

Compuware earns berth in 16-under national tourney

Compuware's girls fastpitch softball team qualified for the 16-and-under ASA national championship tournament with a second-place regional finish Sunday at Flynn Park in Troy.

Compuware was 2-2 after four games, defeating the Pionneering Thunder (8-0), losing to the Mount Pleasant Drillers (1-0), defeating Hallie's Comets from Wisconsin (5-0) and losing to the Milwaukee North Shore Stars in nine innings (3-2).

Compuware won its next three to secure second place and earn one of two qualifying bids — 8-0 over the Thunder, 6-5 over the Comets and, in the crucial seventh game, 2-0 over the Drillers.

In its final game, Compuware lost to the regional champion North Stars, 5-3. The national event will be played Aug. 8-15 in Marietta, Ga.

Compuware takes a 30-5 record into the USSSA world tournament Aug. 4-8 at Canton Softball Center.

In the regional opener, Beth Carkuff (Richmond) fired a one-hitter. Melissa Wilson (Lake Orion) had two hits and scored three runs; Andrea Hillsey (Waterford) tripled and scored twice, and Lisa Copeland (West Bloomfield) was 2-for-2.

Jessica Brubaker (Waterford) allowed just four hits and no

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walks in the first Mount Pleasant game but suffered the pitching defeat. Hillsey had two of her team's three hits.

Carkuff tossed a two-hitter to beat the Comets. Copeland went 4-for-4 and Chrissy King (Farmington Hills) 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Hillsey pitched two runs with a double, and Emily LaBar (White Lake) was 2-for-2.

In the loss to the North Stars, Stephanie Stavale (Brandon) drove in Compuware's only runs with a two-run double in the seventh inning to tie, 2-2. Lindsey LaBar (White Lake) was 2-for-4.

Carkuff earned her third straight pitching victory in the second win over Pionneering, allowing four hits this time.

Lindsay Simko (Clarkston) was 3-for-3; Lauren Monterey (Farmington Hills), Stavale and Copeland had two hits apiece. Monterey also had two RBIs and scored two runs.

Compuware defeated the Comets a second time when Hillsey, in the bottom of the 10th with the tiebreaker rule in effect, pushed a bunt between the pitcher and first baseman, scoring Carrie Shine (St. Clair) from second base.

Brubaker earned her first vic-

tory in relief of Carkuff. Hillsey was 3-for-4 and scored two runs, and Wilson had two hits and two RBIs.

Compuware scored twice in the top of the seventh to avenge its earlier loss to Mount Pleasant. Hillsey's single sent Monterey to the plate and Shine also scored on the play with the help of an outfield error.

Brubaker pitched a complete game to get the win, allowing three hits and no walks. Hillsey was 3-for-3 with a triple.

In the final game, Wilson was 3-for-3 with two RBIs; Copeland and Hillsey, who scored two runs, had two hits apiece. Carkuff suffered her first pitching loss of the tournament.

Another member of the Compuware team is Sara Carkuff (East Lansing). Compuware will have tryouts Sept. 11-12 at Shell Park in Waterford. For more information call coach Al Land at (248) 668-1492.

15-YEAR-OLDS WIN CLASSIC: Following a pair of second-place finishes in state tournaments, the Compuware 15-year-old girls softball team won the Brighton Classic last weekend by defeating NWB-Ultimate Precision, 6-1.

Immediately following its victory, Compuware left for Charlotte, N.C., to battle more than 200 teams from across the country for the NSA national championship.

Compuware was second in the USSSA state tournament July 17-18 at Canton Softball Center.

In three pool-play contests, Compuware topped Western Michigan Elite (9-0), Finesse (6-2) and Bay City Classic (9-0).

Sara Pierce (Clinton Township) batted a triple, three doubles and a single during pool play, and teammate Jenny Lyon racked up seven RBIs.

In the next round, Compuware struck down the Downriver Travel Lightning, 13-4. Aimee House (East Lansing) had two hits and two RBIs.

Continuing its streak, Compuware beat the Downriver Blast, 7-1. Danielle Haus (Lincoln Park), Jessica Kish (Lincoln Park) and Meghan Young knocked in two runs each to move Compuware into the semifinals.

River City Rapids took a 4-1 lead into the sixth inning and appeared ready to extend its winning streak against Compuware, but the 15s came back in the bottom of the inning.

Singles by Danielle Weber (Canton) and Kiah preceded a two-run double by Young. Pierce followed with a single to tie the score. Laura Bell (Walled Lake) and Haus also contributed hits to complete a five-run inning and secure a 6-4 victory.

Compuware suffered its only loss in the final, losing to the Kalamazoo Rage, 7-1. Rage pitchers, featuring Kenya Coates, no-hit Compuware, striking out nine.

Compuware pitcher Kiah Marszalec (West Bloomfield) battled the heat and the Rage's big hitters in her seventh consecutive game of the weekend.

The 15s also were runner-up July 10-11 in the NSA 16-and-under state tournament at Seaboard City.

Marszalec struck out eight as Compuware defeated the Mount Pleasant Drillers, 5-0. Weber knocked in the only

run, scoring Bell with two out in the seventh inning.

Compuware came from behind in the next game to defeat the Rapids in extra innings, 7-6. The winning rally included a three-run homer by Danielle Haus (Lincoln Park) and a game-winning solo homer by Kish.

Lindsay Akers (Lincoln Park) contribut-

ed two RBIs. Meghan Mielak (Livonia) earned the pitching victory, striking out six.

River City gained revenge by winning the second of three games, 7-1. In the championship contest, the Rapids edged Compuware, 2-1, but the second-place finish gave the 15s a berth in the NSA World Series.



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Kass sparks Wildcats to playoff victory

Sean Kass pumped in six goals and added one assist, while teammate Brent Thomas and Shaun Harrington recorded four goals and two assists apiece to lead the third-place Wildcats to an 18-6 first-round Metro Summer Hockey League playoff win Tuesday over the Spartans at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Wildcats advance to the semifinals at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Cultural Center to face the second-place Huskies. The championship game is 8 p.m. Sunday.

WILDCATS 24, WOLVERINES 9: The Wildcats wrapped up third place by bombing the Wolverines in the middle game Sunday at the Cultural Center. It was 24-7 after two periods as the Wildcats went on a 10-2 scoring run in the final period.

The Wildcats' Sean Kass wrapped up the MSHL scoring title with a goal and 14 assists, his total with 41 points.

Vic Declina contributed 10 goals and two assists, while Brent Thomas had six goals and one assist. Darrin Silvester

chipped in with three goals and five assists, while Mike Swistak had one goal and four assists. Ryan Ward (five goals, two assists), Brad Wolfe (two goals, four assists) and Eric Hawkins (two goals, three assists) led the Wolverines.

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Other offensive standouts for the Wildcats included Mike Swistak, one goal and four assists; Paula Declina and Vic Declina, one goal and two assists each; Darrin Silvester and Daryl Schimmelpfennig, one goal each. Dan Dobrowski went all the way in goal for the Wildcats.

Westland's Jason Lawmaster of Ontario Hockey League playoff champion Belleville led the Spartans with four goals and one assist. Mike Porter chipped in with two goals and two assists, while Redford Union hockey coach Pete Mazzoni, Chris Powroznik and Jake Wiegand contributed two assists each.

LAKERS 9, BRONCOS 4: The Lakers advanced to Wednesday's semifinal against the first-place Bulldogs with a 4-0 third-period run Tuesday to subdue the Broncos at PCC.

Nick Jardine led the winners with four goals and one assist. Matt Frick added two goals and one assist, while Brian Sutherland and Mike Vigilante each tallied a goal.

Ron Lowrie and Scott Doleah each had two assists.

Greg Poupard, Kyle McHellen, Joe Jones and Mike Mattila scored for the Broncos. Nick Field and Baron Becker each recorded three assists.

Lanny Jardine and Brandon Hothorn shared time in goal for the Lakers, while Rick Mamon and Will Hamel split duties for the Broncos.

BULLDOGS 22, WOLVERINES 7: The first-place Bulldogs opened the playoffs Monday at PCC behind Jason Basile's three goals and nine assists.

Matt Grant and Kevin Swider each added three goals and four assists for the Bulldogs, who broke it open with an 11-2 third-period surge.

Other offensive standouts for the Bulldogs included Brad Yonemura (two goals, two assists), Corey Swistak (three goals, two assists), Adam King (two goals, three assists), Troy Millam (two goals, three assists), Brian Hales (hat trick) and Matt Prater (one goal).

St. Louis Blues drafted Phil Osear went all the way in goal for the winners.

Jim Wheaton led the Wolverines with three goals and one assist. Jeremy Hickey added two goals and two assists, while Ryan Ward had a goal and three assists. Matt Krupa and collected three assists, while John Gallagher had a goal and assist.

HUSKIES 8, LAKERS 6: In the MSHL's final regular season game Sunday at the Cultural Center, Phil Pietila's goal from Glen Pietila with just five seconds left gave the Huskies the tie against the Lakers.

Phil Pietila finished with two goals and two assists. Jim Tudor added two goals, while John Pietila, Dwight Holmstrom and Frank Bourbonais each added one.

Bourbonais and Keith Pietila each contributed two assists.

Eric Doleah led the Lakers with two goals and three assists. Mike Vigilante contributed two goals and two assists. Other goals went to Tony Fenero, Matt Frick and Scott Curtin.

Brian Jardine and Vigilante each had two assists.

Goaltenders J.J. Weeks (Huskies) and Lanny Jardine (Lakers) each went all the way in nets.

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