

Roller skaters vie for championships

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The best roller skaters in Michigan will compete this weekend in the state championships at the Skating Station in Canton.

The four-day event, which begins Friday and continues through Monday, is the first step toward qualifying for national competition and will feature contestants from as young as 3 years up to 60.

The types of competition will include school figures (compulsory), singles (freestyle), dance (couples dance skating) and pairs (couples doing freestyle-type moves such as lifts, jumps and spins), according to Mike Dunn, manager of the Skating Station, 8611 Ronda Drive.

"It's very much like you see in ice skating competition, only it's more difficult to do on roller skates," said Dunn of the pairs skating.

"(The pairs skating) is more exciting to watch, the more glamorous event," he added, "but the people who go round in circles will argue their skills are just as good."

"That takes a lot of skill, too; there's less room for error in the school figures."

Each discipline is then divided in different age groups, beginning with the primaries for young children and rising to the world-class level. The skaters in the latter category eventually hope to land a spot on the United States team that will compete at the World Championships in the fall.

But, first, the top five skaters in the Great Lakes Regional in Indiana during the Fourth of July week.

Harrison guaranteed title share

Farmington Harrison assured itself a tie for the Western Division baseball championship Tuesday by defeating Northville, 6-4.

Paul Cole's two-run single in the third inning put the Hawks in front 4-1, and Mark Schmidt slammed a solo home run, his fourth of the season.

Mark Murray, who had two hits, singled in the third inning Schmidt was on board via a walk when Cole delivered his key hit with two outs.

Sam Rineer, 4-1, went the distance for Harrison. Northville had seven hits. Rineer struck out five and

baseball

walked four.

The Hawks are 7-3 in the division, 7-8 in the league and 11-12 overall.

W.L. WESTERN 6, N. FARMINGTON 2: North Farmington was denied the opportunity to advance in state tournament play after Walled Lake Western defeated the Raiders

in a Class A pre-district qualifying game Saturday.

The Raiders matched WLW hit for hit with seven apiece, but North left 10 runners on base and was behind 6-1 after four innings.

Trent Hiner was 2-for-4 and scored both runs. Rick Karcher had an RBI single and Jerry Hakala added an RBI sacrifice.

Mark Taylor started and went three innings for the Raiders, taking the loss. Rob Knapp then pitched four innings of hitless relief. He recorded four strikeouts and one walk.

Hawks gain confidence despite loss

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pitch. He was replaced by pinch-runner Jason Lichtman, who advanced to third on a ball hit by Rineer.

When Rineer attempted to steal second, the throw from Williams sailed into center field, scoring Lichtman.

BUT THAT WAS all the Hawks could get, and Linden rallied to win

it in the bottom of the seventh.

Williams led off with a walk and went to third on a single by Buerkel. Then Robbie Wise walked to load the bases, which chased Murray from the mound. Senior right-hander Mark Schmidt came in but threw a wild pitch that scored pinch-runner Derek Smith to tie the score.

After a walk to Raymond loaded the bases, Joe O'Brien followed with a perfect suicide squeeze bunt, which nestled in the high grass up the first-

base line. Buerkel scored easily with the winning run.

Nevertheless, Harrison kept itself in the game with one of Class B's strongest teams, and that made it a moral victory for the Hawks.

"This game was definitely a plus for our ballclub," Kenyon said. "Now we know the competition we're up against, and we realize that we're as good as any team as long as we show up to play."

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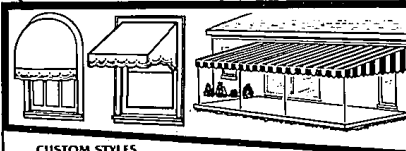
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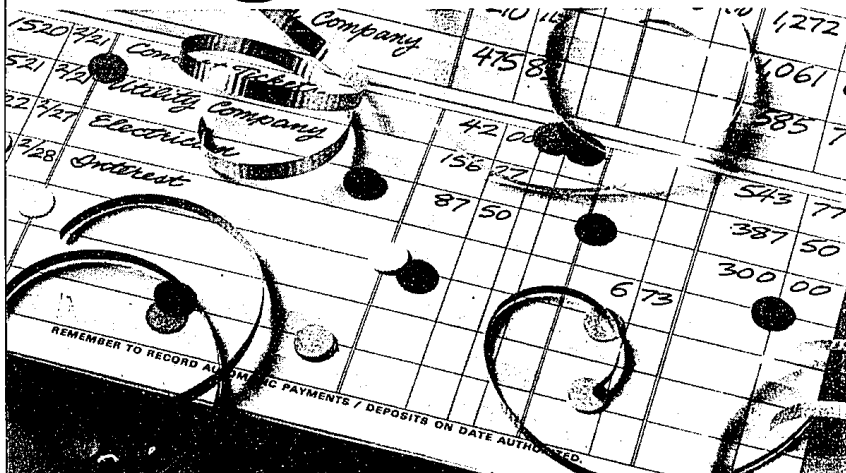
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