

Adray beats Canadian Olympic team

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

John DePillo was waiting his turn at bat in the seventh inning Monday.

His team, Livonia Adray, was trailing the Canadian Olympic baseball team 5-3 in the fifth annual exhibition staged at Ford Field in Livonia.

"You know something," he said to a friend beside the dugout. "I haven't hit one out in a while."

The friend replied, "Why don't you do it then?"

"I think I will," DePillo said.

And doggone it if he didn't walk up

there and swat a 2-1 pitch over the right-center field fence for a grand slam home run to ignite Livonia's dramatic 10-6 win.

The loss finished a tiring six-game-in-five-days tour through Canada and Michigan for the Canadian Olympic team. The team had defeated the Detroit Adray All-Stars earlier in the day Monday, 7-3, at Tiger Stadium.

THE CANADIANS boarded a plane bound for Holland Wednesday where they will play an eight-game sweep through Europe before heading to Los Angeles for the Olympics Aug. 1.

"I don't know about the players, but I sure am tired," said personable Canadian coach Eric MacKenzie.

What was billed as an exhibition turned into a highly competitive nine-inning slugfest that left the Livonians immensely pleased. "Bring on the hockey team," they chanted. But the Canadians only longed for a nice, soft bed.

"That is the type of intensity we have got to play with in the playoffs," said Livonia coach Ron Heller, whose Collegiate Adray League team appears bound for a trip to the AAABA World Series in Johnstown, Penn., this year.

"That's why this type of game is so im-

baseball

portant for us. We have six more games, then the playoffs."

It was only the second time in four games the Livonians have been able to beat the Canadian national team, which has been ranked No. 5 in the world this year. Last year's exhibition was rained out.

DePillo was the hero, with a 3-for-4, five RBI hitting performance. But give some credit to the wise, veteran coach.

FIRST OF all, it was Heller who noted a flaw in the way a slumping DePillo was holding the bat. A quick adjustment and DePillo knocks ropes all over the field.

Then, in the top of the eighth, Heller's always-observant eyes may have saved the day. With his team clinging to a 7-5 lead, Canada put runners on first and second with two out. Doug McPail then drilled a Brian Porter fastball into right center. A double that scored two runs and tied the game.

"Appeal third, appeal third," Heller came charging out of the dugout.

Sure enough, the second runner had missed the base and the umpire called him out. Make it 7-5 after 7½ instead of 7-7 with a runner still on second.

The game offered a good deal of excitement to the large crowd that lined the open Ford Field diamond.

There were four long home runs in the game. Three by Canadian hitters. John Ivan's solo shot cut into Livonia's early 2-0 lead in the third. Rob Thom-

son's two-run shot put Canada ahead in the fourth — those were off Livonia starter David Rodriguez.

Jay Bobel came on in the fifth for Livonia and yielded an opposite-field shot to Scott Maxwell. It was a 5-2 game after 4½.

THE LIVONIA bats finally came alive in the seventh and eighth. They scored five in the seventh with DePillo's blast, and three more in the eighth to sew things up.

John Recker came on in the last inning to register a save for the Adray bunch. Bobel, who plays for Michigan State University, got credit for the win. Canada's Alain Patenaude was stuck with the loss.

It's on to Holland for the Canadian Olympians and, hopefully, on to Johnstown for Adray.

Tucker on roll for Beechview

If Wendall Tucker keeps it up, he may own every Beechview Swim Club record. As it is, Tucker has eclipsed seven records this summer.

Tucker set No. 7 Thursday with an 18.34 clocking in the 7-8 (age division) butterfly. He also came back to win the breaststroke for Beechview, but his team could manage just a tie, 278-279, with Pleasant Ridge.

Melissa Prendergast, Mary Quinn, Maureen Kelly and Janice Whittemore each won two events for Beechview.

Beechview also got victories from Julie Heist, Sherri Richardson, Todd Farabee, Mike Hoefflin, Elizabeth Tucker, Joe Abunassar, Roxanne Bennett, Troy Courtney, Dennis Sayles, Scott Farabee, Lisa Kelly, Chris Hart, Michelle Spear, Kris Rande, Tom Sayles and Mike Valvona.

KENDALLWOOD SWIM Club lost a 288-272 heartbreaker to Farmington, 303-257, despite double-digit wins from Tracy Johnson, Barb Zeno, Amy Auchterbach, Chris Knoch and All-American prep swimmer Brian Golek.

Meg O'Brien, Nancy Wetterholt, Kelly O'Brien, Mike Buxell, David Adams, Dan Feichtner, Clady Grub and Roger Johnson each earned first-place points for Kendallwood.

FARMINGTON GLIM suffered a close defeat to Orchard Valley on Monday, 303-257, despite a record-setting performance in the 40-year medley relay. Bob Holdridge, Patrick Inch, Becky Weary and Jason Huhler combined on a 1:16.70.

Glen also got double-event wins from Lauren Weary, Eric Newton,

Julie Kendall and Mike Pelen.

Other Glen winners were Karen Jenkins, Jim Nikiel, Jim Vik, Chris Inch, Lori Kiel, Steve Scario, Denise Walker, Bobby Holridge and Mike Wolford.

WOODBROOKE HILLS Swim Club was last victim of undefeated Bloomfield Surf Thursday. The Surf sunk the Hills 353-217.

Woodbrooke's Karrie Krant tied a pool record in the 9-10 50-meter freestyle with a 33.5.

Rich Hampe, Clady Cramer and Heather Stenceman each won two events for Woodbrooke.

Leslie Mazur, Dave Anderson, Chris Roessler, Beth Roessler, Scott Mayotte, Keith Lee and Kevin Lee also won single events for the Hills. Woodbrooke's record is now 2-2.

Farmington Legion team battles errors, no-shows in recent fall

Just when things were starting to look up for the Farmington American Legion baseball team, the roof caves in.

The team had scratched and crawled its way back to respectability in the District 18 Legion League. They finally were at .500 and placed five players on the District 18 all-star team.

Then came last Sunday.

"You know we had 11 players at the game," said a frustrated rookie coach Randy Meier. "It seems we have five or six guys who always show up, never miss a practice or a game. Five or six who really want to play. But, you very disappointed in some of the others that just don't want to play."

AS A RESULT, Farmington lost both ends of a double-header with Berkley Sunday, 7-1, 1-0.

In the second game, Scott Gliniski hurled a gem for Farmington. The left-hander fanned eight and allowed just four hits. The lone run, an unearned run at that, came in the second inning and it beat him. Farmington hitters could muster just two hits off Berkley ace Matt Prodan.

"I really felt sorry for Scott," Meier said. "He's really doing a tremendous job for us."

Indeed, Gliniski, a 1984 graduate of Farmington Harrison, was the winning pitcher for District 18 in the all-star game last Saturday. District 18 defeated Wyandotte District 15, 4-3.

But, he got no support on Sunday. Neither did Scott Draper who pitched the first game against Berkley. In that game, Farmington committed six errors in the 7-1 loss.

Joe Bob Wenson and Neil Davis had a pair of hits each for Farmington. Gliniski knocked in the lone run with a sacrifice fly.

Farmington is 6-8 on the season.

Pro shot would please Recker

Continued from Page 1

THE STOCKY-built young man played two years at OCC. He tolled both in the outfield and on the mound.

Then last year, he transferred to the Cleveland State. He was to be the team's short-relief specialist, a la Willie Hernandez, but found himself on the academically ineligible list instead.

After sitting out last baseball season, Recker's career is in limbo.

"I'm kind of just waiting to see what happens," he said Monday. "I may sit out next year then go to Michigan State University."

If he does that, he'll have one year of eligibility left. In the meantime, Recker is keeping his strong right arm intact by pitching for the Livonia Adray team.

"John throws the ball real hard," said Livonia coach Ron Heller. "He's up in the mid to high 80s (mph) most of the time. But, he can only go two or three innings at a time."

But, in those two or three innings, Recker has been one of the toughest pitchers in the league. Against the

Lansing All-Stars Monday, Recker worked the final two innings, allowed just one hit and fanned four. He was, arguably, Livonia's most impressive pitcher on the day.

RECKER REMINDS many Adray experts of another strong right-handed relief specialist that used to throw for Heller's Livonia team. His name was Jim Ross. Ross caught the scout's eye two years ago and signed with the Detroit Tigers. Last word was that Ross was still in the Tiger organization.

Recker would like nothing more than to follow in Ross' footsteps.

"I really don't know what I'm going to do," Recker said after the game Monday. "I'd like to get signed. That would solve all my problems."

Don Dombey would probably echo Recker's sentiments. Dombey was a highly touted infielder coming out of Plymouth-Canton in 1983. A powerful right-handed hitter, Dombey clubbed 10 home runs in his junior year at Canton. In fact, he was the team's leading hitter in both his junior and senior years.

DOMBEY ACCEPTED a baseball

scholarship to Ocala Junior College in Central Florida. He was hitting over .400 in the fall, but was ineligible to play in the spring.

Now Dombey's baseball future is every bit as clouded as Recker's. Dombey will either return to Ocala — his baseball scholarship still awaits him — or transfer to Central Arizona University. His father may be getting transferred out to Phoenix.

"I really don't know what I'm going to do," said the personable third baseman. "I have a month to make a decision. A lot depends on what my dad does."

Dombey batted twice Monday. He triggered a three-run rally in the fifth with a smash to shortstop that was ruled an error. He popped out in the seventh.

"It was great to play here," Dombey said of Tiger Stadium. "A great thrill for me."

A pro contract would no doubt be an even greater thrill.

tennis

TENNIS CITY OPEN
TENNIS TOURNAMENT

July 8-9

Men's singles: Mike Woody (Canton) defeated King Kinzel (Canton), 6-3, 6-2.
Women's singles: Eva Tomkison (Birmingham) def. Evelyn Brown (Detroit), 6-4, 6-1.
Men's doubles: Scott Gregorczyk (Taylor) and John Olenko (Wyandotte) def. Tom Swenden (Dearborn) and Tim Louisa (Dearborn), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Women's doubles: Eva Tomkison (Birmingham) and Sue Green (Birmingham) def. Karen Cacho (Grosse Ile) and Tammy Datto (Grosse Ile), 6-0, 6-1.
Mixed doubles: Jim Datto (Lincoln Park) and Lisa Aftano (Wyandotte) def. George Hutton (Detroit) and Joan Ganser (Detroit), 6-0, 7-5.

Men's 25 singles: Greg Kosten (Southgate) def. Kelly Furedi (Trenton), 4-6, 7-6, 7-5.
Men's 35 singles: Jim Datto (Lincoln Park) def. Tom Harrell (Farmington Hills), 6-1, 6-4.
Men's 40 singles: Bill Patrick (Warren) def. Tom Harrell (Farmington Hills), 4-6, 6-0, 6-0.
Men's 45 singles: Jerry Singer (West Bloomfield) def. Tim Cotten (Ann Arbor), 6-4, 7-5.
Men's 55 singles: Jack McCoskey (West Bloomfield) def. Sandy Floss (Farmington), 7-6, 6-2.
Mother-daughter doubles: Joanne Datto (Grosse Ile) and Tami Datto (Grosse Ile) def. Evelyn Brown (Detroit) and Tami Carthan (Detroit), 6-0, 7-5.
Women's 35 doubles: Anita Mancus (Bloomfield Hills) and Jack Rogers (Birmingham) def. Phyllis Nelson (Livonia) and Barb Fazio (Livonia), 6-3, 6-4.

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