



Area pitchers perform like all-stars

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Observerland stars Leo Hutchinson and Craig Murray are two reasons why Thursday's high school baseball all-star game at Tiger Stadium was so low scoring.

The West beat the East 1-0, scoring an unearned run in the third inning off Hutchinson, who pitched an otherwise flawless game.

Hutchinson, a left-hander from Redford Catholic Central, relieved starter Jim Miller (Waterford Kettering) and pitched the third and fourth innings, allowing no hits and walking two.

Farmington Hills Harrison graduate Murray came on in the seventh for one inning of work, fanning two, walking one and yielding no hits.

Hutchinson, who has signed a letter of intent to attend Eastern Michigan University, said he threw fastballs 75 to 80 percent of

the time and also mixed in an occasional curve and knuckleball.

"That's what happens — that's how it starts with walks or errors," said Hutchinson.

Murray and Hutchinson agreed the best thing about Tiger Stadium is the pitching mound, which is cared for like a baby by the Tigers grounds crew.

"It's MINT — plain and simple," Hutchinson said to Murray in the dugout after the sixth inning.

Murray, a right-hander who posted a 9-1 record for Harrison, responded: "It's pretty sweet compared to the mound I played on."

Murray made that comment before entering the game, and his impression of the mound didn't change much afterward.

"It was nice," he said. "I wish I could pitch off it a lot. The mound is really high. There are no holes at all."

A banquet to honor the players and induct 10 coaches into the Michigan High School Coaches Association was held Wednesday

night at Zuccaro's Country House in Mount Clemens. Ron Heller, a long-time coach of Livonia Franklin and Livonia Adray's sandlot team, was one of the inductees.

"I'll never forget it," Murray said. "The banquet was real nice and then to come out here."

BIRMINGHAM Country Day coach Frank Orlando was elevated to head coach Thursday, because the East's head coach, Dan Ortesbaum of Grosse Pointe South, was taken to the hospital Wednesday complaining of stomach pain.

Orlando praised the effort of Hutchinson and Murray.

"They're both excellent pitchers," Orlando said. "The key to the whole game is coming to Tiger Stadium. Controlling your emotions is one of the most difficult things."

"I guess the last couple all-star games have been high-scoring games. This one turned into a pitcher's duel. I don't know if it

was the (overcast) weather or that the pitcher's were on top of the game. It was a great game. An error here and there caused the difference."

The West's most valuable player was Midland Dow second baseman Bob Juddy, headed to Michigan State on a baseball scholarship. The East honor went to Millford's Jeff Irish, who collected two of the six East hits.

Immediately after the game, Irish signed a professional contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, who selected him earlier this month in the major league draft. Irish had signed a letter of intent earlier this month with Central Michigan.

The other nine inductees into the MHSAA Hall of Fame were Dick Banovic, East Jackson; Frank Clawson, Royal Oak Kimball; Ron Engels, Wyoming Park; Larry Gail, Flint Carman/Ainsworth; Marvin Mittelstet, Flat Rock; David Petrosky, Bay City; Harry E. Potter, Muskegon; Bob Stupper, Midland; and Ron Teasley, Detroit Northwestern.

Falcon Five Honor team has Farmington look

1989 ALL-OBSERVER
GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

- FIRST TEAM**
- G-Jennifer Emmett Plymouth
 - F-Jenny Russell Plymouth
 - F-Michelle Milton Farmington
 - F-Amy Trunk Farmington
 - F-Carrie Maier Farmington
 - F-Jill Estley Plymouth
 - M-Jennifer Misara Farmington
 - M-Ragan Coyne Liveston
 - D-Margaret Martin Farmington
 - D-Susan Gibson Farmington
 - D-Andrea Spymanski Liveston

- SECOND TEAM**
- G-Dana Keller Liveston
 - F-Karen Carney Liveston
 - F-Lori Price Liveston
 - F-Shannon Meath Plymouth
 - M-Jenny Sienobobal Canton
 - M-Hannah Hales Liveston
 - M-Michelle Geyer Farmington
 - D-Carrie Dowler Farmington
 - D-Corinne Taylor Farmington
 - D-Lisa Thomas Liveston

HONORABLE MENTION

- Plymouth Canton: Tricia Greenhalgh, Chris Zeschel, Michelle Fortier, Livonia Franklin: Anjo Stiglmair, Jodi Horner, Kari Zobel, Patty Snow; Plymouth Salem: Melissa Linn, Teri King, Jennifer Marshall, Sara Hayes; Livonia Stevenson: Michelle Harney, Shannon Wilkerson, Tracy Morrell, Stephanie Sudek; Livonia Churchill: Stephanie Spoon, Mechele Drizin, Monika Cent; Farmington Hills Mercy: Kathryn Ouse, Tara Letwinak, Aree Sothee, Katelyn McDonald; Farmington: Joy Paris, Deb Westerkamp, Kim Pospis, Garden City: Lisa Guck, Michelle Holt, Wendee Clark, Kristin Hahn; Redford Thornton: Kim Baumgartner, Holly Goussard; Redford Union: Patty Brower, Erica Horton, Kristi Magretta; Livonia Ladywood: Cassia Orp, Xian Fakas, Amy Moroni, Sohee Weidenbach.

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

THE WESTERN LAKES Activities Association was finally delirious, but everybody one agrees: No girls high school soccer league in Michigan has a better crop of players.

Troy Athens ended the WLA's six-year dominance of girls soccer in Michigan, defeating Northville 1-0 earlier this spring in the Class A championship game. WLA's teams won the open class titles from 1983-88 and the Class A crowns in 1987-88.

And it's a safe bet the WLA will return to the top.

Every member of the 1989 All-Observer first-team is from the WLA, and eight of the 11 players are underclassmen. Farmington placed five players on the team, highlighted by Amy Trunk, the area's leading scorer with 24 goals.

On more than one occasion this year, six WLA teams were ranked among the Top-10 in Class A.

Five Observerland stars made the Class A first-team, including Plymouth Salem's senior sensation Jill Estley, a three-time all-stater. The other seniors on the All-Observer first team are Farmington midfielder Jennifer Misara, and Churchill defender Andrea Spymanski.

The coach of the Year is Cathy Cole, who in her first year meshed together a young Farmington squad and guided the Falcons to a 16-1 record. Farmington reached the Class A semifinal round before losing to Athens.

Following is a capsule look at the



WLA, excuse me, All-Observer first-team:

FIRST TEAM
GOALIE

Jennifer Emmett, freshman, Salem: The only thing left for Emmett to look forward to is a Class A title. Still only 14 years old, Emmett was a first-team Class A all-state selection, recording 11 shutouts and a 28 goals-against-average. She was a first-team All-Western Lakes Activities Association honoree, and also was one of two goalies named to the Section 3 Class A soccer team. Emmet was one of the primary reasons Salem won the Lakes Division title and finished 12-2 overall. She moved with her family to Plymouth last summer from Washington, where she was a member of the state youth select team.

FORWARDS

Michelle Milton, junior, Farmington: A second-team All-Observer performer last year, Milton became one of the state's most-talented scorers this year. Milton overcame a bruised thigh that had bedeviled two weeks during the season to finish with 16 goals and 10 assists. She was a first-team Class A all-state selection.

In three years, she already has scored 61 goals and 23 assists.

A terrific center striker, tall and fast, coach Ken Johnson said, "Michelle's a good team player."

Carrie Maier, junior, Farmington: Maier knows what to do with the ball, as evidenced by her goal-per-shot ratio. Maier, a three-time All-Observer member, scored 23 goals though she took only 85 shots. A first-team Class A all-stater, Maier also tallied 14 assists for Farmington, a team that had to spread the wealth because of its goal-scoring capabilities.

Maier has scored 69 goals and 37 assists in three years as a Falcon.

"Carrie is a very skilled player," coach Cathy Cole said. "She has the ability to distribute well and can shoot off-balance with accuracy. She is a great role model and representative of women's soccer."

Amy Trunk, junior, Farmington: The other half of Farmington's dynamic duo up-front, Trunk led the Falcons with 24 goals and 31 assists in earning team MVP and second-team Class A all-state honors. Trunk greatly improved her goal output from a year ago, when she scored 13 goals.

"Amy was our MVP and if I were to define this award it would include the characteristics: Any possession: hard worker, skill, speed, competitive team player," Cole said. "At her position she is continuously make runs off the ball and when she receives the ball she is to distribute it or go to the goal."

Jenny Russell, junior, Canton: Russell broke her hand midway through the season, but she played over the setback and finished her junior campaign with 19 goals and 11 assists. A two-time team MVP, Russell was second-team All-Observer last year.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Carrie Maier of Farmington High School is a member of the All-Observer girls soccer team for the third straight year. She is one of five Farmington players on the all-area squad.

S'craft athletic director eager to boost program

By Brad Emons
staff writer

As its new athletic director, Marty Nowak is hoping to put the word "community" back into Schoolcraft Community College.

"I want to make this a showcase area," Nowak said. "Schoolcraft College is a nice place. It's a model facility and I want to show it off."

The long-awaited announcement was made Monday by Midge Carleton, SC's assistant dean of allied health and sciences.

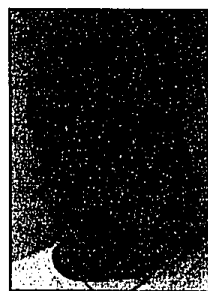
"We're extremely glad to have him on board, and I'm sure we'll work well together to enhance the athletic department," said Carleton. "I was very impressed with his organizational skills."

Nowak, a Plymouth resident, takes over the part-time position vacated by Ed Kavanaugh, who resigned earlier this spring.

The selection process took nearly three months before a school search committee, headed by Dr. Louis Kelling, made its final decision.

Nowak, who survived a series of interviews, is no stranger to the area.

He served for five years as athletic director of Livonia Bentley High and is currently the student activities director at Holmes Middle School in Livonia.



Marty Nowak
now Schoolcraft A.D.

"WE LIKE HIS ability to handle budgets and his public relations skills," Carleton said.

Nowak takes over the post on July 1 and his first step is to be as available and visible to the current SC coaching staff.

"I hope to keep things open and communicate a lot," Nowak said. "I'll review the budget, talk about fund raising and look at the equip-

ment on hand. But my intent is not a my way or the hill the highway type of thing. Schoolcraft has a lot of good things going already and I just hope to improve upon it."

Nowak said he hopes to establish office hours for coaches and be available during the evenings as much as possible.

Once he organizes his desk, Nowak will launch a full schedule of programs which features men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country and women's volleyball. (The SC volleyball team won a national championship last season.)

He also plans to meet individually with coaches.

"I want the coaches to know that I'll be there to help them," Nowak said. "I also want to get the P.E. (public relations) going."

Schoolcraft has already been selected to host the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Men's Basketball Tournament (March 2-3, 1990) and the MCCA Women's Volleyball Tournament (Nov. 10-11, 1989).

"We want to do things more like that," Nowak said.

BUT NOWAK and Schoolcraft will be faced with some pressing needs during the upcoming season.

Among the issues and tasks that

Ex-area baseball mentor in coaches Hall of Fame

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Ron Heller, the long-time Livonia Franklin and Livonia Adray baseball coach, was one of 10 inductees Wednesday into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

But at age 49, Heller says his coaching days might not be ending anytime soon. He coached Livonia Adray's baseball team from 1968-78, and he has an overall record of 365-181. He last coached Adray in 1987, leading the Livonia-based team to its fifth straight national tournament appearance in Johnston, Pa.

Heller, who lives in Troy, is thrilled by the honor, but says he's contemplating returning to coaching. Adray reached the AAABA final four in 1985 and his goal is to win the tourney.

"It's super, whenever you get honored by your peers," said Heller, who attended the eight-annual high school all-star game Thursday at Tiger Stadium. "It would be fun to return. Stu (Rose, the Adray Appliance coach and former coaching assistant) wanted me to coach with him and I almost did, but it was just too far to go."

"My goal originally was to reach the Final Four and when we did that my wife said, 'Now you want to retire.' And I said, 'No, my goal was to get to the Final Four, now I want to win the championship.' Stu will get it one of these days."

While at Franklin, Heller was named the state's Coach of the Year in 1978, leading the Patriots to a 26-4 overall record before losing in the Class A quarterfinal round. Heller remembers the 1975-76 year at Franklin

as being one of the school's best years, athletically.

Among the players on the '76 team were senior Tim Gunn (University) and junior Ken Scarpace, who enjoyed a great baseball career at Western Michigan University and was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds.

"That was a great year," he recalled. "The football team won the Class A title, the basketball team reached the quarterfinal and the same group of guys continued it in baseball. All of them were head first sliders — tape around the elbows guy. They were the kind of kids who said 'Let us at it, coach.'"

Heller coached several players who went on to the professional ranks, including Todd Krumm (currently with the Chicago Bears), Mike Wilkins (a Tigers Class A farmhand), and Mark Wilkins, who spent time in the Chicago Cubs organization before his arm went out.

While at Franklin, Heller said he benefited from the big families in the Franklin school district who sent him several fine players. And let's not forget the talented Rose family (Chip, Stu, Tim, Rob and Pete) that all played with or under Heller in the sandlot ranks.

"We had the Scarpace's, the four Hollandsworths, the Pollards, Kascias, so I was real fortunate at Franklin to have great parents, support and kids," Heller said. "And it continued in the summers with all the Rose brothers. Not too many coaches have that kind of opportunity."

Heller, one of the original founders of the MHSAA, said the high school all-star classic at Tiger Stadium shows how far the organization has come.

"It's great, as I said last night at the (MHSAA) banquet, our goal was to have an all-star game and a hall of fame," Heller said. "We have had such great leadership. This (the all-star game) is the ultimate goal."