

Shamrocks

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"I got some hits but nothing like this," Dennis said.

On any other day, the performances of Tony Nozewski and Anthony Tomey would have been the most talked about.

Nozewski improved to 8-1 as a pitcher, allowing one run on five hits and four walks with six strikeouts.

Senior left-hander Mike Huller, who had a hit and scored a run in the second inning, allowed two runs on three walks and two sacrifice flies in the seventh.

Tomey hit a pinch-hit, two-run homer that landed in the lower deck in the fifth inning, pushing the CC lead to 7-0.

Tomey knows he would've had to put one on the roof to overshadow Rogowski's blast.

"Casey's was a bomb," Tomey said. "Mine was a little shot; his was unbelievable."

Funny, but the ND second and third basemen acknowledged

Tomey's homer, giving him five as he rounded the bases.

"They're my friends; they picked me up on their summer team," Tomey said.

Nozewski's outing followed a shaky start Saturday when he was the pitcher of record in a 10-0, five-inning money loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the Madonna Tournament.

The Shamrocks scored four runs in the second off starting and losing pitcher Anthony Gravana.

A walk to Rogowski and consecutive singles by Chris Woodruff and Mark Cole loaded the bases for Haller, whose single scored a run.

Two Fighting Irish errors led to runs and an RBI single by Malek, the CC leadoff hitter, accounted for the other run.

CC committed two errors, but a throw from Cole in left field to Mario D'Herin cut down one potential run at third base in the

third. Malek's running catch in center field in the seventh prevented a possible big inning for Notre Dame.

Madonna Tournament

The Shamrocks opened the Madonna University Tournament on Saturday with their mercy-rule loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Only three of the runs off Nozewski were earned. He allowed five hits, walked four and struck out three.

The Shamrocks were held to two hits—a double by John Hill and a single by Tomey.

In the consolation bracket, CC beat Davison, 4-1. Malek was the winning pitcher, allowing three runs on three hits and seven strikeouts in four innings.

Dave Lusk had two singles, two doubles and two RBI. Hill had three hits; Woodruff was 2-for-3 with two RBI. CC had 14 hits.

Adray league begins new year

BASEBALL

What do wooden bats and John Moraitis have in common?

Both thought to be no longer in existence, each will figure prominently this summer in the eight-team Adray Metro Baseball Association, based in Livonia.

The wooden bat, almost made extinct in amateur baseball by the aluminum bat, will be used exclusively. Moraitis, meanwhile, is alive and well and not away, some thought it was him.

Moraitis had gone vacationing in Florida and when it was reported that a well-known umpire from the Detroit area with a similar name passed away, some thought it was him.

Moraitis is back for his 30th year of coaching amateur baseball, guiding Livonia Adray, one of four teams in the league for players 20 and under. The other four are unlimited age teams.

Each team will play a 30-game schedule with sites being Ford Field in Livonia, Mic-Mac Park

in Windsor as well as parks in St. Clair Shores and Wyandotte. Troy Jet Box, an unlimited age team, is the only club from last year's league not back, opting instead to play in a league on the East Side.

Jet Box has been replaced by the Warren Reds, and the Windsor Stars, Windsor Selects and Downriver Adray are the others.

Adray, Michigan Rams (coached by Rick Berryman), Livonia DCI (coached by Mike Goorin) and Hines Park (coached by Dave Carroll) are the four collegiate-aged teams.

The collegiate team with the best record at the end of the regular season receives an automatic berth in the All-American Amateur Baseball Association national tournament in Johnstown, Pa., according to commissioner Gary Gray.

The second-place team goes to the National Amateur Baseball Federation tournament in Louisville, Ky.

Not only is Moraitis alive, he must feel 25 years younger seeing wooden bats in use.

"It doesn't matter for me," he said. "The kids like it because the big leaguers play with wooden bats."

Gray said the four collegiate teams voted unanimously to use the wooden bat, and the unlimited age teams went along with it.

Gray said there will be fewer home runs and he expects shorter games. Sponsors might find it costs more, because wooden bats break. Coaches and players are hoping a coating that covers the wood keeps breaks to a minimum.

"I like what the managers like," Gray said. "If it's in the best interest of the league, we'll do it. It's more attractive to the kids. Instead of going out of state somewhere to play in a wooden bat league, they can stay here."

Hines Park appears to be making a tough transition to the wooden bats, losing its first two games by a combined score of 17-1. Carroll thinks it will take some adjustment.

"The technique is still the same, but you have to develop the confidence," he said. "They're too used to the aluminum bat, knowing if they don't hit the ball on the sweet spot, the aluminum will do the extra work for them."

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Taylor

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He was hitting .424 with six doubles, a home run and 29 RBI. He struck out just five times in 66 chances, and he walked 18 times and scored 25 runs.

"A big part of my success has been the off-season training, working out five days a week," Taylor said, adding the U-M program will help him with his "endurance, velocity and all the elements that go with pitching."

Taylor, who has a 3.48 cumulative grade-point average and is thinking about a degree in business, was a teammate last summer of U-M freshman shortstop C.J. Gannam, who played at Farmington Harrison.

Both played for the Oakland Concealed Connie Mack team. Taylor will play summer for A. Green Financial, which plays its home games at Eastern Michigan University.

Taylor has talked baseball with former North pitchers Mark Temple and Andrew Margolick, too. Temple also played for Michigan, Margolick for Barry University and the Newark (N.Y.) Barge Bandits at the Class A level.

"I talked with both a couple times about high school sports and college," Taylor said. "Neither really said I should go here or to Michigan. But it helps to talk to guys who've been through it. The things they said made sense and I listened."

Taylor heard from Michigan State early in the recruiting process, but eventually it was a choice between Indiana and Florida Atlantic.

The Florida Atlantic coach noticed Taylor while scouting (Brother Rice's Tom) Marx and Trzos in a fall league and invited

all three to make a visit to Boca Raton, Fla.

"We were down there in November and it was 85 degrees," Taylor said. "It was like summer revisited. But I think the situation at Michigan is what I want."

Like all baseball players, Taylor would like to pitch in the Major Leagues some day and see himself on TV in the ESPN Sportscenter highlights.

"A lot of things have to go right," he said. "I have to continue to gain velocity, work on my pitches and stay free from injuries."

"That's the weird thing about pitching. You can be fine for 20 games; you throw one bad pitch, and it could be the end of everything."

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