

Hawks 3-peat as tournament champs

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Harrison Junior Mike Pesci was named the most valuable player Saturday when the Hawks won the Southfield-Lathrup baseball tournament for the third consecutive year.

Pesci pitched a total of 10 innings and appeared in both games, winning the opener 6-4 over Southfield. He also was 5-for-7 at the plate and drove in four runs.

"He was outstanding," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "I didn't intend to have him pitch that much, but he did real well."

Pesci didn't allow an earned run in the

tournament and has an overall earned run average of 0.57.

He won the first game in relief of starter Drew Rick, who left after the Blue Jays scored twice in the third inning to tie 3-3.

Pesci held Southfield to two hits and three walks over the next five innings. He struck out six.

Pesci started and pitched five innings of the championship game, which Harrison won 11-7 over Walled Lake Central.

Andrew Smith was the winning pitcher in the final, working the last 1 1/2 innings in relief of Dan Hight, who fell victim to a five-run rally by the Vikings in the sixth.

"I thought we had a real good chance to win that tournament, because we've been playing well lately," Herrington said.

"A lot depends on who's pitching, whether or not the other teams are throwing their best people. We saw two good pitchers, but we also hit the ball well."

The Hawks, who were 12-6 overall prior to a makeup game Wednesday with Walled Lake Western, had won five straight and six of their last seven games.

Harrison also was 5-3 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association going into that game, which was postponed Monday because of bad weather.

After Central went ahead 6-5 in the bottom of the sixth inning Saturday, the Hawks rallied with six runs in the seventh. Smith and Pat Cullen contributed two-run doubles, and Steve Hagopian drove in a run with a single. Cullen also scored on a wild pitch.

Pesci was 4-for-5 with three RBI in that game, and Hagopian, Hight and Smith had two hits apiece. Hight also knocked in a run, stole two bases and scored a run.

In the first game, Southfield went ahead 4-3 with a run in the bottom of the fourth inning, but the Hawks scored twice in the fifth and added an insurance run in the seventh.

Gary Devine's triple scored Daryl Ferguson, who singled, stole second and took third on an error, with the first run of the fifth. Devine scored the go-ahead run when the Blue Jays committed another error on a ball hit by Nick Budor.

Devine, who was 3-for-4 and carried a .480 batting average, scored his second run of the

game in the seventh-inning on a wild pitch. Pesci had an RBI double.

Herrington is optimistic the team's strong play in recent games means the Hawks will do well in the upcoming Class B tournament. Harrison plays host to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook in a pre-district game Thursday, May 22.

"We're real excited about the state tournament, because right now we have three pitchers doing well — Devine, Smith and Pesci," Herrington said.

"We know we have a real tough district with (Madison Heights) Bishop Foley — the only team to beat (top-ranked Dearborn) Divine Child — but we look forward to doing well."

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Laure DeMattia, a steady performer in the field events for Mercy, competes in the shot put but did best in the discus with a

first-place throw. The Marlins defeated rival Ladywood 75-53 in the dual meet.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Mercy, Falcons win dual meets

Farmington Hills Mercy and Farmington High were winners Tuesday in dual meets with girls track-and-field rivals.

Mercy defeated visiting Livonia Ladywood 75-53 in the Central Division of the Catholic League, and the Falcons overwhelmed North Farmington 86-42 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Marlins, 3-1 in the division and second behind Harper Woods Regina, had a four-event winner in Dawn DiPonio, who won three individual races and anchored the 1,600-meter relay.

DiPonio had times of 13.4 in the 100 dash, 28.9 in the 200 and 1:00.9 in the 400. She took the relay baton after Kristin Lewis, Valire Jones and Celia Aaron, the Marlins completing the race in 4:46.

Mercy's Laure DeMattia took first place with a personal best of 99.2 in the discus, and Jessica Escobedo won both hurdles races in 18.7 and 55.5.

The Marlins got first in the 800 run with Judi Rosowski running 2:40, and they won two other relays: DiPonio's teammates in the 400 relay combined with Nicole Neaton to win the 400 contest in 54.6, and Lewis, Amy Freund, Rosowski and Nicole Mills won the 3,200 relay.

Ladywood's Rebecca Willey won the shot put (35-6), long jump (14-9) and high jump (5-4). Blazers teammate Malia Dixon had the fastest times in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs at 5:34 and 12:07.

Mercy was sixth out of the 11 teams in the Lansing Waverly Invitational Friday.

The Marlins won the 3,200 relay with the team of DiPonio, Brooke Mansour, Mills and Lewis. Their time was 10:00.9.

Lewis, Jones, Aaron and DiPonio were second in the 400 and 1,600 relays at 52.4 and 4:10.3. DeMattia was third in the shot put (33-9-4).

"We ran our best relay times of the year," Mercy coach Gary Servais said.

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Falcons even softball score

Farmington avenged an earlier loss to Livonia Stevenson in softball with a 17-6, mercy-rule victory Monday.

The Falcons scored eight runs in the third inning to lead 14-4. Cory Wojcik scattered four hits over five innings to even her pitching record at 7-7.

Farmington had seven hits but also benefited from 13 walks issued by two Stevenson pitchers. Wojcik allowed four walks and struck out one.

Maria Huhn was 2-for-3 with two walks to lead the Falcons, who are 2-7 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 9-10 overall.

She also drove in two runs and scored three. Jenny Sever scored four Farmington runs and Nicole Noch three.

"We had a 40-minute rain delay, but the girls stayed in the game," Farmington coach Julie Ingalls said. "They really wanted to play."

"We lost to Stevenson (4-3) in the bottom of the seventh inning the first time, and we want to beat teams the second time around."

leader North Farmington 3-2 Monday, forcing a three-way tie for first place.

The Rockets, North and Walled Lake Central are 7-2 with one division remaining for each team. The Raiders are 14-4 overall, Glenn 12-6.

The game was scoreless until the sixth inning when the Rockets took a 2-0 lead. North tied in the top of the seventh, but Glenn got another run in the bottom of that inning.

Nikki Wojcik's one-out triple was followed by Cathy Mruk's run-scoring single in the Glenn seventh. Bridget Mussin and Karen Koester had RBI in the sixth.

Following a 45-minute rain delay in the top of the seventh, the Raiders scored on a bases-loaded walk to Karen Sermet and a single by Dana Botwick.

Mruk pitched a three-bitter for Glenn. Losing pitcher Jennifer Lydon had a triple and Terri Gruca a single for North's other hits. Mruk struck out five and walked four, and Lydon had two strikeouts and one walk.

FARMINGTON HILLS Mercy won three of four

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Marlins advance in playoff

It took two days to accomplish but Farmington Hills Mercy advanced in the Catholic League soccer playoffs.

The Marlins defeated Harper Woods Regina 3-1 Tuesday at Mercy after the game was suspended Monday because of bad weather.

The teams had played 17 minutes and the Marlins had a 1-0 lead when play was stopped Monday. The game was resumed at that point.

"It's and good and it's bad," said Mercy coach Deepak Shrivastava of the delay. "It's good in the sense we can play defensively with a 1-0 lead, just kick the ball out and play a little secure."

"But it's bad in that you can play overconfidently. We played using it as an advantage. We played defensively but kept pushing offensively as well."

Senior forward Kathryn Dudley assisted on two goals and scored the third one. Tania Macioce and Carrie Dradosz staked Mercy to a 2-0 lead, and Diana Lehmkuhl set up the score by Dudley.

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Theresa Cisco of Mercy challenges Dawn Hibbert for the ball Tuesday. The Marlins won the playoff game 3-1.

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