

Davidson answers call from Sun Devils

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Kori Davidson was talking long distance to future Arizona State University teammate Meredith Gelger when she was interrupted by another phone call Thursday night.

Davidson, the two-time Class B tennis champion from Farmington Hills Harrison, received an early invitation from Gelger to rush the Delta Gamma Sorority when she arrives on campus next fall in Tempe, Ariz.

Davidson, one of the most highly recruited players in the state, chose the Sun Devils over such other collegiate powers as UCLA, Georgia and USC, as well as the Big Ten schools in Michigan.

"The coach (Sheila McInerney) is good friends with my tennis coach (Armand Molino) now," Davidson said. "I know I could depend on her for my coaching the next four years, and the girls on the team were the

nicest, friendliest and most outgoing."

The fact ASU has a nationally-ranked team also helped her to make up her mind.

DAVIDSON WANTED to play for a strong program with a chance at winning a national championship, and the PAC-10 Conference of which ASU is a member has many of the top teams in the country.

"If it was solely for that, I would have gone to UCLA," Davidson said, "but a couple priorities weren't there with the coach. Tennis would have come first and academics second, and I need academics to be first."

"If one of the Michigan schools had a chance to win an NCAA championship, I would have gone there. I was scared about the thought of moving away, because I'm real close to my family and friends. It will be a real big adjustment."

tennis

Davidson won't be completely alone, however. Her brother, Ken, is a junior at ASU, and her sister, Kelly, is a graduate of the university.

Still, it wasn't easy for Davidson to say no to UCLA. That had been her "dream school" for a long time, and she had always wanted to play for the Bruins.

"I must have talked it over a million times with my parents," she said. "When I went down for the recruiting trip, there was a real snobbish attitude, not among the coach and players but the people in general."

"It's not a laid-back environment. You're always on the go because you're in Los Angeles. It wasn't a college environment, and I want the

most out of my college days."

ACTUALLY, IT WAS difficult for Davidson, who won the national indoor 16 tournament last November, to tell any of the schools that recruited her she was refusing their scholarship offer. That was the worst part of the recruiting process for her.

"I got to the point, I set a deadline and kept moving it back," she said. "Everyone was calling day after day (and asking) 'Have you made a decision; have you made a decision.'"

"Deep down I knew I was going to Arizona State when I took my visit there, but I was procrastinating because I was afraid of hurting anybody's feelings."

"All of them said if I was unhappy at Arizona State, I could still transfer there and they'd be happy to have me."

After all the good things she heard

from the coaches recruiting her, it was understandable why Davidson had a hard time saying no to all but one of them in the end.

"All of them promised me I'd be so happy there, they'd take care of me and I'd be a star at their school," she said. "They didn't offer me a Mercedes, but I was waiting."

DAVIDSON MADE her decision last month during the NCAA indoor championships in Wisconsin, and she telephoned the UCLA and ASU coaches there to inform them.

"I called Sheila and left a message for her to call me," Davidson said. "I got out of school at 11:30, and when I walked in the door at 11:45 she was on the phone waiting for me."

Davidson, who didn't lose a set in her last two years of high school tennis and won back-to-back championships at No. 1 singles in the Western



Kori Davidson will join Sun Devils

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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

North Farmington's Tammy Pierce is safe at third base, ahead of the tag by Central's Carrie Cassinski. Pierce was stranded

there as Eve Claar's first-inning home run accounted for all the scoring in North's 2-0 victory.

Raiders make things Claar, 2-0

By Bill Parker
staff writer

North Farmington's girls softball team, which missed an opportunity to play for the Western Lakes Activities Association championship last year because of a technicality involving a makeup game, took the first step toward this year's title Thursday as the visiting Raiders blanketed defending champ Walled Lake Central 2-0.

Eve Claar's first-inning, two-run homer proved to be the difference as pitcher Jennifer Lydon limited the Vikings to five hits while fanning five and walking one.

The Raiders are 1-0 in the Lakes Division of the WLA and 3-2 overall.

"This is a big win," North coach Dave Brubaker said. "Our ballech is pretty experienced this year. I keep telling the girls one day they'll realize how good they are."

Claar, a senior catcher, drilled a deep shot to left-center field in the first inning. Dana Botwick opened the inning with a single but was forced out on a fielder's choice by Terri Gruca, who later scored on Claar's homer.

"(Claar) just tanked it," Brubaker said. "She's starting to do what I know she can do. She's starting to hit the ball and make contact instead of swinging for the fences."

Softball

THE LOSS WAS disappointing for Central, which slipped to 1-4 and 0-1 in the WLA after entering the season as the No. 8-ranked team in Class A.

A murderous early-season schedule saw the Vikings drop an 11-0 decision to Millard Lakeland in eight innings in the season opener, a 4-1 decision to fourth-ranked Livonia Franklin and a 7-1 decision to No. 2 Waterford Kettering. Central's lone victory was a 3-2 win over Waterford Mont.

"North Farmington is always tough," Central coach Gordon Glennie said. "We didn't give up; we just didn't come ready to play. We're a young team with three freshmen starting and two more on the bench. I've been happy with the way the girls have played. We'll bounce back."

"Entering the game, I told the girls I was happy with the way they've played. We were 1-3 coming in, but we've improved every game. I thought they played well today. After that home run Claar

hit, it was an even game."

CENTRAL THREATENED in the bottom of the second inning when the first two batters reached base. Jenny Czach opened the inning when she reached base on a throwing error, then moved to second when Danielle Roy drew a walk. Lydon forced the next three batters to ground out, pop out and ground out as North's defense stymied the threat.

The Vikings put their two lead-off batters on base again in the third when losing pitcher Carrie Cassinski beat out an infield single and reached second on a single to left by Jodi Osburn. Lydon and the North defense dodged the bullet again with a pair of groundouts and a strikeout.

Central's only other threat came in the bottom of the sixth when Kelly Glennie opened the inning with a single, moved to second on a groundout by Roy and reached third on a two-out single by pinch-hitter Kari Kobus. Lydon preserved the lead, however, when she fanned the next Viking batter to end the inning.

Lydon struck out the first batter she faced in the bottom of the seventh, then gave up a single to Trent Flood, North first baseman Kirsten Schutt

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Hawks' pitcher Devine as team rips Northville

Farmington Hills Harrison pounded 13 hits Thursday en route to a 13-0 baseball win over host Northville.

The Hawks improve their overall record to 2-2. The Hawks are 1-0 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Northville is 1-4 and 0-1.

Winning pitcher Gary Devine led the offensive attack with three hits and one RBI, and Nick Budor had two hits and three RBIs. Mike Pesci and Andrew Smith added two hits apiece.

Devine went the distance on the mound and fanned six. He yielded just two hits. Harrison scored five and four runs in the third and fourth innings in support of his pitching.

"Devine pitched great and had excellent control," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "He threw only about 70 pitches, and we played great defense today."

On Wednesday, Harrison split a double-header with Bloomfield Hills Lahser, winning the first game 9-2 and losing the nightcap 11-8.

In the opener, Rick Drew was the winning pitcher. Budor paced the Hawks with three hits and two RBIs, and Steve Hagopian, Smith and Pesci chipped in two hits apiece. Hagopian also knocked in two runs and Smith scored three. Pesci and Smith had one RBI each.

In the second game, Harrison blew an 8-2 lead in the third inning. Losing pitcher Dan Hight surrendered six runs and four hits in the fourth inning.

Pesci hit a three-run homer in the nightcap, and Devine, Budor and Hagopian had one hit and one RBI apiece. Devine scored two runs.

NORTH FARMINGTON tallied two runs in the first inning and one in the fourth Wednesday to defeat visiting Walled Lake Central 3-2 in a WLA encounter.

The Raiders are 2-1 overall and 1-0 in the Lakes Division of the WLA. Central is 2-3 and 0-1.

North pitcher Mark Temple helped his own cause with a two-out,

baseball

two-run double in the first inning. Mike Hamill knocked in Dave Rankin with the third run on a fielder's choice. The Raiders outthrew the Vikings 6-5.

Temple went the distance on the mound, striking out five and walking two. Jason Horwitz made five putouts in right field.

FARMINGTON ONLY mustered three hits off Westland John Glenn hurlers Aaron and Lawrence Scheffer Thursday, losing to the Rockets 8-3.

The Scheffer brothers combined to strike out 10 and walk just three. Aaron Scheffer gave up all of Farmington's runs in the fourth inning. A two-run homer by Les Luark accounted for two.

Mike Schelp took the loss for Farmington, hurling six innings and walking four. Glenn had nine hits.

Rob Filary and Lawrence Scheffer hit the Glenn attack. Scheffer had a solo homer and three RBIs, and Filary blasted a two-run homer.

Farmington falls to 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the Lakes Division. The Rockets are 5-0 and 1-0.

DEARBORN GAVE Redford Catholic Central its third straight loss Thursday, 4-1. Dennis Pirronello doubled in CC's lone run in the third inning.

The Shamrocks left three runners stranded each in the fifth and sixth innings. CC is 5-3 overall.

Dan Gusoff, who pitched the first four innings before giving way to Brett Walters, took the loss.

On Wednesday, host Birmingham Brother Rice sent CC reeling, sweeping a Catholic League Central Division double-header, 7-5 and 3-2.

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Harrison loses to WLA power

Farmington Hills Harrison dropped a 17-2 softball game to WLA power Northville on Thursday after sweeping a twinbill from Bloomfield Hills Lahser on Wednesday.

The Hawks are 0-1 in the Western Division of the WLA and 2-2 overall. Kelly Tripicone pitched a complete game for the Mustangs, scattering four Harrison hits. She walked two and struck out seven.

Harrison pitcher Shelly Bouwens left in the fifth inning after being hit on the knee with a line drive. Northville had seven of 11 hits off Bouwens, who walked five and fanned five. Jenny Brockhaus finished on the mound.

Melanie Apiglian scored four runs and had three walks, five stolen bases and one hit for the Mustangs. Colton Dwyer had a double and scored two runs for the Hawks, and Bouwens drove in a run with a single.

Harrison rallied with four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning Wednesday to win the second game with Lahser 9-8. The Hawks won the first 16-11.

Andrea Najarian started the Harrison seventh with a double, and Amanda Ault followed with an RBI single. After Ault stole second and Decki Hounds walked, another run scored as a result of consecutive passed balls.

Bill Mineczer was hit by a pitch, took second on a passed ball, that scored Hounds, went to third on a groundout and scored the winning run on another passed ball.

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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Cory Wojcik of Farmington pitched a good game Thursday, but the Falcons lost to Westland John Glenn 5-3. Wojcik allowed eight hits but only two walks.