

Michigan baseball lands Glenn's Besco twins

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

As Ernie Harwell might say, University of Michigan baseball coach Bill Freehan got "two for the price of one" when identical twins Bryan and Derek Besco of Westland John Glenn each signed national letters-of-intent Monday with the Wolverines.

The bookend combination have been standouts in the classroom, on the football field and on the baseball diamonds over the past two years for the Rockets. Last year, both were selected first-team All-Observer in baseball and football.

On Saturday, the Bescos, who double as outside linebackers and ends, led Glenn into a state Class AA football semifinal matchup against Flint Central. They hoped to take Glenn one step further than June's run in the state Class A baseball tournament where Grand Lodge ousted the Rockets in the semifinals.

"It was a tough decision, but I think our future was definitely in baseball," said Derek, who ranks 24th in a senior class of 527, carrying a 3.877 grade-point average. "I just think we're too little for football."

Each player is 6-foot-1 and 195 pounds. The early baseball signing period for the NCAA ended Wednesday (Nov. 17). "We were going to wait and see what the other colleges might offer, but Michigan had a bigger program and my family thought it was the best place to get an education," said Bryan, who ranks 16th overall in his senior class with a 3.916 GPA.

Jack and Judy Besco, along with their sons, made an official visit to Michigan during the weekend of Oct. 2. The family was housed on campus, met Freehan and the rest of the Michigan baseball staff, and attended the Michigan-Iowa football game.

"Everybody was so nice there," Derek said. "We were kind of the center of attention. It was kind of neat. The brunch was great. We went through the tunnel and onto the (football) field right before the game. It was a real honor. It was a fun experience."

Canton from page 1C

But the Blazers went stone cold down the stretch and Canton responded with a couple of key rebound baskets by 5-7 senior Eric Anderson (10 points) and 5-10 sophomore Sarah Warnke (12 off the bench).

With 2:38 remaining, Warnke converted underneath and was fouled. Her free throw put Canton up 43-37.

Ladywood was then forced to play catch-up. The Blazers, who bowed out with a 14-4 record, never got closer than five; Canton's Amiecia Crayton (nine rebounds) put it away with four straight free throws in the final 1:13.

"We had some wide open shots, but they were shots of fitness," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh. "We settled for putting it on the rim when we should have dribbled up and taken another step strong to the basket."

Ladywood shot only 33 percent from the floor (18 of 54), while Canton was 14 of 33 (42 percent). The Chiefs hit 19 of 30 free throws, while Ladywood was six

eight. "They're supposed to be one of the most physical teams in 15 years, but how can you explain us not getting into the one-and-one during the second half?" Kavanaugh said.

"We really got ourselves ready to play, then we got tired, but they were able to play through it," Blohm said. "A couple of times the game was on the line and they (Ladywood) just didn't get the shots to fall. It was a hard-fought 23-minute game. Give them credit (Ladywood), because they're a good team, too."

The Blazers may have lost the game at the start, falling behind 8-0 before Overalls broke the ice with a free throw. "We were a little nervous at the start and we didn't get into our offense," Kavanaugh said. "We weren't sure what was going on."

Canton led 15-7 after one quarter, but Ladywood pulled to within one at halftime, 23-22. "We felt she and Britta (Anderson) were the keys to stopping their team," Kavanaugh said. "We accomplished one of those goals because Britta only had four (points), but one of our other goals is not to let any player score 18 points or more. Every time we've been beaten this year, that's happened."

Ladywood's 6-4 junior center Anne Poglit, who made her presence known with 10 points and

five blocked shots, scored with 6:12 left in the third quarter to give the Blazers their only lead of the night, 20-25.

"It was Nune's smart floor play and bonus scoring, however, that may have tipped the scales in Canton's favor."

Mercy from page 1C

But Angell and Lee were still able to inflict some pain on the Knights. Especially Lee. The speedy 5-1 junior led Mercy with 11 points and eight rebounds. She also had three assists (she could have had several more were it not for missed layups) and two steals.

demonstrated the need for a smart guard on the court and Glenda assumed that role. She just does so many unflashy things that make us a better team. I completely trust her to run the team on the floor now."

"If there was an MVP award for this district, she might get my vote," Baker said. "This district

Angell chipped in 10 points and eight rebounds. Mercy also showcased another weapon that had been pretty

much under wraps all year: the 3-point shot. Sophomore Liz Weber hit three luck-breaking triples in the second quarter to break open the close game. Carrie Schwagie drained a triple to start the third quarter.

Harrison from page 1C

The Ramblers could not sustain the momentum, however. In their next two possessions, they failed to pick up a first down and punted. In between, Harrison added the clincher: a 47-yard, four-minute, 10-play drive that Williams capped with a 4-yard scoring run.

Schwarze's 43-yard touchdown toss with three minutes remaining in the game. But Harrison's defense answered when Schwarze was hit by Harrison's Ed Kennedy while trying to pass. Lesperance made up for his earlier miscue by picking off the pass and racing 65 yards for a touchdown in the final minute.

It was a fitting end to a game decided by defense.

"That was a very typical game for us," Drogosch said. "Our kids worked very hard and played great defense. But our offensive play is so inconsistent and that can get demoralizing."

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