

Baseball regionals coming up

Raiders, Hawks survive tournament tests

By TOM BAER

One word — happy — keeps popping up in Jerry Maxwell's conversations these days. "I just sat around last Saturday night and stared at my district trophy for the longest time," said Maxwell, who coached North Farmington High to a state Class A district championship. It defeated Plymouth Salem (11-4) and Milford-Lakeland (5-2).

"It was the happiest I've ever been in coaching," he said. "We've won some big games, and we've lost a few, but I've never been happier."

"After we beat Lakeland for the district title, there was a whole lot of hugging and cheering. They were one happy bunch of kids, and I'm one happy coach."

With the district triumphs, North advances to the Class A regional on Saturday, June 7, in Wyandotte. The Raiders, now 18-5 overall, play Wayne Memorial at 10 a.m.

Another area team, Farmington Harrison, remains alive in the state baseball tournament.

Harrison won the Class B district at Dearborn St. Alphonse Saturday with victories over Robichaud (9-4) and Novi (20-6). The Hawks advance to the Class B regional at Riverview High School to play an undetermined opponent at 12:30 p.m.

North Farmington senior Rich Nutter was the batting star in the district games. He had five hits in six trips in both games to raise his average to .404, the highest of the Raider regulars.

HE HOMERED and drove in three runs in the first game against Salem. Against Lakeland, he went three-for-three at the plate and was the winning pitcher, striking out the first nine batters.

North's mound ace, junior Matt Roud, was against Salem. He improved

'I knew we had a good chance against Salem because we had Matt (Roud) on the mound. Matt's been tough on everybody all year. He strikes out a lot of guys and he doesn't give up many runs.'
— Coach Jerry Maxwell

his record to 6-1 with a five-hitter. He struck out 11 to bring his season total to 76.

"I knew we had a good chance against Salem," Maxwell said, "because we had Matt on the mound. Matt's been tough on everybody all year."

"He strikes out a lot of guys, and he doesn't give up many runs. His earned run average is 0.26, which I'd match against anybody's."

North's bats were booming in the second game against Lakeland. The Raiders jumped on pitcher Bill Hallman, who went into the game unbalanced, for three runs in the second inning.

"Once we got into the game, I knew we'd win," Maxwell said. "In the first inning, we didn't get a hit or have a baserunner, but we hit the ball hard. We really ripped it."

Harrison, a Class B school that plays a Class A schedule during the regular season, raised its record to 12-13 with the district wins.

"THIS (THE tournament showing) makes up for a lot of disappointment," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "We thought we were going to win our league (Western Six), and we wound up winning only two games."

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North Farmington's Rex Baker bellyflops safely into second base with a stolen base as the ball skips through the legs of Plymouth Salem's John Hetkovski. North whipped Salem, 11-4, in the regional game. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

Mercy pitcher shines in semifinals

W. Bloomfield conquers all in softball district

By TOM BAER

West Bloomfield's softball team, 17-4 overall and the champions of the Greater Oakland Activities League, added a state Class A district title to its honors last Saturday.

Coach Sheila Charnley's West Bloomfield club whipped Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, 5-4, in the district final at Farmington's Knights of Columbus Field.

West Bloomfield now advances to the Class A regional tournament next Saturday, June 7, at Waterford Town-

ship High. West Bloomfield plays Royal Oak Dondero, the defending Class A state champion, at 10 a.m.

"We're playing very consistent ball right now," Charnley said. "I don't have any superstars, but I do have seven or eight kids who can get the job done. I'd like to think we can go all the way."

The winners raced to a 4-0 lead after the fifth inning, but Mercy rallied to knot it with four runs in the top of the sixth. Lori Macdonald, Lisa Morris and Patty Schneider each delivered an RBI single in the comeback.

The Lakers scored the winning run in the seventh. With two out and the bases loaded, Lisa Schmidt rapped a grounder to the second baseman, who was too late with her toss to the shortstop for the attempted force out.

SOPHOMORE JANA Baringer, who leads the team in hitting with a .477 average, came home with the winning run.

Mercy touched winning pitcher Gina Coury (12-3) for 10 hits. Coury, a sophomore right-hander, struck out one and

walked five. Meri Stockwell, who worked the last 1 1/2 innings in relief of Morris, was the losing pitcher.

Carolyn Barcewicz led West Bloomfield's nine-hit offense with an RBI triple. Macdonald went two for three and drove in two runs for Mercy, which finished at 11-9 under coach Linda Barber.

Mercy qualified for the district final by beating Farmington High, 2-0, in the semifinals. Stockwell, the winning pitcher, al-

lowed five hits, struck out five and walked six.

"She was tough in the clutch," said Farmington coach Rich Roy. "We left nine runners on base. We had the bases loaded in one inning and didn't score. Two other times we had runners on second and third and didn't score."

Mercy, which had eight hits, scored a run in the first as Kelley Walsh's single drove in Macdonald. Later in the game, Stockwell doubled and scored on Carolyn Chapman's infield single.

Losing pitcher Jean Zuhorski, a jun-

ior, struck out two and walked one. She closed out the season with an impressive 10-3 record.

Denise Goyette, Betsy VanDeusen, Stacy Green, Margaret Richards and Kathy Christensen each had a hit for Farmington, which finished with an 18-4 overall record.

In the other semifinal, West Bloomfield eliminated Walled Lake Western, 6-2. Coury pitched a three-hitter, struck out two and walked three. Teri Dixon went two for two and drove in two runs for the Lakers.

State track finals

HHS hurdler scores

Senior Beth Dillely became the first Farmington Harrison girl ever to score at a state track meet last Saturday when she finished fifth in the 200-meter hurdles in 29.8 seconds. Class B state meet at Sturgis High School.

Dillely, who is headed for Grand Valley State College, also qualified for state in the 100-meter hurdles, but finished a non-scoring seventh place with a time of 15.6 seconds.

"I didn't think Beth had a good day," said Harrison coach Mark Timmins. "She was still stiff and sore from running in the Western Six League meet on the previous Wednesday. Not many leagues hold their conference meet that close to the state finals."

Harrison's Linda Treonati qualified for state in the 400-meter dash, but failed to score with a 52.3.

Other area schools — Our Lady of Mercy, North Farmington and Farmington High — all had competitors in the Class A state meet at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids. No local girls scored, however.

Mercy junior Sonya Howcott recorded a 26.7 in the 220-yard dash — a personal best, but not good enough to get out of the preliminaries. Teammate Beth Basse, a senior, threw the discus 109-feet-7, good for 11th place.

"I spent more time driving up there than I did coaching," said Mercy coach Bob Kirkland. "Both our girls were done by 11:30 a.m."

Farmington High had Class A qualifiers in senior Julie Tadzynski and sophomore Chris Losser. Tadzynski turned in a 14-5 in the long jump, and Losser went 62.5 in the 440 dash.

North Farmington's Nancy Hughes, a junior, qualified in the shot put. She didn't score with a personal best 35-9.

Flint Northern won the Class A girls' meet with 83.4 points. Pontiac Central followed with 39, and Bloomfield Hills Andover finished third with 36. Grand Rapids Christian won the Class B meet with 30 points.

BOYS' TRACK FINALS

North Farmington, Farmington Harrison and Farmington High all had qualifiers for the state Class A boys' meet in Grand Rapids. No local trackmen scored.

Farmington's Craig Kietly made the opening

height of 6-3 in the high jump, but missed at 6-6 in miserable weather.

"It was real wet and windy," said Farmington coach Dave Catherman. "They had to hold the bar on in the high jump."

Rick Curtis of Farmington competed in the long jump (20-10 1/2) and ran a leg on two qualifying relays. The 440 crew (Jeff Beard, Don Dewey, Kevin Davis and Curtis) ran a 45.2 at state. The 880 team (Kietly, Dewey, Davis and Curtis) was timed in 1:33.4.

Senior sprinter Dan Cohen of North Farmington qualified in the 100 and 220 events. He went 10:2 in the 100 and 23.8 in the 220. Teammate Jamie Winterbottom, a sophomore, logged a 2:01.7 in the 880 run.

Harrison's Steve Shanborn went 6-1 in the high jump at the Class B meet at Sturgis High. Ken Kopko of Harrison went 22.8 in the 200-meter dash and 51.5 in the 400 dash.

Detroit Central scored 57 1/2 points to win the boys' Class A meet. East Lansing was second with 40 1/2, and Birmingham Brother Rice finished fifth with 26. Flint Beecher won the Class B meet with 57 points.

Mercy golfers land 4th at state

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's golf team, led by junior Meg Mallon, finished fourth with 381 strokes in the girls' state tournament last Monday at Burroughs Gurns Golf Course near Brighton.

Mallon was the tournament's second-best golfer with a nine-over-par 82. Medalist Merridith McCuaig of Battle Creek Lakeview shot 78. Lisa Billeit, a Mercy senior, finished 13th with a 91. Carol Conway shot a 89, and Lori Hawkins fired a 109 to round out Mercy's scoring. Two other area golfers were Plymouth Salem's Lisa Martin (fifth, 86) and Rochester Adams' Jolayne Johnston (ninth, 89).

Sturgis won the state tournament with 353 strokes. Mt. Pleasant was second with 357, and Grand Blanc took third with 380. Salem finished seventh with 390. Rochester High landed eighth with 393 and West Bloomfield took 12th with 408.

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