

Area netters wilt in rough state tourney field

By TOM BAER
The state high school tennis finals are always loaded with talented players. Southfield-Lathrup's netters should be painfully aware of that fact after their participation in Saturday's Class A state meet at the Midland Community Center.

Lathrup had qualified its entire team for the state meet, because it finished second in the regional two weeks ago. But only two Lathrup players — Pete McKnight and Brad Kovan — won opening-round matches at the state finals. Lathrup compiled two points at the meet.

Another area player, North Farm-

ington's Dieter Rucker, advanced to the state finals because he was the runner up in No. 1 singles in the regional. Rucker, however, lost his opening match at state.

Lathrup's McKnight, a senior, played Livonia Stevenson's Jim Pfeiffer in the opening round of the No. 2 singles competition at state. It was a "significant match," according to Lathrup coach Ed Wallis, and McKnight won in three sets, 7-5, 4-6, 7-5.

"It was an unbelievable thrilling match to watch," Wallis said. "Pete showed tremendous guts and courage. He was behind for most of the match, but then came back to win with a tie-

Farmington Observer
SPORTS
Thursday, June 8, 1978 (F)1C

breaker in the final set."

McKnight then lost to West Bloomfield's Eric Garber, the eventual flight champion, 6-0, 6-1.

Lathrup's Kovan took an opening-

LATHRUP'S NO. 2 and No. 3 doubles teams were seeded in the state meet. The No. 2 team of Ken Frank and Brian Salesin lost their opening match to Flint Southwestern's Coggins and Sutter, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. In the No. 3 doubles opener, Lathrup's Scott Kait and Howard Handler lost, 6-3, 6-3, to Port Huron Northern's Adams and Beauchamp.

Lathrup's Ron Yolles, who plays on the No. 1 doubles team with Dan Lipnik, sprained his ankle during the opening match against East Lansing's Cole and Foote. Yolles has become a hard-luck competitor in the state meet. Last year, he came down with pneumonia just before the finals.

North Farmington's Rucker, a transfer student from West Germany, dropped a 6-2, 6-3 match to Plymouth Salem's Curt Schultz in the opening round.

"There were too many unforced errors, and he (Rucker) never really got into the game," said North Farmington coach Norm Staniszcwski. "Maybe the courts were faster than he's played on."

Ann Arbor Huron won the Class A team title with 24 points, unseating Kalamazoo Loy Norrix, which had won the last two state championships. Loy Norrix was second with 22 points, and Grand Blanc and Flint Southwestern were tied for third.

Christian softballers win Class D district; Mercy is eliminated

By TOM BAER
Southfield Christian's softball team has the distinction of being the only high school squad in Southfield or Farmington still alive in state tournament competition.

Coach Dave Seils' Christian girls earned a trip to the Class D state softball regional at Genesee Saturday thanks to their 10-9 victory over Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes in the Lakes district final Friday.

Another area prep softball team, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, was eliminated by Waterford Township Saturday in the Class A district final at the Southfield Civic Center.

Christian's Seils is "really excited" about his team, but he's making no predictions about how far it'll go in Class D tournament competition.

"I'm really excited about this team," said Seils, who has guided the Eagles to a 10-4 record this season. "After losing in the district for the last two years, this victory had a special meaning for us."

"We've accomplished what we've set out to do this season. From here on in, everything else is icing on the cake, I guess."

Christian needed a rally to whip Lakes in the district final. Robin Harris provided the key hit, an infield single in the sixth inning. The hit knocked in Laurie Vron, who had walked, stolen second and advanced to

third on a passed ball.

Christian, which had only five hits, got a fourth-inning double from Laura Howard. Jody Johnson singled to drive in another run, and Melody Gosselin had a single. Harris contributed two "great defensive plays," Seils said.

WINNING PITCHER Alyssa Edblom, a junior, went the distance, giving up six hits, striking out six and walking 12.

Christian drew a bye through the district semifinal. Lakes blanked Royal Oak St. Mary, 8-0, in the other semifinal game.

At the district at Genesee, northeast of Flint, Christian will face a tough Flint Holy Rosary team.

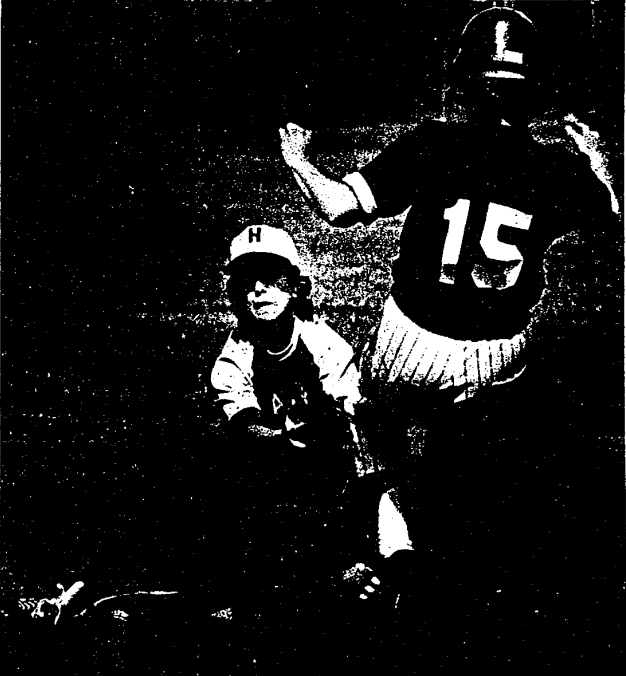
In the Southfield Class A district, Mercy dropped a 9-4 decision to Waterford. Winning pitcher Anne Werwey lasted five innings, giving up seven hits, striking out three and walking five. Werwey, a right hander, tossed a no-hitter at Farmington High to pace her team's 10-0 victory.

"She's one of the faster pitchers around, and she has fairly good control," said Mercy coach Linda Barber, whose Marlins finished with an 8-7 record.

Waterford had only six hits in the final, but Mari Latozos did lots of damage with a triple and a single in four at-bats. Waterford put it away by scoring seven runs in the fourth inning.

Losing pitcher Gretchen Larges was relieved by Lisa Morris in the fourth. Larges, who has come on strong late in the season, finished with a 7-2 won-lost record. Ann Haulbold, Katie McNamara and Vicki Vermeesch each had two hits in four trips for Mercy.

In the semifinals, Mercy overcame Farmington Harrison, 7-4, thanks to a two-run rally in the fifth. Larges, pitching in relief of Margie Kiebor, was the winner. Lori Webb, who gave up six hits and walked six, was the losing pitcher.



Mercy's Vicki Vermeesch (15) barrels into Harrison's Kathy Purcell during the semi-final Class A softball game at the Southfield Civic Center. (Photo by Allen Schlossberg)

Southfield picks new cag coach

Southfield High School has a new girls' varsity basketball coach.

He is Burt Hurshe, who will coach both the girls' varsity team and the boys' reserve squads next season. Hurshe, a 32-year-old science teacher at Southfield's Birney Middle School, spent last season at Birmingham Groves as an assistant to head coach Jay Schwalm.

Hurshe replaces Greg Slivka, who will replace Don Kaump as Southfield's boys' varsity basketball coach. Kaump resigned after the end of the 1977-78 season.

Christian, Mercy girls shine in state track finals

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy and Southfield Christian recorded outstanding finishes Saturday at their respective girls' state track meets.

Mercy, competing in the Class A finals at Brighton High School, scored 16 team points, good for a ninth-place tie with Lansing Sexton. Meanwhile, in the Class D finals at Lansing Sexton, Southfield Christian finished 14th with 11 points.

Mercy, which has Catholic League and regional titles to its credit this season, scored in the state finals. Julie Michele Collins scored in a pair of events, taking fourth in the 880-yard run (2:18.7) and sixth in the mile run (5:20.1).

Teammate Sue Heinlen, a sophomore, finished fourth in the two-mile run with a time of 11:23. Lynn Yadach completed Mercy's scoring effort with a 2:18.9 showing in the 880, good for sixth place. Mercy's 440-yard relay team (Terry Whalen, Kathy Whalen, Sherry West and Ann Miller) didn't score with a time of :51.4, but did establish a school record.

"We did just about what we thought we'd do," said Mercy coach Bob Kirkland. "We've had a fantastic season. I can't believe how far these girls have come in just three years."

Detroit Mackenzie, paced by Denise Walton's national high school record of 2:07.7 in the 880, won the Class A state championship, scoring 41 points in the state meet. Flint Northern took second place with 24½, and Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills was third with 23.

IN THE CLASS D finals, Southfield Christian got all its points from one girl — sophomore Laura Vron.

Vron, who also competes on Christian's softball team, won the two-mile run with a state-record 1:40.0, shattering the old mark by 20 seconds. She also finished sixth in the mile with a time of 5:40.0.

"She's really something else," said Christian coach Shirley Humbyrd. "She'd be a great athlete at any school in any class."

"Not only is she an all-around athlete, but she also has a 4.0 academic average. And despite all the medals she's won, she's a great team athlete. She doesn't go out and try to win everything for herself."

Linda Vron, Laura's twin sister, missed scoring in the 880 (2:30.0) and the mile run (5:59.0). Teammate Julie Buller couldn't score in the long jump (14-10) or the high jump (4-8), and Robin Harris missed scoring in the shot put with a 22-0 effort.

In the Class D boys' track finals, held concurrently with the girls' at Sexton, Christian had one scorer — Tim Johnson, who finished third in the 880 with a time of 1:59.0.

Grass Lake High won the girls' Class D title with 58 points. Akron Fairgrove won the Class D boys' championship with 70 points.

Southfield, N. Farmington score

Boys' meet disappointing

North Farmington's six-point performance in the state Class A boys' track meet Saturday was a disappointment to the Raider coaches and competitors.

Southfield High, which scored just four points in the state meet at Flint Northwestern High, experienced similar feelings after the competition.

Farmington High and Southfield-Lathrup each had trackmen qualified for the season-final state meet, but all failed to score.

"Frankly, it wasn't one of our better days," said North Farmington Mike Miller, who finished fifth in the 330-yard low hurdles with a time of :38.4. Teammate Mark Biehl landed seventh in the discus with a throw of 158-7.

But North's Art Doran, who had qualified for state in the 120-yard high hurdles and as part of the Raiders' 440-yard relay, injured the hamstring in his right leg and couldn't compete. As a result, North scratched its 440 relay.

"We were sure we'd get points from Doran in the highs," Davis said. "And neither Biehl nor Miller were pleased with their performances."

Southfield High, which had qualified three trackmen for the finals, got a scoring performance from senior Dave Walmsworth, who finished fourth in the shot put with a heave of 56-7½. Southfield senior Mark Lee had qualified in the high jump. He made the opening height of 6-3, tying a Blue Jay record, but couldn't score.

run with a 9:22.2 clocking. Church was running fifth with about a lap and a half to go, and he seemed to be moving up. But then he experienced "physical problems" in the words of coach Chuck Balog, and dropped to 10th.

"We went there thinking all three of them could score," Balog said. "They all came very close, so I guess I can't be too disappointed."

Farmington High had state-meet qualifiers in high jumper Rick McKibben and pole vaulter Jim Branchau. McKibben couldn't get past the 6-3 opening height, and Branchau was halted after making the opening height of 12-9 in the pole vault.

Lathrup had one runner, junior Jeff Golorth, at the state meet. Golorth ran a :39.5 in the 330 low hurdles, not good enough to score.

Detroit Cass Tech won the Class A state title, scoring 43 points at the state meet. Flint Southwestern took second with 34 points, and Detroit Redford was third with 30.

Locally, there'll be some new faces on the sidelines next spring. Three boys' track coaches — Lathrup's Gerald Minewasser, Farmington's Gerald Young, and Farmington Harrison's Tom Shalla — have resigned.

Final boys', girls' track times — p. 2-3

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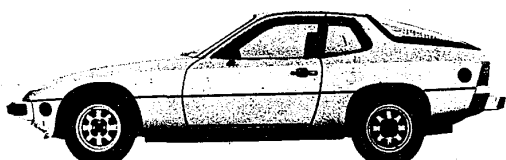
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SOUTHFIELD'S BOB Church, one of the area's best distance runners, ended up with a nonscoring 10th place in the two-mile