

Errors costly for local sandlotters

Illinois teams eliminate NFWB Pony team

By JIM KINSELLA

North Farmington-West Bloomfield state champion Pony League team had its hopes for a mid-west regional championship dashed last weekend when it lost two consecutive games to teams entered from Illinois.

After opening the tournament last Thursday with a 7-3 victory over host Bay City, the NFWB Nationals dropped a heart-breaking 7-4 contest to Joliet, Ill.

That loss dropped the Nationals into the losers bracket of the double-elimination tournament and forced them to play Wilmette, Ill.

Described by one NFWB coach as an "unimpressive team," Wilmette took advantage of several key National errors and ineffectual pitching to blast its way to an 18-0 whitewash of the local champions.

To make matters that much worse for the Nationals, the hitting attack that took them to the state championship in Hamtramck two weeks ago faded almost as much as the tired arms of the pitching corp.

Nationals' manager Joe Boda sent pitching ace Jim Kassab to the mound to face Joliet, and despite fatigue and the vestige of a sore arm, Kassab kept the Nationals close through five innings.

Down 1-0 opening the sixth, the Nationals' Gary LaCroix worked Joliet's pitcher for a walk. Following a strikeout, Mike Miller and Don Gasser singled to load the bases. An excellent infield play by Joliet then forced LaCroix trying to score.

With two outs and a two strike count on him, Jeff Cohen tripled to right center driving in three runs. Cohen then scored the last NFWB run on an error.

Joliet came right back in its half of the sixth, sending 12 men to the plate and scoring six runs to take a 7-4 margin into the last inning. NFWB was held scoreless in its half of the final stanza and saw its regional record ended at 1-1.

Kassab, in the losing effort, struck out 13 batters in the six innings he worked. His downfall was assured after fielding lapses contributed seven errors, most of them during in the sixth inning.

Six different pitchers were sent in to stop Wilmette last Saturday, but error—and hits that seemed to have eyes—spelled the Nationals' downfall. The tournament director invoked the mercy rule at the 18th run, ending the game after five innings.

Despite the bitter setback, Boda found a score of things to be happy about.

"Hey, this is the finest team we've fielded since the 1972 Pony League representative that made it to the World Series," Boda said, "and I honestly think that our team had more power and more pitching than that 1972 all star team."

NFWB finished post-season tournament play with an 8-4 record. Key offensive performances were turned in by Jim Scanlon who hit .429, Miller who hit .421, and Gasser and Cohen who hit in 13 and 11 runs respectively.

Scanlon also contributed three runs to the NFWB tournament cause. Chip Chamberlain and Craig Edwards added two wins apiece, and Kassab took the other victory in 20 innings of work. Kassab struck out 37.

Tom Godwin and Tom Herrington were NFWB's defensive standouts. Herrington handling 76 plays at first base with only one error.

Summing up his team's effort Boda said, "I think we'll be back next year."

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Dominates 4th-straight NSSL meet

Another crown for Cranbrook

By TOM BAER

Few things in life are as predictable as the outcome of the Northwest Suburban Swim League's championship meet.

Southfield Cranbrook Swim Club scored 907 team points to dominate its fourth-straight NSSL championship meet held last weekend at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School. Rochester Heart of the Hills Swim Club was a distant second with 590 points. Bloomfield Surf took third with 563.

"Everybody swam real well for us, and once again we had enough depth to win the meet," said Cranbrook coach John Mason, who guided the team to a 6-0 NSSL dual meet season this summer.

The NSSL holds competition for close to 1,000 swimmers from 15 private clubs in the northwest suburbs, but somehow Cranbrook's tankers always seem to end up at the top of the standings.

The team's success—27 straight dual meet victories going back to July 1971 plus the four league meet titles—is due to lots of hard work and an abundance of swimmers, according to Mason.

"We have a lot more kids involved," he said. "This summer we had almost 170 kids involved in our program. Any time you have that many, you're bound to have more come to the top. Also, we have two pools, and that never hurts. We get a lot more pool time than a lot of places."

CRANBROOK TOOK 10 first places in last weekend's league meet. Buck Crosthwaite, Gary Bice and Debbie Saputo, all swimming in the 15-17-year age group, were individual standouts.

Bice, a former swimming standout at Birmingham Groves and headed for Wake Forest University on a swimming scholarship next fall, set meet records in the 100-yard individual medley (1:56.20) and the 50-yard backstroke (25.63).

Crosthwaite, a Southfield-Lathrup student who will swim at Eastern

Michigan University next year, won the 50 butterfly (25.304) and the 100 freestyle (1:50.257). Crosthwaite and Bice swam on Cranbrook's 44-year (combined age) 200-yard freestyle relay, which set a record with a 1:30.000 clocking.

Miss Saputo won the girls' 50 butterfly in 27.821, and took second in the 100 individual medley.

"We're going to be losing those three people and we're really going to miss them," Mason said. "They scored almost 100 points between them. There's the margin right there. Next year, we're going to have to rely a little more on some of our younger kids."

But Cranbrook seems to have plenty of younger talent, too. Kyratyn Ryndren, for example, set two individual records in the girls' 13-14 group and then swam on Cranbrook's 53-year 200-yard medley relay, which won in a record 2:52.461. Her individual records came in the 100 IM (1:45.788) and the 50 freestyle (25.815).

"She's always been right there for us," Mason said. "For the first couple of years, she was going on talent alone. But then, about a year and a half ago, she started getting serious. And she's been working hard—double workouts this summer: long course in the morning and short course in the afternoon."

VILLAGE SWIM CLUB, also located in Southfield, produced a double record setter in Lisa MacMillan.

Swimming in the girls' nine-and-10 age group, she set league standards in the 50 free (25.688) and the 50 butterfly (25.908). Sue MacMillan set a record in the girls' 11-and-12 group by winning the 50 breast in 34.041.

Village's Bill Dunn won two events in the boys' 13-14 group: the 100 IM (1:49.551) and the 50 free (25.729).

Southfield Pinebrook Swim Club had double winners in Todd Avery and Kathy Kolon. Miss Kolon, competing in the girls' 15-17 group, set a record in the 100 IM (1:43.288) and won the 50 breast (25.351). Avery took the boys' 11-12 50 free (25.501) and the 100 IM (1:47.527).

Patti Pippin, 12, was a standout for Birmingham Forest Hills Swim Club. She established meet records in the 50 back (29.445) and the 50 butterfly (28.487).

In the eight-and-under group, Beverly Hills Athletic Club's Scott Wilson won the 25 back (1:18.881) and the 25 freestyle (1:13.828).

Farmington Glen got firsts from Jim Pogue (3:36.471 in the 13-14 50 butterfly) and Theresa Buttons (1:09.115 in the girls' 11-12 100 IM). Farmington Kendallwood's Michele Lister won the girls' nine-and-10 50 breaststroke (28.674).

Farmington Woodbrooke Hills' girls' 66-year 100-yard freestyle relay won in 55.815.

Farmington netter helps Junior Davis Cup squad

The Southeastern Michigan Junior Davis Cup team entry in the United States tournament finished third Sunday behind the host Chicago district entry and second place finisher Little Illinois.

Members of the Michigan entry included Rick Zussman, Bob Kasper, and Bob Love of Bloomfield Hills. Brian Hainline of Farmington, Glenn Johnson of Port Huron, Pete Oler of Ann Arbor and Kevin McNulty of Detroit.

Love captained the team.

The strong finish for the local junior team was assured when it took a 5-2 win from Ohio Valley. In that victory, Zussman, Hainline and Johnson all won singles matches.

Zussman defeated Ohio Valley's Tom Van Dotten 6-4, 6-3. Hainline topped Al Buntis 6-3, 7-4, and Johnson beat John Gurnan 6-3, 7-5.

Zussman also teamed with Kasper to win the doubles bout with Ohio Valley. The pair took a 9-8 win from Von Dotten and Jeff Kefalows.



Kathy Kolon had reason to smile after her finish in the girls 15-17 100-yard individual medley at the NSSL championships. She's waiting to be awarded the first place medal after setting a record 1:03.28 time in the event.

Meet results— see page 2

O&E Golf Tournament set for Livonia course

Scrape the rust off the putter and laminate the woods. Shake the dust out of the old golf bag and call the pro shop for lesson appointments. It's time to get ready for the Seventh Annual Observer & Eccentric Open Golf Tournament.

This year's tournament, which is slated for Saturday and Sunday Sept. 13 and 14 in the men's division, promises to be the biggest ever. Last year's tourney drew 180 entrants in four flights for the 36-hole affair and according to Gary Whitener, host pro at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course, better things are hoped for this year.

"With the growth we saw in this tournament last year, I wouldn't be at all surprised to see the number reach 200 or better this time around," he said.

Last year the tournament was opened to Oakland County residents

for the first time and a substantial portion of this year's field is expected to come from across Eight Mile, according to Whitener.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the Oakland County area served by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is a hotbed of golf. I'm familiar with many golfers from there who are just excellent players," Whitener said.

According to Whitener, the reason for the tournament's popularity stems to a great extent, from the way it is run.

"I try to run this tournament just like a PGA event. It's class all the way and the better golfers really appreciate that," he said.

A \$20 entry fee covers green fees, trophies and prizes. Souvenir golfcart tags will also be a part of the package this year.

As always, a women's division also will be played—with a Thursday, Sept. 18, tee-off date scheduled.

Entry fee for the women's division is \$7.50.

Rain-out dates for the men's tournament are scheduled as follows: Rain-out for Saturday Sept. 13 is Sunday Sept. 14, with the final round being played Saturday Sept. 20. Rain-out date for both days will be Saturday and Sunday Sept. 20 and 21.

The rain-out date for the women's tournament is Friday, Sept. 19. Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course is located on the corner of Eight Mile and Newburgh Roads in Livonia.

Further information is available from Whitener at the course.

Men's, Women's Open Golf Tournaments
Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course

MEN'S
36 holes medal play, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13 and 14. Entry fee: \$20 (greens fees, trophies and prizes)

WOMEN'S
18 holes medal play, Thursday, Sept. 18. Entry fee: \$7.50 (greens fees and trophies)

Make checks payable to Gary Whitener, tournament director and enclose with entry blank.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ HANDICAP _____

Men's entries close Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. Call for starting times on Friday, Sept. 13 at 10 a.m.

Women's entries close Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 5 p.m. Call for starting times Thursday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Twp.

Entries may be mailed to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20800 Newburgh, Livonia.

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