

Roughhouse seniors crash baseball team



John Recker helped lead Farmington Harrison to two consecutive district championships.

By Marty Budner
Staff writer

With names like Recker, Slaughter and King, plus a coach named Sackett, the 1981 Observer & Eccentric All-Area baseball team could cause any opponent to shudder.

This year's baseball all-stars, representing nine of the 21 schools in the O&E coverage area, is a combination of power, pitching and speed. The schoolboy stars — all seniors — batted an amazing average of .434, including an average of 21 runs batted in and 3.6 home runs.

The team recently was selected by area coaches at a meeting at Birmingham Seaholm High School.

Seaholm, which finished as the O&E's top-ranked school despite an early exit from the state playoffs, is represented by the talented one-two combination of Rick Ziegler and Greg Lotzar. Seaholm coach Don Sackett was picked by his peers as coach of the year.

John Slaughter and Steve Teplitsky represent Southfield, which was the only other school to land more than one player on the team.

The remaining first-team members include Mike Cupples (Rochester Adams), Eric Girdler (Bloomfield Hills Andover), Tim Jones (Bloomfield Hills Lahser), John King (North Farmington), Tom Lindsey (Troy Athens), John Recker (Farmington Harrison) and Kurt Zimmerman (Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook).

Here is a brief summary of each player:

MIKE CUPPLES (senior): A catcher, Cupples clobbered a school-record nine home runs and led the all stars with 32 RBIs. The 5-foot, 11-inch Cupples was Adams' team captain and most valuable player. He batted .473 and was named to the all-league and all-regional teams. Cupples was a stellar defensive player who did not commit an error all season.

ERIC GIRDLER (senior): Girdler

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1981 O&E all stars

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC ALL-AREA BASEBALL

FIRST TEAM

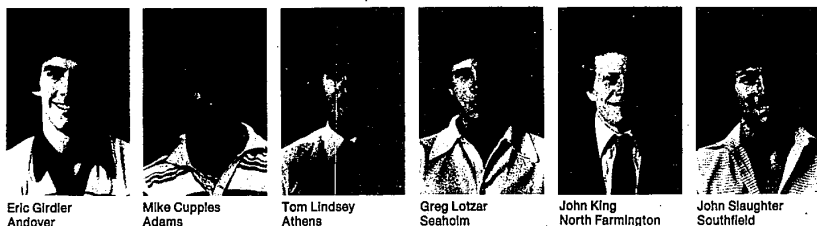
Name	School	Pos.
Rick Ziegler	Seaholm	P
Eric Girdler	Andover	P
Mike Cupples	Adams	C
Tom Lindsey	Athens	1B
John Recker	Harrison	INF
Steve Teplitsky	Southfield	INF
Kurt Zimmerman	Cranbrook	INF
Greg Lotzar	Seaholm	OUT
John King	North Farmington	OUT
Tim Jones	Lahser	OUT
John Slaughter	Southfield	DH
Don Sackett	Seaholm	Coach

SECOND TEAM

PITCHERS: Brett Forbush, Rochester Adams; Kevin Shaw, North Farmington; **CATCHER:** Chad Switzer, Birmingham Groves; **FIRST BASE:** Derek Righter, Birmingham Seaholm; **INFELDERS:** Tony Bruce, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Bill Rankin, Birmingham Groves; Brad Remer, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; **OUTFIELDERS:** Dale Sklar, Farmington Harrison; Joe Loorichio, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Steve Maloney, Rochester Adams; **DESIGNATED HITTER:** Jon Mutual, Southfield-Lathrup.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Tom Budnick, Brad Kulsh, Kevin Sell, Rick Shaefer, Bob Walther, Detroit Country Day; Tim Drumheller, Bob Kusza, Phil Shaller, Dave Smith, Chris Zitzy, Troy Athens; Dave Berkeley, Eric Macan, Jim Trouba, Jim Zubkus, Rochester Adams; Jim Robnett, Rocky Riccielli, Joe Sheeran, Birmingham Groves; Chuck Kott, Matt Rued, North Farmington; Atanas Ilitch, Cranbrook; Brian Marzoff, Mike McClear, Troy; Joe Hamilton, Derek Kerr, Jeff O'Malley, Barry Williams, Farmington; Randy Carey, Scott Scharg, Brad Sill, Southfield-Lathrup; Dave Kraus, Glenn Martin, Paul Morgan, Southfield; Ron Brough, Gary Crouse, Bloomfield Hills Andover; C. J. Beshe, Dave Harris, Chris Fowler, Rob Oleska, Birmingham Seaholm; Tim Hatz, Mike Rom, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Mike Turnquist, Farmington Harrison.



Eric Girdler
Andover

Mike Cupples
Adams

Tom Lindsey
Athens

Greg Lotzar
Seaholm

John King
North Farmington

John Slaughter
Southfield

St. Jude tourney nets \$50,000 at Great Oaks



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Former Detroit Lion football player Dick "Night Train" Lane, executive director of the Detroit Police Athletic League, practices his putting before teeing off at Monday's St. Jude/Celebrity Golf Classic at Rochester's Great Oaks Country Club.

By M.B. Dillon
Staff writer

Nearly 250 golfers assembled for the St. Jude Celebrity Golf Classic at Great Oaks in Rochester this week — all because of an incident that occurred one winter night in 1940.

Danny Thomas, then an unknown Detroit comedian, was praying to St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of the hopeless. In return for rescue from despair, Thomas pledged a demonstration of determination.

He made good on his promise and established St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, now the largest childhood-cancer-research center in the world.

Over the past 10 years, Great Oaks' charity tournament — which draws sports celebrities, professional athletes, players from the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and media people — has raised more than \$300,000 for the hospital.

Each of four golfers paid \$200 to play with a celebrity in the 18-hole, five-person, Texas-scrabble format.

Private donations and revenue raised from the auction of (among other things) a trip-for-two to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, contributed to the almost \$55,000 that filled the till this year.

DICK 'NIGHT TRAIN' LANE, a robust 6-foot-3, 260 pounds at age 53, came out to play in the celebrity program not only because he's a golf-lover, but also because the tournament's purpose hits home.

Growing up in a segregated neighborhood in Austin, Texas, the former Detroit Lion caught his first glimpse of sports glory by crawling through the fence at a nearby university to watch Bobby Layne (former Lion and college baseball player) pitch.

"I patterned my athletic career after his," said Lane, now executive director of the Police Athletic League, an organization that helps cops help kids.

"I was an adopted child, and I've always loved kids. I've worked for three mayors, trying to give kids more opportunities.

"We're trying to get kids in the inner city away from basketball and into playing hockey, golf, skiing and also non-athletic activities like oratorical contests.

"I support this tournament because it's doing something for cancer and other diseases that children will always suffer from."

THE FIVE-MEMBER TEAM winner in the lady pro division with a score of 59 was LPGA member Mary Bea Porter, Marv Gilum, Paul Caswell, Tom Maentz and Lincoln Spencer.

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