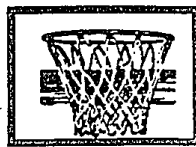


## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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(F10)

## Hawks highlight '89 sports year

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

In a few days, the old year will be history.

Before that happens, a look back at the history made by local sports teams and figures during 1989 is in order.

The sports pages of the Farmington Observer chronicled many a memorable event or feat in past 12 months, but one story stood above the rest once again.

Farmington Hills Harrison's football team made a third straight appearance in the Class B championship game in November and defended the title it won in 1988.

The Hawks not only finished the season as one of the outstanding teams in Michigan but were considered one of the best in the Midwest and the nation.

Having put another 13-0 season in the record books and concluded the decade with a 26-game winning streak — longest in the state — Harrison's football success rates as the top sports story of 1989.

But there many other success stories as well as individuals who made headlines. Besides Harrison quarterback Mill Coleman, Zaim Cummulaj, Kori Davidson, Craig Murray, Jennifer Kiel, John Miller, Chad Burgess, Eric Lindros, Rick Karcher, Tiffany Tyra and Lisa Rives were some of the many names in the sports news.

Here's a look at what those individuals did to warrant the headlines, in addition to the year's big stories:

**THE FOOTBALL** season began with Harrison ranked No. 1 in Class B, a position it held throughout all of 1988 and again last fall.

The opening game was an indication of what could be expected from the latest Harrison team as the Hawks whipped perennial Class A power Saginaw Arthur Hill 24-15 on the road.

With the exception of a 23-15 victory over Westland John Glenn, a Class A playoff team, in the league championship game, the Hawks cruised through the regular season again.

In one of the most unusual and strangely memorable games, Harrison defeated East Grand Rapids 3-2 in the Class B semifinals on an ice-covered field in Flint Atwood Stadium.

As players slipped and slid the entire night, Steve Hill kicked the winning field goal and Coleman later gave up a safety from punt formation.

The championship game, however, was one to remember simply because of the kind of show it was.

The Hawks were heavy favorites in their game with DeWitt, but the Panthers scored to take a 27-21 lead with 2 1/2 minutes left.

Semur end Matt Sperry blocked the extra point, and Coleman directed a five-play, 67-yard drive that tied the score with 1:34 remaining. Hill then added the winning extra point.

"Once everybody saw we were only down six points, that kinda inspired us," Sperry said. "As soon as I blocked it, I picked up at the clock and said 'We're going to win this — just get the ball in Mill's hands.'"

**COLEMAN FINISHED** his varsity career — the last three seasons at Harrison — as the all-time leading passer in Michigan high school history with 7,464 yards.

The 5-foot-9, 165-pound athlete, who set a state-final passing record of 238 yards in the Pontiac Silverdome as a junior, has narrowed his college choices to



Coach John Harrington, surrounded by his Farmington football players, displays the championship trophy given to the Hawks after their

victory in the Pontiac Silverdome in November. Harrison won its second Class B title in a row.

Michigan State, Michigan, Ohio State, Notre Dame, UCLA and Stanford.

"I couldn't picture losing my last game," Coleman said after completing three passes and running for the tying TD against DeWitt. "I don't think there's any better way to end your high school career than to win a championship and come from behind to do it."

Harrison finished the decade with a 106-9 record and four state titles. The Hawks won B' honors in 1981, 1988 and 1989 and a Class A crown in 1982.

**ZAIM CUMMULAJ**, a three-sport athlete at North Farmington, realized his successes in the second half of his senior year.

Cummulaj, a two-way tackle in football, finished third in the state as a heavyweight wrestler. His only setback at the state tournament was a 7-4 loss to

eventual champion Lee Krueger of Redford Catholic Central.

Cummulaj, who won the Western Lakes Activities Association and Plymouth Salem Invitational titles, set a school record for career victories with a 115-30-1 mark.

In any other year, this would have been the high school champion. North coach Dick Cook said of Cummulaj at the state finals: "I think Zaim could be the champion in any other state. He's beaten all the ranked kids except for Krueger."

Cummulaj was a champion in track and field, capturing the Class A title in the decus. He had a career-best throw of 163 feet, 11 inches at the state meet.

**FARMINGTON HIGH'S** girls soccer team had a fine year and came within a minute of its first appearance in the state final in June.

A successful tournament run took the Falcons 16-1-4 in the Class A semifinals, where they suffered their only loss. Farmington was ahead of Troy Athens 1-0 with less than a minute to play, but the Red Hawks got the tying goal and won the game 2-1 in overtime. Athens defeated Northville to win the state championship.

Nonetheless, it was a season that saw the Falcons come of age under coach Cathy Cole, competing with the other WIAA powers.

Farmington tied No. 1-ranked Salem during the regular season and beat defending state champion Plymouth Canton. The Falcons defeated Farmington Hills Mercy, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Birmingham Marian to reach the A semifinals.

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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Amy Trunk of Farmington (left) struggles with an Athens opponent for possession of the ball in the state semifinal soccer game.

## GLI homecoming for area players

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Mark Beaufait isn't going to see the Pope, but he'll get to play in front of a private audience of sorts in the Great Lakes Invitational College Hockey Tournament, which begins Friday and runs through Saturday at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

"This is really big for us because this is our only chance to play down there," said the 5-foot-9, 160-pound sophomore center from Northern Michigan University.

The 1988 Livonia Stevenson High grad will leave tickets at the "Will Call" window for his parents, Bob and Kay, his brother, Brian, and his sister Dana.

But the event will be much larger than just a cozy family reunion for the Beaufaits. It may remind some of a giant Mass at the Vatican. Crowds upward of 19,000 will watch NMU, Michigan State, Michigan Tech and defending champion Michigan for the coveted title.

Beaufait, who has seven goals and 11 assists for the Wildcats (10-9-1), centers the Wildcats' third line of Dave Porter and Eric LeMarque.

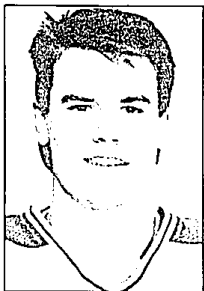
"WE'RE a grinding team and if we hit a lot and play the body, we'll have a chance of doing well," Beaufait said. "We had some injuries early in the season. Our top four defencemen got hurt, but we're back and everybody is ready to go. We've been practicing very hard."

The only school to offer Beaufait a scholarship, NMU has two other well-known faces on its roster — goalie Bill Pye and defenseman Pete Podrasky.

Both just returned from a two-game stint with Team USA.

They played with a group of college all-stars in a pair of exhibition games against a club from Kiev in the Soviet Union. The two-game series was held in Dallas, Tex. and Orlando, Fla.

Pye, a junior who is a 1987 grad



Mike Gilmore  
back-up goalie at MSU

from Plymouth Canton High, made 35 saves in a 4-4 overtime tie with the Soviets.

He is considered one of the top goaltenders in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association and was drafted in the sixth round last June by the Buffalo Sabres.

Podrasky, a Canton native who graduated from Redford Catholic Central High in 1986, also sparked in the Soviet series. The 5-9, 165-pound senior is one of the Wildcats' mainstays on defense. He missed four games earlier this season because of a knee injury, but has bounced back.

**MICHIGAN**, sporting an overall record of 12-7-1, takes on NMU in the opening game at 5 p.m. (Friday). The Wolverines boast a pair of local products in goaltender Tim Kough and freshman defenseman Patrick Neaton.

Kough, a Canton native, is the son of former U-M all-America goaltender Jim Kough (1967-69). He is presently a backup to Warren Sharples.

## hockey

Neaton, who lives in Redford, attended Catholic Central High before graduating last year from Toronto, Ontario DeLaSalle where he played junior hockey.

The second game, beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, pits Michigan State against Michigan Tech.

The Spartans (17-3-1), perennial GLI favorites and leaders of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, have been bolstered by the play of junior right winger Walt Bartels (four goals and five assists) and backup goalie Mike Gilmore (2.56 goals against average in eight games).

Bartels, a Plymouth native, is a rarity, coming from the high school ranks.

He made the Spartans' roster as walk-on after playing for Redford CC High.

Gilmore, who resides in Farmington Hills, played Junior A hockey for Compuware. He is the backup to No. 1 starter Jason Muzzatti.

**MICHIGAN TECH**, the underdogs at 4-16 overall, have another local connection in Rob Tustian, who also played high school hockey at Livonia Stevenson.

The 6-3, 220-pound junior right winger has been a pleasant surprise.

In 17 games with the Huskies, he has four goals and seven assists.

In 37 games last season he had only three assists.

Tustian flanks center Shawn Harrison, one of the top scorers in the WCHA.

The Huskies have not won at the GLI since 1984 when they beat Michigan, 7-4.

The championship and consolation games will be 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday at JLA.

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