

## Sports

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(F1B)

## Livonia Adray settles for co-title

## White regional MVP; AAABA nationals next

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

Livonia Adray settled for a co-share of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association regional title Friday night at Ford Field, losing for the first time in the double-elimination tournament to Arzee of Philadelphia, 8-6.

Both teams finished with 2-1 records in the three-day tournament and both have qualified for the AAABA nationals, which begin Monday in Johnstown, Pa.

Earlier on Friday, Arzee eliminated Mill-Rose of Cleveland, 10-5, behind the complete game, five-hit pitching performance of Darryl Birkhead. (Chris Knott hit a two-run homer for the winners.)

"We were flat," said Livonia Adray co-manager Stu Rose. "The game was anticlimactic because we knew we were going to Johnstown."

Ron Heller, Rose's right-hand man, echoed those sentiments.

"We weren't ready to play and it seemed we couldn't get motivated," Heller said. "They thought they were satisfied. They were inactive."

Arzee, a 7-3 loser to Livonia the night before, went to the long ball early against Adray starter Gary Zwolski.

HOWARD FREILING and Robert Helms ripped back-to-back homers in the first and James Lynch drilled another ball over the fence in the second.

Freiling, a 6-foot-4, 210-pound left-handed slugger from the University of North Carolina, sent his shot well over 400 feet and up against a giant oak tree standing behind the right field fence.

Trailing 4-0, Livonia got two back in the fourth, but Philly added three more in the fourth and one in the ninth on a steal of home plate.

"Once we realized how far we were behind, it was too late," Heller said.

Livonia collected only four hits on the night, three by center fielder Deron White. But Adray failed to fully take advantage of 12 walks issued by three different Philly pitchers.

White, the St. Clair Shores native who attended junior college the past two years in Alabama, was named the tournament MVP, going seven-for-14 in three games. He was equally impressive defensively, making two spectacular catches in center with his back to the plate.

"Deron hit over 300 for us during the year, but this is the best he's

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STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Don Vesling started for Livonia Adray Wednesday, but he didn't last long. Vesling was KO'd, not by opposing hitters but by a rainstorm that postponed play until Thursday.

## AAABA Series berth assured for Adray team

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

Two up and two down.

That was all that was required of Livonia Adray in its bid for a berth in the 16-team All-American Amateur Baseball Association national tournament, which begins Monday in Johnstown, Pa.

By winning its first two games of AAABA Regional last week at Ford Field, Livonia Adray automatically clinched a berth. (See related regional story.)

After getting only one scoreless inning in before the rains hit Wednesday night, Livonia came back Thursday afternoon to beat Mill-Rose of Cleveland, Ohio, 6-4.

Later in the evening, Livonia handed Arzee of Philadelphia, Pa., its first loss in the double-elimination AAABA Regional, 7-3.

"The first game was a big one for us," said Adray manager Stu Rose. "Getting to Johnstown was the main thing on our minds."

And by winning the second game against Philly, the Livonia Collegiate League playoff champions could sit back and play without any pressure, knowing the trip to Pennsylvania was assured.

MILL-ROSE, however, had other

ideas in its first-round battle with Livonia, holding a 2-1 lead through five innings.

Doubles by Frank Salajick, Joe Humeston and Howie Krause accounted for a pair of Cleveland runs in the fourth. (Livonia tallied one in the third when Deron White scored all the way from second on Don Vesling's fielders choice.)

But in the sixth, Livonia exploded for five runs.

Bob Foust, plucked up by Livonia from the Walter's Appliance team, delivered a key two-run double. Jeff DePorter and Dennis Bushart added RBI singles. Martin Edley, who reached base on an outfield error, scored the other run on a wild pitch by Cleveland reliever Scott Asche, who tried to calm the storm after taking over for starter Bill Wert.

Cleveland, however, cut the deficit with two of its own in the bottom of the inning off Livonia reliever John Poszywak, who replaced starter Don Vesling.

BUT POSZYWAK, the Central Michigan University right-hander, blanked Mill-Rose over the final three innings to pick up the victory. Poszywak also got a big defensive

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## Red-hot Broncos advance to division finals

The Broncos carried their torrid pace into the playoffs of the Michigan Summer Hockey League (MSHL), clubbing the Wolverines 7-3 Thursday at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The victory boosted the Broncos, winners in eight of their last nine games, into the MSHL Tex Division finals against the Falcons. The Fal-

cons advanced after edging the Huskies 9-8.

In the Bakes Division playoffs Wednesday at the Cultural Center, Tim Osborn's four goals and one assist enabled the Bulldogs to dump the Wildcats 8-5. In the other Bakes Division semifinal, the Spartans beat the Lakers 8-6.

THE BRONCOS got two goals

apiece from Dave Bramble and Mike Stahley in bettering the Wolverines.

The Falcons victory was more dramatic. Todd Beyer collected three goals and four assists and Scott Wolter contributed a goal and four assists for the winners, but they had to withstand a late Huskie charge led by Mark Issel. Issel, who scored a hat trick, pumped in two goals in

the final two minutes.

In the Spartans' triumph over the Lakers, Kelly Nester fired in two goals and had three assists, and Eric Kopelanski added a goal and an assist. John Smith's two goals and one assist was best for the losing Lakers.

Jeff DeBek connected for the goal and two assists in the Wildcats' loss to the Bulldogs.

The Bakes Division finals, featuring the Bulldogs against the Wildcats, will be at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The Tex Division finals, with the Broncos facing the Falcons, will follow at 8 p.m. Both games will be at the Cultural Center.

The division champions will meet for the MSHL championship at 8 p.m. Monday at the Cultural Center.

MIDWEST SUMMER HOCKEY LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS	
Bakes Conference	
Spartans	7-3-1
Bulldogs	6-5-0
Lakers	4-7-0
Wildcats	3-7-1
Tex Conference	
Falcons	8-2-1
Broncos	7-4-0
Wolverines	5-5-1
Huskies	1-8-2
PLAYOFF CHAMPIONSHIP	
8 p.m. at Plymouth Cultural Center	



ROB REED/staff photographer

## Having some fun

Victory can make people do strange things. Or so it seems with Mikoy Gorak, a member of the Garden City-Westland Spearhead softball team. Spearhead won its first game in the World Senior Youth (girls 18 and under) Softball Tournament against Minnesota

Friday, 5-0, giving Gorak reason to celebrate. More than 80 teams from around the nation competed for the title at the Canton Softball Center diamonds. See Thursday's Observer for complete results.

## Chargers saddled with honor as GLIAC's top football team

By C.J. Rink  
staff writer

The news is out. This year, it will be Hillsdale College's turn to tug that monkey on its back.

The monkey is the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's (GLIAC) football coaches' preseason poll. And last Wednesday, Hillsdale was the dubious winner.

The reason for Hillsdale's selection was obvious. The Chargers played Central Arkansas to a 10-10 tie in the NAIA national championship game last fall. They were GLIAC champs and finished 11-1-1, their only loss coming to Saginaw Valley.

ADD TO THAT this comment by coach Dick Lowry: "I think we may have the best defensive football team we've ever had. We'll be as strong as we've ever been."

No wonder they were voted No. 1. And yet, there were an equal number of reasons not to select Hillsdale. Like the graduation of 21 seniors who, according to Lowry, "all played, so you know we're going to have some holes to fill."

Among those now gone are quarterback Mike Gatt from Livonia and Redford Catholic Central, Hillsdale's all-time passing leader, and Jeff Hubert from Plymouth Salem, who received All-GLIAC mention at strong safety.

PUT IN SIMPLEST terms, the experience and strength Hillsdale possesses on defense are the qualities it lacks on offense.

"Offensively, we have our biggest rebuilding job," confessed Lowry. "We don't even know who our quarterback will be, and we won't until we go through two-a-days (practice)."

"If the defense can hold us in there, we should do OK."

One player Lowry is counting on is senior Jeff Gatt. Mike's brother and another CC grad, Gatt was one of the four offensive backs shuffled into the lineup last year, and he responded with 351 yards rushing for two touchdowns and 24 catches for 226 yards.

Keith Urban (Plymouth Salem), a

6-foot-2, 225-pound senior center, is expected to anchor the Chargers' offensive line. Scott Sugg (Bloomfield Hills Lahser), a junior wide receiver, should see more action. Sugg caught four passes for 114 yards and two TDs last season.

HILLSDALE WILL be formidable, but whether or not the Chargers can cope with the rest of the GLIAC while their offense solidifies is questionable. Being cast as conference favorite is like receiving a bulls-eye as a gift — the thought is nice, but the present isn't appreciated much.

Ferris State, with first-year coach Keith Otterbein (a Southfield-Lathrup grad) taking command, was picked as No. 2 in the poll. The Bulldogs appear to be Hillsdale's mirror image: strong offensively, questionable defensively. All-GLIAC junior quarterback Dave DenBraber returns, and he'll count on protection from two senior All-GLIAC senior guard Jim Bennett (Redford Bishop Borgess).

"The key to our success along with DenBraber is Bennett," said Otterbein. "His leadership will mean a lot to us."

GRAND VALLEY, which tied FSC for second in the GLIAC at 4-2 last season, was third in the poll. Junior John Szlanski (a Lathrup grad from Farmington Hills) will again return punts and has a good shot at a starting wide receiver's spot.

Coach Tom Beck also hinted that some freshman backs, like Troy Athens' grad Jeff Cavazos and Birmingham Seaholm alum Walt Heil, could see considerable action.

Saginaw Valley finished a half-game behind Hillsdale in the GLIAC at 4-1-1 but was picked fourth in the poll. Junior Matt Wilczewski (from Livonia and CC) has switched from quarterback to strong safety and, according to coach George Iler, "seems to have come to the top" in the battle for a starting post.

One certain Cardinal starter is senior Phil Jean (Garden City), a 6-3, 240-pound defensive tackle who will anchor the line. Sophomore Chris Piazza (Westland John Glenn) returns as kicker after hitting three of four

field goal attempts and 26 of 28 points-after-touchdown for 35 points.

ALTHOUGH WAYNE STATE'S fifth-place selection in the poll didn't surprise Tartar coach Dave Farris, it would surprise him if his team finished there. WSU was a disappointing 1-8-1 last year after entertaining high expectations during the preseason.

Farris is certain the hopes of '85 can become reality in '86.

For one, senior quarterback Rich Popp (Livonia Franklin) will return after an injury-plagued '85 campaign. Popp, according to Farris, has "lost 25 pounds, down to 200, and he's much stronger."

"His success will parallel our success."

Popp's ability convinced junior Steve Gregor (Livonia Bentley) to switch from quarterback to outside linebacker. "What he saw was that he could be a third-string quarterback or possibly a first-string linebacker. He's added 30 pounds (to 210)."

Gregor's switch has caused some other position changes. Senior John Ericson (John Glenn) has gone from outside linebacker to defensive end, which appeared to be "a great move in the spring. He will be an outstanding pass rusher. He's got 4.7 speed (in the 40-yard dash)," Farris said.

SOPHOMORE TONY BEAUNE (Livonia Stevenson) has added weight and strength and could start at the other defensive end. With Ericson and Beaune filling the defensive end spots, Richard Glosowski (Bentley), a 26-year-old senior, has gone to offensive guard where he figures to start.

Farris is also counting on senior free safety Keith Percin (Bentley) to return from an injury-marred '85 campaign.

Northwood Institute was dumped into the cellar in the coach's poll, which left coach Jack Finn philosophical. "I think we'll be able to block people," said Finn.

Sophomore Ron Wandzel (CC and Livonia) caught seven passes for 86 yards last year and should be looked to more often — if and when the Northmen choose to throw.