

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1995

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Soccer teams lose

The girls soccer season didn't start the way Farmington Hills Mercy and Harrison had hoped it would Thursday.

Mercy lost to Catholic League rival and host Birmingham Marian 3-1, and Harrison dropped a non-league decision to visiting South Lyon, 2-0.

The Marlins were scheduled to start Tuesday, but their game with South Lyon was postponed because of snow. Marian played that day and tied Dearborn Edsel Ford, 1-1.

Mercy trailed the Mustangs 3-0 at halftime. Emily Lawrence scored for the Marlins off a corner kick early in the second half.

"We had two (other) legitimate opportunities, and both times our forwards didn't shoot," Mercy coach Deepak Shivraman said. "They passed the ball right in front of the goal. If they had shot the ball, I think we could have scored."

The Marlins attempted six shots, the Mustangs 10. Denise Larrabee played the first half in goal for Mercy and Julie Angell the second.

"It wasn't Denise's fault; everyone was nervous because we hadn't played a game," Shivraman said. "It's tough to play your rival in the first game on their field."

"In the first half, we played sloppily; we couldn't put any passes together. We were able to regroup in the second half and play better, but it was a little too late."

The Harrison-South Lyon game was scoreless until Sue Desmond converted a penalty kick in the 46th minute. Sarah Duncan added a late goal for the Lions.

Center forward Julie Earle played an outstanding game for the Hawks, and freshman midfielder Jennifer James seemed to be everywhere at once, according to coach Glen Breuhan. Forward Erica Rice and defender Maria Pinsky also played well, he added.

South Lyon took 13 shots and Harrison six. Sara Kloosterman was in goal for the Hawks.

The Race for the Cure

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will present the Race for the Cure, sponsored by the Michigan Cancer Foundation, on Saturday, April 22, at the Detroit Zoo.

A series of races will begin at 8:30 a.m., starting with a five-kilometer run for men. That will be followed by a 6K run/facewalk/walk for women, family and friends at 9 a.m., with a one-mile fun walk at 9:10 a.m.

Entry fee is \$16 before April 7; \$20 between April 8-14; and \$25 afterwards. Entry forms are available at J.C. Penney's, Jacobson's, Pier 1 Imports and running stores selling New Balance shoes. For more information, call (810) 544-9099 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Motor sports chatter

Ford Racing's V-8 engines will be the subject of discussion at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Speaker Series 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at the Novi Expo Center (located at I-96 and Novi Road).

Past and present engineers, mechanics and racers are scheduled to speak. Also, Bill Barr, Bob Corn, Hank Lenz and Jerry Schley will discuss the history and technology of Ford's V-8.

Cost is \$5, which includes a tour of the museum. For more information, call (810) 349-RACE.

College basketball news

Freshman Carey Perkins of Farmington Hills completed her first season with the Niagara University women's basketball team.

The former Harrison High School graduate appeared in 21 games for the Lady Eagles, scoring a high of four points on four occasions. The 5-foot-10 forward averaged 1.1 points and 0.7 rebounds in 89 minutes of action.

Niagara suffered an 81-72 loss to Fairfield in the first round of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament and ended the season with a 10-17 record.

Madonna drops twin-bill

It's not quite placed together yet for Madonna University's baseball team. With so many new players, it figured to be a lengthy process.

The Crusaders' inconsistency showed in the home opener Thursday at Tiffin (Ohio) University. They used a five-run rally in the seventh inning to beat Madonna 7-3 in the opener, then capitalized on a strong pitching performance in the nightcap to earn a 1-0 win and a sweep.

The double loss left the Crusaders with a 13-14 record. Tiffin improved to 9-10.

Scott McDaniel handcuffed Madonna on just three hits in the second game shutout; he walked two and struck out 10. Ryan Grabetz was the hard-luck loser for the Crusaders, failing to 1-3 although he gave up just five hits and four walks, striking out three.

In the opener, the Crusaders outlasted Tiffin 11-8 but the pitching failed. Despite the double-figure hit total, they could manage just three runs. Jim Solak (Radford) drove in two with two hits.

(Anyone wanting to submit sports items may send them to Dan O'Meara, 30301 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The fax number is (810) 591-7276, the phone number (313) 953-2141.

Hawks have talent for title repeat



Softball seniors: Amy Geary and Jenny Myslinski, exchanging a high-five at home plate, are veteran infielders.



Not many teams have what Farmington Hills Harrison does — an experienced, proven softball player at every position. That's why many in the know think the Hawks will win another WLA title.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The prediction was right; it's just that the timetable was wrong.

This was supposed to be the year Farmington Hills Harrison emerged as a power in girls softball. Instead, it happened last year.

Everything came together sooner than expected for the Hawks, who won their first Western Lakes Activities Association championship and finished 28-6.

Now they face the challenge of doing it again, and many expect Harrison to remain No. 1 in Observerland with all but one starter returning.

"As far as the state, we're still an unknown quantity, because we don't have a tradition," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said.

"But around here we're known. I think our colors changed to black and white, with concentric circles on the back."

The lineup is heavy with seniors who have been regular players for two years. Amanda Ault and Becky Macek were the only seniors last year and Heather Hopkins the previous year.

"We're solid at every position and with only 11 players we're right on the margin all the time," Teachman said. "With 10 coming back, it didn't seem smart to bring up some young people to sit."

Three returning seniors were All-Observer first-teamers: Erin LaCasse, Jenny Myslinski and Stephanie Schwalm. Senior Lori Hubble was on the second team.

LaCasse became a dominating pitcher last year, posting a 23-6 record with a 0.88 ERA and 213 strikeouts in 194 innings.

"And she's better," Teachman said, adding LaCasse has added five miles per hour and two pitches. She also will take a turn at bat this year.

"It was only her third year of pitching, so we wanted her to just do that, learn the craft."

"Now that she has a cushion, a solid team behind her, I don't see her having to carry us. At times she did. She flat out carried us for several innings until we could get our running game going and get some runs."

Myslinski had impressive hitting stats while doing a fine job at first base. She hit .393 with five doubles, four triples, eight home runs and 41 RBI. She also stole 23 bases and scored 27 runs.

"When I'm coaching softball in the spring, I don't get a chance to scout too much," Teachman said, "but if there's a better player around here I'd pay to see her."

"A lot of people forget she's a marvelous first baseman. She gives the other infielders confidence, because she can dig 'em out of the dirt or jump and get 'em."

Schwalm will play left field and bat in the leadoff position again. She had a school-record 28 stolen bases and scored 30 runs while hitting .374 with 12 RBI and 15 walks.

"She has great self-discipline and an amazing batting stroke," Teachman said. "She's a smart young lady, so she anticipates well. She has a complete game."

Hubble moves from center field to shortstop in place of Ault. She scored a school-record 34 runs and had 26 base steals. Following Schwalm in the order, Hubble also hit .267 with four doubles and two triples.

"She has extremely quick feet and a strong arm," Teachman said, adding Hubble played shortstop in the summer to prepare. "It looks like she's going to do just fine."

See HAWKS, 3C

Raiders have positive outlook for '95

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

BASEBALL

Coach Irv Horwitz is more optimistic about his North Farmington baseball team's chances for success than he has since 1992.

The Raiders won the Western Lakes Activities Association that year, but Horwitz isn't going quite that far in his assessment.

But he does believe North can do better than its 6-14 record and 5-11 finish in the WLA last season.

"I think this team is capable of competing with teams in the league," Horwitz said. "I'm not saying we're going to win the league, but we're not going to be the pushovers we were the last couple years."

"I think these guys are confident and, if we have a good start, I think we can surprise a bunch of people."

The Raiders return seven players, including senior tri-captains Darrin

Glasser, Mark Lee and Jeff Light.

Glasser and Lee will do most of the pitching again and also play a field position.

Glasser was 2-7 with a 2.10 earned-run average but deserved a better fate, according to Horwitz, who thinks Glasser will pitch next year at Princeton or Harvard.

"We've never had a good team under him, but he's a great left-handed pitcher and an intelligent young man," Horwitz said. "I think he can play in the Ivy League, and he's smart enough to go there."

Glasser throws a good fastball, curve and changeup, according to Horwitz, and will be the main starter. Lee also has two years of varsity experience and was 2-3 last year. He

will be the regular shortstop, and Horwitz hopes he can rebound from a hitting slump.

Glasser will play either first base or the outfield when not pitching.

Light played third base but moves to catcher following the graduation of Joey Danielewicz. He figures to be one of North's main offensive threats after hitting .377 with 14 RBI and a .567 on-base percentage.

The Raiders also return seniors Mike Feld, Evan Klein and Ronnie Minc and junior Robert Roth.

Feld plays second base and shortstop when Lee pitches. He'll do some of the pitching, too.

"He's a real good glove man," Horwitz said. "He didn't hit for average but always came through with some clutch hits."

The Raiders have a pair of quality outfielders in Minc and Roth, who will start in center and right again,

respectively. Klein is a relief pitcher.

Roth is the leadoff batter and top base-stealing threat because of his excellent speed, according to Horwitz. He hit .256 and had an on-base percentage of .519.

The new players include eight juniors and one senior. Joey Berger, Brian Holzhimer, John Leasway, Bryan Moran, Eric Pierce, Aaron Stephan, Jon Tokay and Ryan Weisman played on the JV, and senior Dan Tremblay is a transfer from Country Day.

Moran or Tremblay will play third base and Stephan second base when Feld moves to shortstop. Pierce is the backup first baseman and a left-handed pitcher.

With the infield set, the others are in contention for the starting job in left field.

See RAIDERS, 3C

Falcons hope ace heals fast

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The high school baseball season starts Tuesday, but Farmington coach Kevin Kausman might like to delay it a couple weeks.

That's how long it will be before junior Nick Latra fully recovers from a broken left wrist, his glove hand.

Latra, the No. 1 pitcher and best player on the team, figures prominently in the Farmington plans.

He was the winningest pitcher on the varsity last year with a 6-3 record, and he also had 60 strikeouts in 62 1/3 innings and an ERA of 2.67.

Latra stood as well, if not better at the plate, hitting .325 with seven doubles, two triples and three home runs. He scored 16 runs and had 16 RBI.

"He's been throwing still, but he won't be able to hit until he comes back," Kausman said. "I hope to get him as many starts as I can. He's



Team leaders: Nick Latra (from left), Dale Damas and Dan McLaughlin will serve as tri-captains of the Farmington varsity baseball team.

See FALCONS, 3C