

Rams are hot team in LCBL

The Michigan Lake Area Rams are getting hot in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League, taking three of their last four games.

The Rams (6-6) took a solo win over Mt. Clemens on Friday, 2-0, split a doubleheader on Saturday with the Hurricanes - winning 5-4 and losing 5-3 - then stopping the Tecumseh Indians on Monday, 6-0.

Aaron Castle, Sean O'Connor (Redford Union) and Tim Bobber combined on a one-hitter for the Rams on Friday, and teamed for 10 strikeouts with Castle getting the win and O'Connor the save.

Matt Rigley (Madonna) led the way at the plate by going 2-for-3, while Mike Maccek (RU) and Robby Hudson (Garden City) were 1-for-3 with an RBI.

A five-run fifth inning, paced by Rigley's bases-loaded double, led the Rams to a 5-4 win in the first game against the Hurricanes.

Rigley wound up going 2-for-3 with three RBI, Mike Hayes (Madonna/Redford Union) and Kevin McKnight singled and had RBI, while Maccek added a single. Dale Hayes (Madonna/John Glenn) got the win, while Steve Kriebbe earned the save.

A five-run first inning paid off for the Hurricanes in the second game as they took a 6-3 win. Eight players had hits for the Rams in their 6-0 win on Monday. O'Connor took a no-hitter into the seventh inning only to see Joe Casagrande break it up with a two-out single.

Bulldogs earn split
The Livonia Bulldogs, a predominantly 17-year-old team, opened Little Caesars Amateur Baseball Federation Connie Mack Division play Sunday at Ford Field by splitting a twinbill with the Tecumseh (Ontario) Thunder.

Tecumseh won the opener, 7-5, but the Bulldogs came back to win the nightcap in eight innings, 6-5.

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Pro prospect: CC pitcher Charlie Haeger passed on a scholarship to Central Michigan to sign with Chicago.

Haeger from page D1

summer early.
"I'm so excited to be doing this," said Haeger from the Sox rookie minicamp in Tucson. "I just wanted to get started and go play ball. I just wanted to start doing this."

Haeger was content to head to CMU if he wasn't drafted. But when the White Sox drafted him, he wanted to hear what they had to say. And when they came up with a figure that he and his parents, Greg and Cindy, liked — \$15,000 signing bonus and a college tuition package — he knew what he had to do.

"We talked about it and talked it over with (CC coach John Salter), (assistant coach) Kevin Walters," said Haeger. "I tried getting a hold of (CC grad) Casey Rogowski (playing with the Sox' Class A team in Kannapolis, N.C.) but I couldn't get a hold of him. In the end, this is what I wanted to do. I wanted to get

started and I'm excited about it."

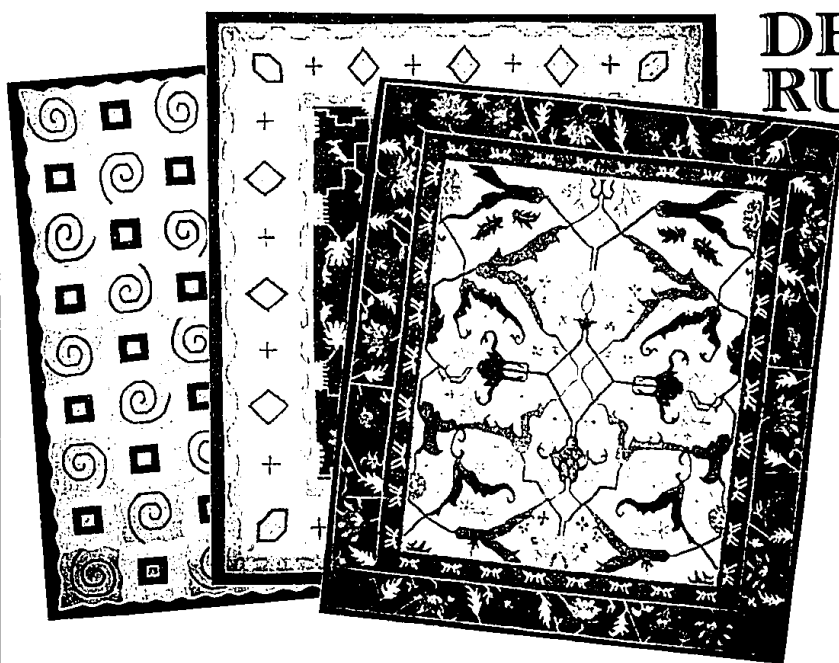
This season with CC, Haeger had a 7-2 record on the mound with a 1.88 earned run average. In 67 innings, he gave up 44 hits, 28 runs, 16 earned runs, 49 walks and had 101 strikeouts. He was 6-0 as a sophomore and 3-0 in 200, when shoulder troubles kept him from pitching effectively until last in the season. He also hit .364 with 36 hits, 34 RBI and three homers.

Haeger spent his first day in camp going over the rules, working out, getting gear and getting settled. He's going to spend a few more days in Tucson in camp, and then begin play with the Sox' rookie league team in Phoenix.

"This is what I've always wanted to do," said Haeger. "I just wanted to get down and start doing it. They wanted me to come down and prove I can pitch. I'm excited about this."

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