

Sports

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

DYERSVILLECOMMERCIAL.COM

SECTION B

Field in Farley named for Scherrman

BY MIKE PUTZ

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Three hours prior to the ceremony naming the Farley baseball field in his honor June 10, Paul Scherrman was where he's been for the last 52 years — on the field managing the Farley Hawks baseball team.

And while the game resulted in a 6-0 Hawks' loss to the Rickardsville A's, what followed afterward was a grand slam.

In a 90-minute ceremony emceed by Gary Dolphin, Scherrman was honored by city officials, former and current teammates, and Luis Clemente and Victor Rivera from the Roberto Clemente Foundation.

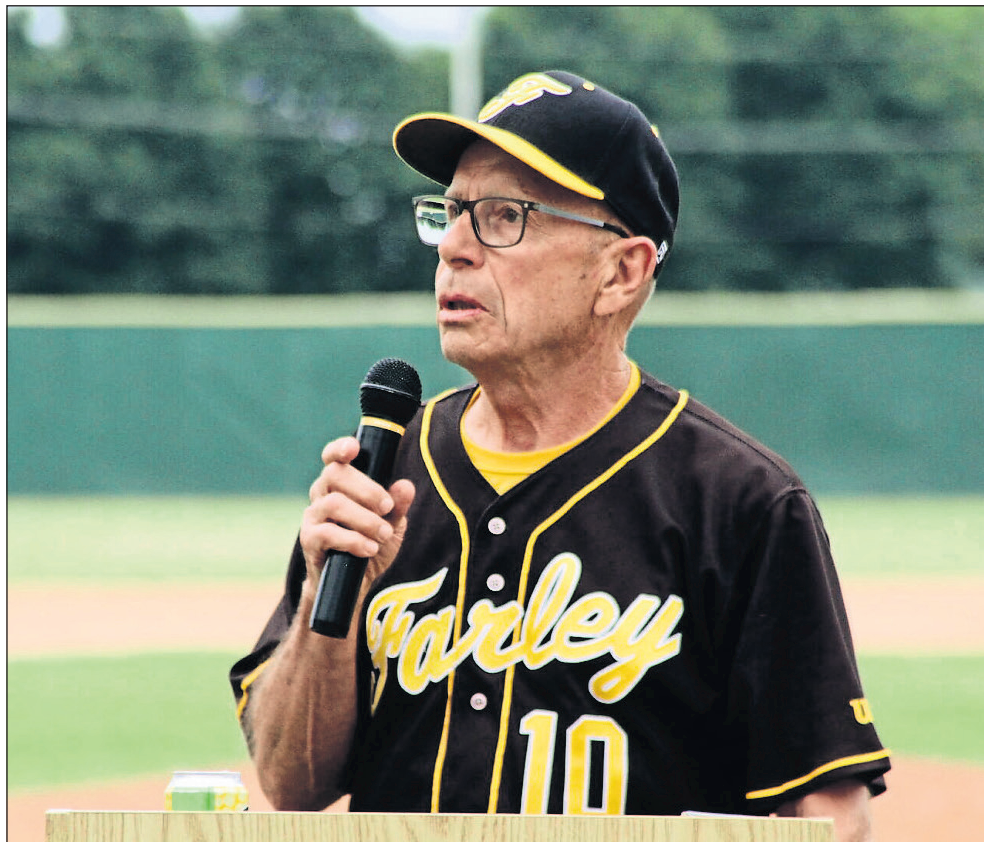
Dale Till, a former teammate of Scherrman's, approached the Farley Park Board about naming the field after his former manager. During his comments, Till spoke of Scherrman's dedication to the field and team.

"I saw him out here over the noon hour once, mowing the field. He didn't see me, but I saw him. And at games, he carried all the equipment from his car to the field in a big bag."

Till estimated Scherrman had managed 2,500 games for the Hawks, making 5,000 trips to and from his car with the equipment.

Scherrman was quick to correct Till, who had forgotten to take into account Saturday's game against Rickardsville, which would make the numbers 2,501 and 5,001.

Clemente, the son of baseball hall of famer Roberto Clemente, praised Scherrman for his dedication to the Robert



Paul Scherrman addresses the crowd.

Mike Putz • Staff Photos

Clemente Foundation.

"My brother, Roberto Clemente, Jr., is in New York at a street festival named for our father. I chose to come here. That's how special this is to me."

A couple days ahead of the celebration, Scherrman spoke about the honor. Scherrman was in Minnesota at a funeral of a friend when he found out about the recognition. "It really caught me off guard. It was a day of such high and low emotions. I'll never forget that day."

Over the years, Scherrman spearheaded campaigns to get

lights on the field, move the outfield fence back, sod the infield, as well as help get a new concession stand and press box and new stadium seating.

"I might have been the leading force, but none of this could have been done without volunteers. There is just no way."

Scherrman continues to work as a Ghost Player at the Field of Dreams as well as at other appearances across the state and Midwest.

"The Field of Dreams and the Ghost Players opened so many doors. Being a part of that and traveling the world

and doing the good deeds they have done and the money they have raised for charities.

"The Ghost Players also opened another door for me to the Roberto Clemente Foundation. I've been collecting equipment for decades and I wanted to see where some of it was going, so I visited Puerto Rico. Baseball has gotten me on their board. Being able to do things for the people of Puerto Rico after a hurricane and stuff like that is all related to baseball."

Scherrman said he takes satisfaction in others enjoying



Paul Scherrman receives a plaque from Farley Mayor Jay Hefel and Farley Park Board President Amy Kluesner.

what is now called Paul Scherrman Field.

"You are hit with this nice field and background when you walk through the gate. It's pretty rewarding for me if I'm there watching a high school game and somebody says 'this is a nice field.' That gives you the motivation to try to keep it going."

Serving his community and volunteering is something Scherrman has done all his life.

"It's the right thing to do. My dad did it. You get that from your parents. Dad was a part of the community here and got the Farley Little League started. Baseball has been my biggest avenue to do that locally to contribute to my community. It makes you feel good. If you can help people in any manner — put a smile on their face or make their life easier — it's self-rewarding. It's what we should be doing. No matter what your faith is, that's the way you become a better person. You see

how fortunate you are by seeing someone who isn't as fortunate as you and you try to help them out."

It's something Scherrman hopes continues with future generations.

"That's how you make communities stronger. When you do a project with a team of citizens, you become stronger. You get to know those people, you become friends, you have a common bond because you accomplished things that helped other people."

On Saturday, Scherrman concluded his remarks thanking those that came out to support him, acknowledging dozens of current and former Farley Hawks in attendance.

"I may have been the driving force with the vision and passion, but it was all fun. It's been a long road but I love it. I love playing baseball and managing. I love my teammates. The chronology isn't important. It's all about the experiences we've shared."

Blazers add three more wins

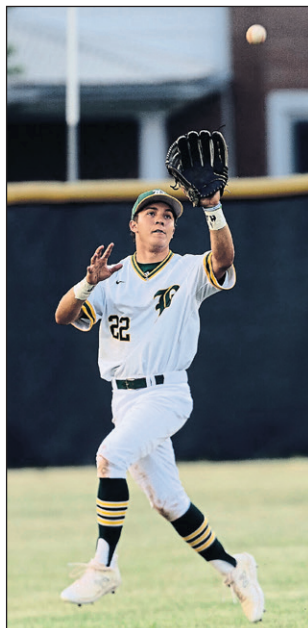
BY BEC WILLENBORG

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One at home, two away and the Beckman boys added three more wins to their season mark, putting them at 11-6.

The home win was against Dubuque Senior, 11-1, on June 6 that saw the Blazers add more than baseball to the record books. The night was a benefit for the Nate and Ashley Hall family and their young son, James, battling Langerhans cell histiocytosis since May 2021. The youngster has relapsed in the past year, a happening so rare the doctors in Iowa City have not found any similar cases.

Nate Hall was a teammate of coach Ryan Mabe at Beckman and as part of the Rickardsville semi-pro team. "Their family has already been through so much and we wanted to do something to show them they have a lot of people in their corner with this," Mabe told the Telegraph Herald. "We have a lot of people praying for them and it's important for them to know they're not going



Stephen Gassman • TH

Beckman's Luke Schieltz makes a running catch against Dubuque Senior.

through this alone. It's nice to help put a smile on their faces."

With 12 local businesses and individuals donating \$20 per run scored, along with other fundraisers at the park, the night raised around \$3,000 for

the family.

And, at least for the Beckman fans, the night was also full of great baseball. Senior got on the board first, but the Blazers answered with four runs in the bottom of the second to take the only lead they'd need. Eli Kluesner blooped to center and Jake Schmidt drew a walk. Drew Thier singled to plate Kluesner. Then Luke Schieltz drilled a triple to the left center gap, scoring both Schmidt and Thier and plated on Luke Sigwarth's ground out to second.

Kluesner scored in the third on a first-and-third double steal to make it 5-1.

In the bottom of the sixth, the game ended early when bases were loaded on walks to Dylan Recker and Schieltz, around a Thier single. Sigwarth doubled to deep right center with a ball that hopped over the fence, clearing the bases for an 8-1 lead. Rob Kronlage doubled to center to score two more and Spencer Rea plated the final mercy rule run on a sac fly to left.

Thier ended 2-for-2,

Schieltz 2-for-3 (two RBIs), with Sigwarth (four), Kluesner, Kronlage (two) and Jackson Oberbroeckling adding hits. Kronlage got the decision in six innings, allowing just a run on six hits, two walks and three whiffs.

"This was a good team effort," added Mabe. "Beyond baseball, it was good for the boys to see the community rally around the Hall family and to see, at the end of the day, baseball is just a game."

The winning continued at Maquoketa June 8, 6-4 in eight and 3-1.

In the first, Maquoketa built a 2-0 lead, only to see the Blazers kick that with a four-run third. But the Cardinals knotted it back up with two more in their half of that frame, 4-4. It took till the top of the eighth for the Blazers to plate the winning runs.

Nate Offerman got the decision in 7 1/3 innings, allowing four runs (two earned), fanning 12 and passing just one. Sigwarth came in for the final

BASEBALL ~ turn to page 2B

Schmidt earns all-state soccer honor

BY BEC WILLENBORG

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Beckman senior forward Trista Schmidt has been named to the Class 1A all-state soccer team by the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches association.

Schmidt was named to the second team among all the Class 1A players.

She scored 34 goals for the Blazers this season, despite being one of the smallest players on the field. Many times she had to fight off double and triple teaming but still managed to rack up hat tricks in eight games. Her 34 goals is an average of 2.3 per game and ranks her 13th in the state, fifth in 1A, in number of goals. She would be eighth in the state if you just went by goals per game, but some teams played more than 15 games.

Her coach Greg Keegan adds, "Trista is very deserving of this selection to the second team all-state. She led our team as one of our captains and did a lot behind the scenes. As captain, I ask them to take on some organizing responsibilities and she did exceptionally well with that. We also look to them to keep team motivation at a high level within practice, games and just any other instance where we are in uniform representing Beckman Catholic.

"She was second in the conference with 34 goals this season. She was definitely outsized and, as the season went on, was double teamed. But she still found ways to finish or at least to draw the attention of the defense to allow the other girls to score. We will definitely miss her being in the lineup next season."



TRISTA SCHMIDT