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# Farmington teams tumble in Plymouth

## Shaw's good, but Humphries is near perfect

By Jay Keenan  
special writer

Kevin Shaw will probably go down as one of the biggest hard-luck pitchers in Class A pre-district baseball history.

For the second straight season, the North Farmington hurler turned in a fine performance in the second round of the state tournament but ran into one of the toughest teams in the state. That, and an opposing pitcher who was a shade better.

Joe Humphries, who has established himself as an ace on the mound for Plymouth Salem, propelled the Rocks into the district semifinals with a sterling 4-1, no-hit victory over the Raiders Saturday afternoon in pre-district action.

As for Shaw, who struck out 11 and held Salem to just four hits, it marked the second year in a row when a team from Centennial Educational Park negotiated a strong performance in post-season play.

Last season, it was Class A state semifinalist Plymouth Canton which ended the season for Shaw and the Raiders.

IN THAT contest, Canton all-star Dan Smith yielded just one run in seven innings of work and added insult to injury when he broke a 1-1 tie in the top of the seventh with a two-run homer off Shaw.

But there was a slight difference this time around.

Salem's offense wasn't lifted on a clout from Dave Slavin, John Blane-

hard or Mickey Madsen. Rather, it was the Raiders' own slipshod fielding which forced them to hang up their cleats for the duration of the state tournament. Two costly errors by North accounted for three unearned Salem runs.

The Rocks, who led 2-1 going into the bottom of the fifth, added two more to give Humphries some breathing room.

Shaw, who saw extensive duty on the Canton Connie Mack League team last summer, loaded the bases on walks to Madsen, Slavin and an intentional pass to Humphries.

With two out, Blanchard hit a routine infield grounder, but the attempted play for a force out went astray on a wild throw. The throwing error allowed Madsen and Slavin to score.

SALEM BUILT a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the third on an RBI double by Slavin and an error when an out-field fly ball was misplayed.

"Basically, it was a 1-1 ball game," said North coach Jerry Maxwell. "We made two errors at the wrong time, and it cost us three runs, and that's the story of our season."

If you erase all the unearned runs, it would have been a 1-0 Rock victory since North Farmington's run was also unearned. Jim Franchi scored the lone Raider run when he walked, advanced to second on a passed ball, and scored on an infield error.

The run cut Salem's lead to 2-1, but after that, Humphries' efforts began to snowball.

"I'm happy," declared Salem coach



Jerry Maxwell  
North errors costly

Brian Gilles, whose team improved its record to 20-3. "I know they (the Raiders) are not having as good of a year as they thought, but those guys...they're a decent ballclub. "Humphries threw the ball real well and hard today (Saturday)," he added. "We're a lot better. Our attitudes are better. We don't seem as sluggish as we did three weeks ago, and we're beating some decent teams."

MAXWELL, meanwhile, pointed to the fundamentals of the game as the difference in the outcome.

"We didn't do things right fundamentally," he said. "We missed signs and bunts, and no one got the ball on the ground when they had it. We didn't hit the ball. But Kevin (Shaw) pitched a helluva game."

According to Maxwell, Shaw is the all-time winningest pitcher in North's history. He racked up 16 victories in three years.

The Rocks' other three hits were singles by Humphries and Jeff Hubert and a double by Mike Cindrich.

## It's no contest! Canton clobbers Harrison, 11-3

By Jay Keenan  
special writer

A Farmington Harrison fan summed things up after Plymouth Canton jumped out to a sizable first-inning lead in Class A pre-district baseball action Tuesday.

"You know you're in trouble when the first out of an inning is a force at the plate," the fan said.

In the opening inning of the game, Canton scored two runs and loaded the bases before the first out — a force play at home plate — was registered by the Hawks. Canton went on to post an 11-3 win in five innings.

Actually, the Hawks probably were in trouble the moment they set foot on the Canton diamond, if predictions can be made from past experiences. The Chiefs defeated Harrison twice this season, both by substantial margins. Also, Canton is having yet another banner season, while Harrison struggled through one of its worst years.

There were no surprises, as Dan Smith fired five innings of one-hit, scoreless ball. Because of the five-inning, nine-run mercy rule, the game could have been called after five innings, according to Canton assistant coach John Gravin. But the two teams opted to finish the seven innings, which ended with the Chiefs in front, 11-3.

IN REALITY, the game could have been called after one inning. Canton exploded for six runs off starter Dave

Blackmer, and the Chiefs never locked back.

Scott Bricker started it off with an infield single, capped by his customary head-first dive into first base, and Bill Hanis and Don Donbey loaded the bases with sequential walks.

Marty McCarthy, who went 3-for-3, crashed a two-run double to right field. The Chiefs reloaded the bases and added four more tallies on consecutive two-run singles by Mike Wall and Mike Scarpello.

McCarthy knocked Blackmer out of the box with nobody out in the fourth when he swatted an opposite field, three-run homer to right-center field, which put Canton in front by a 9-0 count.

The Chiefs picked up two unearned runs off reliever Mike Turnquist in the fifth. Tom Wennerberg doubled home a pair of runs in that inning.

Jim Adams pitched the final inning for the Hawks.

Harrison got its three runs in the sixth off of fireman Jack Ford. Mark Contardi, who had two hits for the Hawks, led off the inning with a single, and was followed by a hit bouncer, a walk, a walk to Turnquist, which forced in a run, and a catcher's interference to push across another. Tim Hamel's sacrifice fly sliced the Chiefs' lead to 11-3.

PITCHER DAVE Gerish, making his first varsity appearance, blanked Harrison in the final frame.

"I felt we came to play," said Canton coach Fred Crissey. "The kids played hard today."



John Herrington  
Hawks lacked confidence

Harrison coach John Herrington, whose team reached the Class B regionals last year, said his team's lack of self faith made matters worse for his squad.

"They (Chiefs) beat us twice real bad, and we didn't have a lot of confidence going into this game," said Herrington, whose team finished with a 4-16 ledger. "But, then, it hurt us when they got six runs right off the bat in the first inning. That was the ball game. When you've got a guy like Smith throwing against you, you're not going to get six runs."

Although it may be questionable to throw an ace like Smith against a team you've beaten twice by sizable margins, Crissey had a reasonable explanation.

"WHAT IF we got beat today," he asked rhetorically. "If you have a race horse, you run with it. He (Smith) is our money pitcher. If you make one mistake in the state tournament, you're gone."

"The kid pitched with a lot of intensity," Crissey praised.



Jim  
Hughes

## 'Yo, Rocky!'

### Film draws parallels with pros

Regardless of the circumstances, there are always unwritten rules that govern human behavior.

Prominent on the list of do's and don'ts is telling an unsuspecting moviegoer the conclusion of a popular, first-run flick.

The infamous "The butler did it" line is most noteworthy when you think of how people have spilled a movie for those who have yet to see it. If you want to make enemies fast, just tell them how a movie ends. Especially one they are planning to view in the very near future.

If you want to go a step further, tell them how a "Rocky" movie ends. Although the Rocky series has been predictable from I until III, nobody wants to know beforehand. They'd rather get the pleasure of learning first-hand.

During the holiday weekend, some where between three barbecues, 24 holes of golf, a concert at Pine Knob, two softball games, and not enough hours of sleep, I managed catch Sylvester Stallone's third "Rocky" movie.

Continue reading. I promise not to divulge the secret of "Rocky III," except that, although he looks like he stepped off the cover of Q magazine, he still mumbles and says, "Yo," when he wants someone's attention.

HOWEVER, AFTER watching the first two movies, I've found more realism in the third than the previous two. Not so much the boxing scenes, but the dilemmas that face a boxer during, and more significantly, near the end of their career.

If you've watched the first two Rocky movies, you've seen how our champion leads with his face in leu of a left or a right hand. Any boxer worth his weight in the heavyweight circuit won't win many fights, much less a world championship, with that style of boxing.

But, that's where fiction ends and realism begins.

Without telling you how "Rocky III" ends and causing an avalanche of solicited phone calls, I'd like to draw from III some parallels that are evident in the professional boxing world.

"Rocky III," like professional boxing, is successful because it feeds the hungers of its audience. Sequels often fizzle out, yet Rocky still is going strong.

STALLONE BRINGS us "Rocky III" because we want it. Muhammad Ali brought himself out of retirement the first time, because we wanted it. He came out of retirement the second time, because he wanted it.

We know what happened to Thomas Hearns the first time he fought Sugar Ray Leonard. But, prior to Leonard's eye surgery to repair a detached retina, there was a public demand for a



Sylvester Stallone  
his Rocky parallels pros

rematch. And, after a Hearns victory in round II (well, is there any question about it?), the demand is just as great for a rubber match between the two welterweights.

I cite the Ali-Frazier bouts as precedent. It took three fights before Ali was given credit for being a better fighter than Smokin' Joe.

And it took Stallone three movies before we found out that...

So, Rocky keeps coming back like fighters keep coming back. Just like Ali, Frazier, and most recently, Hearns' former stablemate Hilmer Kenty.

Kenty, who lost his world lightweight title to Sean O'Grady in March 1981, underwent the same type of eye surgery as Leonard. He comes back with hopes of regaining the title that was all his until O'Grady shocked the championship.

AS WE learn in Rocky III — and it's been shown on televised previews so this is fair game — the main character, for the first time in his life, is scared. He's a little bit afraid of fighting against another man.

You have to wonder if fighters like Hearns and Kenty, who were beaten in a championship fight, have that determination they had as young, promising contenders. Do you lose it when you've been knocked silly, or can you overcome the setback that takes a toll both physically and mentally?

When you see III, you'll find out if the Rock can overcome his fear. Come June 11, we'll see if Kenty — in his first comeback fight against someone named Chris Fernandez — can overcome his adversity.

And finally, when Hearns and middleweight champ Marvelous Marvin Hagler go at it July 15, we'll see if Hearns has that "Eye of the Tiger."

By the way, the butler didn't do it.

## What's the latest thinking on tax shelters?

If you're in a position to benefit from a tax shelter — an investor with a net worth over \$200,000 and/or a current income over \$60,000 — you're fortunate indeed.

But a tax shelter must first be a good investment based on sound economics. Second, its tax advantages should allow you to realize current tax savings via special deductions that not only lower your tax rates, but can also offer partially or fully sheltered cash flow.

As your accountant will explain, a good tax shelter shelters your current income while providing a residual asset. But there are so many tax shelters, how do you find one suitable for you?

Ask a Kidder, Peabody stockbroker for his thoughts. He is a professional, experienced in helping upper-income individuals maximize their investable dollars. Further, he has access to some of the latest and best thinking on tax shelters. Because experts in the firm's Tax Shelter Department examine hundreds of tax-advantaged opportunities each year. They cull out well over 90% and carefully scrutinize the remaining — focusing on management, financial stability, past performance, tax considerations and return on investment. Then, and only then, do they make a selected few available to clients.

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