

Sports

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Weatherford's 1-hitter sparks Raiders

Robyn Weatherford tossed a one-hit shutout Friday to lift North Farmington to a 3-0 softball victory over cross-town rival Farmington Harrison in the first game of a double-header.

Weatherford, who also got credit for the victory in the second game, which the Raiders won 9-8, struck out six and walked seven.

Heldi Reyst, despite pitching a two-hitter and not walking a North batter, suffered the defeat. She struck out five.

Renee Fishell scored the game's only run in the fourth inning. She got on base with the help of an error,

stole second and came home on Stefan Knapp's line-drive single.

IN THE SECOND game, Weatherford got the victory after pitching 2½ innings of relief, raising her record to 5-1. She allowed one hit, fanned five and walked one during her brief stint.

The Raiders scored the deciding run in the bottom of the seventh to break an 8-7 tie.

Debbie Arnold walked and stole second. When the Harrison shortstop overthrew first base, Arnold raced home, beating the play at home plate.

Knapp had three hits and two RBI,

Fishell and Arnold had two hits apiece and Weatherford tripled and scored a run.

The sweep improved North's record to 2-2 in the Western Activities Association and 6-2 overall.

W.L. WESTERN 4-6, FARMINGTON 3-7: Walled Lake Western edged Farmington in the first game of a double-header that counted in the WLA standings before coming back to win the nightcap.

Becky Philip went the distance and took the loss in the first game. Shari Hunter was the winner.

Farmington's Karen Gernke and

Philip had two hits and one RBI apiece. Kim Walter singled home WLW's winning run in the top of the fifth inning, and Jodi Bennett and Hunter had three hits apiece.

IN THE SECOND game, the Falcons, who had scored three times in the fifth inning to erase a 6-2 deficit, pushed across two more in the last of the sixth to win it.

Linda Stenson opened the Farmington sixth with a walk, Gernke doubled to put runners at second and third and Kelly Koss singled home Stenson to tie. Gernke then scored the winning run on Melissa Tisdale's

bunt single.

Tisdale, Philip and Lisa Rockafellow, the winning pitcher, had two hits apiece for Farmington, 3-4 in the WLA and 4-4 overall.

Rockafellow, who came on in relief in the fifth, allowed two hits, walked two and fanned two.

HARRISON 7, NORTHVILLE 3: Farmington Harrison ruffled with five runs in the seventh inning to defeat Northville Wednesday.

The Hawks had only one hit and trailed 3-2 after six innings, but they rallied to win with timely hitting and

Northville errors in the top of the seventh.

Jenni Isenberg drove in the tying run, Teresa Spitz singled home the lead run and Dawn Culbertson doubled to score a pair of insurance runs.

Heldi Reyst was the winning pitcher after going the distance. She allowed eight hits, walked three and struck out four.

MERCY 6-2, GALLAGHER 2-1: Farmington Mercy rallied to score two runs in the top of the seventh

Please turn to Page 3

Falcons keep record intact

Farmington remained undefeated in girls track Thursday by taking a 74-54 win from city rival North Farmington.

The Falcons were paced by Anna Quenneville, who won the 800-meter run in 2:29.9 and was a member of two winning relay teams — the 1,600 and 3,200.

Jennifer Kiel gave the Falcons first place in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs with times of 5:34.0 and 12:30.0, and Carrie Maier and Lori Casaroli had two firsts, also.

Maier won the 200 dash (27.8). Casaroli was the 300 hurdles winner (51.3) and both were on the 800 relay team that posted a first-place time of 1:53.95.

IN ADDITION, Farmington's Julie Lawton won the high jump (5-0), and Amy Trunk played a role in the 800 and 1,600 relay wins. The Falcons were clocked at 4:31.9 in the 1,600 relay and 10:58.1 in the 3,200.

Angie Ford completed the 800 relay team, Tracy Jourdan and Julie Trunk were the other members of the 1,600 team and Bonnie Stecker, Maureen O'Dell and Allisha Richardson joined Quenneville in the 3,200.

North was not without its individual standouts, however.

The Raiders' Suzi Butcher was a double winner in the shot put (34-9¼) and the discus (98-4¼), and

girls track

Wendy Love and Tammy Spengler had two firsts apiece.

Love won the long jump (15-2), Spengler took the 100 dash (13.2) and both figured in North's 400 relay victory (52.91).

North's other winners included Cindy Cramer in the 100 hurdles (18.09) and Julie Garczynski in the 400 dash (1:33.6).

FARMINGTON HARRISON also remained unbeaten in girls track Thursday with a 75-53 victory over Livonia Churchill.

The Hawks' Jenny Anderson captured the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs with times of 5:45.7 and 13:02.9, and she ran the first leg of Harrison's 3,200 relay, which defeated Chargers' foursome with a 10:57.2 time.

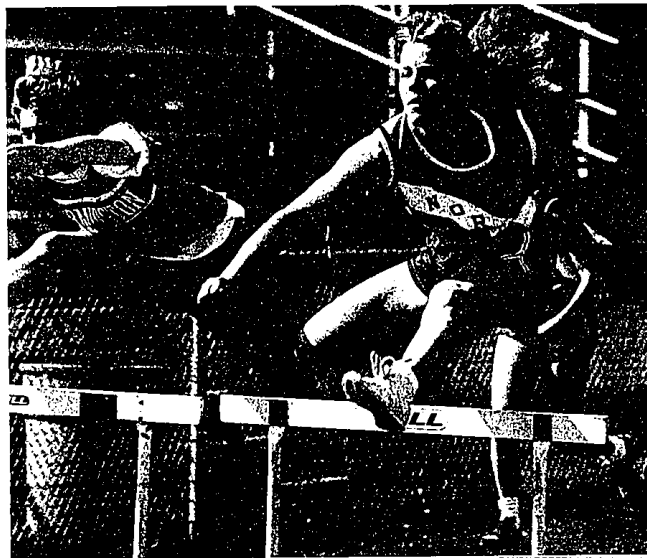
Tracey Radke took first place in the long jump (16-1¼) and 100 dash (13.7) and anchored the Hawks' victory in the 400 relay (55.3).

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CAMALA MALOSH and Maryann

Please turn to Page 3



RANDY BOST/Staff Photographer

Cindy Cramer of North Farmington is challenged by Farmington High's Tonya Bogdan in the 100-meter hurdles race. Cramer prevailed to win the event, but Bogdan and the Falcons won the meet 74-54.

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Mustangs surprise Farmington, 5-1

Julie Anger scored two goals Friday to lift Northville to a 5-1 victory and hand Farmington its first soccer defeat.

The Falcons slipped to 7-1-3 overall, but Farmington and Northville are in separate divisions in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Thus, the loss won't affect the Falcons' title hopes.

Carrie Maier scored Farmington's lone goal, cutting Northville's lead to 4-1, with an assist from Leslie Martin. The Falcons had an earlier goal called back.

FARMINGTON 2, SALEM 1: Margaret Martin and Carrie Maier scored goals to give the Falcons a 2-0 margin, which was sufficient to

get past Plymouth Salem Wednesday.

Jennifer Belhart scored the lone goal for Salem, which outshot the Falcons in the second half but couldn't take advantage of the situation in which it had the wind at its back.

MERCY 0, TROY 0: Farmington Mercy turned in an outstanding defensive effort Wednesday as the Marlins battled Troy, the No. 2-ranked soccer team in the state, to a scoreless tie.

"The kids are playing great 'D' to hold a team like Troy scoreless," Mercy coach Gene Fogel said. "We're still struggling offensively, but we're coming around."

Fogel had to move one of his top

soccer

scorers, Margaret DeMattia, back on defense to compensate for the absence of injured players Leigh Clancy and Maureen Scullen.

DeMattia, Leigh Ann Gallagher, Stacy Murdoch and Erica James were standouts on defense, and Kelly Beaudry excelled in goal for the Marlins, Fogel said.

On Friday, Mercy defeated Redford Bishop Borgess 10-0 to run its record to 3-2-3. The tie left Troy with a 7-0-1 mark.

CANTON 12, HARRISON 0: Mi-

chelle Longio scored three goals, and Michelle Fortier had three second-half assists as Plymouth Canton shut out Farmington Harrison 12-0 Wednesday.

Fortier, a sophomore, spent the first half in goal for the Chiefs and was followed by Shelly Tutor in the second.

Jon Saul recorded her third shut-out in goal for Plymouth Canton as the Chiefs took an impressive, 2-0 victory from perennial soccer power Livonia Stevenson Friday.

Saul made eight saves, and the Canton defense turned in an excellent performance in limiting the Spartans to only two shots on goal in the second half. Canton goalies have allowed just eight goals in

seven games this season.

Canton had 11 attempts in each half, and goals by Julie Stabnick and Shannon Meath were all the scoring the Chiefs needed.

Stabnick, with an assist from Jenny Steinhelb, scored one minute into the second half, and Meath's goal came at the 25-minute mark of the second half. Lori Stoecklein assisted on Meath's goal.

Canton's defensive standouts included Chris Zawacki, Cheryl Nippa, Erin Morgan and Tereia Greenhalg, coach Don Smith said. The Chiefs' centers, Melly Menard and Renee Rice, also played well, he added.

Canton improved its record to 4-2-2.

Growth chart

Maple Leafs' Al Iafate showing signs of maturity in NHL

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

The scruffy-faced defenseman skates in large, looming circles on the Joe Louis Arena ice.

At every turn, he is fed a pass from Toronto Maple Leaf assistant coach Garry Lariere. He fires the puck at the empty net without picking up his head.

The ritual is broken when one shot skitters off his stick and well wide of the net.

Al Iafate laughs.

"He knows he can play," said Borje Salming, Iafate's defensive partner and roommate on the Leafs. "Before he used to make a few mistakes and get down on himself."

IAFATE, WHO just turned 21 in March, is now old enough to buy a beer in his native Livonia. But in the National Hockey League, the 6-foot-3 blueliner has already had a six-

pack of playoff experience.

The Detroit-Toronto series was his fourth round of post-season play. With every minute Iafate logs, he stores some way confidence.

"I'm a young defenseman," said Iafate, with the sun beaming down on him as he walks back to the Westin Hotel after practice. "I'm still going to make some mistakes. I still have a lot to learn."

"He's just a young pup," added Leaf goaltender Allan Bester, who's in an eclipse as Iafate's frame blocks out the ultra violet rays.

Iafate, along with the rest of the Leaf defense, was in the doghouse toward the end of the season. Most had Toronto written out of the playoffs.

And the blueline crew was being blamed for everything but world hunger during the days of last-place. The Leafs barely made the playoffs, backing in on the last day.



"WE WEREN'T really out of it," said Iafate. "With 12 games to go, we were only seven points out. We knew we were one of the better teams in (the Norris) division."

"In January we had a lot of injuries. I was the veteran on defense, and I was only 20 years old."

But the Leafs regrouped in time for the playoffs. Defense, ironically,

has been the main reason.

Iafate has been the focal point in the Leafs' post-season program of austerity.

"He's played very well," said Lariere, regarded as one of the best defense coaches in the NHL. "He's concentrated so much on defense and on not getting beat. It's probably cost him a little offensively. But down the

road, it's going to be better for him." Even when a skater does get by him, Iafate can rectify the situation. It still amazes Lariere.

"HE CAN GET beat by a player and still come back because he's so agile for a big guy," Lariere said. "Most big men can't recover. He's pretty light on his size 14 skates."

Some have labeled Iafate a future Larry Robinson.

Yet those impatient with his development have been critical. Some still cite his lack of concentration at times.

"I still get criticized," he said. "They usually don't single out guys in Toronto. If one guy gets criticized, usually everyone does."

"We've (the defense) taken criticism all year long. I guess when there's mistakes made by a defenseman or a goaltender, it's more obvi-

ous than when a forward makes one."

He's grown accustomed to being under a microscope. That hasn't been the biggest adjustment after three years in the NHL, though.

Iafate played only a handful of junior games with Belleville of the Ontario Hockey League before being drafted by the Leafs in 1984. Travel and the large number of games is something he wasn't used to.

"That's 80 games. That's a lot of games to get up for," he said.

Iafate managed this season. He was only one of four Leafs to play in all 80 games.

HE ALSO SCORED nine goals and added 21 assists. Through 11 games in the playoffs, Iafate was a plus-5 on defense.

Last season, during the Leafs' playoff odyssey, Iafate was a plus-

Please turn to Page 2