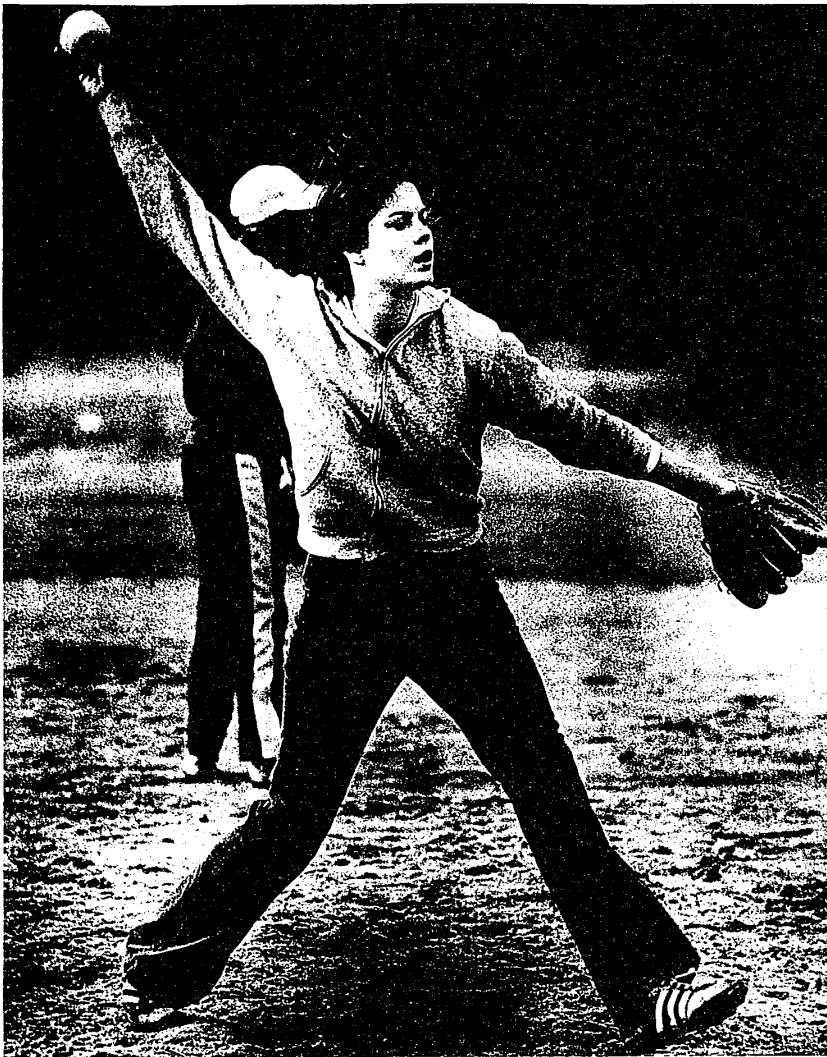




Cynthia Pink limbers up her pitching arm during a recent practice at Farmington Harrison High. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Thursday, April 10, 1980

(F)18

## Softball preview

### Winning coach faces challenge

By TOM BAER

Why would softball coach Sandra Rivers leave a winning team (Farmington Harrison) and take up with a loser (North Farmington)?

"The only thing that prompted me to do it was the lack of outdoor facilities at Harrison," said Rivers, who coached the Hawks to an 18-3 overall record and a Western Six League (WSL) championship last season.

"The facilities are terrible and it seemed like nothing was being done," she said. "Things will be a little better at North."

The diamonds may be smoother, but the team has had some rough going since its inception in 1977. North lost all 14 games last season. The school has only two softball victories in the last three years.

But Rivers, who wrote a master's thesis on softball pitching, said she likes the challenge at North Farmington.

"The attitude this year is really positive," she said. "I know we're going to win a few. We have some excellent players."

Rivers' squad includes five seniors and six juniors. The Raiders' main pitcher will be senior Sandy Stumpf, a right-hander. Other pitching possibilities are DeAnna Forman and Cindy Atkins.

Senior shortstop Stacy Smith, last year's most valuable player, is back along with infielders Doreen Gundie, Betsy Lee and Carolyn Rambus. Outfield prospects include Stacey Greenberg, Mary Shuey and Debbie Davies.

NORTH OPENS its season April 14 with a home game against Oak Park. The Raiders' Northwest Suburban League season begins April 22 at home against Livonia Franklin, the defending champion.

Rivers, a physical education teacher at Farmington's Warner Junior High, replaces Dave Finney, who needed time to work on his doctorate in history.

Irv Horwitz, a physical education teacher at East Junior High in Farmington Hills, is Rivers' replacement at Harrison.

(Continued on page 4B)

## Prep softball schedules

### FARMINGTON HIGH

**SOFTBALL SCHEDULE** — April 16, at Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m.; April 18, at Walled Lake Central, 4 p.m.; April 21, at Redford Union, 4 p.m.; April 23, at Millfield-Lakeland, 4 p.m.; April 25, at Pontiac Northern, 4 p.m.; April 26, at Southfield-Lathrup (double header at Civic Center), 11:30 a.m.; April 30, at Waterford Township, 4 p.m.; May 2, at Livonia Stevenson, 4 p.m.; May 3, at Southfield High (double header), noon; May 5, at Walled Lake Central, 4 p.m.; May 7, at Millfield-Lakeland, 4 p.m.; May 9, at Pontiac Northern, 4 p.m.; May 14, at Waterford Township, 4 p.m.; May 16, at Livonia Stevenson, 4 p.m.; May 23, at Pre-district game; May 27, at Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m.; May 28, at North Farmington, 4 p.m.; May 30-31, Class A district.

### FARMINGTON HARRISON

**SOFTBALL SCHEDULE** — April 16, Farmington High, 4 p.m.; April 18, at North Farmington, 4 p.m.; April 21, at Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m.;

April 23, at Northville High, 4 p.m.; April 28, at Plymouth Canton, 4 p.m.; May 5, at Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.; May 7, at Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m.; May 10, at Southfield High (double header), noon; May 12, at Northville High, 4 p.m.; May 14, at Plymouth Canton, 4 p.m.; May 19, at Waterford Mont, 4 p.m.; May 21, at Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.; May 23, at Pre-district game; May 30-31, Class B district.

### NORTH FARMINGTON

**SOFTBALL SCHEDULE** — April 15, Oak Park, 4 p.m.; April 18, Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m.; April 21, Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m.; April 23, at Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m.; April 26, at Southfield High (double header), noon; April 29, at Garden City East, 4 p.m.; May 2, at Redford Thornton, 4 p.m.; May 3, at Southfield-Lathrup (double header at Civic Center), noon; May 6, at Redford Union, 4 p.m.; May 8, at Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m.; May 15, at Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m.; May 16, at Garden City East, 4 p.m.; May 20, at Redford Thornton, 4 p.m.; May 23, at Pre-district game; May 27, at Redford Union, 4 p.m.; May 28, at Farmington High, 4 p.m.; May 30-31, Class A district.

## High school swimmer wins his biggest race

By DENNIS O'CONNOR  
Sports Editor

No, Craig Zammit is not an All-Eccentric-area swimmer. But he is a very, very special athlete on the Birmingham Brother Rice swim team.

His 11th-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle of the Catholic League meet certainly did not earn any headlines for the Warrior tanker. But that finish of 5:29.3 gave Brother Rice two points toward an 11-point victory over rival Detroit Catholic Central for the league title.

And it surely was two points which 10-year coach George O'Brien never counted on.

You see, Zammit wasn't expected to live — let alone swim — two years ago when he suffered an acute aneurism: a blood vessel which snaps in the brain.

It happened his sophomore season, two days before the Catholic League meet. He complained of head pains and later collapsed, according to O'Brien.

"It could happen to anyone," the Rice coach explained. "It didn't happen because he was swimming."

After head surgery that Sunday, the con-

dition was corrected but complications remained, keeping Zammit in the hospital for nearly seven months.

"I visited him and he wasn't coherent," O'Brien said. "It was just a wait-and-see period."

THE SURGERY removed a bone in the back of his head and a soft spot now exists. Because of this, Zammit can still swim, but he must push off the side of the pool to start, rather than dive.

"It really hurts him because other people are diving off (a definite time advantage in starting a race), but he's a real competitor," O'Brien said.

Zammit's hospital stay cost him one whole semester, so he repeated his sophomore academic year at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, where his father was transferred. He swam for Xavier that season, as well.

Zammit's father transferred back to back to Michigan this season, and Craig rejoined the Warriors.

"The kids (his teammates) were happy that he (Zammit) was still alive," O'Brien said. "He's a fighter."

"He's not a front-line swimmer, but he was an inspiration for the kids."

O'Brien said Zammit, a better than 3.0-grade-point student, is accepted by his teammates and goes through the same workout as the rest of the swimmers. He even shaved his head bald, along with many of his teammates, before the Catholic League meet this season. Zammit must be careful no one bumps his head, however, because it is still very sensitive. He plans to have surgery again in June when a plate will be inserted in his head for stability.

ZAMMIT, who lifted weights in the off-season last summer, improved his 500-free time from 5:45.0 at the beginning of the year to the 5:29.3 league-meet finish. He improved his 100-yard freestyle time from 59.7 to 56.0, and his 200-yard individual medley time from 2:34.3 to 2:26.1. Although he has junior academic standing this season, it was Zammit's fourth year of athletic competition, making him ineligible for high school action next year.

"We are going to appeal to the state," O'Brien said. "It doesn't look good, but we're going to give it a try."

Still, Zammit won't be forgotten by classmates, parents and fans for the inspiration he gave to everyone at Brother Rice and in the community this season.

## Former NF netter stands out in college

Dave Epstein of Farmington Hills has been one of the most pleasant early-season surprises on Bowling Green State University's tennis team, and now appears to have locked up starting assignments in both singles and doubles.

The winningest player in North Farmington High School history, Epstein ended up with a 15-5 record last year at No. 5 singles. Now a junior, he's currently the leading contender for the No. 3 singles spot and will probably play at No. 3 doubles.

Epstein, a two-year letterman, is adept at playing the serve-and-volley and baseline games, according to coach Bob Gill.

Bowling Green compiled a 20-5 record last season, the school's best record since 1964.



DAVE EPSTEIN

## Russians coming

The United States may not be going to the Soviet Union this summer, but the Russians are planning to come here next month.

Schoolcraft College is hosting a basketball game at 8 p.m. May 10 between a Soviet national junior men's team and a Michigan AAU junior squad.

Howard Monk, from Plymouth Salem, and Barry Spencer, from Detroit Catholic Central, have been chosen for the state team.

This is the third year in succession that Schoolcraft has been the site of an international basketball game.

A team of state high-school all-stars demolished a Yugoslav national junior team last year. A touring Soviet junior team whipped a state contingent two years ago.

The game between the Soviets and Team Michigan will be the second of a basketball doubleheader May 10. The preliminary game, which begins at 6

(Continued on page 2B)

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