

# DCDS seeks another baseball title

(Following is a preview of the private school baseball teams from the Birmingham-Bloomfield and West Bloomfield areas. Orchard Lake St. Mary's coach Sandy Peters was unavailable by deadline Tuesday afternoon.) By Marty Budner staff writer

Frank Orlando calls it "gymnasium baseball." He could cope with "gymnasium baseball" — a term for indoor practices — under normal circumstances. But this stormy spring wasn't normal.

Orlando is beginning a new career as Detroit Country Day's baseball coach. As a first-year coach, he'd rather be reviewing his players on the field where he can obtain a better idea of his personnel.

"We have a young team, but it's difficult for me to tell what they can do because we've just been playing gymnasium baseball," said Orlando, who has coached high school baseball for the past 14 years.

"Actually, it's the bad weather the last thing I wanted to have happened this year. I wanted to get outside fast so I could get a look at some of the players."

"Right now, it looks like we're going to have a good defensive club, and we may have a couple key hitters. And we have some good team speed."

"Since I wasn't here last year, I really don't know what they can do under playing conditions," he said. "But I've coached a lot of years of baseball and I can see a lot of talent."

Orlando, who took over at DCD for Bill Turkington, previously coached for eight years at Warren Tower High School and six years at Redford St. Mary's.

Last year, Tower finished with an 18-5 overall record, won a district title and lost to eventual state champion Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher in the state Class A regional final championship game. His best record at St. Mary's was 29-2 in 1972.

"I like to play aggressive baseball. . . I like to hit and run, and I like to steal bases whenever we

have the chance," he said. "The Yellowjackets, who won the Metro Conference championship last year with an 8-2 record, have four returning lettermen."

Kevin Sell, an all-conference performer who was a key player on DCD's hockey team this winter, anchors the pitching staff. A 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior right-hander, Sell is a power pitcher who groomed a fine 6-1 record last year.

"He's a big, strong pitcher, but he's working on developing a curve ball and a change of pace," said Orlando. "He will be our main starter."

The remaining members of the youthful pitching staff include sophomores right-hander Richard Goldberg, Eric Kokkonen and junior Tom Kendro who is up from the junior varsity.

Junior backstop George Clark has a big assignment this year as he takes over for all conference catcher Tim Schaeffer who graduated. Clark, 6-4, 190 pounds, has an "exceptional arm and good defensive skills."

The infield consists of seniors Adam Rosen (first base) and Eric Martin (third base), Goldberg (shortstop) and Kokkonen and Howard Rubin (second base), Goldberg, a fine defensive player, batted .330 last year.

Senior Matt Friedman (left field) and sophomore John Collins (center field) have two outfield positions locked up. Craig Taucher and Brian Shanley are battling for the remaining outfield slot.

"It looks like we have a lot of good contact hitters. I think we'll hit more for average than for power," said Orlando. "I'm a coach with a new team and young players, but we have a good blend of experienced players with young players."

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John Doehr, up from the junior varsity where he played second base, converts to first base. Juniors Chris Ilitch and Jeff White — who both played outfield last year — are now infielders. Ilitch, a left-handed line-drive hitter who batted a sparkling .349 last year, is Cranbrook's second baseman. White, who hit .458 last year, will contest with Richard Melnick for third base.

(Ilitch) will have to learn how to turn the double play and get used to the different defenses we run," said Martin. "But he has all the other natural skills like fielding a ground ball."

The outfield is spearheaded by senior Ed Conniff, an all-Metro League player as a sophomore who did not play last year. Martin is counting on Conniff both offensively and defensively.

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what Martin has in mind. "We've had to completely rebuild the infield," said Martin, who spent nine years as an assistant coach before becoming the main man last year.

"We have only one returning infielder, but we think we've patched things up pretty well. We lost quite a bit from last year, but we do have seven returning lettermen, and we have four or five people who can run pretty well."

"But I like the way we've adjusted to things," he said. "A lot of people are playing different positions than what they're accustomed to playing."

Let's start with the infield. Senior co-captain Mark LaFontaine, who played third base last year, is now the shortstop. LaFontaine batted .306 last spring.

John Doehr, up from the junior varsity where he played second base, converts to first base. Juniors Chris Ilitch and Jeff White — who both played outfield last year — are now infielders. Ilitch, a left-handed line-drive hitter who batted a sparkling .349 last year, is Cranbrook's second baseman. White, who hit .458 last year, will contest with Richard Melnick for third base.

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# North's Holland has place in Hall

The Michigan High School Football Coaches' Association will dedicate its newly constructed football Hall of Fame building in Ann Arbor Friday night and induct the charter members of the association.

Ron Holland, North Farmington's long-time head football coach and a regional director of the coaches' association, will be one of the inductees.

The association is celebrating its 10th year of existence. Inducted into the Hall of Fame will be Jackson's Dave Driscoll, Alpena's Dutch Schrotenboer, Portage's Bud Bredt and Tawas' Steve Sonoga, all first officers of the association.

Also inducted will be 19 association regional directors.

They are Detroit's Roy Allen, East Lansing's Dick Comar, Monroe's

Rick Jeru, Albion's Ken Foust, St. Joseph's like Mukkenkamp, Port Huron's Jim Bates, North Farmington's Holland, East Lansing's Jeff Smith, Wyoming's Jack Verdine, Flint Kearsley's Jack Pratt, Flint Power's Fred Rademacher, Bad Axe's John Blackstock, Bay City's Elmer Engel, North Muskegon's Tom Seroczynski, Alpena's Art Gillespie, Traverse City's Jim Ooley, Sault Ste.

Marie's Paul Baldwin, Escanaba's Jerry Cventegros and Ironwood's Wayne Melchior.

The dedication and induction will take place in conjunction with the University of Michigan's annual spring football clinic at 9 p.m. Friday in the new indoor football practice facility.

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