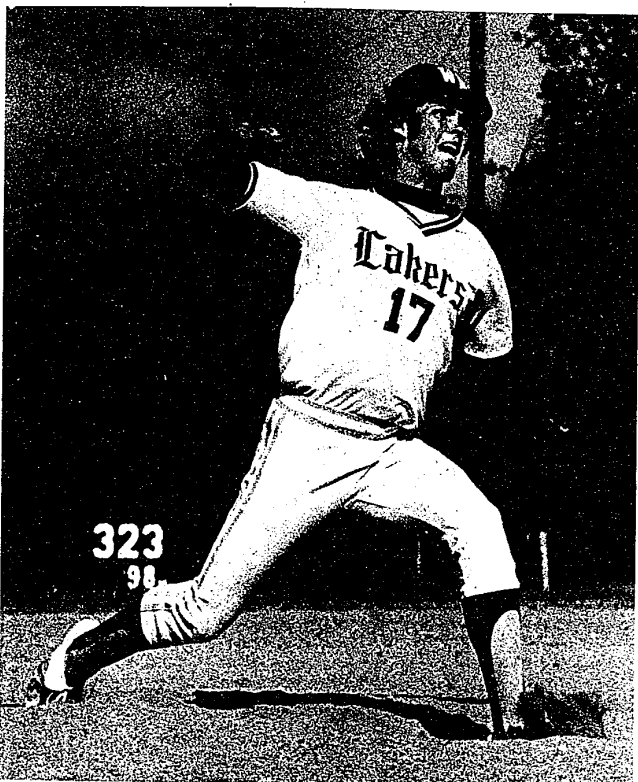


Thursday, June 21, 1979

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All-area baseball team one of O&E's best ever



Steve Sudbay of West Bloomfield helped lead his team to a Greater Oakland Activities League (GOAL) title.

By MARTY BUDNER

Hitting and pitching. That ideal blend is what makes the 1979 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Baseball Team perhaps one of the best we've ever presented.

Picked recently by a vote of area coaches, the team has a lofty combined batting average of .355. The staff of three pitchers has only five losses between them in some 20 decisions.

The 1979 team consists of 12 players. There were three pitchers, four infielders, three outfielders, and, because of a tie in voting, two catchers selected.

Following is the 1979 O&E All-Area Baseball Team:

INFIELD

The four-man infield consists of Rochester's Tom Dieters, West Bloomfield's John Alexander, North Farmington's Mike Thompson and Rochester Adams' Scott Harris.

Dieters is an all-state shortstop, who led Rochester — and the O&E team — in batting with a sensational .500 average. The slick-fielding senior had 27 hits, and a .735 slugging percentage.

Dieters, a standout in football and basketball, was walked 23 times this year. He had two home runs, two doubles and 10 runs batted in.

Alexander helped lead West Bloomfield to the GOAL crown as the Lakers went undefeated (10-0). The all-league fielder scored the winning run in a 5-4 victory over Andover which clinched the league title.

A second-team all region, and first-team all Northwest Suburban League (NSL) player, Thompson batted .362 with 19 runs scored. Thompson stole 21 bases in 23 attempts, and struck out only twice all season.

Harris was Adams' leading hitter at .452, including one home run and three triples. In 60 fielding chances, the senior all-league performer made only one error for an outstanding .984 defensive percentage.

OUTFIELDERS

The O&E's all-star outfield is North Farmington's Tom Godwin, Rice's Dennis Ray and Lahser's Dave Mitchell.

Godwin was the Raiders' RBI leader

with 22. A first-team all region and all-league player, Godwin batted .355 and stole 10 bases.

Ray was one of Rice's most consistent offensive threats. He led the team in runs scored (19), was tied in leadership for most hits (25), was second in total RBI's (16), and had an average of .329.

A speedy senior outfielder, Ray had a .909 fielding percentage. Mitchell, a junior, is the only underclassman on the veteran O&E team. The hard-hitting right hander averaged a sparkling .453, with five home runs, one triple and three doubles which was good for 21 RBI's.

He was selected a first-team Metro-Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) and first-team all-region player. Lahser and Troy Athens tied for third place in the MSAA.

PITCHING

The talented mound corps consists of Rice's Ed Lynch, North Farmington's Ron Fredericks and West Bloomfield's Steve Sudbay.

Lynch had an overall 7-2 mark, with a 1.18 earned run average. He faced 221 batters, striking out 62 and walking 26.

Headed for a Florida junior college, Lynch had a .313 batting average. Lynch beat Catholic Central — which won the state class A baseball title last weekend — twice this season.

Fredericks is a senior righthander who had a 5-2 record, and a superb 1.25 ERA. Named North Farmington's most valuable player, Fredericks batted two shutouts, struck out 39 and walked 16.

Fredericks, who doubled for coach Jerry Maxwell as an infielder, batted .345.

Sudbay was one of GOAL's premier pitchers.

Part of a staff which averaged only two walks per game, Sudbay saved his best performance this season in a doubleheader against Clarkston. The senior righthander registered the win and provided all the run production in a 4-2 opening game victory. He finished the afternoon with six RBI's and three doubles.

CATCHING

Lathrup's Ron Curcio and Rochester's Dave Ratkowski tied at catcher.

Curcio, who was an all-state designated hitter, had a strong .950 fielding percentage. He was also a MSAA, and regional all star.

A three-point academic student, Curcio broke five single-season school records this spring. They include most times at bat (85), most hits (34), most home runs (eight), most RBI's (27), and best batting average (.400).

Ratkowski had 25 hits, and finished with a .368 average. The senior catcher led the team with 11 doubles, and accumulated a team-leading 17 RBI's.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Al Fracassa of Brother Rice was named by his peers as the area's top coach.

The Warriors culminated a sensational athletic season — they won every possible catholic league championship — by winning the Central Division of the Catholic League, a city championship over Detroit Osborn, and a district championship over Royal Oak Kimball.



DAVE MITCHELL
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



DENNIS RAY
Brother Rice



RON CURCIO
Southfield-Lathrup



ED LYNCH
Brother Rice



SCOTT HARRIS
Rochester Adams



TOM DIETERS
Rochester



DAVE RATKOWIAK
Rochester

Honorable mention list

The honorable mention players for the 1979 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Baseball Team is as follows:

Farmington Harrison: Bruce Morrison, Dale Silar, Tom Cundy, Southfield-Lathrup: Ken Angrove, Birmingham Groves: Jeff Brayton, Phil Creager, Jon Noonan, West Bloomfield: Dave Ward, Kirk Miller, Steve Swanson, Dave Long, Mike Ronan, Rochester Adams: Tim Dillon, Paul Cracknell, Southfield Christian: Rob Vosler, Bry-

an Wilson, Bloomfield Hills Lahser: Dan Lavender, Cranbrook: Randy Hughes, Southfield: Greg White, Auburn Heights Avondale: Greg Sharick, Rich Gossman, John Janes, Mike Zelnick, Mark Andrus, Rochester: Al Karas, Birmingham Seaholm: Jim Mearns, Jeff Tollefson, Rusty Smith, Troy Athens: Ray King, Birmingham Brother Rice: Al Kochanski, Tom Temmerman, Steve Chiodo, Marty Martinez, John Crick, Dennis Clarke, Greg Kiozak.



MIKE THOMPSON
North Farmington



TOM GODWIN
North Farmington



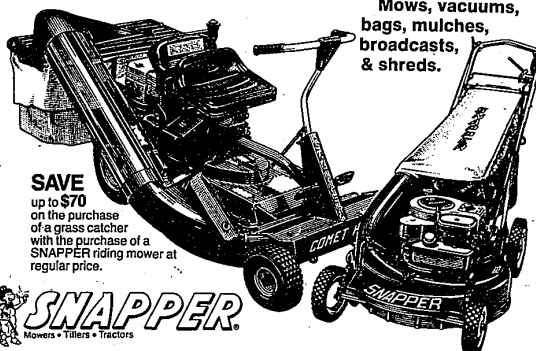
RON FREDERICKS
North Farmington



AL FRACASSA
Coach of Year

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