

Sports

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Monday, April 16, 1984 O&E



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Falcons jolt Chargers twice

What a day last Thursday was for the Farmington track programs.

Both the Falcon girls' and boys' track teams scored upset victories against perennial powerhouse Livonia Churchill.

The girls, coached by Gerry Young, traveled to Livonia and came away with a convincing 74-54 triumph.

The boys, coached by Dave Catherman, stayed home and defeated Churchill 76-61, a feat made more impressive by the fact that four top Falcon competitors were ill and out of action.

The Falcon flyers have served notice to the Livonia Lakes conference that

they are a force to be reckoned with. Both coaches, however, took the victories in stride.

"I thought we had a good chance of beating them all along," said Young. "We beat them in a dual meet last year. We have a lot of first-place strength. We took 11 of 16 firsts. We've got a good bunch of kids this year. I think we are going to win a good number of meets."

SAID CATHERMAN: "No, I don't think it was such a big upset. I did a little forecasting before the meet and I figured if we did the things we were capable of, we'd have a good shot at beating them."

track

Indeed, both teams are off to perfect 3-0 starts. The Falcons are soaring.

For the girls' contingent, Terri Quenneville got the Falcons off and flying by winning both the shot put (31-3 3/4) and the discus (105-8). When Sambla Shivers, a transfer from Bishop Borgess, won the high jump (5-0), the Falcons had themselves a comfortable lead.

Rhonda Lancaster had a big meet. She won both hurdle events — the 100-meter highs in 18.9 and the 300-meter lows in 50.8. She also anchored the first-place 400-meter relay, teaming with Karen Runyan, Jennifer Hadley and Tracey Hule for a 53.6.

Runyan and Jenny Lindbert were also double-event winners for the Falcons.

Runyan won the 100-meter dash (13.7) and the 200-meter dash (29.5), while Lindbert won the 1,600-meter run in 5:39.9 and the 3,200-meters in 12:35.5.

The Falcons also won the 3,200-meter relay in 10:46.2 with Anna Quenneville, Kim Steiner, Kim Schwanke and Lynn Looser competing.

FOR THE BOYS' contingent, it was relay power that turned the tide. The Falcons won three of the four relays.

In the 440-yard relay, Greg Feenstra, Nathan Case, Mike McDonald, and Tim Berry combined on 47.01. In the 880-yard relay, Dan Imus, Chris

Mineweger, Brian Looser and McDonald won in 1:35.7.

In the mile relay, Dan Clappison, Looser, Greg Coplai and Imus brought home the victory in 5:39.6.

Coplai came through with two big wins in the hurdles. He took the 120-yard highs in 15.89 and the 320-yard lows in 40.1.

McDonald ran a 10.6 to win the 100-yard dash.

The Lawton brothers also got into the act for the Falcons. Jeff Lawton won the pole vault (12-0), and Bryan Lawton won the 2-mile run (10:33.4).

Outdueled Harrison flame thrower doused by late Salem rally

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Plymouth Salem's formula for success so far this young baseball season has been simple: outstanding pitching and timely hitting.

The Rocks used that formula Wednesday to win their third straight game, taking a 3-2 decision from Farmington Harrison.

Senior Rick Berberet provided the pitching for the Rocks, while Ken Harmon and Scott Anderson provided the timely hits.

The game, played on a brilliant spring afternoon at Salem's park, featured an interesting duel between two tough pitchers — Salem's Berberet and Harrison's Bob Wasczenski, a transfer from Plymouth Canton.

Berberet is an imposing and intelligent pitcher. His 6-foot-6 frame is intimidating, but what makes him doubly effective is his ability to spot his pitches. He moves the ball in, out, up and down with excellent control and good velocity.

WASCZENSKI is completely different. He throws with major league velocity. Where Berberet will finesse you, Wasczenski will flat-out blow it by you. But, Wasczenski's control is shaky and

baseball

that's what led to his downfall Wednesday.

Berberet threw 111 pitches to Wasczenski's 120, and down the stretch, Berberet was the stronger pitcher.

Berberet allowed six hits, one walk and only one earned run. He struck out eight. Wasczenski went 6 1/2, allowed four hits, walked four, hit one and allowed two earned runs. No fanouts either.

"The difference, really, was that Wasczenski had to throw more pitches than Berberet," Salem coach John Gravin. "Berberet just kept getting stronger as the game wore on. He had a super day, as did Kenny (Harmon) and Scott (Anderson)."

Salem scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth inning. With the score tied 2-2, Anderson led off with a line-shot double up the alley in left center.

GRAVLIN TOOK a chance and let Tim Robinson swing away instead of having him sacrifice the potential go-ahead run to third. Robinson flied out

to center field for the first out.

But Harmon, the next Rock hitter, rescued Anderson from second with a rope to right center. It was Harmon's second hit of the day and both were shots.

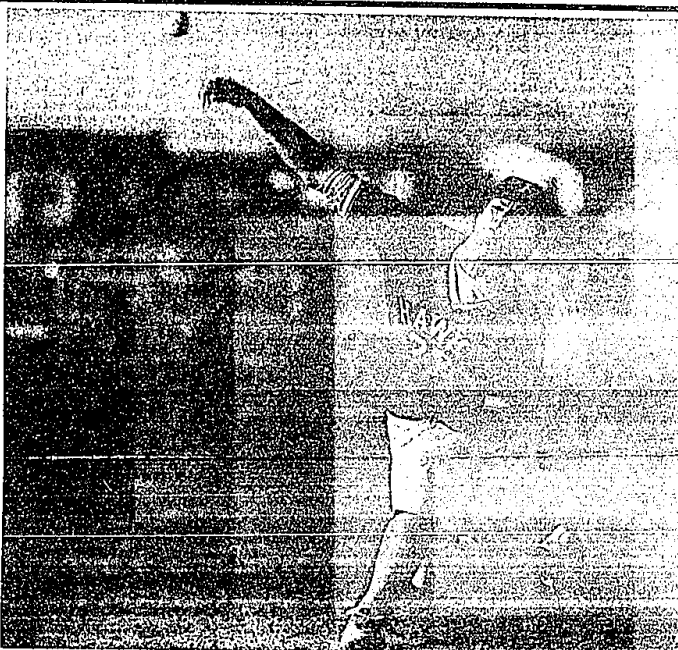
Harrison threatened to tie the game in the top of the seventh, thanks to some daring strategy by coach John Herrington. With two out, Brian Smolinski got his second hit off Berberet. With the count 1-2 on Scott Gliniski, Herrington flashed the steal sign to Smolinski — while the Hawk crowd held its breath, Smolinski slid safely into second and the tying run was in scoring position.

Berberet, ahead of Gliniski, made no mistake and got the hard-hitting senior to pop to third.

"Basically, I was pleased with our performance," Herrington said. "Our defense was good and the pitching, overall, was good. Our hitting is weak, that's going to be a problem for us."

HARRISON SQUANDERED several opportunities to put the game out of reach. After a walk, two wild pitches and a throwing error by Wasczenski allowed Salem to go ahead 1-0, the Hawks rallied for two in the second.

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Harrison's Bob Wasczenski fires a fastball during Plymouth Salem's Wednesday's Western Lakes encounter with Farmington. The hard-throwing right hander lost the duel to Salem's Rick Berberet, 3-2.

Poor start stings Raiders

Harrison wins 1st, Farmington stumbles

It hasn't really been the kind of start North Farmington baseball coach Jerry Maxwell was hoping for.

The Raiders lost a close 4-3 decision to Westland John Glenn on Monday, then got pounded by Garden City Friday, 9-3.

The Raiders ran into a red-hot pitcher in GC's Paul Krol Friday. Krol shut the Raiders down on just six hits for the third-straight win of the season.

"Paul has been pitching just excellent baseball for us," GC coach Bob Dropp said. "Teams aren't really getting a lot of him. He's keeping things close for us."

The Cougars jumped out to a 3-1 lead after two innings, but North tied it up in the top of the fourth. Eric Engel hit a two-run home run to even it up.

The joy was short-lived, however, as Engel, relieving starter Bob Chwalik, got tagged for four runs in the bottom of the fourth and suffered the defeat.

Mark Carrier went 2-for-4 with a double for the Raiders.

North will try to get untracked today as it hosts Redford Thurston.

FARMINGTON HARRISON used some seventh-inning heroics to win its first game of the season Thursday.

The Hawks went into the seventh inning trailing one-league opponent Flint Linden 2-2. Mike Ench tripled to lead off the inning and scored on a wild pitch. Then sophomore shortstop Brian Smolinski, whose bat has been red-hot this season, tripled and came home on

baseball

another wild pitch.

Mike Johnson, who relieved starter Vince Enright in the third inning, blanked Linden in the bottom of the seventh to preserve the 4-3 victory.

Johnson did a good job for the Hawks going five no-hit innings, walking one and fanning two.

Smolinski, who had a pair of hits against Salem Wednesday, banged out two more against Linden. In addition, he made two dazzling defensive plays. Catcher Mike Colovos also had two hits for the Hawks.

The second game of the scheduled double-header was called after four innings because of darkness. Harrison was ahead 5-1 when the game was called.

FARMINGTON had the misfortune of opening its season against Northville last Wednesday. The final result: the Mustangs 13, Falcons 2.

Worse, Northville's flame-throwing left-hander Brian Doyle threw a no-hitter.

Farmington scored both runs in the first inning on walks, stolen bases and wild pitches. The Red-footed Falcons stole eight bases on the day.

Neil Davis took the loss for Farmington.



Bob Chwalik of North Farmington was the starting pitcher, but not the loser in Friday's 9-3 Northwest Suburban League baseball defeat to Garden City.

Marian spoils Mercy debut

It was the first soccer game ever for Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy, and the first game ever for the new Catholic girls' soccer league.

Unfortunately for Mercy coach Gene Fogel, it was not his team's first-ever victory.

Birmingham Marian broke open a close game in the second half and held off a late Mercy rally to win the match 5-3 in the rain Friday.

"Basically, it was just a lack of heads up play on our part," Fogel said. "We had too many mental breakdowns in that second half."

Unnecessary penalties by the Marins enabled Marian to score three goals on penalty kicks. Marian also scored on a ball that bounced off a Marin defender's head and caromed into the net.

After a 1-1 tie at halftime, Marian scored three quick second-half goals to take a commanding lead. Goals by Mary Beth Larabell and Betsy Eads made it 4-3 and Mercy was applying the pressure.

With under a minute to play, Marian led the win on another penalty kick.

Kathy Rush scored the first Mercy goal.

"We made a lot of mistakes, but they are the correctable kind," Fogel said. The coach also added that the muddy playing condition took away his team's No. 1 asset — speed and ball control.

NORTH FARMINGTON is 1-1 in this season. Not a good record: Despite that the Raiders are a vastly improved soccer team.

Their losses have been at the hands of the state's top teams — Livonia and Farmington Hills. They have been defeated by Livonia, Farmington Hills, and Garden City.

soccer

Against Bentley Friday, a team ranked No. 3 in the state by the coaches, North trailed by only a goal after one half.

The Raiders eventually lost 3-0, but they gave the Bulldogs a real battle.

"The girls played excellent," said first-year coach Cathy Cole. "I'm real proud of them. Bentley is just below (defending state champ) Livonia Stevenson as far as talent goes."

Goalie Michelle Mackie has been brilliant all season for the Raiders and she turned in another sterling performance. Sweeper back Renee Terreault also played a strong game.

The Raiders played, perhaps their worst game of the year Wednesday against Plymouth Canton, losing 9-1. Lisa-Russell had four goals for the Chiefs.

The Raiders will host another area power today — Livonia Churchill, who is tied with Bentley as the No. 3 team in the state.

FARMINGTON has also had to deal with the area powerhouses in its first two weeks of the season. The Falcons lost to Northville 5-0 on Wednesday, and to Stevenson 4-0 on Friday.

The girls seem to be getting over their losses. We know this week would be tough with Bentley, Northville and Livonia. Plymouth Canton and Livonia are the top teams in the state.

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