

Hawks from page 1C

Rowley called it the biggest win in Oxford athletic history. The Wildcats, who were No. 2 in BB, have been a state power ever since.

Oxford hasn't lost a regular-season game since 1989 and has a 63-5 record from that season on. The Wildcats have been in the playoffs each of those years, winning the BB state title in 1992 and finishing second in '90 and '93.

"We just take each year as it comes and do what we can," Rowley said, downplaying the situation. "That year, we were fortunate to get as far as we did, and we were fortunate against Harrison."

"But this is a new year, a new game. We're just minding our business and working hard and getting ourselves ready for the game Friday night."

The teams match up well in terms of size, Herrington said. The Hawks won't be at a weight disadvantage as they were last against Livonia Stevenson.

One difference between the '90 and '94 Harrison teams is the ability to employ more of a power attack with 245-pound Nick Williams in the backfield this time, Herrington said.

Harrison might have an edge in speed and talent at the skill positions with wide receiver Kevin Bryant, tailback Jason Granger and upback Williams.

21	HARRISON	28
22	Brotherhood	10
36	Westland Glan	10
31	Livonia Churchill	10
31	Northville	17
33	Livonia Franklin	0
33	Walled Lake Western	7
34	Plymouth Canton	13
21	Livonia Stevenson	20
241	7-1-0	95
17	OXFORD	14
32	Mount Morris	14
32	Fenton	10
33	Holly	12
41	Linden	20
30	Lapeer East	0
16	Lakeville	7
29	Durand	8
21	Lapeer West	14
221	8-0-0	78

"I sure hope so," Herrington said. "It has been (the difference) in most games. I hope it is again."

Oxford reloads in '94

The Wildcats began the year with a lot of new starters after losing many from the team that lost in overtime to East Grand Rapids in the BB state final.

Tailback Dave DePauw has rushed for 700 yards and 11 touchdowns on 122 carries.

Quarterback Mike Hendrix has passed for nearly as many yards and run for 243. He has six TDs

rushing and six passing. His favorite receivers are Seth Crawley and Mike Pook with 25 and 17 receptions, respectively.

Tackle Dave Kukla, noseguard Mike Dwyer, monsterback Eric Raab and safety Nathan Hoard comprise the cornerstone of the defense.

"I've got to take my hat off to the team," Rowley said. "They've worked hard and deserve to be where they're at right now."

"They're very spirited and have great morale," Herrington said. "They emulate their coach, who is a very emotional, fired-up type guy. They play with a lot of heart and always seem to come up with a way to win."

Harrison's injury situation got worse last week when junior punter/defensive back Jeff Ashoff suffered a broken leg. But senior tackle Jim Struble (elbow) will be able to play, and senior linebacker Evan Jefferson (knee) is back to full speed.

Both teams have already qualified for the playoffs, so pride will be the only thing at stake.

"I think that will take some pressure out of the game, and the kids might play a little better," Herrington said. "They can go out and play for the fun of it and let it all hang out, so to speak."

"The Oxford people go crazy because they love their team and want to see them play a Class A team."

Mercy's fast start results in 55-48 win over Regina

Farmington Hills Mercy reached 500 in Central Division girls basketball games Tuesday with a 55-48 victory over Harper Woods Regina.

The host Marlinas are 5-5 in the division and 0-7 overall. The Saddletiles drop to 3-7 and 5-11. Mercy took a 25-6 lead in the first quarter and led 43-23 going into the final quarter when Regina managed to cut the huge deficit with a 25-12 finish.

"The press was a factor in the first quarter," Mercy coach Larry Baker said.

"They were collapsing on Julie Angell, and Felicia (Brooks), Mitzi (Ruddock) and Piper (Metz) really stepped up."

Brooks had 12 points, Ruddock and Metz 11 apiece. Ruddock also had eight steals. Freshman Sarah Judd scored 17 points for Regina.

The Saddletiles got within five points in the last period, but Mercy clinched the win with free throws. Metz was 5-of-8 at the line in the fourth quarter.

The Marlinas play at Riverview Gabriel Richard in a Catholic League crossover game tonight.

BASKETBALL

CHURCHILL 42, FARMINGTON 32: The streak is over.

Livonia Churchill's 10-game losing skid stopped Tuesday with a 42-32 win against Farmington at home on Parents Night.

"Thank goodness the parents were here tonight," said a smiling Churchill coach Dave Balog. "Maybe now I will be able to keep my job for another year."

Allie December scored 12 points, and Jamie Clark contributed eight points and 12 rebounds for the Chargers, 1-8 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 2-13 overall.

"This was the first time since the first game of the year that I had my entire starting five playing at the same time," Balog said. "We've had all kinds of injuries and other things. It was great to have everything together again."

Indeed, Churchill jumped out to a 17-4 lead after one quarter.

Farmington, led by Andrea Salyer (12 points) and Amanda Porter (11), fought back and was within four points with 3 1/2 minutes left. But a putback by Churchill's Kathy Stein ended the Falcons' rally.

Anne Roulo kept Churchill on top late hitting three of five free throws.

Farmington, 2-8 and 8-11, hit just 14 of 34 free throws.

LADYWOOD 59, MARSH 58: The stakes have been higher in past years, but the taste of victory was never so sweet for the Blazers.

Victory No. 1 in the Catholic League came against favored Birmingham Marian Tuesday, thanks to Becky Billich's season-high 25 points.

Ladywood is 1-9 in the Central Division and 5-9 overall. Katie Law provided a spark off the bench for the Blazers, adding 11 points.

Julia Storn scored 10 to lead Marian, 3-7 and 8-7.

KINGSWOOD 42, CLEVELAND 24: This Metro Conference match boiled down to a one-on-one between Kingswood's Stika Stevens and Clarenceville's Wendy Roy. Stevens won.

"Our kids played a good game, but Stevens is a good ballplayer," said Clarenceville coach Bob Wolf. "She is just really, really quick."

Roy had 19 points and 15 rebounds, which is not too shabby. But Stevens countered with 27 points and virtually took control of the game in the third quarter.

After an 18-18 first-half deadlock, Kingswood turned Stevens loose on the press. She forced numerous turnovers and triggered a 14-4 run. Kingswood is 6-4 in the Metro and 6-9 overall. Clarenceville 0-8 and 1-12.

Champs from page 1C

received All-City honors.

Noble was named (22:04), Johnson 15th (22:31), Emily Rottingham 18th (22:47) and Dingus 21st (23:01). The freshman duo of Segue and Phelps was 30th (23:28) and 31st (23:30).

The Catholic League dominated the meet. Mercy had 62 points, Regina 59 and Divine Child 94. The next three were Casa Tech, Redford and Public School League champ Renaissance.

"The true test of this team will be Saturday in the regional," Servais said. "With Novi and Livonia Stevenson there, a lot of teams will be vying for the third (state qualifying) spot."

"I think we have a chance, but it's going to take a total team effort; everyone will have to step it up a notch."

"I'm sure O'Connell will be the favorite, but we're trying to get a

team effort out there. It might come down to the sixth runner to determine who gets out."

LEO PAGES SHAMROCKS

Redford Catholic Central junior cross country star Joe Leo has a Catholic League championship, now he wants a Class A regional crown.

CC won the Catholic League meet team championship on Saturday behind the running of Leo, who had a winning time of 16:18 on the Marshall Park course.

Leo finished ahead of Warren DeLaSalle's Phil Soback, who was the Catholic League champion in 1993.

The Shamrocks, who finished third last season in the Catholic League meet, finished with 34 points. DeLaSalle had 34 and defending champion Dearborn Divine Child 77.

The local victory gives Leo some momentum heading into the Class A regional Saturday at Marshall Park.

Leo, who placed ninth at the state meet, is the favorite to win the regional. "Joe ran another smart race," CC

coach Tony Magni said. "I told him you and Soback will be together and when it comes down to finishing up hard, make sure you're ready to go. There will be a few that will go with him (at the regional). I just hope he gets them at the end."

"This was a nice team effort. We were just running for position. When we finished first, third and fifth that sealed the victory."

Phil Camilleri was third (17:09) and Mike Szwedynski fifth (17:15).

Also winning All-Catholic honors were Mike Denic, who placed 12th (17:45) and Derrick France, who was 19th (17:47).

The Shamrocks placed third last year's regional to qualify for the state meet, but they are favored this year with Ann Arbor Pioneer and Ann Arbor Huron competing at the Monroe regional.

CC, which has won seven regionals under Magni's guidance, last won a regional two years ago.

"Our main objective is to qualify (place in the top three), then win it," he said.

adding he thought he waited too long to make the adjustment. "We stayed in the zone so the girls could rest a bit and still give a maximum offensive effort."

The change in defenses had a positive effect for North. The Raiders outscored Harrison 13-4 to end the third quarter, getting as close as 44-40 when May hit an outside shot with a minute left.

"We had to step up our defense," Snow said. "They had a good press and we had to get ball over (the time line) and take con-

trol — and we did that."

The Hawks led 62-44 early in the fourth quarter, and North was struggling to get any closer as turnovers and missed shots stalled their offense.

Harrison didn't fare much better, missing nine straight shots, but the Hawks sank 11 of 12 free throws in the final quarter to secure the victory.

"It seemed all game long we were trying to get over the hump," Davis said. "I wasn't worried about the lead they had, because I knew we were an execution, a stop

away from getting back in the game. When we went to the man-to-man we stopped them until I think we got tired."

"Whenever we play North, it's going to be a hard game filled with a lot of intensity and emotion, and that's what we had again tonight," Mantyle said.

"I'm happy for my seniors because it was their last chance to win the (public school) city championship, and I'm proud of the way they stepped up in a big game."

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