

CB baseball coach calls last season 'successful'

By Terrence O'Brien

"A successful season" was what veteran Christian Brothers High School baseball mentor Ron Limeberger termed his recently completed campaign.

Finishing with 12 wins and 9 losses overall and 6 and 6 in the tough Metropolitan League for third place the Falcons held two wins over co-champion Sacramento High who represented the league in the post season tournament and finished fourth. They also earned two wins over arch rival Jesuit.

In addition they downed the other co-champion of the Metro John F. Kennedy once besides two wins over a good McClatchy club and a non-league victory over Highlands coached by former Brothers' coach Bob Rodness.

Pitching of less than championship caliber has characterized Falcon teams of late. They have not had a real stopper on the staff since Steve Kitlas's junior year in the 1971 season. The old timers and the young timers who know baseball will tell you pitching is the name of the game and without it you

don't win no matter how many .300 hitters and long ball Charleys you send up to the plate on offense. The current Sacramento Solons are an excellent case in point.

Looking over the Falcon state it's a tribute to Limeberger that they finished as well as they did. Their best earned run average was Steve Smith's 3.00 followed by Mike Cummings 3.33 and Jeff Tisdell's 3.39. Those figures are respectable or about average for a 162 game major league season but for a 21 game high school season they won't rank among the top 25 in the area. One reason is that high school teams will give up more unearned runs than will a professional team so an earned run average of 3, probably means that five or six runs were scored on that pitcher when you throw in those picked up on errors. The figure could be much higher in any single game.

Furthermore the figure is based on a seven inning game, meaning the pitcher would give three earned runs every seven innings whereas for a professional ERA it is based on innings. In other words a high school ERA of 3, is about 22 per cent less efficient than

an ERA of 3, for someone who played 9 inning games. The point is that the ostensible ERA of 3, to 3.39 of the Falcon's staff is not as impressive as it may seem when it comes to analyzing the season.

Cummings was 4 and 3 on the year; Smith had a 4-2 mark and Tisdell 3-1. The rest of the staff was 1-3. Cummings was the workhouse of the staff with 49 innings pitched while Smith went 35 and Tisdell only 26 to garner his 3 wins.

The club only had two seasonal .300 hitters. Chris Gandy rapped for .383 on the year and Rod Zanze 338. After that it was Sam Glero with .289, Mike Juarez at .256 and Dan Farrell at .234. Jim Frasinetti swatted for .224, Steve Lint at .213, Paul Garmazzi .200 along with Mark Franzola. Bill Boughton was an anemic .176 and Dan Ganzales was .083. Boughton, in the past, has been a much better hitter than that but he was plagued this year to probably the worst average he has experienced since he began playing ball. He served as an able catcher and field leader for the team.

the Falcons could be a winning club with average pitching and inferior hitting is that as a team they stole 44 out of 53 bases. A running club can win. Rod Zanze tried 17 times and was successful all but once and Glero pilfered a perfect 7.

Limeberger singled out relief pitchers Tim Cimino and Mike Wetklow for sterling performances during the season. They will both be back next season as will Smith so the hurling could be improved. Wetklow has real promise as a tall fastballer and Cimino has cunning on the hill for one so young; he's but a sophomore. Most of the rest of the team will graduate however although the infield will be back with Lint at third, Zanze at short, Frasinetti at second and Farrell at first. So for now it's "wait till next year" for the Falcon's first baseball pennant.

Various Christian Views

Zanze was the top hitter in the league games with .400. Frasinetti topped the rest at .368. Franzola topped the rest at .289. Frasinetti topped the rest at .289 in league and Farrell to .270. The rest were about the same.

Farrell led the team in runs batted in with 12 followed by Gandy with 11. An interesting statistic and one that may tell some of the reason why