

N. Farmington, Harrison tumble



Lathrup's Andy Bertlett heads back to first base on an unsuccessful pickoff play during Monday's baseball game against Royal Oak Dondoro.

Redford Thurston pitchers Kim Sooney and Tom James combined to stymie North Farmington, 10-5, in Northwest Suburban League baseball Monday.

James, the winning pitcher, allowed one run on one hit and struck out seven in four innings of work. Losing pitcher Scott Kraper pitched the first four innings.

Thurston scored nine runs in the fourth inning as 13 men went to the plate. The key hit in the inning was a bases-loaded double by Chuck Driadino. Mark Leonetti had a triple and a single for North Farmington.

On Friday, North tumbled on Livonia Franklin at home. The NSL game has a 4 p.m. start.

PLYMOUTH CANTON pounded out 17 hits Monday and handed Farmington Harrison an 18-3 drubbing in Western Six League baseball. Canton, the perennial WSL champion, owns a 5-0 conference record.

Canton scored 10 runs in the first two innings. Dan Smith pitched the first four innings and allowed just one hit and helped his cause with four hits in four trips to the plate.

Dave Elackmer, the starting pitcher, took the loss. Harrison is home to Livonia Churchill

baseball

on Friday. The Western Six League game has a 4 p.m. start.

IN OTHER ACTION, Jim Gagliardi provided the arm and the bat Monday in Southfield-Lathrup's 4-1 baseball victory over Royal Oak Dondoro in Metro Suburban Activities Association action.

On the mound, Gagliardi, a senior southpaw, tossed a two-hitter and struck out eight. At the plate, he had two hits, including a fourth-inning triple to drive in Dan Dickson.

"It was an excellent job," said Lathrup coach Bob Marten said of Gagliardi's third win in four starts. "He threw fewer than 100 pitches and something like 70 percent of them were strikes."

"Our catcher, John Shoup, deserves some credit, too. He did a great job of mixing up the pitches. Believe it or not, Jim had a good knuckleball to go with his fastball and curve."

Dickson had two hits in three trips to the plate. His double knocked in two runs in the second. Pete Armon also had a couple of hits for Lathrup, which

climbed to 9-2 overall and 4-2 in the MSA.

On Friday, Lathrup is home to Bloomfield Hills Lahser for a conference game at 4 p.m. The Ed Litogot Baseball Tournament is set for Saturday at several sites in Southfield. The tournament named for the former Lathrup athletic director, includes Lathrup, Southfield, Detroit Country Day School and Oak Park. The finals will be held at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN, with John Bosca on the mound, defeated Pontiac Oakland Christian, 9-3, in Michigan Independent Athletic Conference baseball Tuesday. The win put coach Bob Newman's SCS team at 9-4 in the league and 4-9 overall.

Tom Gervase and Randy Cline each had two hits for the winners, and Greg Brown contributed one hit.

Earlier, Southfield Christiana lost both ends of a double-header to Pontiac Catholic.

Pontiac won the opener, 6-5. Bosca had two hits, and Dave Waggoner had a double for the losers. Brown was the losing pitcher. In the nightcap, Bosca, Kent Nast and Gervase each had a hit in the 3-3 loss. Gervase was the pitcher of record.

Christian plays Friday afternoon at Grosse Pointe University Liggett.

Harrison girls triumph

Farmington Harrison gave up three runs on four hits in the bottom of the sixth inning Monday which helped Plymouth Canton to a 9-6 Western Six softball victory.

The Hawks, 2-2 in the league and 3-6 overall, had seven hits while Canton struck for eight.

Kris White led the Harrison attack with two hits, a walk and two stolen bases. Teammate Janet Munn had two hits — including a double.

Friday, Harrison is at Livonia Churchill, and Saturday, the Hawks travel to Brighton for a double-header.

NORTH FARMINGTON, after sweeping a double-header from Southfield two days earlier, lost by a narrow 13-12 count to Thurston High Monday.

Thurston scored the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the Raiders their fifth loss in 10 outings.

Stacy Greenberg, Michele Rosen and Debbie Pank each had two hits, while Greenberg and Rosen each had three RBIs.

In Saturday's twin bill against Southfield, the Raiders won the opener, 5-3, and took the nightcap, 13-7.

softball

Sue Calver was the winning pitcher in the 5-3 victory, while Rosen took the win in the second game.

Greenberg had three RBIs in the first game and Margie Lee knocked home two in the second.

IN OTHER ACTION, Carol Lawton, Lori Lechner and Karen Hunt combined for 12 runs batted in Monday as Southfield-Lathrup lambasted Berkeley, 22-9, in non-league softball action.

The Chargers, 11-7 overall, used the lethal hitting of Lawton, Lechner and Hunt to give winning pitcher Kim Keydren her seventh victory against two losses.

Kersten gave up eight hits, walked eight and fanned eight.

Lawton had three hits and five runs batted in, while Lechner had a pair of hits and four RBIs. Hunt swatted four hits and drove home three runs.

The Chargers will attempt to keep the

hits hot Friday when they host Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

SOUTHFIELD HIGH scored six runs in the first inning of Monday's game with Royal Oak Kimball, but that was all the run production it could muster in a 13-6 Southeastern Michigan Association loss.

The setback dropped the Blue Jays' record to 3-7 in the league and 3-12 overall.

Kelly Jones picked up three of Southfield's 10 hits. Linda Mitchell was the losing pitcher. She went the distance, yielded 15 hits, walked three and struck out two.

Friday, Southfield hosts the winless Troy Colts.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN was beaten by Pontiac Oakland Christian, 17-3, Tuesday. Coach Ken Brown's Eagles fell to 2-11.

Winning pitcher Patty Miller pitched a three-hitter and fanned two. Teammate Kim Seiber douled two doubles and drove in six runs. Losing pitcher Kristy Shreeves worked ⅓ of an inning, and Carol Snyder finished. Snyder knocked in a run with a single.



Marty Budner

Getting paid?

Fisher opposes plan at Boston

It's been more than three years since Larry Fisher had a day off.

In fact, he can remember the exact date Feb. 4, 1979.

"I was in Gaylord that day, and I was kind of sick," he recalled with a sheepish smile. "And there was a 50-degree wind chill."

Despite the constant workload, Fisher has never been paid for his efforts. He really doesn't want any monetary remuneration.

That may sound a bit insane in this age when it costs money just to dial information on the telephone or to pump air in a tire at some local gas station.

But you have to understand, Fisher is disciplined at what he does. He lives in a world of strict self-motivation.

He's a Marathoner, one of those curious runners who defy pain — and even pay — in favor of satisfaction.

Fisher has been in a dozen marathons, and he's cherished every minute, or hour, of them.

Fisher's latest venture was the sweetest of them all — last month's Boston Marathon. It was his fourth Boston Marathon.

Fisher finished 211th overall — the seventh Michigan runner to cross the line — with his best time ever of 2 hours, 32 minutes, and 29 seconds.



Larry Fisher Marathon man

And the slender Orchard Lake St. Mary's track coach was proud of his effort.

BUT FISHER is concerned. His sport is endangered, and he doesn't like it. Officials are talking about turning the Boston Marathon commercial. Next spring, the internationally renowned Boston Marathon may turn professional. The winner is slated to receive money instead of a symbolic crown.

The Boston Marathon always starts on the first Monday in April. If the race turns professional, it will be run on a Sunday, and the start (Hopkinton, outside Boston) and the finish (Prudential Center in downtown Boston) sites could be different.

Fisher, 28, is a marathon purist. He doesn't like the proposed changes.

He runs for the satisfaction of finishing a race. Fisher does not believe that athletes who run in Boston should be paid.

"I would hope it stays an amateur race," said Fisher.

"We're talking about 88 years of tradition. You hear about the Olympics (marathon runs), and the second (marathon) you always hear about is Boston."

"The New York City Marathon is bigger, but when you think of marathons, you think of Boston. I don't think about marathons being commercial. Personally, I go with tradition."

Fisher suggests the elite marathon runners could have their own race circuit similar to that of automobile racing. He believes that those who want to run professional marathons for money can create their own traditions in different cities.

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