

CC notches wins over Rice

Redford Catholic Central won a baseball doubleheader spread over two days last weekend against host Birmingham Brother Rice.

The Shamrocks won Saturday despite rain and sloppy field conditions, 2-1. The second game was postponed until Sunday, and CC scored eight runs in the top of the fifth inning to overcome a 2-0 deficit and win 10-6.

CC, 13-3 overall, is in first place in the Catholic League Central Division at 10-2.

The Shamrocks needed to win at least two of the last four Central Division games to clinch first place, according to coach John Saffer.

The Shamrocks played a doubleheader Wednesday against Harper Woods Notre Dame and will play a twin bill Saturday at home against Warren DeLaSalle.

BASEBALL

Senior right-hander Andy Kummer was on Saturday, throwing a four-hit, complete game with eight strikeouts and six walks.

The Shamrocks scored all the runs they needed in the first inning. Andy Slankster and Dave Susalla contributed RBI singles.

Rice loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the first against Kummer but managed just one run. Kummer walked two Rice batters and hit another to load the bases, and Mike Pisani's sacrifice fly brought one run home.

But Kummer retired the next two batters, one on a groundout and another on a strikeout, to leave the inning with a 2-1 lead. Kummer got in trouble in the

late innings, but a running catch by Susalla in center field saved three runs.

The Shamrocks had a 12-hit attack Sunday to offset the 10 hits registered by Rice. Susalla survived one of his toughest challenges, allowing seven hits and walking three with four runs allowed in five innings. Susalla is 6-0 overall.

Justin Stankevich pitched in two innings of relief, allowing two runs on three hits and two walks. Slankster was 3-for-4 with a double and one RBI. Brad Rainko was 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

The game was scoreless until the fourth when Rice pushed across two runs.

A two-run throwing error helped the Shamrocks rally in the fifth. Rainko delivered a two-run single, and Slankster had an RBI double.



Fielder's choice: Harrison third baseman Amy Geary made a throw to first base to get the out Monday, but Heather Marley (background) scored Western's only run on the play.

Baseball

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brought up for the tourney, pitched 5 1/3 innings.

WESTERN 4, HARRISON 2: The Hawks slipped to 1-6 in the Western Division with the loss Monday.

Jake Lawson held the host Warriors to three hits and one earned run over five innings but suffered a defeat. He struck out nine and walked two.

Mark Cantor and Ed Kennedy drove in the Harrison runs with a double and sacrifice fly, respectively.

In the Southfield Lathrup tournament, Susalla, Harrison slipped Southfield 7-0 in the first round, but the championship game against Bloomfield Hills Andover was rained out and will be rescheduled.

Cantor pitched a two-hit victory, going the distance while posting six

strikeouts against only two walks. The Hawks (5-8) benefited from a lot of free passes by Southfield pitching.

Adam Smerchak had two hits and two RBIs for Harrison. Aaron Lawson also knocked in a pair of runs. Kennedy one.

GLENN 3, NORTH 1: Derek Besco (4-0) pitched a two-hitter Monday for visiting Westland John Glenn. His solid performance included nine strikeouts and three walks.

Mark Lee suffered the loss, allowing nine runs on 12 hits and four walks. The Raiders made only one error.

Joe Benamir scored the lone North run on a single by Ron Mink. North was 3 for 4 with two RBIs for Glenn.

The Rockets are 6-1 in the Lakes Division and 12-3 overall, the Raiders 2-5 and 3-12.

CLARENCEVILLE 5, UGGETT 4: Mark Juncay scored the winning run and was the winning pitcher Monday for the visiting Trojans.

With the score tied 4-4 in the top of the eighth inning, Juncay doubled, stole third base and scored on a fielder's choice by Steve Diehr.

Juncay helped his cause by going 3-for-4 at the plate with a pair of doubles. He also stole two bases and scored two runs. Robby Ashton hit a solo homer for the winners.

Juncay (3-1) allowed seven hits but only two walks and struck out eight. Clarenceville, 4-4 in the Metro Conference and 6-9 overall, lost a non-league game to visiting Novi on Saturday 8-6.

Juncay was the losing pitcher in relief after the Wildcats, behind 6-5, rallied for three runs in the last two innings. Ashton had two hits.

Hawks prevail in close game

Farmington Harrison squeaked past visiting Walled Lake Western to avenge a previous softball defeat Monday, 2-1.

Winning pitcher Erin LaCosse played a big role in the victory, striking out 10 and refusing to issue a walk. LaCosse fanned eight of the last 10 batters she faced, and she allowed just three hits overall.

"She had her drop ball working," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "That got them leaning and the fast ball would come in on their hands so they couldn't get around on it."

Lori Hubble had two hits (double and triple) and scored both runs for the Hawks, 4-2 in the Western Division and 10-4 overall.

In the bottom of the third, Hubble scored the winning run on Angela Auli's groundout. Jenny Myslinski knocked in the other run with a double.

NORTH 3, GLENN 3: Senior Melanie

SOFTBALL

Cheney pitched a good game and received plenty of hitting support from her North Farmington teammates Monday.

Cheney recorded eight strikeouts and four walks while scattering six hits. Lynn Little was the loser, victimized by North's 10 hits and Glenn's four errors.

Senior Kate Mackie was 3-for-3 with three RBIs and Allison Stein 3-for-4.

Both scored two runs apiece. Stein also made a big defensive play at shortstop, according to North coach Dave Brubaker. She went into the hole to make a diving, back-handed stop and still threw the runner out at first.

Amy Kelman (two runs and one RBI) and Jennifer Cassidy chipped in two hits each. Cheney was 0-for-1 officially but helped her cause with three RBIs on a fielder's choice and two sacrifice flies. Renee Dolak had an RBI sacrifice bunt.

The Raiders, who lost two games Saturday in the Plymouth Salem tournament, are 5-2 in the Lakes Division and 8-9 overall.

Ann Arlier Huron defeated North 10-2 and Birmingham Marian 6-5 over the Raiders. Cheney was the pitcher in both games.

Kelman had an RBI double in each contest. Stein had two hits and scored a run versus Huron, and Dolak had a double and two RBIs against Marian, which took advantage of 10 walks during the wet, rainy game.

CLARENCEVILLE 31, UGGETT 8: Wendy How pitched a no-hitter Monday for the victorious Trojans in the Metro Conference victory over hapless Grosse Pointe University-Liggett.

How walked 10, struck out 10 and hit a pair of homers. She helped her own cause with two hits and three RBIs.

Fifteen runs in the opening inning set the tone as Clarenceville (7-12, 3-8) romped to an easy win.

Stacy Bishop-Rick added three hits, including a double and two RBIs. Pam Inzani contributed two hits and four RBIs.

Four Liggett pitchers allowed 28 walks.

STEVENSON 21, FARMINGTON 8: The visiting Spartans, helped by an eight-run second inning and 22 total hits, led 15-0 after just 2 1/2 innings Monday.

Stevenson's Julie Courtwright had three hits and four RBIs, and teammate Janice Copit hit a three-run homer. The Spartans are 3-4 in the Lakes Division and 3-5 overall. Farmington is 0-7 in the division.

Shamrocks to play baseball for Titans

By STEVE KOWALSKI

University of Detroit-Mercy baseball coach Bob Miller wouldn't need a recruiting budget if all high school players were as easy to reach as Dave Susalla.

No long-distance phone calls, no extended recruiting trips.

In fact, recruiting Susalla was as easy as a walk through Miller's neighborhood.

Susalla, a left-handed pitcher from Redford Catholic Central, has signed a national letter of intent with the Titans. The Titans also have received a letter of intent from CC catcher Juan Sanchez.

Susalla lives two blocks away from Miller in the Redford Township subdivision near Six Mile and Beech Daly roads. He hand-delivered the letter of intent to Miller's home.

"I saw his car in the street and I knew he was home," said Susalla, who has a 4.2 grade point average and scored 27 on the ACT test. "I stopped by, went in, and he said, 'Congratulations, you're a U of D Titan now.' He was all happy and I'm happy too."

Susalla, 6-foot, 150 pounds, has been the Shamrocks' steady pitcher this year with a 4-0 record. He has a 2.42 earned run average in 26 innings pitched.

There's also a chance Susalla could play in the outfield at U-D Mercy. When not pitching, Susalla plays center field and he bats No. 3 in the CC lineup.

"Coach Miller said he's not just looking at me as a pitcher. He says I'm a pretty good hitter and I think I'm a pretty good hitter," Susalla said.

Sanchez, 5-10, 185 pounds, is known for his defensive abilities and strong arm.

"It's a big advantage for me because we've played together since we were 16, and in summer ball, and he knows what I can and can't throw," Susalla said.

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