavy bat in the Eagle attack. The 5-11 outfielder packs 215 pounds and hit .275 last season. Fraser is the leading batsman in the returning lineup with a .280 average in another out-field position.

GHANNAM will be the No. 2 pitcher in the Thurston rotation. He sports two wins and one loss record along with a .287 batting average.

Senior hurler Miller stands 6-2 and checks in at 203 pounds and according to Coach Majeski, "is the ace of the staff and the path-maker to the conference crown." Mark had a five win and four loss record in his junior season.

Murdock is returning to his third base slot with a .280 mark and has been voted captain of the '72 squad. Poma is the "little man" in the starting lineup at 5-7 and 160 pounds and is looking to improve upon his '71 average of .240.

MARK FALVO, Bruce Hoben, Scott Irwin, and John



PREP Schedule

BASEBALL

WEDNESDAY
John Glenn at GC West
Ypsilanti at Plymouth
Brother Rice at Clawson

THURSDAY
Bishop Borgess at St. MaryAnnapolis at GC West
Bentley at Churchill

FRIDAY
Wayne at GC West
U-D at Bishop Borgess
Plymouth at Thurston
Highland Park at RU(2)

SATURDAY
DePorrer at Bishop Borgess
John Glenn at Wayne(2)

SUNDAY
St. Alphonsus at Bishop Borgess

MONDAY
Bishop Borgess at DeLaSalle
RU at Franklin

TUESDAY
Bentley at Thurston
E.Catholic at Brother Rice
John Glenn at Cherry Hill
Plymouth at WL Western
Groves at S.Lathrup
Farmington at N.Farmington

WEDNESDAY
GC East at GC West
Fordson at Southfield

THURSDAY
John Glenn at GC West
Thurston at Stevenson
Bishop Borgess, RU at Farmington

FRIDAY
Churchill at Robichaud
GC East at Bentley

MONDAY
St. Agatha at Bishop Foley

TUESDAY
Bentley at Churchill
Clarensville at Crestwood
Harper Woods at Country Day
Farmington at WL Western
GC East at John Glenn
Monroe at Plymouth
Thurston at RU
Edsel Ford at Stevenson

Stein round out the list of lettermen with a new face breaking into the backstop duties left vacant by Graustein. Junior Mike Robinson is expected to take over the chores with Majeski highly optimistic on his capability.

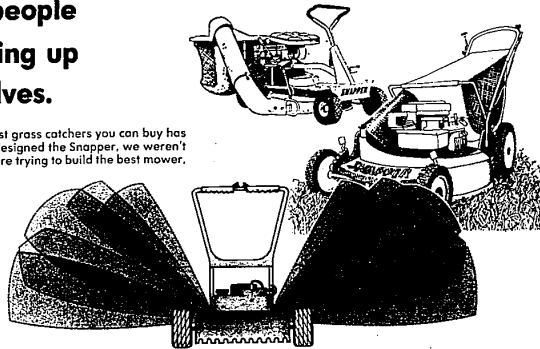
"The real battle is at the shortstop position," added Majeski. "Sophomore Tom Dowdy and Mark Falvo are in the running."

Falvo is also the No. 3 hurler in the Eagle attack with Sophomore Ray Ivey the No. 4 man. Falvo chalked up a two win and no loss record last season with the reserve squad.

THURSTON opens with Plymouth Friday on the Eagle diamond and has four more non-league clashes before the first Northwest battle with North Farmington on April 17.

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FALCON LOW HURDLER - Farmington's Eric Brown goes through the motions in the East Lansing Spartan Relays. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)