

# At last! Tigers open press box

IT'S NOT like me to blow my own horn. But, I figure in this case nobody is going to blow it for me.



**Chris McCosky**

I wrote a column on April 11 in which I predicted that Plymouth Salem would win the Lakes Division baseball title and Plymouth Canton would win the Western Division.

Hold your applause, please. Just doing my job.

Of course, I also predicted Canton to be the Western Lakes conference champs and that Farmington would seriously challenge Salem in the Lakes. Can't win them all.

While I'm spanking myself on the back, did you hear that the Detroit Tigers have changed their policy regarding journalists from non-daily publications? After much public outcry, including an article in Metropolitan Detroit magazine written by O&E partner Tom Henderson featuring Tom Walker of the Michigan Chronicle and myself, the Tigers will now grant full press credentials to writers from non-dailies.

But time.

response to a column I wrote regarding Plymouth Canton AD John Sandmann. Many people apparently thought it was a negative article. That hurts me. I tried to draw as complete a picture of the man as I could. To do that, one has to talk to both his proponents and opponents.

I tried to show how much respect the man commanded throughout this area. Even his most fierce detractors had to admit their respect for him — that, to me, is the ultimate tribute.

I seriously think the Plymouth-Canton Community School District should honor Sandmann by naming the CEP athletic complex (the football field and track) after him. It would be a fitting reward for a man who has dedicated 37 years of his life to the betterment of CEP athletes.

By the way, there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Sandmann's longtime secretary Marge Verdure is in line to replace him. Although, sources close to the situation have indicated that Marge would be the most qualified candidate. (Just kidding.)

**HIGH SCHOOL** Baseball report: Congratulations are in order for Salem coach John Gravin. Not only has his ballclub wrapped up the Western Lakes title and posted a victory against vaunted Walled Lake Western hurler Dan Gabriele, the Rocks are displaying an enthusiasm sorely missed in these parts in recent years.

The Salem baseball team Gravin inherited last year was a collection of misfits and malcontents. This year, the Rocks are just out having a good time playing baseball. Credit Gravin for weeding out the bad apples and instilling a sense of pride and a positive attitude into his team.

If you want to see the best prep baseball Michigan has to offer, head out to the two Plymouth-Canton baseball parks Saturday.

On tap is the first Plymouth Invitational baseball tournament. At noon, the state's No. 5-ranked team Bishop Gallagher (29-6) will play at Plymouth Salem, ranked No. 9 for much of the season. At Canton, Flint Davison (25-6), ranked No. 5 in the state will play the No. 10-ranked Chiefs.

The championship and consolation games will go at 3 p.m.

WHILE WE'RE on the subject of AD's: Is it my imagination or has Farmington athletic director Ron Holland's aging cycle been reversed. The man looks a year younger every time I see him — and because he is one of the hardest working ADs around, I see him quite often. He gets around to see all three schools play in virtually every sport. Maybe all the running around keeps him young.

Baby Update: You're friendly local sports editor is soon, very soon, too soon, to become a father for the first time. My wife Susan should be delivering in the first week of June (June 3 is the actual due date).

Of course I'm excited. Oh, I'll have to miss out on the state baseball and softball tournaments and I won't be involved in our coverage of the U.S. Open — but, hey, these events will survive without me. Won't they?

And there's absolutely no truth to the rumor that Mick McCabe is the actual father of my baby, although ultrasound tests have detected tiny tufts of hair growing on the baby's chin.

Say tuned, athlete of the year choices for both the Farmington Observer and Plymouth-Canton Observer will be made when I get back from maternity leave.

**TOP AREA** baseball prospects (not including Dan Gabriele): 1. Brian Smolinski, Farmington Harrison 27, 2. Dzielak, Hedford Thurston 3, 3. Tom Moore, Plymouth Salem, 4. Chris Sisler, Plymouth Canton, 5. Greg Ryba, Catholic Central.

I've received some angry letters in

response to a column I wrote regarding Plymouth Canton AD John Sandmann. Many people apparently thought it was a negative article. That hurts me. I tried to draw as complete a picture of the man as I could. To do that, one has to talk to both his proponents and opponents.

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Suzette Greenberg, North hurler, followed up her no-hit performance last Friday with a four-hit shutout against Farmington Monday.

# Falcons undone

Farmington softball coach Richard Roy, were he a superstitious man, might be trying to figure out who cracked a mirror or stepped underneath a ladder or whose path was crossed by a black cat.

We're talking bad luck for the Falcons.

Farmington, on Monday, lost a tough 3-0 decision to city rival North Farmington. On Tuesday, the Falcons were knocked out of the state Class A tournament by Detroit Henry Ford, 11-5.

On Monday, North's Suzette Greenberg and Farmington's Lisa Edwards went toe to toe from the pitcher's mound. Greenberg, who twirled a no-hitter Friday, allowed four hits, walked three and fanned two.

The difference: three unearned runs in the third off Edwards. After two walks, Mo Paradis' single eluded the Falcon outfielders. All three runners scored.

Becky Philip, Tracy Schroon, Mary Vellucci and Annette Borard singled off Greenberg. Patti Kozick and Renee Fishell got the other North hits.

North is 11-8 overall this season. Walks and errors led to the Falcons' demise Tuesday in the state pre-district qualifier. Henry Ford scored its 11 runs with the help of eight walks and eight hits.

Erin Ellis knocked in two runs with a first-inning triple for Farmington (4-19).

**CANTON 17, HARRISON 3:** Farmington Harrison hurler Dawn Cubbertson fell prey to one of the area's most potent hitting attacks Monday.

Plymouth Canton banged out 14 hits including four home runs.

Harrison (8-14) got two hits from Dana Dinkins.

# Hawks zipped

The curtain fell on the 1985 Plymouth Canton soccer season Monday, and those in the audience gave the Chiefs a warm reception.

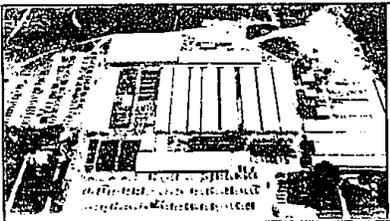
The Chiefs closed out an up and down campaign with a 4-0 triumph over Farmington Harrison.

"We definitely finished stronger than we started," said Canton coach Mike Morgan. "We have a lot of good young talent, and we're only losing three seniors."

Both Frigge collected two goals. Kendra Whiteley and Lisa Russell scored one each. Whiteley, Kellie Daly, Michelle Lonigro and Julie Buyers each earned assists.

Pat Phillips got the shutout.

The Chiefs end the season with a 6-7-3 record.



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