

Baseball makes return to 'The Corner'



BRAD EMMONS

at Tiger Stadium.

The Livonia-based Motor City Marauders of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League will take on the Lake Erie Monarchs at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, to mark the 300th birthday of Detroit.

On Saturday, Aug. 11, the Women's Baseball League takes stage with a doubleheader. At noon, the Detroit Danger takes on the Toronto International All-Stars followed by the WBL All-Stars vs. Toronto at 6:30 p.m.

In between games, players and coaches from the Danger will

conduct a youth clinic.

Peter Comstock Riley, general manager of Michigan & Trumbull, LLC, believes Tiger Stadium has a lot of baseball left in it.

Riley and his group have been holding discussions with Detroit City Council, the City Planning and Development Department and the Corktown District Council regarding use of Tiger Stadium for an independent professional baseball team in either the Northern or Frontier leagues.

"Generations of Detroiters have a connection to this ballpark and Tiger Stadium deserves an opportunity to take part in the City's 300th birthday, and our idea is to make sure of it," Riley said. "No other venue has meant so much to Detroit for so long."

In keeping with the theme of community baseball, three area not-for-profit groups have been selected as event partners by Michigan & Trumbull — Orchards Youth Inner City Base-

ball, the Detroit chapter of RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City), Special Olympics of Oakland County, and the Troy-based MINDS (Helping Teens Manage Life).

Each organization will receive a total of 5,000 tickets to sell for the two events.

Up to one third of the revenue generated by these ticket sales will be retained by the participating groups. The amount depends upon how many tickets are sold. The balance will go to Michigan & Trumbull to help defray expenses and the cost of renting Tiger Stadium.

Tickets, available at \$7 apiece, can be purchased through the Detroit chapter of RBI (call Richard Reznik at 248-593-1570; Special Olympics of Oakland County (call Laurie Schutt at 248-674-4924); and MINDS (call Heather Irish at 248-924-0547). Michigan & Trumbull will also be ordered directly from Michigan & Trumbull, LLC by calling (313) 402-4565 and the Motor

City Marauders at (248) 393-0651. A portion of the proceeds will go to the designated charities.

Although Tiger Stadium has been the site for baseball fantasy camps and recently "doubled" as old Yankee Stadium in Billy Crystal's HBO Movie, "61," the ballpark at the corner has not seen fans rooting for a home team since the Tigers closed the season in 1999.

The Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League is one of nine wood-bat leagues across the country sanctioned by the NCAA while receiving funding from Major League Baseball.

Since its inception in 1986, the GLSCL has had scores of players drafted and signed to pro contract. More than 50 have reached the majors.

The Danger are sponsored by Barbara Garbey, manager of the 1984 World Champion Tigers.

Websites you can visit include <http://www.greatlakesleague.org> or <http://www.baseballglory.com>.

Cobras stay perfect by winning 4 more

The 16-year-old NFWB Cobras travel baseball team kept its unbeaten streak alive with four more league wins.

The Cobras completed a game July 2 against Windsor that had been suspended because of rain.

Dan Lentz pitched both ends of the game, yielding only three hits in a 3-0 win. Andy Wingert went 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

NFWB played a second game with Windsor, but its offense was more productive in a 13-0 victory.

Ben Darga, Sam Grossman and Doug Pickens contributed two hits each. Pickens knocked in three runs and scored three.

Neil Sternberg and Bryan Smith combined pitching efforts to produce the shutout. The Cobras swept a July 3 doubleheader from Birmingham, 4-0 and 13-0.

Darga tossed a one-hit shutout in the first game and didn't walk anybody. The bat-

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ter who got the hit was quickly erased when Darga threw to Matt Petry at first base for a successful pickoff play.

NFWB leadoff batter Brandon Rosenbergh had two hits, and Kevin Zerbo knocked in two runs with a home run.

Pickens went 3-for-3 with four RBI in the nightcap. Evan Rodriguez was 2-for-3 with three RBI. Darga 2-for-2 with two RBI and Smith 2-for-3.

Dan Graham was the winning pitcher, and Nick Vitanis was a defensive standout at second base in both games.

"Our pitchers are showing exceptional control and are keeping hitters off balance by changing speeds," NFWB coach Randy Rodriguez said.

The Cobras are 18-0 overall, which includes a first-place record of 13-0 in the Little Caesars Elite Division.

DCI moves closer to winning league title

Decision Consultants, Inc., is inching closer to the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League title.

DCI defeated the Tecumseh Thunder, 4-2, Monday night at Ford Field to shave its magic number for clinching the league championship to five.

Any combination of wins by DCI and losses by either Hines Park Lincoln-Mercury or the Rams II team gives it the title.

Derrick Peterson (4-1) pitched a three-hitter and struck out six in the Decision Consultants, Inc., victory over Tecumseh. He walked two in his complete game and both runs he allowed were unearned.

Tim Andrzejak singled home the game-winning run in the fifth, breaking a 2-2 tie, and later scored the insurance run. DCI had tallied in the third and fourth to create the deadlock.

Jim Nowicki went 2-for-2 with an RBI and a run scored while Mario D'Herin went 1-for-1 with an RBI and a run to help DCI lift its season's record to 22-4-2 with seven games to play.

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On Saturday, DCI took a doubleheader from Hines Park at Ford Field to create a little daylight in the standings. Hines Park entered the games 17-8, 1½ games behind DCI.

Ryan Ford (8-0) tamed Hines Park with a four-hitter in DCI's 10-1 win.

Ford, of Eastern Michigan, went the distance, striking out five and walking just one.

Peterson drove in two runs and scored three in a 3-for-3 game. John Sullivan drove in a pair and went 3-for-3 while Andrzejak drove in four runs and scored twice in a 2-for-3 performance.

DCI scored three in the third and fifth in the fourth to wrap the game up.

Jim Glen came on to get the last out of the second game for DCI — a strikeout with the bases loaded that preserved a 4-3 victory.

Brent Brown went the first 6½

striking out 12, walking five and giving up seven hits.

DCI scored two in each of the first two innings while Hines Park tallied one in the third and two in the sixth.

Mike Sopa went 2-for-4, scored a run and drove in one. Andrzejak had an RBI and scored a run.

Rams split with Bulls

The Michigan Lake Area Rams came up with seven runs in the seventh inning on Sunday to earn a 10-4 win over the Bulls, the first game of a LCBL doubleheader at Ford Field.

The Rams weren't as lucky in the second game as the Bulls countered with a 12-3 win.

In the opener, Mike Macek (Redford Union) was 2-for-3 with a run scored and four RBI, while Rob Hudson (Garden City) was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two RBI. Joe Zacharzewski was 1-for-4 with an RBI and Mike Fisher added a hit. Dale Hayes (Madonna/John Glenn) got the win by hurrying a five-hitter and improved to 7-0.

The Rams mustered just five hits in the second game as Chris Mitchell, Macek, Charlie Anderson, Kevin McKnight and Yaotequia Carrasco all had hits. The Rams stayed close until the bottom of the sixth inning, when the Bulls (11-1) broke out for seven runs on three hits to storm out to the lead.

On Monday, the Rams (15-13) scored three runs in the top of the seventh inning to come away with a 4-1 over Hines Park.

With the score tied at 1-1, Mike Hayes (Madonna/Redford Union), Hudson and Fisher all singled, then Macek was hit by a pitch. Anderson then doubled to score Hudson and Fisher with insurance runs.

Hudson and Fisher were 2-for-4 with a run scored; Anderson was 2-for-3 with two RBI.

Jesse Cogswell and Eric Lightle were 1-for-3 for Hines Park (17-8), while Jason Lukaszik was 1-for-2. Brad McCloskey started for the Rams and gave up three hits, while Steve Kniebke took the win in relief.

Leo's sweeps twinbill

Leo's Coney Island-Farmington Hills Hornets swept a girls softball doubleheader from Farmington Tuesday, 13-0 and 21-5. Both were mercy games lasting five and four innings, respectively.

Kristin Schrock and Beth Leeb pitched a pair of four-hitters for the Hornets, who are 5-1 in the Girls Incredible Fastpitch Softball League.

Schrock struck out 12 and walked one in the first game. Leeb had six strikeouts and also issued just one walk.

In the opener, Erin Held went 3-for-3 and batted in three runs; Abbey Cleland was 3-for-4 with two RBI. Each scored three runs.

Jenny Musick had a triple and scored two runs. Leeb doubled, drove in a run and

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scored one. Schrock, who had a hit and walk, accounted for two runs.

The Hornets had 11 hits and received 11 walks in the nightcap. Kate Ross and Leeb led the charge with two hits, including a triple.

Ross, who also walked twice, had three RBI; Leeb knocked in one run. Merrill DeRose also had a triple and one RBI.

Liz Taylor, who had two hits, Kristen Kluka and Molly Cothery contributed two RBI apiece.

Ross also scored three runs; Taylor, Leeb, Kluka, Liz Ghanam, DeRose and Cothery scored two each.

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