

## Sports

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## Falcons charge into soccer regional

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Complacency hasn't set in at Farmington High, even though the Falcons have one of the most favorable draws in the state Class A girls soccer playoffs.

Playing every game as if it's the final round, the No. 1-ranked Falcons continued their playoff run Friday, bombarding Farmington Hills Mercy 5-0 in a district final at Southfield High School.

Farmington, which has outscored the opposition 11-0 in two playoff games, plays Dearborn Edsby Ford Wednesday in a regional semifinal game.

The Thunderbird brings an impressive 17-3 record into the regional semifinal, so Farmington coach Cathy Cole won't let the Falcons take Edsby Ford lightly.

The "thirds play in the unheralded Northwest Suburban League, but Cole will prepare the Falcons as if they were facing Western Lakes Activities Association heavyweight Plymouth Canton.

BESIDES, HOW could a coach who makes her team do callisthenics after a game allow a team to become complacent?

"The draw sure is nice," admitted Cole. "Of course, anything can happen. We have to look at it in regards to that. We look for competition every game."

Mercy won five of its last six games and finished 9-4-3.

Kathryn Dudley, Mercy's leading scorer with 12 goals, was slowed by mononucleosis and forward Dana Lehmkuhl played with a bruised knee, but coach Henry Klimes didn't offer those setbacks as excuses.

"They (Farmington) should be the team to beat," Klimes said. "They should be able to handle the Trenton winner (Edsby Ford) with no problem. I haven't seen (No. 2-ranked) Canton, but we played Salem and Farmington's better than them."

"Farmington was a much better team than us. Cathy knows what to do and she has Carrie (Maler), a superstar. Definitely, she's a premier player."

Farmington built a 3-0 half-time lead and Maler and Margaret Martin finished the game with two goals each. The other goal belonged to Jennifer

Misarov, who beat Mercy goalkeeper Renee Larabell in the second half.

THE FALCONS' defense, largely responsible for their 14-0-4 record, swarmed around Dudley and gave goalkeeper Deb Westerkamp plenty of help.

Trailing 2-0, Lehmkuhl hit the goalpost for Mercy, and later Farmington fullback Kim Poppy stepped in and stopped a shot that surely would have gotten behind Westerkamp.

"I have my defense to thank for that," Westerkamp said. "That one Kim made was nice. She was right where she was supposed to be by the post. I was expecting more shots from (Mercy). Our team has improved a lot. There's been a lot of good defenders added to our team."

Said Dudley, who has played despite contacting mono two weeks ago: "It felt like they had an extra player out there. There were so many of them. Every time I got the ball, it was like they knew you were going to be there."

"I tried to work around them and do the best I can. Next year we'll move on to bigger and better things."

## Farmington sidelines Raiders in predistrict

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

When he gave up a first-inning home run to North Farmington's Joe Sturtz, Chris Schmidt might have thought he and his teammates were in for a long afternoon.

He might have, but he didn't.

Schmidt ended up pitching a complete game, allowing only five more hits, as Farmington defeated the host Raiders 6-3 in a Class A predistrict baseball contest Friday.

The Falcons, 10-11 overall, will face Plymouth Canton at 10 a.m. Saturday in the district tournament at Northville. North ends the season at 12-21.

"I know Joe is a good hitter," Schmidt said, "so I tried to keep my poise and tell myself you expect a guy like that to do that once in a while."

"It was early in the game, and I knew we were going to get some runs."

FARMINGTON DID that in the third inning when it scored all six, wiping out the 2-0 lead North took on Sturtz' blast over the right-center field fence.

The Falcons had six of their eight hits in that inning and were helped by two North errors. P.J. Green and Scott Lakatos had two-run singles, and Kevin VanOrd and Gary Sheple singled home the other runs.

North starter Tim McEvilly finished that inning, but sophomore sensation Andrew Margolick replaced him to begin the fourth.

North coach Irv Horwitz blamed himself for the loss. With two on and two out in the Farmington third, he wished he had called for an intentional pass to Green and then regretted not pulling McEvilly after Green got the game-tying hit.

"Tim is a helluva pitcher, but I made a mistake with runners on second and third," Horwitz said. "Then, instead of taking him out, I let him go, and if I had taken him out it might have changed the whole game."

Horwitz had Margolick warming up and would have brought him in sooner, but he hesitated to bring his young pitcher in to face a difficult situation.

"ANDREW TAKES a while to warm up, so I didn't think he was ready coming from first base," Horwitz said. "I thought he needed an inning to warm up, but he didn't. That's where I was wrong."

Margolick allowed only one hit in the final four innings, but neither could the Raiders get to Schmidt, who was helped by three double plays.

VanOrd, the shortstop, produced one of the game's big defensive plays in the fifth. The Raiders had runners at first and second with nobody out when VanOrd scooped up a ground ball off the bat of Chris White, stepped on second and relayed to first for the second out.

Schmidt, who struck out seven, walked five and hit one batter, allowed one hit — the Sturtz homer — through four innings. North got three of its remaining five in the sixth, but the Raiders got only one run after an outfield error allowed Sturtz to take third on a lead-off single.

"When we made those errors in that one inning, I was a little upset," Schmidt said, "but I kept thinking 'be positive.'"

"(The solid start) gets your confidence going. You're more sure of things. We took the attitude 'Hey, we've got it right now and we've got to keep putting it on them.'"

THE FALCONS had reason to be wary of the big inning and comfortable lead, having learned the hard way this year not to count the "W" until the game is over. Farmington has seen four apparent victories slip away in the last inning.

"We've had a couple games when we had big innings," Farmington coach Kevin Kaczmarek said. "Sometimes you win on that and sometimes you don't."

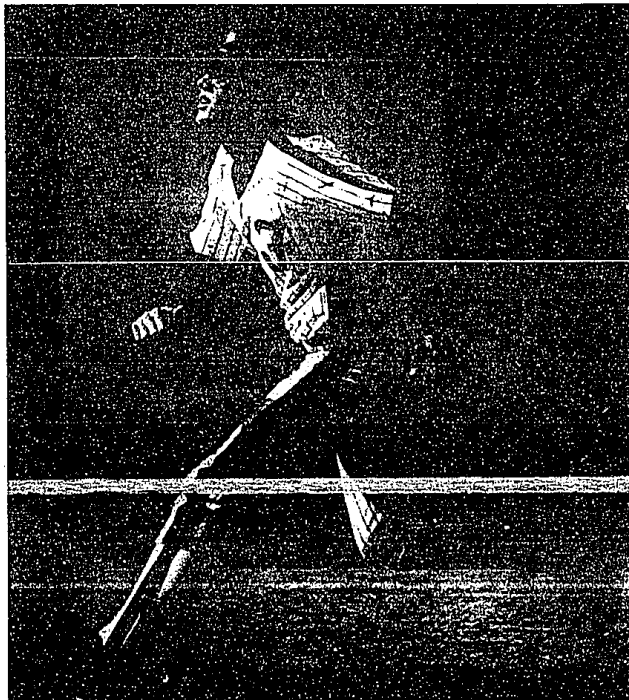
"I was just a little worried (about Schmidt). He walked a couple guys on four pitches, and he doesn't do that. And when the wind is blowing you have to be ready for anything."

The weather was ideal for baseball, but a strong wind made for uncertain conditions. Schmidt, however, thought the wind was an ally more than an obstacle, adding it turned his fastball into a pitch resembling a changeup.

"The wind helped my knuckleball," he said. "It helped give me some movement on the knuckleball and slowed down the fastball, too. I was trying to change speeds all day."

Kaczmarek added the victory and possibility of winning a district title is a morale booster for his squad.

"This really helps," he said. "If we do well next Saturday, it's really going to help our season. If we had lost today, it would have been a tough off season, because this team is much better than its record."



RANDY BOST/Traff photographer

P.J. Green drove in the tying runs for Farmington with a two-run single and then scored the go-ahead run on Eric Miller's base hit as the

Falcons defeated North Farmington 6-3 in a predistrict baseball game Friday.

## Stevenson wins dual-meet crown

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

After watching Farmington win the Class A girls regional at Southfield last week, Livonia Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg figured he had to find an edge for his team in the dual-meet showdown Wednesday.

Jeanne Magolick provided that edge as the Spartans won the long-awaited matchup that determined the Lakes Division champion in track and field.

"I figured out a dozen times where we would get points and where we wouldn't, and every time it figured out to 64-44," Holmberg said.

"But after I saw them in the regional, I didn't know where we were going to get them. We were coming up a couple points short."

"That's when we put Magolick in the hurdles, and that turned out to be a move that helped."

Holmberg took Magolick out of the 400-meter dash and entered her in the 300 hurdles where she contributed a second place in support of teammate and double winner Lisa Christensen, who ran 16.5 in the 100 and 49.2 in the 300.

FARMINGTON'S Nicole Toeco won the 400 in place of Amy Truck, who usually runs that event but was playing in a district soccer game that night. But Stevenson still picked up second and third place from Becky Adamczyk and Jennifer Sturm.

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## girls track

"Adamczyk and Sturm still got points, and I think Magolick surprised everyone by taking second (in the hurdles)," said Holmberg, who anticipated Farmington coach Bruce Brown putting another of his many sprinters in the 400.

The Spartans got an important one-two finish by Tracy Clark and Jennifer Knapp in the 800 run. After trailing Maureen O'Dell the entire race, they passed the Farmington runner in the last 100 meters. Clark won it with a 2:28.5 time.

"I guess they had more confidence in themselves than their coach did," Holmberg said. "I would have liked to see them pass sooner."

Stevenson also had a double winner in the field events where Maureen Martin won the shot put (33-2) and the discus (110-10), leading sweeps in both events. Debbie Wroblewski was second and Krista Sachs third in each for the Spartans, who finish 5-0 in the Lakes and 11-1 overall.

The teams split the relay victories, and Clark was on both of Stevenson's winners. Magolick, Sturm, Clark and Christensen won the 1,600 relay in 4:20.0, and it was Suzanne Moore, Jennifer Pfander, Knapp and Clark prevailing over

## Murray keys Harrison win

Craig Murray, who will play next spring at Henry Ford Community College, struck out a school-record 16 batters Friday as host Farmington Hills Raiders edged Oak Park, 3-1, in a predistrict baseball game.

The win means Harrison will play the winner of the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook in the district Saturday at Madison Heights Madison High School.

Murray scattered four hits and walked four in going the distance. Eric Weiner had two hits to pace the Hawk offensive attack.

Murray's school record breaks the previous mark of 14 set by Tim Hammer in 1975 and tied earlier this year by Murray.

MERCY 5, STEVENSON 3: Farmington Hills Mercy gets one more chance to settle the score.

The Marlins assured themselves of another win with Livonia Ladywood defeating host Livonia Stevenson 5-3 Friday in a Class A predistrict softball game.

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## Marlins will play Ladywood again

Edward collected three of the seven Mercy hits, including a double, and drove in three runs.

"The wind was real bad coming in from the outfield," Brown said. "Any hits we did get didn't go anywhere. Amy was hitting the ball well."

LADYWOOD 12, FARMINGTON 5: The Blazers scored nine runs in the first inning and coasted to the easy predistrict win at home over outmatched Farmington.

Saunders White tossed a three-hitter and struck out 10 in going the distance for Ladywood, 20-13 overall. Farmington's Lisa Rockefeller pitched a complete game, giving up 14 hits and walking three.

Jenny Kennedy had three hits in five trips, including a solo home run, and scored three runs for the winning team. Dana Donnelly, Jomarie Skurlovich and Lori Knoll had two hits each, and White smacked a solo homer.

Donnelly drove in four runs and Skurlovich had three RBIs.

Melissa Tisdale had two of Farmington's three hits, collecting a pair of RBIs trips.

The win puts the Chiefs, 18-7 overall, into the district semifinal at 10 a.m. Saturday against Farmington at Northville High School.

Canton led 5-3 after four innings but broke the game open in the top of the fifth with a three-run rally.

Derek Humphries had three hits and one RBI for the winners. The biggest hit belonged to Mike Culver, who had two hits, including a three-run, first-inning homer, and five RBIs.

Culver's two-run double highlighted the fifth-inning eruption.

Jeff Kuselman and Geoff Allen also had two hits each. Jamie Slater contributed an RBI single and Ron Groh had a sacrifice fly that scored another run.

"It was a tough place to play, especially with the wind," coach Fred Crisay said. "But the ball Culver hit nobody was going to catch. With the windy conditions, I was pleased to get out of there with a win."

Losing pitcher Bob Truety, who lasted 4½ innings and gave up eight of Canton's 10 hits, hit a two-run homer for the Vikings.

PLYMOUTH CANTON 11, BRIGHTON 7: Canton's softball team earned its way into Saturday's district semifinal, conquering host Brighton in a predistrict game Friday.

The Chiefs, who reached their preseason goal of 20 victories Friday, will play either Northville or Ann Arbor Pioneer at 10 a.m. Saturday in the district at Howell.

Canton rode the two-hit pitching Friday of Stacy Thompson, whose only trouble was control as she walked seven. Only two of Brighton's seven runs were earned.

Kim Schulte, Allison Flankamp, Thompson and Rhonda Kilbuck went four for four at the plate to lead Canton's 10-hit attack.

Schulte scored twice and Flankamp scored three runs and had two RBIs. Kilbuck, playing in place of the injured Jenny Clark at catcher, had four RBIs.

Clark broke a finger last week in practice, and Kilbuck, a converted outfielder, has performed admirably in her place.

"She did a very good job," coach Dave Racer said.

ADRIAN 12, SALEM 6: Plymouth Salem hit the ball well enough to win most games Friday, but two big innings by Adrian carried the host team to the predistrict softball win.

Adrian fell behind 4-0 after two innings but scored five runs in the third and seven in the fifth off losing pitcher Billy Himmelman to put some distance between itself and Salem.

Seniors Jo Wiklund and Tracie Hobbs won two hits each. The Rocks collected eight hits as a team, but Salem committed three errors and the Maples countered with a 10-hit attack.

"They had two big innings and three others they went out 1-2-3," Salem coach Bob Willeite said. "We played bad ball."

"It's tough to win that way. We've played that way the whole season. I was hoping things would change in the state playoffs, but they didn't. We jumped ahead 4-0. Things looked pretty good and then we went back to our old habits."