

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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Pitcher's bat proves pivotal for South

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

When he stepped to the plate in the sixth inning, Mike Dorocak was given the chance to take matters into his own hands.

As the starting pitcher for South Farmington, he watched helplessly as his teammates failed to hit in key situations and produce any run support Thursday night.

Dorocak and Farmington saw their way to an eventual 4-3 victory over host Plymouth Salem, but it was Dorocak who scored the go-ahead run in the sixth and knocked in the game-winning run in the seventh.

The Catholic Central grad was rewarded for his pitching perseverance with the win, going six innings and tossing a five-hitter. He struck out five, walked four and hit one batter.

"He battled big time tonight," South coach Dave Turnquist said. "He was wild early, but he came back and really dominated the middle innings."

Dorocak's 7th-inning hit a winner

FARMINGTON GOT a runner to third base in three straight innings but left the man stranded there each time. South left the bases loaded in the second, and Leo Devine's hard-hit ball to center field was held up by the wind for the third out in the third.

"It's really been the story of our season," Turnquist said. "We haven't been getting the big hits. We've got a lot of talent on this team, and we know it's going to come through eventually."

Despite Dorocak's important contribution at the plate, he did not long to Gary Devine, who also produced in a pinch-hitting role. His two-run single put South in front (3-2) in the sixth inning.

Farmington loaded the bases with no outs against losing pitcher John Brannan, who held the visitors to just three hits and pitched a strong game to that point. He left after giving

up back-to-back singles to Rich Roy and Dorocak and a walk to Andy Weighill.

Devine greeted reliever Rob Kowalski with a smash to center field that probably would have been caught had Brian Storm not slipped and been unable to position himself to make the play.

"When he went to pivot, his foot slipped and that turned him around," Salem coach Clare Wask said. "I bet he could have got to it; he's a damn good outfielder. As it was, it was only about a foot off the glove."

DOROCAK FOLLOWED Roy to the plate, bowling over catcher Brian Connell and knocking the ball loose.

"The shot to center field was a blessing," said Turnquist, noting Devine still isn't fully recovered from an ankle injury he suffered while playing for Farmington Hills Har-

ison last spring. "We were just looking for him to put the ball in play and get the run home."

"At worst, (the hit) was a sacrifice fly. It would have scored a run and moved a runner up. I think he hit it deeper than the guy expected."

Kowalski retired the next three batters to end the inning, and South needed Dorocak's RBI single in the seventh. Leo Devine tripped and scored the deciding run.

Dorocak's stay on the mound ended two outs shy of a complete game. He left after allowing Salem to load the bases on two walks and a single in the bottom of the seventh.

With the twilight nearly gone and the baseball difficult to see, Farmington brought on hard-throwing Craig Murray to save the game. The former Harrison strikeout

artist retired Eric Sheehan on a flyout, but he walked Brad Wright to force in a run before striking out Tim Lake to end the game.

"I TOLD CRAIG he had darkness on his side," Turnquist said. "I told him all he had to do was throw the heat. If they beat him throwing his heat, they deserved to win."

"That was a good move on their part," Wask said. "The baseball was harder and harder to see. Sheehan came back and said one of the lights in the parking lot went on about the same time and, for some reason, he couldn't take his eyes off it."

Wright had two of Salem's five hits and scored both runs. Consecutive doubles by Wright and Brannan accounted for the game's first run, and Wright raced home on an error in the fourth. Farmington tried to get him going to third on Brannan's ground ball, but the throw was wide of the base.

Leo Devine and Dorocak had two hits apiece for South, which collected a total of eight.

South best in Mantle

South Farmington ran its league-leading Little Caesars Mickey Mantle record to 15-0 by clobbering host Trenton 14-4 Thursday.

Dennis Pirronello, Eric Miller, Shondell Currie and Mike Campbell had two hits apiece for South. Miller also had three RBI and Currie two.

Miller keyed a six-run third inning with a two-run single, and Reggie McKinney had a two-run single in Farmington's five-run fourth.

Les Luark pitched five innings in the six-inning contest for the victory. He scattered six hits, struck out six and walked three. McKinney worked the final inning.

South is 19-3 overall.

Present Value jolts Proper Reality

By C.J. Riese
staff writer

The last two runnings of the Michigan Mile provided no drama and no surprises. The two winners (Waukegan in 1987, Lost Code in '88) won in a walk.

Maybe that's why Saturday's race at Ladbroke DRC was so disappointingly attended — 10,006, the lowest figure since the inaugural Mile, in 1949 at the Detroit Fair Grounds.

Too bad, thoroughbred fans. You missed a heckuva race, a final stretch dash to the finish in which heavily favored Proper Reality — surprised — was outgassed by 49-to-1 shot Present Value.

The winning time was 1:49 and one-fifth, the fastest since Thumbsucker's 1:48.2 in '83. Present Value paid a whopping \$100.00 for a \$2 win ticket. Mi Selecto was a distant third behind Proper Reality.

THE RACE was decided before the quarter-mile pole. Present Value, starting in the No. 8 slot in the nine-horse field, broke from the gate quickly and was running second after a quarter-mile. Proper Reality, coming out of the No. 3 gate, got a bad start but moved into contention by the first turn.

The difference was Present Value was running easy and clear on the outside, just behind pacesetter Sasscat; Proper Reality was boxed in by Baltic Fox and Congeuler and had to fight his way through.

"My horse was running real comfortable," said winning jockey Frank Olivares. "There was no pressure at all. It was a perfect spot to be in. I just waited for horses to come up to him."

"He was very relaxed and very comfortable. That is his style."

As the horses turned toward the clubhouse, the duel began. Present Value and Proper Reality separated from the rest of the field and raced side-by-side toward the finish line. But Proper Reality, the 2-to-5 betting favorite and winner of nine of its 15 previous races, never caught Present Value.

"I saw a horse come up on the inside," Olivares said. "I didn't know it was Proper Reality, but I knew I could outrun whoever it was."

PRESENT VALUE did just that, both taking advantage of his own strength while exploiting the only weakness associated with Proper Reality. A relatively small horse, Proper Reality's ability to hold up over a mile-and-an-eight was questionable.

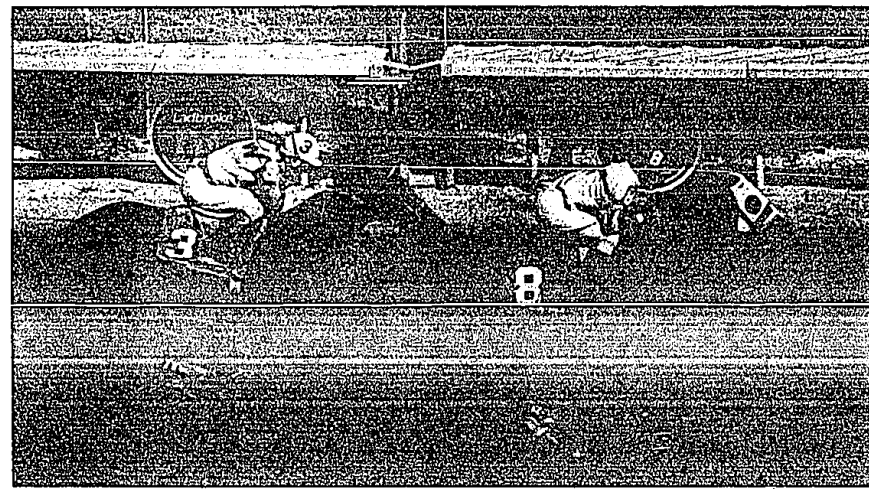
"We really have no excuse," said Bob Holthus, trainer of Proper Reality. "We just got outrun. If (Proper Reality) had been enough of a horse today, he would have won."

Jerry Bailey, the favorite's jockey, offered no excuses, either. "Proper Reality did just fine, but the horse running next to us in the lane was going just a little bit faster. Proper Reality's probably at his best staying just off the pace, and then closing at a mile distance."

"On his best days, he can go one-and-one-eighth miles. But this wasn't one of them."

THE HUGE payoff was not a good indicator of Present Value's ability. "Outside of Proper Reality, I thought four or five horses were pretty even," said Jerry Fanning, Present Value's trainer. "I didn't think he could beat Proper Reality, but I thought he could handle the rest."

Once the race entered the final



What was expected to be a runaway win in the Michigan Mile for Proper Reality (No. 3) came down to a two-horse duel down the final stretch. The winner was 49-to-1 shot Present Value (No. 8).

stretch, Fanning had changed his mind. "Once they straightened out (coming around the final turn), I knew (Present Value) could beat him."

The victory makes Halo the first horse to sire two Michigan Mile winners. The first was 1980 champ

Glorious Song.

It also made Fanning and Richard Fontana, Garry Potter and Jay Bligh — all part-owners of Present Value — happy people. The group bought the Mile winner in January for \$160,000 (Saturday's race guaranteed \$180,000 to the winner) and had

the legendary Willie Shoemaker as his jockey until "the Shoe" left to tour England.

Olivares, who races the California circuit, was hired to replace him; Saturday's race was only his second race with Present Value.

"Jerry really turned (Present Value) around," said Fontana. "He's not the same horse we bought. 'Shoe' said don't try to hold him back, let him do what he wants to do. Once we figured that out, (Present Value) really turned around."

He showed it in Saturday's dramatic upset.

Trunk's goal puts Hawks in nationals

The state champion Hawks under-19 girls soccer team has a chance to reach an even loftier goal.

The Hawks won the Region II tournament the weekend of July 8-9 in Omaha, Neb., and earned a trip to the national championship July 26-30 in Union Town, N.Y.

The Hawks beat state champions from Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota and outscored their opponents 19-0 at the regional. Goalkeeper Brooke Gillespie of Troy registered five shutouts.

Farmington resident Amy Trunk scored the only goal of the regional final, racing through the Minnesota defense and putting the ball past the goalkeeper at the 22-minute mark.

Defenders included Bonnie Boyle (Troy), Susan Gibson (Farmington), Rosemary Hally (Livonia), Chris Lamb (Troy), Nataka Lukewycz (Brighton), Erin Morgan (Canton) and Lisa Yderstadt (Grand Blanc).

The Hawks beat Missouri 2-0 in the semifinal as Trunk and Farmington's Jennifer Misars recorded a goal each.

Other members of the Hawks include Patty Boyle, Liz Brooks, Jackie Silagyi, Troy; Shannon Meath, Canton; Julie Slabnick, Plymouth; Margaret Koppmeier, Bloomfield Hills; Caeli Thomas, East Lansing; and Carrie Maier, Farmington.

On the fourth of July weekend, the Hawks won the Northern Ohio Soccer Cup, and Silagyi was named the most valuable player of the tournament.

Silagyi, who played for Class A champion Troy Athens last spring, Maier, Patty Boyle and Thomas scored goals in the final as the Hawks defeated the East-West Soccer Club, the northern Ohio champion, 4-0.

On the way to the championship, the Hawks outscored five opponents by a combined score of 20-1 as Gillespie recorded four shutouts. Her job was made easier by the consistent defensive play of fullbacks Bonnie Boyle, Gibson, Lukewycz, Morgan, Lamb and Yderstadt.

The Hawks are coached by Paul Dugan. The team manager is Mike Yderstadt, and the trainer is Ralph Gibson. The Hawks are sponsored by the Livonia YMCA and McFarland's Florist of Farmington.

King reigns over U.S. Open

By Jim Tolt
staff writer

The 44th U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship has crowned a new queen, or better make that King.

Betsy King is to exact.

Entering the four-day event at Indianwood Golf & Country Club in Lake Orion as the tour's top golfer this season, King strengthened her hold on that honor and left her mark on women's golfing history Sunday by capturing her first Open title in 15 tries. It was her second major title at 36. She won the Nabisco Dinah Shore in 1987.

"This was my 15th Open and you feel like you should win it sometime," said King, following her final-round 68 that left her at 6-under 278, four strokes in front of runner-up Nancy Lopez. "You always think about it as a kid, making a putt to win the Open. Even as an adult you think about it. There is more history in this event than any tournament I've played in."

THE VICTORY was the fifth this year for King and the \$80,000 paycheck pushed her over the \$500,000 mark in official earnings in one season, setting a standard for the quickest to that figure after 10 events. "Achievement-wise the five wins this season mean more than the

money," said King, whose other victories this year include The Jamaica Classic, Women's Kemper Open, USX Golf Classic and McDonald's Championship. "I'm happy with the money. I won't waste it because it will go to good causes, but the five wins is what stands out in what will probably be the year of my life golf-wise. Whatever I do here on in, it will still be the best year of my life on the golf course."

Fenny Hamme, who shot a final-round 67, and Pat Bradley, who checked in with a 68, tied for third place at 1-under 283. Dottie Mochrie and Lori Korbacz tied for fifth place at even par 284.

The margin of victory came as a surprise as both King and Patty Sheehan, who has one tour victory to her credit this season, came into Sunday's final round tied at 3-under.

Both golfers got off to fast starts as King birdied three of the first four holes and Sheehan managed one birdie and two pars. A King bogey at No. 5 brought her closer to the pack, and Sheehan in particular.

BUT A BOGEY at the 324-yard, par 4 sixth hole was the beginning of the end for Sheehan. Holder of 20 career victories, Sheehan fell six shots behind King when she suffered a triple-bogey seven after hitting out of bounds on No. 8. She would finish

with an 8-over 79.

With Sheehan out of the picture, and none of the other competitors making a serious final-day charge, King was able to turn her attention to playing par golf.

"In the middle of the back nine I was trying to hit the greens and make par on every hole," explained King. "After I hit the drive on 18, I knew I could hit the worst iron of my life and still have enough to win."

"I played so much better today than yesterday (Saturday), but it wasn't easy by any means," King added. "I felt a little more confidence in my swing and that made all the difference in the world. Anytime you're in a position like this, you just hope you catch a good day."

King wasn't the only player enjoying the final 18 holes of the year's most prestigious tournament.

JAPAN'S AYAKO OKAMOTO turned in the day's best round when she tied an Open record by firing a 6-under 63. Okamoto, who finished tied for 11th place at 3-over 287, made seven birdies before suffering a bogey on No. 18.

She didn't realize she was close to setting an Open record and credited her success to her early starting time, which she said made the greens easier to putt on.

One of the tourney's pre-favorites, Laura Davies, recorded the day's next best score when she shot 68 to tie for seventh place at 285. Included in her effort was a pair of eagles — one on the 353-yard, par 4 seventh hole and the other on the 456-yard, par 5 12th hole.

"All I thought was getting into the red numbers," remembered Davies, one of the longer hitters on the tour and whose only win this season came at the Lady Keystone Open. "I thought if I could shoot 63, I could win the golf tournament. I came out three shots short."

"When I came up to No. 3 and saw those scores on the board, I knew the course must be playing a little easier and I would have to play more aggressively," King said. "I hit two good shots on the first hole and that's an instant lift."

"I played well today, but my greens I just couldn't get the birdies down," explained Lopez, who took home the \$40,000 second-place check to remain second on the year's money list. "On the backside, I got closer and started making those birdie putts."

LOPEZ, WHO is still looking for her first Open championship, slipped into the runner-up spot, by playing the back nine in 3-under par.