

Critical games for Ruth team

By DAN SPICKLER

With this being the last week of action in the South Oakland Senior Babe Ruth league, Birmingham still had not clinched the title outright over the weekend.

On Saturday Berkley No. 1, behind a spotless two-hitter, pitching performance by all-star Gary Gleason, tied Birmingham for the league lead with a 4-0 last inning victory.

Both teams were set with equal 16-4 records on Sunday, with only two more games to play this week on Tuesday and Thursday. If both teams won their games, Birmingham manager Jim Daniell mentioned the possibility of a playoff game with Berkley No. 1.

EARLIER it was reported that Birmingham had at the very least, fought for the championship, but with last weekend's loss to Berkley No. 1 the team still could possibly

be forced into second place, especially if Birmingham lost to Madison Heights on Tuesday or Thursday.

On Sunday Birmingham defeated Berkley No. 2, which featured Berkley No. 1, behind a 3-0 three-hitter, by 16-year-old Mike Murphy.

According to Daniell, Saturday's game was the best of the season thus far. The game was scored less than in seventh. He cited Tom Peall, Bruce McElhinney, and Bob Mueller for outstanding fielding.

Rob Ledbetter took the loss on Saturday. Sunday the team split, picked up again by a timely single by Peall in the fourth and a pinch-hit homer by Ledbetter were enough to get past the weaker Berkley team.

THIS SATURDAY THE all-star team, managed by Daniell, will go into action against North Dearborn at Lincoln Park. A successful Birmingham team is strongly represented.

Steve Maher, Bruce McElhinney, Rob Ledbetter, Mike Hague, and Tom Peall will go to state competition with their manager.

From Berkley No. 1 will be Gleason, Jay Lantz, and Jim Page. From Berkley No. 2 will be Ken Gal. Also from the area, representing Southfield are Ron Silberstein, Ted Fox, and Tom Hart.

THE MADISON HEIGHTS all-stars are Frank Rea, Tony Valaski, Mike Michalski, Marty Vandell, Dave Childress, and Ron McReek.

Daniell commented that the team will compete with only five days of practice. "Some of these teams we go against will have already played together in as many as 50 games," he said.

Birmingham's all-star bid in Junior Babe Ruth Baseball post-season play ground to a disappointing halt Sunday.

Manager Chris Schearer's sandalots were stymied by Detroit's West-Seven Americans, 5-0.

"They (the Americans) definitely show the talent to go all the way," said Schearer, in retrospect.

"So, considering the circumstances, I think we did very well."

The contest marked the close of a district tournament at Macomb County Community College field for players between ages 13-15.

THE AMERICANS took the two-loss knockout tournament with a record of 4-0; Birmingham finished at 2-2.

The Americans now advance to upcoming state competition near Port Huron. The state champion will advance to the regionals in Terre Haute, Ind.

Steve Boston suffered the setback Sunday. The southpaw whiffed three and walked one in four innings of work. In relief, righthander Mark Seconente fanned three and walked none.

The Americans commanded a wide margin in team hits, 12-3. Birmingham's safeties all were singles. Posing them were Tim Schearer, with two, and Jay Spencian, with one.

Troy will get underway Sept. 30. Registration will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 14 and 21 at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.



Birmingham's Rob Ledbetter (left) reaches first base safely as relay throw pulls Southfield first-baseman Ted Fox off bag in recent game. (Photographed by Art Emanuel)

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In the twinnin's nightcap, Birmingham dumped Detroit's West-Seven Americans, 10-2. Bob Meach fanned five batters to notch the victory. The righthander whiffed two and walked six.

ALAN SPENCER relieved Meach. The righthander foiled two on strikes and issued no free passes. Together, Meach and Spencian yielded seven hits.

The winners totaled 10 hits. Big guns with the bat were Tim Schearer and Meach, each of whom knocked across two runs. Schearer singled three times; Meach singled once.

In a supportive part at the plate, Tom Henry singled twice to drive home one run. Contributing solo one-baggers were Ken Gregorich, Doug Olander, Schubek and Spencian.

Birmingham's assistant manager was Floyd Lasser. Other team members were Bruce Anderson, Jeff Maher, Dave Price and Tim Simmons.

Americans 022 001 0 5 12 1
Birmingham 000 000 0 0 3 1
Americans 300 204 X 9 9 1
Birmingham 000 400 0 4 3 3
Birmingham 189 001 0 10 10 1
Nationals 001 040 0 5 7 1

ON SATURDAY, Schearer's sandalots split a twinnin'.

In the twinnin's opener, they lost to the Americans, 9-4. Seconente

Birmingham stars capture District 1

By MICHAEL KERN

Using a nucleus of ex-Little League stars, the Birmingham Baseball Club captured the Michigan Babe Ruth District 1 championship for 13-year-olds on Sunday.

Bill Gee pitched a four-hitter as Birmingham downed West-Seven American, 4-1, in the final game at the Macomb County Community College field.

Manager Joe Little's Birmingham team won the "one game knockout" tourney with a line-up that included several ex-members of last year's Birmingham Federal All-Stars Little League team.

Last summer, those players reached the semi-finals of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

In addition to Gee, nine others have moved up to the Babe Ruth

winning team after playing in Williamsport last summer.

Those players are Scott Currie, Jim Lemle, Dave Kelley, Ken Stechuk, Brian Young, Karl Ring, Andy Sovran, Dave Parker, and Sean Bannon.

Little's roster also includes John Spots, Bill Kendra, Peter Cassidy, Jim Maertens, Todd Murphy, and coaches Jim Smith and Bill Shaffer.

Birmingham defeated Berkley, 12-0, on Saturday, to move into the final game. Todd Murphy pitched a one-hitter for Birmingham, striking out 10.

As a result of winning the district championship, the Birmingham squad will be one of eight teams competing for the state championship later this month.

The two-game elimination tournament will be held at the Fort Gratiot Township field, just north of Port Huron, starting July 27.

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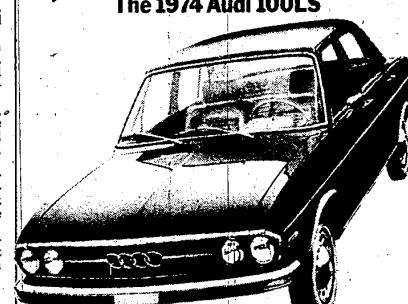
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BHA lists vacancies

Openings exist in the coaching ranks and on the board of the Birmingham Hockey Association (BHA).

Prospective coaches and board members are asked to call Chris Patten at 647-1047.

BHA's program next autumn will be broken into five age groups - squirt (10 and under), pee wee (11-12), bantam (13-14), midget (15-16) and junior (17-20).

Tournaments will get underway Sept. 30. Registration will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 14 and 21 at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

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