

Redford Has Back To Wall In Adray Playoffs

It's a "back-to-the-wall" story for Redford Township in the State Adray Baseball League playoffs.

Redford, the state champs for the past five years, must beat Lansing twice this weekend in order to repeat as kings and win another trip to Johnstown, Pa., for the All America Amateur Baseball Association tournament.

"We've been in this position before," said manager Bob Atkins.



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Redford started the outstate playoffs with a 3-2 victory over Ferndale. But then came a heart-breaking 1-0 loss in 10 innings to Lansing Sunday before Redford struck back for a 10-2 win over Mt. Pleasant.

So now only Lansing and

Redford are left, but Lansing hasn't lost in the competition in which two defeats put a team out.

Dale Bjerkie hurled the 10 innings against Lansing's Don Ballard.

Redford threatened several times but wasn't able to cash any runs.

Then in the 10th, two singles, a sacrifice bunt and a squeeze

bunt cashed the run that proved the deciding factor in the thrilling game.

Craig Fahome homered in the fifth for one of the Ferndale runs.

Craig Main gave up four hits and fanned 14 in Redford's 3-2 conquest of Ferndale.

The Towshoppers scored all their runs in the first inning on hits by Bruce Bara, Rick Adams, Bill Howe and Kirk Taylor and then had to hang on to hold off Ferndale.

Redford didn't have too much of a problem against Mt. Pleasant as John Morrison, along with Jeff Taylor was picked off the Northville team as an extra player, combined to hold Mt. Pleasant well in check.

Adams cleared the bases with

Hits by Bill Howe and Bill Holmes and a double steal got Redford a run in the first inning.

After Mt. Pleasant scored twice in the second, Redford counted four in the bottom of the second when Joe Himmelsbach walked, Tim Fox singled and Bara walked to jam the bases.

Adams cleared the bases with

a double and then scored himself on Howe's triple.

In the third, a triple by Kirk Taylor, a walk to Himmelsbach and a homer by Randy Taylor brought in three more runs.

Adams singled to score in the fourth for another run and in the sixth, Tom Hoy knocked in Howe, who reached base on an error.

Wonderland In Showdown Game Boys Teams Off To Hot Start In Tournaments

An entire season is now down to one game for Redford Township's Wonderland Lanes. Contingent on what happens Friday night at Livonia's Ford

Field, starting at 7 p.m., will depend whether it'll be Wonderland or Hazel Park ITM which advances a step closer to a spot in the Michigan American Baseball Congress tournament in Battle Creek later this month.

Redford and ITM now are deadlocked at one game apiece in their best-of-three playoff to decide the Greater Livonia Class A baseball crown.

ITM won the series opener last week before Wonderland bounced back to take a 1-0 thriller Monday evening.

The setting of the deciding

game for Friday irks manager Rick Berryman of Wonderland Lanes.

"We should have played Wednesday night," he screamed after permission was given to ITM to wait the two extra days.

THE DECISION to wait until Friday for the pivotal game, however, couldn't take away the joy that Berryman and his mates enjoyed after the 1-0 win Monday.

"It's just not right to give those guys extra privileges," the Wonderland manager declared.

Reportedly, ITM's ace pitcher is hurt and the team hopes that two extra days will get him in shape.

"Wednesday has been our regular night for Class A baseball all season," Berryman

said. "The field was open. So why shouldn't we play?"

Roger Coryell pitched brilliantly for the winners, allowing five hits to best Jack Kloss and Gordie Reck, who came to Kloss' rescue in the sixth when Redford scored the game's only run.

In the sixth, Leland Bjerkie, who had three of Redford's six hits, singled. He was forced at second by John Hornyak, who in turn was moved along a base on a sacrifice by Terry Rothwell.

Then Gary Schaffer singled. Hornyak streaked home and that proved to be the game.

ITM threatened two or three times, mostly when the team loaded the bases with one out in the sixth.

On a fly to Rothwell, Jim Clark came in after the catch. But Redford appealed that Clark left third too quickly. The boys agreed. Clark was called out for a double play and the side was retired without a run.

The Friday night winner will go against Dearborn in a playoff to determine which advances to the state meet.

Out of the state meet comes the Michigan representative in the American Baseball Congress national tournament in early September in Battle Creek.

Pistons Set Clinic At Westland

The Detroit Pistons will play host to a basketball clinic Thursday at the Westland Center at 11 a.m.

Rod Hawrandy led the way with three hits.

THE LIVONIA Redbirds scored a 4-3 victory in dramatic fashion over Dearborn Heights in the Michigan Recreation Class F meet at Wayne.

Coach Bill van Breda Kolff will conduct the session which will feature Erwin Mueller, Steve Mix and other members of the Pistons.

The clinic will take place in parking lot 1.

Ernie Storm broke up the tight battle with a homer in the bottom of the eighth.

Tom Schultz pitched five innings and Curtis Richards led the last three for the winners.

A similar clinic also is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 1 at the Northland Center in Southfield.

The Pistons will go into training on Sept. 8, working out this year at Bowen Fieldhouse on the Eastern Michigan University campus in Ypsilanti.

IN THE CLASS F Inter-Cities tournament at Livonia's Ford Field, the Livonia Indians routed Stirling, 15-1, on Jay Nelson's one-hitter. He fanned seven.

George Strahan hit a homer and two singles to pace the Indians while Dino Polue, Ken Landini and Brian Vessey chipped in with two hits each. The Inter Cities meet winds up Thursday at Ford Field.

Season ticket and single game reservations for all Piston home games now are being accepted by writing to 202 Michigan, Detroit, 48226, or by phoning 962-7844.

IN ANOTHER OPENING day romp it was the Livonia All Stars over Dearborn Heights, 20-7, in the Class E MRA meet at Plymouth.

Jeff Waterstone with a triple and single and Dave Pelly with a homer and single led the winners. Ken Oliver, Bob Blaize, Phil Skender, Kevin Arnold and Mark Falvo also had two hits.

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