

Hines Park remains unbeaten in league

Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury improved to 10-0 in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League with four victories last week.

On Sunday, Hines Park swept host Westland Federation at John Glenn High School, winning 9-3 and 6-4. In Game No. 1, Scott Kapla (Eastern Michigan University) pitched six innings to earn his third win. Jeff Faluk (Saginaw Valley) pitched the final inning to record the save.

Ed Gundry and Tom Davy hit back-to-back solo home runs in the fifth inning for Hines Park. Gundry went 3-for-4 with two RBI.

Bobby Arellano took the loss for Westland. Jason McLoughan and Ryan Williams each went 2-for-4.

Heath Fowler went 2-for-3 in the nightcap for Hines Park. Faluk, who replaced Gundry, pitched 2 1/2 innings in relief to earn the win.

Jeremy Blaylock took the loss for Westland (4-4). McLoughan had an RBI double.

University of Detroit-Mercy bound Steve Ross struck out seven for a complete game win Friday at Eastern Michigan University, as Hines Park defeated Wendy's 11-2. Fowler went 2-for-3 for Hines Park while Kapla and Gary Pierce each collected two-run singles.

Brian Burns scored the winning run Wednesday at Madonna, as Hines Park defeated Tecumseh 1-0. Burns singled, stole second and advanced to third on Ed Gundry's walk before scoring on an outfield error.

Faluk (4-0) struck out six, walked four and gave up two hits over seven innings to earn the win.

Chris Utley, who pitched seven strong innings, took the loss for Tecumseh.

Walter's wins 1st 2

Walter's Home Appliance swept two games Sunday at Tecumseh, winning 3-2 and 7-1.

Pete Gallagher struck out six, walked four and gave up two hits in seven innings to earn the win for Walter's, the defending LCBAL champions and the All-American Amateur Baseball Association runner-up.

Tim Piciotti drove in the winning run in the seventh inning, when he drove home pinch runner Chris Kondogianni.

Mike Zolinski and Matt Hansen each had two hits for Walter's.

Jim Solak drilled a two-run home run in the second inning with three RBI for Walter's in the nightcap.

Jeff Scheffer (Wayne State) and Lars Luedeman each smacked two hits for Walter's, which scored four fifth inning runs on four consecutive hits.

Little Caesars splits

Little Caesars split a doubleheader with Wendy's Sunday at

Tourney becomes drawn-out affair

BASEBALL

The four teams in the Class A baseball district at Southfield High were hoping to extend their seasons, but not like this.

Poor field conditions after a night of heavy rain caused postponement of Saturday's district semifinals and championship games.

That was just the start of the confusion.

Games couldn't be rescheduled Sunday — ironically the only sunny day in the last week — because the Michigan High School Athletic Association does not allow games at night or on Sundays.

So the semifinals were moved to Monday. But only six innings of the first game between Farmington and North Farmington were played before rain and lightning caused another postponement.

The score was tied 1-1.

With Southfield's diamond unplayable again on Tuesday and the regional only four days ago, Redford Union athletic director Jim Gibbons volunteered to resume the game at RU, but a steady downpour changed those plans.

With that game on hold and RU and Farmington Hills Harrison still waiting to renew their first pitch in the district, the teams must have felt like an expectant mother in four days of labor.

The teams were hoping to settle things with a doubleheader on Wednesday at RU. Now there are concerns that the district championship won't have enough rested arms for Saturday's regional at Walled Lake Western.

By Tuesday night, it was the only district in Oberverland — baseball or softball — not decided.

"I wasn't going to wait for things to happen," Gibbons said. "We made things happen."

Last hurrah?

Southfield has hosted several baseball districts in a row but the diamond, which has no infield grass, might have hosted its last. Southfield athletic director Art Carinci was out of town Saturday because of an emergency and left Cal Fletcher, the school's football coach, in charge as tournament director.

Fletcher said he walked about a half-hour before postponing the games, starting with the 9:30 a.m. matchup between Farmington and North Farmington. Fletcher said his two-man grounds crew started working on the field at 7:30 a.m.

"It's just not draining like it used to," Fletcher said. "Some parks hold water better. It wasn't due to a lack of manpower."

Southfield was also hosting a softball district at the nearby Civic Center and the only delay at that site was because of the umpires who were 20 minutes late.

Carinci said the baseball district could not be moved to the Civic Center because the Southfield High grounds crew is restricted from working on that field.

Southfield was able to play last year's district in one day despite sometimes heavy rain throughout the day.

"I know our (Southfield High) grounds people wanted to make it go," Carinci said. "They busted their butts to get it going. When they say it was impossible to play Saturday, I believe them."

Quick decision

RU coach Rick Berryman wishes Fletcher would have waited longer on Saturday before postponing the games. Berryman said RU was having batting practice on its field when the call came at 10:15 a.m. that the games were postponed.

"I saw (the condition of) our field and halfway through batting practice there was no doubt in my mind we were going to play," said Berryman, whose team was scheduled to play Harrison at noon. "I went out there (to Southfield) at 11 a.m. Saturday and the field was wet but with a couple hours of a little work we could

RU edges North to win district title

whose team meets Rochester Adams at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Walled Lake Western regional.

"But in the districts all teams raise their level of play, and you have to complement Harrison and North."

RU's No. 9 hitter, Jason Wohlfarth, had three doubles in the championship game, including one with two outs in the seventh to score pinch-runner Robert Senter for a 6-5 tie.

Steve Smith followed with a single to send Wohlfarth home with the game-winning run. Wohlfarth, who had a triple against Harrison, finished the day 4-for-5 with three RBI and two runs scored.

"Pitchers don't expect the ninth guy to do much; it's mostly a fill-in position," Wohlfarth said.

Sophomore pitcher Brian Berryman earned the victory for RU in both games, one as a starter and one as a reliever. He lasted

4 1/2 innings as a starter against Harrison and pitched 1 1/2 innings in relief of Kevin Evans and Bjerkie to win the championship.

North got runners on first and third in the bottom of the seventh with two outs against Berryman, but Aaron Shepherd was caught looking at a called third strike to end the game. North had taken a 5-4 lead in the bottom of the sixth when Shepherd scored on a suicide squeeze hit by Ryan Moore with two outs.

RU had 11 hits off North's two sophomore pitchers — starter Darin Glasser and Mark Lee. Lee allowed only one run and seven hits after relieving Glasser with one out in the second.

RU took a 3-0 lead in the second but North responded with four in the bottom of the inning, highlighted by RBI singles from Fred Toetchter and Corey Mourer and a two-run single by Jason Danielliewicz.

North finished 6-16 overall.

"It was a heck of a job for a couple of sophomores," North coach Irv Horwitz said. "Some of the seniors did not show up (North was missing three seniors), but these guys that came did all they could and I'm proud of them."

Bjerkie was the hero in the semifinal against Harrison, coming in with the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the fifth and RU ahead 2-1. Bjerkie got Harrison's Kevin Smith to fly out to right field to end the threat.

Bjerkie also had an RBI single in the sixth for a 3-1 lead and struck out Jack Dolins to end the game in the bottom of the seventh with two teammates aboard.

Harrison's season ended at 11-10. Smith fell to 6-3 in his final game.

"We had our chances, but just like a lot of games we don't get the key hit," Harrison coach John Harrington said.

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