



Mike Maroney was fooling Birmingham batters in Babe Ruth play last week. (Photographed by Gary Friedman)



Some 20 area young men and women played a 50-hour basketball game for charity.

SL Ruth team rolling

By TOM BAER

Baseball coach Don Shonta is always thinking ahead when he watches his Southfield Senior Babe Ruth team play.

Shonta, who coaches the varsity baseball team at Southfield-Lathrup High, is hoping some of his summer charges will benefit from Babe Ruth play, and then come back to make his Lathrup team a winner next spring.

"I've got some boys now that I want for next year (at Lathrup)," Shonta said. "Some were second stringers for me last spring, but they're getting some good playing experience this summer."

A good example is 16-year-old Mike Maroney, a righthanded pitcher. Maroney fired a two hitter, struck out two and walked two as Southfield defeated Birmingham, 3-1, last Thursday. He's 3-0 in the play.

The victory was especially pleasing to Shonta because Birmingham had been leading the Oakland Senior Babe Ruth League with an 8-0 mark. The win lifted Southfield to 5-4 this summer.

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Maroney, who will pitch for Lathrup next spring, was especially sharp against Birmingham, Shonta said.

"HE'S QUICK and he keeps the ball down low," the coach said. "He has a nice breaking ball and he's pretty smart when he's out there."

Southfield scored twice in the first inning. Secondbaseman Tom Lewandowski walked and went to second on a baschit by shortstop Ted-Fox. Both runners scored on a hit by firstbaseman Ron Silberstein, the team's leading hitter at .480.

The winners added another run in the third when Lewandowski was safe

on an error and scored on a double by catcher Randy Ross.

Birmingham scored its run in the fifth. Steve Mahler doubled, attempted to steal third, and scored when Ross pegged the ball into left field.

Pitching has been a problem for Shonta this summer, despite Maroney's three good outings. Silberstein, normally a standout chucker, is saving his arm for Southfield's Adray team.

Southfield's Ruth team plays next on Tuesday (July 2) against Berkley at the Southfield Civic Center. Game time is 8 p.m.

Perry strikes out 10 in Farmington victory

Farmington jumped on losing pitcher Dave Piotrowicz for two runs in the first inning. Jeff Herman reached on an error, moved along on Tom Cline's single, Bob Holton then sacrificed the runners to second and third before catcher Sam Pink knocked them in with a single.

Farmington pitcher Dan Perry struck out 10, walked eight, and allowed three hits, to lead his team to a 3-1 victory over Walled Lake in a District 18 American Legion game last Friday.

Walled Lake came back with an unearned run in the second. Bill McIntyre scored from third when Pink threw wildly trying to nail a runner at second base.

The winners added another run in the third when Herman singled, went to second on a passed ball and scored on Holton's single.

Perry, who is now 3-0 in Legion play, experienced control problems several times, but always managed to

pitch his way out. For example, in the fifth he walked McIntyre and Jim Wallace before settling down to fan the next two batters.

"He has a tendency to be a little wild, but so do a lot of lefthanders," said Farmington coach Wally Christensen. "It's because he doesn't concentrate hard enough."

Christensen's squad is 6-2 this season thanks to Perry and the other Farmington strong arm—Tim Hamner. Pink is the team's leading batter at just over .400 as of last Friday.

Farmington's next, regular-season game is at home on July 7 against Lake Orion.

Falcon matman leads state team in Japan

Mark Churella, the Farmington High School wrestling standout who is touring Japan with a Michigan all-star team, paced his squad to a 6-3 victory over a Niigata City team.

Churella, who will be a senior next fall, decisioned H. Tanaka, 6-3, in the 154-pound division to lead his team to their fourth straight win over the Japanese. The wrestlers meet nine

times during the sixweek trip, which is sponsored by the Michigan Cultural Wrestling Association. The Americans live with Japanese families during their stay.

Churella, who has a 120-7 in prep matches, was second in the state finals in the 155-pound division last season.

Mall Ball

Basketball becomes a charity toss

One observer remarked that the appearance of the Tel-Twelve Mall parking lot was visibly improved.

A group of teenagers seemed to be engaged in a round-the-clock game of basketball with the court set up right there in the lot. Bleary-eyed substitutions, blankets draped across their shoulders against the night cold, from a large Stroh's Beer truck. A radio blared rock music all the while.

The marathon game—50 hours from start to finish—was played June 21-23 with a definite purpose in mind. The 20 area youths were raising money for ALSAC (Aiding Leukemia-Stricken American Children) and the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

Shoppers dropped pledges in boxes provided. The group raised \$680 from noon on June 21 to 2 p.m. on June 23.

Incidentally—if not accidentally—the group broke a world record by keeping the game going for 50 straight hours. The previous record was 47 straight hours set by a group of California students, according to Tim Downey, who helped organize the game.

The idea was originated by Downey and four other young men while sitting in a restaurant one night. They decided it would be "something interesting to do," according to Downey. Fifty hours of basketball is quite a feat, but the group had the help of the Stroh Brewery (provided the truck), the Southfield Athletic Club (provided the nets and balls) and the Tel-Twelve Mall (provided the parking lot).

He had built some of the volved in the game. She was included so there "would not be any flack from the women's liberation movement," Downey said.



Linda Roy, the only girl in the group, takes a breather during the marathon game played in the parking lot of the Tel-Twelve Mall.

Photos by Craig Newman