

Sports

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Question of hitting hangs over Hawks

MacDonald team's main hitting threat

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Unlike his championship football team, coach John Herrington's Farmington Hills Harrison baseball team won't overpower too many opponents this spring.

But that doesn't mean the Hawks, usually among the contenders in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, won't field a good ballclub.

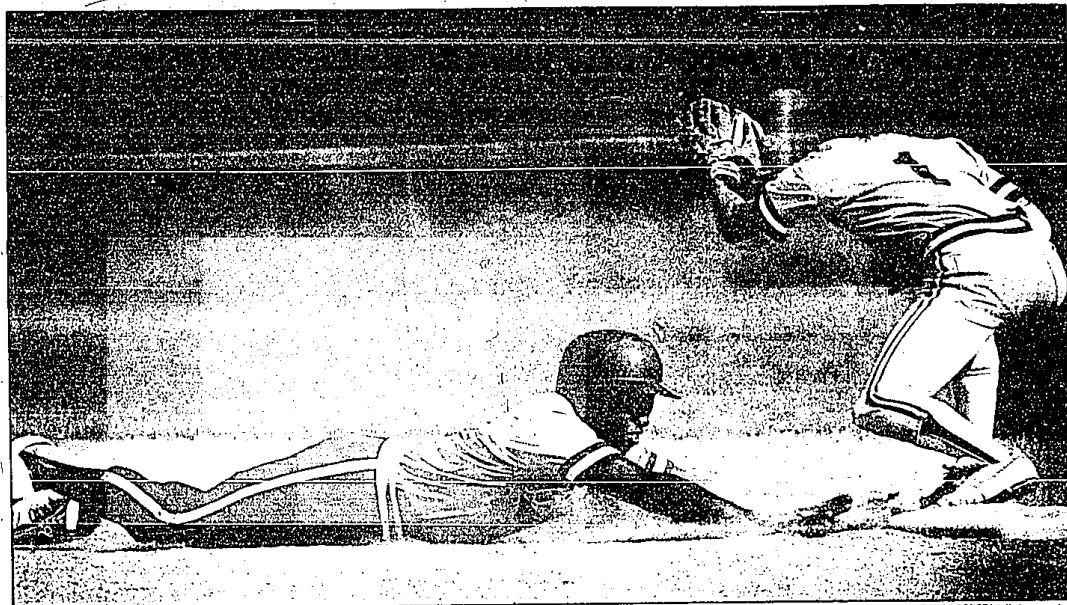
Instead of hammering opposing pitchers and hitting the long ball, Harrison will rely on a less awesome attack than the unbeaten football team employed en route to the Class B title.

"If the hitting comes through, I think we'll be in contention again," said Herrington, who will begin his 28th year of coaching baseball. "We do lack power, so we'll have to run the bases real well and get some key base hits."

"I don't think we're going to hit the ball real deep," he added. "(Rob) MacDonald had good power, but other than him we're mostly spray hitters and line-drive hitters."

MacDONALD is one of 11 returning lettermen from last year's team and will start at catcher again. MacDonald, who will bat third or fourth, had an excellent summer season with the South Farmington Conde Mack team.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Mill Coleman slides hard into second base, well ahead of the relay throw, in a game played last year. Coleman returns for his junior season and will be a

key player for Harrison, starting in center field. The Hawks begin the new season Friday, April 14, with a home game against crosstown rival North Farmington at 4 p.m.

ton at 4 p.m.

State has champs besides Michigan

MICHIGAN IS a state beaming with pride in the wake of Monday night's victory by the Wolverines in the final game of the NCAA men's tournament.

But this state has more national champions in the sport of collegiate basketball than many Michiganans probably realize.

The sports-minded people in the Plymouth and Canton communities are not so unaware. They know what I mean.

Michigan-bred talent also played a prominent role in the University of Tennessee's 76-60 defeat of Auburn in the NCAA women's championship game on Sunday — and none more so than Dena Head, the Salem High School product who still lists Canton Township as home.

Head, starting at point guard, scored a career-high 19 points in the Tacoma (Wash.) Dome, including 15 in the second half to help the Lady Volunteers win their second national title in three years.

HEAD IS one of four Michigan players on the Tennessee team —



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the others being Daedra Charles of Detroit, Regina Clark of Saginaw and Tonya Edwards of Flint, the player whom Head replaced in the starting lineup after Edwards suffered a season-ending injury in late January.

Following their victory, the newly crowned women champions were in the Seattle Kingdome to be honored at halftime of the men's game Monday night and watch the Wolverines tip Seion Hall 80-79 in overtime.

Head, whom I managed to contact by telephone at her Seattle hotel room later Monday — just hours after the U-M had won its first national title — had two reasons to celebrate.

"I think it's great," she said of Michigan's triumph. "I think it's

great not only for the state but the individual players who come from Michigan and played on that team — Glen Rice, Terry Mills.

"THOSE ARE the names we hear about when I was in school, and I'm really excited for those guys winning a national championship."

"Michigan has always had a good men's program, and the women players are highly recruited all over the state," she added. "Most of those players are doing well wherever they've gone."

After her performance the last two months and in Sunday's finale, Head is foremost among those products of Michigan women's basketball.

For her parents, friends, former teammates and coaches and people who saw Head play high school ball in the area, it was a thrill to see her introduced on national television as one of the starting players and then hear all the accolades CBS announcers Tim Brant and Mimi Griffin said about her play.

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Farmington returns most of talented track/field unit

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington was among the contenders in Western Lakes Activities Association girls track last year, and there's every reason to believe the Falcons will be there again in 1989.

One reason is that graduation losses were minimal, though Farmington lost three good ones in Kristi Devine, Bonnie Stecker and Jo Fox.

But there are numerous reasons for the Falcons to be positive: Julie Lawton, Shellie Gaul, Carrie Maier, Amy Trunk, Nicole Tocco, Angie Forge, Jennifer Kiel and Maureen O'Dell.

"If we aren't a contender, I'll be pretty disappointed," coach Bruce Brown said. "I think the girls would be, too. We have a nice group of girls, and we'll go out and see what we can do."

What the Falcons can do should

impress people. The 400- and 800-meter relay teams were league champions and return virtually intact. Lawton is one of the area's best high jumpers and Kiel one of the top distance runners.

THE 800 relay foursome of Trunk, Maier, Tocco and Forge had the best time in Observeland at 1:46.3 and was named to the all-area team.

The 400 team also went to state, and Maier, Forge and Gaul will run on that relay again. Scorer transfer Jennifer Reed is the leading candidate to replace Fox.

"A lot will depend on how worn out Amy and Carrie get in soccer," Brown said, "but I would hope we could do what we did last year or better."

"Relays have been our strength the last couple years, but we really

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