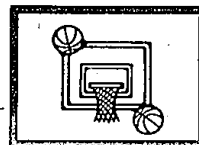


## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



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(F11)

# Hawks, Falcons hope to pry city title from North

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

## volleyball

Maybe we should call it the "Adversity Bowl".

The Farmington, Farmington Harrison and North Farmington volleyball teams — the combatants in today's Farmington Observer-sponsored Farmington City Tournament — each has a horror story to tell.

North Farmington will have to do without one of its premier players for the rest of the season. Senior co-captain Terry Spengler sustained a knee injury Saturday during the Wayne Invitational. She was expected to undergo surgery last week.

The loss of Spengler has weakened the Raiders in every facet of the game: front row, back row and has cut into the team's bench strength.

Farmington Harrison faces a grueling day. After the Hawks compete in the city tourney, they will have to hustle back to Harrison for a 6:30 p.m. Western Lakes match with a potent Walled Lake Western team. Three matches in three hours.

As for Farmington, well, it's just been frustrating. The Falcons won two of their first three matches, but have since lost four straight since.

**BUT DON'T** expect any of the three teams to come into the Farmington Training Center with heads hung low. If anything, the adversity will boost the intensity level a notch.

"The girls want to win," Harrison coach Ron Shortt said. "They know how bad I want to win. This means a lot to me. We have to play Western later, but I told the kids not to save themselves."

Said North coach Sandy Lubieniec: "I always promote this tournament, and the kids look forward to it. It's not nice for us right now because we're hurting, but we'll be going after it. This is the city tournament and a lot of extra pride goes into it." The Raiders have won five of the last six city titles. They will be fa-

vored again this year. But Shortt believes North can be beaten.

"North has a real nice team, but they are not a real powerful team," Shortt said. "They get the ball back real well. They play very conservatively, at least they did against us earlier this season. I don't like that style of play. Hopefully, we can beat them at the net and play in the back row better than we have been."

Harrison can be dominating at the net. Janine Whitemore, Theresa Spitz and Katie Dell have hit consistently well for the Hawks and setter Heidi Reyst has distributed the ball effectively.

**NORTH'S NET** game has improved in the last month. Suzi Butcher and Tammy Spengler have emerged as the team's leading hitters.

"Suzi is our killer hitter. She's our power hitter," Lubieniec said. "Tammy is brilliant at looking around while in the air and putting the ball to the open spaces. She's so smart and has great vision."

North and Harrison will have to be careful not to look past Farmington. Although the Falcons have slumped recently, coach Maureen McNabb's team has talent.

"We played real well against Harrison, even though we lost in two games," McNabb said. "We've played well in a lot of those losses. This has been the tough part of the schedule for us and the kids are starting to get down a little. Sometimes they get beat, mentally beat, before the match is over."

The Falcons have been getting solid play all season from Kelli Ross, Anna Quenneville and Lealle Martin. The first match of the tournament is scheduled for 3:45 p.m. today.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North Farmington has been bedeviled by injuries this volleyball season. If it is to retain its city title, North must rely on strong

performances out of reserve players like Missy Bosacawan. The Raiders beat Salem Wednesday. Details on page 3B.

# Mercy spikes Gallagher

The Farmington Hills Mercy volleyball team has won two matches in the Catholic League Central Division this season. The second win came Thursday against Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, 15-9, 15-0.

Despite the infrequent wins, the Marlinas have a shot at earning a playoff berth. The top four teams qualify for the division playoffs. With two matches left, Marian (8-0), Ladywood (5-3) and Bishop Borgas (5-3) have qualified. Regina (3-5) and Mercy (2-6) are battling for the final spot.

The bad news for Mercy is that the remaining two games are against Marian and Borgas.

"We're looking at it as a great challenge," said first-year Mercy coach Tim DeBello. "How often do you get a chance to play two of the best teams in the state back-to-back? We're looking forward to it."

The Marlinas play Marian today and Borgas Thursday. Both games are at Mercy.

Kandi Boyle, Mercy's setter, served four aces to get Mercy rolling in game one Thursday. Meg Pinkerton had three kills at the net in game one. Overall, Jenny Slosar was Mercy's most productive player at the net. She had five kills and no errors. Mercy is 5-10 overall this season.

# Snuffed out Spartans turn tide on Raiders

Those who ignore the lessons of history are bound to make the same mistakes twice.

The Livonia Stevenson basketball team put that old axiom to good use Friday night, knocking off visiting Western Lakes foe North Farmington 58-45.

North had beaten the Spartans earlier this season, 52-44, and Stevenson didn't forget.

"When they beat us earlier this season they scored a lot of points with their inside game," said Stevenson assistant coach Tim Newman. "We wanted to shut down their inside people today and we did."

In the first North-Stevenson clash, Rick Karcher scored 11 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Friday, Karcher was limited to four points. Frontcourt mate Chuck Howard tossed in five. The bulk of North's attack came from the guards: Rob Knapp (12) and Mark Taylor (six). Meanwhile, Stevenson's forward tandem of Eric Johnson and Bill Gray scored 10 points each. Senior guard Pete Mazzoni led all scorers with 19 points.

"We played a real sagging zone defense in the second half that worked well," Newman said. "We limited them to just one or two shots

## basketball

most of the time. Rich Gregor did a nice job on the boards."

North had beaten the Spartans earlier this season, 52-44, and Stevenson didn't forget.

**HARRISON 61, FRANKLIN 40:** Farmington Harrison jumped out to a 33-15 lead after the first half Friday at Livonia Franklin and then emptied its bench. Nearly everyone contributed for the Hawks, who are tied for first with Plymouth Canton in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Conference. Brian Hoskins scored 11 points and Brad Ridgeway 10. Scott Russell and Chad Burgess each scored eight. Gary Schwedt added four points, five assists and four steals.

Mike Menard led Franklin with 10. Tom Shea scored seven.

Harrison outscored the Patriots 21-4 from the free throw line, 6-3 overall. The Hawks are 6-4 in the league, 7-5 overall. Franklin is 1-9, 1-11.

**JOHN GLENN 83, FARMINGTON 34:** The Western Lakes Lakes Division leaders keep right on rolling.

Undefeated Westland John Glenn treated the home folks to a rout at the expense of Farmington Friday night. Steve Hawley led the onslaught with 23 points. Andy Grazzula added 14 points and 12 rebounds. Greg Bales and Dave Schepel each scored nine. Kevin Wilson and Marcus Lowe dished out five assists each.

Steve Howell scored 10 to pace Farmington (1-9 in the league, 1-12 overall). The Rockets have now won 12 straight.

**ST. AGATHA 70, ST. HEDWIG 68 (OT):** Kevin Rich played the hero role Friday for host Redford St. Agatha.

Rich, a 6-4 senior center, drained a jumper from the foul line at the buzzer to send the Catholic League C/D Division game into overtime. Then, with time running out in OT, Rich hit one from eight feet out to put the Aggies up for good. Pat Boyle added two free throws to clinch the win.

Rich finished with 27 points, 11 rebounds and four steals — not a bad night. Kevin Foulks added 13.

Dave Talley tallied 25 for Detroit St. Hedwig (3-4 in the league, 6-3 overall). The Aggies are also 3-5 in the league, 5-5 overall.



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