

BASEBALL

CC eliminates Falcons but lose to Spartans in final

Hawks

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BY BRAD MONASTIERE
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The tables were turned on the Farmington baseball team Saturday afternoon.

After pulling a first-round upset of Redford-Detroit Catholic Central in last year's district playoffs, the Shamrocks ended the Falcons' season with a 3-1 win in the district semifinals at CC High School.

Farmington's season ends with a 17-14 record, while the Shamrocks (25-7) lost a heartbreaker, 7-6, to Livonia Stevenson in the district finals.

The Falcons were only able to manage five hits against CC pitchers Jeff Schulz and Ryan Rogowski, and never more than two in one inning. Farmington's lone run came in the bottom of the fifth when sophomore Jeff Fischer's sacrifice fly scored junior Andy Brown.

When Farmington did get a couple runners on base, baserunning errors proved to be costly in killing its rallies. Coach Pete Finn said that played a big factor in the game's outcome.

"We have to play great to beat a team like CC, and we didn't do that today," Finn said. "CC is

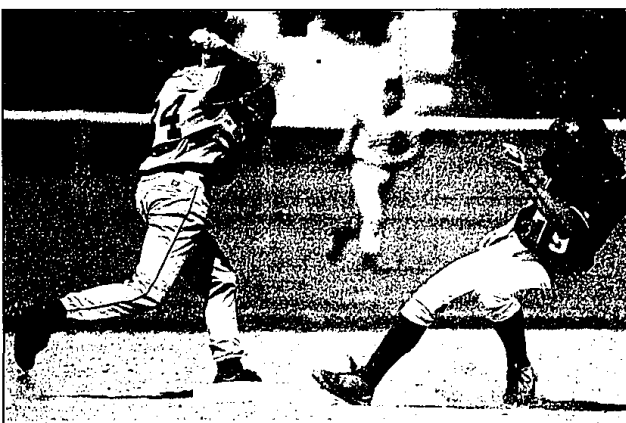
just so solid, you can't make mistakes like we made and hope to win a game like this."

The Falcons were thrown out on the bases four times in the game, not counting a double play the Shamrocks turned in the bottom of the third inning.

Brown, who pitched all seven innings for the Falcons, turned in a very strong effort, allowing only four hits to the potent CC lineup. He battled the entire game and forced a number of harmless flyballs and groundballs. Finn said the team has gotten good enough pitching to win recently, but its inability to support pitching with scoring cost the team in the end.

"We've had a bit of a power outage in the past couple weeks and it caught up with us today," Finn said. "We just didn't hit the ball solid all day."

The Shamrocks took a 2-0 lead in the top of the third on run-scoring hits by Kyle Crepeau and Eric Vejtkafsky. A suicide squeeze bunt by Rogowski added an insurance run in the top of the fifth. Schulz pitched five innings for CC, allowing three hits with no strikeouts. Rogowski came on for two innings of relief work to sew up the win.



STAFF PHOTO BY JON JACOBSEN

Double play: Farmington's Tim DePaulis completes the double play with his throw to first in fourth-inning action against Catholic Central. The play began with a toss from shortstop Jeff Fischer. For more on CC's game with Stevenson, see Page D7.

better," Herrington said. "That sounds funny when they throw a couple of one-hitters, but I've seen them pitch better."

"Maybe I'm getting a little picky, but if both are at the top of their games it'll be very tough to beat them."

In the first game, Stanton went 3-for-3 with a triple, a home run and two RBI to lead the rout of Andover.

Kevin Zerbo and Greg Hocking had two hits and two RBI apiece. One of Zerbo's hits was a triple. Danny Doig knocked in two runs with a single and a sacrifice fly.

The Hawks had 14 hits in the first game and 10 more in the final. Andy Wingert had three RBI with a bases-loaded double against Country Day. Stanton and Nick Vitanis had two hits and two RBI each.

"Everybody has been hitting the ball," Herrington said. "The last four games have been mercies, but we'll be satisfied with just wins."

Herrington said he thinks the Hawks have what it takes to win the state championship.

"We have a chance to go all the way if we keep playing the type of ball we're playing," he said. "But it's the old cliché - one game at a time."

"But we had three double plays (Saturday). We picked up the ball, made plays, hit the ball and pitched well. What else could you want?"

Harrison 4, Stevenson 0

Mike Sacha and Andy Wingert combined for a no-hitter as Harrison defeated Livonia Stevenson in a game between district champions Tuesday.

Sacha pitched the first five innings to get the win, and Wingert worked the final two. Sacha had six strikeouts and Wingert two.

Drew Stanton and Danny Doig went for 3-for-4 and scored a run; Anthony Faletti was 2-for-2. Eric Zatkun and Jake Ghannam had RBI singles; Stanton and Faletti also had one RBI each.

BY TIM SMITH
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The Birmingham Brother Rice baseball team Saturday mixed clutch hitting, flawless defense and excellent pitching in perfectly adhering to the classic blueprint for winning.

Not surprisingly, the Warriors blanked Berkley 15-0 in a four-inning Michigan High School Athletic Association District 16 championship game at Birmingham Groves after they shut out the host Falcons, 5-0, in the first contest of the day.

In between, Berkley mercied Southfield-Lathrup, 15-0, to earn the right to face the Brother Rice machine. Coach Bob Riker's squad now carries a 28-7 record into Saturday's regional game at Royal Oak Kimball High School (10 a.m.).

Matt Petry
Brother Rice
pitcher

"We came out and played real well," said Riker after the championship game. "We swung the bats and some balls fell in for us, which was good."

Riker added that his team's ability to jump out to big leads early on helped his pitchers, Matt Petry in the opener and Vytas Ray in the win against Berkley.

"If you can throw strikes, make all the routine plays defensively, and take quality at bats

you're going to be in a lot of ball games," Riker said. "But it all starts with the pitching and defense and that's what we did today, in both games."

Riker credited shortstop Dan Lentz, catcher Doug Pickens and centerfielder Brandon Rosenberg, in particular, for stellar defense.

The Warriors broke open the Berkley game with nine runs in the third inning, featuring doubles by Lentz, Max Kelmgian, Chris Shea, Tim Kalezynski and a two-run single by sophomore Pickens.

Then Pickens completed the rout in the fourth, with a three-run home run over the fence in right-center.

He's really a top-notch player," Riker said.

Brother Rice 5, Groves 0

In the district opener, pitcher Petry took a no-hitter into the sixth, when it was broken up by the Falcons' Eric Wright.

The Warriors put the game away with four runs after two were out in the bottom of the fourth, against Falcon hurler Mike Diener.

Key hits were registered in that frame by Kalezynski, Lentz, Pickens and Rosenberg.

"He (Petry) wasn't overwhelming, but he's a good high school pitcher who mixes his pitches well," said Groves head coach Jim Crosby. "He's only a junior, but he's already like a veteran pitcher."

Despite losing to Brother Rice, Crosby said he was proud of his team's effort.

"It's been a good season and good luck to Rice," Crosby said.

"We had our chances, but we couldn't get it done."

For Groves, Wright had one of four hits, along with Sam Wilson, Eric Colton and Matt Crosswell.

Berkley 15, Lathrup 0

The Bears needed just five innings to take care of Southfield-Lathrup and qualify for the district championship game against Brother Rice.

Pitcher Cary Sternberg blanked the Chargers, who wrapped up their season with an overall record of 8-20.

Lathrup head coach Darren Mosley said errors again hurt his team, contributing to several unearned runs and an insurmountable deficit. He said junior pitcher Marc Harris (two hits at the plate) deserved a better fate.

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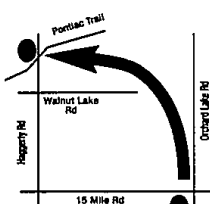
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