

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Bulls have week of wins

The Farmington Bulls won their 16th consecutive youth baseball game without a loss Tuesday when they blanked the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras 12-0.

The Bulls are 6-0 in the 12-and-under Pee Wee Reese Division of the Little Caesars Baseball Federation and 16-0 overall.

Anthony Toney hit a two-run homer and Mike Wilk a solo shot in the win over NFWB at Our Lady of Sorrows. Brent Schoenbach added a pair of triples, and Justin Milus was the winning pitcher.

Brent Heraghty, Brad Jaffe and Mark Plancbaum pitched two innings each Sunday in a 20-1 rout of Canton 1 at Founders Park in Farmington Hills.

Schoenbach pitched a no-hitter for four innings Saturday as the Bulls whipped Novi 13-0 at Novi Middle School. Milus worked the final two. Brad Wochomurka hit a solo homer.

Wilk belted two homers in a 24-3 win June 2 over Southfield at Sorrows. Toney and Matt Loras combined pitching efforts. Milus was the winning pitcher May 31 with support from Leanne McAvoy and Rosa Peterson in a 19-4 win over host Redford.

In the five games, Wochomurka batted .900, Schoenbach .785, Heraghty .687, Wilk .667 (with three homers) and Kent Taylor .500.

Harrison garage sale

The Farmington Harrison High School football booters club will have an all-day garage sale Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, in the school parking lot.

Anyone with items to donate for the sale can leave them at the school noon to 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. today and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and 5-8 p.m. Monday. Items should be delivered to the patio area on the east side of the building.

A pick-up service will be available to anyone with large items such as furniture and appliances.

There also will be a bake sale and concession stand. All proceeds will benefit the football program. For information call Nancy Vessell (476-9066).

State track finals



JOE FRIELICH

Airborne attempt: North Farmington senior Chris Bouschet competed in the long jump at the Class A meet but just missed taking a scoring place. See story on Page 2B.

Persistence pays for ex-Hawk star



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Undoubtedly, it was a lesson Ken George learned and a trait he developed through his many athletic experiences — the quality of persistence.

That helped George land a teaching and coaching position at Forest Hills Central High School in suburban Grand Rapids recently.

The Farmington Hills Harrison alum will teach English and coach the varsity basketball team at Central, a Class A school with 999 students.

Of the 41 candidates, George was not among those to be interviewed at first since the administration was looking for someone with head coaching experience.

But George, who asked a counselor he knew through his previous role as an Albion College academic recruiter to introduce him to the principal, was soon on the list.

"On my way back from another interview, I stopped at the school to get my face in front of them," George said, "and the next morning the principal called and said he'd like to interview me."

"That shows if you knock on the right doors things will open for you."

The 25-year-old George, who was an All-Observer player at Harrison and later the starting point guard at Albion for four years, will have another challenge as he tries to rebuild the

varsity program.

The Rangers, who compete in the Ottawa-Kent Conference that includes 32 schools from the Greater Grand Rapids area, were 2-19 last year, but the freshman team won 15 games.

"I think I've been brought in to build a program and not be a miracle worker and win 16 games next year," George said. "The athletic director and principal have been real supportive of me."

"I think it certainly is a challenge. The team we beat twice last year (Sparta) we don't play. I hope to make us competitive in every game and start building toward the future."

George met with his players Tuesday and will jump into his new role with team camps the next two weeks. He also will conduct summer camps in golf and baseball as well as teach summer reading and study skills.

"The first impression I got was that I've got a group of great kids, and I'm really excited about that," George said. "I didn't see any 6-10 people walking around, however."

"I saw a lot of similarities between the (Forest Hills) kids and those at Harrison when I was there. They have a lot of quality kids; it's a great football school, and they a lot of good athletes. Hopefully, we can have the same success I experienced in basketball at Harrison."

George, who has a degree in English and communications, is just as

See GEORGE, 2B

Underdog role suits Hawks

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison coach John Herrington isn't used to his team being a Cinderella in post-season play, but then we're talking baseball and not football.

The Hawks surprised a lot of people, possibly even themselves, by winning a Class A district championship Saturday with an upset win over host Redford Union in the final.

Harrison (11-13) will play Greater Oakland Activities League champion Lake Orion in the regional tournament Saturday at Royal Oak Memorial Park.

They play at 9:30 a.m. followed by a noon matchup between Birmingham Brother Rice and Walled Lake Central. The field is at 13 Mile and Woodward.

"Our record wasn't that impressive, yet we knew we were capable of winning big games," Herrington said.

The Hawks defeated Class A contender Westland John Glenn in the season opener and recently Western Division champion Northville and Detroit Country Day.

BASEBALL

But Harrison has had an up-and-down season, losing "to some teams that aren't quite that good," Herrington said. "When you have a one-game elimination and you're hot, you can eliminate anybody."

The Hawks have actually done well in post-season play over the years, reaching the state semifinals twice.

They last won a district title in 1989. Harrison was ahead of Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher in the regional when ace pitcher Craig Murray was hit on the knee with a line drive. The Lancers rallied to win the game and the Class B championship.

"We've been very successful in post-season baseball," Herrington said. "We've won quite a few district games and always came in with a mediocre record."

"I attribute that to the tough league we play in. We've been to the Final Four twice, and neither of those years did we win the league."

Harrison starts three freshmen, and all three are big contributors at the plate.

Catcher Aaron Lawson leads the team with a .400 average and has 14 hits in his last 20 chances. Outfielder Adam Smerchek is second at .345, and shortstop C.J. Gannam homered in the 12-8 rout of RU.

"Those three kids have done a real outstanding job, much more than I ever expected," Herrington said.

Other team leaders are senior outfielder Ed Kennedy and senior first baseman Joe Pesci. Junior Jake Lawson, who also homered in the district final, is the top pitcher and will start against Lake Orion. Junior Dave Hensel, who had a two-run triple against RU, is a relief specialist and No. 2 pitcher.

"We heard so much about Redford Union's hitting and two pitchers we thought it would be difficult," Herrington said.

"But we got off to a good start and hit the ball well. When we had guys on base, kids came up."

See BASEBALL, 3B

Harrison eyes regional title

More softball, Page 4B

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It's been a great year for the Farmington Harrison softball team, and the Hawks want it to continue as long as possible.

Harrison surpassed its own expectations by winning league and district tournament titles and will attempt to add a regional trophy Saturday at Royal Oak Memorial Park.

The Hawks (25-5) face Metro Suburban Activities Association champ Rochester Adams (32-6) at noon.

Birmingham Marian (19-17) and Walled Lake Central (19-11) meet in the opener at 10 a.m.

"Everyone we've played, we've played tough," Harrison coach Mike Teschman said. "We've never been out of any game, so we have a chance."

The Hawks won the district Saturday by beating North Farm-

SOFTBALL

ington 4-1 and whipping Farmington Hills Mercy 9-1.

Besides the solid pitching of left-handed junior Erin LaCrosse, a team strength and one reason Teschman likes Harrison's chances is a balanced hitting attack.

"They come at you together instead of with a hitter, a pitcher and a catcher," Teschman said. "When you can put pressure on people throughout the lineup, that's good."

Stephanie Schwalm and Lori Hubble have been outstanding in the first two spots, making things happen on the bases with their speed but also demonstrating power at the plate.

Amanda Ault and Jenny Myslinaki have performed equally in the third and fourth positions, advancing Schwalm and Hubble and driving in runs.

There isn't a significant drop in

the offensive potential after them with any combination of Amy Geary, Kristen Kozlars, Kathy Schneider, Holly Foster, Jodie Barringer, Kelly LaCrosse and Becky Mack rounding out the order.

The Hawks have no obvious weaknesses defensively either and a good fielder at every position. Harrison also has two capable catchers in Kozlars and Schneider, a real asset in tournaments, Teschman said.

"When you are led by senior pitcher Jamie Perinski, who is 22-3 with a 1.40 earned run average, and senior shortstop Kim Savich, who carries a .482 batting average."

Senior catcher Anne Borowski and senior outfielder Kim Donaldson are other key players for the No. 10-ranked Highlanders, who won their second straight district by beating Rochester 4-1 and Lake Orion 7-4.

See SOFTBALL, 3B

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