

Baseballers stay on state tourney trail

-By ROBERT A. SKLAR
 "When threatened, summer Jay Purcell." That's the varsity baseball cry for Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook. Purcell underlined why Saturday.

The senior southpaw stole the spotlight to catapult Coach Don Morinelli's visiting Cranes past Detroit Austin, 6-5.

The triumph during pre-district play sustained Cranbrook's quest in the fourth annual state high school baseball tournament.

On the hill, Purcell surrendered two hits while whiffing four and walking six. His record this spring has risen to 10-2. With the bat, he tripled across two runs plus swiped home.

SENIORS JIM Johnson and Dan Smith also excelled offensively for the Cranes. Johnson ripped a two-run double. Smith tripled and doubled from the lead-off position.

Altogether, Cranbrook registered seven hits.

Last Friday, the visiting Cranes hiked their mark this spring in the Interstate Preparatory League (IPL) chase to 4-1. They nailed Nichols School from Buffalo, 6-4. Bill Conn, pitched the distance for the winners. The senior righthander scattered three hits while

fanning three and walking one. He leveled his record this spring at 1-1.

Senior Herb White paced Cranbrook's eight-hit offensive assault. He singled twice to drive across a couple of runs.

In supportive parts for the Cranes, Smith punched a pair of three-baggers and junior Jeff Faver poked a pair of one-baggers.

CRANBROOK DIDN'T fare quite so well during the Pontiac Prep Baseball Invitational at Jaycee Park in Pontiac. On Monday, the Cranes lost to Lake Orion during the quarterfinals, 4-1.

Rick Derez worked the final three innings and suffered the defeat, his first after six successive victories this spring.

The senior righthander was touched for five hits while striking out three and walking one.

John Hatcher started for Cranbrook. A sophomore southpaw, he fooled two opponents on strikes and issued four free passes.

Junior Art Ferrel posted Cranbrook's only safety, a run-scoring single.

THE CRANES reached the quarterfinals by outgunning Southfield Saturday, 4-1. Derez got the victory. He gave up three

hits and no earned runs while whiffing six and walking four.

Conn and Smith fueled Cranbrook's efforts at the plate. Each doubled twice and singled twice. Smith notched a run-batted-in, too. Collectively, the Cranes cut loose for five hits.

Overall this spring, Cranbrook now boasts a mark of 19-7. On Wednesday, the Cranes hosted Birmingham Seaholm in a nonleague game.

On Thursday, Cranbrook will visit Grosse Pointe University-Liggett in more nonleague action. Game time is 4 p.m.

On Saturday, the Cranes will hitch back onto the state tournament bandwagon.

Cranbrook 190 020 3-6 7 5
 Austin 022 010 0-2 5 2
 Cranbrook 103 010 0-5 2 2
 Nichols 300 000 0-3 3 3
 Lake Orion 000 010 3-4 2 2
 Cranbrook 000 100 0-1 1 2
 Cranbrook 000 410 2-2 2 2
 Southfield 400 000 0-4 3 4

Seaholm
 Jim Kazanski stirred an expansive smile on Birmingham Seaholm Varsity Baseball Coach Don Sackett's face Saturday.

The junior southpaw proved a sandlot magician as the visiting Maples dispatched Royal Oak Dondero in nine innings, 4-2.

The win during a pre-district clash enabled Seaholm to stay af-

loat in the fourth annual state high school baseball tournament.

On the mound, Kazanski yielded six hits while fanning six and walking one. He boosted his record this spring to 5-2. At the plate, he tripled, doubled and singled to knock in one run.

Altogether, the Maples logged eight hits. After seven innings, the scoreboard showed a 2-2 tie.

TWO INNINGS later, Tom Forester provided the winning margin. With two out, the junior unranked 40-run homer, earlier, he tagged a triple.

Seaholm now sports an overall mark this spring of 9-8. In the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) race this spring, the Maples finished with a mark of 7-5, good for third place.

Royal Oak Kimball (12-0) paced the SMA pack, runner-up honors went to Southfield (7-6). Behind Seaholm were Hazel Park (7-8), Berkley (2-10) and Ferndale (0-12).

On Wednesday, the Maples visited Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook in a nonleague game. On Friday, they will host Bloomfield Hills. Andover in another nonleague; game times is 4 p.m.

On Saturday, Seaholm will resume its state tournament try. That's when the Maples will meet Troy during the district round at Memorial Park in Royal Oak. Game time is 10 a.m.

Seaholm 002 002 002-4 8 1
 Dondero 002 000 000-2 6 1

Andover
 Some clutch hitting Saturday kept Bloomfield Hills Andover's chances alive in the fourth annual state high school baseball tournament.

Coach Hal Henderson's visiting Barons clipped Clawson in nine innings during a pre-district encounter, 9-2.

Successive singles by seniors Scott Laing, Ross Berlin and Jeff Pierce combined to bring across the decisive run.

Randy Turner took the victory. The junior righthander allowed six hits while striking out seven and walking one. He evened his record this spring at 3-3.

AFTER FOUR innings, Andover trailed, 2-0; what's more, the Barons still hadn't produced their first base runner. But Andover rallied to knot the score in the fifth inning.

Senior John Peters negotiated a walk to launch the rally. He proceeded to reach second base on a busted pick-off attempt. Senior Steve Henderson doubled him home.

Henderson then was lifted in favor of a pinch-runner, junior Steve Foehr. He advanced to third base on a wild pitch and scored on a sacrifice bunt by Turner.

Laing fired Andover's six-hit offensive attack. Along with lacing a single, he drilled a double.

THE BARONS now project an overall mark this spring of 8-9. In

the Wayne-Oakland League (WOL) loop, they remain 5-4.

On Thursday, Andover will cap its WOL campaign. That's when the Barons will host Clarkston. On Friday, Andover will visit Birmingham Seaholm in a nonleague game.

Game time each day is 4 p.m.

On Saturday, the Barons will return to the state tournament circuit when they meet Royal Oak Kimball during the district round at Memorial Park in Royal Oak. Game time is 10 a.m.

Andover 000 020 001-3 6 1
 Clawson 010 100 000-2 6 1



Andover coach Hal Henderson (Photographed by Iona Askins)

Eagles' Newport shines

Southfield Christian, a Class D school in its first year of varsity athletics, will have a runner in the state Class D track finals at Caro High School on June 1.

He is Scott Newport, a sophomore who finished second in the 440-yard dash at the Whitmore Lake regional. Newport finished the 440 in :53.2 as Christian compiled four points in the regional,

which was won by Grosse Pointe University-Liggett.

Newport's romp was one of seven Christian records set at the regional. Neil Kistler took sixth place in the 180-yard low hurdles in 22.6. Tim Rumley finished seventh in the two-mile run in 10:52.9.

Other school records: Dave Phillips (501.6 in the mile run), mile relay (Grahma Nash, Eric Davis,

Eric Larson, Newport, 3:44.4), 880-yard relay (Dan Hendon, Kistler, Newport, Roy Pew, 1:38.9), 440-yard relay (Kistler, Hendon, Ben Hoffiz, Pew, :48.2).

"Almost everyone who went ran a personal best," said Christian coach Dave Guthrie.

Christian returns to Whitmore Lake for a dual meet on Friday. The Eagles are 3-4 in dual meets.

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