

Hawks bow out early after loss to Jackets

Perhaps this would be the year, many people thought — the year when Farmington Harrison ended its hard-luck streak in the post-season baseball tournament.

Instead, it continued for another year Monday when the Hawks, ranked No. 1 in the state in Division II, lost another close game in an early round.

Dan Collins pitched a complete game and scored the winning run as Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day edged host Harrison in a district final, 2-1. He allowed just five hits while striking out eight and walking only two.

Making the loss more difficult for the Western Lakes Activities Association champions (22-6) was the fact it was one out away from a victory.

The Yellow Jackets scored two runs with two outs in the seventh inning. A walk and a Collins single tied the score.

On the throw to the plate, Collins went to third and scored the winning run on Ryan Sylvester's base hit.

Harrison's Drew Stanton hit a solo homer in the fourth inning. Nick Vitale made it 2-0 in the fifth, scoring from second base when a pickoff attempt resulted in an overthrow.

Matt Zatkis started on the mound for Harrison and pitched 4 1/3, giving way to Tim Doig, who took the loss. DCD had five hits off Zatkis, three off Doig. Vitale had two hits, including a double.

In its first district game, Harrison merited Bloomfield Hills' Cranbrook in five innings, 12-1.

Rob Whipple pitched a two-hitter while going the distance; he struck out five and walked one.

Seven players had two hits apiece for the Hawks; Marcus Monocetti, Doig, Stanton, Vitale, Andy Wingert, Bill Richardson and Whipple.

Wingert had three RBI with

BASEBALL

a two-run double and an RBI single; Doig and Stanton knocked in two runs each; Monocetti, Jake Ghannam, Richardson and Whipple had RBI apiece. Monocetti, Doig and Stanton also scored two runs each.

MILFORD 2, N. FARMINGTON 1 Ben Dargatzis solid pitching guided the Redskins to a Division I district championship Monday at North Farmington.

He threw a five-hit, complete game in which he struck out eight and walked one.

The Raiders (8-16) took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning on Matt Clark's double that scored Pat O'Connell. Milford, which had eight hits and received six walks, scored single runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Dargatzis helped his cause with the best, going 2-for-2 with a pair of walks and one RBI; he scored a run, too. Larry Waters also had two hits, an RBI and a run scored.

North had five hits, including one each by Bryan Smith, Mike Sack, O'Connell and Aaron Dury.

Mike Hand was the starting pitcher for the Raiders; Smith took over in the fourth and took the loss. Pat O'Connell worked the sixth and seventh.

"We had a tough season," North coach Mike O'Connell said. "We played some tough teams and lost by a run here and a run there."

"We played well today. We just didn't have the offense against Milford. Holding them to three runs was pretty good. We couldn't come up with the key hit."

N. FARMINGTON 2, W.L. WESTERN 1 The Falcons scored the winning run without the benefit of a hit in the eighth inning Monday to beat Walpole Lake Western in a district semifinal game.

North loaded the bases in the eighth with two walks and an error. It looked like the Warriors might turn a double play on Ethan Goodman's grounder, but he made it to first base before they could complete it, allowing Clark to score on the fielder's choice.

Western scored an unearned run in the bottom of the seventh. In the North fifth, Smith reached on an error, moved up on a groundout and scored on Jeff Fiedler's RBI single.

Jeff Granat pitched six complete innings for the Raiders and was relieved by Mike Hand in the bottom of the seventh. Granat held the Warriors to three hits and one walk. Hand threw hitless relief.

North had four hits and eight walks off Western's Rob Pina. Clark, Dury and Tom Rossana also had hits.

Mariners select Garden City's Ockerman

Justin Ockerman can tell you exactly what he was doing at 2:55 p.m. Tuesday.

Don't ask him much about everything since then. It's all one big blur.

For at that time, the 6-foot-10, 260-pound Garden City senior pitcher learned he'd been drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the sixth round of Major League Baseball's annual player draft.

"This is great," said Ockerman. "I mean, I don't know how to explain it. It's a dream come true. It's one of those things you just can't explain."

Ockerman has been one of the most sought after high school players in the state this season. He's only posted a 5-4 record this season with two saves, but — in this case — the statistic doesn't tell the whole story.

The right-hander has a .061 earned run average and has given up just 12 runs in all (only five earned). In 67 1/3 innings, he has 97 strikeouts while giving up 23 walks and 23 hits.

Ockerman is hitting .364 on the season with seven home runs, seven doubles, 21 RBI and a .727 slugging percentage.

Last year, Ockerman was 11-1 with a 2.49 ERA and had 101 strikeouts and 43 walks in 73 innings.

Ockerman and his father, Ken, spent Tuesday waiting for the phone to ring, figuring he would go in the early rounds of the amateur draft. But the phone never rang after 1 p.m. And when it finally rang at 2:55, they

both rushed to answer it.

"He got to it first, but it was someone else," Justin said. "I kind of walked back to the couch, and he said, 'Wait, the other line is ringing in.'"

Seattle's regional scout Ken Madjeja was on the other line with the good news.

"He congratulated me and told me to worry about the state tournament and to keep doing what I'm doing," said Ockerman. "When this is over, then we'll all sit down."

District champs from page D1

moved up on a passed ball; then Preston Picard's groundout to second scored Barenis.

Tony Luttman reached on an error to score Chesney and chase Stevenson starter Tim Oliver. Reliever and eventual losing pitcher Gary Zielke (3-2) hit Bob Houchins with a pitch, and Kyle Burcar singled to score Luttman.

Burcar scored three batters later on an RBI single by Jeff Fischer.

"We could have had problems if we hadn't scored, but the kids stayed with it," Finn said. "We stayed focused and our chemistry kept getting better."

Stevenson wasn't finished, however. Farmington pitcher Ian Pardonnet kept the Spartans at bay once he relieved Houchins in the fourth but started getting nicked in the seventh.

Bill Marxack reached on an infield error with one out, took second when Bill Pinto walked and scored on Zielke's RBI single, which also moved Zielke to second.

But the rally and Stevenson's season ended when Dan Ross grounded to Fischer at short and his throw to first just nipped Ross diving headfirst into first.

"Pardonnet beat us 3-0 in the season and gave us trouble, but we hit him a little bit today," Weingerd said. "Houchins, we were able to hit a little better as well. But they hit, too. They can hit top to bottom."

The Falcons opened with a 1-0 lead in the first as Houchins singled to drive in Picard.

Stevenson rounded back with four in the second inning. Ross

singled and moved to second on a passed ball. Ronnie Williams doubled to score Ross, Bill Babe walked and Shawn Casey doubled to score Williams. Two batters later, Marxack singled to score Babe and Casey.

The Falcons cut that to 4-2 in the third when Chesney reached on a two-base error, moved to second on a sacrifice and scored on a groundout by Luttman.

FARMINGTON 8, REDFORD CC 4 Luttman was the star against CC in the semifinal and held the Shamrocks (24-7) to just six hits.

"We kept us off balance and pitched well," CC coach John Satter said. "We made it done at the end, but we've had quite a few comebacks lately and we came up short."

The Falcons broke open a 2-2 game in the bottom of the sixth against the Shamrocks, scoring three times on just one hit, three

walks, a sacrifice and two errors.

Burcar started by reaching on an error and was moved to second on a sacrifice by Brian Boster. Nick Hippler walked, then Pardonnet hit a double to right center to score Burcar. CC pitcher Charlie Haege (1-2) walked Barenis to load the bases, and Chesney hit a ground ball that was booted, scoring two more runs.

"We had two many walks and too many strikeouts," Satter said. "That was the whole problem right there. We had the bases loaded in the second inning and only scored one run. That doesn't help."

CC wasn't done yet. Dave Tovey reached on a fielder's choice and Kevin Entminger was hit by a pitch. Luttman bailed, to move the runners up a base, then Haege singled to score Tovey. Wadowski hit a sacrifice fly to score Entminger and cut the lead to 5-4.

But that's as close as the Shamrocks could get as Finn brought in Houchins to pitch to Jeff Schulz and got him to ground out to second to end the game.

"We were fortunate enough to have opportunities against Haege," Finn said. "We had a couple of chances and played tough. But

Luttman did well. He was high at the beginning and couldn't find his curve ball. But he stood with it and eventually the curve came around."

CC opened the scoring in the top of the first as Ragnwald singled, stole second, was sacrificed to by Dave Tovey and scored on Haege's double off the fence in left-center.

The Falcons answered in the bottom of the inning. Chesney led off with a walk, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Picard and went to third when Luttman singled to center. Farmington went for a delayed steal and the throw to second bounded off a glove and knocked into the outfield, allowing Chesney to score and Luttman to go to third. A passed ball moved Luttman up and he scored on a groundout.

CC had its best chance to break the game open in the second inning. Phil Marrone reached on an error. Kyle Grapeau walked and Coratti singled to load the bases. Tovey hit a sacrifice to score Marrone, but the Shamrocks couldn't push any more runs home.

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