

Sports

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(F1)

South headed to state

The South Farmington Colt baseball team captured a district championship over the weekend at Bloomfield Hills.

South Farmington won three of the four games it played during the three-day double-elimination tournament. The win sends South Farmington to the State Colt Playoffs held Thursday through Saturday at Waterford.

After losing to Birmingham, 5-4, earlier Sunday, South Farmington responded with a 7-4 win over Birmingham later in the day to clinch the district crown.

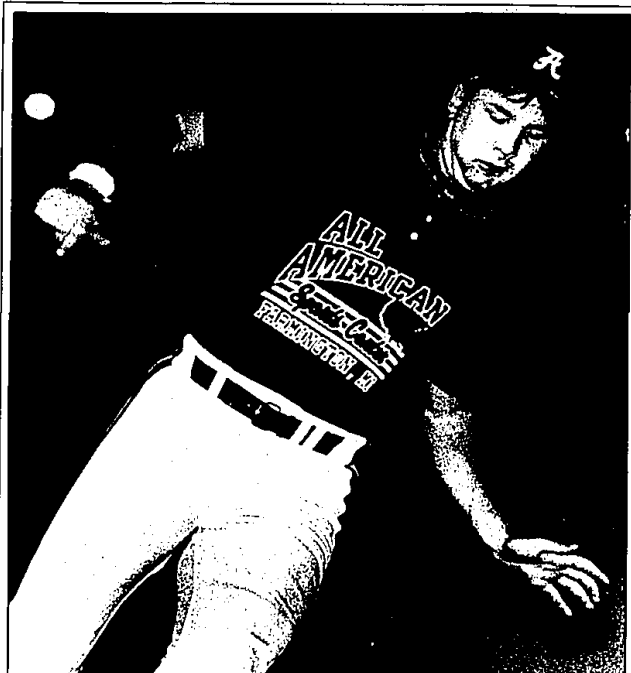
South Farmington scored four runs in the first inning of the championship game. Ross Varacall sparked the burst with a two-run single, scoring Keye Smith and Jason Wiehe. Jamle Taylor drove in both Varacall and Dave Liszewski later in the inning to give South Farmington a 4-0 lead.

BROCK GOFF made the score 5-0 when he scored on Smith's double in the second inning. Taylor got another RBI in the third when he hit safely to score Liszewski with South Farmington's sixth run. David Khanjui closed out the scoring for South Farmington in the sixth when he walked, stole second base and scored on Mike Raffle's single.

A late rally by South Farmington in Sunday's first game was headed by Birmingham, which held on to win, 5-4. Jeff Cliso led off the seventh inning with a triple but was stranded, allowing Birmingham to force a second game.

It looked as though South Farmington would win going away after scoring three runs in the first inning.

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SHARON LEMIEUX/Staff photographer

Modified masher

Ron Wandzel connected for a grand slam homer Monday in the Livonia Modified Fast-Pitch Softball League, leading All-American

Sports Center of Farmington Hills to a 16-4 defeat of Malarkey's Pub. See story on Page 2B.

Mallon meets golf stardom on ladies tour

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Meg Mallon, recognized as the most congenial player on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour, got to meet another sports figure with personality Monday night.

The former Farmington Hills Mercy star, a longtime fan of the Detroit Tigers, was in town to visit family and see the Tigers play a day after winning the U.S. Women's Open.

After an on-field television interview prior to the game, Tigers coach Alex Grammas, whom Mallon met on an airplane a year ago, said manager Sparky Anderson wanted to meet her.

"He couldn't have been nicer, he's a genuine gentleman," said Mallon of Anderson. "We talked baseball, we talked golf, we talked about mutual friends. He's a wonderful person."

Given her recent success, Mallon is fast becoming as well known in the sports world, too.

SHE HAS won three tournaments, including two majors, and earned more than \$413,000 this year.

Having won the LPGA Championship two weeks ago, Mallon added the U.S. Open title Sunday with a 1-under-par 73 and two-stroke victory over Pat Bradley in Fort Worth, Texas.

"It's not like I'm seeking stardom, but sometimes things you're not seeking come to you anyway," the 28-year-old Mallon said. "It's been a dream season."

She has seen steady improvement during her 5 years on the LPGA

golf

Tour, but she never imagined having a year like 1991.

"You don't sit back and think about what you're going to do," Mallon said. "You play hard, hope to make a living and enjoy what you're doing. This season has gone beyond my expectations."

Mallon credits her teacher of the past four years, Mike McGetrick of Denver, with helping to improve her overall game. He taught her course management and enhanced her short game and swing, she said.

"LAST YEAR I really had a good year," Mallon said. "I was in position to win a couple times and had a good feel for it. Fortunately, it carried over to this year."

Mallon was two strokes behind going into the final day of the open, but she rallied to win with a 4-under 67.

Despite the 98-degree heat and pressure of playing in a major tournament, Mallon got stronger as the day wore on, shooting a 3-under 32 on the back nine at the Colonial Country Club.

Her solid finish included three birdie putts, and she took the lead when she dropped an 18-footer on the 400-yard, par-four No. 14. She followed with another birdie on the 15th green.

"The U.S. Open is an endurance test, basically," said Mallon, who

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Walter's roars into lead

Walter's Appliance has roared into first place in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League.

Manager Mike Keller's squad swept a double-header Sunday against Fieger & Fieger to run its LCBL record to 18-7-1, four points ahead of Little Caesars (16-9-1), which has now dropped four straight. (Caesars dropped a twin bill Sunday to Wendy's of Ann Arbor).

Walter's completed Sunday's sweep at Ford Field when Craig Overalls, a right-hander who prepped at Livonia Franklin and now at Henry Ford Community College, tossed a four-hitter in the nightcap. He faced 27 batters, fanning three and walking three.

"Craig pitched a good ballgame and had them hitting at people," Keller said. "He also kept the ball in the park."

Walter's tallied both of its runs in the fifth.

Paul Pirronello, who went 2-for-2, led off the inning with a single. He advanced to second on a stolen base. Joe Brusseau walked and Pirronello scored on Jerry Koester's single.

Mark Hirbar was walked intentionally by Fieger starter Billy Wicker, leading the bases. Jason Gabel then hit into a fielders choice, bringing home Brusseau.

Wicker deserved a better fate, allowing just five hits and four walks.

TWO FIEGER runners were

baseball

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thrown out trying to advance in the third inning.

In the opener, Walter's beat Fieger, 6-4, as Koester, Gabel and Hirbar each collected two hits. Hirbar and Gabel slammed back-to-back RBI doubles in the third.

Winning pitcher Mike Coleman worked 6½ innings, allowing five hits and seven walks, while fanning eight. Bob Bullack came on to get the save.

Tony Falletich was the losing pitcher and Rob Puckett went 2-for-2 and walked twice for Fieger.

On Friday, Walter's downed the C.P.O.A. Canucks at Ford Field, 6-1, as Jeff Pendell, Koester and Overalls each collected two hits. Pendell, Wendy's Redford Central High product, now playing at Madonna University, slammed a solo homer in the second inning. Koester and Overalls also knocked in runs.

Ken McLaughlin homered in the fifth off Walter's starter and winner Anthony Chandler for Windsor's only run.

Chandler worked the first four innings, allowing three hits and two

walks. Chris White (North Farmington High) came on to earn the save, hurling three shutout innings.

Fieger, meanwhile, stunned Little Caesars in the first game Friday at Ford Field, 4-3, in eight innings.

Caesars was cruising along behind the pitching of Lou McKaig, who threw six shutout innings.

But Fieger rallied for three runs in the seventh to tie it, keyed by Aaron Mack's two-run homer (with Todd Fracassi aboard). Puckett, who went 3-for-5, singled and later scored on an infield error for Fieger's first run.

In the eighth, Matt LeMieux doubled and scored on Dave Roman's game-winning RBI single.

Winning pitcher T.C. Raptis worked all eight innings. He gave up five hits and five walks, while fanning seven.

McKaig, the Madonna University right-hander, took the 'S.

DELWAL 14-6, CANUCKS 3-10: Trying to hang on for the fourth and final playoff spot, Delwal (11-11-2) split a twin bill Sunday against the host Canucks at Windsor's Holy Redeemer Stadium. Leo Hutchinson, the former Redford Catholic Central High standout, was pitching for Eastern Michigan, raised his record to 5-3 with a complete-game performance in the opener, a 14-3 Delwal win.

Hutchinson struck out five, walked three and scattered eighth hits.

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Wendt at home in Germany



Greg Wendt former CC standout

By C.J. Rieak
staff writer

It took a while. It took a determined commitment. And it was a gamble. But Greg Wendt has found a basketball home — five years and more than 4,000 miles after leaving the University of Detroit.

Wendt, the Redford Catholic Central star (class of '81) and native of Livonia, is a national celebrity in his sport.

In Germany.

Wendt plays for Tus Bramsche, a German Division I team sponsored by Rasch. The 6-foot-6 forward has made a significant difference for Bramsche, guiding it to the Division II championship last year and into Division I, then helping it stay there this year — Bramsche made the playoffs, losing to South Division champion Bamberg.

And what precisely did Wendt contribute? How about a scoring championship? He led all Division I scorers with a 37 points-per-game average. It was his second-consecutive scoring crown — Wendt led Division II last year with a 43-point average.

SO IT'S not too surprising when Wendt says: "I love it. To me, European basketball is a lot better than the CBA."

The Continental Basketball Association was one of Wendt's earlier stops, which included a two-year stay at Duke University in North Carolina; two years at U-D; a year playing in Pensacola in the CBA; and a tour in the

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