

Thursday, May 27, 1982 O&E

Take 2nd in regional

Farmington Harrison netters state bound

The West Bloomfield and Farmington Harrison tennis teams are bound for the state finals, thanks to their one and two finishes, respectively, in Friday and Saturday's Class A tennis regional at Waterford Mott.

Paced by an almost perfect afternoon from No. 1 singles standout Ed Nagel, West Bloomfield netted the regional championship with 24 points, seven ahead of runner-up Harrison. Nagel lost just one game at the regionals, blanking Jim Rosevich of Waterford Kettering and Walled Lake Central's Darryl Pigeon, 5-4, 6-0, before defeating Rochester's Mike Simpson, 6-0, 6-1. Nagel and Simpson thus both qualified for state competition.

"If he (Nagel) isn't the top seed, he'll be one of the top," said West Bloomfield Coach Greg Kopec, looking ahead to the state competition slated for June 4-5 at Midland Community Tennis Center in Midland.

"He's going to see better competition than he has this far, but he has a good chance to win it."

Fifteen schools competed in the regional. Behind state qualifiers West Bloomfield and Harrison were Rochester with 15 points, North Farmington (10), Lake Orion (7), Walled Lake Central and Waterford Kettering (5), Clarkston and Walled Lake Western (4), Utica Eisenhower, Rochester Adams and Waterford Mott (3), Milford Lake-land (2) and Milford and Waterford Township (1).

"In six of the seven flights, we were in the finals," Kopec noted. "We ended up winning four of them. Our No. 3 doubles team (Mike Seaton and Nick Seaton) played very good tennis. I was pleased."

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP REGIONAL

It was Birmingham Brother Rice that won top honors at the Class A tennis regional held at Southfield Lathrup Friday and Saturday. Brother Rice led the field of 14 schools with 21 points.

Second place and the only other team trip to the state finals went to Redford Catholic Central with 17 points.

The two individual state qualifiers to come out of the Lathrup regional were Farmington's Scott Davis and Brother Rice's Eric Holey. Davis defeated Holey in the No. 1 singles final, 7-6, 4-7, 6-3.

The other singles winners were Doug Button of Farmington, Jamie Peil of Birmingham Seaholm and Dean Masbimen of Livonia Stevenson. In doubles play, the winning teams were Paul Olmstead and John Wilkenson from Seaholm, John Huebe and Paul Browne of Redford Catholic Central and Dave Lord and Ed Garcia of Brother Rice.

Following state-qualifiers Brother Rice and Redford Catholic Central in the team standings were Birmingham Seaholm with 16 points, Livonia Stevenson (12), Farmington (9), Berkley (7), Southfield and Southfield-Lathrup (5), Birmingham Groves (4), Livonia Bentley and Thurston (3), Detroit Henry Ford (1) and Detroit Redford and Bishop Borgess (0).

"Like always, it was an incredible journey as far as competition goes," said Southfield-Lathrup Coach Ed Waitis. "Year after year, this is a tough regional."

The state finals will be held June 4-5 in Midland.

DUAL MEET RESULTS

The race for the Michigan Suburban Athletic Association tennis title is over — and it could hardly have been any closer.

Bloomfield Lahser and Southfield-Lathrup both brought identical 4-0 league records into last week's showdown. The two teams played to a 2-2 standoff when bad weather forced the rest of the match to be rescheduled to Tuesday.

The dead heat continued, and with the score at 3-3, it all came down to the No. 1 doubles. It was there that Lahser prevailed, as the tandem of Pat Paige and David Lee defeated Lathrup coun-

terparts Marc Schechter and Dean Singer, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

That gave the Knights a 4-3 victory in the meet, a 5-0 record in the MSA — and the coveted league title.

"I'm just very, very pleased with the team's performance," said a happy Jan Exner, Lahser's coach. "This year we've really gotten it together — we

won the league and we're going to the state meet. It's been a perfect year."

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP improved its season record to 9-4 Monday by slipping past Rochester, 4-3.

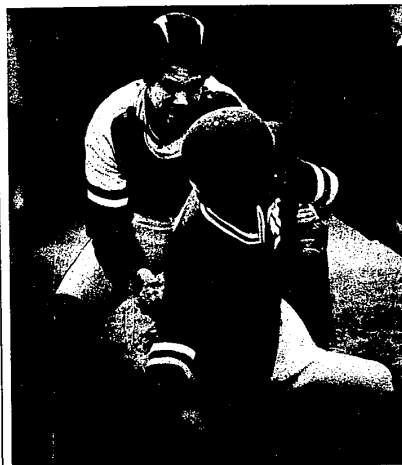
Lathrup dominated the doubles matches, sweeping all three contests. In No. 1 doubles, it was the team of Jon

Further and Dan Healey defeating Jim Grant and Paul Foley, 6-2, 6-3; in No. 2 doubles, the unit of Dean Singer and Marc Schechter bested Stephan Tan and Pete Milne, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; and in No. 3 doubles, Doug Velick and Mike Noorily prevailed over Rochester's Mike Sherman and John Hansen, 6-0, 6-3.

Steve Kalt defeated Jim Sadler, 7-6, 1-6, 6-3, to give Lathrup its only triumph in singles competition. Rochester took the other three matches, as Mike Simpson downed Jerry Soverinsky, 6-0, 6-2; John Van Nocker bested Bobby Glen, 6-1, 6-3; and Kurt Zeese defeated Rob Granader, 6-4, 6-4.

The win gave Lathrup an overall record of 9-4 on the season.

Pitchers dominate doubleheader



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Southfield catcher Randy Carey puts the tag on a sliding Milo Karhu of Farmington.

By Al Zawacky
staff writer

The home-field advantage backfired for Southfield-Lathrup in game one of Monday's doubleheader against Farmington.

Final score in the opener: Farmington 5, Southfield-Lathrup 1.

Game two was an altogether different story, as Lathrup pulled out a 3-0 triumph to earn a split in the non-league twinbill.

Both contests were dominated by pitching. In game one it was Farmington's Dan Zang that held the bats in check, striking out four and allowing just one hit. Zang did have some control problems — he walked eight — but the Chargers were unable to capitalize, leaving eight runners on base.

Farmington opened the scoring early with a single run in the first. The Chargers came back with their lone run of the contest in the bottom half of the inning on a clean single to center by Andy Bartlett, a walk to Randy Carey and a groundout by Scott Mason.

Farmington broke the game open in the third. Joey Hamilton got the rally going with a walk. Three Charger errors and a walk drove in two runs.

Hamilton finished the game one-for-three and scored two runs. In game two, it was Jim Gagliardi that controlled events from the

mount. Gagliardi struck out six, walked four and allowed just one hit, a single by Hamilton in the third.

The Chargers scored twice in the fourth. Ian Reid drew a walk, Mason singled, Pete Ammon followed with a sacrifice, Carey walked and a sacrifice fly by Dan Dickson made it 1-0. A wild pitch brought another run home.

Lathrup added to its lead in the sixth on a single by Gagliardi, a sacrifice bunt by Bartlett and an RBI single by Reid. Gagliardi also picked off three Farmington base runners in the course of the game.

The Chargers, at 13-7 on the season, will travel to Troy for a pre-district test Friday.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN slipped past Warren Baptist 7-6 to post its fifth win of the season in 19 outings.

The winning pitcher was Tom Gervase, who went the full seven innings. Gervase helped his own cause in a big way at the plate, going four-for-four with three singles, a homer and three RBIs, including the game winner.

Southfield scored its seventh run in the sixth on a single by Kent Nast, a fielder's choice by Greg Brown and Gervase's single. Southfield's next action will be today when the team will host Oakland Christian.



C.J. Risak

Isn't it Grand?

Prix racers zoom into town

Gordon Smiley died two weeks ago. The relatively unknown driver was killed during qualifying trials for the Indianapolis 500. Sports enthusiasts throughout the state mourned his passing.

Predictably, the criticisms poured forth. The speeds are much too fast, with Rick Mears qualifying for the Indy pole position in excess of 200 miles per hour. Put a clamp on these speeds, and Smiley still might be alive.

DETROIT WILL sponsor a race next weekend. The Detroit Grand Prix will feature the top Formula One teams in the world speeding through the city's streets.

Comparing Indy-style auto racing with the Grand Prix circuit is something Americans have relished. They point to the faster Indy cars and figure they are better.

Not true. The Grand Prix circuit produces the best auto racing in the world. New technology usually starts with Formula One cars. Check the foils on Indy cars. They help the car stick to the track and slice through the wind.

Formula One cars on the Grand Prix circuit developed the use of foils. So it's great that Detroit, the auto capital of the world, has landed the world's best racing circuit — even if few Americans are involved in it.

BACK TO COMPARISONS: Indy vs. the Grand Prix. For, you see, a week before Smiley drove his car straight into the wall at Indy, Gilles Villeneuve lost his life trying to qualify for the Belgian Grand Prix at Zolder.

The differences are more apparent than one might think. Other drivers, most notably Johnny Rutherford, said Smiley's death could be blamed at least

partially on driver inexperience. Smiley went into the turn too fast, and the rear of his car started to slide. He over-corrected his steering, and the car careened into the wall.

Villeneuve was not an inexperienced driver. He was one of the best. In 1979, the French Canadian finished second in the drivers' World Championship point standings to Jody Scheckter.

Villeneuve was driving for the Ferrari team, one of the best, when the tragedy occurred. Smiley did not have one of the best cars at Indy.

In short, Villeneuve was at the top of his driving world. Smiley was still struggling.

BUT THERE are two very important similarities as well. Both drivers were pushing their autos to the limit. Smiley had seen Mears and others speed around the track at 208. He may have pushed a lesser machine too hard.

Villeneuve always drove hard. That was his trademark, his strategy. He was aggressive, and he made it pay off on the track in wins.

Both drivers pushed their machines to the limit. And now both are dead.

Each driver had good equipment, their cars among the best in their respective circuits, technically speaking.

Villeneuve's car was closer to the top in his circuit than Smiley's was. But ultimately it made little difference.

For technology always outraces safety. Cars are improved, speeds increase and weight decreases — and people still die.

GRAND PRIX race tracks are lined with tombstones. Remember Jimmy Clark?

The famous American driver and one of the greats of Grand Prix driving

died at Nuremberg. There have been many others since.

Ronnie Peterson, Francois Cevert, Patrick Depailler and Peter Revson (whose family owns Revlon Cosmetics) met their fate in a Formula One driver's seat.

Others have survived serious crashes but still wear the scars of the accident. Clay Regazzoni's brakes gave way, and he smashed through a safety barrier at the Long Beach race a few years ago. He is paralyzed for life.

Niki Lauda, a driving champion, was in a serious wreck. The fire left its scars on Lauda, but after a short retirement, he is driving again, presently for McLaren.

Most Formula One drivers, once they reach the top, only race for four or five years before retiring. Jackie Stewart quit while on top. So did James Hunt, Jody Scheckter and, most recently, Carlos Reutemann.

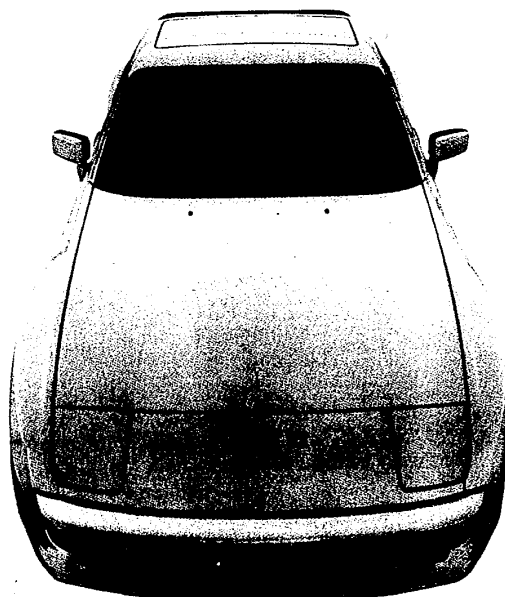
WHY TEMPT FATE? They've lived their life in the fast lane. Let someone else take a turn in the gladiator's ring and test their ability, not only to win, but to survive.

For there will always be people looking for ways to make their vehicles faster. And there will always be people who die trying to reach that goal.

Hopefully and God willing, no such tragedy will mar the Detroit Grand Prix. The course, with tight turns and fairly short straightaways, should keep speeds down, thus making it a safer race. Monaco is another Grand Prix course with tight turns, and there have been few serious accidents.

Detroit needs and deserves this race. It doesn't need any tragedies.

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