

Walter's prepares for national tournament

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Walter's Appliance will be minus its top pitcher Dave Wood, but help is on the way as the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League champs embark on their second trip in four years to Johnston, Pa. for the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament.

Because of Wood's unavailability (fractured ankle), manager Mike Keller was able to draft one additional roster player among four LCBL pickups.

Wood, a righthander with a 5.0 record and a league-leading 1.37 earned run average, suffered a season-ending ankle injury playing right field in an opening-round playoff loss to Delaw.

But the Henry Ford Community College product will still make the trip as a coach.

Hand-hitting Aaron Mach of regular season LCBL champion Little Caesars will fill the void in right. He was second in the league with a .388 batting average.

Also added to the roster by Keller and assistant coach Harv Weingarten is Caesars first baseman Mike Gincimantonio, the league's top home run hitter.

Two pitchers from LCBL playoff runnerup Delaw also been acquired — Todd Bolke, a righthander, and Derek Wirebaugh, a lefty.

"Our players felt Bolke was the best pitcher they faced this year," Keller said.

Rival manager confident

John Moraitis, manager of rival Caesars, believes Walter's will take

a strong team to Johnston.

"These fields are made for hitting," he said. "They (Walter's) have a lot of good hitters in their lineup. And with the hitters he (Keller) has, and with good pitching, he could win it."

Walter's last reached the AAABA tourney in 1989, finishing fifth overall at 3-2 with players such as Joe Sturtz (Indiana University), pickup Art George (ex-Evanville) and Rick Karcher (minor leaguer in Atlanta's system).

"Every team has a different character," Keller said. "On paper we're better offensively and defensively, but we all know paper doesn't win ballgames."

"At the beginning of the summer we felt this was a good team on paper, and we felt the kids we had could do it because we had a lot of good ballplayers from last year."

Jeff Pendell (.356), Walter's third baseman, is the lone returning member left from that '89 squad.

This year's lineup is solid throughout with the likes of Eric Stever and Jeff Schaffer (.348) behind the plate; IBI league leader Jason Cabell at first; Joe Brusaeni at second; and league batting champ Paul Pirromello (.395) at short.

They are joined by outfielders Craig Overalls (.348) and Kevin Young (.362).

"I'd say that Jeff Schaffer adapted well to the Collegiate League right out of high school (Livonia Franklin)," Keller said. "But that really wasn't a surprise."

Playoff recap

Walter's, ironically, was nearly

ousted from the LCBL playoffs before it even started, losing the opener to Delaw, 8-3, before bouncing back in the loser's bracket to beat Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury (10-5), Caesars (7-6) and Delaw twice (7-4 and 9-7).

Utility man Chris White came through with pair of clutch hits during the playoff final victory.

And during five-day double-elimination tourney, pitchers Lou McKelg (1-0), Bryan Pfeiffer (1-0), Steve Ross (1-0) and Sean Henkel (two saves) came through in the clutch.

Add starter Mike Coleman, to go along with Wirebaugh and Bolke, and Walter's looks formidable on the mound heading for Johnston.

"I thought the talent among the four (playoff) teams this summer was pretty equal," Keller said. "There was a lot of parity because

we all battled close during the regular season. We just wanted it and by chance it was us.

"We want to make sure we represent the City of Livonia and the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League as best we can."

Caesars, meanwhile, begins action today in the National Amateur Baseball Federation College-Division regional tourney in Sterling Heights (Bishop Gallagher complex).

Moraitis said he may add three LCBL players to his tourney roster. Among those mentioned are pitcher Scott Rodgers (Hines Park), home run co-champ Tom Kretschmer (Delaw) and pitcher Mark Temple (Delaw).

The regional champion from Sterling Heights advances to the finals next week in Dayton, Ohio.

Defense fails NFWB in Connie Mack regional

North Farmington-West Bloomfield I Reliable had the good pitching it needed in a Connie Mack regional tournament last weekend but had an unexpected breakdown on defense.

NFWB coach Bill Gaughan thought his team (29-10) could contend for the title if it won its first two games in the American Amateur Baseball Congress tournament in Battle Creek, relying on a deep pitching staff after that.

But the defense made six errors — the most NFWB miscues in a single game all season — in the opener. NFWB split its first two games but was eliminated by Flint Grossi 8-0 Sunday.

Gary Morris, a post-season addition from Orchard Lake St. Mary, pitched a four-hitter Friday in the first game against Fort Wayne Don. But he was trying to overcome a deficit from the start after NFWB made four errors and gave up six runs in the first inning.

Morris allowed no earned runs, but the result was an 8-1 loss for NFWB. An error in the third inning led two more Fort Wayne runs score.

"The kid pitched a great game; we just didn't back him up," Gaughan said.

Fatigue became a factor later in the weekend, according to Gaughan. The first game was scheduled to

start at 5:30 p.m. Friday but was delayed until 11 p.m. and didn't end until 1:30 a.m.

The team had planned to return home Friday night, but all the hotels were booked by that time. The NFWB encourage returned to the Detroit area around 3:30 a.m. Saturday and had to be back in Battle Creek for a 3 p.m. game later that day.

Despite the disrupted schedule, NFWB rebounded from the first-game debacle to upset Little Caesars Baseball Federation regular-season champ Trenton 2-1 Saturday evening.

Jason Farrell pitched a two-

hitter, struck out four and walked two. In the seventh, Trenton had the tying run at third base with no outs, but Farrell retired the side with a strikeout, a line drive to the first baseman and an infield pop-out.

NFWB also had only two hits and scored its runs on John Heller's single and Marcus Sarnovsky's sacrifice fly.

NFWB continued its anemic hitting Sunday morning, again having just two hits in the five-inning, mercy-rule loss to Flint Grossi.

Mike Jehle and Sarnovsky had the only hits in that game. NFWB had 10 hits and, averaging eight

runs per game during the season, scored three in the regional.

Dan Pelym started and pitched 1½ innings against Grossi, giving up three runs and taking the loss. Mike Pesci worked the next three innings and Brian Sumner the final third.

This was the fifth consecutive year NFWB, managed by Jim Ferguson, had qualified for post-season play and the fourth in a row it had reached the regional round.

Gaughan is optimistic about next year since seven of the nine NFWB starters are 17-years-old and will be eligible to return.

The statistical leaders this year were Heller, .448 batting average; Jehle, .47 RBI; Ian Friedenberg, .711 on-base percentage; Adam Chalmers, four home runs; Jehle, eight triples; and seven doubles; Farrell, 11-2 record and 53 strikeouts; and Mark Temple, 2.33 earned-run average.

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CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

DATE: AUGUST 24, 1992
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336

ITEM: Zoning Text Amendment 3, 1992

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Farmington Hills City Council will give formal consideration to a proposed text amendment of the Farmington Hills City Code, Chapter 34, Zoning Chapter, which amendment will amend Section 34-539 (4) (b). A summary of said amendment is as follows:

1. Limitation of accessory use sites in one-family residential districts.

Any person who is interested in this amendment is invited to attend and participate in the public hearing discussion. Complete Zoning Chapter and Text are available for purchase and/or inspection during regular business hours at the Planning Department.

DALE A. COUNTEGAN, Director
Planning & Community Development
City of Farmington Hills

Public August 6, 1992

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