



GAR FRANTZ



ROB CAMPBELL



STEVE ORR



DON MURDOCK



KURT FRITZ



BILL FRASER



RICK DREHER



TONY WENSON

Here Are The Best In Area Prep Baseball!

By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

How would you like to manage a prep baseball team that hits at a .366 clip, averages six foot and 175 pounds, a pitching staff that performs at a .785 winning percentage and averages one and a half strikeouts per inning?

Sounds to good to be true? Not when it's the all-area, All-Observer baseball team selected from 21 high schools. Juniors made a strong bid in the first team balloting with four on the No. 1 team. Six seniors and one sophomore round out the top team selected by your Observer Sports Editor and area coaches.

Thurston's Bill Fraser paced all Observerland hitters with an even .500 mark with 38 hits in 76 at bats with a pitching threesome compiling a 22-6 record.

GARDEN CITY EAST'S Dennis Ray, Redford Union's Gary Fulk, and Bishop Borgess' Reese Dobrick make up the No. 1 pitching staff.

RU paced all schools with three players on the team with Thurston and GC East claiming two berths apiece. Franklin High claimed the first base position in junior Gar Frantz. The Patriot slugger connected for 27 hits in 61 at bats for a .442 batting mark.

(Third in Observerland)

The Franklin co-captain was an unanimous all-conference choice in the Northwest Suburban league and paced the Patriots with 27 hits, 21 runs batted in, seven doubles and three home runs.

AT SECOND BASE IS RU's second year starter Rob Campbell. The Panther senior hit .364 with 22 hits and 18 runs to his credit.

"Rob has a strong arm and good range," said RU Coach Bob Atkins. "He developed into one of the league's top leadoff batters."

GC East's Steve Orr was top choice at shortstop. The 5'9" Junior, also the Panther quarterback, batted .345 with 19 hits in 55 at bats.

THE EAST SHORTSTOP was involved in 10 double plays and was All-League in the Mid-Wayne conference. Rounding out the infield is Thurston's Don Murdock at third base. The Eagle senior was a two year starter and captain of the 11-10 squad.

He hit .290 this season. But fell to 22nd this season. Unlike other members of the all area squad who made the team with a high batting average, Don was the No. 1 third base selection for his all around play and attitude. "Bob is tops on defense and always gives 100 per cent," said Thurston Coach Emil Majeski. "He would be the player I would turn to in any key situation."

THE OUTFIELD is composed of seniors Bill Fraser from Thurston and Ruy Kurt Fritz and Junior Rick Dreher from Churchill.

"Fritz was the clutch man in our attack," said RU Coach Atkins. "He was the team leader and played right field as well as any high school player I've seen." The Panther senior batted .333 with 29 hits in 87 at bats. He scored a total of 23 runs, established a school record with 23 runs batted in, popped out 10 extra base hits and five home runs.

FRITZ also paced the RU squad with eight stolen bases in nine attempts. Junior Red Wing defenseman turned ball player Bill Fraser stole the limelight at Thurston this season. The 185 pound senior batted No. 1 in Observerland at .500.

Fraser lashed out 38 hits in 71 games, hit four doubles, two triples and three home run batters. The Eagle centerfielder made good 13 of 14 stolen base attempts.

"That isn't enough I can say about Bill," said Eagle mentor Majeski. "He was the team leader and has rapidly changed his outlook from hockey to college baseball."

CHURCHILL JUNIOR Rick Dreher rounds out the outfield

with 19 hits in 51 trips to the plate for a .373 showing. The Charger outfielder was errorless in 16 games and collected four assists.

Dreher struck out only four times and stole six bases in leading Churchill to a winning season. "Rick gets a tremendous jump on the ball," said Churchill Coach Roger Frayer. "He is a team ball player and really came through for us in the cleanup position."

No. 1 behind the plate is Farmington's Tony Wenson.

THE SENIOR CATCHER hit .333 with 21 hits in 63 at bats and scored 15 runs. Wenson blasted two homers which included a grand slam against North Farmington in the season opener.

The Falcon backstop collected 19 runs batted in and led Farmington with 11 stolen bases with three against Harrison in a district battle.

Wenson was all Inter-Lakes his junior and senior years and has received offers from Hillsdale College and Michigan Tech.

Now we come to the heart of any baseball team with the three-man All-Area staff boasting a sophomore, junior and senior.

DENNIS RAY of GC East heads the list with a 9-2 record. He allowed 46 hits, gave up 25 walks and struck out 79 in 70 innings worked. The East senior compiled an earned run average of .660. Ray also spoke with his bat

with 22 hits in 55 trips to the plate for a .400 average. He struck out only three times. Ray hit .450 in his junior year and was unanimous choice this season in the Mid-Wayne conference.

"Fulks was the Luis Tiant of our staff," added Coach Atkins. "He has a variety of pitches and deliveries in his repertoire." Fulks was 4-0 in Suburban Eight action and compiled an overall earned run average of 1.57 with five complete games and one save to his credit. The Panther hurler chalked up 52 strikeouts in 58 innings.

RESE DOBRICK of

Bishop Borgess completes the staff. The 5-10 sophomore recorded a 6-3 mark with 74 strikeouts in 63 innings pitched.

His earned run average stood at 1.25 with a no-hitter against Crestwood in state tournament competition to his showing. There it is, the No. 1 baseball roster in Observerland.

THE SECOND TEAM boasted another 11 ball players to the likings any coach could invest in.

First base was captured by Mike Borders of John Glenn and second base went to Churchill's Roy Henriksson with a .309 batting mark.

Bentley's Pat Perino took shortstop honors with Farmington's Mike Flynn at third.

THE OUTFIELD has John Gentz of Bentley, Dan Hees of Plymouth and Chip Meyrelles of Clarenceville.

Glenn's all-league catcher J.P. McBride nallied down the second team backstop duties with a .321 batting average.

The second pitching rotation is made up of two juniors and one senior. Mark Miller of Thurston is the senior hurler with Churchill's Mark Wood and Harrison's Gary Morrison the ones to watch next year.

WOOD was the team's MVP with a 6-2 record and .681 earned run average.

Morrison was the key to Harrison's success. The 4-2 hurler also paced the Hawks attack with a .333 batting mark and has won Western Six honors the past two years with one to go.

All-Area Pitching Staff



DENNIS RAY



GARY FULK



RESE DOBRICK

FIRST TEAM

	CLASS	HT.	WT.	BA
1B .. GAR FRANTZ, Franklin	Jr.	6-1	180	.442
2B ... ROB CAMPBELL, RU	Jr.	5-8	150	.364
SS ... STEVE ORR, GC East	Jr.	5-9	155	.345
3B ... DON MURDOCK, Thurston	Sr.	5-10	175	.238
OF ... KURT FRITZ, RU	Sr.	6-0	200	.333
OF ... BILL FRASER, Thurston	Sr.	6-0	185	.500
OF ... RICK DREHER, Churchill	Jr.	5-10	160	.373
C ... TONY WENSON, Farmington	Sr.	6-1	205	.333
P ... DENNIS RAY, GC East	Sr.	6-3	175	9-2
P ... GARY FULK, RU	Jr.	6-2	170	7-1
P ... REESE DOBRICK, Borgess	Soph.	5-10	155	6-3

SECOND TEAM

1B .. MIKE BORDERS, John Glenn
2B ... ROY HENRIKSSON, Churchill
SS ... MIKE FLYNN, Bentley
3B ... JOHN GENTZ, Bentley
OF ... DAN HEES, Plymouth
OF ... CHIP MEYRELLES, Clarenceville
C ... J. P. MCBRIDE, John Glenn
P ... MAR K WOOD, Churchill
P ... GARY MORRISON, Harrison
P ... MARK MILLER, Thurston

HONORABLE MENTION

DERDERIAN (2B), Franklin; KALLGREN (SS), Harrison; LAUGHREN (3B), John Glenn; PAULINE (OF), Farmington; WHALEY (OF), GC East; SEVONTY (OF), Bentley; VANWAGONER (C), Churchill; HARTE (P), Farmington; OWENS (P), Plymouth; GOMBAR (P), Rice.

Dearborn, Redford, Westland Win Adray Baseball Openers

The 10 team Ann Arbor district Adray league opened with three games played, one canceled because of graduation, and one "maybe" forfeited.

That's how the 20 game schedule started and the season is already starting to show signs of one filled with many troubles off the diamond.

In the three games played, Westland Burger King toppled Livonia Griffin Sport, 3-1; Redford Adray crushed Northville Reef, 8-1; and Adray Dearborn zipped by Birmingham Varsity Shop, 9-2.

The Plymouth Bidwell-South Farmington Mario Sincola game was postponed because of high school graduation. The North Farmington Koebel-Garden City contest was of a different nature.

The opener was scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Henry Ford Field but the Garden City team never showed up. Coach Donald Ponte thought the opener was the following weekend.

DEARBORN ADRAY blasted Birmingham Varsity Shop, 9-2, behind the five hit pitching of Keith Cavanaugh, which included nine strikeouts. Tim Fremuth and Rick

Wolfe worked for Birmingham taking the loss.

Birmingham jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first two innings. A Quint Johnston double and Jim Hughes single scored one in the first and a single by John Dickson and two batters by Ted Kazanski added a second. But that was all for the Varsity Shop with Dearborn taking over the contest. Dan LaNove started things off for Dearborn in the bottom of the second with a solo home run. Joe Antanzano singled but was forced at second by Pete Craves who promptly stole second and scored on a single by John Renko.

DEARBORN MOVED ahead to stay in the third on three consecutive doubles by Frank Muto, the California Angel draftee LaNove and Antanzano and it was 5-2 after three stanzas.

Jim Welsh kicked off the Dearborn fourth with a single, stole second and scampered around on a single by Muto. A walk to LaNove and a four-bagger by Antanzano concluded the scoring in the fifth with Dearborn seven run victors.

Redford Adray picked up

right where it left off last season with an 8-1 showing over Northville Reef. The Redford team coached by Pat Sheridan captured league honors last season as well as the state title, regional crown and fourth ranking in the country.

EASTERN MICHIGAN'S Tom Ford hurled a two-hitter, struck out 14 and walked five in the opening two innings.

Oce and Scott Duncan working for Northville and starter Gee taking the defeat. Redford opened the first with two quick scores. Bill Fraser singled, stole second and scored on a hit by Doug Burk and it was 2-0 Redford. Northville responded with one in the bottom of the inning on a walk to Burk Adams, a wild pitch and doubled by Terry Mills.

A Fraser four-bagger put Redford up by two in the third with the defending champs adding two in the fourth to move ahead, 5-1. Dan O'Brien singled, was wild pitched and scored on a Denny Poppenger single.

POPPENGER stole second and scored on a single by Ford.

Redford scored once in the fifth on a three-bagger by Exes and a wild pitch and concluded its attack in the seventh on a two-run homer by Washington that cleared the third fence with a distance of 380 feet.

Westland Burger King edged Livonia Griffin Sport, 3-1, behind the arm of Wayne High hurler Art Mach.

LIVONIA outlived Westland, 8-5, but Westland put its hits together to count. Mach went the distance for Westland, struck out nine and walked one.

Tony Kaseta, Jerry Jarvela, Rick Zins and Dave Rice worked for Livonia with started Kaseta taking the loss. Westland opened the scoring in the top of the first. Karney Derderian singled, J.P. McBride walked and Bob McSpadden doubled to score Derderian.

Derderian played second base for Franklin High under Coach Ron Heller and Heller

is now coaching the Livonia Griffin team and released Derderian to the Westland squad and who scores the first run against Heller, you guessed it, Derderian.

WESTLAND made it 3-0 in the fifth on a single by Mach, a sacrifice by Derderian, walks to McBride and McSpadden and a double by Osborne. Griffin Sport Shop scored its lone run off Mach in the sixth on a one out four-bagger by Bentley High's sparkling Pat Perino. Perino blasted the ball over 400 feet in the air deep in the Ford Field center field corner and easily scampered around the bases.

With commencements in full swing this week, the original schedule will go into effect starting next week.

STANDINGS

Adray Dearborn	W	L
Redford Adray	1	0
Westland Burger King	1	0
Griffin Sport	0	1
Northville Reef	0	1
Birmingham Varsity	0	1
Garden City	0	1
Mario Sincola	0	0
Plymouth Bidwell	0	0
Koebel Diamond	0	0

SCORES
Burger King 3, Griffin Sport 1
Redford Adray 8, Northville 1
Adray Dearborn 9, Varsity Shop 2

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