

Raiders 3rd in WLAA

Dynasties are nothing new in Western Lakes civilties Association gymnastics. Only the school

Dynasties are nothing new in Western Lakes Activities Association symmasties. Only the school names are changing. Plymouth Salem won its second consecutive championship Thursday in competition at North Famington, and indications are the Rocks could stay at the top for some time.

Salem had three of the league's top four all arounders – four of the top 11 — and the quartet has a combined 10 years of high school eligibility remaining.

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"You never know what little eighth grader is going to come up." Salem coach Kathi Kinsella said. "But assuming everybody else stays the same, this team should be in the top five in the state for the next three years, if these kids continue to do those scores."

Klim Miller defended her title as the WLAA's No. I gymnast, winning the all-around competition with a 27.55 score and edging runner-up licather Kahn of North (37.40).

SALEM TEAMMATES Courtney Gonyea (36.40), Alysia Solios (36.20) and Sarah Makins (33.30) were third, fourth and 11th, respectively. Miller and Gonyea are sophomores, Solfos and Makins freshmen.

Their complainive efforts and those of other team embers enabled the Rocks to dominate the mathematics of the stay of the sta

gymnastics

League states, Page 2C

"I THOUGHT Salem had a nice, solid performance," he said, "I keep hoping they'll have a bad meet, but I don't think they will. They're just too solid."

The Rocks won by a much larger margin than last year when they scored 141.65 to edge North. which finished second at 140.25.

Which finished second at 140.25. See they will be seen they sold the seed to the seed t

(this year) but didn't hit. But it was enough to win."

Kinsella said she was pleased with what her team did in terms of score but not performance.

Thave a lot of my father in me, it's never good enough," she said. "My personal goal was to hit Ellite All-American as a team, so the goal I set in my mind for this team we accomplished. We didn't come here to cream anyone."

To be rated Ellite All-American, the team's top three gymnasts in each event must score 109.44 three times during the season, and one occasion must be a champlonship meet.

The property of the state of the score of

the title with a 9.35.

"EVEN THOUGH she fell on her front flip on bars, tonight is the closest she's come to executing (the trick) correctly," Kinsella said. "Usually, she takes it up too high and lands bark on the bars, Tonight, she took it back but a little too much."
Kahn, who finished second to Miller in the all-around at the league and state meets last year, tied for first on bars with Soflos and was second on vault. She placed third on beam and floor. Fluishing second remains a great accomplishment, according to Dwyer, considering the callier of the individual shead of Kahn.
"I try to tell Heather that," Dwyer said, adding she averages 9.00 or better in every event. "She's one of the log girls in the state. She finished sec-

ond to the top girl in the state and, to me, that's really good.

"You can't worry about the competition. You have to take care of what you can do. She did and everything turned out well."

Soltos and Gonyea ited for third on vault. Solios was 14th on beam and fourth on floor: Gonyea was second on beam and floor, 10th on barst. The was second on beam and floor, 10th on barst. The floor, 10th on barst. The

sent their schools, and they're getting the gloryhey deserve.

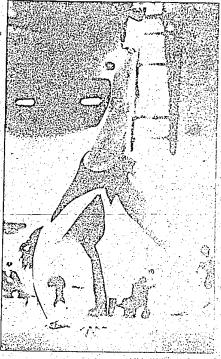
AFTER A POOR start, Canton finished strong and salvaged the meet, according to Cunningham.

We had half a meet, he said.

Canton's first event was floor, and the Chiefsnever adjusted to the soft, two-layered wrestling mat. Canton finished second (34.75) but still almost 14 politis behind Salem (36.10).

A wrestling mat is designed to do exactly the opposite of what a givnnist wants it to do, "Connigham said. "On a slow floor you have to punch."

In and wait. for it to come back before you can be almost on the soft of the givnnists fell. The Chiefs finished third (34.55), more than 24: points behind Salem (37.10). North had 35.35.



Jameetah Gater of North Farmington fied for seventh place in

WLAA finals

Ryan Koonce of Harrison finished third in diving Friday at the WLAA swimming and diving championships with a 422,85 total. Livohia Stevenson ended Plymouth Salem's three-year reign as team champion. See story on Page 2C.

Cagers check in for tourney

HE THREE-WEEK JOUR-NEY to the Palace of Auburn Hills begins tonight.
For some, the trip will be short, for others, it could last longer.

longer. The state high school boys basket-ball tournament, better known as "March Madness," is where dreams can come true for the four state champlons in Class A. B. C. and D. Theywill be crowned on March 23 at the home of the World Champion De-troit Pistons.

The tournament, however, can also be nightmarish, where upsets pervade.

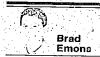
This journey is not non-stop. It takes planning. You need reservations so you can lay your head down and get some much needed rest.

Some teams carry the American Express Gold Card around with them, but others will find few lux-aries awaiting them.

Here's the 1-800 number for Observerland basketball teams. Hotel, rooms are filling up quickly, (Records are through Friday.) See district drates.

RITZ-CARLTON (First class accommodations)

Plymouth Salem (17-2): This is the pre-mer team in Observation! The Rocks, who canched the state Class A quarterf-nial hast season, have loads of talent up-front, led by Jake Baker and K. Sikipa-lord, and the property of the con-position for the condition of the "Spalint force of lost const. to bort Su-lem" and Defende award The Usid da-ted to not const. The Livid da-ted to no process of the control of the left in the Control of the Conference of the con-trol is no proce of called blink, with the



EMBASSY SUITES (Not a bad place stay)

(reo filiasseuse austation). Redford Cannolic Central (B-11). Lack of a biolishmore finals field this team. After enter should show Window Arm designed the final filiasseuse filiasseuse

Liveria Stevenson (12-7). The Spar-lates are cite of Observerhead's personal

Harrison captures WLAA consolation title

By Brad Emons : stall writer

Farmington Harrison rallied in the fourth quarter Saturday to win the consolation final of the Western Lakes Activities Association basketball playoffs, a 77-75 victor over Livonia Stevenson.

The battle between. WLAA's divisional champs — Harrison (Western) and Stevenson (Lakes) — was held as part of a fourgame extravaganca by the conference.

Host Plymouth Salem, belind 22 points from Jake Baker and 21 from K.C. Kirkpartick, captured the championship game with an 89-72 triumph over neighbor Canton in the nighten. Derrick McDonald and Mike Stafford tallied 18 and 17, respectively, in a losing cause.

Harrison, which lost a previous meeting to Stevenson during the tegular season (62-67), rallied from a 12-point third-quarier deficit by outscering the Spartans 19-10 in the decisive fourth quarter. Paul Gilvydis' rebound basket with 1:01 remaining proved to be the difference, the also added a free throw with four seconds left after Stevenson threw away an inbounds pass in attempt to regain the lead. The Spartans also missed a three-quarter court desperation shot in the final seconds.

SENIOR FORWARD Andy Smith led the Harrison acoring attack with 20 points. Three others also scored in double figures for the Hawks including the 6-foot/7 Git-vydis (14), Roy Granger (12) and Dan Hight (11), Sophomore Jeremy Teachman contrib-

uted eight off the bench.

The last time we played them we had the lead and lost in the last minute, but this was just the opposite. Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. We came on (in the Journ quarter) defensively after not playing it all game.

"I thought Jeremy, Blazo (Sarcevich) and Doan te (Anderson) gave us some quality minutes of fine bench, and Andy Fitzpatrick and diving for long to us, grabbing rebounds, and diving for long to us, grabbing rebounds, and diving for long to the grab fine state of the control of the con

Phil Words and Paul Récheced, who rathed 14 and 13 points, respectively. Dave Anny and Matt. Gradient contributed 10 Grein while Dan Gibbons and Ryan Farkas collected eight apiece. "We won a lott of games during the year where we had the same opportunities; but this time It went the other way." Stevenson eaach Jim McIntyre said. "We were pretty intense for 354 quarters, but we felt we gave it right away. Those was great (seeing) halance, but no execution at the end defensively to win it."

FIFTH-PLACE GAME

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