

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Cobras continue to win

The 17-year-old NFWB Cobras travel baseball team has extended its winning streak in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation to eight games.

Matt Petry earned his third victory of the season June 26 when he pitched a complete game against Wayne, which NFWB defeated, 11-1. He recorded seven strikeouts without giving up a walk.

Doug Pickens and Dan Lentz went 3-for-4; Brendon Rosenberg, Neil Sternberg and Sam Grossman contributed to the offense with two hits apiece. The big blow of the game was a three-run homer by Ben Darga.

Sternberg went the distance on the mound June 27 as the Cobras earned an 8-0 win over South Farmington.

Pickens and Petry led the offense with two hits and two RBI each. Rosenberg got on base four times as the leadoff hitter with two hits and two walks.

The game was cut short when the outfield sprinklers came on in the bottom of the sixth inning.

The Cobras swept a doubleheader June 28 from the 18-year-old NFWB Cobras, 12-2 and 14-2.

In the first game, Pickens continued his hot hitting with a 3-for-4, three-RBI performance. He leads the team with a .462 batting average.

Sternberg was 3-for-4 with two RBI. Kevin Zerbo and Bryan Smith also helped power the offense with two hits each. Dan Graham was the winning pitcher with relief help from Andy Wingert.

Lentz pitched a complete game in the nightcap for his third win. Nick Vitonis and Sternberg had three hits apiece while Evan Rodriguez contributed two hits.

Eleven of the 13 Cobras, who are 8-2 in the league, had at least one hit in each of the two games for a balanced offensive attack.

Masters Games approach

The Fifth Annual Oakland County Masters Games are set for July 26-27 at Royal Oak Kimball High School.

The competition is for men and women, ages 50 and older, who will compete for medals in athletic events. The competition includes volleyball, basketball free throw, 3-on-3 basketball, race walking, swimming, tennis and track and field. Swim events are slated for 1:30 p.m. on Friday. All other events begin 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

"Today's senior is fit and active. In fact, we have an over-80 category," event organizer Sandra Dorsey said. "Last year we had 120 athletes."

Participants can register through July 5 (postmarked no later than July 6) and the entry fee is \$20 (\$18 for Oakland County residents) on Friday and \$15 (\$12 resident discount) on Saturday.

There is no on-site registration and the entry fee includes one lunch and a T-shirt.

Master Games is sponsored by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department at Royal Oak Kimball High School. For more information, call (248) 858-4633 or (248) 858-1684.

MIAA academic honors

Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association commissioner Sheila Wallace-Kovalchik recently announced the MIAA academic honor roll for 2001-02.

The honor roll recognizes scholars-athletes who achieve a minimum 2.15 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) for the entire school year. A student is also required to win a varsity letter in a sport to be eligible.

The student-athletes from Farmington schools who earned academic honors are Carrie Brankiewicz (Mercy), Kalamazoo junior, volleyball; Kathleen Callan (Mercy), Albion senior, swimming; Elizabeth Cash (Mercy), Albion sophomore, volleyball; Lindsey Densmore (Mercy), Albion sophomore, golf; Amanda Dobkowski (North Farmington), Albion junior, cross country; Brian Lewis (Harrison), Kalamazoo senior, football; Lauren Yagiela (Mercy), Kalamazoo freshman, swimming.

(Readers can submit information for the Sports Scene by sending an email to domcra@oc.homecomm.net or sending a fax to Sports Editor Dan O'Meara at 734-591-7279.)

Softball stars receive accolades



FILE PHOTOS BY BILL BRUBAKER

All-Observer: Though better known for her pitching, North Farmington junior Beth Danielewicz can swing a mean bat, too. She led the Raiders to the Western Lakes championship with her pitching and hitting. Danielewicz made the all-area first team for the third straight year.

Farmington schools have 6 all-area players

Coach of Year honor goes to Churchill's Hardwidge

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With a career record of 209-107 in 11 years and six district championships to her credit, Livonia Churchill coach Dana Hardwidge always puts a competitive girls softball team on the field.

This year was no different as the Chargers posted a 26-5 record, including a fourth straight district championship and a second straight Western Division title in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Their only losses, all by two runs or less, came this year against Division I state runner-up Farmington Hills Mercy, state semifinalist Walled Lake Western, WLA champion North Farmington, northern Ohio power Sylva Southview and rival Livonia Franklin.

The 26 wins eclipsed the school's previous best total of 25 set in 1994. For her efforts, Hardwidge was named Observerland Coach of the Year.

A native of Dover, Ohio, and a graduate of Bowling Green State University, Hardwidge has taught math 32 years in the Livonia Public Schools.

She has also coached varsity basketball and volleyball in the school district dating back to her days at Livonia Bentley High School.

Hardwidge credits her four seniors — Meghan Misiak, Sallie Kuratko, Sarah Carter and Jenny Long — for the team's success.

"They all loved softball, approached practice with a great work ethic and were always looking to improve," Hardwidge said. "They were great role models for the underclassmen."

Hardwidge was also surrounded by a strong coaching staff that included Lou Kuratko and former players Kim

Hewitt, Jessie Jenkins and Kristin Derwiche.

"No doubt our players gained by having those people around," said Hardwidge, who also coached softball seven seasons at Bentley before going to Churchill where she served one season as JV coach.

Mercy coach Jack Falvo and North Farmington coach Dave Brubaker also received strong consideration for Coach of the Year.

Falvo guided the Marlins to the state semifinals for the third consecutive year and the state finals for the first time. Mercy finished with a 35-8 record and was the runner-up to Portage Northern in Division I.

Brubaker had the Raiders back on top, exceeding preseason expectations by winning the Lakes Division and WLA championships for the second time in three years while posting a 24-13 record.

Falvo was the Observerland Coach of the Year in 2001, and Brubaker was awarded that distinction in 2000.

Two Churchill players, Misiak and Kuratko, are repeat selections on the first team along with Megan Fediuk and Anna Schneider, both of Mercy; Beth Danielewicz, North Farmington; and Kelly Jaskot, Plymouth Salem.

Introducing the 2002 All-Observer girls softball squad as selected by the sports staff with input from area coaches.

FIRST TEAM
Meghan Misiak, pitcher, Churchill: The first-team Division I all-star capped a remarkable year by going 24-3 with 370 strikeouts (13.9 per game), while allowing only six walks and 41 hits in 186 innings pitched.

Her earned run average was an astounding 0.15, not to mention 18 shutouts, two perfect games, eight no-hitters and 10 one-hitters.



Observerland standout: Mercy senior pitcher Megan Fediuk fields a bunt in the Division I state championship game with backup from sophomore shortstop Tammi Karagostas. Fediuk is a three-time, All-Observer player who led the Marlins to three straight Final Four appearances in Battle Creek.

The senior is a three-time All-Observer, All-Region and All-WLA selection. The four-time All-District pick has 72 career victories.

"As a pitcher, Meghan got more dominant each of her four years in high school," Churchill coach Dana Hardwidge said. "Her ERA decreased, the number of strikeouts increased and the number of walks decreased."

"We are pleased she got recognized as one of the top pitchers in the state this year with All-State honors."

Bound for Wayne State, Misiak also stood out defensively (no errors in 39 chances) and offensively (.349 batting average with a team-high 31 RBIs).

"Never in 30 years have I coached an athlete who worked so hard to become the best she could be," Hardwidge said. "She more than deserves every honor that has come her way."

"Meghan is dedicated, serious and competitive, yet modest and team oriented. Because of this positive attitude, she has been a real joy to work with in high school."

Beth Danielewicz, pitcher, N. Farmington:

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Blues can boast of being state's best

The South Farmington Blues won the Michigan USSSA State Championship in the 11-year-old division at Victory Park in Canton June 28-30.

The Blues defeated the Garden City Gladiators in the championship game, which ended after four innings due to the mercy rule, 12-3.

South Farmington won four straight games in the tournament after losing the opener to the Michigan Mariners, 4-3. The Blues were held to five hits in the defeat with John Miller having two.

The Blues beat the Royal Oak Diamond Dawgs, 12-4. Cameron Fowler and Heath Parling had three hits each and Steven Pelletier had two hits to pace the 10-hit attack. Fowler pitched three shutout innings of relief to pick up the win.

The Blues defeated the Lansing BAMB, 12-0. Pel-

BASEBALL

lier threw a complete game and four-hit shutout, striking out 11 BAMB batters. Parling and Pelletier had three hits each and Jimmy Dexter two.

In the semifinals, the Blues faced the Mariners again and came away with a 10-3 victory. Dan Tamariglio pitched five innings, allowing two runs to pick up the win. John Rose had three hits and Jacob Gudeman and John Bezak had two hits each to lead the 11-hit onslaught.

In the final game against Garden City, the Blues fell behind 3-0 in the top of the first after the first four Garden City batters reached base on three hits and an error.

Blues pitcher Brian Grewe didn't allow a hit after that, shutting out the Gladiators the rest of the way. The Blues answered Garden City's three runs in the first with three of their own.

South Farmington scored five runs in the second inning and four in the third to seal the win. Gudeman had three hits, Rose and Parling two each.

The Blues' overall record is now 28-9. They lead the Eastern Division of the Little Caesars American Baseball Federation with a 15-4 league record. Also making key contributions were Michael Cleland and Tyler Mitchell.

"We had great pitching and excellent defense the entire weekend," Blues manager Steve Pelletier said. He is assisted by coaches Andy Grewe and Stu Rose.