

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

State tennis finals

Farmington Hills Mercy, the only Observer-land school to qualify, scored four team points Saturday in the Class A girls tennis championships in Midland.

Oskemo won the state title with 30 points, and Ann Arbor Pioneer had 28 to finish as the runner-up.

The Marlins received one point apiece from Susie Milan, Amy Modica and Julie Zimmerman at Nos. 2, 3 and 4 singles, respectively.

The No. 2 doubles team of Tina Madej and Jackie Rajkovich defeated Walied Lake Central's Susie Slusher and Sarah Clark in the first round and also scored a point for Mercy.

Hawks '81 victorious

The Michigan Hawks '81, a Little Caesars Premier League girls team sponsored by the Livonia Family Y, captured the under-14 Michigan State Youth Athletic Association Cup title Sunday with a 2-0 victory over the Birmingham Blazers '81.

Livonian Sarah Wittrock scored both goals, the first on a cross from Novi's Bridget Bowdell (with an assist from Canton's Lisa Toussaint) and the second late in the game on an assist from Janelle Harwood of Brighton.

Goalkeeper Beth Quiney of Milford posted the shutout.

Other members of the Hawks '81 team, which will compete next June in the Midwest regionals in Minnesota, include Mary Gignac, Becky Peterson and Kerstin Conklin, all of Livonia; Danah Mantoufeli, Redford; Emilie VilleMonte, Farmington; Erin Cain, West Bloomfield; Bethany Bryant and Lori Carrott, Northville; Melissa Lawson, New Hudson; Sara McDonald and Jamie Jandasek, Brighton; Jeannie Vazquez, South Lyon; Kiley Enmark, Sterling Heights.

To submit items for the Observer Sports Scene, write to Dan O'Meara, 3625 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Readers can send information by fax (591-7279) or phone 953-2141.

Hawks subdue rival Raiders



Scoring leader: Senior Krista Snow tossed in 21 points, including a pair of three-point field goals, to lead Harrison in its victory over North Farmington Tuesday.



Farmington Hills Harrison can claim to be the best among Farmington public schools in girls basketball after defeating city rival North Farmington 61-49 Tuesday.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Senior Krista Snow is a four-year starter on the Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball team, so it was no surprise she became the take-charge player Tuesday.

Snow scored a game-high 21 points as the Hawks built a big lead, then fought off a North Farmington rally in the second half for a 61-49 victory at home.

"She has been putting her best foot forward in the second half of the season," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "She's been consistent all year, but the second half she has really taken charge."

Snow melted the North defense in the second quarter when she scored 12 points and helped put the Hawks on top 35-24 at halftime.

She and teammate Cecily Dowdell made two three-pointers each in that quarter as the Hawks outscored North 26-16. Harrison had six triples in the first half, including ones by Erin LeCoe and Amy Roble.

"We were just trying to open things up, and everything kinda came naturally," Snow said. "We take a lot of (of three) in practice. People let us have it, so we take them. I just wanted to get open and put the ball in the basket."

Snow did her second-quarter scoring in little more than six minutes since Mantyla wanted to keep her out of foul trouble.

"She was having one of the best quarters of her life," Mantyla said. "I hated to take her out because she

was on a roll.

"It was a tough decision as a coach, but we needed her in the second half with (only) two fouls." LeCoe added 11 points for Harrison, Roble nine, Dowdell and Kelly LeCoe eight apiece.

The Hawks improved to 7-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association; the Raiders slipped to 6-8. Both teams are 10-6 overall.

Alisha Gordon scored 16 points to lead North. Carrie May finished with 12 and Lisa Weber nine.

The Raiders were without two of their best three-point shooters. Kaitie Collins has a broken foot and Kaitie Fournier a broken arm.

"I think we would have been a little quicker on the perimeter and had fresher bodies to spell some girls," North coach Lance Davis said. "I think we got a little tired. We had to extend ourselves at the end and get worn down."

The Raiders stayed in their zone defense even though Harrison was hitting from outside in the second quarter.

When that loosened the North defense, Snow was able to go inside for layups. After making only two of 19 shots in the first quarter, the Hawks were 10-of-18 in the second.

Harrison stretched its lead to 42-27 midway in the third period at which point the Raiders switched defenses to a man-to-man.

"They weren't shooting the ball well, we stayed with it but should have come out at them," Davis said.

See H009F, 4C

1st Harrison-Oxford game was an offensive shootout

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Harrison and Oxford have played just one time in football, but it was certainly one game to remember.

A season full of highlights were made in one November afternoon four years ago when Oxford upset the Hawks 48-38 in the Class BB semifinals at Jackson Withington Stadium.

Oxford coach Bud Rowley remembers "both teams running up and down the field. That was a pretty wild game."

Harrison coach John Herrington recalls "how they run all over the field, and we never did stop them. It was a track meet."

"It was great to watch but not great to coach."

Now comes the rematch Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Oxford, and the game has prompted recollections of that first meeting.

The offensive outpouring included a combined 936 yards in

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total offense (480 by Oxford, 456 for Harrison), although we don't give up lot of points. We sure can't get into another track meet with them and try to outscore them."

Needless to say, the Hawks have spent a lot of time practicing their defense this week, especially against the option.

"That's for sure," Herrington said. "We have to play better defense and key the option, plus some of other things they do like play-action passing."

The Hawks (7-1) knows what's coming this time. After scouting Oxford (8-0) four years ago, they focused on defending the pass, but quarterback Mike Federich and tailback Steve McCracken had big games rushing.

"We felt, we didn't have the kids prepared well enough for the option game, and then we

couldn't adjust well enough during the game," Herrington said.

"Teams have moved the ball on us (this year), although we don't give up lot of points. We sure can't get into another track meet with them and try to outscore them."

Hawks suffer setback

The 1990 loss was a blow to the Harrison program and a boost for the Wildcats.

The Hawks had been to the state final the previous three years, were two-time defending Class B champs, were ranked No. 1 and were favored to win. The 48 points is the most ever scored on Harrison.

"(A win this week) would mean a lot to us," Herrington said. "We don't believe in revenge, but it hurt our pride to look so poorly on defense. So it's a motivating factor for the coaching staff."

See HAWKS, 4C

O'Connell paces Marlins to 4th league title in row

The tradition has been extended for another year by the Farmington Hills Mercy girls cross country team.

The Marlins won their fourth consecutive Catholic League championship Saturday afternoon, and their fifth overall, by finishing first in the 1994 Operation Friendship League title Tuesday.

Mercy was led by senior Eileen O'Connell, who was first in both events, and in the individual leagues winner for the second year in a row. She hasn't lost a league race in two years.

"She's had an outstanding year," Mercy coach Gary Servino said. "The 1 mile at the beginning, if she finished first or second every time, it would be an

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outstanding year — the best of any athlete I've coached."

O'Connell ran 19:26 in the league meet at Marshall Park, and she and teammates also earned All-Catholic honors by finishing among the top 10.

Lisa Nobles was fifth (23:02), Brandy Johnson seventh (23:19) and Amy Dinges ninth (23:28).

Jackie Dinges rounded out the Mercy scoring in 19th place (23:55). Mandy Phelps and Melissa Tronick were 18th (23:02) and 19th (23:05), respectively.

The Marlins were only winners, finishing 23 points ahead of Downers Grove North (30:41), Ridgecrest (31:06), Marian (31:06) and Riverview Richard (30:08).

rounded out the competition.

"It's getting to be expected," said Servino of Mercy winning the league. "There will be a lot of pressure on the team next year to see if they can get five in a row."

"It will be tough to replace O'Connell, but we have John Johnson and Dinges. It's been fun to see them grow up and mature as athletes, students and individuals. They have a lot of life and spirit."

O'Connell ran an even better race Tuesday in the Friendship League meet at Marshall Park, finishing first in 19:16.

She was 11th and missed the race last year, but she was an All-City runner at 3:30 in September, too. Nobles was 15th, Johnson and Dinges 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th, respectively.

See MARLINS, 4C



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