



Signals crossed

Farmington Hills firefighter and third base coach Larry Henderson directs teammate Dennis Atkins safely into third base during a benefit softball game against the West Bloomfield firemen. The Hills firefighters blasted their opponents 17-8 in the game played

at Farmington High School. The benefit raised more than \$80 for the Ann Arbor Burn Center. Farmington firemen hope the benefit will become an annual affair.

STEVE OZONE

Troy advances to Legion tournament

While the American Legion contingent from Troy-Birmingham was celebrating its entry into the state Legion Tournament, the Bloomfield Hills team — second-place finishers in the 18th District regular season — fell on excruciatingly hard times.

First, the euphoria: Troy-Birmingham used the long ball to gain entry into the state Legion Tournament, which will begin Aug. 5 in Greenville, Mich. They knocked off Bloomfield Hills, 6-3, to place second in the 18th District League Tourney last Wednesday.

JOHN MERANA hit a solo home run in the first inning and Jon Draper pitched a three-run shut in the second to stake Troy to a lead they would nev-

baseball

er relinquish. Scott Watson was the winning pitcher. Bloomfield's Rob Alvin took the loss.

Troy and Ferndale, the 18th District's other entry into the state tourney, will square off tonight at 6 at Avondale High School. The winner will draw a bye in the first round of the state tourney.

Now, the saddest: Bloomfield Hills, after beating Waterford Chief Poplac 4-1 on the strength of two-run doubles by Rich

Goldberg and Jim Jordan, and the strong pitching of Matt Glenn, lost their chance to play in the Legion tourney to Troy.

Instead, the Hills gang had to settle for post-season play in the Connie Mack District Tournament in Pontiac. It was there that the roof caved in on Norm Kaplan's gang.

AFTER LOSING a close 6-4 game in the opening round Thursday to Wayne, Jerry Roberts, director of the Little Caesars American Baseball Federa-

tion, filed a protest against Bloomfield claiming that four players were illegal. According to Roberts, American Legion players who reside in areas that have existing Connie Mack teams must get permission from those teams to participate in a Connie Mack tourney.

The players — Craig Mathews, Bob Graham, Rich Goldberg, and Steve Sontag, all from Southfield — did not get official releases from the Southfield Connie Mack team.

None of the players played for Southfield Connie Mack this summer.

The American Amateur Baseball Congress, the Connie Mack governing body, upheld Roberts' protest. Bloomfield Hills, minus four key players, were eliminated from the tourney in the second round, getting clobbered by Detroit West 7, 22-0.

sport shorts

● PONY CHAMPS
The South Farmington Pony baseball team has blasted its way into the state championships in Bay City. The team of 13- and 14-year-olds swept through the District 3 Pony Tournament last week defeating in succession, North Farmington-West Bloomfield, 10-4; and Hamtramck twice, 23-1 and 12-3.

Should the team emerge victorious from Bay City, it will play in the National Tournament in Indianapolis. Team members are: Paul Cote, Craig Conway, Bob Curtis, Kurt Davis, Art Eastman, Mike Fortinski, Eric Green, John Hensao, Dan Hafferman, Jason Hicks, Steve Howell, Joe Gentzer, Andy Krause, Kyle Moiz and Dan Nemic.

● SPEEDY O'NEILL
Belated congratulations are extended to Lori O'Neill of Farmington. O'Neill, a speed roller skater, placed third overall at the National Sports Festival in June.

O'Neill placed second in the 3,000-meters and third in the 1,500 to achieve a third place overall finish.

● SOCCER SIGN-UP
Aug. 10 is the registration deadline for youngsters between the ages of eight and 17 interested in joining the Farmington Soccer Club. Those interested should write to the club, P.O. Box 162, Farmington, 48024.

● FHS SEEKS STRIKERS
Farmington High School needs a few good men — to play soccer.

Anyone interested in playing on the boys' varsity soccer team next fall, call coach Dennis Placet at 464-1754.

● CAPTAIN COLLAR
Farmington native Kevin Collar is in line for one of the captains' roles on the 1983-84 Lake Superior State College hockey team.

Collar, a right wing, will be playing

his fourth and final year with the Lakers. He is second among active Lakers with 95 career points, 41 goals and 54 assists.

Last year, Collar was the team's third leading scorer with 13 goals and 15 assists. He possesses the hardest shot on the team.

Collar's offense will be counted on heavily by coach Frank Annalongo to improve upon the team's dismal 10-21-1 record last year.

Skeleton Crew wins Bloomfield relay race

By Charles D. McEwen
special writer

Last Saturday and Sunday, 350 runners from across the state extended themselves to the limits of their endurance by participating in the West Bloomfield 24-hour relay.

The fourth annual race was held on the West Bloomfield High School track for the Association for Retarded Children.

To the casual observer traveling past the track at 2 a.m., it may have been an odd sight. Lights normally used for late-night football games were ablaze. Beneath them, a carousel was turning round and round.

This was a carousel motivated, not by machinery, but by human endurance, energy and discipline. It was a carousel of runners.

Each runner traveled around four times to accumulate one mile before exchanging a baton with a teammate. The teammate would then run four laps of his own.

After finishing, each runner would disappear into a temporary canvas city of tents and canopies, sprawled across the football field to await their next turn.

"I've just finished my 16th mile," said Matt Daly, a member of the Skele-

ton Crew team, during the middle of the race. "My reward is that I get to wait around 50 minutes so that I can run again."

RONALD RICH of West Bloomfield has participated in all four relays. He says that the most difficult part about the race is the 50-90 minute wait a runner experiences between each of his mile intervals.

Moreover, it is this psychological factor that creates a higher dropout rate than is found in marathons, said Rich. And it is this dropout rate that may make the difference between winning and finishing second in a relay.

This may have been the case with the Skeleton Crew, which won the event for the second straight year. The Crew finished with all 10 of their men. On the other hand, the Chivas Striders had just six runners left at the end of the 24 hours.

The Skeleton Crew finished with 270 miles in the race, which was four more than it attained last year. The Striders finished with 260 miles.

Leading the Crew to victory were Steve Williams of Allen Park, Tim Parsons of Southgate and John Byrnes of Birmingham. Each averaged around five minutes per mile.

"No one loses in this type of an event," said Rich.

She stalks Olympic gold

Continued from Page 1

Since the sport is relatively new to the United States and European countries have been exposed it since pre-War II, Berube is realistic about her chances in the Games "if" she makes the team.

"If I make the team," Berube corrected when asked how she thought she'd fair in the Olympic Games. "This may sound like a bad attitude, but there's no possible way for us to win a gold or any other medal. We're just not advanced as the European countries."

"The United States has only been competing for 10 years in this sport, and I've only been competing five years. They've been brought up with the sport, so they're much more skilled."

"That's not to say Berube has admitted defeat. In fact, she has something to prove, "if" she makes the U.S. team.

"I'm going to practice hard, be tough on myself and work myself to the bone," she said, looking as determined as an aesthetic 17-year-old can. "And we're going to show that the United States is coming up. We're going to show the other countries we're here and we're going to be tough competition one of these days, so you better be watching out for us."

Freshly strong words from a teenager relatively new to an old sport, but very much characteristic of Berube, who won't be satisfied until she reaches that top plateau.

"I see myself at the top of my game in the United States, but I don't see that at all when compared with competitors in European countries. Just because I'm No. 1 here (in the United States), that's not what I want. I'm just going to take my talent as far as it will go."

That sounds like fair warning for European competitors.

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