

Rams clinch league title, earn trip to Altoona

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Rick Berryman played three times in the All-American Amateur Baseball Association tournament in Johnstown, Pa. That was 30 years ago. This time he's headed back to the Keystone state as a manager as his Michigan Rams clinched the Livonia Collegiate Division of the Adray Metro Baseball Association over the weekend. The Rams, who split a double-header Sunday at Ford Field with Decision Consultants, Inc. of Livonia, will head Aug. 2 to Altoona, Pa., for the AAABA regional. Berryman's 20-and-under squad must beat out four

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regional qualifiers to advance to the prestigious 16-team national final the following week in Johnstown. "I can't remember the team I was on, it was either Dependable Hardchrome or one of the city-sponsored Redford teams," Berryman recalled. "I was playing for Bob Atkins. It was 1967. I was 18. I remember I got the start the opening game. I walked the bases loaded, then I got an easy double-play ball back to the mound, and I threw it over the catcher's head. I must have been nervous. They booed me, all

17,000 of them." Berryman came back the next two years and fared a little better. "It's one of the most unique tournaments I've ever played in," he said. "We've excited about going to Altoona. Since I was a guy who played there, it's always been a goal of mine to take a team back there as a coach." That goal was realized when the Rams rallied from a 4-1 deficit after five innings with an 11-run sixth to beat DCI 16-10, in the first game of a double-header. Coupled with Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury's two defeats Sunday to Troy Jet Box, the Rams clinched the division.

North Farmington High product Eric Pierce, a first baseman who red-shirted this spring at Central Michigan University, struck the key blows in the 11-run sixth. Pierce slapped a three-run triple and came back in the same inning with a three-run homer. Jason Hoorn, who pitched 6 2/3 innings, allowing 10 hits and three earned runs, earned the victory. Reliever John Rogers faced three batters and Brian Berryman, Rick's son and sophomore hurler at Michigan, got the final out. Greg Rogers and Bob Hamp each went 4-for-6 in the victory, while Schuyler Doakes contributed three hits, two stolen

bases and three runs. Tom Biljan added two hits, while Rick Miller and Brian Issett each scored twice. DCI's Bob Mason, who held the Rams to one run over five innings, took the loss. He gave up seven runs. Reliever Art Hoffmeyer was charged with three runs in the sixth and fourth in the seventh. Andrew Maki led DCI with three hits, while Jason Carano, Pete Quinn and Delano Volotti added two apiece. Mike Brusseau added a two-run single. DCI, which is battling Hines Park for second place and a trip to Rome, Ga., for the National Amateur Baseball Federation

22-and-under tourney (Aug. 7), bounced back to win the nightcap, 10-6. Each team collected 10 hits, but former Redford Thurston star and Madonna University outfielder Quinn had five RBI on a 2-run homer in the first inning followed by a 3-run single in the fourth. Maki added a solo homer as the Rams' Tom Willerer, who pitched 3 1/3 innings, suffered the loss. Ryan Andrzejowski went the distance for DCI, striking out six and walking one. Miller went 3-for-4 with three RBI to pace the Rams. Lance Siegwald contributed two hits.

Cobras triumph in post-season play

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Smith, who went 3-for-3. Petry and Zerbo went 3-for-6. NFWB suffered its only loss to Brandon, 10-7. But the Cobras bounced back to defeat Brandon in the championship game, 24-5. Wingert pitched five innings to get the win before Darga finished up. Graham put on a hitting clinic, going 5-for-6. He hit for the cycle, which included two home runs, and had five RBI. Zerbo banged out his 10th home run of the season, and Smith contributed two doubles and a single. With the district title, the Cobras (43-6) earned a berth in the regional tournament, which started Tuesday in Minnesota.

Cobras claim CABA title Winning 15 of their final 17 games, the NFWB 11-year-old Cobras travel baseball team secured the Continental Amateur Baseball Association championship last weekend with a win over South Farmington. "Ending the season with two tournament wins and as CABA champions was icing on the cake," Cobras head coach Roy Phillips said. "What I really have is a team of players who work together, get along great and had a summer of fun playing baseball."

The Cobras took the top spot in the Plymouth-Canton tournament July 11-13 behind a 9-6 victory over Bloomfield, a mercy rule win over Novi and 12-1 and 4-1 triumphs over Northville. At the NFWB Fourth of July Tournament, Southgate gave the Cobras a tough battle, but NFWB pulled out an 11-9 win in the championship game. The Cobras also defeated Madison Heights 13-4. Harrison Township twice, and Southgate 20-5. "All 13 players contributed to

the season success," Phillips said. "They really came through after a hard struggle in the regional competition, are managed by Mel Borock. The coaches are Craig Hegstrom and Walter Schram.

Pythons win tourney The NFWB 10-year-old Python baseball team captured the Oxford Recreation Baseball Association Tournament championship last weekend. The final game saw the Pythons trounce Oxford, 8-0. The Pythons opened the tournament with a 10-9 victory over the Lake Orion Dragons. In Game 2, Oxford was a 23-2 victim of the Pythons. NFWB then crushed Lake Orion 14-1 before the championship contest.

10-year-olds are No. 1 The 10-year-old NFWB Cobras won the AABC Willie Mays district crown Sunday in Dexter. The Cobras rallied in the final inning of the championship game to overcome a one-run deficit and win 10-9. Bret Borock, who hit a towering, three-run homer and two triples, drove in the tying run. Clay Richards hit the first offing from a relief pitcher to deep, left-center field to bring in the winning run.

The pitcher for the Cobras, Blake Jeffries, went the distance for all six innings, issuing only one walk while facing 30 batters. Brandon Schram, as the lead-off batter, stole seven bases and scored 11 runs throughout the tournament to lead the team. Hitting at least .600 were Andy Baum, Borock, Richeson, Schram, Adam Vieder and Hegstrom, who hit .625 in the cleanup position. Borock also led the Cobras with 11 RBI. NFWB batters had only two strikeouts in 161 total at-bats during the tournament.

Other members of the team are Joe McKoon, Kevin Thiel, Cory Richards, Aaron Cummings, Joe Patlovic, Ricky Bird-sall and Tommy Scott. The Cobras, who advance to regional competition, are managed by Mel Borock. The coaches are Craig Hegstrom and Walter Schram.

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Blues continue streak The South Farmington Blues continued their domination of the 8-and-under tournament season with a sweep of the Oxford Invitational. The Blues ran their record to 14-0 by defeating Oxford (14-3), NFWB I (13-3), Clinton Valley (11-1) and NFWB II (21-3).

In a barrage of power, home runs were registered by Jon Castin, Jon Falvo, Paul Greenwood and Brooks Tuyn. South Farmington also displayed impressive speed with Andy Harris, Andy Lentz, Chris Egedy and Zack Crawford stealing five bases each. Defense was a strength, too, as Nick Hammer, Jeff Kaberline, Harvey Martin and Thomas Whiting turned in big plays.

Team from C1 allowing six hits. He struck out eight and walked three. Krause, Mark Churella and Archambeau had two hits apiece for the winners. In the nightcap, Berkley scored six runs in the first inning and merited Post 346 in five innings, 13-2. F-N-L scored its only runs on a Krause triple and a Wyse groundout in the second and Rob Kling's solo homer in the fifth. Mitchell started the game and suffered his first pitching loss (3-1). Krause took over in the first and pitched two innings before Mitchell returned. Post 346 was minus four of its better players who were away on other business: Jon Roapierski, Zack Cornwell, Lenny Christoff and Bill Kandilian. F-N-L defeated host Oxford on Friday, 10-6. Bob Austin hit a three-run homer and Mitchell a two-run blast. Archambeau drove in two runs with a single. Churella and Carson had RBI doubles, Mitchell and Christoff RBI singles. The 18th District All-Star Game will be played at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at Berkley Community Field. Post 346 will be represented by Kandilian, Cornwell, Krause, Mitchell, Archambeau and Roapierski. Judd is an alternate. The field is located at Catalpa (between 11 and 12 mile roads) and Robson (between Greenfield and Coolidge).

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Team from C1

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