



Flyers hold off Bucks for sectional title

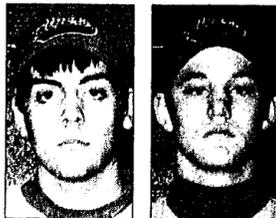
By DON HOHLER
Reflector Sportswriter

PLYMOUTH — St. Paul is in the district tournament for the first time since 1985.

Jim Carper's team will play Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic at 5 p.m. May 17 in the opening game of the Plymouth district after turning back second-seeded Buckeye Central 7-6 Saturday in a thrilling Division IV sectional final game.

SMCC, which advanced to the state tournament last year, had little trouble with South Central in Saturday first game, 10-0.

"The key was slowing Buckeye Central's running game," Carper



B. Mutchler Schaffer

said. "And Brad (Mutchler) did that by picking off two runners on first and one on second. Losing those three potential runs was huge as we played that seventh inning."

Seventh innings have been the

downfall for St. Paul (a number of times this year and this 9-10 overall) one had similar fate written all over Saturday.

Leading 7-4, with three outs needed, Carper went to Dan Mutchler to preserve the win for Brad.

It looked like the correct move as the Flyers retired the two BC batters with no damage.

But, then things started to fall apart. A fielders choice, single and walk followed by a two-run single made reduced the Flyers lead to 7-6.

"Wouldn't you know it," Carper said. "We brought up three jayvee players for the tournament, one of them Andrew

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Hanneman. I had to go with Andrew late in the game at short-stop. And he gets his first varsity ground ball hit to him under that kind of pressure. He made the play though and we were on the bus with a big win."

St. Paul kept steady pressure on the Bucks defense with two in the first when Brad Mutchler singled and Allen Rospert walked.

Donovan Platte delivered both with a two-run single to right-center.

Platte's second hit of the game in the third followed by two passed balls put him in scoring

position for a Corey Spaar single.

Most of the same people got it going again in the two-run fourth. Tony Coletta walked and Brad Mutchler doubled. Dan Mutchler was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Rospert worked his way for a walk to force a run in. Platte then came through with a sacrifice fly to center.

The Flyers still needed the two-run rally in the sixth. Brad Mutchler reached on an error and Rospert followed with a single.

Adam Schaffer responded with a two-run single to right-center.

Buckeye Central (10-10) used a home run by Brooks Spieff for its lone run in the top of the

first.

They added three in the fourth with Adam Fritz plating two with a single. Josh Kocher's sacrifice fly delivered the third. All was quiet then until the seventh when the Bucs almost pulled it out.

"The only way we could beat them was to stay away from mistakes," Carper said. "And stop them from running. If they can't run they are not near as effective."

Brad Mutchler went the first six innings, allowing four earned runs while striking out three and walking one.

St. Paul is scheduled to host Crestview today at Baines Park.

Eagles overtake Buckeye, FC for NL-Bob Knoll title

By MICHAEL GRECO
Reflector Sports Editor

BOYS' TRACK AND FIELD

NEW LONDON — Monroeville could be primed to do some damage this week in the Firelands Conference league meet.

The Eagles topped five other league teams, plus Medina Buckeye, Saturday for the New London High School-Bob Knoll Invitational title.

Monroeville scored 108 points for the win.

Buckeye finished second with 101 points, followed by New London at 78; Western Reserve, 68.5; South Central, 65; Plymouth, 61.5 and Plymouth, 37.

The Eagles, who won their first New London High School-Bob Knoll Invitational title and broke Buckeye's streak of three straight, scored in 13 events, including doubling up in five.

"It's a great preview for the conference," Monroeville coach Bernie Yoder said. "Every point counts. That's what we tell the kids."

Nick Wise and Josh Perry propelled the Eagles with firsts in two events each.

Wise tied the meet record in the 100-meter dash at 11.1 and claimed the 200 in 23.1.

Wise's 100 tied New London's Marshall Randleman in 2000 and Buckeye's Sam Munyan in 2003.

Perry swept the shot put and discus with school records of 54-1 and 158-0, respectively.

And the 400 relay team of Aaron Robinson, Brad Pierce, Wise and Zak Hancock ran a

44.5 to tie a meet record. New London gained its highest point total of the season.

Earning firsts were Brent Dearth in the high jump at 5-6 and Brian Sheller in the 400 at 53.1.

"It was a good day, but not a great day," Wildcats coach Dan Oliien said. "The boys' conference meet is going to be strong. It's good preparation for our conference meet. All that matters is that we're peaking at the right time."

Western's top performance came from Dennis Thayer in the 110 hurdles at 16.4 for the top spot.

"We have a very young group," Roughriders coach Todd Pooch said. "They're making great progress."

"Dennis has been getting better each day. He ran a real solid race all the way through."

Jordan Ray grabbed a first for the Trojans, going 10-0 in the pole vault.

Plymouth picked up four firsts.

Lucas Keaton won the 300 hurdles at 41.8; Skylar Branstool in the 800 at 2:11.7; the 3200 relay team at 8:48.2 and 1600 relay, 3:42.0.

And for St. Paul, Josh Beebe recorded second in the 400 at 53.4.

"Josh ran the 400 for the first time," Flyers coach Josh Beebe said. "He's been doing a great job. It's nice to see some of the conference teams before next week."

All but Crestview and Mapleton were at the New London-Bob Knoll Invitational.



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Monroeville senior Josh Perry gets ready to put the shot Saturday in the New London High School-Bob Knoll Invitational. Perry set a school record in both the shot and discus.

New London is scheduled to host a relay event today, with Ashland jayvee, Monroeville, Northwestern, Smithville, South Central and Western Reserve in attendance.

The FC meet is scheduled for Wednesday and Friday at Mapleton, except for the pole vault which is at Crestview.

The results of the New London-Bob Knoll Invitational are listed below:

Shot put: 1. Perry (Mv) 54-1. 2. Ross (B) 48-10 1/2. 3. G. Patrick (WR) 47-9 3/4. 4. Diltman (SC) 46-3 1/2. 5. Stocker

(SP) 42-4 1/2. 6. Boutton (B) 41-7.
High jump: 1. Dearth (NL) 6-0. 2. Sitterly (Mv) 6-0. 3. Lucal (SC) 5-10. 4. (tie) T. Wilhelm (SC) 5-10 and Robinson (Mv) 5-10. 6. (tie) Reed (P) and Pickens (WR) 5-8.
200-meter dash: 1. Wise (Mv) 23.1. 2. Z. Hancock (Mv) 23.6. 3. Swift (B) 24.0. 4. LaCroix (P) 24.4. 5. Berry (NL) 24.5. 6. Ray (SC) 24.5.
3200 relay: 1. Plymouth 8:48.2. 2. Western Reserve 8:59.4. 3. Monroeville 9:01.4. 4. Buckeye 9:15.0. 5. New London 9:26.7. 6. South Central 9:35.0.
Discus: 1. Perry (Mv) 158-0. 2. Ross (B) 143-7. 3. G. Patrick (WR) 134-7. 4. Griffin (NL) 129-5 1/2. 5. Clark (SC) 124-4. 6. Diltman (SC) 124-2.
800: 1. Branstool (P) 2:11.7. 2. K. Schaffer (Mv) 2:14.0. 3. K. Wilhelm (Mv) 2:14.0. 4. Zimmerman (WR) 2:18.5. 5. Beebe (SP) 2:19.3. 6. Cramer (NL) 2:21.0.
Pole vault: 1. Ray (SC) 10-0. 2.



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

South Central senior Casey Ehler goes through the air in the long jump during Saturday's competition.

Roberts (SC) 9-0. 2. Herold (NL) 9-0. 4. Essenmacher (NL) 8-0. 5. Miller (B) 8-0.
1600: 1. Miller (B) 4:45.0. 2. Sendelbach (NL) 4:49.0. 3. Cammann (WR) 4:54.0. 4. Hackney (SC) 4:55.0. 5. Siesel (Mv) 4:57.0. 6. Martz (WR) 5:12.0.
3200: 1. Miller (B) 10:50.2. 2. Sendelbach (NL) 11:10.3. 3. Hackney (SC) 11:16.7. 4. Kamm (NL) 11:23.0. 5. Rowe (P) 11:34.4. 6. Simon (Mv) 11:50.6.
Long jump: 1. Rising (B) 19-11 3/4. 2. Robinson (Mv) 19-0 1/4. 3. Ehler (SC) 18-9 1/4. 4. Ray (SC) 18-7 3/4. 5. Chaffin (WR) 18-2 1/2. 6. Sitterly (Mv) 18-1 3/4.
400 relay: 1. Monroeville 44.5. 2. Buckeye 45.9. 3. St. Paul 47.6. 4. Plymouth 48.5. 5. New London 48.8. 6. South Central 55.4.
1600 relay: 1. Plymouth 3:42.0. 2. Western Reserve 3:47.0. 3. St. Paul

3:49.3. 4. Monroeville 3:54.0. 5. New London 3:56.3.
110 hurdles: 1. Thayer (WR) 16.4. 2. Keaton (P) 16.5. 3. Coburn (SC) 16.8. 4. Hoover (B) 16.8. 5. Pickens (WR) 17.2. 6. T. Wilhelm (SC) 18.2.
400: 1. Sheller (NL) 53.1. 2. Beebe (SP) 53.4. 3. Dearth (NL) 55.0. 4. Lucal (SC) 57.1. 5. Stoll (WR) 57.6. 6. LeMaster (P) 58.3.
100: 1. Wise (Mv) 11.1. 2. Munyan (B) 11.2. 3. B. Buckingham (WR) 11.5. 4. Pierce (Mv) 11.6. 5. LaCroix (P) 11.8. 6. Roswell (SC) 11.9.
300 hurdles: 1. Keaton (P) 41.8. 2. Supan (B) 42.0. 3. Hoover (B) 43.0. 4. Shupe (SP) 44.9. 5. Ehler (SC) 45.8. 6. (tie) Thayer (WR) and Pickens (WR) 45.8.
800 relay: 1. Buckeye 1:35.8. 2. New London 1:35.5. 3. Western Reserve 1:38.9. 4. South Central 1:39.0. 5. Monroeville 1:40.0. 6. St. Paul 1:41.8.

Raymond and Duncan propel Truckers to 1st sectional championship in 11 years

GALION — After 10 years of trying, Norwalk finally broke through for a sectional title.

Clay Duncan outdueled Matt Schlarb as the Truckers captured their first sectional championship Saturday since 1993 with a 4-1 win over Lexington in Division II tournament action at Galion.

Norwalk, which improved to 14-7 overall, now takes on Galion at 5 p.m. May 17 in the district semifinals.

The game will also be played at Galion.

The Truckers-Tigers winner moves to the district final at 5 p.m. May 21 at Shelby against the Port Clinton-Perkins winner.

Against Lexington, Duncan, who raised his mark to 5-1 on

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the season, shut out Lexington bats on no runs over the opening six innings.

"He was in control the whole way," Norwalk coach Wes Douglas said of his freshman pitcher. "And we had no errors behind him."

The Minuteman finally scored a run in the top of the seventh, but that was all they could manufacture.

Lexington gained three hits off Duncan, who also walked one and struck out two.

Meanwhile, Norwalk had three hits off Schlarb, but scored four runs in the fourth inning.

Kyle Schaechterle started with a single. After an out, Rob

Osborn walked and Schaechterle came home on a Duncan single up the middle.

But the Truckers cleared the bases when Christian Raymond belted a three-run home to right field to stretch Norwalk's lead to 4-0.

It was his first homer of the season and career.

"You talk about once pitch deciding a game," Douglas said. "Their guy struck us out 11 times, but Clay matched him."

Douglas then commented on the play of Raymond.

"He's done a great job the last 10 or 12 games," Douglas said. He's making the plays that make a difference."

Raymond, plus other seniors Michael Biller and Schaechterle, are playing

important roles in the Truckers' six-game winning streak.

"Kyle and Michael are setting the tone," Douglas said.

The fourth senior on the team is Matt Nikolaus.

Douglas said winning a sectional title is important.

"That's a solid program and we outplayed them," he said. "It's a huge step for our program."

Douglas said playing in the postseason and still in contention for the Northern Ohio League is something special.

"Our goal is to be playing games that mean something in the last couple of weeks," he said.

In the meantime, Norwalk returns to the regular season today by hosting Bellevue in Northern Ohio League action.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Norwalk senior Christian Raymond connects for a three-run home run Saturday in a Division II sectional title game against Lexington at Galion.

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