

North falls in pre-district, 3-2

By TOM BAER

North Farmington is enjoying one of its best baseball seasons ever, but coach Jerry Maxwell's Raiders won't be playing in the state Class A baseball tournament in June.

That's because North dropped an extra-inning decision to West Bloomfield, 3-2, in a pre-district qualifying game last Tuesday. Mark Roman's single drove in Bill Warren with the winning run in the eighth inning. Winning pitcher Brian Lowman, a right hander, gave up five hits, struck out eight and walked none.

Losing pitcher Barry Balbes threw a five-hitter and struck out six. North's Gregg Hughes drove in one run with a sacrifice fly, and teammate Tom Godwin knocked in another with a single.

North, which still stands a chance of winning the Northwest Suburban League championship, returned to action last Thursday, and recorded a 6-0 victory over NSL foe Livonia Franklin in the first game of a double header. North won the second game, 1-0 in nine innings.

In the opener, winning pitcher Dave Weyer had a no-hitter going for 6½

innings. He gave up just two hits, struck out five and walked three. North had eight hits. Hughes went two for three at the plate, drove in a run and stole four bases. Dan Gasser had two hits and drove in a run.

In the nightcap, North scored the winning run in the ninth inning, when Andy Salinas singled, stole second and scored on Ron Frederick's base hit. North had five hits to support winning pitcher Jeff Thomas, who was nursing a no-hitter for seven innings. Thomas ended up with a two-hitter and five strikeouts.

North, now 13-3 overall through last Thursday, plays next on Monday at home against Westland John Glenn. Game time is 3:45 p.m.

HARRISON - WESTERN

Farmington Harrison scored two runs with the benefit of a hit in the fifth inning, and went on to defeat Walled Lake Western, 3-1, in Western Six League baseball last Wednesday. The win boosted Harrison to 9-5 overall and 5-3 in the league.

In the fifth inning, Kevin Collar walked and stole second. Tim Pink then walked. A successful double steal

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put runners on second and third. The next batter grounded to second, and a wild throw home allowed both runners to score.

Winning pitcher Mark Recker tossed a two-hitter and struck out six. Harrison had only six hits.

Harrison entertains Northville High in a WSL game set for 3:45 p.m. Monday.

SOUTHFIELD - FARMINGTON

Farmington High is another baseball team which will end its campaign after the regular season.

Farmington dropped a 4-1 decision to Southfield High last Thursday in a

pre-district contest played on the Blue Jays' diamond. Winning pitcher Dane Smith went the distance, giving up five hits, striking out six and walking four. Southfield had eight hits, including three by leadoff hitter Eric Schwartz.

Losing pitcher Larry Mendelson went all the way, fanning three and walking one. Farmington scored its run in the third, when Marty Bona singled, stole second and came home on Kevin Delp's single.

Earlier last week, Farmington defeated Walled Lake Central in an Inter Lakes League double header, 3-2 and 4-0.



Harrison's Mark Recker pitched a two-hitter against Walled Lake Western.

Falcon softballers sting WLC

Farmington High's Betsy VanDeusen evened her pitching record at 4-4 as she hurled her team to an 11-7 victory over Walled Lake Central last Wednesday in an Inter Lakes League softball game.

The victory lifted Farmington to 4-4 overall and 2-2 in the ILL.

VanDeusen, a sophomore right-hander, went all the way, allowing five hits, striking out five and walking four. Farmington had only three hits, but took advantage of 19 walks issued by Central pitchers. Michelle Thorvald belted a two-run triple, and Kay Deeg had a single, drew four walks and scored three runs.

Farmington plays next on Wednesday at home against North Farmington. The non-league game begins at 3:45 p.m.

HARRISON - WESTERN

Lori Webb pitched 6½ innings in relief as Farmington Harrison bested Walled Lake Western, 7-4, last Wednesday in Western Six League softball. Harrison is 8-6 overall and 4-2 in the league with the victory.

Webb, the winning pitcher, struck out two, walked one and gave up just two singles. Teammate Nancy Bowden had a triple and two singles and knocked in two runs.

In another game last week, Harrison overcame non-league Southfield-Lathrup, 15-13. Webb pitched the first four innings to earn the victory. Harrison had eight hits, including a triple and a single by Bowden, and two singles by Helen Laskaris.

Harrison plays next on Monday at Northville High. The game begins at 4 p.m. at Ford Field.

MERCY - CASS TECH

Gretchen Larges pitched a three-hitter and struck out nine as Farmington Our Lady of Mercy battered Detroit Cass Tech, 15-9, last Wednesday in a state Class A pre-district qualifier. Diane Dietz had a three-run triple for coach Linda Barber's Mercy squad.

In another recent game, Mercy outlasted Redford Bishop Borgess, 10-8, in a Catholic League game. Larges was the winning pitcher, and teammate Lynn Loesche had a pair of doubles.

Mercy will participate in the Catholic League playoffs this week.

THURSTON - N. FARMINGTON

North Farmington, winless in nine softball starts this season, dropped a 9-2 decision to Redford Thurston last Wednesday in the Northwest Suburban League. North is 0-8 in the NSL.

Ann Rodewig, who worked the last two innings, was the losing pitcher. North had five hits, but made three costly fielding errors.

North plays Monday at Westland John Glenn. The NSL game has a 4 p.m. starting time.

North netters triumph

North Farmington boosted its overall tennis record to 7-3 last Wednesday with a 7-0 victory over Livonia Franklin in the Northwest Suburban League. North is 5-1 in the NSL.

In No. 1 singles, North's Dieter Rucker used three sets to defeat Bob Deyo, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2. North's No. 1 doubles team of Steve Chupinsky and Herb Roth beat Jim Thompson and Brian Shaw, 7-6, 6-4.

In another prep tennis meet last week, Farmington Harrison lost the decisive No. 1 singles match and lost to Livonia Churchill, 4-3. The loss dropped Harrison to 7-5 overall and 6-2

in the Western Six League.

Churchill's Bill Fitzpatrick stopped Barry Leshman, 7-6, 6-4, in the top singles match. Dave McDevitt, Harrison's No. 3 singles player, stopped Dan Bailek in three sets, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Earlier, Harrison nipped Walled Lake Western, 4-3, in another WSL meet. Again, the key match was No. 1 singles, where Leshman beat Ron Holman, 7-6, 6-4.

Both North Farmington and Harrison have meets on Monday. Harrison entertains Northville, and North plays host to Westland John Glenn. The meets begin at 3:45 p.m.

NF hurdler shines in losing cause; Falcons outrun foe

North Farmington junior Mike Miller had quite a day for himself last Wednesday, even though his team dropped an 85-73 decision to Westland John Glenn in a Northwest Suburban League boys' track meet.

Miller won two individual events, logging a respectable :38.5 in the 330-yard low hurdles, and posting a :22.9 in the 220-yard dash. Another North hurdler, Art Doran, tied a varsity record in the 120-yard high hurdles with a winning time of :14.6.

Three more North winners were Bob Morden (12-10 in the pole vault), Mark Biehl (160-0) in the discus, and Paul Welch (4:34.0) in the mile run.

The loss dropped coach Ron Holland's North Farmington boys to 8-3 overall and 2-2 in the NSL.

In another boys' track dual last Wednesday, Farmington High battered Walled Lake Central, 102-51, in the Inter Lakes League. Farmington is 3-2 in the league and 7-3 overall under coach Gerald Young.

Farmington senior Rick McKibben, who has

established himself as one of the area's best high jumpers in the past two seasons, won that event with a 6-4 effort. Farmington also won both hurdles events with Jeff Lemanski going :40.6 in the 330 lows, and Dennis Artishin going :15.5 in the 120 highs.

Farmington's Paul McKinnon won the mile run with a time of 4:34.3, and teammate Jim Brancheau took the pole vault at 12-6.

Farmington Harrison got double wins from Tom Reynolds and Jim Stojek, but Walled Lake Western overcame the Hawks, 93-74, in a Western Six League meet last Wednesday. The loss put Harrison at 2-5 overall and 1-3 in the WSL.

Reynolds, a senior, posted his best time ever in the 100-yard dash, a :10.1. He also took the 220 in :23.8. Stojek won the low hurdles in :41.3, and then came back to win the highs in :15.2.

Harrison's mile relay (Eric Tenenbaum, Dave Dilley, Stojek and Pat Delano) recorded their best this season with a 3:37.3. Steve Bolling won the long jump for Harrison with a leap of 17-4½, and teammate Bill Shankle won the discus with a toss of 12-10.

In a Western Six League girls' meet last Wednesday, Western bettered Harrison, 73-64. The loss dropped coach Mark Timmins' Hawks to 5-6 overall and 1-2 in the WSL.

Harrison's Ruth Grabowski won the 440-yard dash in :40.0, besting out Western's Ruth Hubbard, who holds the state Class A record with a :37.4. Grabowski also won the 220 in :27.4, and ran on the 880-yard relay (with Beth Dilley, Linda Tremonti and Dwan Johnston), which won in 1:52.0.

Harrison's Terri Duckett won two individual events, the high jump (5-9) and the 110-yard hurdles (:16.8). Teammate Carolyn Leeson took the 100 dash in :12.0.

Farmington High will host the ILL boys' conference meet on Tuesday (May 23), beginning at 4 p.m. Farmington's girls' team will run in the Oakland County Invitational on Tuesday, and the ILL meet on Wednesday at Livonia Stevenson.

North Farmington's boys' and girls' teams will participate in the Northwest Suburban League meet on Wednesday (May 24) at Livonia Franklin. Harrison's boys travel to Northville for a WSL dual meet on May 24. Harrison's girls entertain Northville on May 25.

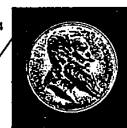
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North's Mike Howley long jumps in a recent meet.

Best girls' times see page 2