

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Mavericks 2nd in nation

The Motor City Mavericks will runners-up in the boys 14-and-under AAU national basketball tournament July 25 in Yakima, Wash.

The Mavericks, comprised of players from the Observer & Eccentric communities, lost the championship game by one point in overtime to the Atlanta Warriors.

The team members are Shane Battier and David Madden, Birmingham; Kevin Bamerek, Farmington Hills; John Borovich and Jeremy Vann, Bloomfield Hills; Justin Hoener, Livonia; Lorenzo Guess, Wayne; Ray Pope, Southfield; Nate Gray, Plymouth; Kris McNeal, Oak Park; Larry Pierce, Detroit; Greg Scott, Highland Park; Kilo Jones, Pontiac; and Jake Frysinger, Grosse Ile. The Mavericks are coached by Norm Oden.

In the final game, the 6-foot-6 Battier scored 21 points and had eight rebounds to lead the Mavericks, and Guess and Pope added 13 points apiece.

The Mavericks were 7-1 in the week-long tournament, winning three games in pool play and defeating Seattle (80-84), San Diego (88-70), Orlando (85-74) and defending champion Memphis (72-68) in the playoffs.

Chwalk takes cage offer

Bill Chwalk, a former North Farmington High School player, has accepted a basketball scholarship to Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.

Chwalk, who attended North from 1987 to 1991 and played three years on the varsity team for coach Tom Negoshlan, has played the past two seasons at Macomb Community College.

The 6-foot-7, 220-pound post player averaged eight points and eight rebounds for Macomb. Chwalk drew the attention of Cumberland coach Randy Vernon while participating in the (Rick) Ball Stars Camp for junior college players in early July at Vincennes, Ind.

Cumberland is an NAIA school with an enrollment of 2,000 students. The basketball team has won the past two Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles and appeared in the NAIA national tournament 12 of the past 14 years.

"It's real nice down there in the mountains," Chwalk said. "It's a little slower, a small town. They sell out all their games, and everyone comes to the games."

"They want me to get rebounds, play defense and be a big body in the middle. I know I can score and they know I can score, so they're looking pretty much for everything."

Diamonds finish 16-0

The Farmington Hills Diamonds completed an undefeated (16-0) season Thursday in the Incredible Girls Softball League, winning two games from the Livonia Lasers by 11-5 scores.

Kate Mackie was 3-for-3 in the first game, which ended after four innings because of a time limit. Becky Thursum had two hits, scored two runs and had three RBI.

Amy Kolman also had two hits and scored three runs. Mackie and Kolman had a triple among their hits. Melanie Cheney (winning pitcher), Kolman, Wendy Roy and Jennifer Cassidy chipped in one RBI apiece. Amy Finkel walked three times.

In the second game, all 17 players batted at least twice for the Diamonds. Renee Dolak and Thursum were 2-for-2, and Cheney and Dolak had two RBI each. Thursum had one RBI and was the winning pitcher.

Tri-City swim results

Piemontese Swim Club scored 678 1/2 points and finished fifth among seven teams at the Tri-City League meet July 22.

The individual highlight for Piemontese was 14-year-old Dan Belanger's record-breaking, 60-yard breast stroke time of 30.94. He also had first places in the 50 butterfly (27.08) and the 100 individual medley (1:01.32).

Todd Benivagna took home three trophies, including one for his near-record time of 26.93 in the 50 freestyle. The 12-year-old's other events were the 50 butterfly (32.01) and the 50 backstroke (32.02).

Other triple-trophy winners were Jill Benivagna, Billy Galloway, Anne Marie Scanio, Steve Scanio and Ryan Wochomurka. See statistics on Page 2C. The team qualified in 33 of the 50 individual events.

Babe Zaharias golf event

The 18th Annual Babe Zaharias Golf Championship and Auction to benefit the American Cancer Society will be Monday, Aug. 30, at the Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester.

Shotgun times for the tournament — open to all women in the tri-county area — are 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Dinner, awards and auction will follow at 6:30 p.m.

A team package costs \$175 per participant and includes 18 holes of golf, carts, continental breakfast and lunch for four prizes and dinner/entertainment tickets. There also will be a \$675 cash raffle. Tickets are \$100 each for a chance to win as much as \$19,000.

For information call the American Cancer Society (313-657-6363) or Dru Perkins (313-263-8000).

Collegiate all-stars blast Lansing



The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League all-star team was too strong and deep for its opponent from Lansing and won the annual game played Wednesday at Ford Field.

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Collegiate Baseball League all-stars did just fine Wednesday night, even though some of them had their minds far away from Ford Field.

Livonia routed the Lansing All-

Stars, 16-7, in a nine-inning game that took more than three hours to play. Livonia collected 19 hits off Lansing pitching, and midway through the game it looked like they already were getting bored.

Livonia had 29 players on its roster — enough to have an all-star game of

its own — and most had nothing to do in the later innings but mill around the dugout and talk about what they're doing the rest of the summer.

Starting pitcher Mark VanAmejde of Little Caesars was the most resourceful Livonia player. After allowing a two-run home run by Lansing's Luke Wilcox in the first inning that landed in the evergreen trees over the right-field fence, VanAmejde used the dugout as a study hall.

Instead of concentrating on the strike zone, VanAmejde read a book

called *The Erroneous Zone* the last eight innings.

VanAmejde, who attends the University of Detroit-Mercy, had a paper due the following day for a class in interpersonal communication.

"My mom had the book in her car and since I was only going to pitch the first inning I figured I might as well read the book," VanAmejde said. "I got 49 pages done."

Livonia had 11 pitchers on the roster and nine were used.

See ALL-STARS, 2C



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Season finale: Diamonds second baseman Jennifer Cassidy attempts to put the tag on Julie Simpson of the Livonia Lasers in the last regular-season games for both teams. Simpson was called out, and Cassidy threw to first base to complete a double play. The Diamonds finished 16-0 and won the league championship. See story on this page.

Finesse girls pursue national crown

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

SOFTBALL

The 18-and-under Finesse slo-pitch softball team will attempt to become the first Michigan entry in 10 years to win a USSSA world tournament this week.

Finesse, comprised mostly of players from communities serviced by the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, will compete against nearly 70 other teams from around the country Aug. 5-8 in Muncie, Ind.

Using the national rankings to support its cause, Finesse is considered a legitimate contender and just might return with the championship.

"We're anticipating a big finish," Finesse manager Barry Patterson said. "Our motto is 'They have a seven-foot trophy they're waiting for us to pick up in Muncie.'"

"Like any other team, we need some good breaks, but I feel more confident about this (Finesse) team than any other I've coached."

The next Michigan team to win a world title was Jake's Harley-Davidson of Garden City, which won the 15-and-under championship in 1983. Patterson was told by a USSSA of-

ficial the team will probably be ranked in the top five going into the world tournament.

The rankings are based on a point system, and teams earn points based on how they do in national invitationals and state tournaments.

Finesse, which finished fourth in the world last year, has won three of five this year and was second in the other two.

"I'm thinking one or two based on what I know the other teams have done," Patterson said. "There are carryover points from the previous year and we did very well. I think there's very little doubt we'll be in the top three."

Lots of area talent

The Finesse players, their hometowns and high schools are third baseman Lynda Allison, Garden City; infielder Amanda Ault, Farmington Hills (Harrison); outfielder Jamie Cook, Westland (John Glenn); second baseman Jenny Crach, Union Lake (Walled Lake Central); first baseman

Erica Desentz, Dearborn; outfielder Toni Flood, Union Lake (Walled Lake Central); catcher Melissa Foster, Dearborn (Edsel Ford); pitcher/outfielder Jennifer Horosko, Garden City; outfielder Jenny Kintz, Garden City; shortstop Cindy Lehnis, Plymouth (Dearborn Divine Child); catcher/third baseman Heather Marley, Walled Lake (Western); outfielder Lisa Selmi, Redford (Thurston); outfielder Michelle Space, Westland (Garden City); pitcher Tara Wasiak, Canton (Livonia Ladywood); and pitcher/outfielder Christl Wyrzykowski, Westland (John Glenn).

Patterson, who lives in Westland and coaches the Garden City girls fast-pitch team, is assisted by coaches Don Dreher (Plymouth) and Dennis Schilinger (Walled Lake).

Horosko and Selmi graduated from high school in 1992 but met the age requirement and were able to play another season with Finesse. They are among seven players who received college scholarships in the last two years.

Horosko, Flood, Dawn Godfrey (Walled Lake) and Laura Apiligan (Northville) play for Eastern Michigan University, Selmi for Henry Ford

Community College and Czech for Madonna University. Kintz will choose between Henry Ford and Daytona Beach Community College.

Lehniss and Selmi are returning all-world players. Desentz (MVP), Flood and Marley made the all-tournament team this year in Smyrna, Tenn., and Selmi, Wasiak and Lehniss were so honored at the All-America NIT in Cincinnati.

Finesse won the Spirit of Smyrna, Metro Sports Unlimited (Shepherdsville, Ky.) and state (Sterling Heights) tournaments and was second in the Canton and All-America NITs.

In addition to its travel tournaments, Finesse competes in a women's league at Softball City but emphasizes the youth games in which it has a 32-9 record.

Slo-pitch helps players

Though all of the Finesse players have distinguished themselves as fast-pitch players, they have no trouble adapting to the different style of softball.

See FINESSE, 2C

NFWB sweeps 3 games in EMU district

North Farmington-West Bloomfield I was the only undefeated team Thursday in the Connie Mack district tournament at Eastern Michigan University, winning its first three games.

NFWB (29-7) was not scheduled to play again until Sunday. The other remaining teams — all with one loss each — were Jackson Wendy's, Brooklyn and the Detroit Hornets. It was possible NFWB could clinch the title Sunday, but another game will be played today if necessary.

Jason Farrell pitched a one-hitter as NFWB edged Brooklyn 1-0 Thursday for its third win, striking out four and walking three.

NFWB scored its run in the bottom of the seventh inning on a single by Aaron Babics, a draft choice from Westland Federation who is 6-for-7 in three games. He was 3-for-3 against Brooklyn, and Mike Jehle had the team's remaining two hits.

NFWB merited the Hornets 10-2 in five innings Wednesday as Mark Rutherford pitched a three-hitter. He struck out seven and walked six.

Brian Kalczynski hit a bases-loaded double in the first inning and NFWB led 6-0. Marcus Sarnovsky had two RBI, being hit by a pitch twice with the bases loaded. Jehle, John Heller and Babics added RBI singles.

Dodgers 2nd in tourney

The South Farmington Dodgers finished second in the Pony district at Walled Lake July 24-25, losing twice to Westland, a team they had beaten 8-5 to begin the tournament.

Chris Kozlars, who led the Dodgers in hitting with a .471 tournament average, was 3-for-4 in the win over Westland. Terry Dwyer and Adam Rebandt shared the pitching duties.

Corey Fernandez pitched a seven-inning, 3-1 win

over St. Clair Shores in the second game, striking out seven and walking none. Kozlars had two hits and two RBI.

The Dwyer-Rebandt pitching duo guided the Dodgers to a 4-3 victory over the Lakes Athletics.

South Farmington overcame a two-run deficit in the top of the seventh inning. With two on and two out, Kozlars beat out an infield grounder and got an RBI, and Justin Lee followed with a game-winning, two-run single.

Matt Crawford, who had three hits in the Lakes game, was second in batting average at .438 overall.

Other team members are Chad Fernandes, Jason Guerrero, A.J. Istvan, Paul King, Jeff Thomas and Tim Washer.

The Dodgers are managed by Ralph Rebandt. The assistant coaches are Mario Guerrero and Terry Dwyer Sr.