

The week ahead

PREP BASEBALL

(starting times 4 p.m. unless noted)

Monday, May 20: W.L. Western at Liv. Church; Liv. Franklin at Northville; Liv. Stevenson at Oak. Edsel Ford; W.L. Central at Westland Green; Liv. Canton at Farmington; Farm. Hamilton at Liv. Canton; Redford CC at Allen Pk. Calverly; Grosse Pointe L'Opport at Liv. Clarenceville; 4:30 p.m. Liv. Christian vs. Taylor Light and Liv. 4:30 p.m. at Flodin Field Lutheran Westland at Harper Woods. 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21: Wayne Memorial at Southgate; Liv. Christian vs. Taylor Light and Liv. 4:30 p.m. at Flodin Field.

Thursday, May 23 (pre-district): Del. Bendicrine at Red. Thurston; 2 p.m. Liv. Church vs. Redford CC; 3:30 p.m. at Capital Park; A.A. Pioneer at Westland Green; 4:30 p.m. at Farmington; Liv. Franklin at Liv. Stevenson; Del. Heavy Ford winner; Garden City at Del. Macanore; Liv. Franklin at Liv. Canton; Ypsanti at Liv. Salem; Liv. Farmington at S. Lyon-Holly winner; B.H. Westbrook at Farm. Hamilton; Garden City at Liv. Clarenceville; Lutheran Westland-Flat Rock winner at Erie-Mason; Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist Pk. 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 24: Pre-district makeup (if rainouts).

GIRLS SOFTBALL

(starting times 4 p.m. unless noted)

Monday, May 20: Liv. Church at W.L. Western; Northville at Liv. Franklin; Liv. Stevenson at Oak. Edsel Ford; Westland Green at W.L. Central; Farmington at Liv. Salem; Liv. Canton at Farm. Hamilton; Garden City at Dearborn; Lutheran Westland at Liv. His Annapolis; Liv. Christian at Warren Macanore Christian; 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21: Wayne Memorial at Southgate; Lutheran Westland at Taylor Light and Liv. Pk. Christian; Taylor Baptist Pk. 4:30 p.m. at Griffin Park.

Wednesday, May 22: Garden City at Liv. Franklin; 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 (pre-district): Del. Mackenzie at Garden City; 3:30 p.m.; Liv. Ladywood vs. Farmington at Bicentennial Park; Liv. Church at Farm. Hills Mercy; Liv. Franklin at Liv. Stevenson; Ypsanti at Liv. Salem; A.A. Huron winner; Northville at Liv. Canton; N. Farmington at S. Lyon-Holly winner; B.H. Westbrook at Farm. Hamilton; Del. Bendicrine at Red. Thurston; Liv. Clarenceville at Ham. B.I. Florio-Del. DePore; Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist Pk. 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 24: Pre-district makeup (if rainouts).

BOYS TRACK

Tuesday, May 21: Wolverine A League meet at Wayne Memorial; noon (field events); Catholic League A-B Division meet at Farm. Hills Mercy; 2:30 p.m. (field events); Michigan Independent Athletic Conference meet at Lutheran Westland; 3:30 p.m.; Metro Conference meet at Harper Woods; Lutheran East; TBA; Plymouth State at Livonia Churchill.

Wednesday, May 22: Northwest Suburban League meet at Dearborn; 1:30 p.m.; Tri-River League meet at Melvindale; 2 p.m.; Catholic League C-D Division meet at Farm. Hills Mercy; 2:30 p.m.

Friday, May 24: Lutheran Westland; Liv. Christian; A.A. Greenfield; Liv. Farmington; Liv. Hamilton; W.L. Central; W.L. Western at Oakland Co. West (Waterford West); TBA.

Saturday, May 25: Operation-Friendship meet (PSL vs. Catholic League); 10 a.m. field events; 11 a.m. running events at University of Detroit-Jesuit High.

GIRLS TRACK

Tuesday, May 21: Wolverine A League meet at Wayne Memorial; noon (field events); Catholic League A-B Division meet at Farm. Hills Mercy; 2:30 p.m.; Michigan Independent Athletic Conference meet at Lutheran Westland; 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22: Western Lakes Activities Association meet at Farmington; 1 p.m.; Northwest Suburban League meet at Dearborn; 1:30 p.m.; Tri-River League meet at Melvindale; 2 p.m.; Catholic League C-D Division meet at Farm. Hills Mercy; 2:30 p.m.

Friday, May 24: Liv. Ladywood at Ypsanti; Relaya; 3:30 p.m.; Farm. Hills Mercy; Farmington; Farm. Hamilton; W.L. Central; W.L. Western at Oakland Co. West (Waterford West); TBA.

Saturday, May 25: Operation-Friendship meet (PSL vs. Catholic League); 10 a.m. field events; 11 a.m. running events at University of Detroit-Jesuit High.

TBA — time to be announced.

All-American wins another

All-American Sports Center defeated Total Foods 11-3 behind the five-hit pitching of Al White in the Livonia Men's Modified Fast-Pitch Softball League May 13.

White, who struck out two and walked one, was helped by a nine-run fourth inning that erased a 2-1 deficit. All-American is 3-0.

Curt White hit a two-run double. Bob DeBenedetto drove in a run with a single. Doug Kirkpatrick scored two runs and Tim Robinson had a triple and a run scored.

Steve Karras had two hits for Total Foods.

Falcons, North tie WLAA foes

Farmington and North Farmington were deadlocked in their Western Lakes Activities Association crossover soccer games Thursday.

The visiting Falcons tied Northville 1-1, and the Raiders saw host Livonia Franklin catch up and force a 2-2 draw.

Kim Popky scored the only goal for Farmington after the teams had played 10 minutes. The Mustangs tied the score midway in the first half.

"We had chances to beat them; we kinda outplayed them," Farmington coach Cathy Kamsman said. "A couple shots were hit right at the keeper, off the post or to the side."

Northville had only one shot on goal in the second half, and the Falcons (6-6-2) outshot the Mustangs 14-10 overall.

Kamsman believed the strong showing against Northville, a team ranked among the top 10 in Class A at one point in the season, was an indication the Falcons were primed for their district game with host Farmington Hills Mercy at 4 p.m. today.

"THE LAST two weeks we've been playing real well and reaching our peak," she said. "It's just a matter of doing our job."

"They're real hungry," said Kamsman of her players. "It's a one-game elimination, and we would like to be the best team in Farmington. As I've said before, we're going to have to play our best game."

North led 2-0 in the first half, but the Patriots rallied in the second. Cheryl Walker scored both goals for the Raiders. Laura Cook assisted on the first, and the second was unassisted.

"(The second) was a first-class goal, a curveball in the top left corner," North coach Kris Galczyk said. "The shot was unsaveable. It was a professional shot, and I told her that. I was very glad she applied that technique in a game situation."

Sophomore Julie Stone played well in goal for the Raiders (5-7-1) and made some "tremendous saves," according to Galczyk. North plays host to Redford Union at 4 p.m. today in a district tournament game.

Defending 'A' champ has league title, too

By C.J. Rieck
Staff writer

Most coaches agree that when you're No. 1, everyone wants a shot at you.

One who wouldn't is Livonia Churchill girls soccer coach Nick O'Shea.

Not that O'Shea would argue that Livonia Stevenson, Churchill's opponent Friday in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship match, doesn't deserve its top-ranked status. The Spartans are the defending Class A state champion, and they have survived a difficult regular-season schedule without a loss.

Against Churchill, they certainly looked like the champs.

For the second time this season, Stevenson bested its crosstown rival. It was 1-0 this time, and it delivered something to the Spartans they didn't have last year — a WLAA title.

For O'Shea's Chargers, it was the second-straight time they've been frustrated in the WLAA final. They lost a year ago at Farmington.

FRIDAY'S game, played at Churchill, bothered O'Shea — and not just because his Chargers lost. It was the way they lost. Instead of attacking and playing aggressively against the state's top team, they played tentatively, without confidence.

"They back off," said O'Shea, describing his team's loose defense — in particular against Ragen Coyne, the Spartans' catalyst. "They won't go after her."

"It's psychological. She's a great player, but they make her look even better."

The Chargers' loose-marking mid-

soccer

field was victimized by Coyne, resulting in the only goal of the match. With 16:54 remaining in the first half, Coyne got possession at mid-field and fed a pass through to Lori Godlewski on the right side. Godlewski beat a Churchill defender and broke in alone on keeper Monika Servi, who had no chance to stop her from 10 yards out.

THE CHARGERS had scoring opportunities, particularly in the first half, but they didn't convert; they could never quite finish their plays. The reason: There always seemed to be a Stevenson defender a step ahead of them.

Speed was the decisive factor, and the Spartans had a lot more of it. "I think we're fast," agreed Stevenson coach Mary Kay Hussey. "That's one thing we try to utilize. We work on our quickness and speed."

In the second half, with the wind in their favor, the Spartans were in control. Churchill had few true scoring opportunities, again because they couldn't beat the Spartans to the ball.

Or were unwilling to, according to their coach. "You can catch (the Spartans) when they're not running to the ball," said O'Shea. The Chargers, in the second half especially, did not challenge aggressively.

And it cost them. Indeed, they were fortunate the final was just 1-0. Stevenson did not play flawlessly. Coyne got a through ball behind the



Livonia Franklin's Erin Craig (left) and North's Hadley Thurmon chase a free ball Thursday in the WLAA crossover game at Franklin. The Raiders led 2-0 but settled for a 2-2 tie.

Charger defense with 12:20 remaining in the first half and raced toward goal, unleashing a shot from 10 yards out — directly at Servi, who made a relatively easy stop.

STILL, THE Spartans were good enough to win, as they have been throughout the season (their record: 12-0-2 overall).

Can they repeat as state champs? That was certainly on Hussey's mind, even before Friday's match. Her biggest concern going into the WLAA final was "someone getting hurt. I didn't want to lose another player today, before the (state) tournament."

The Spartans are without Shannon Wilkinson; her status is uncertain, which makes their defense a bit unstable, too. It also makes Hussey uncertain of her team's chances. "If we had everyone healthy, I'd say we're stronger (than last year's team)," she said.

They may have to be. Looming ahead is a possible third meeting with Churchill, in the Northville district final Friday. Beating a team of the Chargers' caliber (they finish the regular season with a 9-4-1 mark) three straight is no easy task.

STATE TOURNAMENT GIRLS SOCCER DISTRICT DRAWS

CLASS A (NORTHVILLE HOST)

Monday, May 20: (A) Liv. Church vs. (B) Liv. Ladywood, 5 p.m. at Schoolcraft College; (C) Liv. Franklin at (D) Liv. Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22: A-B winner at Northville, 7 p.m.; Host at C-D winner, TBA.

Friday, May 24: Championship final, 4 p.m. (Winner advances to the pre-regional May 26-30 at Southfield district champion.)

(ANN ARBOR HURON HOST)

Monday, May 20: (A) Ann Arbor Pioneer at (B) Pinckney, TBA; (C) Plymouth Salem vs. (D) Plymouth Canton, 7 p.m. at Centerville Educational Park; (E) Ann Arbor Huron at (F) Belleville, TBA.

Wednesday, May 22: A-B winner at Adrian, TBA; C-D winner at E-F winner, TBA.

Friday, May 24 or Saturday, May 25: Championship final, 7 p.m. at Ann Arbor Pioneer. (Winner advances to the pre-regional May 26-30 at host Dearborn Edsel Ford district champion.)

(SOUTHFIELD HOST)

Monday, May 20: (A) Redford Union at (B) North Farmington, 4 p.m.; Farmington at Farmington Hills Mercy, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22: A-B winner at South-

field, 7 p.m. (Host/visit).

Friday, May 24: Championship final, 4:30 p.m. at Southfield High. (Winner advances to the pre-regional May 26-30 to host Northville district champion.)

(DEARBORN EDEL FORD HOST)

Monday, May 20: (A) Dearborn at (B) Woodward, 4 p.m.; (C) Trenton at (D) Garden City, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22: A-B winner at Dearborn Edsel Ford, 4 p.m.; Dearborn Edsel Ford at C-D winner, TBA.

Friday, May 24: Championship final, 4 p.m. at Dearborn Edsel Ford. (Winner advances to the pre-regional at Ann Arbor Huron district champion.)

CLASS B-C-D (ANN ARBOR GREENFIELD HOST)

Monday, May 20: (A) Farmington Harrison at (B) Allen Park Gators, TBA; (C) Dearborn Heights Fantane Christian at (D) Ann Arbor Greenfield, 4:30 p.m.; (E) Riverview Osborn Richard at (F) Redford Thurston, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22: A-B winner at Dearborn Heights Greenfield, TBA; E-F winner at C-D winner, TBA.

Saturday, May 25: Championship final, 4:30 p.m. at Ann Arbor Greenfield. (Winner advances to the regional final Saturday, June 1 at Parma-Jackson County Western vs. Parchment district champion.)

TBA — time to be announced.

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