

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/644-1101

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Harrison maintains mastery of Chiefs



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Harrison's Mark Murray trots around the bases after slugging a leadoff home run in the third inning of the Hawks' 10-8 victory over Canton.

Farmington Harrison struck again Monday when the Hawks knocked off division-leading Plymouth Canton 10-8 in Western Lakes Activities Association baseball.

Harrison, which took a 1-0 victory from the Chiefs earlier in the season, improved to 4-3 in the Western Division of the WLAA. Canton slipped to 5-2 in the division and 9-4 overall.

Sam Rineer's bases-loaded, three-run double proved to be the Hawks' game-winning hit, putting Harrison on top 8-2 in the fourth inning.

A wild pitch scored Harrison's Leo Devine in the first inning, but Canton came back to take its only lead with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

MIKE LASOTA OPENED the Chiefs' half of the first with a solo homer, and Chris Rheault made it 2-1 when Ron Balog's base hit bounded away from the left fielder.

The Hawks, however, scored the next seven runs to move safely in front.

Harrison tied the score in the second when Jeff Skinner scored on a balk, and took the lead on Devine's RBI single.

In the fourth inning, Devine and Todd Kenyon walked, and Mark Murray, who hit a leadoff homer the previous inning, singled to load the bases and set the stage for Rineer's double.

Canton's four-run rally in the fifth inning cut Harrison's lead to 9-8. LaSota doubled and scored on two wild pitches, Joel Riggs ripped a two-run triple and Vince Fox added an RBI single.

RIGGS' THREE-BASE hit chased Jason Hicks from the mound, but Hicks left with Harrison ahead and

baseball

earned the victory. In 4½ innings, he struck out six and walked no one.

Derek Darkowski was the loser for Canton. Chris Kennedy and Steve Waite made mound appearances for the Chiefs, also.

Harrison's Devine was three-for-four, scored two runs and had two RBIs. Murray was two-for-five and Skinner had two RBIs.

Fox and LaSota batted three-for-four for Canton. Tony Boucher had a pair of doubles in four plate appearances and Balog had two singles in as many trips.

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HARRISON 13, ORTONVILLE 2: Farmington Harrison erased Ortonville-Brandon in a Class B pre-district qualifying game Tuesday.

The Hawks supported Rineer's four-hit pitching with a 10-hit assault. Rineer raised his record to 3-1, striking out three and issuing only two walks in the abbreviated, five-inning contest.

Paul Cote and Jeff Skinner were two-for-three, with Cote knocking in two runs, one on a triple. Mark Schmidt contributed a two-run double, and Rineer and Skinner had one RBI each.

STEVENSON 9, N. FARMINGTON 7: Livonia Stevenson's four-run fourth inning erased a 7-4 North Farmington lead and lifted the Spartans to the victory.

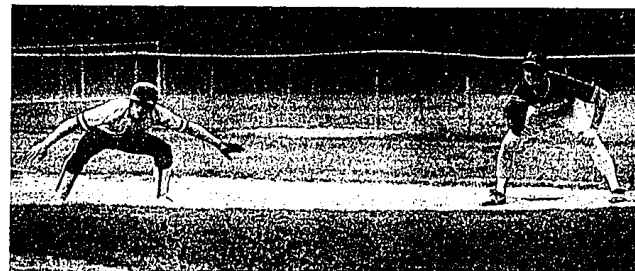
The Raiders had moved in front 7-4 in the top half of the fourth with the help of Gerry Halght's three-run homer.

North's Jerry Hakala contributed a two-run double, Joe Sturtz tripled and scored twice, Trent Hiner was two-for-three with two RBIs and Rick Karcher batted two-for-four.

Mark Taylor suffered the defeat in relief of Rob Knapp. Taylor allowed five earned runs and seven hits, walked five and struck out one.

Dave Houghby, Stevenson's winning pitcher, was three-for-four, which included a double and home run, had four RBIs and scored three runs. Ron Laude was two-for-four with a homer and three RBIs.

North's record slipped to 3-8 in the league, 3-9 overall.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Leo Devine, left, takes as big a lead as possible at first base, while Plymouth Canton first baseman Vince Fox does his part to hold the

Harrison baserunner close to the bag. Devine had three hits and knocked in two runs for the victorious Hawks.

Stevenson's Taormina truly Spartan-like in commitment

KEEP ASKING MYSELF, "How does she do it?"

But maybe that is what separates Sheila Taormina from the rest of the area's athletes.

What is a typical day for the senior at Stevenson High School in Livonia?

Sunday, as the Lord intended it, is Sheila's day of rest. But on Monday, she starts off her week with swim practice, 5:45 to 7 a.m.; school, 7:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.; track practice, 2:30-4 p.m.; and swim practice, 7:30-9 p.m.

She goes through that kind of rigorous schedule five to six days a week.

When does she have time to study?

Somewhere she does it. Taormina is one of the top students in her class.

It was only in December that Taormina set two individual records at the state Class A girls swim meet and was a member of Stevenson's record-setting 400-yard freestyle relay squad.

But that chapter of her career is over and now she is planning for the future.



Brad Emons

IT DOESN'T TAKE much to get Taormina in the water to train, but the job of picking the right college turned out to be quite an exercise.

In April, Taormina decided to cast her lot with the University of Georgia, a school with a national reputation intent on winning the NCAA's. (This season the Bulldogs were ranked fourth and finished sixth.)

Taormina said Georgia coach Jack Baure often gave her the cold shoulder.

"He told me I was one of his top recruits, but he seemed really laid back and not interested at times," she recalls.

Farther south, University of Miami coach Jack Nelson, whose team is on the fringe of the top 20 nationally, would have given his

right arm for Taormina. He coached Sheila last summer in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"I never thought I would have to tell the Miami coach no," Taormina said. "That was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do."

What in the world put Georgia on her mind?

"I met a girl who introduced me to the coach (Baure) and I arranged for a visit," Taormina said. "I heard a lot of things, but once I got there it was a big surprise. The campus was pretty, and I knew it was for me."

SHEILA'S MOTHER talked about her staying close to home, maybe swimming for the University of Michigan.

"I wanted to get away," Sheila said. "I wanted to find a different atmosphere. I asked my dad, my mom, my coach and my brother, but they all said it was my own decision."

This spring, Taormina competed in the Senior Nationals in Orlando, Fla., and came up with a 14th-

Please turn to Page 3

Hawks' Reyst hurls 1-1 hitter in shutout win over Canton

Heidi Reyst threw a one-hit shutout Monday to guide Farmington Harrison to a 9-0 softball victory over Plymouth Canton.

Reyst, 5-6, struck out seven and walked five while going the seven-inning distance.

Teresa Spitz batted three-for-three, drove in three runs and scored twice to lead the Hawks. Jennifer Isenberg stole three bases and scored three runs.

Harrison improved its record to 4-4 in the Western Division and 5-8 overall.

MARIAN 7-4, MERCY 4-2: Farmington Mercy let a 3-0 lead slip away Tuesday as Birmingham Marian came from behind to defeat the Marlins and eventually sweep a softball double-header.

Amy Edward was the pitcher of record in both games for Mercy. She walked five and struck out four in the first game, and she walked three and struck out four in the eight-inning nightcap. Marian collected 11 and nine hits, respectively.

Marian's Jennifer Belknap also

softball

went the distance on the mound. She allowed a total of 17 hits, walked three and struck out five.

Edward had three hits in the first game for Mercy (4-4 in the Catholic League and 11-5 overall), and Kristin Orlandoni had three in the second.

N. FARMINGTON 8, STEVENSON 2: Leah Damiani knocked in three runs Monday to carry North Farmington past Livonia Stevenson in WLAA softball.

Damiani had two hits in four at-bats, and pitcher Robyn Weatherford limited the Spartans to four hits while striking out 12. She walked three.

Stevenson's Trish Kozlowski, who pitched a no-hitter against Plymouth Canton Friday, gave up only three hits and struck out 11. However, she was responsible for 11 of 12 walks

issued to North batters.

"When you have 23 strikeouts in a game, there isn't a lot of offense to talk about," North coach Al Howley said.

The Raiders are 3-4 in the division and 8-5 overall.

N. FARMINGTON 16-20, CHURCHILL 9-8: Robyn Weatherford and Renee Fishell pitched a pair of four-hitters as North Farmington swept a softball double-header from Livonia Churchill Friday.

Weatherford walked 10 and struck out six in the opener, and Fishell walked six and fanned one in the five-inning nightcap.

Debbie Arnold provided the spark for North in the first game with a triple, single and three RBIs, and Kara Karchu added two hits.

Stefani Knapp and Erica Zonder keyed North's 13-hit attack in the second game with two hits and three RBIs apiece.

Arnold and Missy Bossewen added two hits each for the Raiders, who improved to 7-5 in the WLAA and 8-5 overall.

Salem takes WLAA title in showdown with Falcons

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Salem coach Ken Johnson's confidence in his girls soccer team was rewarded Monday.

Johnson predicted the Rocks would win the Western Lakes Activities Association championship, and his players backed up his preseason boast with a 3-1, title-clinching victory over Farmington.

In a dramatic finish to the WLAA's hotly contested race, the remaining contenders met to decide the issue in head-to-head competition at Centennial Educational Park.

Freshman Michelle Minton scored twice, and sophomore Jill Estey assisted on all three goals to lead Salem to its first championship in seven years of competing in the sport.

"We've worked for it," said Johnson, recalling the school board's decision to institute girls soccer in 1981. "This gives us a little bit of respect. The girls have finally made their mark, like winning a basketball or football championship."

NOT ONLY have the Rocks gained credibility in their own community, but Johnson believes they have emerged from the shadow of

soccer

other area soccer powers as well. "We've been ranked in the top 10 (in the state) every year, but we've always been ranked behind (Livonia) Churchill and Stevenson," Johnson said.

"I had the feeling we were going to win it this year. I knew we were going to have a good team with the extra good ones coming in."

The "extra good ones" were the incoming freshmen players like Minton and Jennifer Marshall who complemented the team's veterans, provided depth and helped the Rocks to an 11-1-2 league record.

Farmington, with a makeup game against Livonia Franklin remaining on the regular-season schedule, is 8-2-3 in the WLAA.

"I think Ken has a super team, and they outthrust us in the second half," Farmington coach Ed Bartram said.

"We were a little bit off tonight. We should have gone out a little faster. If we had, it might have been different, but they deserved the

game.

"We were just a little slower to the ball than his team, and that sometimes makes a difference," he added.

A DOMINANT trend in the second half was Salem's ability to keep the action centered in Farmington's end of the field, thus keeping the pressure on the Falcons' defenses.

Farmington goalie Cindy Rieden came up with several excellent saves to preserve a 1-1 halftime tie, but the Rocks capitalized on a corner kick early in the second half to take a one-goal edge.

Estey delivered the ball to midfield, and Minton made a point-blank kick through a congested gathering in front of the Farmington goal.

The Rocks continued to press the action into Farmington's end, but the Falcons held steady until Salem finally broke the game open with a late goal.

Estey fooled a Farmington defender into thinking she was going to kick the ball toward midfield. Instead, she brought the ball behind her and went uncontested up the left sideline.

Please turn to Page 2

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It will not give you a Lotus Turbo Esprit.



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