

Sports

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Thursday, May 24, 1994 O&E

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C.J. Risak

No use fighting Anti-sentiment

TROUBLE. My aunt's in town. Auntie Anti we call her — with good reason. It's her name.

She's lived up to that moniker. Anti — she always insisted we call her by her first name — has just one consistency.

She's anti. Not just anti-life or anti-work — nothing sensible like that. Anti's anti-everything. She's anti-facism, anti-communism and anti-conservatism. Anti's anti-politicians ("They're just little people with big ideas, and mouths to match.")

SHE'S ANTI-NUKES ("I've seen the movie and we're all going to die"), anti-cakes ("You see the stuff they put all over those vegetable?") and anti-dukes ("Fighting's for those other dumb to talk or too talkative to know when to be dumb.")

She's got an opinion about everything, from the weather ("I'm against it") to the stars ("How do we know those aren't just little lights twinkling up there?") and beyond. That includes the world of sports — and me.

Some local samples:

• On Salem coach Fred Thomann's resignation: "Sure he deserves more money, more support. So do all coaches. So do all teachers. And let's not leave out the players, either." When told high school players aren't paid, she replies, "See what I mean?"

• On the soccer explosion in the metro-Detroit area: "It's not surprising. Give some kids a ball and they'll have a blast."

• On the growth of the MSA, SMA and WAAA and the demise of the GOAL, WSL and (next) the NSL: "What is this, alphabet soup?"

• On the MHSAA's rejection of the football playoff expansion plan: "What do you expect them to do — something radical like change?"

A FAVORITE Anti argument is boys vs. girls athletes. "It's a sad, and state of affairs — a real travesty," is her typical opening into — a debate. Understand, Anti's extraordinary use of anti-logic would bring tears to the eyes of the emotionless Mr. Spock. The only way to endure in such a fray is to battle her on uneven terms. Logic to Logic, so to speak.

Round One.

"How come no one goes to see girls play softball, or soccer, or basketball? How come the boys always get the bigger crowds?" she opens.

I dance away warily, then release a quick jab. "The boys are better," I answer. "People pay to see the best."

"The girls would be better if more people would be out there cheering for them," she retorts. "Give them the same kind of opportunity and training and following and they'd be better than the boys."

SHE'S CLOSING for some heavy in-fighting. "If they're as good as the boys, mix the two together — one co-ed team," I suggest, landing a strong counter-punch. "Then we'll see whose best."

She backpedals for an instant, then closes in again, driving me into the ropes.

"That would never work, and you know it," she says. "At halftime the guys would go into one locker room and the girls would go into another. How could a coach plot strategy?"

She's measuring me for the KO. "So what's your suggestion?" I ask tentatively, trying to cover up and survive.

"SIMPLE," she answers. I stagger, awaiting the knockout punch.

"For years, girls were forced to sit in the stands and watch the boys play their sports. I say cancel all boys sports and make them watch the girls play for a few years — five or 10 maybe. Then we'll see whose better."

"Makes sense," I agree, trying to escape. "I know I'd rather look at girls than boys."

The gleam in my eye doesn't meet with Anti's approval. "Except the boys couldn't come to the games unless their mothers brought them," she adds. "That would keep those rowdy laddies from yelling anything nasty."

ANTI'S WINNING on all cards. "But Anti," I protest, sending a wild round-house high above the target. "What happens if the mothers don't come? Then the boys won't be there, either. Then what about the crowds?"

It's a fatal mistake. I've resorted to logic.

"Oh, crowds — who needs them? They just make too much noise and distract the players. The heck with them."

TWO, Anti. She instinctively senses my weakened condition and refocuses her attack with the finesse of a Sumo wrestler.

"As for you, young man," she launches, "why don't you get a haircut? Maybe then you could find yourself a nice wife."

Just give me a chance, Anti. Give me a chance.

Mercy 2nd in Catholic meet

Livonia Ladywood won the final race, the mile relay, to capture its first-ever Catholic League girls track title Tuesday at Bishop Foley High School in Madison Heights.

"We did well in the regional (Class B)," said Ladywood coach Bob Zimmerman, "and I wasn't sure we'd be up for this meet, but we came back with a peak performance."

Three points separated three teams going into the mile relay, but Ladywood came across the tape first as Sue Willey, Angela Dugas, Julie Camilleri and freshman Joan Arndt were clocked in 4:15.0.

Ladywood finished with 74½ points. Farmington Hills Mercy, second in the final event, scored 69, taking second place overall. Borgess, also in contention for the mile relay and the meet, scratched after colliding on one of the baton exchanges and settled for third with 61.

"It took the last race to take us out," said Borgess coach John McGreevey, "but it was a great meet — the closest it has been in years."

Ladywood garnered a total of four first place finishes.

ARNDT WON the 440-yard dash (58.8), while Willey grabbed nabbed the 880 (2:17.8). The Blazers also captured the 880 relay as Dugas, Karen Gall, Camilleri and Monica Gall were clocked in 1:49.6.

Other Ladywood medal winners included Dugas, 220 dash, second, 27.0;

girls track

Arndt, 220; third, 27.1; 440 relay, third, 51.8; and two mile relay, second, 10:24.4.

Mercy's showing was a complete surprise in light of a 1-7 dual-meet record this year.

"We're sky high," said Mercy coach Bob Kirkland. "It's a miracle. Every one ran their fastest times. It was a nice way to close out a bad season."

Mercy was first in the two mile relay as Joanne Davidson, Marge Gormley, Laurie Houston and Ellen McCarthy posted a time of 10:17.0.

Sophomore Terri Ford, meanwhile, was the 220 in 26.8 and finished second in the 100 dash. Other top Marlin finishers included Colleen Flynn, 440, second, 1:02.0; McCarthy, two mile, second, 12:05.2; 880 relay, third, 1:50.2; and mile relay, second, 4:16.0.

BORGESS, the dual-meet champion, piled up 31 points in the field events as Emily Emerick, Sue Naster, Ruth Stoder, Cheryl Johnson and Nikki Wilson each scored points.

The Spartans' only first occurred in the 440 relay as Wilson, Tonya Hamilton, Marshall Montgomery and Lonnie Washington were timed in 52.1. Washington gained third behind Ford in the 100 with a time of 12.1.

Falcons strong in regional meet

Pontiac Northern, beaten by Farmington High at the Redford Union Relays two weeks ago, got a measure of revenge Saturday by whipping the Falcons and the 18 other teams at the state Class A Regional Girls Track Meet at West Bloomfield.

Northern amassed 114 points. West Bloomfield was second with 58, John Glenn third at 51½ and Farmington fourth at 45.

Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy took an impressive sixth place (32). Farmington Harrison placed 10th (23) and North Farmington 12th (8).

Farmington had two regional champions and a host of state qualifiers. The Falcons took one-two in the discus with Terri Quenneville (115-4) and Beth Sherman (111-4). Sambla Silvers won the high jump with a 5-2.

Farmington's Jenny Lindbert qualified in the 3,200-meter run (second place, 11:56.6) and in the 1,600-meter run (third, 5:21.4 — a new Farmington school record).

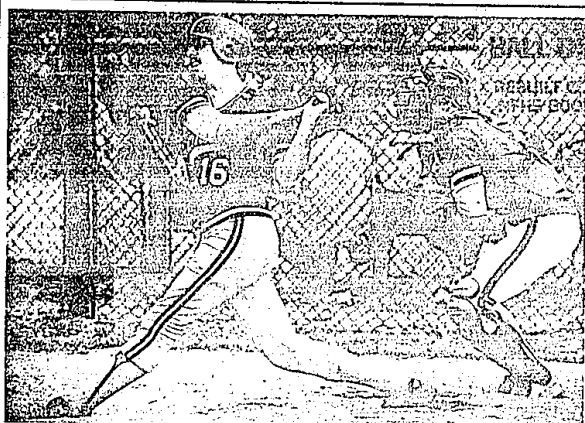
HARRISON'S Lauri Rank qualified in two events. She took second in the long jump, 16-5½, and third in the high jump, 4-10. The Hawks' outstanding sophomore hurdler, Jamie Holcomb won the 300-meter championship with a 46.5, the best time in Observersland to date.

Mercy got a regional championship from Ellen McCarthy in the 3,200 (11:55.0). Terri Ford, another super sophomore, took third in the 100 dash (12.8) and third in the 200 dash (26.4).

Farmington's Rhonda Lancaster didn't qualify for the state meet, though she finished fifth in the 300-meter low hurdles with a 48.8.

The Falcons also got a school record-setting performance from its 3,200 relay team: Anna Quenneville, Kim Stelner, Laura Spencer, and Lynn Looser combined on a 10:16.4, good for just sixth place.

The state meet is Saturday, June 2, at Jackson High School in Jackson.



RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

North slugger Jon Sonbay cracks a three-run home run Monday, helping his team to a 10-5 win over Farmington.

What's wrong with the Raiders? Don't bother asking the Falcons

What's wrong with the Raiders?

That's a question that has been asked throughout the area as North Farmington's baseball team has struggled unexpectedly this season.

Don't look for any answers from Farmington, however. The Falcons will answer this way: "There's not a thing wrong with them."

On Monday, the Raiders, showing signs of coming out of their doldrums, whipped the Falcons 10-5. It was the third straight Raider win, after they took a pair from Southfield-Lathrup Saturday.

"It was a sloppy win," said Raider coach Jerry Maxwell. "It was one of the few times I could really chew on the guys after a win. Three-game win streak, big deal. I can remember years when we had 15-game win streaks."

Jon Sonbay was the hitting star for North. He ripped two hits and had five RBI. He also blasted a

long three-run homer to get the Raiders off and running.

Eric Engel had three hits, Mike McBeth two and Tom Coter two. Coter was also the winning pitcher, relieving starter Bob Chwalk in the third and going the rest of the way.

Joe Bob Wenson had two hits to pace the Falcons. Steve Howell was the losing pitcher.

So, back to the original question. What's wrong with the Raiders?

"Pitching," answered Maxwell. "It's been erratic from the start. Walks have killed us. We've walked something like 110 this season. You can't win when you walk people. I've never had a team like this. We've hit well. Sonbay and Scott Draper are hitting above .350. If we don't walk anybody, we win."

The Raiders, 7-13, will face Farmington (2-12)

Please turn to Page 3

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By Brad Emons
staff writer

Last weekend's Class A tennis regional at Schoolcraft College turned out to be a duel between Redford Catholic Central and Birmingham Brother Rice.

By the time the final matches rolled around, the Catholic League powers were the only survivors among the 15-team field (see story on page 2).

CC won five of seven flights to claim its second consecutive regional. The Shamrocks scored 26 points to Rice's 23. Both schools will send their entire squads next week to Midland for the state championships.

Meanwhile, Southfield-Lathrup finished a distant third with 11. North Farmington and Farmington Harrison tied for fourth with nine each.

"I really didn't see anybody other than ourselves and Rice in this meet," said veteran CC coach Frank Garlick, who collected his fourth regional crown. "We just played Rice in a dual meet last week and won 4-2."

MANY COACHES wondered why Rice had been placed at the Livonia regional instead of in Troy, which is closer. Only the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) knows for sure.

Despite the foul-up, CC won three singles and two doubles titles.

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tennis

CLASS A REGIONAL
TENNIS TOURNAMENT
at Schoolcraft College

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 26 points; 2. Birmingham Brother Rice, 23; 3. Southfield-Lathrup, 11; 4. North Farmington, 9; 5. Farmington Harrison, 9; 6. North Farmington, 8; 7. Farmington, 8; 8. Livonia, 7; 9. Farmington, 6; 10. Farmington, 5; 11. Farmington, 4; 12. Farmington, 3; 13. Farmington, 2; 14. Farmington, 1; 15. Farmington, 0.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:
Singles: 1. Frank Garlick (CC) def. [Name] (Rice), 6-2, 6-4.
Doubles: 1. Frank Garlick & [Name] (CC) def. [Name] & [Name] (Rice), 6-2, 6-4.
Singles: 2. [Name] (CC) def. [Name] (Rice), 6-2, 6-4.
Doubles: 2. [Name] & [Name] (CC) def. [Name] & [Name] (Rice), 6-2, 6-4.

UPCOMING MATCHES:
Friday, May 27: CC vs. Rice, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 28: CC vs. Rice, 10:00 a.m.