

Blues from page D1

The team's tournament record of 23-6 includes two firsts, two seconds and two thirds. The USSSA's power-rating system was developed so it would not rank teams higher than they play in more tournaments.

The rankings are based on a team's winning percentage, the winning percentage of the teams it has beaten and the winning percentage of the teams to which it lost.

The Blues could be the No. 1 Great Lakes team after points are added in for their runner-up finish at the South Farmington USSSA tournament July 13-15 in which it lost to Allen Park in the championship game in 10 innings, 3-2. With last weekend's performance, the Blues enter the World Series with a 46-8 record with hopes of improving upon their 17th-place finish of a year ago. They were one of 90 teams at the 11-year-olds AAA level.

In pool play at Southgate, the Blues defeated Trenton (21-0) and Huron (12-4) and lost to Allen Park (9-8).

They merited the No. 1-seeded Michigan Bulls, 9-1, in the semifinals on the strength of a 40-pitch effort by Jeff Gorecki and an eight-run third inning, which catcher Jonathan Castine started with a three-run homer for a 4-1 lead.

The round-tripper was Castine's fourth fence-clearing drive of the weekend, upping his season total to 11.

Also hitting home runs during the tournament were Gorecki, Matt Paul, Josh Rebandt and Akenoktan Thomas.

Thomas, a hard-throwing southpaw, was added to the roster for post-season play. He was the winning pitcher against Trenton and had the Blues in a 2-2 tie through seven innings of the final with no earned runs

allowed.

Allen Park put the winning run on second after outfielders Kevin Raftery and Andy Harris collided while hustling to a fly ball in the left-center field gap.

The Blues walked the bases loaded to set up a force, but a single up the middle ended the game.

Farmington had tied the game in the top of the sixth on Castine's two-out single with runners at second and third.

The Blues had strong defensive play by Brooks Tuyn, Stephen Doty and Paul in the infield and Harris, Raftery, Brendan Clarke and Jamie McCarthy in the outfield.

Greg Ford had several key hits, including a key two-run double against the Bulls.

The Blues were 61-10 as 10-year-olds and 47-4 last season. Their three-season record is 143-22.

Devil Rays No. 1 in South Farmington



Softball champions: The Devil Rays are champions of the South Farmington Class C girls softball tournament. The team members are (front row, left to right) Ashley Cohagen, Emily Leonard, Catherine Soltis, Taylor Kallgren, Erin Grubbs; (second row) Krissy Vadnais, Katie Petersen, Sarah Romine, Alex Yatros, Sarah Gauer, Brittany Leigh; (back row) coach Chuck Gauer, manager Don Cohagen and coach Mark Leonard. Not pictured are coach John Vadnais and players Kimberly Blake, Laura McKelvey and Emily Nee.

Hornets add 2 wins to record

The Farmington Hills Hornets-Lee's Coney Island won another doubleheader Tuesday in the Girls Incredible Fastpitch Softball League. Lee's defeated the host Livonia Lancers, 7-2 and 8-4, at Livonia Stevenson High School to improve its league record to 9-1.

Kristin Schrock pitched a two-hitter in the first game, striking out 10 and walking two.

Abbey Cleland and Kristin Kluka had two hits and one RBI apiece. Ellen Doughty singled and drove in a run. Cleland, Kluka, Mo McNeil and Doughty also scored one run each.

The Hornets had another two-hitter from pitcher Beth Leeb in the second game. She struck out three and walked four.

Heather Sinawi's two hits included a double; she had two RBI and scored twice. Jacqui Smylie also had two hits.

Doughty, McNeil and Kluka connected for doubles, with McNeil and Kluka knocking in one run each.

Erin Held had an RBI single, and Smylie, Cleland, Doughty and McNeil scored one run apiece.

Post 346 suffers rare defeat in American Legion ballgame, 6-1

Farmington missed an opportunity to gain ground on first-place Berkley in the American Legion baseball standings Tuesday.

Post 346 slipped to 11-2-1 in the league following a 6-1 loss to visiting Berkley (14-2), which had seven hits and benefitted from four walks and three Farmington errors.

The home team, minus a number of players who were out of town with other teams, had six hits but left nine runners on base.

BASEBALL

Kyle Burcar doubled and scored the Farmington run on Andy Brown's single in the sixth inning.

Jake Ghannam and Brown had two hits apiece for Post 346. Bernie Brown was on base three times; he had a hit and a walk, and he was hit by a pitch.

John Waisanen pitched 1 1/2 innings and gave up three runs on four hits. Matt Zatklin worked

the third; Andy Brown and Bob Houchins worked two innings of relief apiece.

Post 346 has home games tonight and Friday against Shelby and Chief Pontiac, respectively. Both games start at 6:30 p.m. at Farmington High School.

Farmington, which won by forfeit Monday over Royal Oak, is 17-5-1 overall.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: Post 346 split four games last weekend in tournament play in Potoskey. Farmington defeated the Soo Travel-

ers from Sault Ste. Marie, 3-0. In the opener and closed with a 6-3 win over the host team.

Between these games, Post 346 lost to Midland, 5-3, and the Kalamazoo Maroons, a non-Legion, federation team with players from a wider area, 8-3.

In the first game, Farmington scored all three runs in the fourth inning on Jake Ghannam's RBI single and Bernie Brown's two-run single.

Brown was 2-for-2 and Bob Houchins also had two hits, including a double.

John Waisanen pitched six innings to get the win, allowing three hits and three walks while striking out two. After Waisanen walked two in the

seventh, Matt Zatklin came on to finish the game.

Houchins had two hits again and two RBI in the loss to Midland. Chris Chesney knocked in the other run with a sacrifice fly.

Houchins started and pitched five innings, and he took the loss despite giving up only two hits. Midland scored four unearned runs in the second on two errors, three walks and a two-run single.

Against the Maroons on Saturday, Ghannam had two hits and scored two runs; Preston Picard had a double and an RBI, and Chesney drove in a run with a sacrifice fly.

Houchins started on the mound; Joe James, who worked the second and third innings, took the loss, and Anthony Volpe finished the game.

Zatklin pitched a complete game against Potoskey, scattering five hits, striking out four and walking one. Ghannam knocked in the first run with a first-inning single. Farmington got three in the second with Andy Brown's two-run single and a suicide-squeeze play by Eric Zatklin for a 4-0 lead.

Potoskey closed the gap to 4-3, but Farmington put it away with a three-run fifth in which Kyle Burcar and Brian Boster had RBI singles.

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