

Redford Opens National Bid Tonight

Ypsilanti Sweep Paves Way To Johnstown, Pa.

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

Redford Adray Coach Bob Atkins will be looking lucky No. 7 in the face tonight in Johnstown, Pa., when his champion Redford team takes the field in the opening clash of the Triple ABA Nationals.

Winners of the Livonia Adray League, Redford qualified for the nationals with a best two of three series victory over Ypsilanti ABC.

This will be the seventh journey for Atkins and Redford to the nationals in seven seasons. Redford boasts an overall showing of 26-2.

Redford dropped its opening contest to Ypsilanti 10-9, but rebounded with a back-to-back wins, 10-2 and 5-2, to top the Michigan title.

"This is a good solid club," said Atkins before packing his gear for Johnstown. "We are lacking a real superstar but do have quality in every position."

"If there is anything working against us, it has to be our lack of experience," added Atkins. "We are a young lot with only two players on the roster who have been to Johnstown before in Art Mach and R.J. LeRoux."

The age limit for competition in the ABA is not to exceed 20 years of age before Aug. 1. Redford has three ballplayers who are only 17 in starters Mark Yourchuck (1B), John Broder (LF) and Jeff Hodgkins (SS).

"One item that is different about this year's club is the depth of the pitching staff,"

Atkins said. "I am taking more experienced pitchers than ever before."

The nine man staff was sliced to eight after winning the state title when it was reported 6-3 righthander Mark Miller could not make the trip due to a reporting date for football at Central Michigan University.

The staff is composed of John Knox (5-0), Scott Evans (5-1), Jeff Moon (4-1), Tom Miller (2-0), Tom Nippa (2-0), Jeff Hodgkins (6-1), Art Mach (8-4), and Del Malloch (7-0).

The hitting department is paced by Broder at a .365 clip along with 24 runs batted in. Bill Fraser is next in line at .311 with Yourchuck around the .300 mark.

LeRoux, Steve Friedman and Fraser lead the club in runs scored with 24, 23 and 22 respectively.

Bouncing back from the 10-9 defeat was a moral victory for Redford in winning the Ypsilanti series. Atkins wasn't sure his crew was going to come back after it had fought back from a 9-1 deficit only to lose in the final inning.

Atkins found out just what the team was made of when it spurted to 10-2 and 5-2 victories.

John Knox went all the way on the Redford mound in the contest that evened the series at one-all. The hard throwing righthander from Royal Oak Kimball allowed eight hits, walked one and struck out nine in chalking up his fifth win.



Vern Cowen and Al Linderman hurled for Ypsilanti with left-handed Cowen suffering the loss.

Ypsilanti threatened in the opening inning but failed to score. With two out, Randy Briar batted out a three-bagger and Mike Bower walked. Knox got out of it by getting Cowen to ground out.

Redford came back in its half of the inning and cashed in. LeRoux singled, stole second and Steve Friedman singled him home. He moved to second on a wild pickoff attempt.

Malloch singled in Friedman, Fraser walked, and Glenn Richmond sacrificed in Malloch to make it 3-0.

Ypsilanti finally touched Knox in the top of the fourth for two runs. With one out, Knox gave up his lone base on balls to Cowen. Bob Eves singled and Steve Pollard tripled.

Redford pulled away in the last of the inning. Broder opened with a walk, stole second and beat a relay to third with Art Mach safe at first. Hodgkins singled, LeRoux tripled and Friedman singled to lead the sacks.

Malloch was wild pitched home and Fraser scored on another wild pitch. Richmond dashed in when the relay from the catcher to the pitcher sailed into the infield.

Redford pushed it to 4-1 in the sixth. Mark Durance walked, Fraser forced Durance and stole second. Broder singled to score Fraser. Ypsilanti sliced it to 4-2 in the seventh. With two out, Bower singled for his third hit and Walterhouse tripled in Bower.

Atkins brought in Mach and he promptly struck out Eves to retire the side. Redford came back in its half of the inning. LeRoux led off with a two-bagger, and after a groundout, Malloch missed on a suicide squeeze with LeRoux cut down at the plate. Malloch was safe on an error and Richmond walked. With two out, Yourchuck was walked to force in Friedman.

Mach wound up with the win, working the final 6 1/3 innings, striking out 11, giving up five hits, one run and walking one.

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the appeal good and Aquino's run was disallowed. Pollard was then hit by a pitch, and Doug Treadwell walked to fill the bases with one run still on the board.

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OUT AT SECOND -- Redford Adray's Bill Fraser is tagged out attempting to steal second in the state ABA baseball playoffs against Ypsilanti. Redford won the best two of three series and plays tonight in the Nationals at Johnstown, Pa. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Farmington Jr. Legion Whips Troy For Title

Farmington captured top billing on the first annual 18th District Junior American Legion baseball tourney at Troy.

Farmington, coached by Jack Brown, was composed of 15 and 16-year-olds from the South Farmington City League.

Auburn Heights fell to Farmington in the opening round of the two game knockout tourney. Farmington slipped to a 5-3 loss to Troy but rebounded with a 6-3 victory over Waterford and a return clash with Troy which Farmington won, 8-3.

Dave Duo was the story in Farmington's 6-0 win over

Auburn Heights. He allowed one hit, struck out 12 and walked one.

Farmington opened with two runs in the second on singles by Larry Cavins, Steve Kolins and Jim Brown. It went on to score one in the fifth and three in the sixth to coast in.

Troy knocked Farmington into the losers' bracket in round two with Chris Curtis suffering the 5-3 setback.

Dan Perry and Cavins got Farmington back on the winning track against Waterford. Perry went the first five innings and picked up the win with Cavins getting the save.

Cavins came on in the sixth with the bases loaded and none out and put out the Waterford fire. He got the first batsman to hit into a double play and retired the final batter on strikes.

Cavins started on the mound in the championship battle, went the first four innings and wound up going 10 innings for the tourney, not giving up a run and only two hits.

Duo combined with Cavins in the final game for the win, with Farmington collecting 10 hits.

Troy jumped to a 2-0 first inning lead but Farmington

came back with three in the bottom of the stanza. Jimmy Seitz walked, Curtis singled and Jay Cummings walked to fill the sacks. Cavins singled in two, Jim Vogel walked and Kolins sacrificed in Cummings.

Farmington pushed it to 4-2 in the second when Dan Marion singled, stole second and scored on a hit by Curtis. Troy cut it to 4-3 in the third.

Farmington tucked away victory in the sixth with four more runs on three hits. Duo walked, Seitz singled, Curtis singled and Vogel doubled them home and scored on an error.