

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

OCC coach takes leave

After four decades of being involved with basketball, Oakland Community College men's coach Lynn Reed is contemplating retirement.

Reed, who coached the Raiders to the 1987 national junior college title, will take a leave of absence for the 1994-95 season. Marvin Cushingberry will replace him.

"I've been doing it since 1952 as either a player, coach or official," Reed said. "I loved every second of it. But my wife is retiring this year, and I thought I should give the retirement concept a test."

Reed said he will miss coaching when the next season comes, and there is a good chance he might return. But now was the time to "test the waters" with the current staff intact.

Cushingberry has been an OCC assistant for four years, and longtime assistant Doc Berry will remain, too. They will be assisted by John Sharpe and Gary Holt.

Reed's youngest son, Brett, will be a senior on the Eckerd College basketball team in St. Petersburg, Fla., and Reed would like to see him play more. His oldest son, Darren, is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and a Gulf War veteran.

The 53-year-old Reed will continue to teach physical education and exercise science at the OCC Highland Lakes Campus.

He coached basketball and cross country at OCC from 1965-74, and one of his players in those years was future NBA member Frank Russell.

Reed spent the next 12 years coaching basketball at Milford Lakeland High School, but he returned to OCC and made the Raiders a national power. OCC averaged 25 wins in four of the five seasons between 1987 and 1991. The Raiders were 9-16 last season.

"It was always my goal to coach basketball, and I've had the opportunity to do that for 30 years now," Reed said.

Hawks rate academically

The Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball team received an all-state honorable mention from the Michigan High School Basketball Coaches Association for its academic prowess.

The Hawks had a cumulative grade-point average of 3.42. Sophomore Kristen Kozlarski had the highest GPA with a perfect 4.0, and all but one player had a 3.1 or better.

Other members of the team are seniors Amanda Ault, Carey Perkins, Becky Knack and Michelle Howard, juniors Kathy Schneider, Krista Snow, Jenny Myslinski, Erin LaCrosse and Kelly LaCrosse and sophomore Erika Greene.

Macek also received the President's Scholarship to Wayne State University. The Hawks are coached by Pete Mantyla.

Cobras keep on winning

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras improved to 3-0 in the Michigan Baseball Federation with a 27-5 rout of the Rochester Hawks Tuesday.

Josh Gad-Harf hit for the cycle and had seven RBI to lead the team of all 13-year-olds. Adam Fazio, Mike Gleason and Sean Quay had four hits apiece, Mike Sopo, Marc Boggio and Jason Melvin three each.

John Dresser pitched two strong innings to start the game and Quay worked two scoreless innings before Boggio, Gad-Harf and Jim Miller finished in relief. Second baseman Sopo and outfielder Mark Tripp made fine defensive plays.

State golf tournament

Farmington Hills Mercy, minus some of its best golfers, finished 14th out of 16 schools Friday in the Class A state tournament at Forest Akers West in East Lansing.

The Marlins still did better than last year when they were last. The top three teams were Kalamazoo Central (359), Bloomfield Hills Lahser (383) and Traverse City (388).

Junior Amy Schulkins shot 107 to lead Mercy (470). Tina Madej had 113, Gina Mazzoni 118 and Erin Moug 132.

"They were thrilled we beat somebody," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said. "We can't let this last week bring down a whole season."

The Marlins, who were 16-1 in dual meets, were missing three key players. Junior Sommer Woods was academically ineligible, junior Karen Porter missed too many practices and senior Sara Horgan was injured while Roller Blading.

Young's season totals

The final numbers are in regarding the outstanding season Kevin Young had with the Central Michigan University baseball team.

Young, who attended Farmington High School, led the Chippewas with a .416 batting average and also was tops in doubles (16), home runs (17), RBI (63), total bases (146) and slugging percentage (.777). He tied CMU season records by hitting his 10th pitch eight times and in RBI.

CMU won the Mid-American Conference title but made an early exit from the NCAA regional at Tallahassee, Fla. The Chippewas lost their first two games by 8-6 scores to eventual winner Florida State and runner-up Brigham Young.



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Base check: Harrison first baseman Jenny Myslinski checks to see if Mercy's Piper Metz is on the bag Saturday in the district final. Metz was later stranded at third. Myslinski hit a home run as the Hawks won 9-1.

Hawks are district champs, too



Farmington Hills Harrison had another successful day on the softball diamond Saturday, giving veteran coach Mike Teachman his first district tournament title in 15 seasons. The Hawks defeated Farmington Hills Mercy in the final, 9-1.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The primary objective has been achieved. All else, as they say, will be icing on the cake.

Farmington Hills Harrison's softball team claimed the championship it really wanted Saturday by winning the Class A district tournament at Redford Union.

The Western Lakes Activities Association champs whipped Farmington Hills Mercy 9-1 in the final after eliminating North Farmington 4-1 earlier.

The Hawks (25-5) advance to the regional tournament at Royal Oak Kimball to play Rochester Adams (32-6) Saturday.

"This was our goal the whole year; this is what we've been working for," senior shortstop Amanda Ault said. "In all three sports, for four years, we never won a district, and I'm glad it could finally happen before I left."

"This was our only spoken goal this year," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "Can we be good enough at the end of the year to win a district? All the other things along the way add up to a great year."

And when a championship is at stake, the Hawks have never failed to make a strong showing this year.

Junior pitcher Erin LaCrosse allowed Mercy only two hits and two walks, striking out eight.

She had plenty of support from her teammates, who pounded 11 hits and gave her an early lead. Lori Hubble and Ault were 3-for-4, and Jenny Myslinski hit her seventh home run.

"These girls really show up for the championship games," Teachman said. "You saw vintage Dawgs today because we started right away and kept putting pressure on them."

"We hit, we fielded; obviously, we pitched, and we ran the bases. Our girls responded to their bunting and (third baseman) Amy Geary had a great game. They put it all together."

Mercy ace Debbie Dziakian left after the Hawks, having given up nine runs on 10 hits, but she made a valiant effort nonetheless. Dziakian pitched despite injuring the ring finger on her pitching hand Wednesday in practice.

"It was starting to really hurt her," Mercy coach Eilanda Hines said. "When she attempted to tag someone

at home, the pain was starting."

"She couldn't put anything on her fastball. The only thing working for her was the drop. Anything else was just totally ineffective."

The Hawks gave LaCrosse a 2-0 lead in the first inning when Hubble scored on an error and Ault on a fielder's choice by Geary.

Myslinski's two-out homer in the third made it 4-0. The Marlins could have stopped the damage there, but Harrison got two more before the inning ended.

Instead of hitting into a groundout, Geary was awarded first base on a catcher interference call. Kristen Kozlarski singled and both runners scored on errors.

The Hawks added three runs in the fourth. Kelly LaCrosse scoring on a wild pitch, Stephanie Schwalb on an error and Hubble on Ault's grounder. "They attacked the ball well, and they set the pace; we just didn't keep up," Hines said.

Glenda Lee singled and scored Mercy's only run with the help of an error in the third inning. The Hawks frustrated the Mercy bunt-and-run attack, and the Marlins failed to hit a ball out of the infield.

"Some of their girls were bunting with two strikes, which says, 'We don't think we can hit, so we're going to move the ball around and see if you can make the plays,'" said Teachman, who also cited the play of second baseman Jodie

Barringer.

"(LaCrosse) was having a good game, but it starts with us," Hines said. "When we hit, we're right there. We were hunting; we were just fouling them off."

"Mentally, we were out of this game, and I attribute it to Debbie being hurt. That truly changed the spirit and momentum of our team, because she's a senior and the team leader on the mound."

Kozlarski plays key role

In the win over North, the Hawks had a fine performance from Kristen Kozlarski, who was 4-for-4 in the lead-off position while taking the place of Schwalb, who was taking the SAT test that morning.

Kathy Schneider was 3-for-3 and caught the first game. Harrison produced nine hits in support of LaCrosse, who pitched a five-hitter, struck out eight and walked one.

The Hawks took advantage of three North errors to break a scoreless tie with a three-run third inning. Myslinski knocked in Hubble with a fielder's choice; a wild pitch scored Ault, an error Myslinski.

"We threw it around and gave them three runs," North coach Dave Brubaker said. "We threw the ball well, as far as being aggressive, but we had the one inning when we were a half second late."

See SOFTBALL, 2C

Harrison sinks RU, wins baseball crown

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

When John Herrington's football teams at Farmington Hills Harrison win 11 games it usually means a state championship season.

Harrison's baseball team won for the 11th time on Saturday and all the Hawks could claim was the Class A district title at Redford Union. But for a team as young as the Hawks, with three freshmen in the starting lineup, a district championship is a real treasure.

The Hawks used devastating power to upset host RU 12-8 in the championship game and advance to Saturday's Royal Kimball regional with a modest 11-13 record.

"Eleven and 13 will scare some people, won't it?" Herrington said with a smile. "When we beat Westland (Lakes opponents) Westland John Glenn, we showed we had potential to win any game but as the year progressed, we had some down points."

The Hawks advanced to the final with an 8-5 pitching-by-committee win against North Farmington in the semifinal. Harrison used four pitchers in the semifinal, including Chris Hensel twice.

Hensel got the final outs in the bottom of the seventh with the Raiders threatening to go ahead.

The Hawks won their first district since 1989, and it was fitting, since assistant coach Leon "Doc" Lande was wearing a shirt commemorating the year on the Harrison bench.

Harrison's record isn't imposing but the Hawks lineup sure was against RU's left-hander Mike Bjerk. Harrison had back-to-back home runs, by freshman C.J. Ghannam and junior Jake Lawson, in the second inning and sent Bjerk to the bench with seven runs in the fifth for a commanding 11-0 lead.

Ghannam's homer cleared the left-center field fence and scored another freshman, Aaron Lawson, who had doubled to the wall.

In the seven-run fifth inning, Aaron Lawson and Jake Lawson added RBI singles and Dave Hensel contributed a two-run triple.

Ghannam then looked like a seasoned veteran on the mound, getting the final four outs of the championship after RU scored five runs in the sixth.

Ghannam, Aaron Lawson and Adam Smerecki as the latter crosses home plate Saturday.



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See BASEBALL, 2C