

# Bloomfield eyes Legion playoff

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

Norm Kaplan has one goal in mind

for his Bloomfield Hills Legion baseball squad this summer — to participate in the post-season Legion tournament.



Photos by DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Joe Sheeran of Bloomfield Hills survived a shaky first inning and posted an 8-4 victory over Rochester Wednesday evening.

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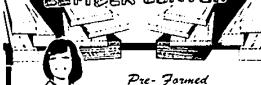
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Bloomfield Hills has never qualified for the Legion playoffs in its first two years of affiliation with the 11th District American Legion Baseball League.

Kaplan's squad is currently in second place behind league-leading Ferndale, and the top two teams in the 12-team league qualify for Legion playoffs. The next three teams are relegated to various Connie Mack District playoffs around the state.

"Two years ago we finished two games out of first place, and last year we were one game out of first. Royal Oak, Troy and Berkley tied for first place," said Kaplan, whose team played Ferndale in a key league showdown yesterday afternoon at Andover High School.

"We'd really like to make the Legion playoffs. But, we won't be unhappy in Connie Mack play. It's just that we'd like to go to the Legion tournament for the first time."

"THIS IS OUR third year in the Legion league, and we've always qualified for the Connie Mack playoffs. Two years ago we were in the Pacific District tournament, and last year we lost in the district finals at Saginaw."

"We've made our reputation in Connie Mack play, and we'd like to have strong reputations in both (Connie Mack and Legion playoffs)," he said.

Bloomfield Hills has mustered a fine 48-20 overall record in two years of regular-season and playoff action. Last year, Bloomfield Hills was 20-6 during the regular season and 4-2 in the playoffs.

Kaplan's squad was 14-6 before the start of last weekend. The season ends this week, and barring a complete collapse, a berth in the Connie Mack playoffs virtually is assured.

"This year we didn't get off to the kind of start we did in the previous years, but we've made a strong comeback so far," said Kaplan, who's assisted by sons Joe and John and Lahser high graduate Dave Mitchell.

"This year we've had the best depth we've ever had — it's our strongest team. We have well-balanced pitching, and we have more power than we've ever had."

"IT'S JUST THAT errors — both physical and mental — have cost us. Errors are uncharacteristic of our team. The hallmark of our past teams is that we don't beat ourselves. And, that has happened this year."

"We're still capable of playing good ball," he said. "And, if we do it on a consistent basis, there's no limit to what we can do."

Last Wednesday, Bloomfield Hills defeated Rochester, 8-4.

Joe Sheeran allowed all four runs in the first three games, but as the game progressed and picked up the win, Pat Sennemowski hurled 3 1/3 innings and was tagged with the loss.

Rochester's first inning featured run-scoring hits from John Brosnan and John Schwegman. Dan Springer also picked up an infield out.

Bloomfield Hills roared back with two runs in each of the first, third and fourth innings. Hills received single rallies in the final two innings.

The winning runs scored on designated hitter Dave Kuntzman's two-run single to right field in the fourth inning.



Rochester's Ron Fox had a key base hit in a four-run first-inning surge.

## Oakland Hills names officials for '85 Open

William A. Prew, who guided Oakland Hills Country Club to record-setting performances in the 1979 PGA golf championship, has been named General Chairman of the 55th U.S. Open, which will be held at Oakland Hills in 1981.

Prew, a former world-record holder during his college days at Wayne State University, is an avid golfer. He owns an insurance business.

"Oakland Hills is fortunate to have someone with Bill Prew's experience and knowledge in the golf tournament business," said Robert G. Wood, Chairman of the U.S. Senior Open at Oakland Hills last year, and Don W. Graham has been named Vice-Chairman for the U.S. Open.

Prew is a former president of Oakland Hills and the Detroit Athletic Club and has been a prominent figure in recent years in the Golf Association of Michigan and the Michigan Senior Golf Association. Prew was a member of the Executive Committee at Oakland Hills for the U.S. Senior Open in 1981.

The announcement was made by Frederick Osann, the current president of Oakland Hills Country Club.

At the same time, Osann revealed that Robert G. Wood, who was the General Chairman of the U.S. Senior Open at Oakland Hills last year, and Don W. Graham have been named Vice-Chairman for the U.S. Open.

Prew said, "We are proud of the tradition of major championships at Oakland Hills and know that our membership will support Bill to the utmost in this big event."

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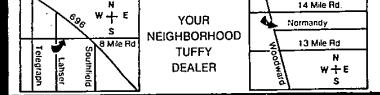
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