

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

Monday, July 25, 1988 O&E



(F1C)

Playoff game will decide South's fate

South Farmington let control of its own destiny slip from its grasp in the Little Caesars County Mack League last week.

South, which was firmly in second place behind North Farmington-West Bloomfield, was shut out by Huron Valley and Windsor in back-to-back games on Wednesday and Thursday, 0-9 and 2-0.

Those setbacks dropped South to 14-13 in the league and created a situation in which tonight's regular-season finale with Windsor will serve as a playoff game, also.

S. Farmington can find number of ways to win

In a streak that ended a week ago, it was pitching that carried South Farmington to three-straight Mickey Mantle baseball victories. Of course, an offense that put 29 runs on the board in those three games can hardly be ignored.

Which South proved in a pair of wins last week, clubbing two more Mantle opponents by scoring 36 runs. The pitching wasn't absent; South hurlers limited its foes to eight runs in the two games.

At any rate, it's clear that this team can beat you any number of ways — and with big numbers. Its wins last week came by 13-2 (over South Rockwood Thursday) and 23-6 (over Trenton Tuesday) margins.

South improved its record to 22-6-1 overall and 16-4-1 in the league. The outcome of the tie was to be determined Friday. South and Birmingham were knotted at 9-11 entering the sixth inning when their game was halted by darkness earlier this season.

THE OUTCOME will be important. The winner will be second in the upcoming draft of the league's remaining players, those not on teams going to tournaments. Thus far, first-place Southgate is going to a Colt tournament and, therefore, cannot partake in the draft.

Westland, going to the AABC tournament, will draft first. South is also headed to the AABC tourney.

Kevin Young was about all South needed in its win over South Rockwood, although others also contributed heavily. Young, though, drove in six runs, going 3-for-3

Windsor is 13-4 but a victory would force a tie, and Windsor would win the tiebreaker since it would have beaten South two out of three times.

HURON VALLEY, its regular season complete, stands at 14-3 and has already committed to play in the National Amateur Baseball Federation tournament. The South-Windsor loser will not see post-season action.

South, which began the week by beating Westland 7-0, saw a pair of decent complete-game pitching efforts by Jason Hicks and Joe Jentzer go for naught.

Hicks, 2-2, scattered four hits but ended

baseball

up a loser when Windsor scored all of its runs in the eighth inning. He struck out five and walked two, one intentionally.

Windsor started the decisive inning with a bunt single, and Hicks hit the next batter after getting ahead 0-2. Two batters and two errors later, Windsor had a 2-0 lead.

With two out, after Hicks had issued the intentional pass to load the bases, a blop

single to right field drove in the last two runs.

In the second and eighth innings, South put two runners aboard with two outs but was unable to get them to the plate. Jentzer had two of South's five hits.

JENTZER SUFFERED his only loss in four decisions against Huron Valley a day earlier. He gave up five hits, walked five and struck out two.

South, 17-3 overall, was the victim of Steve Tanner's one-hitter. His performance included 10 strikeouts and one walk. South's only hit was a two-out swinging "bunt" that Scott Wladischkin beat out.

Huron Valley scored its first run on a sin-

gle and two errors, and Shawn Hayward belted a home run to make it 2-0.

South had beaten Huron Valley in four straight games previously, but three were in non-league action. Thus, the teams split their league games.

In the Westland game on Tuesday, Mike Dorosak pitched a three-hitter to raise his record to 3-0. He chalked up seven strikeouts as opposed to two walks.

Jentzer was 3-for-4 with one RBI, and Rob MacDonald and Leo Devine were 2-for-4. Craig Murray had three RBI, two coming on a single, and MacDonald one.

Bill Bertera scored the winning run in the first inning, talking a walk, stealing second and scoring on an error.

with a two-run single in the first, an RBI single in the fourth, a two-run triple in the fourth and a sacrifice fly in the sixth. He also stole two bases.

Paul Pirronello added three hits, including a triple, Billy Hardy had two safeties and P. J. Green chipped in with a run-scoring double. The winning pitcher was Eric Miller, who surrendered two runs on four hits and three walks, striking out three, in six innings.

IN THE VICTORY over Trenton, South starter and eventual winner Billy Hardy gave up five runs in the first after walking three. Not to worry, though, South scored twice in the first, four more times in the second to take a 6-5 lead and then clinched it with back-to-back eight-run innings in the third and fourth.

Six players had multiple-hit games, led by Dave Miracle with three (including two doubles) and four RBI. Kevin Varod also had three hits, driving in two runs, while Hardy had two hits (one a double), two RBI and three stolen bases. Miller had two hits and drove in two runs, too.

Chris Schmidt and Green added two hits apiece, with Schmidt knocking in a run and Green stealing two bases. Les Luark collected two RBI with a triple.

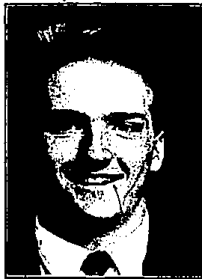
Hardy got through four innings (the game was stopped after five by the mercy rule), walking seven and giving up three hits and five runs, but fanning seven. Miller pitched the last inning.



Jay Alexander puts the tag on Ryan Grabeiz at home plate in Thursday's Mickey Mantle game. Alexander and his South Farmington teammates won their 16th league game, 13-2 over South Rockwood.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

5 all-stars to represent Observerland



'Beating Marysville in the (Class B) state semifinals was the best moment in high school football. It was very intense. There was a lot of hype and it was an emotional game.'

— Chris Cox Harrison grid all-star

By Brad Emons staff writer

Without asking, it's safe to say that five Observerland players are thrilled to be playing in Saturday's Michigan High School Football Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

Preparations for the game began last Thursday and will continue right up until the 1 p.m. kickoff on Saturday.

The chosen few — Jay Blaylock of Plymouth Salem, Chris Cox of Farmington Harrison, Jeff Graham of Westland John Glenn, Erik Knuth of Redford Catholic Central and Mike Nettie of Livonia Stevenson — will represent the East squad, which

football

holds a 4-3 edge in the series. But what makes these guys, just out of high school, tick? Is there more to life than football?

These subjects were posed to each of the five players, enabling you to get a closer and personal look: 1. Future plans; 2. background on family; 3. greatest moment as a high school football player; 4. hobbies; 5. favorite football player; 6. summer job; 7. choice for President of the U.S.

The answers were not conventional by any means. They varied and

proved to be refreshing. Here's a closer look.

JAY BLAYLOCK PLYMOUTH SALEM HIGH Offensive guard (6 feet, 1 1/2 inch, 205 pounds)

Future plans: Attend University of Michigan. "I'm not going to play football, but I'm going to walk on with the track team and throw (discus and shot put)."

Family: Lives with father and mother. Also has two older brothers, one graduated from UM and the other attends EMU. "My mother works for the electrical business so watch out!"

Best moment in high school football: "Winning our first game my senior year against the same team (Trenton) that beat us 49-0 the year before. I got to start and go both ways when I thought I was only going to play one way."

Hobbies: Building. "I also like going out with girls."

Favorite player: Dave Houle of the New York Giants (played offensive tackle at Michigan State and graduated from Salem). "I saw how little he was in high school and then saw how big he got at State." Summer job: Buils decks with his older brother. "It's pretty good money." Presidential pick: "It's vote for Bush."

CHRIS COX FARMINGTON HARRISON Linebacker (6-2, 205)

Future plans: Attend Eastern Michigan University on a football scholarship.

Family: Both parents are divorced and remarried. He lives with his stepfather and mother (Pat and Carol Miller), along with two older stepbrothers and sister. Best moment in high school football: "Beating Marysville in the (Class B) state semifinals. It was very intense. There was a lot of hype and

Please turn to Page 2

Bulldogs rebound to notch victories in Metro hockey

The Bulldogs bounced back from their only loss to date with a pair of Metro Summer Hockey League victories last week, extending their victory total to a league-leading seven.

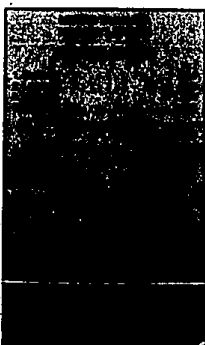
The Bulldogs, the Bakes Conference leaders with a 7-1 record, claimed a hard-fought, 7-5 decision from the Spartans on Wednesday and bucked the Broncos 13-6 on Thursday.

The unbeaten Huskies, who outlasted the Bulldogs 10-7 last Monday to improve their Eagle Conference mark to 8-0-1, were idle the remainder of the week.

BULLDOGS 7, SPARTANS 5: Doug Smith scored one of his three goals in the opening period, which proved decisive when the Bulldogs took a 3-1 lead. Each team netted two goals in each of the remaining periods.

The Spartans trailed 6-4 when Smith accomplished his hat trick with 5 1/2 minutes left in the game, giving the Bulldogs a two-goal cushion.

Chris Chaka had two assists for the winners. Rickey Gostemik scored two goals, and Tim Pitst had a goal



and one assist for the Spartans.

BULLDOGS 11, BRONCOS 6: Don Ragg and Dennis Ephraim powered the Bulldogs' offense with three goals and two assists apiece.

Doug Smith remained on a hot streak with two goals, and Stan Flentack added a goal and four assists.

Gordie Wilson notched a pair of goals and Mike Freeman three assists for the Broncos.

SPARTANS 9, LAKERS 6: The Spartans won their third game in the last four Thursdays, gradually building their lead with first- and second-period margins of 3-1 and 3-3.

Tim Osburn and Bob Markiewicz were at the front of the Spartans' upset of the Bakes Conference's second-place team with three and two goals, respectively. John Keough chipped in four assists.

The Lakers got two goals and one assist from Rob McDonald.

WILDCATS 5, WOLVERINES 1: Tim Pictin gave the winless Wolverines a 1-0 lead, but it was all Wildcats after that.

The winners relied on a brothers act to win their third game against four losses. Tim Gluchowski prepared two goals and had one assist, and Charlie Plochowski recorded two assists.

