

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



(F10)

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Stacey Thompson keeps a wary eye on North Farmington shortstop Missy Bosscawen's glove as she attempts to slide safely into second base. Thompson, who successfully stole the base, pitched Canton to another victory.

Mercy sweeps Blazers

Farmington hills Mercy got a much needed shot-in-the-arm Tuesday when it swept a softball double-header from Central Division rival Livonia Ladywood, 12-3 and 7-2.

The Marlins, 2-3 in the division and 5-4 overall, broke a three-game losing streak against division foes.

Mercy built a 9-1 lead with a six-run second inning in the first game. The runs came a little slower in the nightcap, but Mercy owned a 7-0 lead after five innings.

"We heard Ladywood was tough," said coach Suzanne Brown, adding the Blazers split with Birmingham Marlin.

"We heard they were a bunt-and-run team, and we were pretty well prepared. As far as I'm concerned, the first game was over after the first two innings."

Amy Edward was the winning pitcher in both games. She tossed a four-hitter in the first one, and she struck out eight as opposed to just two walks. She fanned three and walked two in the second game, which saw Ladywood outlast the Marlins 12-11.

Missy McKenna, Julie Jozwiak, Nikki Burns and Nikki Fraser had two hits apiece in the first game, and all except Jozwiak scored two runs. McKenna drove in four runs, Jozwiak and Edward, who also scored twice, two apiece.

Jozwiak batted 3-for-3 with two runs and one RBI in the second game, and Kerry Sayers was 2-for-3 and scored twice.

CANTON 11, N. FARMINGTON 7: The Chiefs won their second straight softball game Monday behind the excellent pitching of sophomore Stacey Thompson.

She tossed a two-hitter to lead Canton past the Raiders, and she struck out three and walked eight. Holding the Raiders to two hits more than balanced the number of free passes she issued, however.

Canton managed the victory with only four hits, but it benefited from 14 walks from North pitcher Tiffany Fishell.

Stacey Arnold was 2-for-4 and scored two runs for the Chiefs, 2-0. Rhonda Kibliko's two-run double keyed a three-run fourth inning that put Canton on top 3-0. Kelly McUmber's double accounted for the fourth hit.

The Chiefs had two runners on base with two out in the second inning when a North throwing error kept Canton alive and allowed it to score five runs after that.

Amy Edward and Missy Bosscawen had North's hits and one RBI apiece. Coulson also scored two runs, Bosscawen one. The Raiders are 0-2.

MERCY 7-7, AQUINAS 2-8: Mercy dealt the Raiders their first loss in the opening game, but Aquinas, a member of the Catholic League's Double A Bracket, won the second game despite being outlasted 16-10.

Edward was on target in both games, especially the first when she fanned 14 batters and issued only three walks while tossing a three-hitter. She struck out eight and walked three in the second game.

In the opener, the Marlins strengthened a 3-2 lead with four runs in the seventh inning. Edward was 3-for-3 with two RBI, and Jozwiak and Sayers

were 2-for-4. Sayers also batted in a pair of runs. Aquinas won the nine-inning second game with a run in the bottom of the ninth.

Sayers and Burns were 3-for-4, and McKenna, Edward and Jenny Gondek had two hits apiece. Burns had three RBI and Sayers one.

W.L. CENTRAL 12, HARRISON 8: Kelly O'Hanlon made one of her three hits a grand slam as the Vikings grabbed a 10-1 lead after two innings.

The Hawks rallied to within two runs in the fifth inning, 10-8, and coach Mike Teuchman said he saw improvement in a team that played better than it did in losing the season opener to Waterford Kettering.

Katie Doll was 2-for-4 and also had a grand slam during a five-run fourth inning for Harrison, 0-2. Jenny Isenberg was 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored.

O'Hanlon was 3-for-4 with five RBI for the Vikings, 2-1.

NORTHVILLE 13, FARMINGTON 4: Northville pitcher Amy Friemund was tough on the Falcons from the mound and the batter's box Monday.

She pitched a six-hit, complete game in which she struck out six and walked two, and she also had three hits. The Mustangs erased a 2-1 Farmington lead with six runs in the bottom of the third inning.

Lisa Rockafellow, the starting and losing pitcher, was 2-for-3 with a triple and two RBI. Melissa Tisdale also tripled and had one RBI for the Falcons, 0-2. Northville is 1-1.

Comfortable pace results in WB win

By C.J. Rieck staff writer

On a near-perfect day for running, Paul Aufdenberge's "conservative pace" was much more than the rest of the field could handle in the 12th annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon Sunday.

Aufdenberge pulled away after eight miles of the 13.1-mile race and won easily in one hour, 11 minutes and 39 seconds. Finishing second was Dale Hart in 1:12:46.

The pace was well off the race record of 1:08:54, set by Craig Fuller of Canton in 1986. And the reason was the nearly perfect conditions.

It was bright and sunny, with temperatures in the mid-80s — great running weather, right? Well, almost. Winds from the south-southwest gusted from 20 to 30 miles-per-hour, making it less than ideal for racing.

"IT WAS REAL windy out there," admitted runner-up Hart, a Detroit resident.

The wind didn't bother the winner quite as much, however — which may explain why Aufdenberge finished first.

"It was pretty windy at times, but I guess I can't complain," said the Detroit native. "It wasn't too bad because there are so many turns in the course, and the last four miles or so were mostly with the wind."

"I felt pretty steady the whole way," he added. "It was a conservative pace. I opened up a little gap at about four miles, then pulled away at about eight miles. It was nice to run a bit relaxed the last few miles."

Hart, who finished nearly two minutes ahead of third-place David Welker of Fenton (1:14:39), tried to keep pace with Aufdenberge but couldn't. "He pulled away from me at eight miles, and I couldn't catch him after that," said Hart.

LEADING THE WOMEN was Diane East of Butler, Pa., a 1974 graduate of Royal Oak Kimball. East finished in 1:25:30, 54th overall. Second among women was Michelle Gillispie of Roseville in 1:27:27, 70th overall.

The wind proved bothersome for East, too. "I felt like it just stood me up at times," she said. "At least there were a lot of turns, which gave me a break."

It was a satisfying win for East, who had entertained Olympic aspirations. She was entered to run the Olympic Trials' marathon in Pittsburgh two weeks after the West Bloomfield run, which she wanted

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— Paul Aufdenberge
Half-marathon winner

'I felt like it (the wind) just stood me up at times.'

— Diane East
Half-Marathon winner

Half-marathon results, 60:

to use as a tune-up. But a knee injury ruined her training schedule.

"I've only been training for 5½ weeks," she said, "so I'm happy winning. I didn't really feel too good. It was tough out there."

As far as the Olympic Trials are concerned, East is still considering running, although she realizes she probably won't do very well. "I'll go and run, but I'll probably only go half way," she said.

LEADING FINISHERS from the Observer & Eccentric area among the 750 entries were Scott Baker of Birmingham, 10th (1:17:55); Tom Mountain of Farmington Hills, 12th (1:18:35); David Kanners of Rochester, 15th (1:19:06); Tim Emmett of Redford, 18th (1:19:28); Ed Barron of Birmingham, 23rd (1:21:07); and Bill Jones of West Bloomfield, 27th (1:21:43).

Doug Kurts of Northville, one of the top runners in the nation, ran the easy race he said he would and finished 29th in 1:22:08. Kurts is preparing for the Olympic Trials' marathon.

Award winners in each age group were, for the men: 18 and under, Nick Pixton of West Bloomfield (1:24:01); 19-29, Aufdenberge; 30-39, Greg Heller of Trenton (1:18:57); 40-49, Kanners; 50-59, Gene Reck of Franklin (1:30:26); 60 and over, Chuck Davey of Birmingham (1:32:01).

For the women: 17 and under, Wendy Custino of West Bloomfield (1:54:40); 19-29, Gillispie; 30-39, East; 40-49, Charlene Catalina of Fort Huron (1:22:43); and 50 and over, Janey Hayden of Fort Huron (1:48:12).

The top team finisher was Ellis Boal and Marilyn Morehead of Detroit (3:10:11 combined time).

Falcons rise in poll, beat Harrison, 9-0

Farmington responded to its No. 2 ranking in the statewide girls soccer poll Monday by winning its third straight game.

The undefeated Falcons, 3-0, coasted by cross-town rival Farmington Harrison 9-0 as Carrie Maler and Heather Glennie scored two goals apiece. The Hawks fell to 0-3.

"It's a boost just to get the Farmington schools' name out there," said Farmington coach Ed Bartram after the Falcons moved up in the rankings.

"I don't know why at this particular moment (the Falcons are rated so high), but the girls deserve the recognition."

Amy Trunk opened the scoring, and Maler and Glennie followed with their goals as Farmington led 5-0 at half-time.

Jennifer Misaros and Stacey Schalm, both of whom got into the scoring act in the second half, assisted on Glennie's goals, and Trunk was credited with an assist on a goal by Maler, who maintained her two-goals-per-game average.

Missy Davis, Margaret Martin, Schalm and Misaros scored second-half goals in that order. Martin also

soccer

'At the offensive end, you have to depend more on skill. With the weather getting warmer and the fields drying out, we hope to get the offense going.'

— Gene Fogel
Mercy soccer coach

had two assists, Misaros and Maler one apiece, in the last 40 minutes.

MERCY 9, CABRINI 0: The Marlins had no trouble getting their first victory Monday, blanking the Monarchs, who are in their first year of soccer competition.

Dana Lehmkuhl and Michelle Geyer, both freshmen, paced the victory with three goals apiece.

Sophomore Kathy McDonald

scored two and senior Karen Phillips one. Senior Colleen Rafferty and sophomore Carrie Bowler had two assists each.

Marian had faced tough opposition in its first two games, losing low-scoring games each time. Mercy was beaten by No. 3 ranked Troy on Saturday by a 3-0 count, the same as the result of its game with No. 5 Birmingham Marian.

The Marlins, 1-2, dominated the first half against Troy, taking 18 shots to the opponent's three.

"We hit the crossbar three times, and their all-state goalie made five or six great saves," Mercy coach Gene Fogel said. "We could easily have been winning 3-0."

The Collis reversed the first-half trend and outshot the Marlins 13-6 in the second. Troy scored on a penalty kick with five minutes left; otherwise, it was a 1-0 ballgame.

"Defense, for the most part, is just hard work," said Fogel, adding he is pleased with his team's play thus far.

"At the offensive end, you have to depend more on skill. With the weather getting warmer and the fields drying out, we hope to get the offense going," he added.

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