

Collegiate chase

Caesars, Adray stay afloat in LCBL playoffs

The two favorites held true to form Sunday in the opening round of the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League playoffs at Ford Field.

Regular season champion Redford Little Caesars held off Maple Avenue West Bloomfield in the opener of a double-header, 8-6, while defending champion Livonia Adray duffed off Tom Holzer Ford of Northville in the nightcap, 4-1.

Both Livonia and Redford met last night at Ford in the winners bracket. Meanwhile, Maple and Holzer met in the losers bracket game, each trying to stay alive in the double-elimination tournament. (Results of those games will appear in Monday's Observer.)

Caesars literally stole its victory from Maple, swiping seven bases on the day.

Maple, however, jumped out to a 2-0 first inning lead on Craig Matthews' RBI groundout and Mike Harbaugh's RBI single.

Redford answered in the third on Bob Capla's RBI single, one of three hits on the day for the Caesars outfielder.

AFTER MAPLE made it 3-1 in the fourth, Caesars came roaring back to take the lead in the fifth.

Paul Oster started things when he singled, stole second and scored on Tyrone Gaines' single. Gaines, who also stole second, scored on Mike Kocinski's triple. Bob Capla then walked and scored second on another stolen base. Mike Harte's groundout eventually scored Kocinski.

West Bloomfield, however, came right back in the bottom of the fifth to knot things at 4-4 on a bunt single by Steve Sontag, followed by Harbaugh's RBI single.

In the sixth, Maple threatened to break things wide open, leading the bases against Caesars starter Todd Mahoney.

But reliever Tom Liss (the winning pitcher) came on to snuff out a potential outburst, getting Maple to hit into a double play, followed by a lineout.

Caesars took the lead for keeps in the seventh on Don Taylor's RBI groundout, followed by a wild pitch by losing pitcher Dan Zang, scoring Capla to make it 6-4.

A PAIR OF STOLEN bases and RBI single by Capla in the eighth upped Redford's lead to 7-4.

Caesars added one more in the ninth and Maple scored two in the bottom of the inning off reliever

baseball

Chris Kloc, but it was too little, too late.

Livonia, meanwhile, got a strong four-hit pitching performance from Don Vesting.

The 6-foot-5 right-hander from Eastern Michigan University struck out nine and walked only two, outdueling Tom Holzer's Dan Koptke, who also went the distance, giving up 14 hits.

Dwayne Bennett led Adray, going 3-for-4, while Vesting, Dennis Bushart and Bill Uille added two hits apiece.

Ken Stack slapped an RBI single in the second for Livonia and Uille followed with a key two-run single in the fifth, followed by Jeff DePorter's run-scoring sacrifice fly.

Northville tallied its only run in the second when Scott Peterson scored on an outfield error.

IN THE LEAGUE windups on Fri-

day, Caesars closed out the regular season schedule by eliminating Walter's Appliances from playoff contention, 8-2.

Caesars, which finished 23-6-1 in league play, got three hits from Oster, including two doubles. Gaines and Capla contributed two hits each.

John Rogers, who pitched four scoreless innings before giving way to Rob McCamant and Kloc, was the winning pitcher.

Chris Semik, who was relieved by Doug Doyle, took the loss.

Bob Foust's two-run triple in the sixth accounted for both Walter's runs. The Livonia team bowed out of league play with a 13-15-2 record.

In the first game of a double-header Friday at Ford, Maple knocked off Livonia Adray, 8-4, as Harbaugh went 3-for-4 to lead an 11-hit attack.

Maple starter Bob Chwalk, with relief from Bucky Blake and Jim Robinson, was the winning pitcher.

Livonia starter Rick Spence took the loss.

Bennett, Bushart and Deron White each collected two hits for Livonia, which finished second overall with a 19-10-1 record.

In the other Collegiate finale played Friday in Ann Arbor, Holzer (15-13-2) qualified for the playoffs by beating last place Wendy's (1-29).

LIVONIA COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE FINAL STATISTICS (Compiled by Bob Norvalis)									
	W	L	T	Pts.					
Little Caesars	23	6	1	47					
Liv. Adray	19	10	1	39					
Maple Avenue	18	14	0	32					
Tom Holzer Ford	16	13	2	32					
Walter's Appliances	10	15	2	26					
A.A. Wendy's	1	29	0	2					

BATTING LEADERS (50 at-bats)									
	AB	H	Ave.						
Martin Eddy (TH)	64	34	.455						
Bill Uille (LA)	67	35	.422						
Mike Kocinski (LA)	66	28	.382						
Jeff DePorter (LA)	79	30	.380						
Zac Chelness (MA)	77	29	.377						
Bob Capla (LA)	91	34	.374						
Don Vesting (MA)	68	25	.368						
John Rogers (LA)	71	26	.366						
Craig Matthews (MA)	76	28	.368						
Deron White (LA)	68	24	.353						
Dave Colton (MA)	81	29	.358						
Don Taylor (LA)	87	23	.343						
Scott Vester (LA)	85	22	.333						
Chris Looney (LC)	75	25	.333						

PITCHING LEADERS (23 Innings)									
	IP	W-L	ERA						
Tom Liss (LC)	34 1/3	4-1	1.21						
Todd Mahoney (LC)	41 1/3	7-0	1.34						
Don Vesting (LA)	45	6-1	1.40						
John Rogers (LA)	41	5-1	1.54						
John Poszywak (LA)	40 1/3	5-3	1.55						
Rick Foustman (LA)	54 1/3	5-3	1.67						
Mark Colton (LA)	26 1/3	3-2	1.98						
Pat Miller (LC)	23	3-0	2.13						
Dennis Mattison (LC)	32 1/3	3-3	2.60						

PITCHING CATEGORY									
Strikeouts:	1. Don Vesting (LA), 64; 2. (tie) Rick Foustman (LA) and Dan Koptke (TH), 50 each; 4. Tom Liss (LC), 39; 5. John Poszywak (LA), 38; 6. Jim Robinson (MA), 37; 7. Dennis Mattison (LC), 34.								

REVISED PLAYOFF SCHEDULE									
Thursday, July 31									
(All games at Ford Field)									
Losers bracket game, 6:30 p.m.									
Winners bracket game, 8:15 p.m.									
Sunday, Aug. 3									
(If necessary)									
Championship game at 8 p.m.									

Garden City A squad eyes Ontario Invitational crown

Garden City's Class A baseball team is hoping to come up with a good exchange rate this weekend when it travels to the Simcoe, Ontario Baseball Invitational.

Ten Michigan teams and 10 Canadian teams will vie for the title in the double-elimination tournament, which begins Friday.

Formerly known as Boelegen's in the eight-team Wyandotte Class A

circuit, Garden City is hoping its value will rise this weekend.

Hopes rest on the hitting of Livonia Churchill graduate Jeff Gorman, currently batting at a .425 clip.

He is followed by center fielder Dave Noonan of Garden City (400) left fielder and Plymouth Salem product Rob Adams (.350; catcher Mike Hodge of Garden City (.333) and shortstop John White of Garden City (.315).

THE PITCHING STAFF is led by Al Anderson, who raised his record to 7-2 with the shutout win over Greg's. He is followed by another right-hander, player/coach Harlan Lee, who is 5-0.

Garden City finds itself in second place in the Eastern division, sporting an 18-7 record after Sunday's 7-0 win over Greg's Emergency Room Lounge. (Adray Appliance leads the division at 24-1.)

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