

Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312

Monday, June 24, 1995 O&E

(P.18)

Area preps:
high caliberBy Brad Emons
staff writer

THIS WAS THE baseball year when father met son, Salem beat Canton and Thurston defended.

Farmington Harrison got off to a slow start this season, but picked up steam in the district and regionals, advancing to the state Class A semifinals before losing to Jensen, 9-1.

Harrison, which featured second baseman Ken George, got by dad Jim George and his cinderella Livonia Stevenson team in the regional, before upsetting Plymouth Canton, which advanced to the final by beating defending state champion Walled Lake Western.

ALTHOUGH CANTON was state-ranked much of the season, it was neighbor Plymouth Salem which won the Western Lakes Conference with a 12-1 record.

Redford Thurston, meanwhile, couldn't defend its Class B state crown, but played well enough to repeat as Northwest Suburban League champs.

Redford Catholic Central also enjoyed a big year, racking up 20 victories, but played second fiddle to Birmingham Brother Rice and Class A champion Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher in the Catholic League.

Area coaches gathered recently to reshuffle the season and select the top individual talent in the area. Many votes were close. Here are the results:

PITCHERS

Mark Coburn, senior, Plymouth Canton: A transfer from Redford Bishop Borgess, Coburn was the Chiefs' ace in '95, posting a 7-2 record with three saves.

In 43 innings, the lefty struck out 65 batters, walked only 20 and had an earned run average of 1.00.

The all-Western Division pick used a variety of pitches, according to his coach, Fred Crissey.

"Mark can change speeds and throw strikes," Crissey said. "He's a gamer."

Coburn had a full tender to Kansas City Community College.

Steve Irwin, junior, Westland John

all-area
baseball

Glenn: The hard-throwing right-hander with a sweeping curve went 6-3 this season with a 1.89 ERA.

Also voted first team all-Northwest Suburban, Irwin pitched 48 innings, striking out 84 and walking 27. He also had two saves for the Rockets.

Coach Norm Hoopes of Glenn will be delighted with the return of the talented junior, whose brother Jim was an all-Mid American Conference player at Eastern Michigan University.

CATCHER

Ed Turek, senior, Catholic Central: Turek led the Shamrocks with 24 walks and 35 RBI in 30 ballgames.

He batted .416 with 10 extra base hits — six doubles, one triple and three home runs.

Turek was voted all-Catholic in both baseball and football.

At CC, he was also voted the school's outstanding scholar-athlete.

INFIELDERS

Chris Kloc, junior, Redford Thurston: Kloc played first base and pitched for the Eagles, excelling in both areas.

He collected 25 hits in 71 at-bats this season for a .352 average. Kloc also doubled seven times and scored 30 runs.

As a pitcher he went 7-3 with a 2.19 ERA, making All-Northwest Suburban honors.

"Chris is an outstanding defensive player," said Thurston coach Emil Majeski. "He can play any position on the baseball field."

Bob Chwalik, senior, North Farmington: Chwalik, like Kloc, played both first base and pitched.

In 55 at-bats, the 6-foot-4 senior collected 23 hits for a .418 average. His on-base average was .509, striking out just six times.

"Bob is a consistent player who made only one error all year," said North coach Irv Horwitz. "He also won three ballgames for us as a pitcher."

John Stoltzstad, senior, Livonia Churchill: Stoltzstad played second base primarily for the Chargers, batting .437 with 31 hits, five homers and 25 RBI.



Members of the 1995 All-Oberver baseball squad include (left to right) Dave Dziobak, Thurston; Ken Gendjar, Churchill; Bob Chwalik, North Farmington; Brian Trainor, Stevenson; Tom Moore, Salem; Mike Kesson, Salem; John Stoltzstad, Churchill; Mark Coburn, Canton; Chris Kloc, Thurston; and Ed Turek, Catholic Central.

ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

He also scored 28 runs and collected 13 extra base hits.

The first team all-Western Lakes Conference pick was called "a tremendous competitor" by his coach, Herb Osterland.

"John hits with power and has good foot speed," said the Churchill coach. "He was an extremely tough hitter in the clutch."

Stoltzstad was also an All-Area football player. He is headed for Northwest Institute.

Brian Smolinaki, junior, Farmington Harrison: A shortstop, Smolinaki became one of the area's most-feared hitters.

He hit .411 with 35 hits, including eight homers, three triples and seven doubles. He also swiped 17 bases and tied teammate John Miller for the RBI lead with 19.

"Brian is the best player in Harrison history and has a year to go," said Hawks' coach John Herrington. "He has great range in the field and excellent power at the plate."

"Brian holds almost all the Harrison off-

ensive records, except stolen bases, which he should break next year."

Dave Dziobak, senior, Redford Thurston: The shortstop was dubbed "Mr. Smooth" by coach Majeski.

A starter on last year's state championship club, Dziobak enjoyed a big senior year, batting .403 with 29 hits, 18 RBI and 24 runs.

He struck out only three times and collected 10 extra base hits.

Dziobak was also team captain and team MVP, along with reaping all-Northwest Suburban League honors.

"Dave is an outstanding defensive shortstop with an excellent arm," Majeski said. Sporting a 3.85 grade point average, Dziobak is a merit scholar who will attend Wayne State.

OUTFIELDERS

Ken Gendjar, junior, Livonia Churchill: In only his first year on the varsity,



Brian Smolinaki
Harrison

Gendjar sported the area's highest batting average (.467), collecting 33 hits in 76 plate appearances.

The speedy center fielder, scored 25 runs,

First
team
picks

Steve Irwin
John

knocked in 11 and swiped five bases. Gendjar was voted team MVP and carries a 4.0 grade point average.

Please turn to Page 2

No prisoners, no losers in 4-4 draw

Andreae, Broccardo co-MVP
in annual O&E Soccer ClassicBy Chris McCosky
staff writer

Blood was spilled, bones cracked, bruises sustained. Tears were shed, prize salvaged. And a good time was had by all.

The Observer & Eccentric Girls High School Soccer Classic, in its third year, reached a new level of intensity Friday night as the Eccentric (Oakland County) All-Stars snapped a two-game losing streak with a 4-4 tie against the Observer All-Stars (Wayne County).

The game, played on Oakland County turf for the first time at Troy Athens,



JIM VARON/staff photographer

Lisa Broccardo of the Observer All-Stars (right) goes for the ball against Katy Andreae of the Eccentric squad. Both were named MVP for their respective teams.

attracted 332 fans: They saw a spirited contest.

The Eccentric team, coached by Athens' coach Tim Storch, took a dead-serious approach. The squad played as if it had something to prove. The message was this: We can play a little soccer here in Oakland County, too.

THE ATMOSPHERE in the Observer camp was, to say the least, a bit lighter. The team met just once in preparation of the game. Seven of the players, the Livonia Stevenson contingent, had graduation services and an all-night party on the eve of the contest.

The first half was a direct reflection of the teams' pregame mental set. The Eccentric team came out on fire and dominated play. They outshot Observerland 7-5 and outscored them 3-0.

"No. 1, they have a very good passing team," said Observerland and Stevenson coach Norene Divens. "They played together very well. It was obvious that they had practiced together a few times. We only got together once and nine girls showed up."

Storch said his team took advantage of two things in the first half: the wind, which was at Eccentric's back, and Observerland's three-man defensive wall.

"It is very, very hard to succeed with three people in the back on a wide field like this one," he said. "We had luck at tackling and penetrating the spaces. We used the wide field to our advantage."

CINDY WASS, from Athens, scored the game's first goal, taking a long pass from Marian's Kate Ferguson.

Unfortunately for Eccentric, Wass, a 35-goal scorer, injured her right ankle on the play and was taken to the hospital. Preliminary diagnosis indicated tendon damage and a possible fracture. "The key for us was losing Cindy

Wass," Storch said. "Without her out there, we had to do a lot of different things."

Her loss wasn't an immediate factor, however. Three minutes after the first goal, Troy's Emily Riemer fired a shot that Observer goalie Kim Owings mishandled. Marian's Betsy Clement fired the rebound into the goal.

Soon after, Liz Suttle scored on a penalty kick, bouncing it in off Owings, and Eccentric took a 3-0 lead into halftime.

"I WASN'T worried," Divens said. "I knew we could come back and I told the kids that at halftime. We had many opportunities to score in the first half, five I can think of off hand, and we just missed."

It was a much more inspired Observer squad that came out in the second half as evidenced by a 13-2 shot-on-goal edge.

Eccentric goalie Lisa Riker appeared unbeatable until Observer scored on a penalty kick (again), the intensity factor comes into play, both teams played an aggressive game.

Paco Divens, who played goal much of the game, has never missed a penalty kick in her three-year high school career. She was dead perfect on her two chances Friday — bringing Observerland back into contention.

All-star Mary Kay Hussey, playing in her third Classic, had done everything but put the ball in the goal for Observerland: She was robbed by Riker three times, misfired on a couple and hit the post once. Finally, with 9:30 left in the match, she took a pretty pass from Stevenson teammate Danielle Montroy and tied the game, making a pretty move around an Eccentric defender.

"I don't consider this a victory," Storch said. "But, I'm certainly not dis-



Cindy Wass of Troy Athens strokes in for the Eccentric All-Stars' first goal, but paid the price, going down with an injury on the play. The Observer All-Stars' Danielle Montroy of Livonia Stevenson trails the play during first half action.

JIM VARON/staff photographer

LESS THAN a minute later, Suttle made a couple of nice moves through the Observer defense and drilled a 25-footer into the top right corner past Divens. Eccentric 4, Observer 3.

Again, Observerland called on an all-star to take charge. Mercy's Annette Ruggiero, last year's Classic MVP who played a flawless match, lofted a high, arching shot from 30 yards that got behind Riker.

The game. No losers. Very appropriate. "I don't consider this a victory," Storch said. "But, I'm certainly not dis-

appointed. We've been blown out twice in this series, so personally, I'm very pleased with the outcome. But, the girls realize that when you blow a three-goal lead you can't feel too good."

The heroes for the Eccentric side were many. Co-Most Valuable Player Award went to Birmingham Seaholm's Katie Andea, who helped Eccentric control the tempo of the game in the first half. Carol Green was outstanding on defense, stealing a couple of goals from Observerland with goal-mouth saves.

Suttle, with her two goals, and Emily

Riemer, with her numerous fast-break chances, were also standouts.

For the Observerland, Stevenson's Lisa Broccardo was named co-MVP. She almost single-handedly shut down the Eccentric fastbreak in the second half. Ruggiero and Hussey more than lived up to their all-star status, and Mercy's Margaret DeMatteis gave Observerland some strong midfield play in the second half.

Hussey, bruised and exhausted, turned to a reporter afterward and said, "This is a great game. Don't let anyone take it away."