

# Area players uphold tradition of excellence

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At the plate, he also had 15 extra-base hits, which included 11 doubles and three home runs, and 29 RBI. He struck out three times in 90 at bats.

**Rob Kowalski, pitcher, Salem:** The senior right-hander was largely responsible for the Rocks' late-season surge, which included a championship in a highly competitive district tournament. He finished with an 8-2 record, both losses being to W.L.A.A. champion Farmington. Kowalski struck out 55 and walked 15 in 52 innings. He had a 15-4 career record.

Having the reputation of a batter who confronted opposing hitters with an 85 mph fastball, he had a 3.37 ERA.

"Rob is the most dependable pitcher I've ever coached at Plymouth Salem," coach John Gravin said. "When the game is on the line, we wanted the ball to be in his hands — and that for the last two seasons."

"He's probably a better reliever than he is a starter. The closer you are to the end of the ballgame and the more important the situation, the better he is."

**Jason Dombny, catcher, Canton:** Dombny, a three-year starter for the Chiefs, is noted for his defensive ability but was an offensive threat, too, hitting .423.

Dombny, who signed to play for Henry Ford Community College next fall, had seven extra-base hits out of 30, including five doubles and one homer. He drew in 25 runs and scored 24.

"You have to be willing to sacrifice your body to play there, and he does that," coach Fred Cissey said. "He frames so well and blocks so well. Those are the kind of things you look for in a catcher."

"Jason improved every year. He's worked so hard at a tough position and never gives less than he can give."

**Jason Gabel, infielder, Churchill:** Considered a pure hitter, Gabel established a single-season, school record with a .492 average and 31 RBI this year.

The senior first baseman had 31 hits, and 14 went for extra bases. He belted eight doubles, two triples and four homers. Gabel also scored 23 runs.

"Offensively, his skills are the best a Churchill player has had since I've been the head coach," Herb Osterland said.

"People talk about having a quick, live bat. The ball just flies off Jason's bat. From an offensive standpoint, he has been a fantastic player the last two years."

**Paul Pirronello, infielder, Catholic Central:** Pirronello, a member of the Class A all-state first team, hit .452 with 42 hits in 53 at bats. He had 17 extra-base hits, including 12 doubles.

Pirronello, who will play for Madonna College next year, also hit two triples and three homers. He knocked in 31 runs and scored 43.

"He's the top hitter we've had in my nine years at CC, average-wise," coach John Sailer said. "He plays very well at shortstop. Actually, his best position is outfield, but we had to use him at shortstop. He has a strong throwing arm, runs the bases well. He's a smart baseball player — knows the game."

**Goff Allen, infielder, Canton:** Allen is an all-WLAA pitcher, but his versatility afforded him a place as an infielder on the all-area team. He played shortstop when he didn't pitch and, like Schmidt, was equally as good at both.

Allen, a senior who is considering Harding-Simmons or Kansas City Community College, hit .450 with 28 hits in 59 plate appearances and had 20 RBI. His hits included six doubles, two triples and two home runs.

As a pitcher, he was 6-2 with a 2.09 ERA. Allen threw a no-hitter and three shutouts. He struck out 74 and walked 17 in 58 innings. Opponents had 40 hits and 23 earned runs.

"You'd like to have nine guys like him," Cissey said. "Every day he comes to the ballpark, wet or dry, he gives his best effort. To me that's the mark of an athlete who's going to be successful if he goes on."

**Jerry Shippe, infielder, John Glenn:** Shippe was one of the most leaved hitters on yet another quality Glenn team, having eight extra-base hits and a 4.10 average.

"He's hit well ever since he was a sophomore," said Glenn coach Norm Hoopes. "The second baseman didn't strike out once in 61 at-bats, scored 31 runs and batted in 21 runs. His extra-base hits consisted of five doubles, three triples and two homers. He also stole 12 bases."

"Jerry worked hard this winter on his defense and it paid off," said Hoopes. "Jerry wasn't going to be a DH. He wanted to be a full-time player, and he made only three errors."

**Kevin Young, outfielder, Farmington:** Possibly the best player in the state by some estimates, Young had an impressive .511 average and 38 RBI.

The senior all-star, who also pitched and played third base, had 45 hits — including nine doubles, three triples and four homers — in 90 chances. His .473 career average is a school record.

Young, a three-year varsity player, struck out only four times and walked seven. He also stole 22 bases.

"Kevin has the best baseball skills of anyone I've ever coached," Kamsman said. "He's strong all the way around. He has a good glove, a good arm and his wit. I don't think he has a weakness."

**Andy Weighill, outfielder, Clarenceville:** Weighill was the most valuable player in the Metro Conference, hitting .438 with four homers and 19 RBI. He had 14 stolen bases.

The lead-off batter, who hit .550 as a junior, was twice an all-league player and was named the top male athlete at Clarenceville this year. The center fielder would like to continue his career at the University of Detroit.

"Andy was our team," said first-year coach Mark MacDonald, who had Weighill on his South Farmington Connie Mack team last year. "He's the reason I coached the team. He's a great kid on and off the field. He has excellent speed, quick hands and great awareness."

**Gary Devine, outfielder, Harrison:** Devine also excelled as a pitcher and



**Rob Kowalski Salem**

**Jason Dombny Canton**

**Jason Gabel Churchill**



**Paul Pirronello Catholic CC**



**Goff Allen Canton**



**Jerry Shippe John Glenn**



**Gary Devine Harrison**



**Andy Weighill Clarenceville**



**Keith Bozyk Redford CC**

# Farmington star contributes to win

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"It's two-for-two for me, I'll take it," said Pirronello, whose team ripped Harper Woods Notre Dame, 19-2, in last month's Catholic League A-B Division final at Tiger Stadium.

## baseball

"Right now I'm leaning to go to school," he said. "Wherever it is, I'll go anywhere they'll play me."

Missing a chance to play at Tiger Stadium, however, couldn't dampen Bonnici's spirit.

"It was tough not being out there," he said. "But it's still fun being here."

Bubsy Wyngarden, a catcher/outfielder from St. Joseph, hit an inside-the-park homer in the second inning en route to West team MVP honors.

Steve Bender of Utica, who knocked in a pair of runs, was named East squad MVP.

Aaron Kepler, a pitcher from Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central, was voted Mr. Baseball by the Coaches Association.

The right-hander worked the first three innings, giving up a pair of runs.

The winning pitcher was right-hander Dave Wood of Berkley, who hurled two innings, giving up a run. He relieved starter Bill Hardy (Detroit Benedictine), who went the first three, allowing a pair of runs.

The most impressive pitchers, however, were Feldman and Kowalski.

AN ALL-STATE hockey player, Pirronello is also unsure about his college plans, but may play locally to play hockey over the winter in the Junior A circuit.

In the meantime, he'll play in two summer baseball leagues including the Livonia Collegiate circuit for Little Caesars.

Rochester Adams' shortstop/catcher James Bonnici was reduced to cheering from the sideline.

The 6-foot-4, 200-pound draft pick of the Seattle Mariners sat out the game with a broken hand, suffered earlier this month while diving back to the bag in a district semifinal game against Rochester.

The injury to his left hand required surgery. Two pins were inserted, but will be removed sometime this week, hopefully in time for him to participate in the U.S. Olympic Festival in Minneapolis where he aims to become a member of the Junior National team.

BONNICI's future, however, is bright. He has the option of signing with the Mariners, or accepting a baseball ride to Michigan State.

# Gabel lifts Concealed

Jason Gabel drove in the game-winning run with a seventh-inning sacrifice fly as Concealed Security nipped host Trenton 7-6 in Connie Mack baseball Tuesday.

Keith Bozyk had two of Concealed's five hits. Gabel also slammed a two-run triple and Kevin Young hit a solo home run.

Dan Lezotte also got an RBI with a sacrifice fly, and Shannon Deagan picked up an RBI when he hit with a pitch in a bases-loaded situation.

Chris Schmidt made the distance on the mound, scattering nine hits and walking two. He struck out four.

Concealed Security finished third in the nine-team Can-Am Tournament in Windsor June 17.

LOU McKAIG pitched a one-hitter in the final game as Concealed shut out Twinsberg (Ohio) 8-0 to nail down a 5-2 tournament record.

Concealed opened with a 6-5 loss to eventual champion Indianapolis but followed with back-to-back wins over Troy (Ohio) 12-5 and Lincoln Park 8-1.

Concealed lost its next game to Mansfield (Ohio) 6-4 before beating Martins Ferry (Ohio) in consecutive games, 13-3 and 5-1.

Paul Pirronello leads the team with a .563 average and has no strikeouts in 32 at bats. Young is hitting .458 with 10 RBI and seven stolen bases, and Deagan leads the team with 13 RBI and carries a .375 average.

Other top hitters include Shondell Currie (.406), Lezotte (.400) and Joe Brusseau (.367).

leader, leading another late-season charge that took the Hawks to a Class B district championship game.

As the lead-off batter, he hit .410, walked 23 times and scored 36 runs. He also had 19 stolen bases, nine RBI and 11 extra-base hits. He had eight doubles, giving him a school career record of 18, and two homers.

He had a 5-6 pitching record and was one shy of a single-game record when he struck out 14 against Auburn Hills Avondale in the district. Harrison won nine of his last 11 games to finish 10-13.

"He was our most outstanding player, both as a pitcher and outfielder," coach John Herrington said. "He was the heart of our team, and we're looking forward to having him back next year."

"He had great power for someone his size (5-5, 150). He started as a sopho-

more and already is closing in on school records for steals and extra-base hits."

Bozyk, who will play for Adrian College next year, also became a force with the bat, hitting .333 and, with 19 walks, having a high on-base percentage.

"He helped us as much offensively as he did with his pitching," Sailer said. "He really improved over his junior year. He was under .200 last year and hit .333 this year. He batted lead-off and had a knack for getting on base."

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