

# Sports

Page 6 — Thursday, February 19, 2004

## Are you ready for some baseball?

LAURA PHILLIPS  
Staff Writer

Spring is upon us once again and we all know what that means, time to pull out the shades, pack a picnic and enjoy a good game of baseball.

The Methodist's Monarch baseball team brought excitement in the air last Saturday as they opened their 2004 season with a 2-1 victory over visiting team Lynchburg.

Successfully starting the season of to a good start, this season marks head coach Tom Austin's 25<sup>th</sup> year coaching here at Methodist and the fourth straight season that the Monarchs have won their season opener.

The Monarchs took a 1-0 lead during the first inning as leadoff hitter, Jonathan Spivey touched home base with the assistance of Jay Lucas.

As the game proceeded the crowd began to grow tense during the third inning as Lynchburg tied the Monarchs 1-1.

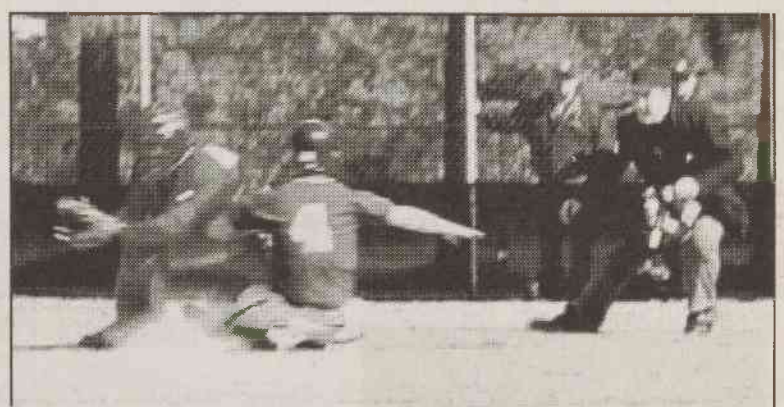
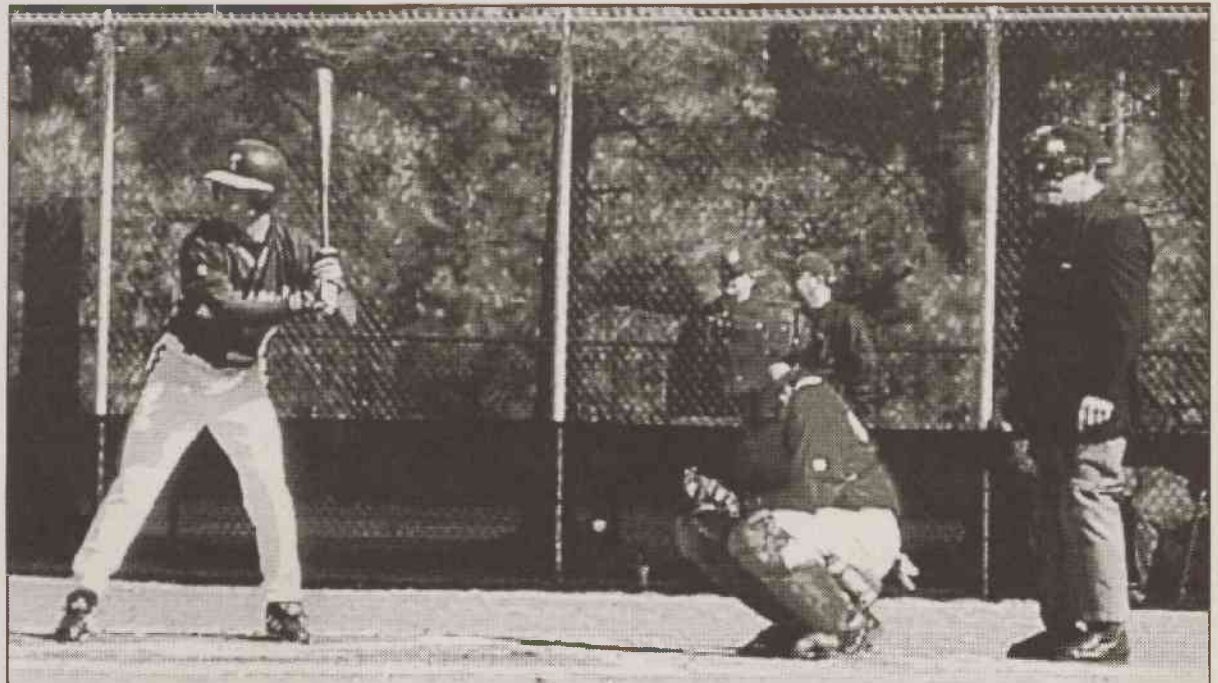
Ending Lynchburg's defeat, Monarch pitcher, Eric Autry struck out the fellow opponent giving Methodist the new advantage.

Coach Austin used nine pitchers the whole game rotating one per inning.

The Monarch pitchers combined for four walks and 11 strikeouts total.

Highlight players of Saturday's game include pitchers Adam Denning, Ryan Brandt and Jim Landemarco, all who recorded two strikeouts each.

All in all the Methodist Monarchs opening game was a huge hit that has put the 2004 season off to a good start and has left fans anticipating the next game.



photos by John Arnold

## Faces in Sports...

by Len Melton

