



Carrie Maier of Farmington has the inside Falcons came close but fell a goal short in pursuit of the ball Monday against the Western Lakes champions, Churchill. Andrea Szymanski gives chase. The

NANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Mercy's title hopes end in shootout loss

### soccer

#### District pairings, 2D

Birmingham Marian had to work overtime, then battle back from behind in a soccer shootout before finally subduing Farmington Hills Mercy in Tuesday's Catholic League semifinals at Oakland University.

The final official score was 1-0 Marian, but it was the Mustangs' 3-1 advantage in a best-after-five-shots shootout that clinched the victory.

Marian (9-1-3) now advances to the league final against the Madison Heights Bishop Foley-Harper Woods Regina winner. That game will be played at 11 a.m. Saturday at Bishop Foley.

"It was a terrific game," said Mercy coach Gene Fogel, whose team bowed out of the tournament with an 8-4-1 record. "I couldn't have been more proud of my kids," he said.

**PARTICULARLY THOSE** charged with stopping Marian's attacks. The Mustangs outshot Mercy 9-8 in the first half and 16-14 during regulation. In the two 10-minute overtime periods, Marian had a 7-4 shot advantage. The two five-minute sudden death overtimes favored Mercy, 5-3, in shots.

Senior midfielder Colleen Rafferty gave Mercy a 1-0 lead after the first round of the shootout. But the next three Marins all missed.

Marian's Patty Boyle and Chris Lamb both scored, and Betsy Clement — the Mustangs' fourth shooter — clinched the victory with a goal.

In the nets for Mercy was freshman Renee Larabell, substituting for senior Kelly Beaudry, who was ill. Larabell stopped Marian for 110 minutes, with some strong defensive support from senior fullbacks Maureen Scullen and Stacy Nolte. Scullen, Nolte and Rafferty were first-team all-Catholic League selections.

On Sunday, Mercy had two goals called back when officials first signaled for a direct kick, then changed their rulings to indirect after the scores. It proved to be the difference in the Marins' 2-0 loss to Bishop Foley at Mercy.

In the upcoming Southfield district tournament, Mercy plays at North Farmington on Monday, May 23, at 4 p.m., and the winner plays host to Farmington High on Wednesday, May 25.

In the other bracket, Southfield plays Southfield Lathrup on Wednesday, May 25, and the Wednesday winners advance to the final at noon Saturday, May 28, at Southfield.

In Class B action, Farmington Harrison will have the homefield advantage against Bloomfield Hills Kingswood at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.

**CHURCHILL 2, FARMINGTON 1:** Western Lakes champion Churchill managed to stay on its guard Monday in this inter-divisional contest at Farmington.

The game was postponed a week after it was washed out on Monday, May 9.

The Chargers, who won the league title over Plymouth Salem in a shootout last Friday, avoided a letdown and led 1-0 at halftime on Kelly Davis' penalty shot.

Churchill's Lori Place took a pass from Shannon Stachurski to make it 2-0 in the second half. Jennifer Misaros scored for Farmington with seven minutes left in the game. Margaret Martin assisted on the goal.

The Falcons, who finish 7-5 in the league and are 8-5 overall, were outshot 8-4 in the first half, but the shots were even at seven apiece in the second. Churchill is 9-3 overall.

**FRANKLIN 1, N. FARMINGTON 0:** Deanne Brda scored the lone goal in a Western Lakes crossover game last Friday. Ten minutes remained when Brda broke a scoreless tie. The Patriots are 6-5-1 overall.

## Mercy AD tackles new challenge

**T**HE REVOLUTION is over. Title IX was its death knell. There was still plenty of fighting to be done for equality in women's athletics after its adoption, but the tide had turned. The law was now on the side of those battling for women's rights in sports.

Eileen Sekerak was not part of that original revolutionary tide. Sekerak, 36, graduated from Western Michigan in 1973 with hopes of becoming a physical education instructor. A lack of teaching jobs prevented her from realizing that goal until 1976, when she became a junior varsity girls' basketball coach at Dearborn.

So, while Sekerak was not part of the original force advocating equality for women in sports, she was in the next wave. And now, Sekerak has become something more. She is the bridge.

There are casualties in every war. Many of the wounds languish for years, festered by bitterness.

**THE SAME** held true in the war with women's rights in sports. Wounds remain. With much of the old guard gone, drained by years of fighting, it's up to a new leadership to take control.

This new leadership is unlike the old. Instead of attacking the system, the idea is to work with it and, indeed, be absorbed by it.

Like Sekerak. Since her first year at Dearborn, she has steadily climbed the leadership ladder



C.J. Risak

within the Catholic League, one of the state's most prestigious circuits.

From Dearborn High to Dearborn St. Alphonsus, where she served as softball coach and assistant athletic director, to Farmington Hills Mercy, where — for the past three years — she was athletic director, Sekerak has risen steadily. Now she's ready for another step. Starting July 5, she will become associate director of athletics for the entire Catholic League, serving as Tom Rashid's assistant.

**IT'S A MAJOR** move, not just for Sekerak but for women in general. Finding a female in such a position a decade ago was unheard of.

Sekerak is acutely aware of her standing. Which explains why she wants to downplay it; the bridge, you understand. She must span any rifts which still exist among former opponents. Her role isn't to force change through her newly-ac-

quired position, nor is it to serve as spokesperson for women's rights.

Her job is to prove women are capable of governing sports. That they, too, can lead.

There are changes she advocates, but Sekerak is careful when speaking about them — the "let's not step on any toes" attitude one must assume when taking a new job.

Concerning women's sports, she says, "I want to help what's been started, to keep it going." Then she adds, "I don't want to sound idealistic about this new job. I'm going to be on the phone a lot, doing a lot of the stuff nobody sees, the organizational and everyday type of things."

**SEKERAK IS** critical of the lack of women in leadership roles in sports. But she places the blame on women, not hiring practices.

"Girls nowadays, even if they're out in the business world or raising families, can come back and coach for a while," she insisted. "As far as the Catholic League goes, I'd love to see more women coaches, more women officials. That's something I'm going to continue to encourage."

But Sekerak refuses to limit her scope to women. "An athlete is an athlete to me," is her self-proclaimed creed. Her concerns include:

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## Farmington 5th in Groves meet

Farmington High School made an impressive showing Saturday in the girls track and field relays at Birmingham Groves, finishing fifth in the highly competitive field of 18 teams.

The Falcons, with 48 points, were only three points behind runner-up Ann Arbor Pioneer. Detroit Cass Tech won the team title. North Farmington and Farmington Harrison were not among the top 10 but scored 23 and 21 points, respectively.

Farmington's Julie Lawton won the high jump, and the Falcons set two school records in running relays.

Lawton jumped 5 feet, 2 inches — her best outdoor effort of the season and a jump that places her second among Observerland athletes.

Carrie Maier, Jo Fox, Shelli Gaul and Angie Forge placed second in the 400-meter relay and clipped three-tenths of a second off the school record of 51.7. Maier, Fox and Forge were on the record-setting team a year ago.

### girls track

**WITH NICOLE** Tocco substituting for Gaul, the same threesome participated in the record-breaking 800 relay. Farmington was third with a 1:48.1 time, bettering the 6-year-old mark of 1:48.3.

Though they didn't set a record, the Falcons also were third in the 1,600 relay with Forge, Tocco, Maier and Trunk posting a 4:18.3 time.

In addition, Jennifer Kiel was fourth in the 3,200 run at 12:17.0, and Kristi Devine was fourth in the 800 (11:10) and fifth in the shot put (33-8). Maureen O'Dell took fifth place in the 800 run (2:32.4), and Fox was sixth in the 100 dash (13.3).

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## Falcons beat Harrison to win city championship

By Steve Kowalski staff writer

Farmington can't win the Western Lakes Activities Association title this year, but the Falcons have claimed a title of a different kind: the Farmington city championship.

Farmington defeated Farmington Hills Harrison, 4-4, in the first game of a scheduled doubleheader Monday. The second game was postponed because of rain after 2½ innings.

Earlier this season, the Falcons defeated North Farmington in the first game of a doubleheader, before losing the second game. Under W.L.A.A. rules, only the first game of doubleheaders count in the conference standings.

So Farmington is the city champion, at least in games that count, and that has coach Kevin Kansman pleased.

"We talked about it (winning the city championship) whenever we play North and Harrison, and we try to play it up," Kansman said.

**'(Darin Magera is) our workhorse. He didn't throw as hard as he can or is able to. But he's good at location, and that seemed to work against Harrison, a good hitting team.'**

— Kevin Kansman Farmington baseball coach

comprehension. Harrison coach John Herrington said: "That's nice, that's a good goal to play for. But we all play in the same league."

Farmington won Game 1 behind the strong pitching of Darin Magera, who scattered eight Harrison hits.

Three times Harrison runners reached third base but were unable to score.

"He's our workhorse," said Kansman. "He didn't throw as hard as he can or is able to. But he's good at location, and that seemed to work against Harrison, a good hitting team. He used four different pitches."

Harrison wasted a fine pitching performance by starter Bryan Wauldron, who threw in the late innings. Wauldron, a left-hander, entered in the bottom of the sixth inning with a 4-3 lead.

**FARMINGTON TIED** the score in the sixth on an RBI double from Brian Townsley, driving in Kevin Young. The Falcons scored the winning run with one out in the seventh on an RBI single by Young.

Young's single scored Scott Seabolt, who reached base on an infield error to lead off the inning.

Scott Murray, Millard Coleman and Devine picked up RBI for Harrison, but Herrington said the Hawks can't afford to waste scoring chances and count on pitching to pull them through.

"We had been hitting well, but in the sixth inning we had runners on second and third and couldn't bring them in," he said. "When that happens, you're not going to win."

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